

# Chapter 05

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**Problem 5.1.** Formal definition of **second preimage resistance**:

The collision-finding experiment  $\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(n)$ :

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ . Then uniformly choose  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .)
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $s, x$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x' \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .)
3. The output of the experiment is defined to be 1 if and only if  $x \neq x'$  and  $H^s(x') = H^s(x)$ . In such a case we say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has found a collision.

**Definition 1.** A hash function  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is second preimage resistance if for all PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ , there is a  $\text{negl}(n)$  such that

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

Formal definition of **preimage resistance**:

The collision-finding experiment  $\text{Hash-prei}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(n)$ :

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ . Then uniformly choose  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .) Compute  $y = H^s(x)$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $s, y$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x' \in \{0, 1\}^*$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .)
3. The output of the experiment is defined to be 1 if and only if  $y = H^s(x')$ . In such a case we say that  $\mathcal{A}$  has found a collision.

**Definition 2.** A hash function  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is preimage resistance if for all PPT adversaries  $\mathcal{A}$ , there is a  $\text{negl}(n)$  such that

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-prei}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

Proof of collision resistant to second preimage resistant: Proof by contradiction, assume  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is not second preimage resistant but is collision resistant, so there's an PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$ , such that

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A}',\Pi}(n) = 1] > \text{negl}(n).$$

Construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $s$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  uniformly chooses  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$  and gives  $\mathcal{A}'$   $s$  and  $x$ .
3. When  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs  $x' \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x, x'$ .
4. The output is 1 if and only if  $x \neq x', H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x, x' \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .)

So  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs 1  $\Leftrightarrow x \neq x'$  and  $H^s(x) = H^s(x') \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A}'$  outputs 1.

Thus  $\Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A},\Pi}(n) = 1] = \Pr[\text{Hash-prei}_{\mathcal{A}',\Pi}(n) = 1] > \text{negl}(n)$ , a contradiction.

Proof of second preimage resistant to preimage resistant: Proof by contradiction, assume  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is not preimage resistant but is second preimage resistant, so there's an PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$ , such that

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-prei}_{\mathcal{A}', \Pi}(n) = 1] > \text{negl}(n).$$

Construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ . Then uniformly choose  $x \in \{0, 1\}^*$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $s, x$ . Compute  $y = H^s(x)$ . Then, gives  $\mathcal{A}'$   $s$  and  $y$ .
3. When  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs  $x' \in \{0, 1\}^*$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x'$ .
4. The output is 1 if and only if  $x \neq x', H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ . (If  $\Pi$  is a fixed-length hash function for inputs of length  $l'(n)$ , then require  $x, x' \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .)

So  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs  $1 \Leftrightarrow H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ , and  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $1 \Leftrightarrow x \neq x', H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ .

Denote set  $W = \{x \mid y = H^s(x) \text{ has only one } x \text{ hashed to } y.\}$ , since  $y \in \{0, 1\}^{l(n)}$ , we have  $|W| \leq 2^{l(n)}$ . Consider the probability that  $x \neq x'$  when  $H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ , here we assume  $2^{l(n)-l'(n)} \leq \text{negl}(n)$ , where  $l(n) = \text{len}(y), l'(n) = \text{len}(x)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} & \Pr[x \neq x' \wedge H^s(x) = H^s(x')] \\ &= \Pr[x \neq x' \wedge H^s(x) = H^s(x') \wedge x \notin W] \\ &= \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] - \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x') \wedge x \in W] - \Pr[x = x' \wedge H^s(x) = H^s(x') \wedge x \notin W] \\ &= \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] - 0 - \Pr[x = x' \wedge H^s(x) = H^s(x') \mid x \notin W] \times \Pr[x \notin W] \\ &\geq \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] - \frac{1}{2} \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] \times (1 - 2^{l(n)-l'(n)}) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] - \text{negl}(n) \end{aligned}$$

Since  $\Pr[H^s(x) = H^s(x')] > \text{negl}(n)$ , we have  $\Pr[\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] = \Pr[x \neq x' \wedge H^s(x) = H^s(x')] > \text{negl}(n)$ , a contradiction.

