

# A Cryptanalysis of Hummingbird-2: The Differential Sequence Analysis

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**Abstract.** Hummingbird-2 is one recent design of lightweight block ciphers targeting constraint devices, which not only enables a compact hardware implementation and ultra-low power consumption but also meets the stringent response time as specified in ISO18000-6C.

In this paper, we present the first cryptanalytic result on the full version of this cipher using two pairs of related keys. We discover that the differential sequences for the last invocation of the round function can be computed by running the full cipher, due to which the search space for the key can be reduced. Base upon this observation, we propose a probabilistic attack encompassing two phases, preparation phase and key recovery phase. The preparation phase, requiring  $2^{80}$  effort in time, aims to reach an internal state, with 0.5 success probability, that satisfies particular conditions. In the key recovery phase, by attacking the last invocation of the round function of the encryption (decryption resp.) using the proposed differential sequence analysis (DSA), we are able to recover 36 bits (another 44 bits resp.) of the 128-bit key. In addition, the rest 48 bits of the key can be exhaustively searched and the overall time complexity of the key recovery phase is  $2^{48.14}$ .

Note that the proposed attack, though exhibiting an interesting tradeoff between the success probability and time complexity, is only of a theoretical interest at the moment and does not affect the security of the Hummingbird-2 in practice.

**Keywords:** lightweight cryptography, differential cryptanalysis, Hummingbird encryption

## 1 Introduction

Passive RFID tags and other constraint computing devices are usually characterized by extremely tight cost and power consumption requirements. The needs of cryptographic primitives on such devices have been increasing with the growing pervasiveness and mass deployment of these devices. To this end, considerable lightweight stream/block ciphers are proposed in recent years, targeting very small hardware footprint and reduced power consumption. Typical examples are listed in Table 1. Meanwhile, cryptanalysis of these lightweight primitives has received considerable attention due to a widely-accept concern – the pursue of efficiency at the cost of reducing the security margin or applying innovative but less well understood technologies lead lightweight candidates to be less durable relative to regular symmetric ciphers. This concern has been further confirmed by the successful cases of attacking KeeLoq [33], Crypto-1 [32], Atmel Cipher [22, 9], PRESENT [13, 11], KTANTAN [7, 3], PRINTCipher [2, 29], reduced KLEIN [1], A2U2 [12] and so on.

**Table 1.** Recent Design/Implementation of Lightweight Ciphers (ordered by gate equivalent (GE))

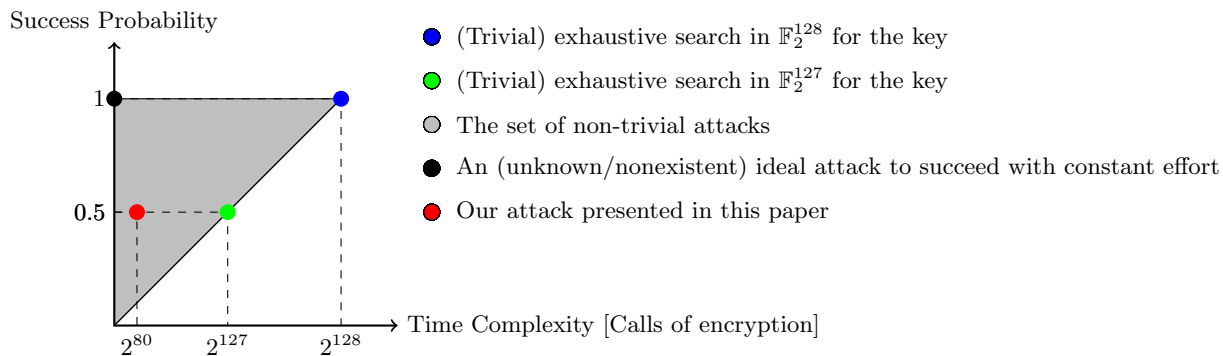
	Key size[bits]	Block size[bits]	Area[GE]	Throughput[Kb/s]	Logic process[ $\mu\text{m}$ ]
PRINTCipher-48 [26]	80	48	402	6.25	0.18
KTANTAN32 [14]	80	32	462	12.5	0.13
PRINTCipher-48 [26]	80	48	503	100	0.18
KTANTAN48 [14]	80	48	571	9.4	0.13
GOST [34]	256	64	651	24.24	0.18
Piccolo-80 [38]	80	64	683	14.8	0.13
KTANTAN64 [14]	80	64	684	8.4	0.13
LED-64 [21]	64	64	688	5.1	0.18
LED-128 [21]	128	64	700	3.4	0.18
PRINTCipher-96 [26]	160	96	726	3.13	0.18
Piccolo-128 [38]	128	64	758	12.1	0.13
KATAN32 [14]	80	32	802	12.5	0.13
KATAN48 [14]	80	48	916	9.4	0.13
PRINTCipher-96 [26]	160	96	967	100	0.18
KATAN64 [14]	80	64	1,027	8.4	0.13
PRESENT [35]	80	64	1,075	11.4	0.18
KLEIN-64 [20]	64	64	1,981	N/A	0.18
KLEIN-80 [20]	80	64	2,097	N/A	0.18
<b>Hummingbird-2 [17]</b>	<b>128</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>2,159</b>	<b>N/A</b>	<b>0.13</b>
KLEIN-96 [20]	96	64	2,213	N/A	0.18
AES [19]	128	128	3,400	12.4	0.35

**A Brief History of Hummingbird Cipher:** Motivated by the design of the well-known Enigma machine, the first generation of Hummingbird (call it HB-1) was proposed by the engineers in Revere Security and was further analyzed and published in [16] as an ultra-lightweight cryptographic algorithm targeting low-cost RFID tags, smart cards, and wireless sensor nodes to meet the stringent response time and power consumption requirements. Although HB-1, with an innovative hybrid structure of block cipher and stream cipher, was designed to provide 256-bit security, Saarinen, in FSE'11, showed a chosen-IV and chosen-message attack [36] that can recover the full secret key with at most  $2^{64}$  off-line computational effort under two related IVs. Recently, Revere Security published the second generation of Hummingbird (call it Hummingbird-2 or HB-2) in [17], which inherits the design philosophy from HB-1, e.g., it has a small block size of 16-bit to adapt the needs of encrypting short messages in RFID applications and it retains the hybrid structure as a security compensation for the small block size. High level differences between HB-1 and HB-2 are: (1) key size has been reduced to 128 bits to satisfy the actual need for constrained devices; (2) size of the internal state has been increased from 80 bits to 128 bits; (3) the nonlinear keyed transformation in HB-2 has four invocations of the S-boxes, compared to five in HB-1, to further increase the throughput.

In addition, it is claimed in the same paper that HB-2 can withstand differential, linear and algebraic attacks and the four 4-bit S-Boxes in HB-2 belong to the optimal classes as discussed in [31]. Its resistance to the side-channel cube attack is recently investigated in [18], where the author applied cube attack to recover 48 bits of the secret key providing the attacker could access the internal states of HB-2 during an early stage in the initialization. However, this attack is marginal since it only threatens HB-2 before the finishing of its initialization.

**Our Contribution:** By refining/improving our preliminary results in [10], we present, in this paper, the first cryptanalytic result on the full version of this cipher using two pairs of related keys. Our attack makes use of the internal state of such a cipher and our philosophy is general: (1) the outputs of the encryption/decryption may leak information of the subkeys (under the differential cryptanalysis) as long as the internal states of the cipher satisfy particular conditions; (2) due to the birthday paradox, such a condition always happens with  $1/2$  probability providing  $2^{L/2}$  attempts are made, where  $L$  (in bit) is the size of the internal state. To be specific, we propose the following attack encompassing two phases, a probabilistic preparation phase and a key recovery phase.

- To realize the two particular conditions regarding the internal states, the preparation phase spends  $2^{80}$  effort in time to achieve the succeed probability 0.5 (due to the birthday paradox). If succeeds, one could proceed to the key recovery phase.
- The key recovery phase is basically an instance of a novel cryptanalytic technique – we call it differential sequence analysis (DSA) – which can be seen as a hybrid of the conventional differential cryptanalysis and saturation attack. After exhibiting DSA’s definitions and properties, we present its applications in the attacking scenarios, i.e.,
  - by using the encryption of HB-2, DSA recovers 36-bit (out of 128-bit) of the key, if condition (A) (regarding HB-2’s secret key, input and internal state) holds.
  - by using the decryption of HB-2, DSA recovers another 44-bit of the key, if condition (B) (regarding HB-2’s secret key, input and internal state) holds.
  - the rest 48-bit of the key can be exhaustively searched and the overall time complexity is  $2^{48.14}$ .



**Fig. 1.** Tradeoff between Success Probability and Time Complexity when attacking HB-2 (In fact, since one encryption only provides 16-bit entropy of the key, the exhaustive search needs a bit more than  $2^{128}$  calls of the encryption function following the “key testing” procedure as desired in [4], i.e.,  $2^{128} + 2^{112} + 2^{96} + 2^{80} + 2^{64} + 2^{48} + 2^{32} + 2^{16} \approx 2^{128.000022}$  and 8 plaintext-ciphertext pairs to uniquely determine the key with probability 1.)

Note that our results in this paper exhibit an interesting tradeoff between the success probability and time complexity for HB-2, as shown in Fig. 1, which is analog to the collision attack in the hash function due to the birthday paradox. Stated in another way, to be successful with probability 0.5, our attack is faster than the exhaustive search (which is the best known) by a factor of  $2^{50}$ . Unfortunately,

to succeed with probability 1, our preparation phase requiring more effort in time than the exhaustive search, which makes the proposed method only of theoretical interests at the moment, i.e., the attack presented in this paper does not affect the security of the Hummingbird-2 in practice.

**Organization:** In Section 2, the specification of HB-2 is presented. Section 3 describes the principle of our attack at a high level. In Section 4, we devise the DSA technique, discuss its properties and how to use it to attack parts of HB-2. In Section 5, we show how to achieve the desired conditions. We conclude the paper in Section 6.

**Notations:** Throughout the rest of this paper, we make use of the following notation for illustration.

- An hexadecimal number is indicated by a prefix “0x”, e.g., 0x10 = 16.
- Unless otherwise stated, “+” denotes the addition in  $\mathbb{F}_2$ , which can also be vector-wise, e.g.,  $(a, b) + (c, d) = (a + c, b + d)$ , where  $a, b, c, d \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ .
- “ $\boxplus$ ” or “ $\boxminus$ ” operator denote addition or subtraction modulo  $2^{16}$ .
- The high-bit XOR differential is defined as  $H = 0x8000$ , a nice property of which is, given  $x, x', y \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $x + x' = H$ , the following holds with probability 1,

$$(x \boxplus y) + (x' \boxplus y) = H, \quad (x \boxminus y) + (x' \boxminus y) = H, \quad (y \boxminus x) + (y \boxminus x') = H.$$

That is to say, as pointed out in [36], the differential  $H$  behaves the same under “+” and “ $\boxplus/\boxminus$ ”.

## 2 Specification of Hummingbird-2

Hummingbird-2 is a 16-bit block cipher with a 128-bit secret key  $K = (K_1, \dots, K_8) \in (\mathbb{F}_2^{16}, \dots, \mathbb{F}_2^{16}) = \mathbb{F}_2^{128}$  and a 64-bit public initialization vector  $IV = (IV_1, \dots, IV_4) \in (\mathbb{F}_2^{16}, \dots, \mathbb{F}_2^{16}) = \mathbb{F}_2^{64}$ . As opposed to conventional block ciphers, it has an 128-bit internal state  $R = (R_1, \dots, R_8) \in (\mathbb{F}_2^{16}, \dots, \mathbb{F}_2^{16}) = \mathbb{F}_2^{128}$ , which participates in each encryption/decryption and is updated after that.

**Building Block:**  $WD16 : \{0, 1\}^{16} \mapsto \{0, 1\}^{16}$  is the fundamental block or round function of HB-2 encryption, which is defined as

$$WD16(x, K_a, K_b, K_c, K_d) = f(f(f(f(x + K_a) + K_b) + K_c) + K_d),$$

where  $x$  is the varying input, e.g., plaintext, intermediate state,  $K_a, K_b, K_c, K_d$  are four 16-bit secret keys and the nonlinear function  $f$  is specified as

$$\begin{aligned} S(x) &= S_1(x_1) || S_2(x_2) || S_3(x_3) || S_4(x_4), x = (x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4) \\ L(x) &= x + (x \lll 6) + (x \lll 10) \\ f(x) &= L(S(x)). \end{aligned}$$

Note that the four S-boxes, i.e.,  $S_1(x_i)$  to  $S_4(x_i)$ , are given in Table 2.

