

# Exponential sums and Linear cryptanalysis

## Analysis of Butterfly-like constructions

**Clémence Bouvier**

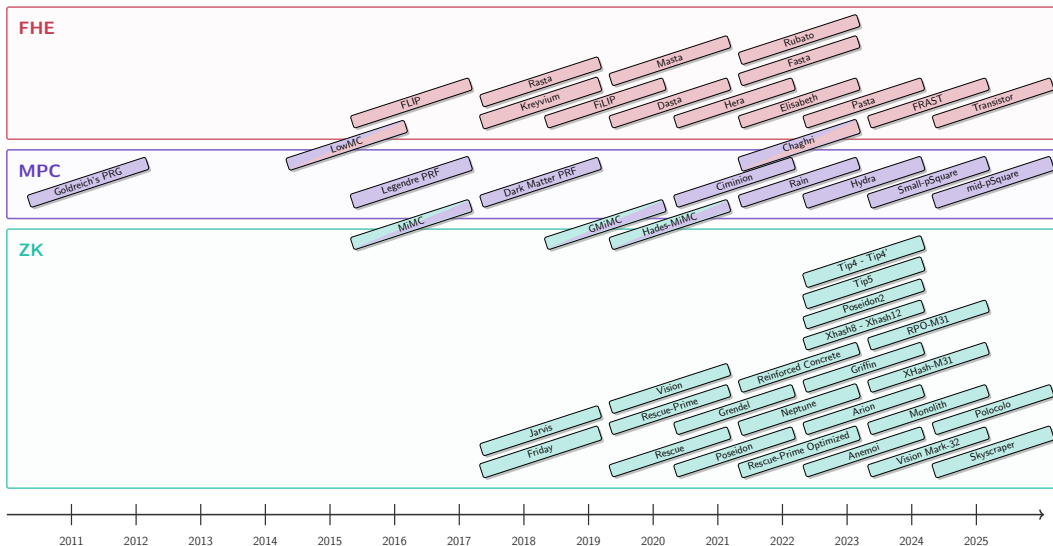
Université de Lorraine, CNRS, Inria, LORIA

(joint work with Tim Beyne)

Canari Seminar, Bordeaux, France  
September 23rd, 2025



# New symmetric primitives



# A new context

## Traditional case

### Alphabet

Operations based on logical gates or CPU instructions.

$$\mathbb{F}_2^n, \text{ with } n \simeq 4, 8$$

## Arithmetization-Oriented

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Operations based on large finite-field arithmetic.

$$\mathbb{F}_q, \text{ with } q \in \{2^n, p\}, p \simeq 2^n, n \geq 32$$

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### Cryptanalysis

Decades of cryptanalysis

- ★ algebraic attacks ✓
- ★ differential attacks ✓
- ★ linear attacks ✓
- ★ ...

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$\leq 8$  years of cryptanalysis

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# Characters

## Definition

A **character** of a finite abelian group  $G$  is a homomorphism

$$\chi : G \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times ,$$

where  $\mathbb{C}^\times$  is the multiplicative group of nonzero complex numbers.

In particular, we have

$$\chi(1) = 1 ,$$

and for  $a_1, a_2 \in G$

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## Definition

A **linear approximation** of  $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$  is a pair of characters  $(\chi, \psi)$ .

# Correlation of linear approximations

## Definition

The **correlation of the linear approximation**  $(\chi, \psi)$  of  $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$  is

$$C_{\chi, \psi}^F = \frac{1}{q^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \chi(F(x)) \psi(-x) .$$

Let  $\omega$  be a primitive element,  $\mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{C}^\times$  s.t.  $\chi(F(x)) = \omega^{\langle v, F(x) \rangle}$  and  $\psi(x) = \omega^{\langle u, x \rangle}$ . Then

$$C_{\chi, \psi}^F = \frac{1}{q^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$

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## Examples:

★ If  $F : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$ , then

$$C_{u, v}^F = \frac{1}{2^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{(\langle v, F(x) \rangle + \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$

★ If  $F : \mathbb{F}_p^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^m$ , then

$$C_{u, v}^F = \frac{1}{p^n} \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^n} e^{\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle)} .$$



# Walsh transform

## Definition

The **Walsh transform** for the character  $\omega$  of the linear approximation  $(u, v)$  of  $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$  is given by

$$\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) .$$

$$\boxed{\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = q^n \cdot C_{u,v}^F}$$

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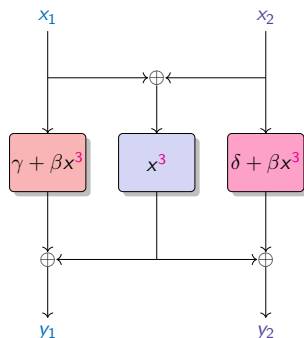
## Definition

The **Linearity**  $\mathcal{L}_F$  of  $F : \mathbb{F}_q^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q^m$  is the highest Walsh coefficient.

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u,v \in \mathbb{F}_q, v \neq 0} |\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F| .$$

# Closed Flystel in $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}$

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023].



*Closed Flystel.*

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2} (-1)^{(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle)} \right|$$

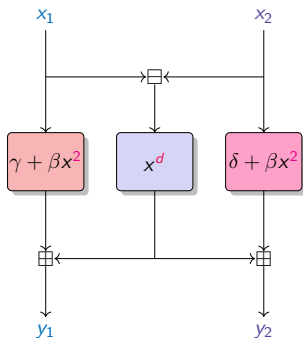
## Bound

Linearity bound for the Flystel:

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq 2^{n+1}$$

# Closed Flystel in $\mathbb{F}_p$

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, 2023].



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$d$  is a small integer s.t.

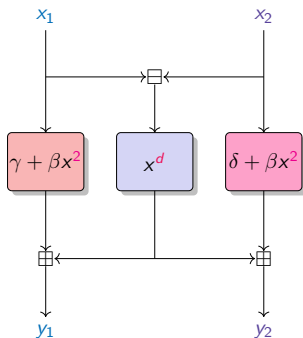
$x \mapsto x^d$  is a permutation of  $\mathbb{F}_p$

(usually  $d = 3, 5$ ).

$$\mathcal{L}_F = \max_{u, v \neq 0} \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^2} e\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right) (\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \right|$$

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How to determine an accurate bound for the linearity of the Closed Flystel in  $\mathbb{F}_p$ ?

