# **Performance Improvement for the GGM-Construction of**

# **Pseudorandom Functions**

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### 摘要

虛擬隨機函數,即是一個無法以機率式演算 法在多項式時間內與真正的隨機函數做出區別的 函數,我們亦可稱之為擬亂函數。而擬亂函數由 Goldreich、Goldwasser 及 Mical 三位學者首先定義 並具體建構之(簡稱 GGM-Construction)。在本文中 我們提出一個簡單變形的版本,而此版本可降低原 始建構方式的計算量。值得一提的是,若假設產生  $\ell$ 位元虛擬亂數所需成本之為 $\theta(\ell)$ ,則可以證明我 們變形的方法是所有 GGM-Construction 模式下最 佳的。

**關鍵詞:**密碼學、擬亂函數、虛擬亂數產生器、 虛擬亂數。

# Abstract

A pseudorandom function is a function that cannot be efficiently distinguished from a truly random function. The first construction of pseudorandom functions was introduced by Goldreich. Goldwasser. and Micali (GGM-construction). In this paper, we propose a simple variant of the GGM-construction that works slightly faster than the original one. Interestingly, we show that our construction is optimal under the assumption that the cost of generating P pseudorandom bits is  $\theta(\ell)$ .

**Keywords**: cryptography, pseudorandom function, pseudorandom generator, pseudorandomness.

# **1** Introduction

Randomness is an important part of cryptographic applications. However, generating true randomness has been one of computer science's most difficult challenges. In practice "pseudorandomness" is often used instead of true randomness.

For cryptographic applications, we require that pseudorandom sequences cannot be efficiently distinguished from truly random sequences. Pseudorandom generators, introduced by Blum and Micali[3] and Yao[14], are used to produce such pseudorandom sequences. Though they are designed to generate long pseudorandom sequences, yet they do not provide efficiently random access to bits of a huge pseudorandom sequence (even if they do, their security in this "random" usage is not guaranteed).

Pseudorandom functions, introduced by Goldreich et al.[6], are more powerful than generators. pseudorandom Informally, а pseudorandom function has the property that its input-output behavior is computationally indistinguishable from that of a random function and evaluating such a function can be implemented by an efficient algorithm. Pseudorandom functions have a number of applications[2] [5] [7] [10]. We may first design a scheme allowing the users to have black-box access to a random function and prove its security. Then replace the random function with a pseudorandom function. It can be argued that after this replacement the scheme is still secure.

In addition to introducing pseudorandom functions, Goldreich et al.[6] proposed a construction of length-preserving pseudorandom functions (the GGM-construction) using pseudorandom generators as building blocks. Given a pseudorandom function  $f_x : \{0,1\}^k \mapsto \{0,1\}^k$ , each evaluation requires k calls to the underlying pseudorandom generator. Though it is not very efficient, yet an advantage of such a *generic* construction is that a pseudorandom function can be built using *any* pseudorandom generators. This work gives a simple variant of the GGM-construction and shows that it can work slightly faster. We also show that our construction is optimal under the assumption that the cost of generating  $\ell$  pseudorandom bits is  $\theta(\ell)$ .

We remarked that specific based on mathematical hard problems, more efficient pseudorandom functions are possible. Using pseudorandom synthesizers as building blocks, Naor et al.[9] gave a parallel construction of pseudorandom functions which can be evaluated in  $NC^2$ . <sup>1</sup> Naor and Reingold[12] showed two constructions of pseudorandom functions: one construction of length-preserving pseudorandom functions based on the Decisional Diffie-Hellman assumption, and the other construction of 1-bit-output pseudorandom functions based on the Factoring assumption. Both constructions use roughly 2kmodular multiplications per evaluation. In [11], Naor et al. further improved the later construction so that the functions can be length-preserving and each evaluation uses roughly 3k modular multiplications.

### 2 Preliminaries

#### 2.1 Definitions

In this section we will briefly review the definitions of Pseudorandom Generators and Pseudorandom Functions. The following notations will be used:

 $x \in R$  X : x is randomly chosen from the set X.

 $I_k$ : the set of all k-bit strings.

 $H_k$ : be the set of all functions from  $I_k$  into  $I_k$ .

We say that a set  $S_k$  is a *samplable* set if there exists a probabilistic polynomial-time (PPT) algorithm that on input  $1^k$  outputs  $r \in_R S_k$ .