Besides, the inverse of  $WD16$  is employed in the decryption, which is defined as

$$WD16^{-1}(y, K_d, K_c, K_b, K_a) = f^{-1}(f^{-1}(f^{-1}(f^{-1}(y) + K_d) + K_c) + K_b) + K_a,$$

**Table 2.** S-boxes in HummingBird-2

$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	$x$	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
$S_1(x)$	7	12	14	9	2	1	5	15	11	6	13	0	4	8	10	3	$S_1^{-1}(x)$	11	5	4	15	12	6	9	0	13	3	14	8	1	10	2	7
$S_2(x)$	4	10	1	6	8	15	7	12	3	0	14	13	5	9	11	2	$S_2^{-1}(x)$	9	2	15	8	0	12	3	6	4	13	1	14	7	11	10	5
$S_3(x)$	2	15	12	1	5	6	10	13	14	8	3	4	0	11	9	7	$S_3^{-1}(x)$	12	3	0	10	11	4	5	15	9	14	6	13	2	7	8	1
$S_4(x)$	15	4	5	8	9	7	2	1	10	3	0	14	6	12	13	1	$S_4^{-1}(x)$	10	7	6	9	1	2	12	5	3	4	8	15	13	14	11	0

where  $y = WD16(x, K_a, K_b, K_c, K_d)$  and  $f^{-1}$  is the inverse of  $f$ . The four S-boxes used in  $f^{-1}$  are also listed in Table 2.

**Initialization:** Hummingbird-2 is initialized before use. Let  $(R_1^{(r)}, \dots, R_8^{(r)}) \in \{0, 1\}^{128}$  denote the internal state at the  $r$ th iteration in the initialization. The initialization can thus be formulated as, for  $r = 0, 1, 2, 3$ ,

$$t_1 = WD16(R_1^{(r)} \boxplus \langle r \rangle, K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) \quad (1)$$

$$t_2 = WD16(R_2^{(r)} \boxplus t_1, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) \quad (2)$$

$$t_3 = WD16(R_3^{(r)} \boxplus t_2, K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) \quad (3)$$

$$t_4 = WD16(R_4^{(r)} \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) \quad (4)$$

$$R_1^{(r+1)} = (R_1^{(r)} \boxplus t_4) \lll 3 \quad (5)$$

$$R_2^{(r+1)} = (R_2^{(r)} \boxplus t_1) \lll 1 \quad (6)$$

$$R_3^{(r+1)} = (R_3^{(r)} \boxplus t_2) \lll 8 \quad (7)$$

$$R_4^{(r+1)} = (R_4^{(r)} \boxplus t_3) \lll 1 \quad (8)$$

$$R_5^{(r+1)} = R_5^{(r)} + R_1^{(r+1)} \quad (9)$$

$$R_6^{(r+1)} = R_6^{(r)} + R_2^{(r+1)} \quad (10)$$

$$R_7^{(r+1)} = R_7^{(r)} + R_3^{(r+1)} \quad (11)$$

$$R_8^{(r+1)} = R_8^{(r)} + R_4^{(r+1)}, \quad (12)$$

where  $\langle r \rangle$  represents a counter and  $(R_1^{(0)}, \dots, R_8^{(0)}) = (IV_1, IV_2, IV_3, IV_4, IV_1, IV_2, IV_3, IV_4)$ .

Note that  $R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$  do not participate in the randomization, i.e., Eq. (6)-(9), but simply XOR the historical statuses of  $R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4$  respectively (behaving like XOR-MAC). This fact may nullify their contribution to the overall cryptanalytic strength of HB-2 under a side-channel injection attack – 64 injections and 64 invocations of HB-2 encryption are needed to recover  $(R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8)$ . Details are provided in Appendix A.

**Encryption:** After the initialization, each encryption, by invoking the round function for four times, transforms a single plaintext word  $P_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , to a corresponding ciphertext word  $C_i$ , i.e.,

$$t_1 = WD16(R_1^{(i)} \boxplus P_i, K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) \quad (13)$$

$$t_2 = WD16(R_2^{(i)} \boxplus t_1, K_5 + R_5^{(i)}, K_6 + R_6^{(i)}, K_7 + R_7^{(i)}, K_8 + R_8^{(i)}) \quad (14)$$

$$t_3 = WD16(R_3^{(i)} \boxplus t_2, K_1 + R_5^{(i)}, K_2 + R_6^{(i)}, K_3 + R_7^{(i)}, K_4 + R_8^{(i)}) \quad (15)$$

$$C_i = WD16(R_4^{(i)} \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) \boxplus R_1^{(i)}, \quad (16)$$

where  $(R_1^{(i)}, \dots, R_8^{(i)}) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{128}$  is the internal state during the  $i$ th encryption and it is updated, at the end of the encryption, as follows:

$$R_1^{(i+1)} = R_1^{(i)} \boxplus t_3 \quad (17)$$

$$R_2^{(i+1)} = R_2^{(i)} \boxplus t_1 \quad (18)$$

$$R_3^{(i+1)} = R_3^{(i)} \boxplus t_2 \quad (19)$$

$$R_4^{(i+1)} = R_4^{(i)} \boxplus t_1 \boxplus R_1^{(i+1)} \quad (20)$$

$$R_5^{(i+1)} = R_5^{(i)} + R_1^{(i+1)} \quad (21)$$

$$R_6^{(i+1)} = R_6^{(i)} + R_2^{(i+1)} \quad (22)$$

$$R_7^{(i+1)} = R_7^{(i)} + R_3^{(i+1)} \quad (23)$$

$$R_8^{(i+1)} = R_8^{(i)} + R_4^{(i+1)} \quad (24)$$

A shorthand of Eq. (13)-(24) is  $C_i = E(P_i, K) = E(P_i, (K_1, \dots, K_8))$ .

**Decryption:** Decryption of a single word  $C_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ ,  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ , followed by the same initialization, is

$$u_3 = WD16^{-1}(C_i \boxminus R_1^{(i)}, K_8, K_7, K_6, K_5) \quad (25)$$

$$u_2 = WD16^{-1}(u_3 \boxminus R_4^{(i)}, K_4 + R_8^{(i)}, K_3 + R_7^{(i)}, K_2 + R_6^{(i)}, K_1 + R_5^{(i)}) \quad (26)$$

$$u_1 = WD16^{-1}(u_2 \boxminus R_3^{(i)}, K_8 + R_8^{(i)}, K_7 + R_7^{(i)}, K_6 + R_6^{(i)}, K_5 + R_5^{(i)}) \quad (27)$$

$$P_i = WD16^{-1}(u_1 \boxminus R_2^{(i)}, K_4, K_3, K_2, K_1) \boxminus R_1^{(i)}. \quad (28)$$

After this, the internal states are updated as in the encryption, i.e., using Eq. (17)-(24), where  $t_3 = u_3 \boxminus R_4^{(i)}$ ,  $t_2 = u_2 \boxminus R_3^{(i)}$  and  $t_1 = u_1 \boxminus R_2^{(i)}$ .

### 3 Overview of Our Cryptanalytic Method on the Full HB-2

**Adversary Model:** We consider a scenario that two paralleled executions of encryptions are  $C_i = E(P_i, K)$  and  $C_{i'} = E(P_{i'}, K')$ , where the internal states are  $(R_1^{(i)}, \dots, R_8^{(i)})$  and  $(R_1^{(i')}, \dots, R_8^{(i')})$  respectively, the intermediate values are  $(t_1, t_2, t_3)$  and  $(t'_1, t'_2, t'_3)$  respectively, and  $K$  and  $K'$  are related. (Similar for the decryption). The attacker follows the chosen plaintext/ciphertext model such that the

attacker is free to choose plaintext  $P_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $P'_{i'} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ , launch encryption without knowing the related keys, and observe the corresponding  $C_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $C'_{i'} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ ; or chooses  $C_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $C'_{i'} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ , launches decryption without knowing the related keys, and observes the corresponding  $P_i \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $P'_{i'} \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ .

**Attack In A Nutshell:** Block ciphers are usually based on iterating a cryptographically weak function sufficient number of times without disturbing, e.g., modifying, the outputs of intermediate rounds except whitening them with round-keys. Our attack on the full HB-2 exploits the fact that the internal states, which, instead of enhancing the overall cryptanalytic strength, give the attacker an opportunity to create an input differential for the last invocation of  $WD16$  ( $WD16^{-1}$  resp.) in the encryption (decryption resp.) and to retrieve the corresponding distribution of the output differences (call the collection of them a *differential sequence*) caused by the last invocation of the round function, which is information-rich in (a subset of)  $(K_5, \dots, K_8)$  ( $(K_1, \dots, K_4)$  resp.). Henceforth, after obtaining such a *template sequence*, the attacker, in an off-line environment, could search for the key bits associated, which usually constitute a subset of entire key bits. In all, our full attack can be divided into two phases: **preparation phase** as described in Section 5 and **key recovery phase** as described in Section 4.

**Key Recovery Phase:** In the key recovery phase, to remove the undesired interference introduced by the varying internal states when consecutive words are encrypted/decrypted, our attack here targets a specific encryption/decryption after the *preparation*, i.e.,  $i$ th encryption/decryption for one HB-2 instance and  $i'$ th encryption/decryption for the other one. This is because given the key, IV, and the plaintext chain fed are fixed, the  $i$ th internal state and the  $i'$ th internal state are fixed as well. Henceforth, we omit the superscript/subscript  $i$  and  $i'$  of HB-2 variables for convenience when describing operations in the key recovery phase.

Providing the preparation phase succeeds, the attacker accomplishes the following utilizing the properties of the differential sequence analysis:

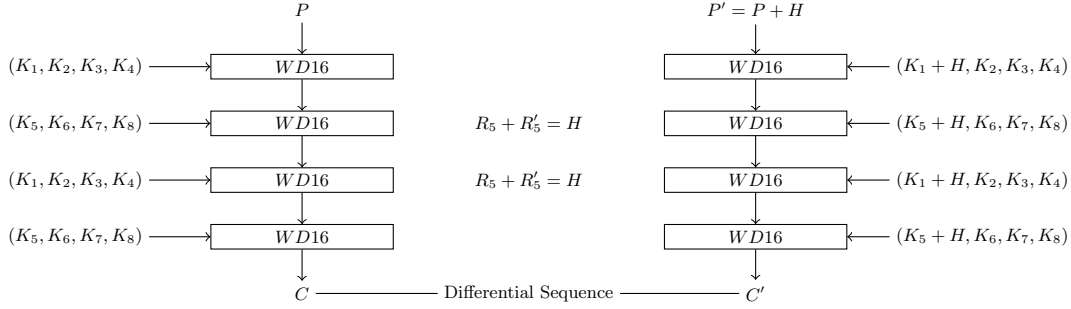
- Step 1. 36 bits of  $(K_5, \dots, K_8) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{64}$  are recovered using the differential sequence obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16$  in the encryption if a particular condition meets, as shown in Fig. 2.
- Step 2. 28 bits of  $(K_4, \dots, K_1) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{64}$  are recovered using the differential sequence obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16$  in the decryption if another particular condition meets.
- Step 3. the rest 64-bit key are exhaustively searched using either encryption or decryption.

To be specific, the condition needed to launch Step 1 in *key recovery phase* is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Condition (A) :} \quad \Delta K &= (K_1, \dots, K_8) + (K'_1, \dots, K'_8) = (H, 0, 0, 0, H, 0, 0, 0) \\ \Delta P &= P + P' = H \\ \Delta R &= (R_1, \dots, R_8) + (R'_1, \dots, R'_8) = (0, 0, 0, 0, H, 0, 0, 0). \end{aligned}$$

The condition needed to launch Step 2 in *key recovery phase* is:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Condition (B) :} \quad \Delta K &= (K_1, \dots, K_8) + (K'_1, \dots, K'_8) = (0, 0, 0, 0, H, 0, 0, 0, H) \\ \Delta C &= C + C' = H \\ \Delta R &= (R_1, \dots, R_8) + (R'_1, \dots, R'_8) = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, H). \end{aligned}$$



**Fig. 2.** Constructing Differential Sequence from Encryption with Condition (A)

To reach  $\Delta P$  or  $\Delta C$  in the two conditions above, the adversary model already allows the plaintext/ciphertext to be freely chosen; to reach  $\Delta K$ , two pair of related-keys have to be used in our attack; and to reach  $\Delta R$ , an extra phase, called preparation phase, has to be introduced.