# Weil bound

## Proposition [Weil, 1948]

Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_p[x]$  be a univariate polynomial with  $\deg(f) = d$ . Then

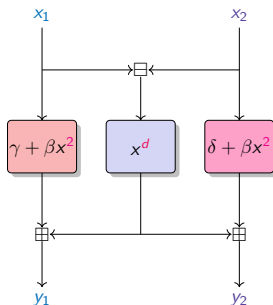
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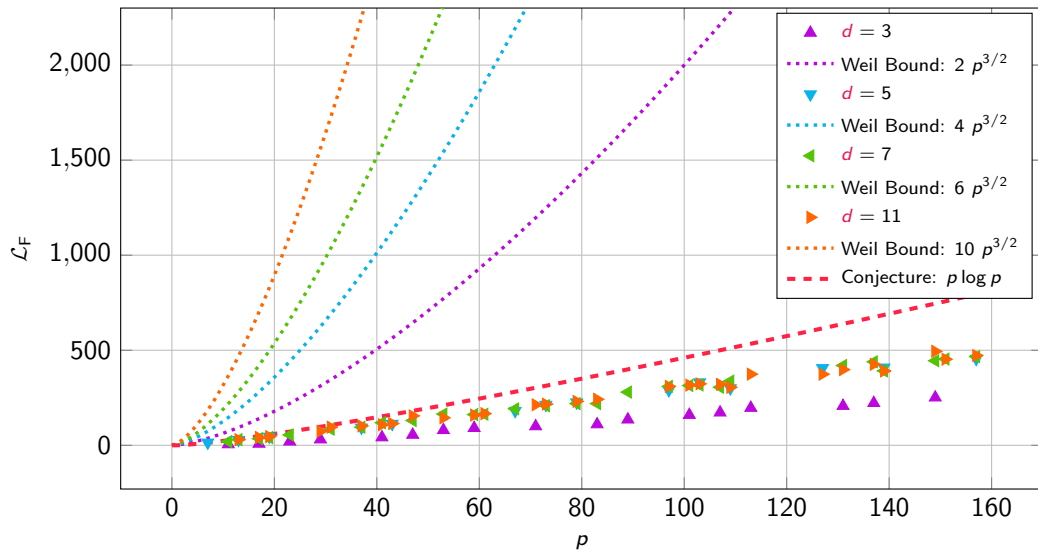
*Closed Flystel.*

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)p\sqrt{p} ? \quad \begin{cases} \mathcal{L}_{\gamma+\beta x^2} \leq \sqrt{p} , \\ \mathcal{L}_{x^d} \leq (d-1)\sqrt{p} , \\ \mathcal{L}_{\delta+\beta x^2} \leq \sqrt{p} . \end{cases}$$

## Conjecture

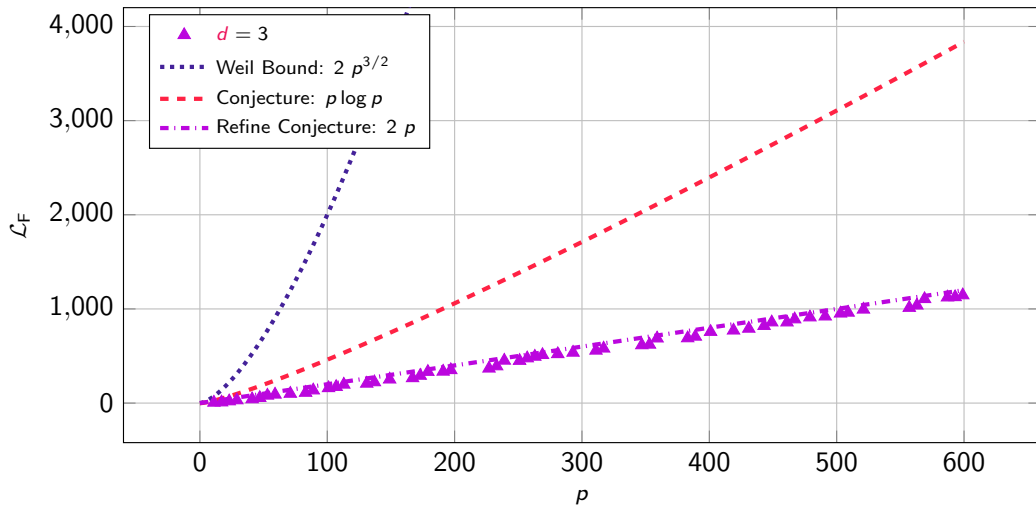
$$\mathcal{L}_F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_p^2} e\left(\frac{2i\pi}{p}\right)(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \leq p \log p$$

# Experimental results

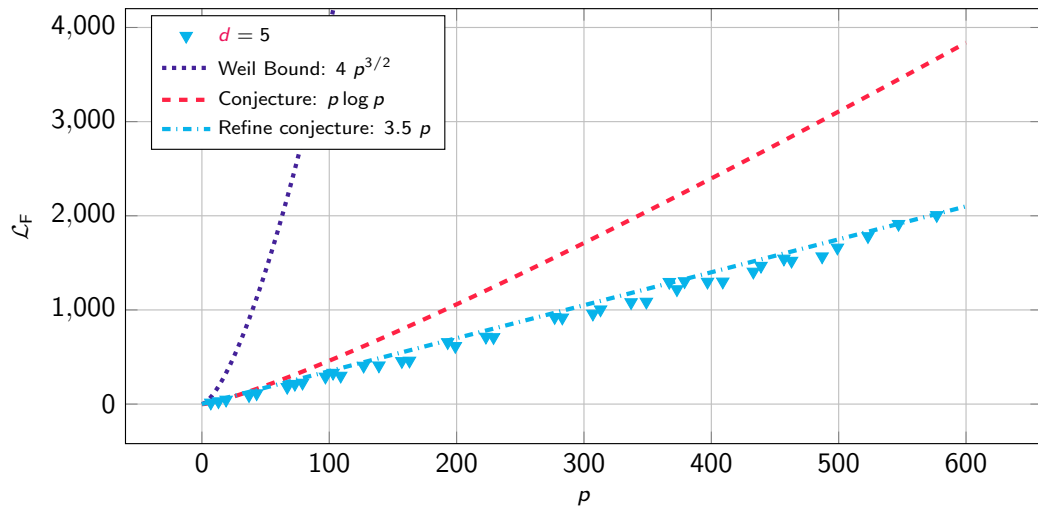




# Experimental results ( $d = 3$ )



# Experimental results ( $d = 5$ )



## Take-away

**AO primitives:** new symmetric primitives defined over prime fields.

Need for new linear cryptanalysis tools

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## This Talk:

- ★ Applications of results for exponential sums (generalization of Weil bound)

$$\mathcal{W}_{u,v}^F = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega(\langle v, F(x) \rangle - \langle u, x \rangle) \rightarrow S(f) = \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{f(x)}.$$

- ★  $\mathbb{F}_q$  is a finite field s.t.  $q$  is a power of a prime  $p$ .
- ★ Functions with 2 variables  $F \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, x_2]$ .

