

From Non-Adaptive to Adaptive Pseudorandom Functions

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Abstract. Unlike the standard notion of pseudorandom functions (PRF), a *non-adaptive* PRF is only required to be indistinguishable from random in the eyes of a *non-adaptive* distinguisher (i.e., one that prepares its oracle calls in advance). A recent line of research has studied the possibility of a *direct* construction of adaptive PRFs from non-adaptive ones, where direct means that the constructed adaptive PRF uses only few (ideally, constant number of) calls to the underlying non-adaptive PRF. Unfortunately, this study has only yielded negative results, showing that “natural” such constructions are unlikely to exist (e.g., Myers [EUROCRYPT ’04], Pietrzak [CRYPTO ’05, EUROCRYPT ’06]). We give an affirmative answer to the above question, presenting a direct construction of adaptive PRFs from non-adaptive ones. The suggested construction is extremely simple, a composition of the non-adaptive PRF with an appropriate pairwise independent hash function.

1 Introduction

A pseudorandom function family (PRF), introduced by Goldreich, Goldwasser, and Micali [11], cannot be distinguished from a family of *truly* random functions by an efficient distinguisher who is given an oracle access to a random member of the family. PRFs have an extremely important role in cryptography, allowing parties, which share a common secret key, to send secure messages, identify themselves and to authenticate messages [10, 13]. In addition, they have many other applications, essentially in any setting that requires random function provided as black-box [2, 3, 6, 7, 14, 18]. Different PRF constructions are known in the literature, whose security is based on different hardness assumption. Constructions relevant to this work are those based on the existence of pseudorandom generators [11] (and thus on the existence of one-way functions [12]), and on, the so called, synthesizers [17].

In this work we study the question of constructing (adaptive) PRFs from *non-adaptive* PRFs. The latter primitive is a (weaker) variant of the standard PRF we mentioned above, whose security is only guaranteed to hold against non-adaptive distinguishers (i.e., ones that “write” all their queries before the

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first oracle call). Since a non-adaptive PRF can be easily cast as a pseudorandom generator or as a synthesizer, [11, 17] tell us how to construct (adaptive) PRF from a non-adaptive one. In both of these constructions, however, the resulting (adaptive) PRF makes $\Theta(n)$ calls to the underlying non-adaptive PRF (where n being the input length of the functions).¹

A recent line of work has tried to figure out whether more efficient reductions from adaptive to non-adaptive PRF's are likely to exist. In a sequence of works [16, 19, 20, 5], it was shown that several “natural” approaches (e.g., composition or XORing members of the non-adaptive family with itself) are unlikely to work. See more in Section 1.3.

1.1 Our Result

We show that a simple composition of a non-adaptive PRF with an appropriate pairwise independent hash function, yields an adaptive PRF. To state our result more formally, we use the following definitions: a function family \mathcal{F} is $T = T(n)$ -adaptive PRF, if no distinguisher of running time at most T , can tell a random member of \mathcal{F} from a random function with advantage larger than $1/T$. The family \mathcal{F} is T -non-adaptive PRF, if the above is only guarantee to hold against non-adaptive distinguishers. Given two function families \mathcal{F}_1 and \mathcal{F}_2 , we let $\mathcal{F}_1 \circ \mathcal{F}_2$ [resp., $\mathcal{F}_1 \oplus \mathcal{F}_2$] be the function family whose members are all pairs $(f, g) \in \mathcal{F}_1 \times \mathcal{F}_2$, and the action $(f, g)(x)$ is defined as $f(g(x))$ [resp., $f(x) \oplus g(x)$]. We prove the following statements (see Section 3 for the formal statements).

Theorem 1 (Informal). *Let \mathcal{F} be a $(p(n) \cdot T(n))$ -non-adaptive PRF, where $p \in \text{poly}$ is function of the evaluating time of \mathcal{F} , and let \mathcal{H} be an efficient pairwise-independent function family mapping strings of length n to $[T(n)]_{\{0,1\}^n}$, where $[T]_{\{0,1\}^n}$ is the first T elements (in lexicographic order) of $\{0,1\}^n$. Then $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $(\sqrt[3]{T(n)}/2)$ -adaptive PRF.*

For instance, assuming that \mathcal{F} is a $(p(n) \cdot 2^{cn})$ -non-adaptive PRF and that \mathcal{H} maps strings of length n to $[2^{cn}]_{\{0,1\}^n}$, Theorem 1 yields that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $(2^{\frac{cn}{3}} - 1)$ -adaptive PRF.

