

## Verified Security of Merkle-Damgård

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June 27, 2012



## Hash security

- November 2007: SHA-3 competition launched
- *“The security provided by an algorithm is the most important factor in the evaluation.”* [NIST]
  - Minimum requirements: collision resistance, preimage resistance, second-preimage resistance, resistance to length-extension attacks
- December 2010: 5 finalists



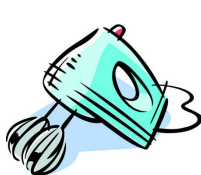
BLAKE



Grøstl



JH



Keccak

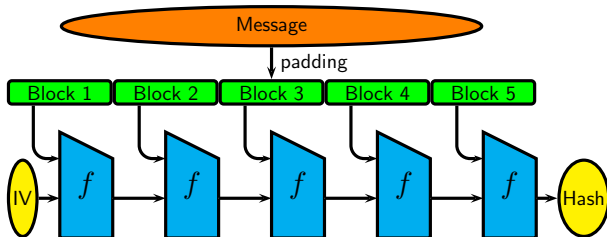


Skein

Winner to be chosen in 2012!

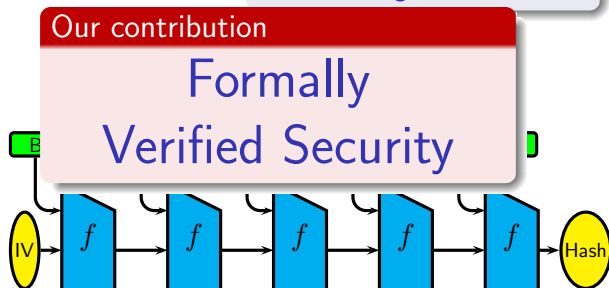
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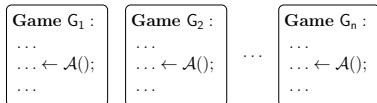
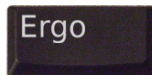
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# Verified security

## EasyCrypt

- Formal framework for security proofs
- Uses state-of-the-art verification tools
- Makes verified security accessible to non-experts in formal methods
- Supports game-based proofs



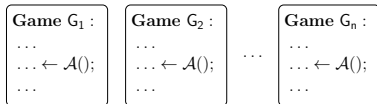
$$\Pr[G_1 : b] \leq \Pr[G_2 : b] \leq \dots \leq \Pr[G_n : b]$$

- pWhile: typed probabilistic imperative Language
- probabilistic relational Hoare logic:  $\vdash c_1 \sim c_2 : \Psi \Rightarrow \Phi$
- random sampling, lazy/eager sampling, **loops**, **failure events**, ...

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Oracle  $\mathcal{O}(x)$  :

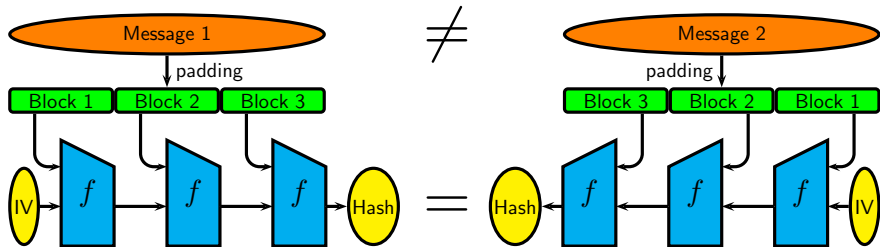
if  $x \notin \text{dom}(\mathbf{L})$  then

$\mathbf{L}[x] \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$

return  $\mathbf{L}[x]$

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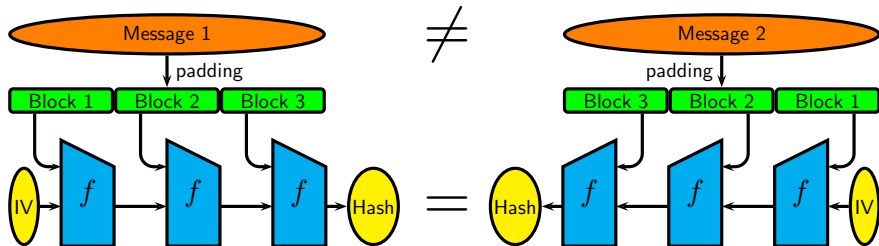
# Collision resistance



# Collision resistance

## Collision resistance [Merkle, Damgård, 1989]

For every collision finder  $\mathcal{A}$  for the *suffix-free* Merkle-Damgård construction there exists a collision finder  $\mathcal{B}$  for its compression function  $f$ .