# Generalizations of Weil bound

[Beyne and Bouvier, 2024]

- ★ **Deligne** bound

- ★ Application to the **Generalized Butterfly** construction

- ★ **Denef and Loeser** bound

- ★ Application to **3-round Feistel** construction

- ★ **Rojas-León** bound

- ★ Application to the **Generalized Flystel** construction

# Newton Polyhedron

## Definition

Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$  s.t.

$$f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = \sum_{e_1, \dots, e_n} c_{e_1, \dots, e_n} \prod_{i=1}^n x_i^{e_i}.$$

The **Newton polyhedron**  $\Delta(f)$  of  $f$  is the convex hull defined by

$$\{(0, \dots, 0)\} \cup \{(e_1, \dots, e_n) \mid c_{e_1, \dots, e_n} \neq 0\} \subset \mathbb{R}^n.$$

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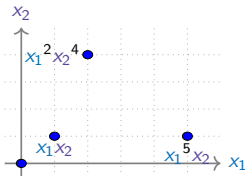
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$$f(x_1, x_2) = 1 + x_1 x_2 - 2x_1^2 x_2^4 + 3x_1^5 x_2$$



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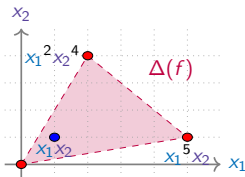
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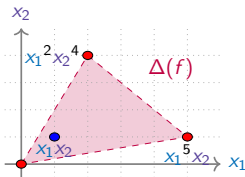
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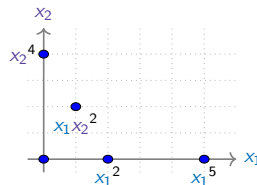
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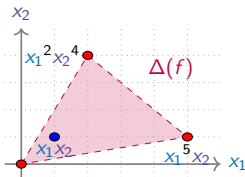
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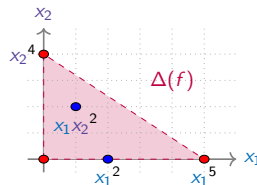
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Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ . The **Newton number**  $\nu(f)$  of  $f$  is

$$\nu(f) = \sum_{I \subseteq \{1, \dots, n\}} (-1)^{|I|} (n - |I|)! \text{Vol}_I \Delta(f),$$

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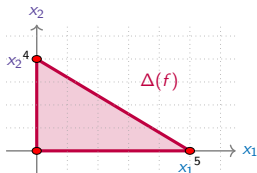
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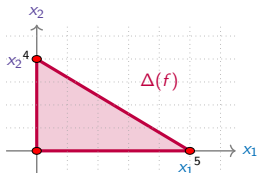
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$$f(x_1, x_2) = 3 - x_1^2 + 5x_1x_2^2 + x_2^4 + 9x_1^5 \quad \nu(f) = (-1)^0 \cdot 2! \cdot \text{Vol}_{\Delta(f)}$$



$$= 2 \times (5 \times 4) / 2$$

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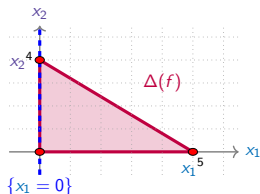
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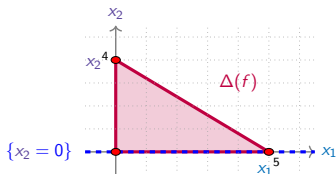
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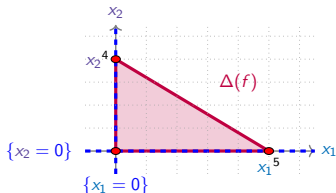
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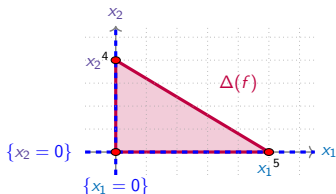
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# Commode functions

## Definition

A function  $f$  is **commode** if there exist nonzero  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$  such that

$$(d_1, 0, 0, \dots, 0), (0, d_2, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, (0, 0, \dots, 0, d_n) \in \Delta(f)$$

# Commode functions

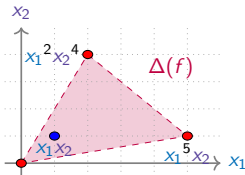
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Examples:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 1 + x_1 x_2 - 2x_1^2 x_2^4 + 3x_1^5 x_2$$



$f$  is not **commode**

# Commode functions

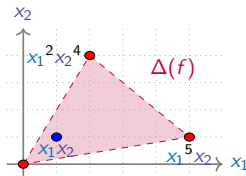
## Definition

A function  $f$  is **commode** if there exist nonzero  $d_1, d_2, \dots, d_n$  such that

$$(d_1, 0, 0, \dots, 0), (0, d_2, 0, \dots, 0), \dots, (0, 0, \dots, 0, d_n) \in \Delta(f)$$

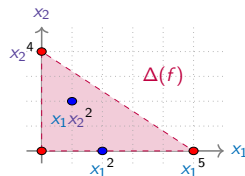
## Examples:

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 1 + x_1 x_2 - 2x_1^2 x_2^4 + 3x_1^5 x_2$$



$f$  is not **commode**

$$f(x_1, x_2) = 3 - x_1^2 + 5x_1 x_2^2 + x_2^4 + 9x_1^5$$



$f$  is **commode**

# Denef-Loeser Theorem

## Definition

A function  $f$  is **non-degenerate** if for every face (not containing the origin)  $\tau$  of  $\Delta(f)$ , the following system has no nonzero solutions

$$\partial f_{\tau} / \partial x_1 = \cdots = \partial f_{\tau} / \partial x_n = 0$$

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## Theorem [Denef and Loeser, 1991]

Let  $f \in \mathbb{F}_q[x_1, \dots, x_n]$ .