Theorem 1 is only useful, however, for polynomial-time computable T 's (in this case, the family \mathcal{H} assumed by the theorem exists, see Definition 3). Unfortunately, in the important case where \mathcal{F} is only assumed to be polynomially secure non-adaptive PRF, no useful polynomial-time computable T is guaranteed to exist.²

We suggest two different solutions for handling polynomially secure PRFs. In Section 4 we observe (following Bellare [1]) that a polynomially secure non-adaptive PRF is a T -non-adaptive PRF for some $T \in n^{\omega(1)}$. Since this T can

¹ We remark that if one is only interested in *polynomial security* (i.e., no adaptive PPT distinguishes with more than negligible probability), then $w(\log n)$ calls are sufficient (cf., [8, Sec. 3.8.4, Exe. 30]).

² Clearly \mathcal{F} is p -non-adaptive PRF for any $p \in \text{poly}$, but applying Theorem 1 with $T \in \text{poly}$, does not yield a polynomially secure adaptive PRF.

be assumed without loss of generality to be a power of two, Theorem 1 yields a non-uniform (uses n -bit advice) polynomially secure adaptive PRF, that makes a single call to the underlying non-adaptive PRF. Our second solution is to use the following “combiner”, to construct a (uniform) adaptively secure PRF, which makes $\omega(1)$ parallel calls to the underlying non-adaptive PRF.

Corollary 1 (Informal). *Let \mathcal{F} be a polynomially secure non-adaptive PRF, let $\mathcal{H} = \{\mathcal{H}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be an efficient pairwise-independent length-preserving function family and let $k(n) \in \omega(1)$ be polynomial-time computable function.*

For $n \in \mathbb{N}$ and $i \in [n]$, let $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^i$ be the function family $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^i = \{\widehat{h} : h \in \mathcal{H}\}$, where $\widehat{h}(x) = 0^{n-i} \|h(x)_{1,\dots,i}\|$ ($\|\cdot\|$ stands for string concatenation). Then the ensemble $\{\bigoplus_{i \in [k(n)]} (\mathcal{F}_n \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^{[i \cdot \log n]})\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a polynomially secure adaptive PRF.

1.2 Proof Idea

To prove Theorem 1 we first show that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is indistinguishable from $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$, where Π being the set of *all* functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ (letting $\ell(n)$ be \mathcal{F} 's output length), and then conclude the proof by showing that $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ is indistinguishable from Π .

$\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is indistinguishable from $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$. Let D be (a possibly adaptive) algorithm of running time $T(n)$, which distinguishes $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ from $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ with advantage $\varepsilon(n)$. We use D to build a *non-adaptive* distinguisher \widehat{D} of running time $p(n) \cdot T(n)$, which distinguishes \mathcal{F} from Π with advantage $\varepsilon(n)$. Given an oracle access to a function ϕ , the distinguisher $\widehat{D}^\phi(1^n)$ first queries ϕ on *all* the elements of $[T(n)]_{\{0,1\}^n}$. Next it chooses at uniform $h \in \mathcal{H}$, and uses the stored answers to its queries, to emulate $D^{\phi \circ h}(1^n)$.

Since \widehat{D} runs in time $p(n) \cdot T(n)$, for some large enough $p \in \text{poly}$, makes *non-adaptive* queries, and distinguishes \mathcal{F} from Π with advantage $\varepsilon(n)$, the assumed security of \mathcal{F} yields that $\varepsilon(n) < \frac{1}{p(n) \cdot T(n)}$.