# Collision resistance in EasyCrypt

## Collision resistance in EasyCrypt

- define formal context (types, constants, operators, axioms+lemmas)

op is\_coll( $p_1, p_2$ )  $\equiv p_1 \neq p_2 \wedge f(p_1) = f(p_2)$

axiom suffix\_free:  $\forall(m, m', bl), m \neq m' \Rightarrow \text{pad}(m) \neq bl \parallel \text{pad}(m')$

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**Game**  $CR^{MD}$  :

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(m1, m2) ←  $\mathcal{A}$ ();
h1 ← MD(m1);
h2 ← MD(m2);
return (m1 ≠ m2 ∧ h1 = h2)
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**Game**  $CR^f$  :

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(p1, p2) ←  $\mathcal{B}$ ();
return is_coll(p1, p2)
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**Adversary**  $\mathcal{B}()$  :

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$\vdash CR^{MD} \sim CR^f : \text{true} \Rightarrow \text{res}\langle 1 \rangle \rightarrow \text{res}\langle 2 \rangle$

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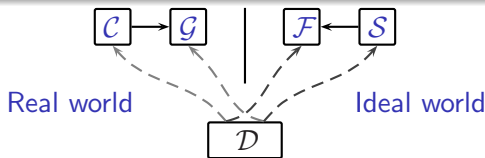
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- Distinguisher  $\mathcal{D}$  runs in two possible settings
  - Real world:  $\mathcal{C}$  Merkle-Damgård hash construction  
 $\mathcal{G}$  ideal compression function
  - Ideal world:  $\mathcal{F}$  ideal hash function  
 $\mathcal{S}$  simulator we have to design

$\mathcal{C}^{\mathcal{G}}$  is indifferntiable from  $\mathcal{F}$   $\iff \exists \mathcal{S}$  such that  $\forall \mathcal{D}$ ,

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



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Theorem [Coron et. al, 2005]

Prefix-free Merkle-Damgård is indifferntiable from an ideal hash function.

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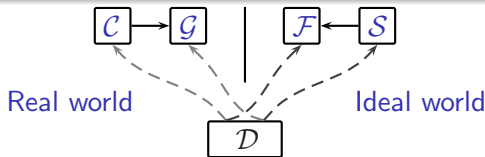
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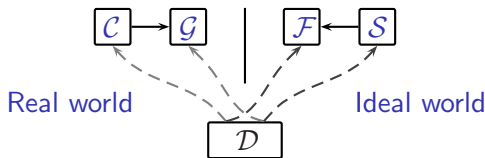
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Prefix-free Merkle-Damgård is indifferentiable from an ideal hash function.

Proof idea for simulator  $\mathcal{S}$ :

- Keep track of queries to identify complete Merkle-Damgård chains
- For ends of chains query random oracle  $\mathcal{F}$
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$$\boxed{(x_1, \text{IV})}$$