If  $f$  is **commode** and **non-degenerate** with respect to its **Newton polyhedron**  $\Delta(f)$ , then, we have

$$|S(f)| = \left| \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_q^n} \omega^{f(x)} \right| \leq \nu(f) \cdot q^{n/2}.$$

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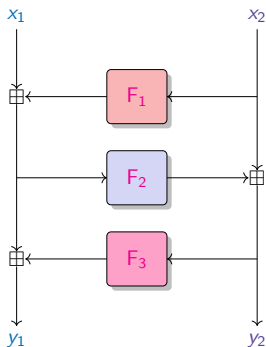
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Linearity bound for  $n = 2$ :  $\mathcal{L}_F \leq \nu(f) \cdot q$ .

## 3-round Feistel - Definition

Let  $\text{FEISTEL}[F_1, F_2, F_3]$  be a 3-round Feistel network with

$$d_1 = \deg(F_1), d_2 = \deg(F_2), \text{ and } d_3 = \deg(F_3) .$$



$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= x_1 + F_1(x_2) + F_3(x_2 + F_2(x_1 + F_1(x_2))) \\ y_2 &= x_2 + F_2(x_1 + F_1(x_2)) . \end{cases}$$

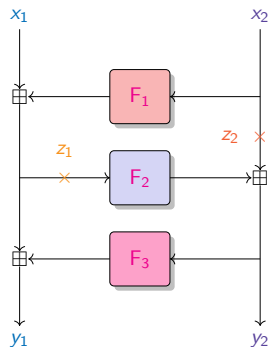
*A 3-round Feistel.*



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A 3-round Feistel.

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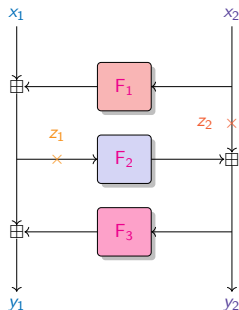
New equations with intermediate variables

$$\begin{cases} x_1 &= z_1 - F_1(z_2) \\ x_2 &= z_2 \\ y_1 &= z_1 + F_3(z_2 + F_2(z_1)) \\ y_2 &= z_2 + F_2(z_1) \end{cases}$$

## 3-round Feistel - Bound

Let  $F = \text{FEISTEL}[F_1, F_2, F_3]$ , with round functions  $F_1, F_2$  (permutation) and  $F_3$ . Let  $d_1 \geq d_3$ .

$$\begin{aligned} f(z_1, z_2) &= \langle (v_1, v_2), F(z_1, z_2) \rangle - \langle (u_1, u_2), (z_1, z_2) \rangle \\ &= v_1 F_3(z_2 + F_2(z_1)) + v_2 F_2(z_1) + u_1 F_1(z_2) + (v_1 - u_1)z_1 + (v_2 - u_2)z_2. \end{aligned}$$

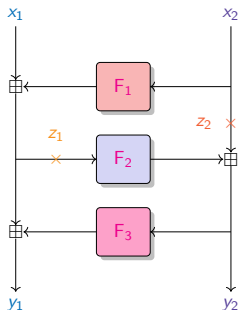


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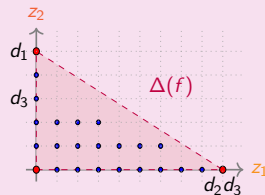
$$\begin{aligned} f(z_1, z_2) &= \langle (v_1, v_2), F(z_1, z_2) \rangle - \langle (u_1, u_2), (z_1, z_2) \rangle \\ &= v_1 F_3(z_2 + F_2(z_1)) + v_2 F_2(z_1) + u_1 F_1(z_2) + (v_1 - u_1)z_1 + (v_2 - u_2)z_2. \end{aligned}$$



$$\begin{cases} y_1 = z_1 + F_3(z_2 + F_2(z_1)) \\ y_2 = z_2 + F_2(z_1) \end{cases}$$

## Linearity Bound

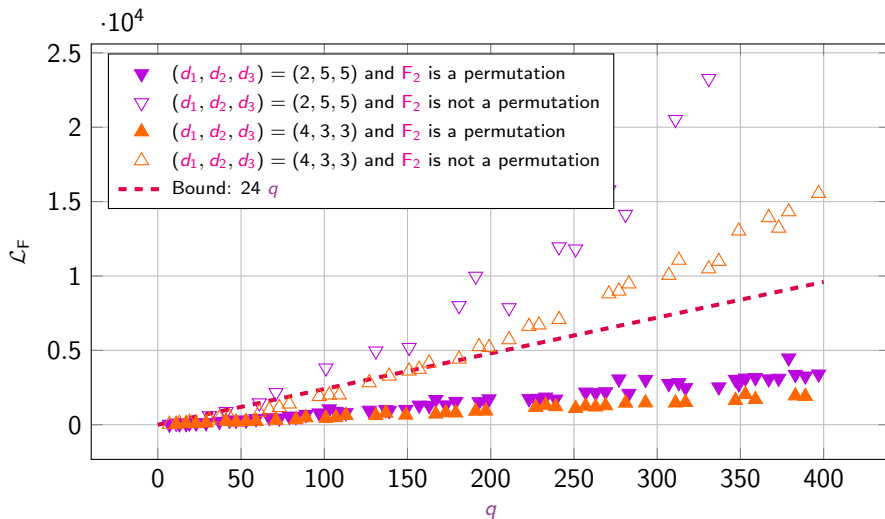
- ★  $f$  is commode
- ★  $f$  is non-degenerate
- ★ its Newton number is  $\nu(f) = (d_2 d_3 - 1)(d_1 - 1)$ .



$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d_1 - 1)(d_2 d_3 - 1) \cdot q$$

## 3-round Feistel - Results

Let  $F = \text{FEISTEL}[F_1, F_2, F_3]$  with  $F_1$ ,  $F_2$  and  $F_3$  monomial functions.