A pseudorandom generator is a polynomial-time algorithm that can stretch its random input to a polynomially long string. There are several definitions of a cryptographically strong pseudorandom generator[1] [3] [4] [8] . For our purpose, the following definition for pseudorandom

generators would be sufficient.<sup>2</sup>

#### **Definition 2.1.1 (Pseudorandom Generators)**

Let P,  $P_i$  be polynomials. Let  $S_k$  be a *samplable* set. Let  $G_k = \{g_i\}_{i \in S_k}$  be a collection of  $I_k \mapsto I_{P(k)}$  functions. If the following conditions hold, then  $G_k$  is called a collection of pseudorandom generators:

(1) (*Efficient computation*) There exists a polynomial-time algorithm A such that  $A(i,x) = g_i(x)$ , where  $i \in S_k$  (index), and  $x \in I_k$  (a seed of the pseudorandom generator  $g_i$ ).

(2) (*Pseuodrandomness*) Let  $U_k$  be a set of  $P_1(k)$  strings, each P(k)-bit long. For any PPT algorithm  $A_G$ , for any polynomials  $P_1$ , Q, and for all sufficiently large k,  $|p_k^G - p_k^R| < \frac{1}{Q(k)}$ , where  $p_k^G$  denotes the probability that  $A_G(1^k, U_k) = 1$  if  $U_k$  consists of P(k)-bit strings output by some pseudorandom generator  $g_i \in G_k$  on random k-bit seeds, where  $i \in R S_k$ , and  $p_k^R$  denotes the probability that  $A_G(1^k, U_k) = 1$  if  $U_k$  consists of random P(k)-bit strings.

We now move on to the definition of a pseudorandom function[6] [8] [9] [12] . Loosely speaking, a pseudorandom function is a collection of functions which cannot be efficiently distinguished from a randomly chosen function by any adversary that has access to the functions as a black box. Specifically, we give the following definition:

#### **Definition 2.1.2 (Pseudorandom Functions)**

Let  $S_k$  be a *samplable* set. Let  $F_k = \{f_x\}_{x \in S_k}$  be a collection of  $I_k \mapsto I_k$  functions. If the following conditions hold, then  $F_k$  is called a collection of pseudorandom functions:

(1) (*Efficient evaluation*) There exists a polynomial-time algorithm A such that  $A(x, y) = f_x(y)$ , where  $x \in S_k$  (the key of the pseudorandom function  $f_x$ ) and  $y \in I_k$  (query).

(2) (*Pseudorandomness*) For any PPT algorithm  $A_F$ , for all polynomial Q, and for all sufficiently large k,  $|p_k^F - p_k^H| < \frac{1}{Q(k)}$ , where  $p_k^F$  denotes the probability that  $A_F$  outputs 1 on input  $1^k$  and has access to the oracle  $O_{f_x}$  for some function  $f_x \in F_k$ ,

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>  $NC^2$  is the class of all problems solvable in O(log<sup>2</sup>k) paralle time with polynomial amount of total work. See [13].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Actually, we define a pseudorandom generator as a polynomial-time algorithm whose output sequences on random seeds pass all polynomial-time statistical test. See[6] [14].

where  $x \in_R S_k$ , and  $p_k^H$  denotes the probability that  $A_F$  outputs 1 on input  $1^k$  and has access to the oracle  $O_h$  for some function  $h \in_R H_k$ .

#### **2.2 GGM-Construction**

The GGM-construction[6] is a generic method to construct pseudorandom functions from pseudorandom generators. It can use anv pseudorandom generator G that stretches a seed  $x \in I_k$ sequence into а 2k-bit-long  $G(x) = b_1 b_2 \cdots b_k b_{k+1} \cdots b_{2k}$ . By  $G_0(x)$  we denote the first k bits in G(x). By  $G_1(x)$  we denote the second k bits in G(x). Define the pseudorandom function  $GGM_x: I_k \mapsto I_k$ as  $GGM_x(\alpha) = G_{\alpha_k}(\cdots G_{\alpha_2}(G_{\alpha_1}(x)))$ , where  $x \in_R I_k$  is the key of the pseudorandom function, and  $\alpha = \alpha_1 \alpha_2 \dots \alpha_k \in I_k$  is an input (query) to the pseudorandom function. Its evaluation can be implemented as the following algorithm:

 $v \leftarrow x$ For  $i \leftarrow 1$  to k do  $v \leftarrow G_{\alpha_i}(v)$ output v

We may imagine this construction as a full binary tree rooted at the key *x*. Each left (right) edge of this tree is labeled  $\theta$  (1). Each node at the *i*-th level stores  $G_{\alpha_i}(v)$  if its parent stores *v*. To evaluate  $GGM_x(\alpha)$ , we walk down along one of the all  $2^k$  possible paths, depended on the value of  $\alpha$ , and finally reach the leaf, which stores  $GGM_x(\alpha)$ .