**Preparation Phase:** As one may expected, preparation phase of our attack copes with the realization of  $\Delta R$ s one at a time. To this end, one obvious way is to mount side-channel injection attack as shown in Appendix D, which gives the attacker no time/memory penalty, i.e., the overall time/memory complexity of the attack is dominated by that of the key recovery phase.

However, side-channel injection attack is not considered much in this work. Instead, we realize both conditions in a probabilistic manner, i.e.,

- $(R_1^{(i)}, \dots, R_8^{(i)})$  and  $(R_1^{(i')}, \dots, R_8^{(i')})$  can be “randomized” by feeding both HB-2 instances with either different IVs and/or chains of random plaintext words. According to the birthday paradox, there is at least 0.5 chance that the randomized  $(R_1^{(i)}, \dots, R_8^{(i)}) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{128}$  and the randomized  $(R_1^{(i')}, \dots, R_8^{(i')}) \in \mathbb{F}_2^{128}$  satisfies  $\Delta R$  in condition (A) (condition (B) resp.) providing  $2^{64}$  attempts are made.
- Note that, in the previous step, even if  $\Delta R$  happens, the attacker is usually unaware. To determine, we improve the mechanism above in light of another characteristic of HB-2, i.e., if condition (A) (condition (B) resp.) holds at the current round, it also holds for the next round. Hence, the differential sequences produced at the current round by  $((R_1^{(i)}, \dots, R_8^{(i)}), (R_1^{(i')}, \dots, R_8^{(i')}))$  is exactly the same as that produced at the next round by  $((R_1^{(i+1)}, \dots, R_8^{(i+1)}), (R_1^{(i'+1)}, \dots, R_8^{(i'+1)}))$ .
- If the above step succeeds, the attacker proceeds to the key recovery phase to attack.

In what follows, we detail each of the above phases and steps.

## 4 Differentials Sequence Analysis (DSA)

In this section, we present a novel technique called differential sequence analysis (DSA) rooted in the differential cryptanalysis and the saturation attack. To be specific, we exhibiting its definitions, properties, and applications to attack one round of the HB-2, that constitutes the *key recovery phase* in our whole attack.



#### 4.1 Differential Cryptanalysis and Saturation Attack

Differential cryptanalysis is a method analyzing the effect of particular differences in plaintext pairs on the differences of the resultant ciphertext pairs, which is based on a crucial observation that for any particular input differential, not all the output differentials are possible, and the possible ones may not appear uniformly. In the original version of differential cryptanalysis [37], a unique differential is exploited to recover the subkey used in the last round of a block cipher. This idea has been extended in several ways: Biham and Shamir themselves further considered in [37] to use a trail of differentials to attack; Lai in [27] connected differential cryptanalysis with derivative of polynomials and presented a fine definition of higher order differentials; Knudsen [25] considered to use part of the input and output that have differential characteristics for the analysis; Biham, Biryukov and Shamir proposed in [5] to use differentials that happens with probability 0 as distinguishers; and recently, Blondeau and Gérard demonstrated the multiple differential cryptanalysis in [6], where a set of input/output differentials are considered together.

Saturation attack [23, 28, 8] exploits the fact that the output set is saturated, i.e., the outputs forms the whole space of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ , if the input set for the  $m$ -bit core injective function is saturated. Since the saturation of the outputs is observable, this technique usually serves as a distinguisher for the attacker.

At a high level, our differential sequence analysis in this paper can be understood as a hybrid of the conventional differential cryptanalysis and saturation attack, i.e., the set of the output differentials (instead of the outputs themselves) with respect to a particular/fixed input differential and a saturated set of inputs is considered. From another angle, due to the use of output differentials caused by a saturated set of inputs, our attack is also a special case of multiple differential cryptanalysis [6].

#### 4.2 (First-order) Differential Sequence

Assume we have a keyed permutation  $h(w, K)$  mapping  $w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$  to  $h(w, K) \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$  with respect to the secret key  $K$ , where  $m$  is a positive integer. Given a fixed  $\theta \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ , the first-order differential is known as

$$\Delta_{\theta, K}(w) = h(w, K) \oplus h(w \oplus \theta, K).$$

The *(first-order) differentials sequence* of  $h$  at  $\theta$  is basically one row in the differential distribution table of  $h$  with respect to the input differential  $\theta$ . To discuss its properties, we define it in a more formal way.

**Definition 1.** *The first-order differential sequence (DS) of  $h$  at  $\theta$  is a non-binary sequence of  $2^m$  entries, i.e.,*

$$\Delta_{\theta, K} = (z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{2^m-1}),$$

where  $z_i$  denotes the multiplicity (that is, number of occurrences) of  $i$  in the set  $\{w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \mid \Delta_{\theta, K}(w) = i\}$ , i.e.,

$$z_i = |\{w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \mid \Delta_{\theta, K}(w) = i\}|.$$

Note that this definition can be extended to higher orders. In this paper, we constrained ourself to the first-order case.

For example, the differential sequence is  $\{0, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 2, 0, 0, 4, 2, 0, 4, 0, 0, 2\}$  providing  $\{w \in \mathbb{F}_2^4 \mid \Delta_{\theta, K}(w) = i\} = \{12, 10, 3, 9, 6, 9, 15, 12, 12, 10, 3, 9, 6, 9, 15, 12\}$  and  $\theta = 0x08$ . The length of the differential sequence is the sum of all its multiplicities (16 in this example).

### 4.3 Properties of the Differential Sequence

The saturated set of inputs brings quite a lot interesting properties to the conventional differential cryptanalysis. We list the core properties to attack HB-2 here.

*Property 1.* For a fixed  $\theta \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ ,  $\Delta_{\theta,K}$  is constructed by evaluating and counting  $(h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K))$  for every  $w$  in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  regardless of the order of  $w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$  been accessed.

This property follows immediately from Definition 1 and is useful in the sense that even though  $h(w, K)$  is an intermediate round in a cipher (thus,  $w$  is an intermediate value), we are able to capture  $\Delta_{\theta,K}$  given that  $\theta$  can be fixed in a particular way and  $w$  traverses the whole space of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ . Stated in another way, we have the property below.

*Property 2.* Let  $perm(w)$  be a permutation of  $w$  in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ , i.e.,  $perm(w) : \mathbb{F}_2^m \mapsto \mathbb{F}_2^m$ . For a fixed  $\theta \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$  and every  $w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$ ,  $\Delta_{\theta,K}$  can be obtained either by evaluating and counting  $(h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K))$ , or by evaluating and counting  $(h(perm(w), K) + h(perm(w) + \theta, K))$ .

In what follows, we use

$$[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m] = [h(perm(w), K) + h(perm(w) + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m]$$

as a symbolic expression for Property 2, where [...] actually defines a multiset and  $\theta$  is always a fixed value in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  for the rest of the paper. Henceforth, a straightforward extension of Property 2 can be derived below.

*Property 3.* Let  $perm_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, n$ , be permutations in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ . We have

$$\begin{aligned} & [h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m] \\ &= [h(perm_n(\dots(perm_1(w))), K) + h(perm_n(\dots(perm_1(w))) + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m]. \end{aligned}$$

*Proof.*  $perm_n(\dots(perm_1(w)))$  can be written as  $perm(w)$  in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ . □

As aforementioned, the obtained differential sequence is primarily used to search for the key bits associated. Henceforth, we are especially interested in the correspondences between the differential sequence and the  $K$  in the underlying function  $h(w, K)$ , e.g., is the mapping from  $K$  to the differential sequence injective or not? To this end, we start with a special case of Property 2.

*Property 4.* Providing  $K = K_a \cup K_b$ ,  $K_a \cap K_b = \emptyset$  and  $h(w, K) = h(w + K_a, K_b)$ , we have

$$[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m] = [h((w + K_a), K_b) + h((w + K_a) + \theta, K_b) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m].$$

*Proof.* By applying Property 2 and set  $perm(w) = w + K_a$ , this property follows immediately. □

From the property above, it is clear that all  $K_a \in \mathbb{F}_2^{|K_a|}$  produces the same sequence while different  $K_b$ s may produce different sequences. Therefore, this property in fact implies that the obtained differential sequence of  $h$  at  $\theta$  can be used to search for (a subset of) the key nonlinearly associated. Besides, there exists a more complicated correspondence between the key and the differential sequence. To discuss, we need to investigate the properties of sub-differential sequences.

*Property 5.* Let  $\Gamma$  be a subset of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  and  $perm$  is a permutation in  $\Gamma$ , we have

$$[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma] = [h(perm(w), K) + h(perm(w) + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma].$$

*Proof.* This property follows from Definition 1, if and only if  $perm$  is a permutation in  $\Gamma$ , i.e.,  $perm(w) : \Gamma \mapsto \Gamma$ . We call  $[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma]$  or  $[h(perm(w), K) + h(perm(w) + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma]$  a *sub-differential sequence* of  $\Delta_{\theta, K}$ .  $\square$

Due to this, we can actually view a differential sequence obtained in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  as a summation of several sub-differential sequences obtained in the disjoint subspaces of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ . This intuition can be written as below.

*Property 6.* Let  $\Gamma_i, i = 1, \dots, q$ , be  $q$  disjoint partitions of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ , i.e.,

$$\Gamma_i \cap \Gamma_j = \emptyset, \quad 1 \leq i \neq j \leq q \quad (29)$$

$$\cup_{i=1}^q \Gamma_i = \mathbb{F}_2^m \quad (30)$$

and let the differential sequence obtained by  $[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma_i]$  be  $\Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$ , we thus have,

$$\Delta_{\theta, K} = \sum_{i=1}^q \Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}.$$

Following this reasoning, Property 4 can also be extended as below, which tells us that a differential sequence in  $\Gamma$  only corresponds to the key nonlinearly (in  $\Gamma$ ) associated.

*Property 7.* Providing  $K = K_a \cup K_b$ ,  $K_a \cap K_b = \emptyset$  and  $h(w, K) = h(w + K_a, K_b)$ , we have, if  $\Gamma$  is a subset of  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$  and  $(w + K_a)$  is a permutation in  $\Gamma$  with respect to  $K_a$ ,

$$[h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K)|w \in \Gamma] = [h((w + K_a), K_b) + h((w + K_a) + \theta, K_b)|w \in \Gamma].$$

Therefore, if each of the sub-differential sequence stays the same with respect to the keys belonging to a particular set, denoted as  $\Phi_0$ , the overall differential sequence remain the same under  $\Phi_0$ . We formalize this correspondence as below.

*Property 8.* Let  $\Phi_0 = \cap_{i=1}^q \{k|w + k : \Gamma_i \mapsto \Gamma_i, k, w \in \mathbb{F}_2^m\}$ ,  $K = K_a \cup K_b$ ,  $K_a \cap K_b = \emptyset$  and  $h(w, K) = h(w + K_a, K_b)$ , we have

$$\Delta_{\theta, K} = \Delta_{\theta, \kappa}, \quad (31)$$

where  $\kappa = \kappa_a \cup \kappa_b$ ,  $\kappa_a \cap \kappa_b = \emptyset$ ,  $K_a, \kappa_a \in \Phi_0$  and  $\kappa_b = K_b$ .

*Proof.* Let  $\Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$  be the sub-differential sequence obtained by Property 7. Thanks to Property 6, we have  $\Delta_{\theta, K} = \sum_{i=1}^q \Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$  and  $\Delta_{\theta, \kappa} = \sum_{i=1}^q \Delta_{\theta, \kappa}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$ . Thanks to Property 7, for each  $i$ ,  $\Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}} = \Delta_{\theta, \kappa}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$  providing  $K_a, \kappa_a \in \Phi_0$  and  $\kappa_b = K_b$ .