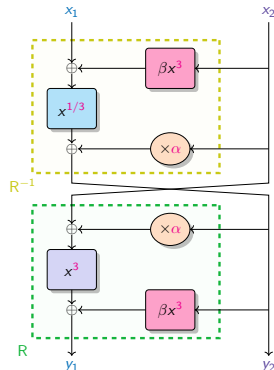
# Generalizations of Weil bound

[Beyne and Bouvier, 2024]

- ★ **Deligne** bound
  - ★ Application to the **Generalized Butterfly** construction
- ★ **Denef and Loeser** bound
  - ★ Application to **3-round Feistel** construction
- ★ **Rojas-León** bound
  - ★ Application to the **Generalized Flystel** construction

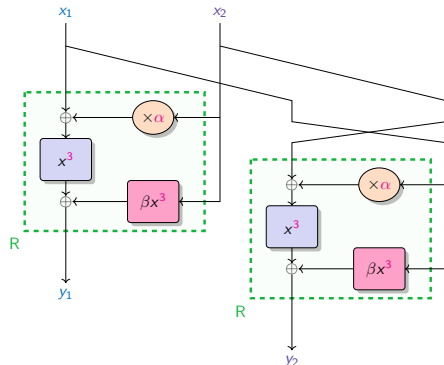
# Butterfly - Definition

Introduced by [Perrin, Udovenko and Biryukov, Crypto 2016] over binary fields,  $\mathbb{F}_{2^n}^2$ ,  $n$  odd.



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_2 + \alpha y_2)^3 + (\beta y_2)^3 \\ y_2 &= (x_1 - (\beta x_2)^3)^{1/3} - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$

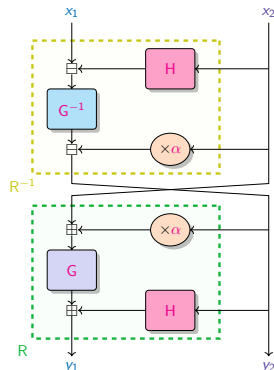


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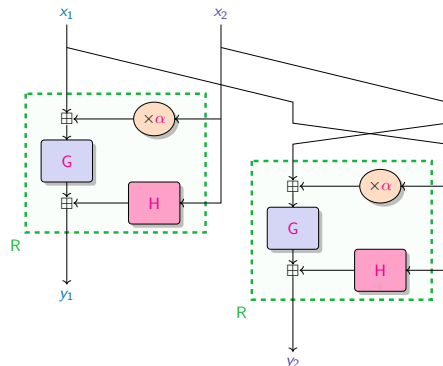
# Generalized Butterfly - Definition

BUTTERFLY[ $G, H, \alpha$ ], with  $G : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  a permutation,  $H : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  a function and  $\alpha \in \mathbb{F}_q$ .



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= G(x_2 + \alpha y_2) + H(y_2) \\ y_2 &= G^{-1}(x_1 - H(x_2)) - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$



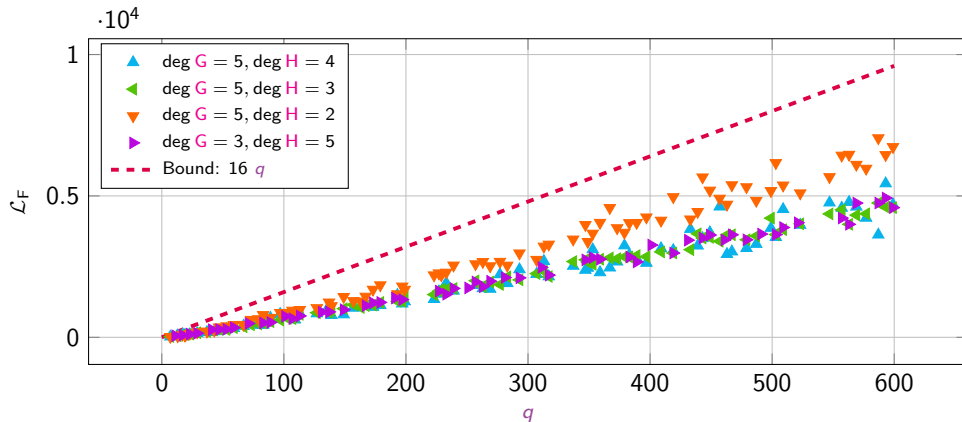
Closed variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= G(x_1 + \alpha x_2) + H(x_2) \\ y_2 &= G(x_2 + \alpha x_1) + H(x_1). \end{cases}$$

# Generalized Butterfly - Results

Let  $F = \text{BUTTERFLY}[G, H, \alpha]$  with  $G$  and  $H$  monomial functions.

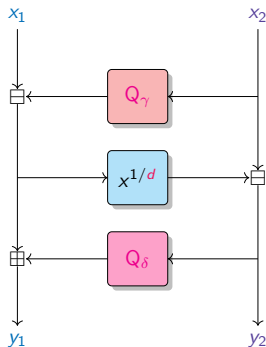
$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (\max\{\deg G, \deg H\} - 1)^2 \cdot q$$





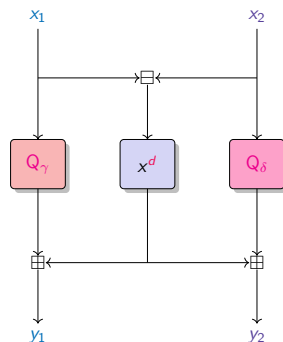
# Flystel - Definition

Introduced by [Bouvier, Briaud, Chaidos, Perrin, Salen, Velichkov and Willems, Crypto 2023].



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2) + Q_\delta(x_2 - (x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2))^{1/d}) \\ y_2 &= x_2 - (x_1 - Q_\gamma(x_2))^{1/d}. \end{cases}$$

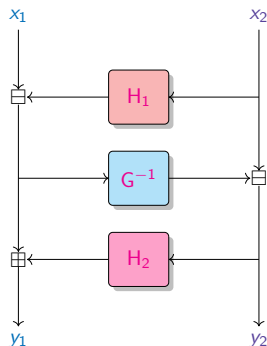


Closed variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_1 - x_2)^d + Q_\gamma(x_1) \\ y_2 &= (x_1 - x_2)^d + Q_\delta(x_2). \end{cases}$$

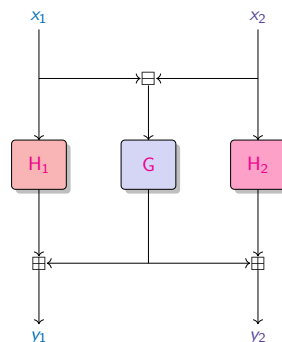
# Generalized Flystel - Definition

$F = \text{FLYSEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$ , with  $G : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  a permutation, and  $H_1, H_2 : \mathbb{F}_q \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_q$  functions.