$$y_2 \xleftarrow{\$} \{0,1\}^n$$

not  
complete

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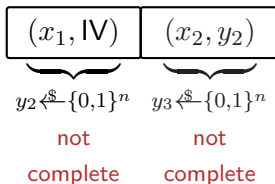
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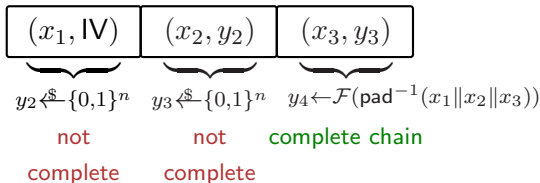
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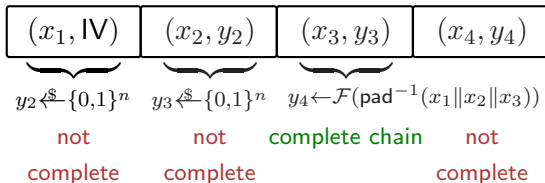
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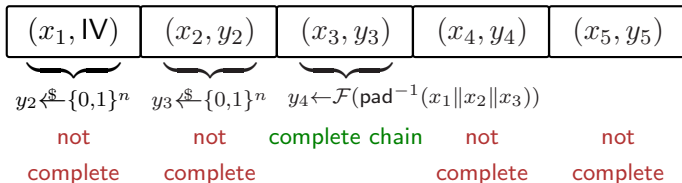
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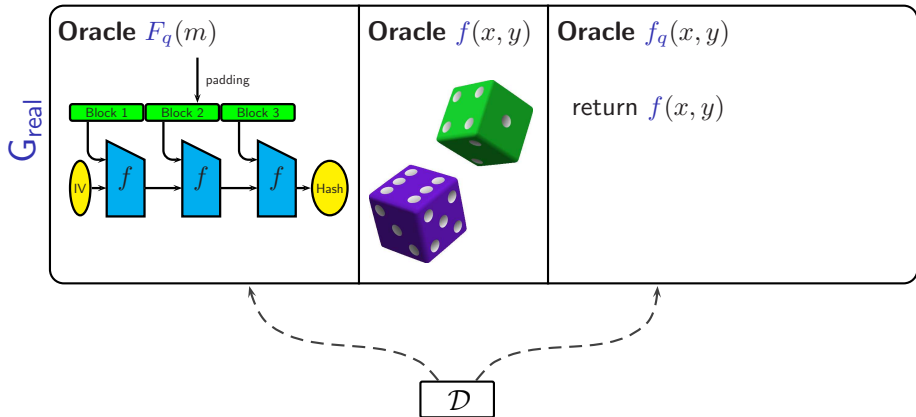
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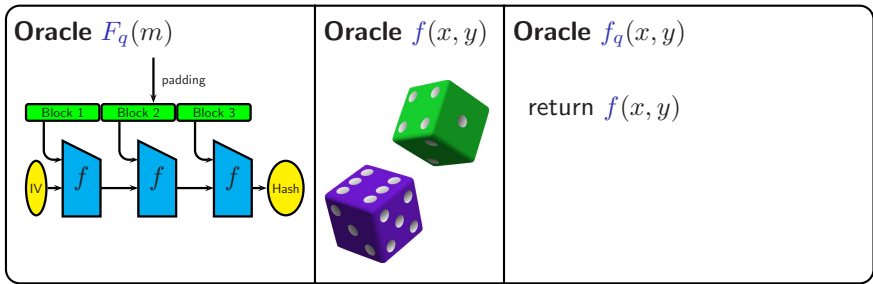


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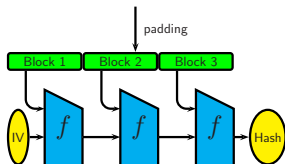
$G_{\text{real}}$



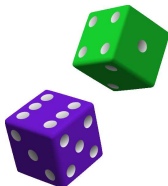
# Implementing the two worlds

$G_{\text{real}}$

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$

return  $f(x, y)$

$G_{\text{ideal}}$

Oracle  $F_q(m)$

return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

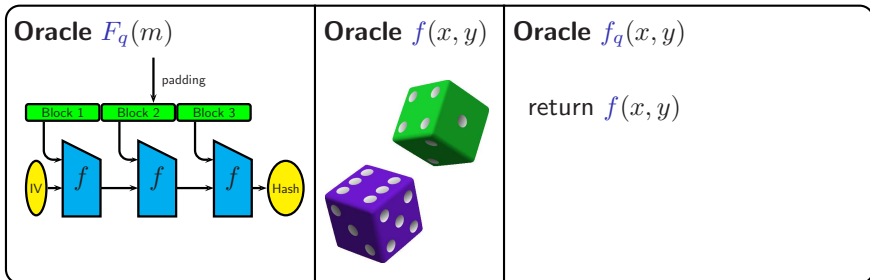
```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
  if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
  else
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow_{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 