**Refute:** If we remove the condition that  $2^{l(n)-l'(n)} \leq \text{negl}(n)$ , then second preimage resistant can not imply preimage resistant. A construction is as followed: assume there is a second preimage resistant  $H' : \{0, 1\}^{n+1} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ , then

$$H(x) = \begin{cases} 0x_3 \cdots x_{n+1}, & x_1 = x_2 = 0 \\ 1H'(x_1 \cdots x_{n+1}), & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$H(x)$  is second preimage resistant. But there is probability  $\frac{1}{4}$  that given  $y$ ,  $\mathcal{A}$  can invert  $x$ . So it not implies preimage resistant.

**Problem 5.2.** (a). Assume  $\Pi_1 = (\text{Gen}_1, H_1)$  is collision resistant. For arbitrary  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$ , construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}_1$  of  $\Pi_1 = (\text{Gen}_1, H_1)$  based on it:

1. A key  $s_1$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is given  $s_1$ . Run  $\text{Gen}_2(1^n)$  and get  $s_2$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}_1$  gives  $s_1, s_2$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x, x'$ .
4.  $\mathcal{A}_1$  outputs  $x, x'$ .
5. The output is 1 if and only if  $H_1^{s_1}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x')$ .

Here,  $\mathcal{A}$  succeeds  $\Leftrightarrow H_1^{s_1}(x) \parallel H_2^{s_2}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x') \parallel H_2^{s_2}(x') \Rightarrow H_1^{s_1}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x') \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A}_1$  succeeds. Thus,

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}_1, \Pi_1}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

So  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is collision resistant.

(b). It holds for second preimage resistant.

Assume  $\Pi_1 = (\text{Gen}_1, H_1)$  is second preimage resistant. Assume all the theme are fixed-length with input length  $l'(n)$ . For arbitrary  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\Pi(\text{Gen}, H)$ , construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}_1$  of  $\Pi_1(\text{Gen}_1, H_1)$  based on it:

1. A key  $s_1$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ , uniformly choose  $x \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}_1$  is given  $s_1, x$ . Run  $\text{Gen}_2(1^n)$  and get  $s_2$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}_1$  gives  $s_1, s_2, x$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x' \in \{0, 1\}^{l'(n)}$ .
4.  $\mathcal{A}_1$  outputs  $x'$ .
5. The output is 1 if and only if  $x \neq x', H_1^{s_1}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x')$ .

Here,  $\mathcal{A}$  succeeds  $\Leftrightarrow H_1^{s_1}(x) \parallel H_2^{s_2}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x') \parallel H_2^{s_2}(x') \Rightarrow H_1^{s_1}(x) = H_1^{s_1}(x') \Leftrightarrow \mathcal{A}_1$  succeeds. Thus,

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \Pr[\text{Hash-sec}_{\mathcal{A}_1, \Pi_1}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

So  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is second preimage resistant.

It doesn't hold for preimage resistant.

Construct  $\Pi_2 = (\text{Gen}_2, H_2)$  as followed:

1.  $\text{Gen}_2$ : do nothing.
2.  $H_2$ : on input  $x = \{0, 1\}^{n+1}$ , output first  $n$  bits of  $x$  as  $H_2(x)$ .

Thus, in the experiment of preimage resistant: on input  $y$ , we first define the last  $n$  bits as  $y_2$ , then simply add a uniformly bit  $b \in \{0, 1\}$  after  $y_2$ , define as  $x$ . Then with probability  $\frac{1}{2}$ , the adversary succeeds.

Thus, although  $\Pi_1$  is preimage resistant, it doesn't work for  $\Pi$ .

**Problem 5.3.** Yes.

For arbitrary  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \hat{H})$ , construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\Pi' = (\text{Gen}, H)$  based on it:

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  is given  $s$ .  $\mathcal{A}'$  gives  $s$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ , then  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x, x' \in \{0, 1\}^*$ .
3.  $\mathcal{A}'$  checks: if  $H^s(x) \neq H^s(x')$ , let  $x = H^s(x), x' = H^s(x')$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}'$  output  $x, x'$ .
4. The output is 1 if and only if  $x \neq x', H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ .

In the experiment, if  $\mathcal{A}$  succeeds, then  $x \neq x'$  and  $H^s(H^s(x)) = H^s(H^s(x'))$ . If  $H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ , then  $x, x'$  succeeds for  $\mathcal{A}$ ; otherwise we have  $H^s(x) \neq H^s(x')$  and  $H^s(H^s(x)) = H^s(H^s(x'))$ , so  $H^s(x), H^s(x')$  succeeds for  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Thus,

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] = \Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}', \Pi'}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n)$$

The inequality holds because  $\Pi' = (\text{Gen}, H)$  is collision resistant. So  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, \hat{H})$  is collision resistant.

**Problem 5.6.** Before answering the questions, prove claim: if hash function  $h : \{0, 1\}^{2n} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^n$  is collision resistant, then construct  $H$  as followed:

$$\forall x \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}, s, H^s(x) = h^s(x) \oplus c_s.$$

Then  $H$  is collision resistant. (Here  $c_s \in \{0, 1\}^n$ .)

*Proof.* For arbitrary  $\mathcal{A}$  of  $\Pi = (\text{Gen}, H)$ , construct an experiment for PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  of  $\Pi' = (\text{Gen}, h)$  based on it:

1. A key  $s$  is generated by running  $\text{Gen}(1^n)$ .
2. Then adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  is given  $s$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}'$  gives  $s$  to  $\mathcal{A}$ ,
3. When  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $x, x' \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}$ ,  $\mathcal{A}'$  outputs  $x, x'$ .
4. The output is 1 if and only if  $x \neq x', H^s(x) = H^s(x')$ .

Here,

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}', \Pi'} = 1 &\Leftrightarrow H^s(x) = H^s(x') \\
&\Leftrightarrow h^s(x) \oplus h^s(0^n \| c_s) = h^s(x') \oplus h^s(0^n \| c_s) \\
&\Leftrightarrow h^s(x) = h^s(x') \\
&\Leftrightarrow \text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi} = 1
\end{aligned}$$

Thus,  $H$  is collision resistant. □

(a).No.

Fixed  $x_0 \in \{0, 1\}^n$  Given hash function  $h$ , construct  $H$  as followed:

$$\forall x \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}, s, H^s(x) = h^s(x) \oplus h^s(0^n \| x_0).$$

Thus,

$$\forall s, H^s(0^n \| x_0) = 0^n.$$

For the claim we prove above,  $H$  is collision resistant.

Use  $H$  as the hash block in Merkle-Damgård transform and define as  $H_m$ , we have

$$H_m(x_0 \| x_0) = H(0^n \| x_0) = 0^n = H_m(x_0),$$

a collision.

So it's not collision resistant.

(b).Yes.

Proof by contradiction: If there are  $x \neq x'$ , such that

$$H^s(x) = z_B \| L = z'_{B'} \| L' = H^s(x'),$$

we have  $L = L'$ . Assume  $x = x_1 \cdots x_B, x' = x'_1 \cdots x'_B$ .

Let  $I_i = z_{i-1} \| x_i$  denote the  $i$ th input to  $h^s$ , and set  $I_{B+1} = z_B$ . Define  $I'_i$  analogously with respect to  $x'$ .

Let  $N$  be the largest index of  $\{1, 2, \dots, B\}$ , such that  $I_N \neq I'_N$ . Since  $x \neq x'$ , there exists such  $N$ .

By the maximization of  $N$ , we have  $I_{N+1} = I'_{N+1}$ , that is  $z_N = z'_N$ . However,  $I_N \neq I'_N$ . So we find a collision in  $h^s$ .

But  $h^s$  is collision resistant, a contradiction. So it's collision resistant.

(c).Yes.

Proof by contradiction: If there are  $x \neq x'$ , such that

$$H^s(x) = z_B \| L = z'_{B'} \| L' = H^s(x'),$$

we have  $L = L'$ . Assume  $x = x_1 \cdots x_B, x' = x'_1 \cdots x'_B$ .

Let  $I_i = z_{i-1} \| x_i$  denote the  $i$ th input to  $h^s$ , and set  $I_{B+1} = z_B$ . Define  $I'_i$  analogously with respect to  $x'$ .

Let  $N$  be the largest index of  $\{1, 2, \dots, B\}$ , such that  $I_N \neq I'_N$ . Since  $x \neq x'$ , there exists such  $N$ .