As opposed, providing  $\kappa_b \neq K_b$  while  $K_a, \kappa_a \in \Phi_0$ , it is quite likely that  $\Delta_{\theta, K} \neq \Delta_{\theta, \kappa}$  since  $\Delta_{\theta, K}^{\{\Gamma_i\}} \neq \Delta_{\theta, \kappa}^{\{\Gamma_i\}}$  for each  $i$ .  $\square$

#### 4.4 Differential Sequence Analysis against HB-2

In this subsection, we attack the last invocation of  $WD16$  ( $WD16^{-1}$  resp.) in the encryption (decryption resp.) of HB-2 by exploiting the DSA as presented. To be specific, our Theorem 1 and Theorem 3 give answers to the question “how to obtain the differential sequences” while our Theorem 2 and Theorem 4 exhibit “how to use the differentials sequences”. Since the HB-2 has a 16-bit block size, we have  $m = 16$  for the rest.

**Attacking  $WD16$  in Encryption:** To show our idea in a concise way, we assume that  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  are known (in fact, as they are identified by our algorithms in the preparation phase). In addition, let  $h$  in Definition 1 be the last invocation of  $WD16$ , i.e., Eq. (16), in the encryption. We thus have the following theorems.

**Theorem 1.** *When condition (A) meets, the differential sequence of the last  $WD16$  in the encryption at  $\theta = H$  can be extracted from executing the entire encryption.*

*Proof:* First of all, when condition (A) holds, we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
t'_1 &= WD16(R'_1 \boxplus P', K'_1, K'_2, K'_3, K'_4) \\
&= WD16(R_1 \boxplus (P + H), (K_1 + H), K_2, K_3, K_4) = t_1 \\
t'_2 &= WD16(R'_2 \boxplus t'_1, K'_5 + R'_5, K'_6 + R'_6, K'_7 + R'_7, K'_8 + R'_8) \\
&= WD16(R_2 \boxplus t_1, (K_5 + H) + (R_5 + H), K_6 + R_6, K_7 + R_7, \\
&\quad K_8 + R_8) = t_2 \\
t'_3 &= WD16(R'_3 \boxplus t'_2, K'_1 + R'_5, K'_2 + R'_6, K'_3 + R'_7, K'_4 + R'_8) \\
&= WD16(R_3 \boxplus t_2, (K_1 + H) + (R_5 + H), K_2 + R_6, K_3 + R_7, \\
&\quad K_4 + R_8) = t_3
\end{aligned}$$

Next,  $\Delta_{H, (K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)} = [z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{2^{16}-1}]$  can be extracted, where

$$\begin{aligned}
z_i &= |\{t_3 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mid (WD16(R_4 \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) + WD16(R'_4 \boxplus t'_3, K'_5, K'_6, K'_7, K'_8)) = i\}| \\
&= |\{t_3 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mid (WD16(R_4 \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) + WD16(R_4 \boxplus t_3, (K_5 + H), K_6, K_7, K_8)) = i\}| \\
&= |\{t_3 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mid (WD16(R_4 \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) + WD16((R_4 + H) \boxplus t_3, K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)) = i\}| \\
&= |\{P \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, P' = P + H \mid (C \boxplus R_1) + (C' \boxplus R_1) = i\}|.
\end{aligned}$$

The second last equality comes from the fact

$$(R_4 \boxplus t_3) + (K_5 + H) = ((R_4 + H) \boxplus t_3) + K_5,$$

which can be easily verified by the computer simulation.

Note that condition (A) is essentially a necessary condition for the following condition:

$$\begin{aligned}
\Delta K &= (K_1, \dots, K_8) + (K'_1, \dots, K'_8) = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \\
\Delta P &= P_1 + P'_{i'} = 0 \\
\Delta R &= (R_1, \dots, R_8) + (R'_1, \dots, R'_8) = (0, 0, 0, H, 0, 0, 0, 0),
\end{aligned}$$

such that both of them produce the same differential sequence of  $WD16$ . However, we use condition (A) through the rest of the paper because it has an additional property that keeps the attacker informed once  $\Delta R$  happens (see Section 5.2).  $\square$

This theorem suggests that, after querying the encryption with every  $P \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and obtaining the resultant output differentials, the attacker could have a *template sequence*  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}$  to search for parts of  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)$ . The next theorem discloses the correspondence between  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}$  and  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)$ .

**Theorem 2.** *Let  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}$  be obtained from Theorem 1. For  $\kappa_5 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $\kappa_6 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ , we have*

$$\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)} = \Delta_{H,(\kappa_5,\kappa_6,K_7,K_8)},$$

where  $K_6$  and  $\kappa_6$  belong to the same set  $\Phi_i = \Phi_0 + i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq 15$ , and  $\Phi_0$ , of cardinality  $2^{12}$ , is tabulated in Appendix C.

*Proof:* To prove, we discuss the correspondence between  $K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8$  and the template sequence in a respective way.

**Correspondence Between  $K_5$  and DS:** For the time being, let us consider  $h(w, K) = f(f(w + K_5) + K_6)$  (a simplified  $WD16$ ), where  $f : \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mapsto \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  (as described in Section 2) is an injective function, we thus have, by letting  $w = R_4 \boxplus t_3$  and  $\theta = H$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & [h(w, K) + h(w + \theta, K) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}] \\ &= [f(f(w + K_5) + K_6) + f(f(w + K_5 + \theta) + K_6) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}] \\ &= [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w) + \theta) + K_6) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}] \end{aligned}$$

It is clear from the context that  $\text{perm}_1(w) = w + K_5$  is a permutation in  $\mathbb{F}_2^m$ , and, due to Property 4,  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}$  does not depend on  $K_5$ .

**Correspondence Between  $K_6$  and DS:** First of all, we define the following auxiliary variables for convenience:

- $\lambda_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, q$ , are  $q$  possible output differences of  $f$ , given the input difference is  $\theta$ .
- $\Gamma_i = \{f(w) | f(w) + f(w + \theta) = \lambda_i, w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}\}$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, q$ , are  $q$  disjoint partitions of  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  such that: (1) Eq. (29) holds, otherwise there is a  $w \in (\Gamma_i \cap \Gamma_j)$ ,  $1 \leq i \neq j \leq q$ , such that  $f(w) + f(w + \theta)$  produces output differences  $\lambda_i$  and  $\lambda_j$ ,  $\lambda_i \neq \lambda_j$ , which is impossible; (2) Eq. (30) holds, otherwise there is a  $w \in (\mathbb{F}_2^{16} - \cup_{i=1}^q \Gamma_i)$ , that produces an output difference  $\notin \{\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_q\}$ , which contradicts our definition.
- $\Phi_0 = \cap_{i=1}^q \{k | f(w) + k : \Gamma_i \mapsto \Gamma_i, k \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}\}$ . Intuitively,  $\Phi_0$  encompasses all possible keys, which make  $f(w) + k$  a permutation in  $\Gamma_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, q$ .

Furthermore, let us consider two cases: (1)  $K_6 \in \Phi_0$ ; and (2)  $K_6 \in$  a coset of  $\Phi_0$ .

For case (1), i.e.,  $K_6 \in \Phi_0$ , the above equations can be further written as, by setting  $\text{perm}_2(w) = f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w) + \theta) + K_6) | w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}] \\ &= [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + \lambda_i + K_6) | w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ &= [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6 + \lambda_i) | w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ &= [f(\text{perm}_2(w)) + f(\text{perm}_2(w) + \lambda_i) | w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ &= [f(w) + f(w + \lambda_i) | w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \end{aligned}$$

The above equation holds because of Property 8, e.g., for  $K_6 \in \Phi_0$ , every  $[f(w) + f(w + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i]$  produces the same sub-differential sequence. Therefore, the overall differential sequence stays the same for every  $K_6 \in \Phi_0$ . Stating in another way, providing  $K_6$  and  $\kappa_6$  are both in  $\Phi_0$ ,  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6)} = \Delta_{H,(\kappa_5,\kappa_6)}$ .

The above derivation is further confirmed through extensive experiments, where we found

$$(\lambda_1, \dots, \lambda_6) = (0x30cc, 0x6198, 0x9264, 0xa2a8, 0xc330, 0xf3fc),$$

$(\Gamma_1, \dots, \Gamma_6)$ , and  $\Phi_0$  as tabulated in Appendix C, which is of cardinality  $2^{12}$ .

In what follows, we prove case (2), i.e., the above equations are true for  $K_6 \in \Phi_i = \Phi_0 + i$ . This is because, by letting  $K_6 = \triangleright K_6 + \triangleleft K_6$  such that  $\triangleright K_6 \in \Phi_0$ ,

$$\begin{aligned} & [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ = & [f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + \triangleright K_6 + \triangleleft K_6) + f(f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + \triangleright K_6 + \triangleleft K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ = & [f(\text{perm}_3(w) + \triangleleft K_6) + f(\text{perm}_3(w) + \triangleleft K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \\ = & [f(w + \triangleleft K_6) + f(w + \triangleleft K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i] && \text{for } i = 1, \dots, q \end{aligned}$$

The second last equation holds because of our proof of case (1) (by letting  $\text{perm}_3(w) = f(\text{perm}_1(w)) + \triangleright K_6$ ).

In addition, it is clear that:

- the sub-differential sequence  $[f(w + \triangleleft K_6) + f(w + \triangleleft K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i]$ , is different from  $[f(w + f(w + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i)]$  as long as  $\triangleleft K_6 \neq 0$ . So is the overall differential sequence with overwhelming probability.
- for  $K_6 = \triangleright K_6 + \triangleleft K_6$ ,  $\kappa_6 = \triangleright \kappa_6 + \triangleleft \kappa_6$ ,  $K_6 \neq \kappa_6$ , the sub-differential sequence  $[f(w + \triangleleft K_6) + f(w + \triangleleft K_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i]$ , is the same as  $[f(w + \triangleleft \kappa_6) + f(w + \triangleleft \kappa_6 + \lambda_i)|w \in \Gamma_i]$  as long as  $\triangleleft K_6 = \triangleleft \kappa_6$ . This is due to the possibility that  $\triangleright K_6, \triangleright \kappa_6 \in \Phi_0$ ,  $\triangleright K_6 \neq \triangleright \kappa_6$  could yield  $\triangleleft K_6 = \triangleleft \kappa_6$ .

From the accusation above and our extensive experiments, it can be concluded that the key space of  $K_6 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  has been divided into 16 cosets, i.e.,  $\Phi_0, \dots, \Phi_{15}$ , and each is of cardinality  $2^{12}$ .

**Correspondence Between  $(K_7, K_8)$  and DS:** We carry on all the notations above for  $K_7$  except setting  $h(w, K) = f(f(f(f(w + K_5) + K_6) + K_7) + K_8)$ . We found that, for  $K_7$ ,  $\Phi_0$  is always a empty set because too many  $\lambda_i$  divides  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  into numerous tiny subspaces  $\Gamma_i$ , for which there is no  $K_7$  could make  $f(w) + K_7$  a permutation in every  $\Gamma_i$ ,  $i = 1, \dots, q$ . Same phenomenon happens to  $K_8$ . In all, each choice of  $(K_7, K_8)$  produces a different differential sequence, which is further confirmed empirically.  $\square$

**Attacking  $WD16^{-1}$  in Decryption:** Similar attack can be performed against the decryption. By assuming  $R_1$  and  $R'_1$  are known and letting  $h$  in Definition 1 be the last invocation of  $WD16^{-1}$ , i.e., Eq. (28), we have the following results for our attack.