# 3 The Improvement and Efficiency Analysis

#### **3.1 The Improvement**

For the reason of efficiency, we modify the original binary-tree construction to a 4-ary-tree construction. Instead of using a length-doubling pseudorandom generator, we use a pseudorandom generator G that stretches its input seed x to a length-quadrupling sequence G(x). We use  $G_{(0,0)}(x)$  to denote the first quarter of G(x). Similarly,  $G_{(0,1)}(x)$ denotes the second quarter,  $G_{(1,0)}$  denotes the third quarter, and  $G_{(1,1)}$  denotes the last quarter. We define the function  $GGM_{x}': I_{k} \mapsto I_{k}$  $GGM'_{x}(\alpha) = G_{(a_{k}, a_{k-1})}(G_{(a_{k-2}, a_{k-3})}(\cdots G_{(a_{4}, a_{3})}(G_{(a_{2}, a_{1})}(x))))$ is even if  $GGM'_{x}(\alpha) = G_{(0,a_{k})}(G_{(a_{k-1},a_{k-2})}(\cdots G_{(a_{4},a_{3})}(G_{(a_{2},a_{1})}(x))))$ if k is odd, where  $x \in_{R} I_{k}$  is the key of the pseudorandom function, and  $\alpha \in I_k$  is a query to the function. This can be implemented as the following algorithm:

$$v \leftarrow x$$
  
For  $i \leftarrow 1$  to  $\lfloor k / 2 \rfloor$   
do  $v \leftarrow G_{(\alpha_{2i}, \alpha_{2i-1})}(v)$   
If k is odd  
then  $v \leftarrow G_{(0, \alpha_k)}(v)$   
output  $v$ 

#### 3.2 Proof of Correctness

In this section, we will prove that the functions constructed by the variant, GGM', possess the essential "pseudorandomness" property of pseudorandom functions. The proof is a careful modification of the original proof of the GGM-construction[6]. It uses a proof technique, called the hybrid technique[4].

*Theorem: The* functions *constructed by GGM* are *pseudorandom functions*.

Proof:

We prove by contradiction. Assume that the functions in  $F_k$  constructed by GGM', using pseudorandom generators  $G_k$  as build blocks, are not pseudorandom. Then there exists a PPT algorithm  $A_F$  on input  $1^k$  and has access to an oracle can distinguish  $f \in_R F_k$  from  $h \in_R H_k$  with non-negligible advantage, that is,  $|p_k^F - p_k^H| \ge \frac{1}{Q(k)}$  for some polynomial Q. We use  $A_F$  to construct a PPT algorithm  $A_G$  that, on input  $1^k$  and  $U_k$  (a polynomially

bounded but sufficient large set of 4k-bit strings), can determine whether the strings in  $U_k$  are generated by  $G \in G_k$  on random seeds or just randomly chosen

4k-bit strings, the advantage i.e.  $|p_k^G - p_k^R| \ge \frac{1}{Q_1(k)}$ 

for some polynomial  $Q_1$ .

We only prove the case when k is odd since the proof when k is even is a direct modification of the original proof. Consider when  $A_F$ 's queries are answered by one of the following probabilistic algorithms  $A_i$ ,  $i = 0, 1, 2, ..., \lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ . Let  $y = y_1 y_2 \cdots y_k$  be a query of  $A_F$ . For  $0 \le i \le \lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ ,  $A_i$  answers the oracle query as follows:

If y is the first query with prefix  $y = y_1 y_2 \dots y_{2i}$ 

Then  $A_i$  selects a string  $r \in_R I_k$ ,

stores the pair  $(y_1...y_{2i}, r)$ , and answers  $GGM'_{y_{1\times 1}...y_k}(r)$ .

Else  $A_i$  retrieves the pair  $(y_1...y_{2i}, v)$  and answers  $GGM'_{y_{1+1}...y_k}(v)$ . For  $i = \lfloor k/2 \rfloor$ ,  $A_i$  answers the oracle query as

follows:

If *y* is the first query with prefix  $y = y_1 y_2 \dots y_k$ 

Then  $A_i$  selects a string  $r \in_R I_k$ ,

stores the pair  $(y_1...y_k, r)$ , and answers *r*.