$\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ is indistinguishable from Π . We prove that $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ is *statistically* indistinguishable from Π . Namely, even an unbounded distinguisher (that makes bounded number of calls) cannot distinguish between the families. The idea of the proof is fairly simple. Let D be an s -query algorithm trying to distinguish between $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ and Π . We first note that the distinguishing advantage of D is bounded by its probability of finding a collision in a random $\phi \in \Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ (in case no collision occurs, ϕ 's output is uniform). We next argue that in order to find a collision in ϕ , the distinguisher D gains nothing from being adaptive. Indeed, assuming that D found no collision until the i 'th call, then it has only learned that h does not collide on these first i queries. Therefore, a random (or even a constant) query as the $(i+1)$ call, has the same chance to yield a collision, as any other query has. Hence, we assume without loss of generality that D is non-adaptive, and use the

pairwise independence of \mathcal{H} to conclude that D 's probability in finding a collision, and thus its distinguishing advantage, is bounded by $s(n)^2/T(n)$.

Combining the above two observations, we conclude that an adaptive distinguisher whose running time is bounded by $\frac{1}{2}\sqrt[3]{T(n)}$, cannot distinguish $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ from Π (i.e., from a random function) with an advantage better than $\frac{T(n)^{\frac{3}{8}}}{T(n)} + \frac{1}{p(n)T(n)} \leq 2/\sqrt[3]{T(n)}$. Namely, $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $(\sqrt[3]{T(n)}/2)$ -adaptive PRF.

1.3 Related Work

Maurer and Pietrzak [15] were the first to consider the question of building adaptive PRFs from non-adaptive ones. They showed that in the *information theoretic* model, a self composition of a non-adaptive PRF *does* yield an adaptive PRF.³

In contrast, the situation in the *computational model* (which we consider here) seems very different: Myers [16] proved that it is impossible to reprove the result of [15] via fully-black-box reductions. Pietrzak [19] showed that under the Decisional Diffie-Hellman (DDH) assumption, composition does not imply adaptive security. Where in [20] he showed that the existence of non-adaptive PRFs whose composition is not adaptively secure, yields that key-agreement protocol exists. Finally, Cho et al. [5] generalized [20] by proving that composition of two non-adaptive PRFs is not adaptively secure, iff (uniform transcript) key agreement protocol exists. We mention that [16, 19, 5], and in a sense also [15], hold also with respect to XORing of the non-adaptive families.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Notations

All logarithms considered here are in base two. We let ‘||’ denote string concatenation. We use calligraphic letters to denote sets, uppercase for random variables, and lowercase for values. For an integer t , we let $[t] = \{1, \dots, t\}$, and for a set $\mathcal{S} \subseteq \{0, 1\}^*$ with $|\mathcal{S}| \geq t$, we let $[t]_{\mathcal{S}}$ be the first t elements (in increasing lexicographic order) of \mathcal{S} . A function $\mu: \mathbb{N} \rightarrow [0, 1]$ is *negligible*, denoted $\mu(n) = \text{neg}(n)$, if $\mu(n) = n^{-\omega(1)}$. We let poly denote the set all polynomials, and let PPT denote the set of probabilistic algorithms (i.e., Turing machines) that run in *strictly* polynomial time.

Given a random variable X , we write $X(x)$ to denote $\Pr[X = x]$, and write $x \leftarrow X$ to indicate that x is selected according to X . Similarly, given a finite set \mathcal{S} , we let $s \leftarrow \mathcal{S}$ denote that s is selected according to the uniform distribution on \mathcal{S} . The *statistical distance* of two distributions P and Q over a finite set \mathcal{U} , denoted as $\text{SD}(P, Q)$, is defined as $\max_{\mathcal{S} \subseteq \mathcal{U}} |P(\mathcal{S}) - Q(\mathcal{S})| = \frac{1}{2} \sum_{u \in \mathcal{U}} |P(u) - Q(u)|$.

³ Specifically, assuming that the non-adaptive PRF is (Q, ε) -non-adaptively secure, no Q -query non-adaptive algorithm distinguishes it from random with advantage larger than ε , then the resulting PRF is $(Q, \varepsilon(1 + \ln \frac{1}{\varepsilon}))$ -adaptively secure.

2.2 Ensemble of Function Families

Let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n: \mathcal{D}_n \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ stands for an ensemble of function families, where each $f \in \mathcal{F}_n$ has domain \mathcal{D}_n and its range contained in \mathcal{R}_n . Such ensemble is *length preserving*, if $\mathcal{D}_n = \mathcal{R}_n = \{0, 1\}^n$ for every n .