- $N > 1$ : By the maximization of  $N$ , we have  $I_{N+1} = I'_{N+1}$ , that is  $z_N = z'_N$ . However,  $I_N \neq I'_N$ . So we find a collision in  $h^s$ .

- $N = 1$ :  $I_2 = I'_2 \Rightarrow z_1 = z'_1$ , and  $I_1 \neq I'_1$ . we find a collision.

But  $h^s$  is collision resistant, a contradiction. So it's collision resistant.

(d).No.

Fixed  $x_0 \in \{0, 1\}^n$  Given hash function  $h$ , construct  $H$  as followed:

$$\forall x \in \{0, 1\}^{2n}, s, H^s(x) = h^s(x) \oplus h^s(2L \| x_0) \oplus L.$$

Thus,

$$\forall s, H^s(2L \| x_0) = L.$$

For the claim we prove above,  $H^s$  is collision resistant.

Use  $H^s$  as the hash block in Merkle-Damgård transform and define as  $H_m^s$ , we have

$$H_m^s(x_0 \| x_0) = H^s(H^s(2L \| x_0) \| x_0) = H^s(L \| x_0) = H_m^s(x_0),$$

a collision.

So it's not collision resistant.

**Problem 5.10(a).** Randomly choose  $m$ , the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  access the oracle  $\text{Mac}_{s,k}(\cdot) = H^s(k \| \cdot)$  and get  $t$ . Let  $m'$  denotes the message after padding  $m$  and adding the string length. So  $m'$  is exactly the input of hash function.

Assume  $L = |m'|$ . Then  $\mathcal{A}$  compute  $h^s(t \| L) = t'$ , and output  $(m', t')$ . Since

$$H^s(m') = h^s(m' \| L) = h^s(h^s(m) \| L) = h^s(t \| L) = t',$$

we have  $\text{Vrfy}_k(m', t') = 1$  and  $(m', t')$  was not asked by  $\mathcal{A}$ .

Thus  $\mathcal{A}$  succeeds with probability 1. And it's not a secure Mac.

**Problem 5.13.** If  $t$  is not a power of 2, use an incomplete binary tree. To construct a collision, first randomly choose  $(x'_1, \dots, x'_{2t})$ . Get its Merkle tree construction: define the hash values in the first step as  $(H(x'_1, x'_2), \dots, H(x'_{2t-1}, x'_{2t}))$ . Then define  $(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t) = (H(x'_1, x'_2), \dots, H(x'_{2t-1}, x'_{2t}))$ .

Thus,  $\mathcal{MT}_t(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_t) = \mathcal{MT}_{2t}(x'_1, x'_2, \dots, x'_{2t})$ .

**Problem 5.14. (a).**

Assume  $\mathcal{F}, \mathcal{V}, \mathcal{H}$  denotes the set of files, verify codes and the messages saved by clients. A setting  $\Pi = (\text{Hash}, \text{Get-Vrfy}, \text{Vrfy})$  is contained of:

- $H: \mathcal{F}^* \rightarrow \mathcal{H}$ . Given file set  $F \subset \mathcal{F}$ , the function return a value  $h$  that should be saved by the client.
- $\text{Get-Vrfy}: \mathcal{F} \rightarrow \mathcal{V}$ . When a client wants to verify the exists of  $f \in \mathcal{F}$ , the function return  $v \in \mathcal{V}$  for the client to check.
- $\text{Vrfy}: \mathcal{F} \times \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ . Return if the file  $f \in \mathcal{F}$  can be verified by  $v \in \mathcal{V}$ .

Experiment Verify-file  $\Pi = (\text{Hash}, \text{Get-Vrfy}, \text{Vrfy})$  of an PPT adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ :

1. Run  $\mathcal{A}(1^n)$ .  $\mathcal{A}$  is given  $\Pi = (\text{Hash}, \text{Get-Vrfy}, \text{Vrfy})$ .
2.  $\mathcal{A}$  outputs  $f, v$ .
3. Output 1 if and only if  $\text{Vrfy}(f, v) = 1$  and  $v \neq \text{Get-Vrfy}(f)$ .

**Definition 3.** The files that the client saves on the server are **secure** if and only if

$$\Pr[\text{Vrfy-file}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

(b).