Else  $A_i$  retrieves the pair  $(y_1...y_k, v)$  and

#### answers v.

We may imagine that a hybrid tree associated to  $A_i$  is a tree starting at the *i*-th level. Each node in the *i*-th level stores a randomly chosen *k*-bit string. For the nodes of the *j*-th level, where j > i, it stores  $G_{(y_{2j+2},y_{2j+1})}(d)$  if its parent stores *d*. Define  $p_k^i$  to be the probability that  $A_F$  outputs 1 when its queries are answered by  $A_i$ . Note that  $p_k^0 = p_k^F$  and  $p_k^{\lceil k/2 \rceil} = p_k^H$ . Consequently,  $|p_k^0 - p_k^{\lceil k/2 \rceil}| \ge \frac{1}{Q(k)}$ .

Let  $U_k$  be a set of  $P_1(k)$  strings, each 4k-bit long. We now describe how to construct  $A_G$  that, on input k and  $U_k$ , can determine whether the strings in  $U_k$  are generated by G or just randomly chosen 4k-bit strings:

**Step 1:**  $A_G$  randomly picks *i* between 0 and |k/2|.

**Step 2:**  $A_G$  gives  $1^k$  as input to  $A_F$  and answers  $A_F$ 's

queries using the set  $U_k$  properly.

If  $0 \le i < |k/2|$ , A<sub>G</sub> answers as follows:

## If *y* is the first query with prefix $y = y_1 y_2 \dots y_{2i}$

- Then  $A_G$  picks the next string  $u = u_{00}u_{01}u_{10}u_{11}$  in  $U_k$  (where  $|u_{00}| = |u_{01}| = |u_{10}| = |u_{11}| = k$ ), stores the pairs  $(y_1...y_{2i}00, u_{00})$ ,  $(y_1...y_{2i}01, u_{01})$ , and  $(y_1...y_{2i}10, u_{10})$ ,  $(y_1...y_{2i}11, u_{11})$ , and answers  $GGM'_{y_{2i+3}...y_k}(u_{y_{2k+2}y_{2k+1}})$
- Else  $A_i$  retrieves the pair  $(y_1...y_{2i+2}, v)$  and answers  $GGM'_{y_{2i+3}...y_k}(v)$ .
- If i = |k/2|,  $A_G$  answers as follows:

If *y* is the first query with prefix  $y=y_1y_2...y_{k-1}$ 

Then  $A_G$  picks the next string  $u = u_{00}u_{01}u_{10}u_{11}$  in

 $U_k$  (where  $|u_{00}| = |u_{01}| = |u_{10}| = |u_{11}| = k$ ), stores the pairs  $(y_1...y_{k-1}0, u_{00})$ ,  $(y_1...y_{k-1}1, u_{01})$ , *discards*  $u_{10}$  and  $u_{11}$ , and answers  $u_{0y_k}$ .

Else  $A_i$  retrieves the pair  $(y_1...y_k, v)$  and answers v.

**Step 3:** Finally,  $A_G$  outputs  $A_F$ 's output.

If  $U_k$  consists of 4k-bit strings output by G on randomly selected k-bit input seeds, then  $A_G$  acts for oracle  $A_i$ . If  $U_k$  consists of randomly selected 4k-bit strings, then  $A_G$  acts for oracle  $A_{i+1}$ . So we have  $\Pr[A_G(I^k, U_k) = 1 | U_k$  consists of 4k-bit strings output by  $G] = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} (\frac{1}{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor}) \cdot p_k^i$  and

 $\begin{aligned} &\Pr[A_G(l^k, U_k) = 1| \quad U_k \text{ consists of randomly chosen} \\ & 4k \text{-bit strings}] = \sum_{i=0}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} (\frac{1}{\lceil k/2 \rceil}) \cdot p_k^{i+1} \quad \text{. These} \\ & \text{probabilities differ by at least} \\ & \frac{1}{\lceil k/2 \rceil} \cdot |p_k^0 - p_k^{\lceil k/2 \rceil}| \ge \frac{1}{\lceil k/2 \rceil \cdot Q(k)} \end{aligned}$ 

to the fact that G is a pseudorandom generator.