Open variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = x_1 - H_1(x_2) + H_2(x_2 - G^{-1}(x_1 - H_1(x_2))) \\ y_2 = x_2 - G^{-1}(x_1 - H_1(x_2)) \end{cases}$$



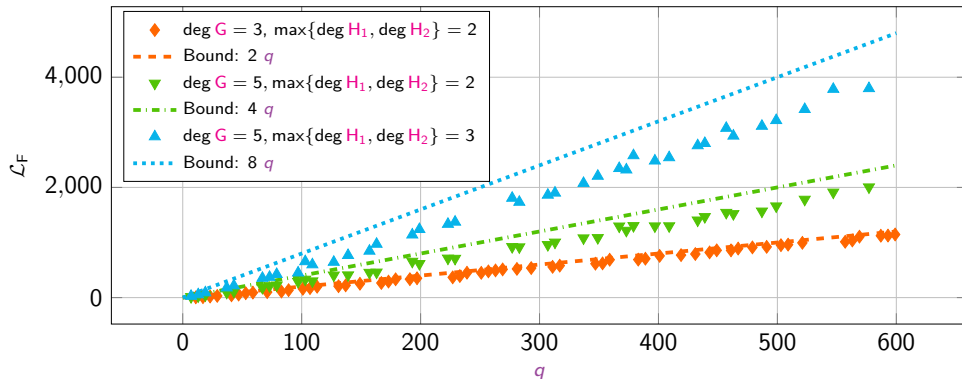
Closed variant.

$$\begin{cases} y_1 = G(x_1 - x_2) + H_1(x_1) \\ y_2 = G(x_1 - x_2) + H_2(x_2) \end{cases}$$

# Generalized Flystel - Results

Let  $F = \text{FLYSTEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$  with  $H_1$ ,  $G$  and  $H_2$  monomials.

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (\deg G - 1)(\max\{\deg H_1, \deg H_2\} - 1) \cdot q$$

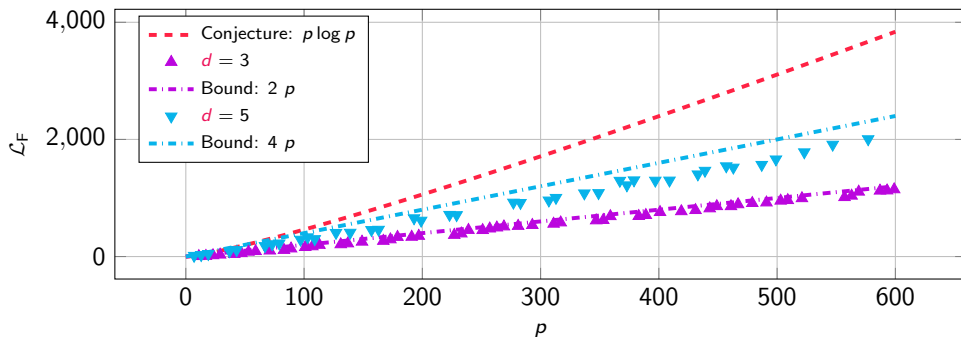


# Solving conjecture

## Proposition

Let  $F = \text{FLYSTEEL}[H_1, G, H_2]$  be defined by  $H_1(x) = \gamma + \beta x^2$ ,  $G(x) = x^d$  and  $H_2 = \delta + \beta x^2$ , with  $\gamma, \delta \in \mathbb{F}_p$  and  $\beta \in \mathbb{F}_p^\times$ . Then

$$\mathcal{L}_F \leq (d-1)p.$$



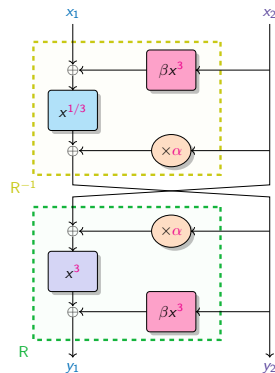
## Classification

Can we say more about **Butterflies** in the context of **ZKP**?

[Bouvier, Fq 2025]

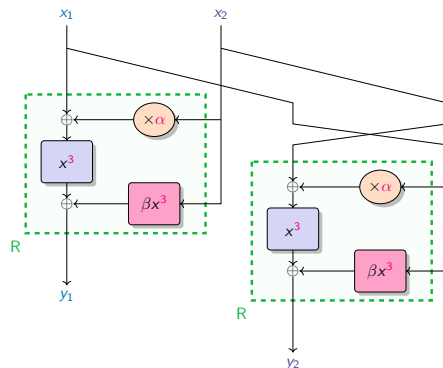
- ★ Is the **Flystel** an optimal construction?
  - ★ Statistical properties (differential and **linear**)
  - ★ ZK-performance
- ★ How to **classify Butterfly-like** constructions?

# Back to TU decomposition



*Open variant.*

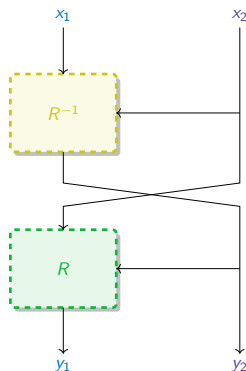
$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= (x_2 + \alpha y_2)^3 + \beta y_2^3 \\ y_2 &= (x_1 - \beta x_2^3)^{1/3} - \alpha x_2. \end{cases}$$



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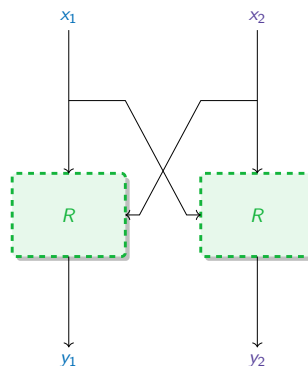
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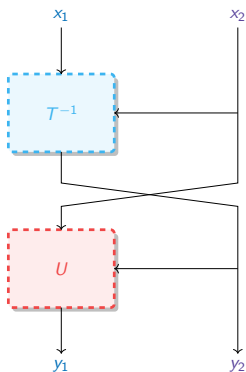
$$\begin{cases} y_1 = R(x_2, R^{-1}(x_1, x_2)) \\ y_2 = R^{-1}(x_1, x_2). \end{cases}$$