**Theorem 3.** *With the condition (B), the differential sequence of the last  $WD16^{-1}$  in the decryption at  $\theta = H$  can be extracted from executing the entire decryption.*

*Proof:* First of all, when condition (B) holds, we have,

$$\begin{aligned}
u_3 &= WD16^{-1}(C \boxplus R_1, K_8, K_7, K_6, K_5) \\
&= WD16^{-1}((C + H) \boxplus R'_1, (K_8 + H), K'_7, K'_6, K'_5) = u'_3 \\
u_2 &= WD16^{-1}(u_3 \boxplus R_4, K_4 + R_8, K_3 + R_7, K_2 + R_6, K_1 + R_5) \\
&= WD16^{-1}(u'_3 \boxplus R'_4, (K_4 + H) + (R_8 + H), K'_3 + R'_7, K'_2 + R'_6, K'_1 + R'_5) = u'_2 \\
u_1 &= WD16^{-1}(u_2 \boxplus R_3, K_8 + R_8, K_7 + R_7, K_6 + R_6, K_5 + R_5) \\
&= WD16^{-1}(u'_2 \boxplus R'_3, (K_8 + H) + (R_8 + H), K'_7 + R'_7, K'_6 + R'_6, K'_5 + R'_5) = u'_1
\end{aligned}$$

Next,  $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)} = [z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{2^{16}-1}]$  can be extracted, where,

$$\begin{aligned}
z_i &= |\{u_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mid (WD16^{-1}(u_1 \boxplus R_2, K_4, K_3, K_2, K_1) + WD16^{-1}(u'_1 \boxplus R'_2, K'_4, K'_3, K'_2, K'_1)) = i\}| \\
&= |\{u_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16} \mid (WD16^{-1}(u_1 \boxplus R_2, K_4, K_3, K_2, K_1) + WD16^{-1}(u'_1 \boxplus R'_2, K_4 + H, K_3, K_2, K_1)) = i\}| \\
&= |\{C \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, C' = C + H \mid (P \boxplus R_1) + (P' \boxplus R_1) = i\}|.
\end{aligned}$$

□

A similar theorem describes the correspondence between  $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}$  and  $(K_4, K_3, K_2, K_1)$ .

**Theorem 4.** *Let  $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}$  be obtained from Theorem 3. For  $\kappa_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  and  $\kappa_4 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ ,*

$$\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)} = \Delta_{H,(\kappa_4,K_3,K_2,\kappa_1)},$$

where  $K_4$  and  $\kappa_4$  belong to the same set  $\Phi_i = \Phi_0 + i$ ,  $0 \leq i \leq 2^{12}-1$ , and  $\Phi_0 = \{0x0000, 0x0010, \dots, 0x00f0\}$ .

*Proof:* Similar as Theorem 2, except that we could easily observe from the experimental data that  $\Phi_0 = \{0x0000, 0x0010, 0x0020, \dots, 0x00f0\}$ . □

**Visualization of Differential Sequences From HB-2:** Here we provide several examples of the differential sequences used in our experiments. Fig. 4 to Fig. 6 in Appendix B are the ones obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16$  in the encryption with  $IV = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  and different keys randomly selected. Fig. 7 to Fig. 9 in Appendix B are the ones obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16^{-1}$  in the decryption with  $IV = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  and different keys randomly selected. All of the sequences are substantially different from each other, which exhibits their correlations to the underlying keys in an intuitive way.

#### 4.5 Local Search in DSA

After the template sequence is captured, the attacker could, in an off-line environment, launches  $h(w, K) = WD16(\cdot)$  ( $h(w, K) = WD16^{-1}(\cdot)$  resp.) to search for parts of  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)$  ( $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4$  resp.), which is called the *local search* in DSA. Through the local search, the attacker recovers 36-bit (44-bit resp.) information regarding the key.

A naive way to search locally is to produce a complete local differential sequence from  $[h(w, K) + h(w + H, K) \mid w \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}]$  with a random  $K$  at first, comparing each entry of which with the corresponding entry of the template sequence. The cost per key trial is  $2^{16}$  executions of  $h(w, K)$ s and  $2^{16}$  comparisons.

The efficiency of this method can be substantially improved if the early-abort strategy [30] is adapted, i.e., given the  $i$ th entry in the local differential sequence is greater than the  $i$ th entry in the template sequence, one could assert that the trial key is incorrect and terminate the search in advance. We present this improved local search algorithm below.

---

```

1: let  $TDS$  be the template sequence obtained
2: initiate the local differential sequence  $LDS$  as a list of  $2^{16}$  "0"s
3: for  $w$  from 0 to  $2^{16} - 1$  do
4:   randomly choose  $K$ 
5:    $diff \leftarrow h(w + K) + h(w + H + K)$ 
6:    $LDS[diff] \leftarrow LDS[diff] + 1$ 
7:   if  $LDS[diff] > TDS[diff]$  then
8:     return NULL
9:   end if
10: end for
11: if  $LDS[w] = TDS[w]$  for  $w = 0, 1, \dots, 2^{16} - 1$  then
12:   return  $K$ 
13: end if

```

---

The theoretical derivation of the time complexity of the above algorithm could be quite cumbersome. Instead, we recorded the number of the for-loops that are actually executed, denoted as  $l$ , during the search. Through repeated testings, we found that, in average,  $1.640 < l < 1.660$  for-loops are spent per key trial for both local searches using  $WD16(\cdot)$  and  $WD16^{-1}(\cdot)$ . Thus, we conclude the cost per key trial of our local search algorithm is 1.65 executions of (a pair of)  $h(w, K)$ s .

#### 4.6 Differential Sequence Analysis (DSA) Against HB-2 and Its Time Complexity

We are ready to list out the steps performed by the attacker during the key recovery phase, as below.

1. When condition (A) holds, the attacker extracts the template sequence  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}$  using  $((C \boxplus R_1) + (C' \boxplus R_1))$ , where  $C$  and  $C'$  can be obtained by querying the encryption with  $P$  and  $P' = P + H$ , and  $R_1$  and  $R_1'$  are obtained in the preparation phase. Then, the attacker locally searches 36-bit of  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8)$  using the proposed local search algorithm.
2. Similarly, utilizing the decryption, when condition (B) holds, the attacker extracts another template sequence  $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}$  using  $(P \boxplus R_1) + (P' \boxplus R_1)$ , and guesses to determine 44-bit of  $(K_4, K_3, K_2, K_1)$  using the proposed local search algorithm.
3. After that, the attacker searches the remaining 48-bit of the key using  $2^{48}$  trial encryptions<sup>1</sup>.

The overall complexity of the above steps is

$$\underbrace{2^{36} \times 1.65}_{\text{determine 36-bit of } (K_5, \dots, K_8)} + \underbrace{2^{44} \times 1.65}_{\text{determine 44-bit of } (K_1, \dots, K_4)} + \underbrace{2^{48}}_{\text{determine the rest}} \approx 2^{48.14},$$

where negligible memory is required by each steps.

<sup>1</sup> In fact,  $2^{48} + 2^{32} + 2^{16} = 2^{48.00002201}$  trial encryptions and three plaintext-ciphertext pairs are required.



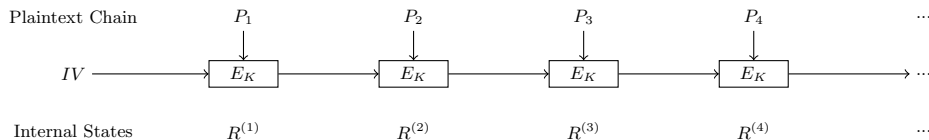
## 5 A Probabilistic Realization of Conditions (A) and (B)

The attacks in the last section solely depends on the occurrences of conditions (A) and (B), to reach  $\Delta R$ s in which sounds unpractical at the first glance as the initialization of HB-2 makes the internal states unpredictable. In this section, we show a probabilistic approach to realize these conditions – when the internal states of two HB-2 instances are respectively random, there is a certain chance that the attacker could get the desired differentials in the internal states. To this end, we study how to randomize the internal states of HB-2 at first, and, how to determine whether the desired  $\Delta R$ s happen.

### 5.1 Randomize the Internal States

There are two ways for the adversary to affect the internal states of HB-2:

- Providing the key is fixed, it is suffice, from Eq. (1)-(12), that  $(IV_1, \dots, IV_4) \mapsto (R_1, \dots, R_4)$  is an injective mapping and so is  $(IV_1, \dots, IV_4) \mapsto (R_5, \dots, R_8)$ . Therefore, the attacker could easily generate  $2^{64}$  (out of  $2^{128}$ ) different internal states by choosing different IVs and launching the initialization.
- For a fixed key and a particular IV, the attacker could choose plaintext  $P_1$  to feed HB-2 at first. If a state transition graph is drawn, we can see that the starting state, i.e.,  $R^{(1)}$ , transits to  $2^{16}$  neighboring states while each  $P_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  is encrypted. Next, if another encryption is performed, e.g., encrypting  $P_2$ , each of these “neighboring states” again transits to another  $2^{16}$  states providing  $P_2$  takes every value in  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ . By continuing this process, we would have all  $2^{128}$  states covered in this graph. Therefore, to produce a set of random internal states, i.e.,  $\{R^{(1)}, R^{(2)}, \dots\}$ , we could, as shown in Fig. 3, feed the encryptions with a plaintext chain where  $P_i$  is selected uniformly at random in  $\mathbb{F}_2^{16}$  for  $i = 1, 2, \dots$ . Similarly, a ciphertext chain could be fed to the decryption oracle to generate a set of random internal states as well. Note that feeding HB-2 encryption with a chain of  $N$  random inputs is equivalent to perform an  $N$ -step  $2^{16}$ -dimensional random walk in its state transition graph. Therefore,  $|\{R^{(1)}, R^{(2)}, \dots\}| \approx N$  if  $N \ll 2^{128}$  [15].



**Fig. 3.** Feeding HB-2 Encryption with a Plaintext Chain

Therefore, the algorithm below provides, to the later steps, the randomized internal states of two running HB-2 instances through an effort-saving way – one instance initializes a random IV and encrypts one random plaintext, while the other one, besides initializes a random IV, encrypts  $N$  random plaintexts consecutively. Since  $\{R^{(1)}, R^{(2)}, \dots, R^{(N)}\}$  is a set of random variables as analyzed,  $\{R^{(1)} + R'^{(1)}, R^{(2)} + R'^{(1)}, \dots, R^{(N)} + R'^{(1)}\}$  must also be a set of random variables.

---



---

```

1: Let  $R^{(i)} \leftarrow E(P_i, K)$  be the internal state  $R^{(i)}$  after encrypting  $P_1, \dots, P_i$ 
2: Randomly choose  $IV'$  and  $P'_1, R'^{(1)} \leftarrow E(P'_1, K)$ 
3: Randomly choose  $IV$ 
4: for  $i$  from 1 to  $N$  do
5:   Randomly choose  $P_i, R^{(i)} \leftarrow E(P_i, K)$ 
6:   if  $R'^{(1)} + R^{(i)} = \Delta R$  then
7:     return “ $\Delta R$  happens”
8:   end if
9: end for

```

---

Note that, currently, the given algorithm is only a skeleton for our attack, which is discussed in more detail in the next subsections and the full-fledged version is given at last. Nevertheless, we can already sense an interesting property from this skeleton algorithm.

*Property 9.* In the algorithm above, a certain  $\Delta R$  happens with 0.5 probability when  $N = 2^{64}$ .

*Proof.* This property holds due to the birthday paradox.  $\square$

## 5.2 Determine while Guessing

To inform the attacker during the attempting, as long as condition (A) (condition (B) resp.) happens, we use one unusual differential characteristic in the encryption (decryption resp.), as first pointed out by HB-2’s designers, such that the differentials in the internal states, secret keys and the inputs can be maintained and entered into the next round, i.e., for a positive integer  $i$ ,

$$(\Delta P_i, \Delta K, \Delta R^{(i)}) = (\Delta P_{i+1}, \Delta K, \Delta R^{(i+1)}).$$

Therefore, the following theorem holds.

**Theorem 5.** Let  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}^{(i')}$  ( $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}^{(i')}$  resp.) be the differential sequence produced by the two encryption instances (two decryption instances resp.) with internal states  $R^{(1)}$  and  $R'^{(i')}$  and let  $\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}^{(i'+1)}$  ( $\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}^{(i'+1)}$  resp.) be the differential sequence produced by the two encryption instances (two decryption instances resp.) with internal states  $R^{(2)}$  and  $R'^{(i'+1)}$  (call  $\Delta_{H,K}^{(i')}$  and  $\Delta_{H,K}^{(i'+1)}$  neighboring template sequences). Therefore,

- If condition (A) happens during encryption, the adversary observes two identical neighboring template sequences, i.e.,

$$\Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}^{(i')} = \Delta_{H,(K_5,K_6,K_7,K_8)}^{(i'+1)};$$

otherwise, the above equation holds with negligible probability.