#### **3.3 Efficiency Analysis**

By processing 2 bits at each level and 1 bit at the last level if necessary, we get a variant of the original binary-tree construction. We claim that this 4-ary-tree construction can work faster than the binary one under the assumption that the cost of generating  $\ell$  pseudorandom bits is  $\theta(\ell)$ . And counterintuitively, expanding to  $2^c$  -ary-tree construction, for any c > 2, dose not gain better efficiency. That is, 4-ary-tree construction is optimal among all tree constructions. (Here we do not consider trees other than  $2^c$ -ary-trees, because the input domain and output domain of our PRFs both are binary domains.)

At the (*i*-1)-th iteration of the evaluating process of the GGM-construction, we compute  $G_0(x)$  if  $\alpha_i = 0$  and compute  $G_1(x)$  if  $\alpha_i = 1$ . We denote as  $T_0$  and  $T_1$  the cost of time for these two cases, respectively. Since *G* is a generic generator, we can reasonably assume that in order to generate the second half output  $G_1(x)$ , we need to first generate the first half output  $G_0(x)$ . So  $T_1 = 2 \cdot T_0$ . To estimate the expected cost of time per evaluation of the GGM pseudorandom function, denoted as  $E[T_{GGM}]$ , we observe that the binary-tree corresponding to GGM-construction has depth *k* and each call to the generator *G* takes  $T_0$  or  $T_1$  depending on the *i*-th bit of input  $\alpha$ . So we have

$$E[T_{GGM}] = E[\sum_{i=1}^{k} T_{\alpha_i}] = \sum_{i=1}^{k} E[T_{\alpha_i}]$$
$$= \sum_{i=1}^{k} (\frac{1}{2} \cdot T_0 + \frac{1}{2} \cdot T_1) = \sum_{i=1}^{k} \frac{3}{2} \cdot T_0 = \frac{3}{2}k$$
(1)

For our 4-ary-tree construction, the corresponding 4-ary-tree has depth  $\lceil k/2 \rceil$  and each call to the generator *G* will take  $T_0$ ,  $2T_0$ ,  $3T_0$ , or  $4T_0$  depending on its input accordingly. So its expected

cost of time per evaluation, denoted as  $E[T_{GGM'}]$ , is

$$E[T_{GGM} \cdot ] = E[\sum_{i=1}^{k/2} T_{\alpha_{2i}\alpha_{2i-1}}]$$
  
=  $\sum_{i=1}^{k/2} (\frac{1}{4} \cdot T_0 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 2T_0 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 3T_0 + \frac{1}{4} \cdot 4T_0)$   
=  $\frac{5}{4} kT_0 < E[T_{GGM}]$  (2)

for k even, where  $T_{\alpha_{2i}\alpha_{2i-1}}$  denotes the cost of time computing  $G_{(\alpha_{2i},\alpha_{2i-1})}(x)$ . And if k is odd, we have

$$E[T_{GGM'}] = E[(\sum_{i=1}^{\lfloor k/2 \rfloor} T_{\alpha_{2i}\alpha_{2i-1}}) + T_{\alpha_{k}}]$$
  
=  $\frac{5}{2} \cdot \left\lfloor \frac{k}{2} \right\rfloor \cdot T_{0} + \frac{3}{2}k$   
<  $\frac{5}{4}kT_{0} + \frac{3}{2}k < E[T_{GGM}] \text{ if } T_{0} > 6$  (3)

This shows that GGM-construction performs better than GGM-construction on average.

In general, we can consider the  $2^c$ -ary-tree construction. Let the expected cost of time per evaluation of a pseudorandom function from  $GGM^c$ -construction for  $c \in N$  be denoted as  $E[T_{GGM}^{c}]$ . To simplify the discussion, we assume *k* is a multiple of *c*,

$$E[T_{GGM^{c}}] = E[\sum_{i=1}^{k/c} T_{\alpha_{2^{c},i}\cdots\alpha_{2^{c},(i-1)+1}}]$$
  
=  $\sum_{i=1}^{k/c} \frac{1}{2^{c}} (T_{0} + 2T_{0} + 3T_{0} \cdots + 2^{c} T_{0})$   
=  $\frac{k}{c} \cdot \frac{1}{2^{c}} \cdot \frac{(1+2^{c}) \cdot 2^{c}}{2} T_{0} = \frac{1+2^{c}}{2c} kT_{0}$  (4)

It is easy to verify that  $E[T_{GGM}^{c}] > E[T_{GGM'}]$  if c > 2. Therefore, the 4-ary-tree construction GGM' is optimal.

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