```

# Step 1: Check for bad events and introduce find\_chain

$G_{\text{real}}$



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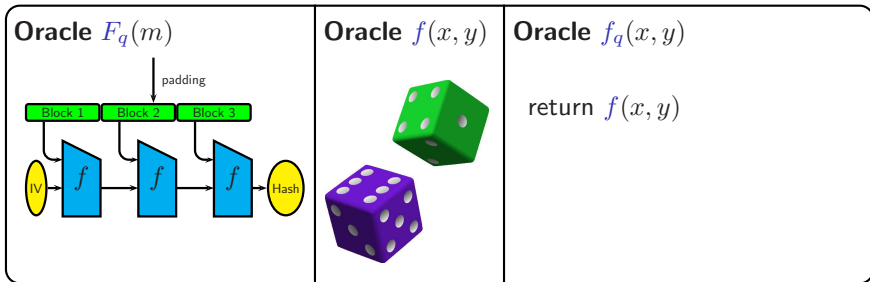
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--	---	--

$G_{\text{realbad}}$

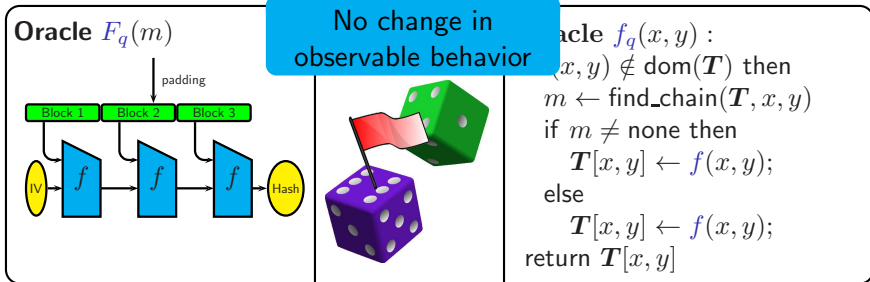
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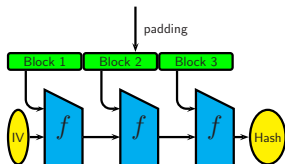
G<sub>realbad</sub>



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Oracle  $f(x, y)$



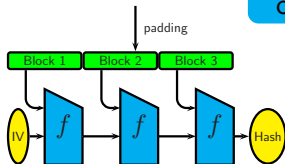
Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$

return  $f(x, y)$

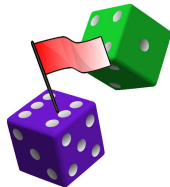
$$\Pr [G_{\text{real}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1] = \Pr [G_{\text{realbad}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1]$$

$G_{\text{realbad}}$

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



No change in  
observable behavior

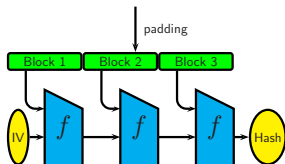
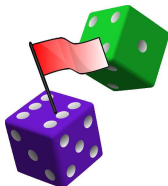


Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

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## Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

Grealbad

Oracle  $F_q(m)$ Oracle  $f(x, y)$ Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

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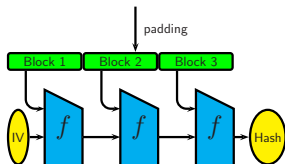
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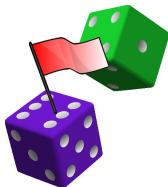
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Oracle  $f(x, y)$



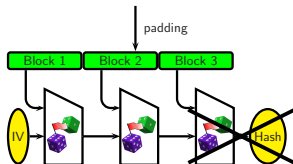
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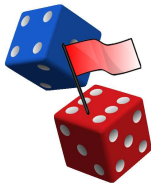
GrealRO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



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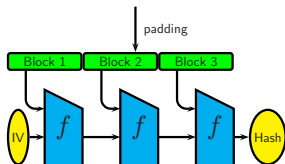
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   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 
  
```

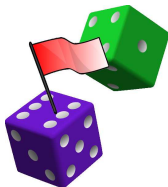
# Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

Grealbad

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

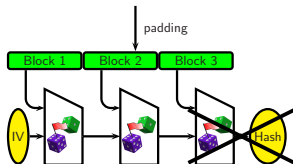
if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
  if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ 
  else
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ 
return  $T[x, y]$ 

```

Prove games equal  
"upto bad"

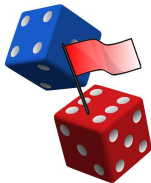
GrealRO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