- If condition (B) happens during decryption, the adversary observes two identical neighboring template sequences, i.e.,

$$\Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}^{(i')} = \Delta_{H,(K_4,K_3,K_2,K_1)}^{(i'+1)};$$

otherwise, the above equation hold with negligible probability.

*Proof:* It follows from Definition 1 and Property 1.  $\square$

Therefore, the above theorem can serve as an algorithm to determine the occurrences of condition (A) or condition (B), i.e., it returns either  $(Success, \Delta_{H,K}^{(i')}, R_1^{(1)}, R_1^{(2)})$  or  $(False, NULL, NULL, NULL)$  to the key recovery phase. Unfortunately, in this algorithm, the correct template sequences can only be extracted with the correct  $R_1^{(1)}$  and  $R_1^{(2)}$  due to Theorem 1 and Theorem 3. For instance, using the encryption, the two neighboring sequences are

$$\Delta^{(i')} = (z_0^{(i')}, z_1^{(i')}, \dots, z_{65535}^{(i')}) \quad (32)$$

$$\Delta^{(i'+1)} = (z_0^{(i'+1)}, z_1^{(i'+1)}, \dots, z_{65535}^{(i'+1)}) \quad (33)$$

where

$$z_j^{(i')} = |\{P_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, P'_{i'} = P_1 + H \mid (C_1 \boxplus R_1^{(1)}) + (C'_{i'} \boxplus R_1^{(i')}) = j\}| \quad \text{and}$$

$$z_j^{(i'+1)} = |\{P_2 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, P'_{i'+1} = P_2 + H \mid (C_2 \boxplus R_1^{(2)}) + (C'_{i'+1} \boxplus R_1^{(i'+1)}) = j\}|$$

Henceforth, it is true that by guessing  $R_1^{(1)}$  and  $R_1^{(2)}$ , the theorem/algorithm above would cost  $2^{32}$  encryptions/decryptions per execution.

To improve its efficiency, we make use of the following fact: as the modulo addition is only first-order correlation-immune, the two identical neighboring sequences obfuscated by modulo additions of different  $R_1$ s may have an apparent correlation, while two distinct neighboring sequences may not. This intuition is further verified by our extensive experiments. In parallel with Eq. (32) and Eq. (33), let us define the *raw neighboring sequences* as:

$$\underline{\Delta}^{(i')} = (\underline{z_0^{(i')}} , \underline{z_1^{(i')}} , \dots , \underline{z_{65535}^{(i')}})$$

$$\underline{\Delta}^{(i'+1)} = (\underline{z_0^{(i'+1)}} , \underline{z_1^{(i'+1)}} , \dots , \underline{z_{65535}^{(i'+1)}})$$

where

$$\underline{z_j^{(i')}} = |\{P_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, P'_{i'} = P_1 + H \mid C_1 + C'_{i'} = j\}| \quad \text{and}$$

$$\underline{z_j^{(i'+1)}} = |\{P_2 \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, P'_{i'+1} = P_2 + H \mid C_2 + C'_{i'+1} = j\}|.$$

We found that, for the identical neighboring sequences, the corresponding two raw neighboring sequences always have more than 30000 (out of 65536) identical entries, i.e.,

$$Corr(\underline{\Delta}^{(i')}, \underline{\Delta}^{(i'+1)}) = |\{\underline{z_j^{(i')}} = \underline{z_j^{(i'+1)}}, j = 0, 1, \dots, 65535\}| > 30000, \text{ iff } \Delta^{(i')} = \Delta^{(i'+1)},$$

where  $Corr(.,.)$  is the non-normalized correlation.

On the contrary, for the distinct neighboring sequences, the corresponding two raw neighboring sequences always have less than 19000 (out of 65536) identical entries, i.e.,

$$Corr(\underline{\Delta}^{(i')}, \underline{\Delta}^{(i'+1)}) = |\{\underline{z_j^{(i')}} = \underline{z_j^{(i'+1)}}, j = 0, 1, \dots, 65535\}| < 19000, \text{ iff } \Delta^{(i')} \neq \Delta^{(i'+1)}.$$

By treating the correlation of the raw neighboring sequences as a criterion, Theorem 5 is now able to return whether  $\Delta^{(i')}$  equals  $\Delta^{(i'+1)}$  with  $2^{16}$  time complexity. Once the identical neighboring sequences are identified, the adversary is able to guess to recover  $R_1^{(1)}$  and  $R_1^{(2)}$  with  $2^{32}$  effort in time.

### 5.3 Preparation Phase and Its Time Complexity

We recap the whole process in the preparation phase for the encryption as shown below, which is an extension of the skeleton algorithm we shown before. Note that the preparation using the decryption is similar and omitted here.

---

```

1: randomly choose  $IV'$  and  $P'_1$ ,  $R^{(1)} \leftarrow E(P'_1, K)$ 
2: randomly choose  $IV$ 
3: randomly choose a constant  $P'_2$ 
4: for  $i$  from 1 to  $N = 2^{64}$  do
5:   randomly choose  $P_i$ ,  $R^{(i)} \leftarrow E(P_i, K)$ 
6:   generate  $\Delta^{(i)}$  using  $R^{(1)}$  and  $R^{(i)}$ 
7:    $R^{(2)} \leftarrow E(P'_2, K)$ 
8:    $R^{(i+1)} \leftarrow E(P_{i+1}, K)$  where  $P_{i+1} = P'_2 + H$ 
9:   generate  $\Delta^{(i+1)}$  using  $R^{(2)}$  and  $R^{(i+1)}$ 
10:  if  $Corr(\Delta^{(i)}, \Delta^{(i+1)}) > 30000$  then
11:    guess to determine  $R_1^{(1)}$  and  $R_1^{(2)}$ 
12:    recover  $\Delta_{H,K}^{(i')}$  from the raw neighboring sequences
13:    return  $(Success, \Delta_{H,K}^{(i')}, R_1^{(1)}, R_1^{(2)})$ , keep current states and enter the key recovery phase
14:  end if
15:  decrypt using  $C'_2$  and  $C_{i+1}$  to roll back HB-2's states to  $R^{(1)}$  and  $R^{(i)}$ 
16: end for
17: return  $(False, NULL, NULL, NULL)$ 

```

---

Using the encryption (decryption resp.) only, the attacker has 0.5 probability to reach condition (A) (condition (B) resp.) with  $2^{64} \times 2^{16} = 2^{80}$  time complexity. After that, he is able to guess to determine  $R_1^{(1)}$  and  $R_1^{(2)}$  with additional  $2^{32}$  effort in time. In all, the time complexity of the preparation phase is

$$\underbrace{2^{64} \times 2^{16}}_{\text{test whether the condition happens}} + \underbrace{2^{32}}_{\text{guess to determine } R_1\text{s}} + \underbrace{2^{16}}_{\text{recover the template sequence}} \approx 2^{80}.$$

It is worthy to mention that to succeed with probability 1, the preparation phase requires  $2^{128+16} = 2^{144}$  effort in time, which is slower than the exhaustive search.

## 6 Concluding Remarks

In this paper, we present a novel cryptanalytic technique called differential sequence analysis (DSA), which is especially effective if the differential sequence reflecting parts of a cipher associated with parts of the key can be obtained. In addition, we demonstrate the application of this technique, that constitutes the key recovery of the lightweight block cipher Hummingbird-2 with  $2^{48.14}$  time complexity, given particular conditions hold in its internal states, secret keys and the inputs. Furthermore, we investigate how to reach these conditions in our preparation phase with 0.5 chance and  $2^{80}$  effort in time. To the best of our knowledge, this is the first cryptanalytic result of the full Hummingbird-2.

The attack presented against Hummingbird-2 is a special case of the general DSA, to build the theoretic framework of which is part of our future work. In addition, it will be evaluated in the recent future: (1) whether the generalized DSA provides even better results against Hummingbird-2 and other potentially vulnerable ciphers, especially the ones with small block size and with internal states, e.g., stateful block ciphers [24]; (2) the possibility that the generalized DSA can work with other cryptanalysis technologies, e.g., meet-in-the-middle.

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## A Side-channel Injection Attack to Recover $(R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8)$

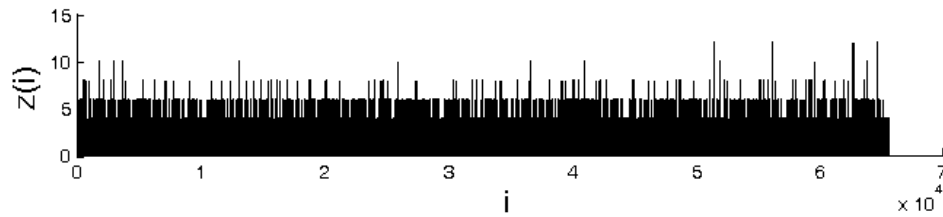
As can be seen from Eq. (6)-(9),  $R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8$  do not participate in the randomization process but simply record (by Xoring) the historical statuses of  $R_1, R_2, R_3, R_4$  respectively. Therefore, following steps allow a side-channel attacker, who is able to inject “1” to a certain bit of the register storing  $R_j$ ,  $5 \leq j \leq 8$ , to recover  $(R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8)$ :

1. The attacker encrypts with a known IV and the target key to get a plaintext/cipher pair  $(P, C)$ , where  $P \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}, C \in \mathbb{F}_2^{16}$ ;
2. He resets HB-2 and initializes HB-2 with the same IV and key. At any time during this initialization, he injects “1” to the  $q$ th bit,  $0 \leq q \leq 15$ , of the register which stores  $R_5$ . He then encrypts  $P$  and gets  $C'$ . If  $C = C'$  (which implies the injection does not change the internal states of HB-2), the attacker in fact learns that the  $q$ th bit of  $R_5$  is 1; otherwise it is 0. He repeats this step for every  $q$  in  $\{0, 1, \dots, 15\}$  to recover  $R_5$ ;
3. Step (2) can be repeated to recover  $R_6, R_7$  and  $R_8$ ;

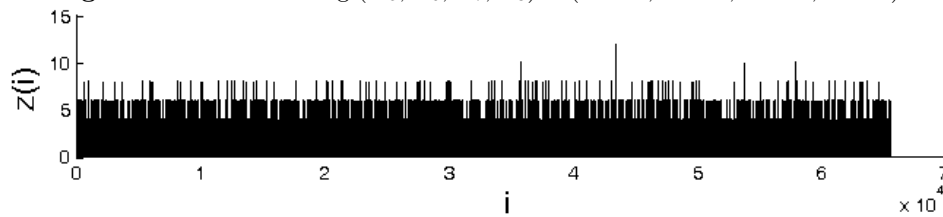
The cost of this injection attack to recover  $(R_5, R_6, R_7, R_8)$  is 64 injections and 64 invocations of HB-2 encryption. In addition, since the attacker has a large time window to perform the injection to the  $q$ th bit of  $R_j$  (any time during the  $r$ th iteration of the initialization), this side-channel attack seems quite practical.

## B Visualization of Differential Sequences

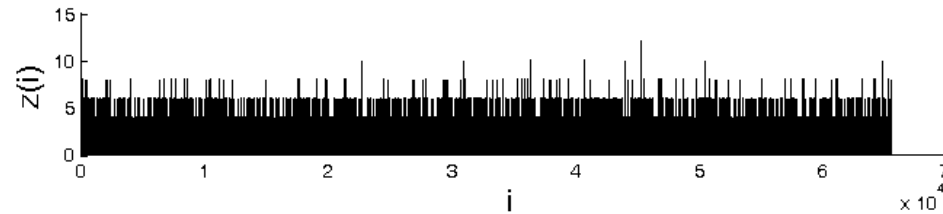
Fig. 4 to Fig. 6 are the ones obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16$  in the encryption with  $IV = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  and different keys randomly selected. Fig. 7 to Fig. 9 are the ones obtained from the last invocation of  $WD16^{-1}$  in the decryption with  $IV = (0, 0, 0, 0)$  and different keys randomly selected. All of the sequences looks substantially different from each other, which exhibits their correlations to the underlying keys in an intuitive way.