The Merkle trees' construction  $\Pi = (\text{Hash}, \text{Get-Vrfy}, \text{Vrfy})$  is as followed:

- $\text{Hash} = h^s$ : Given file set  $F = \{f_1, \dots, f_n\}$ . Assume  $2^{t-1} < n \leq 2^t$ , then set  $f_{n+1} = \dots = f_{2^t} = \text{null}$ . Let  $n' = 2^t$ .
  - Use hash function  $h^s$  to compute  $h^s(f_1, f_2), \dots, h^s(f_{n'-1}, f_{n'}) = h_{1,2}, \dots, h_{n'-1,n'}$ .
  - $h^s(h_{1,2}, h_{3,4}), \dots, h^s(h_{n'-3,n'-2}, h_{n'-1,n'}) = h_{1\dots4}, \dots, h_{n'-3\dots n'}$ .
  - $h^s(h_{1\dots n'/2}, h_{n'/2+1\dots n'}) = h_{n'/2+1\dots n'} = h$

Then the server save all hash values and give  $h$  to the client.

- $\text{Get-Vrfy}$ : The client wants to verify  $x_i$ . Without loss of generality, assume  $i = 1$ . Then the server give him  $x_2, h_{3,4}, h_{5\dots8}, \dots, h_{n'/2+1\dots n'}$ .

(That is, give the client the other child nodes along the binary tree, such that the client can use these values to compute  $h$ .)

- Vrfy: Without loss of generality, assume the client wants to verify  $x_1$ . The client computes  $h^s(h^s(\dots(h^s(x_1, h_{3,4}) \dots), h_{n'/2+1 \dots n'}))$  equals to  $h$  or not.  
If so, the verification succeeds; otherwise, the verification fails.

(c).

If  $\Pi' = (\text{Gen}_h, h)$  is collision resistant, then  $\forall \mathcal{A}'$ ,

$$\Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}', \Pi'}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

Assume an adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  has find a collision in Merkle trees  $\Pi = (h, \text{Get-Vrfy}, \text{Vrfy})$ . Then we construct an adversary  $\mathcal{A}'$  to find a collision in  $h^s$ .

To write succinctly, if client asks to verify  $x_i$ , denotes the values that the server gives as  $(h_1, h_2, \dots, h_t)$ . Denote  $x_i$  as  $h_0$ . The client should compute:

$$\begin{aligned} h^s(h_0, h_1) &= h'_1 \\ h^s(h'_1, h_2) &= h'_2 \\ &\dots \\ h^s(h'_{t-1}, h_t) &= h'_t \end{aligned}$$

Then verify if  $h'_t = h$ .

Assume  $v = (h_1, h_2, \dots, h_t)$  are generated by the correct files. If there are  $v^0 = (h_1^0, h_2^0, \dots, h_t^0) \neq v$ , such that  $\text{Vrfy}(v^0) = 1$ , we say there is a collision in the construction based on Merkle trees.

Define

$$\begin{aligned} I_1 &= (h_0, h_1) \\ I_2 &= (h'_1, h_2) \\ &\dots \\ I_t &= (h'_{t-1}, h_t) \\ I_{t+1} &= h'_t \end{aligned}$$

Similarly, define  $I_1^0, \dots, I_{t+1}^0$ . Let  $N$  be the largest index such that  $I_N \neq I_N^0$ . Since  $v \neq v^0$  there exists  $h_i \neq h_i^0$ , and exists  $I_i \neq I_i^0$ , so such  $N$  exists.

Since  $h'_t = h = h_t^0$ ,  $I_{t+1} = I_{t+1}^0$ . Thus  $N \leq t$ .

For the maximization of  $N$ , we have  $I_{N+1} = I_{N+1}^0$ , so  $h'_N = h_N^0$ . But  $(h'_{N-1}, h_N) = I_i \neq I_i^0 = (h_{N-1}^0, h_N^0)$ , and there hash value  $h'_N = h_N^0$ , thus we find a collision in  $h^s$ .

Thus a collision in Merkle trees  $\Rightarrow$  a collision in  $h^s$ :

$$\Pr[\text{Vrfy-file}_{\mathcal{A}, \Pi}(n) = 1] \leq \Pr[\text{Hash-coll}_{\mathcal{A}', \Pi'}(n) = 1] \leq \text{negl}(n).$$

Thus, the construction based on Merkle trees is secure.