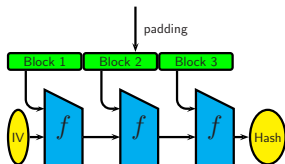
if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
  if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ 
  else
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ 
return  $T[x, y]$ 

```

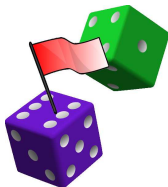
## Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

Grealbad

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$

if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow m$  **Prove games equal "upto bad"**

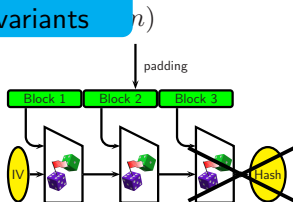
else

$T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$

return  $T[x, y]$

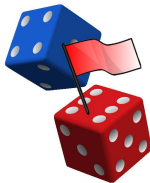
Complex loop invariants

GrealRO



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$

if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then

$T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m);$

else

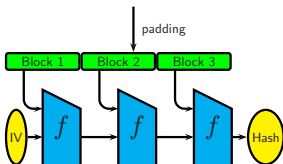
$T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$

return  $T[x, y]$

# Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

Grealbad

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$

Support EasyCrypt with lemmas and axioms



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

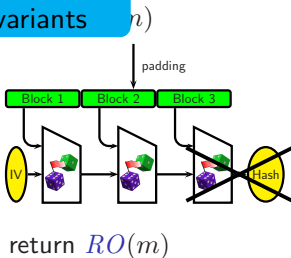
```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
  if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$ 
  else
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$ 
return  $T[x, y]$ 
  
```

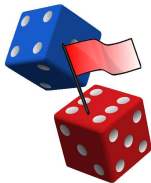
Prove games equal "upto bad"

Complex loop invariants

GrealRO



Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

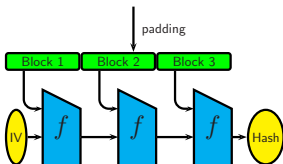
```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
  if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m);$ 
  else
     $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$ 
return  $T[x, y]$ 
  
```

# Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

G<sub>realbad</sub>

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$

Support EasyCrypt with lemmas and axioms



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

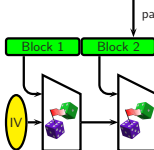
if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq$ 
   $T[x, y]$ 
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 

```

Prove games equal "upto bad"

Complex loop invariants

G<sub>realRO</sub>



return  $RO(m)$

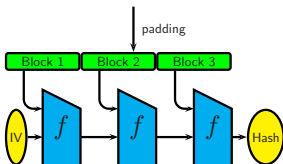
$$\left| \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realbad}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] \right| \leq \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \text{flag} \right]$$

return  $T[x, y]$

## Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

G<sub>realbad</sub>

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$

Support  
EasyCrypt  
with lemmas  
and axioms



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$ :

```

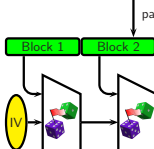
if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq$ 
   $T[x, y]$ 
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y)$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 

```

Prove games equal  
"upto bad"

Complex loop  
invariants

G<sub>realRO</sub>



return  $RO(m)$

$$\left| \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realbad}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] \right| \leq \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \text{Bad} \right]$$

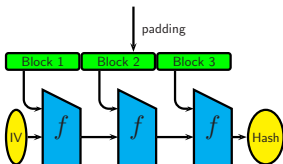
Bound  
probabilities of  
bad events

return  $T[x, y]$

## Step 2: Call random oracle for complete chains

G<sub>realbad</sub>

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



Oracle  $f(x, y)$

Support  
EasyCrypt  
with lemmas  
and axioms



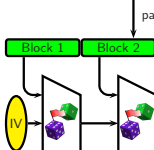
Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$ :

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$   
 if  $m \neq$   
 $T[x, y]$   
 else  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow f(x, y);$   
 return  $T[x, y]$

Prove games equal  
"upto bad"

Complex loop  
invariants

G<sub>realRO</sub>



return  $RO(m)$

$$\left| \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realbad}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] \right|$$

$$\leq \Pr \left[ G_{\text{realRO}} : \text{Bad Event} \right]$$

$$\leq \frac{3q^2}{2^n}$$

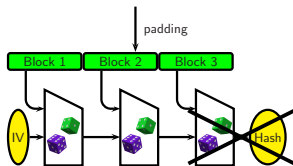
Bound  
probabilities of  
bad events

return  $T[x, y]$

# Step 3: From eager to lazy sampling

GreatRO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

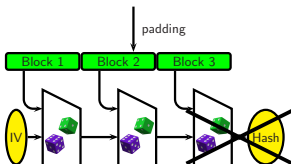
```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow \text{sample}(x, y)$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 
    
```