**Fig. 4.** DS from Enc. using  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) = (0xf1e3, 0x524a, 0xb28a, 0xc987)$

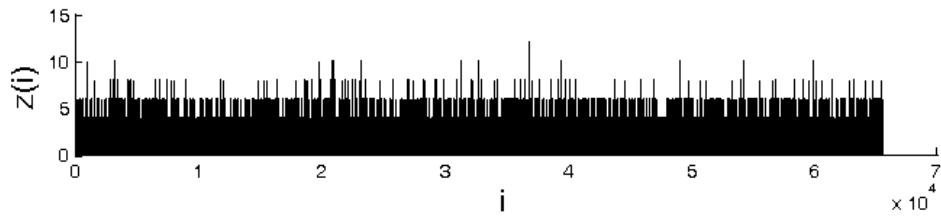


**Fig. 5.** DS from Enc. using  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) = (0x7c9f, 0x0784, 0x1c96, 0xbcb4)$

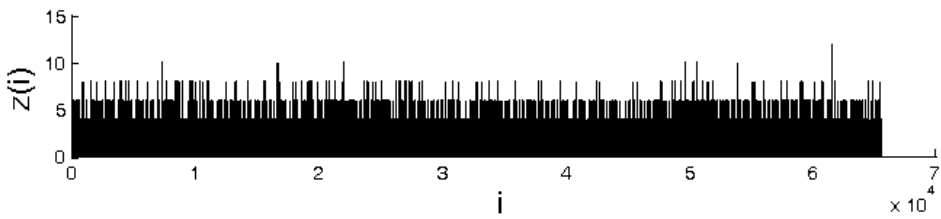


**Fig. 6.** DS from Enc. using  $(K_5, K_6, K_7, K_8) = (0x6b03, 0xcf0c, 0x1ba2, 0xdc27)$

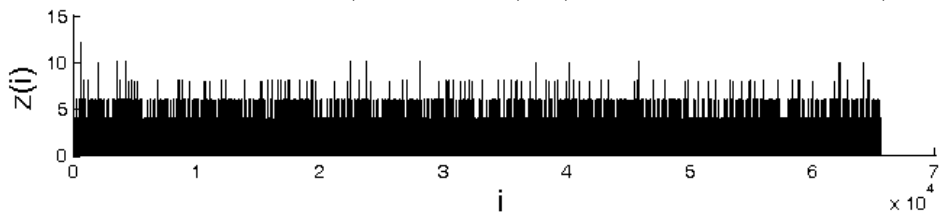




**Fig. 7.** DS from Dec. using  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) = (0x5d67, 0xd0ef, 0x8cec, 0xa33a)$



**Fig. 8.** DS from Dec. using  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) = (0x6601, 0x0bd8, 0xa6fa, 0xcde)$



**Fig. 9.** DS from Dec. using  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) = (0x28dc, 0xbde1, 0x6e3d, 0xa56d)$