*Closed variant.*

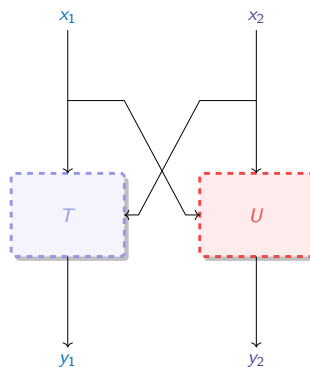
$$\begin{cases} y_1 = R(x_1, x_2) \\ y_2 = R(x_2, x_1). \end{cases}$$

## Back to TU decomposition



*Open variant.*

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= U(x_2, T^{-1}(x_1, x_2)) \\ y_2 &= T^{-1}(x_1, x_2). \end{cases}$$

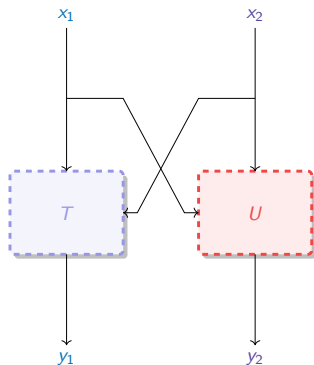


*Closed variant.*

$$\begin{cases} y_1 &= T(x_1, x_2) \\ y_2 &= U(x_2, x_1). \end{cases}$$



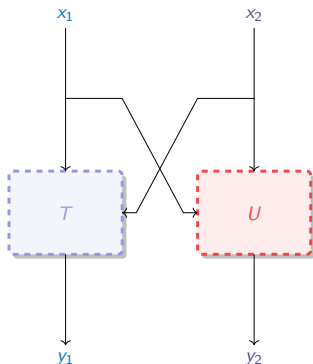
## Specific cases



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★ Asymmetric TU with

$$\begin{aligned} &F : \mathbb{F}_p^2 \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_p^2, (x_1, x_2) \mapsto (y_1, y_2) \\ \text{s.t.} \quad &\begin{cases} y_1 = G_1(x_1, x_2) + H_1(x_1, x_2) \\ y_2 = H_2(x_1, x_2) \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

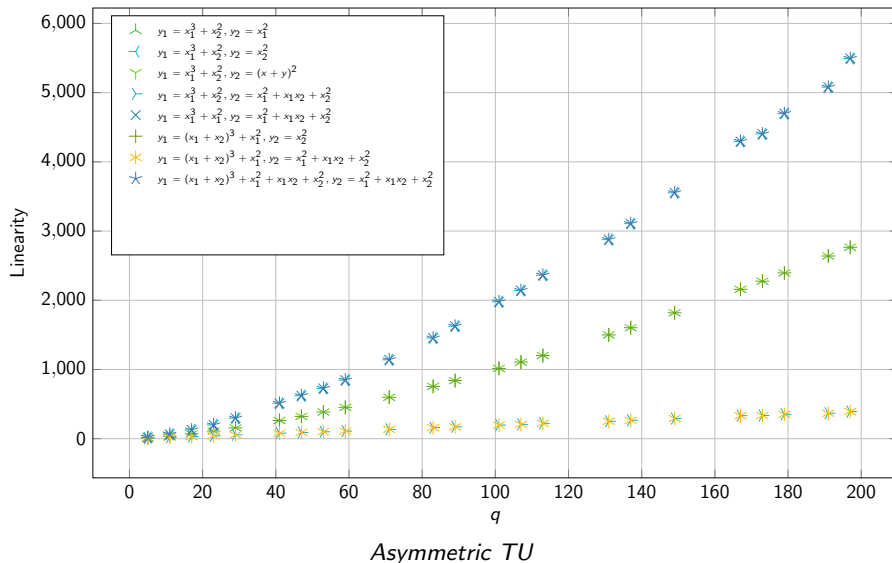
★ Symmetric TU with

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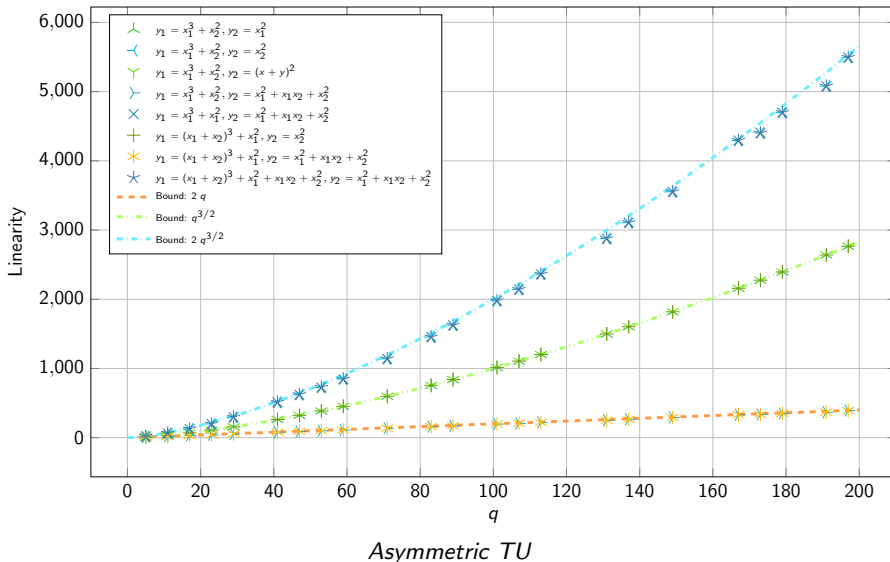
where

- ★  $G_i$ : functions with only **cubic terms**
- ★  $H_i$ : functions with only **quadratic terms**