# Step 3: From eager to lazy sampling

G<sub>real</sub>RO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

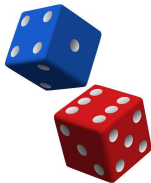
if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$   
 if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;  
 else  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow \text{dice}(x, y)$ ;  
 return  $T[x, y]$

G<sub>ideal</sub>

Oracle  $F_q(m)$

return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



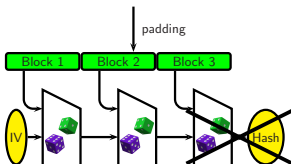
Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$   
 if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;  
 else  
 $T[x, y] \leftarrow \text{rand} \{0, 1\}^n$ ;  
 return  $T[x, y]$

# Step 3: From eager to lazy sampling

GreatRO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(\mathcal{T})$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(\mathcal{T}, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $\mathcal{T}[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $\mathcal{T}[x, y] \leftarrow \text{die}(x, y)$ ;
return  $\mathcal{T}[x, y]$ 

```

G<sub>ideal</sub>

Oracle  $F_q(m)$

return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(\mathcal{T})$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(\mathcal{T}, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $\mathcal{T}[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $\mathcal{T}[x, y] \leftarrow_{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ ;
return  $\mathcal{T}[x, y]$ 

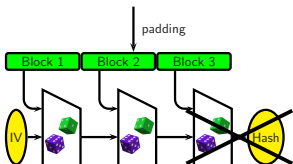
```

Resampling values unknown to  $\mathcal{D}$   
does not change observable behavior

# Step 3: From eager to lazy sampling

GreatRO

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $R$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow \text{random}(\dots)$ ;

```

$$\Pr [G_{\text{realRO}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1] = \Pr [G_{\text{ideal}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1]$$

Gideal

Oracle  $F_q(m)$

return  $RO(m)$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

```

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(T)$  then
   $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(T, x, y)$ 
if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;
else
   $T[x, y] \leftarrow_{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ ;
return  $T[x, y]$ 

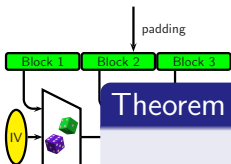
```

Resampling values unknown to  $\mathcal{D}$  does not change observable behavior

# Step 3: From eager to lazy sampling

$G_{\text{real}}$

Oracle  $F_q(m)$



return  $R$

Oracle  $RO(m)$



Oracle  $f_q(x, y)$  :

if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(\mathbf{T})$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(\mathbf{T}, x, y)$   
 if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then

**Theorem (Indifferentiability)**

$$\left| \Pr \left[ G_{\text{real}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] - \Pr \left[ G_{\text{ideal}} : \mathcal{D}^{F_q, f_q} = 1 \right] \right| \leq \frac{3q^2}{2^n}$$

$G_{\text{ideal}}$

Oracle  $F_q$

return  $RO(m)$



if  $(x, y) \notin \text{dom}(\mathbf{T})$  then  
 $m \leftarrow \text{find\_chain}(\mathbf{T}, x, y)$   
 if  $m \neq \text{none}$  then  
 $\mathbf{T}[x, y] \leftarrow RO(m)$ ;  
 else  
 $\mathbf{T}[x, y] \leftarrow_{\$} \{0, 1\}^n$ ;  
 return  $\mathbf{T}[x, y]$

Resampling values unknown to  $\mathcal{D}$   
 does not change observable behavior

## Conclusion & Future work

We have formally verified

- Collision resistance of suffix-free MD
  - 150 lines in EasyCrypt
- Indifferentiability of prefix-free MD
  - 3600 lines in EasyCrypt + 3000 lines in Coq

Most results do not apply to SHA-3 finalists directly

- Final transformation, non-ideal compression function, not prefix-free

But: Interesting non-trivial result

- Excellent starting point for formal security proofs the SHA-3 finalists
- Proofs based on weaker assumptions not significantly different

# Thank you for your attention!

## Questions?