# C The Set $\Phi_0$

Ox0	Ox10	Ox20	Ox30	Ox40	Ox50	Ox60	Ox70	Ox80	Ox90	Oxa0	Oxb0	Oxc0	Oxd0	Oxe0	Oxf0	Ox105	Ox115	Ox125	Ox135	Ox145
Ox155	Ox165	Ox175	Ox185	Ox195	Ox1a5	Ox1b5	Ox1c5	Ox1d5	Ox1e5	Ox1f5	Ox20a	Ox21a	Ox22a	Ox23a	Ox24a	Ox25a	Ox26a	Ox27a	Ox28a	Ox29a
Ox2aa	Ox2ba	Ox2ca	Ox2da	Ox2ea	Ox2fa	Ox30f	Ox31f	Ox32f	Ox33f	Ox34f	Ox35f	Ox36f	Ox37f	Ox38f	Ox39f	Ox3af	Ox3bf	Ox3cf	Ox3df	Ox3ef
Ox3ff	Ox401	Ox411	Ox421	Ox431	Ox441	Ox451	Ox461	Ox471	Ox481	Ox491	Ox4a1	Ox4b1	Ox4c1	Ox4d1	Ox4e1	Ox4f1	Ox504	Ox514	Ox524	Ox534
Ox544	Ox554	Ox564	Ox574	Ox584	Ox594	Ox5a4	Ox5b4	Ox5c4	Ox5d4	Ox5e4	Ox5f4	Ox60b	Ox61b	Ox62b	Ox63b	Ox64b	Ox65b	Ox66b	Ox67b	Ox68b
Ox69b	Ox6ab	Ox6bb	Ox6cb	Ox6db	Ox6eb	Ox6fb	Ox70e	Ox71e	Ox72e	Ox73e	Ox74e	Ox75e	Ox76e	Ox77e	Ox78e	Ox79e	Ox7ae	Ox7be	Ox7ce	Ox7de
Ox7ee	Ox7fe	Ox802	Ox812	Ox822	Ox832	Ox842	Ox852	Ox862	Ox872	Ox882	Ox892	Ox8a2	Ox8b2	Ox8c2	Ox8d2	Ox8e2	Ox8f2	Ox907	Ox917	Ox927
Ox937	Ox947	Ox957	Ox967	Ox977	Ox987	Ox997	Ox9a7	Ox97f	Ox98f	Ox99f	Oxa07	Oxa08	Oxa18	Oxa28	Oxa38	Oxa48	Oxa58	Oxa68	Oxa78	Oxa88
Oxa88	Oxa98	Oxaa8	Oxab8	Oxac8	Oxad8	Oxae8	Oxaf8	Oxb0d	Oxb1d	Oxb2d	Oxb3d	Oxb4d	Oxb5d	Oxb6d	Oxb7d	Oxb8d	Oxb9d	Oxbd	Oxbd	Oxbd
Oxbd	Oxbd	Oxbf	Oxc03	Oxc13	Oxc23	Oxc33	Oxc43	Oxc53	Oxc63	Oxc73	Oxc83	Oxc93	Oxca3	Oxcb3	Oxcc3	Oxcd3	Oxce3	Oxcf3	Oxd06	Oxd16
Oxd26	Oxd36	Oxd46	Oxd56	Oxd66	Oxd76	Oxd86	Oxd96	Oxda6	Oxdb6	Oxdc6	Oxdd6	Oxde6	Oxdf6	Oxe09	Oxe19	Oxe29	Oxe39	Oxe49	Oxe59	Oxe69
Oxe79	Oxe89	Oxe99	Oxea9	Oxeb9	Oxec9	Oxed9	Oxee9	Oxef9	Oxf0c	Oxf1c	Oxf2c	Oxf3c	Oxf4c	Oxf5c	Oxf6c	Oxf7c	Oxf8c	Oxf9c	Oxfac	Oxfbc
Oxfcc	Oxfdc	Oxfec	Oxfef	Ox1001	Ox1011	Ox1021	Ox1031	Ox1041	Ox1051	Ox1061	Ox1071	Ox1081	Ox1091	Ox10a1	Ox10b1	Ox10c1	Ox10d1	Ox10e1	Ox10f1	Ox1104
Ox1114	Ox1124	Ox1134	Ox1144	Ox1154	Ox1164	Ox1174	Ox1184	Ox1194	Ox11a4	Ox11b4	Ox11c4	Ox11d4	Ox11e4	Ox11f4	Ox120b	Ox121b	Ox122b	Ox123b	Ox124b	Ox125b
Ox126b	Ox127b	Ox128b	Ox129b	Ox12ab	Ox12bb	Ox12cb	Ox12db	Ox12eb	Ox12fb	Ox130e	Ox131e	Ox132e	Ox133e	Ox134e	Ox135e	Ox136e	Ox137e	Ox138e	Ox139e	Ox13ae
Ox13be	Ox13ce	Ox13de	Ox13ee	Ox13fe	Ox1400	Ox1410	Ox1420	Ox1430	Ox1440	Ox1450	Ox1460	Ox1470	Ox1480	Ox1490	Ox14a0	Ox14b0	Ox14c0	Ox14d0	Ox14e0	Ox14f0
Ox1505	Ox1515	Ox1525	Ox1535	Ox1545	Ox1555	Ox1565	Ox1575	Ox1585	Ox1595	Ox15a5	Ox15b5	Ox15c5	Ox15d5	Ox15e5	Ox15f5	Ox160a	Ox161a	Ox162a	Ox163a	Ox164a
Ox165a	Ox166a	Ox167a	Ox168a	Ox169a	Ox16aa	Ox16ba	Ox16ca	Ox16da	Ox16ea	Ox16fa	Ox170f	Ox171f	Ox172f	Ox173f	Ox174f	Ox175f	Ox176f	Ox177f	Ox178f	Ox179f
Ox17af	Ox17bf	Ox17cf	Ox17df	Ox17ef	Ox17ff	Ox1803	Ox1813	Ox1823	Ox1833	Ox1843	Ox1853	Ox1863	Ox1873	Ox1883	Ox1893	Ox18a3	Ox18b3	Ox18c3	Ox18d3	Ox18e3
Ox18f3	Ox1906	Ox1916	Ox1926	Ox1936	Ox1946	Ox1956	Ox1966	Ox1976	Ox1986	Ox1996	Ox19a6	Ox19b6	Ox19c6	Ox19d6	Ox19e6	Ox19f6	Ox1a09	Ox1a19	Ox1a29	Ox1a39
Ox1a49	Ox1a59	Ox1a69	Ox1a79	Ox1a89	Ox1a99	Ox1aa9	Ox1ab9	Ox1ac9	Ox1ad9	Ox1ae9	Ox1af9	Ox1b0c	Ox1b1c	Ox1b2c	Ox1b3c	Ox1b4c	Ox1b5c	Ox1b6c	Ox1b7c	Ox1b8c
Ox1b9c	Ox1bac	Ox1bbc	Ox1bcc	Ox1bdc	Ox1bec	Ox1bfc	Ox1c02	Ox1c12	Ox1c22	Ox1c32	Ox1c42	Ox1c52	Ox1c62	Ox1c72	Ox1c82	Ox1c92	Ox1ca2	Ox1cb2	Ox1cc2	Ox1cd2
Ox1ce2	Ox1cf2	Ox1d07	Ox1d17	Ox1d27	Ox1d37	Ox1d47	Ox1d57	Ox1d67	Ox1d77	Ox1d87	Ox1d97	Ox1da7	Ox1db7	Ox1dc7	Ox1dd7	Ox1de7	Ox1df7	Ox1e08	Ox1e18	Ox1e28
Ox1e38	Ox1e48	Ox1e58	Ox1e68	Ox1e78	Ox1e88	Ox1e98	Ox1ea8	Ox1eb8	Ox1ec8	Ox1ed8	Ox1ee8	Ox1ef8	Ox1f0d	Ox1f1d	Ox1f2d	Ox1f3d	Ox1f4d	Ox1f5d	Ox1f6d	Ox1f7d
Ox1f8d	Ox1f9d	Ox1fad	Ox1fdb	Ox1fed	Ox1fed	Ox1fed	Ox1fed	Ox2002	Ox2012	Ox2022	Ox2032	Ox2042	Ox2052	Ox2062	Ox2072	Ox2082	Ox2092	Ox20a2	Ox20b2	Ox20c2
Ox20d2	Ox20e2	Ox20f2	Ox2107	Ox2117	Ox2127	Ox2137	Ox2147	Ox2157	Ox2167	Ox2177	Ox2187	Ox2197	Ox21a7	Ox21b7	Ox21c7	Ox21d7	Ox21e7	Ox21f7	Ox2208	Ox2218
Ox2228	Ox2238	Ox2248	Ox2258	Ox2268	Ox2278	Ox2288	Ox2298	Ox22a8	Ox22b8	Ox22c8	Ox22d8	Ox22e8	Ox22f8	Ox230d	Ox231d	Ox232d	Ox233d	Ox234d	Ox235d	Ox236d
Ox237d	Ox238d	Ox239d	Ox23ad	Ox23bd	Ox23cd	Ox23dd	Ox23ed	Ox23fd	Ox2403	Ox2413	Ox2423	Ox2433	Ox2443	Ox2453	Ox2463	Ox2473	Ox2483	Ox2493	Ox24a3	Ox24b3
Ox24c3	Ox24d3	Ox24e3	Ox24f3	Ox2506	Ox2516	Ox2526	Ox2536	Ox2546	Ox2556	Ox2566	Ox2576	Ox2586	Ox2596	Ox25a6	Ox25b6	Ox25c6	Ox25d6	Ox25e6	Ox25f6	Ox2609
Ox2619	Ox2629	Ox2639	Ox2649	Ox2659	Ox2669	Ox2679	Ox2689	Ox2699	Ox26a9	Ox26b9	Ox26c9	Ox26d9	Ox26e9	Ox26f9	Ox270c	Ox271c	Ox272c	Ox273c	Ox274c	Ox275c
Ox276c	Ox277c	Ox278c	Ox279c	Ox27ac	Ox27bc	Ox27cc	Ox27dc	Ox27ec	Ox27fc	Ox2800	Ox2810	Ox2820	Ox2830	Ox2840	Ox2850	Ox2860	Ox2870	Ox2880	Ox2890	Ox28a0
Ox28b0	Ox28c0	Ox28d0	Ox28e0	Ox28f0	Ox2905	Ox2915	Ox2925	Ox2935	Ox2945	Ox2955	Ox2965	Ox2975	Ox2985	Ox2995	Ox29a5	Ox29b5	Ox29c5	Ox29d5	Ox29e5	Ox29f5
Ox2a0a	Ox2a1a	Ox2a2a	Ox2a3a	Ox2a4a	Ox2a5a	Ox2a6a	Ox2a7a	Ox2a8a	Ox2a9a	Ox2aaa	Ox2aba	Ox2aca	Ox2ada	Ox2aea	Ox2afa	Ox2b0f	Ox2b1f	Ox2b2f	Ox2b3f	Ox2b4f
Ox2b5f	Ox2b6f	Ox2b7f	Ox2b8f	Ox2b9f	Ox2baf	Ox2bbf	Ox2bcf	Ox2bdf	Ox2bef	Ox2bff	Ox2c01	Ox2c11	Ox2c21	Ox2c31	Ox2c41	Ox2c51	Ox2c61	Ox2c71	Ox2c81	Ox2c91
Ox2ca1	Ox2cb1	Ox2cc1	Ox2cd1	Ox2ce1	Ox2cf1	Ox2d04	Ox2d14	Ox2d24	Ox2d34	Ox2d44	Ox2d54	Ox2d64	Ox2d74	Ox2d84	Ox2d94	Ox2da4	Ox2db4	Ox2dc4	Ox2dd4	Ox2de4
Ox2df4	Ox2e0b	Ox2e1b	Ox2e2b	Ox2e3b	Ox2e4b	Ox2e5b	Ox2e6b	Ox2e7b	Ox2e8b	Ox2e9b	Ox2eab	Ox2ebb	Ox2ecb	Ox2edb	Ox2eeb	Ox2efb	Ox2f0e	Ox2f1e	Ox2f2e	Ox2f3e
Ox2f4e	Ox2f5e	Ox2f6e	Ox2f7e	Ox2f8e	Ox2f9e	Ox2fae	Ox2fbc	Ox2fcd	Ox2fde	Ox2fee	Ox2ffe	Ox3003	Ox3013	Ox3023	Ox3033	Ox3043	Ox3053	Ox3063	Ox3073	Ox3083
Ox3093	Ox30a3	Ox30b3	Ox30c3	Ox30d3	Ox30e3	Ox30f3	Ox3106	Ox3116	Ox3126	Ox3136	Ox3146	Ox3156	Ox3166	Ox3176	Ox3186	Ox3196	Ox31a6	Ox31b6	Ox31c6	Ox31d6
Ox31e6	Ox31f6	Ox3209	Ox3219	Ox3229	Ox3239	Ox3249	Ox3259	Ox3269	Ox3279	Ox3289	Ox3299	Ox32a9	Ox32b9	Ox32c9	Ox32d9	Ox32e9	Ox32f9	Ox330c	Ox331c	Ox332c
Ox333c	Ox334c	Ox335c	Ox336c	Ox337c	Ox338c	Ox339c	Ox33ac	Ox33bc	Ox33cc	Ox33dc	Ox33ec	Ox33fc	Ox3402	Ox3412	Ox3422	Ox3432	Ox3442	Ox3452	Ox3462	Ox3472
Ox3482	Ox3492	Ox34a2	Ox34b2	Ox34c2	Ox34d2	Ox34e2	Ox34f2	Ox3507	Ox3517	Ox3527	Ox3537	Ox3547	Ox3557	Ox3567	Ox3577	Ox3587	Ox3597	Ox35a7	Ox35b7	Ox35c7
Ox35d7	Ox35e7	Ox35f7	Ox3608	Ox3618	Ox3628	Ox3638	Ox3648	Ox3658	Ox3668	Ox3678	Ox3688	Ox3698	Ox36a8	Ox36b8	Ox36c8	Ox36d8	Ox36e8	Ox36f8	Ox370d	Ox371d
Ox372d	Ox373d	Ox374d	Ox375d	Ox376d	Ox377d	Ox378d	Ox379d	Ox37ad	Ox37bd	Ox37cd	Ox37dd	Ox37ed	Ox37fd	Ox3801	Ox3811	Ox3821	Ox3831	Ox3841	Ox3851	Ox3861
Ox3871	Ox3881	Ox3891	Ox38a1	Ox38b1	Ox38c1	Ox38d1	Ox38e1	Ox38f1	Ox3904	Ox3914	Ox3924	Ox3934	Ox3944	Ox3954	Ox3964	Ox3974	Ox3984	Ox3994	Ox39a4	Ox39b4
Ox39c4	Ox39d4	Ox39e4	Ox39f4	Ox3a0b	Ox3a1b	Ox3a2b	Ox3a3b	Ox3a4b	Ox3a5b	Ox3a6b	Ox3a7b	Ox3a8b	Ox3a9b	Ox3aab	Ox3abc	Ox3abd	Ox3abe	Ox3abf	Ox3ac0	Ox3ac5
Ox3b1e	Ox3b2e	Ox3b3e	Ox3b4e	Ox3b5e	Ox3b6e	Ox3b7e	Ox3b8e	Ox3b9e	Ox3bae	Ox3bbe	Ox3bce	Ox3bde	Ox3bfe	Ox3c00	Ox3c10	Ox3c20	Ox3c30	Ox3c40	Ox3c50	Ox3c60
Ox3c60	Ox3c70	Ox3c80	Ox3c90	Ox3ca0	Ox3cb0	Ox3cc0	Ox3cd0	Ox3ce0	Ox3cf0	Ox3d05	Ox3d15	Ox3d25	Ox3d35	Ox3d45	Ox3d55	Ox3d65	Ox3d75	Ox3d85	Ox3d95	Ox3da5
Ox3db5	Ox3dc5	Ox3dd5	Ox3de5	Ox3df5	Ox3e0a	Ox3e1a	Ox3e2a	Ox3e3a	Ox3e4a	Ox3e5a	Ox3e6a	Ox3e7a	Ox3e8a	Ox3e9a	Ox3ea	Ox3eb	Ox3ec	Ox3ed	Ox3ee	Ox3ef
Ox3f0f	Ox3f1f	Ox3f2f	Ox3f3f	Ox3f4f	Ox3f5f	Ox3f6f	Ox3f7f	Ox3f8f	Ox3f9f	Ox3faf	Ox3fbf	Ox3fcf	Ox3fd	Ox3fe	Ox3ff	Ox4001	Ox4011	Ox4021	Ox4031	Ox4041
Ox4051	Ox4061	Ox4071	Ox4081	Ox4091	Ox40a1	Ox40b1	Ox40c1	Ox40d1	Ox40e1	Ox40f1	Ox4104	Ox4114	Ox4124	Ox4134	Ox4144	Ox4154	Ox4164	Ox4174	Ox4184	Ox4194
Ox41a4	Ox41b4	Ox41c4	Ox41d4	Ox41e4	Ox41f4	Ox420b	Ox421b	Ox422b	Ox423b	Ox424b	Ox425b	Ox426b	Ox427b	Ox428b	Ox429b	Ox42ab	Ox42bb	Ox42cb	Ox42db	Ox42eb
Ox42fb	Ox430e	Ox431e	Ox432e	Ox433e	Ox434e	Ox435e	Ox436e	Ox437e	Ox438e	Ox439e	Ox43ae	Ox43be	Ox43ce	Ox43de	Ox43ee	Ox43fe	Ox4400	Ox4410	Ox4420	Ox4430
Ox4440	Ox4450	Ox4460	Ox4470	Ox4480	Ox4490	Ox44a0	Ox44b0	Ox44c0	Ox44d0	Ox44e0	Ox44f0	Ox4505	Ox4515	Ox4525	Ox4535	Ox4545	Ox4555	Ox4565	Ox4575	Ox4585
Ox4595	Ox45a5	Ox45b5	Ox45c5	Ox45d5	Ox45e5	Ox45f5	Ox460a	Ox461a	Ox462a	Ox463a	Ox464a	Ox465a	Ox466a	Ox467a	Ox468a	Ox469a	Ox46aa	Ox46ba	Ox46ca	Ox46da
Ox46e6	Ox46f6	Ox470f	Ox471f	Ox472f	Ox473f	Ox474f	Ox475f	Ox476f	Ox477f	Ox478f	Ox479f	Ox47af	Ox47bf	Ox47cf	Ox47df	Ox47ef	Ox47ff	Ox4803	Ox4813	Ox4823
Ox4833	Ox4843	Ox4853	Ox4863	Ox4873	Ox4883	Ox4893	Ox48a3	Ox48b3	Ox48c3	Ox48d3	Ox48e3	Ox48f3	Ox4906	Ox4916	Ox4926	Ox4936	Ox4946	Ox4956	Ox4966	Ox4976
Ox4986	Ox4996	Ox49a6	Ox49b6	Ox49c6	Ox49d6	Ox49e6	Ox49f6	Ox4a09	Ox4a19	Ox4a29	Ox4a39	Ox4a49	Ox4a59	Ox4a69	Ox4a79	Ox4a89	Ox4a99	Ox4aa9	Ox4ab9	Ox4ac9
Ox4ad9	Ox4ae9	Ox4af9	Ox4b0c	Ox4b1c	Ox4b2c	Ox4b3c	Ox4b4c	Ox4b5c	Ox4b6c	Ox4b7c	Ox4b8c	Ox4b9c	Ox4bac	Ox4bbc	Ox4bdc	Ox4bec	Ox4bfc	Ox4c02	Ox4c12	Ox4c22
Ox4c22	Ox4c32	Ox4c42	Ox4c52	Ox4c62	Ox4c72	Ox4c82	Ox4c92	Ox4ca2	Ox4cb2	Ox4cc2	Ox4cd2	Ox4ce2	Ox4cf2	Ox4d07	Ox4d17	Ox4d27	Ox4d37	Ox4d47	Ox4d57	Ox4d67
Ox4d77	Ox4d87	Ox4d97	Ox4da7	Ox4db7	Ox4dc7	Ox4dd7	Ox4de7	Ox4df7	Ox4e08	Ox4e18	Ox4e28	Ox4e38	Ox4e48	Ox4e58	Ox4e68	Ox4e78	Ox4e88	Ox4e98	Ox4ea8	Ox4eb8
Ox4ec8	Ox4ed8	Ox4ee8	Ox4ef8	Ox																



## D Side-channel Injection Attack to Realize $\Delta R$

As mentioned in the Proof of Theorem 1, condition (A) gives us the same differential sequence as the following condition does,

$$\begin{aligned}\Delta K &= (K_1, \dots, K_8) + (K'_1, \dots, K'_8) = (0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0, 0) \\ \Delta P &= P_1 + P'_1 = 0 \\ \Delta R &= (R_1, \dots, R_8) + (R'_1, \dots, R'_8) = (0, 0, 0, H, 0, 0, 0, 0),\end{aligned}$$

Therefore, to create the difference between  $R_4$  and  $R'_4$  (or between  $f^{-1}(R_2 \boxplus u_1)$  and  $f^{-1}(R'_2 \boxplus u'_1)$ ), one obvious way is to start with two instances initialized with the same IVs and keys and then mount side-channel injection attack, where the attacker simply injects  $H$  to the victim register, e.g.,  $R_4$  or  $f^{-1}(R_2 \boxplus u_1)$ , of one instance any time before the execution of the last round of encryption/decryption. Note that the *preparation through injection* gives the attacker no time/memory penalty, i.e., the overall time/memory complexity of the attack is dominated by that of the *key recovery phase*.