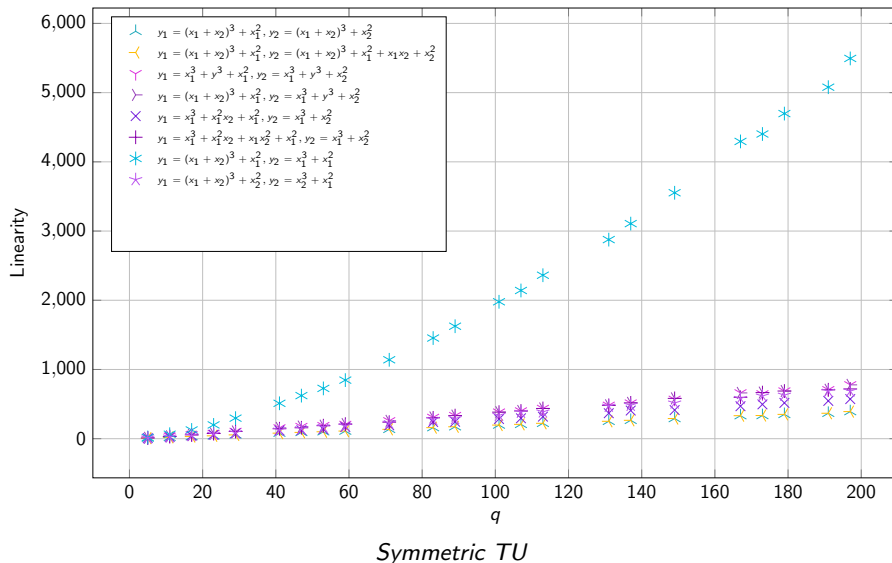
# Linear properties



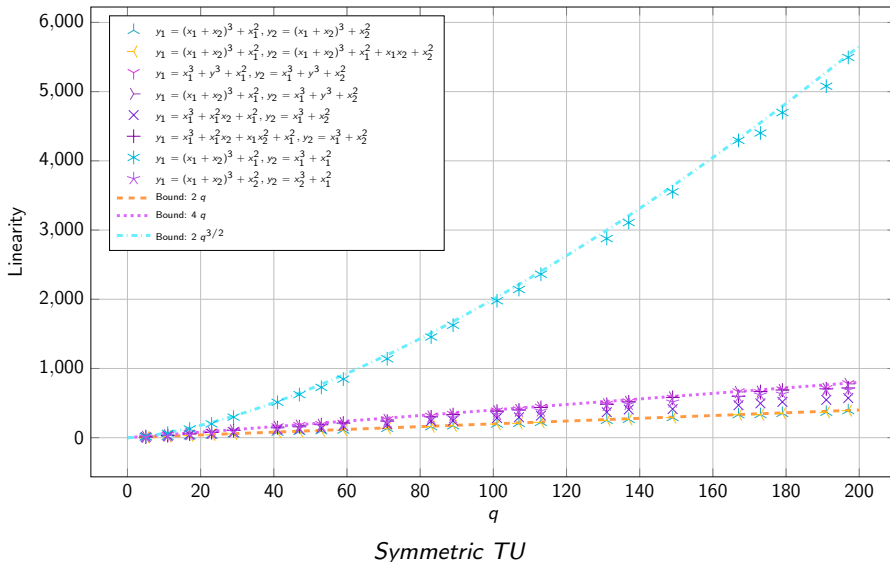
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## Performance metric

What does “efficient” mean for Zero-Knowledge Proofs?

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## Example

**R1CS** (Rank-1 Constraint System): minimizing the number of multiplications

$$y = (ax + b)^3(cx + d) + ex$$

$$t_0 = a \cdot x$$

$$t_1 = t_0 + b$$

$$t_2 = t_1 \times t_1$$

$$t_3 = t_2 \times t_1$$

$$t_4 = c \cdot x$$

$$t_5 = t_4 + d$$

$$t_6 = t_3 \times t_5$$

$$t_7 = e \cdot x$$

$$t_8 = t_6 + t_7$$

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What does “efficient” mean for Zero-Knowledge Proofs?

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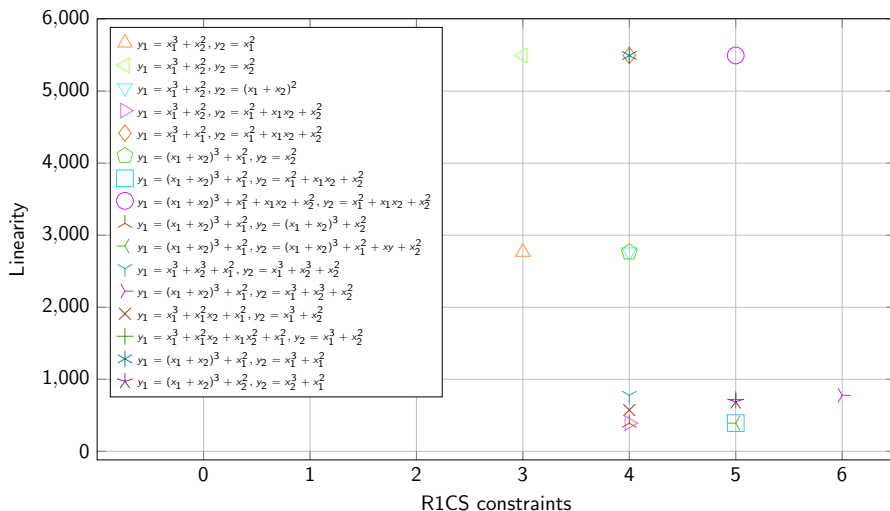
$$t_6 = t_3 \times t_5$$

$$t_7 = e \cdot x$$

$$t_8 = t_6 + t_7$$

3 constraints

# ZK performance



# Conclusions

- ★ **Bounds on exponential sums** have direct application to linear cryptanalysis
  - ★ Deligne, 1974
  - ★ Denef and Loeser, 1991
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Contribute to the cryptanalysis efforts for AOP.



# Cohomological framework

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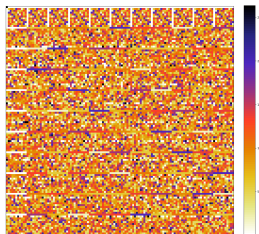
*(on-going work with Christophe Levrat)*

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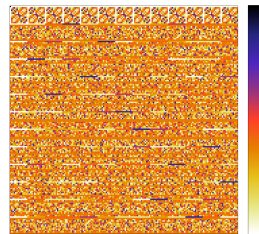
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Closed Butterfly ( $q = 11$ )



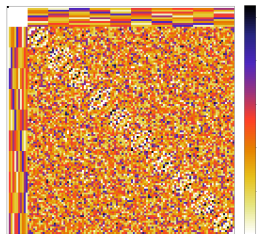
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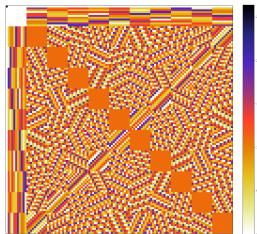
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Thank you