Definition 1 (efficient function family ensembles). *A function family ensemble $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is efficient, if the following hold:*

Samplable. *\mathcal{F} is samplable in polynomial-time: there exists a PPT that given 1^n , outputs (the description of) a uniform element in \mathcal{F}_n .*

Efficient. *There exists a polynomial-time algorithm that given $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and (a description of) $f \in \mathcal{F}_n$, outputs $f(x)$.*

Operating on Function Families

Definition 2 (composition of function families). *Let $\mathcal{F}^1 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^1: \mathcal{D}_n^1 \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n^1\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\mathcal{F}^2 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^2: \mathcal{D}_n^2 \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be two ensembles of function families with $\mathcal{R}_n^1 \subseteq \mathcal{D}_n^2$ for every n . We define the composition of \mathcal{F}^1 with \mathcal{F}^2 as $\mathcal{F}^2 \circ \mathcal{F}^1 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^2 \circ \mathcal{F}_n^1: \mathcal{D}_n^1 \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $\mathcal{F}_n^2 \circ \mathcal{F}_n^1 = \{(f_2, f_1) \in \mathcal{F}_n^2 \times \mathcal{F}_n^1\}$, and $(f_2, f_1)(x) := f_2(f_1(x))$.*

Definition 3 (XOR of function families). *Let $\mathcal{F}^1 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^1: \mathcal{D}_n^1 \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n^1\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ and $\mathcal{F}^2 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^2: \mathcal{D}_n^2 \mapsto \mathcal{R}_n^2\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ be two ensembles of function families with $\mathcal{R}_n^1, \mathcal{R}_n^2 \subseteq \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$ for every n . We define the XOR of \mathcal{F}^1 with \mathcal{F}^2 as $\mathcal{F}^2 \oplus \mathcal{F}^1 = \{\mathcal{F}_n^2 \oplus \mathcal{F}_n^1: \mathcal{D}_n^1 \cap \mathcal{D}_n^2 \mapsto \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $\mathcal{F}_n^2 \oplus \mathcal{F}_n^1 = \{(f_2, f_1) \in \mathcal{F}_n^2 \times \mathcal{F}_n^1\}$, and $(f_2, f_1)(x) := f_2(x) \oplus f_1(x)$.*

Pairwise Independent Hashing

Definition 4 (pairwise independent families). *A function family $\mathcal{H} = \{h: \mathcal{D} \mapsto \mathcal{R}\}$ is pairwise independent (with respect to \mathcal{D} and \mathcal{R}), if*

$$\Pr_{h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}}[h(x_1) = y_1 \wedge h(x_2) = y_2] = \frac{1}{|\mathcal{R}|^2},$$

for every distinct $x_1, x_2 \in \mathcal{D}$ and every $y_1, y_2 \in \mathcal{R}$.

For every $\ell \in \text{poly}$, the existence of efficient pairwise-independent family ensembles mapping strings of length n to strings of length $\ell(n)$ is well known ([4]). In this paper we use efficient pairwise-independent function family ensembles mapping strings of length n to the set $[T(n)]_{\{0,1\}^n}$, where $T(n) \leq 2^n$ and is without loss of generality a power of two.⁴ Let \mathcal{H} be an efficient length-preserving, pairwise-independent function family ensemble and assume that $t(n) := \log T(n)$ is polynomial-time computable. Then the function family $\widehat{\mathcal{H}} = \{\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n = \{h': h \in \mathcal{H}_n, h'(x) = 0^{n-t(n)} \| h(x)_{1,\dots,t(n)}\}\}$, is an efficient pairwise-independent function family ensemble, mapping strings of length n to the set $[T(n)]_{\{0,1\}^n}$.

⁴ For our applications, see Section 3, we can always consider $T'(n) = 2^{\lceil \log(T(n)) \rceil}$, which only causes us a factor of two loss in the resulting security.

Pseudorandom Functions

Definition 5 (pseudorandom functions). An efficient function family ensemble $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n: \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is a $(T(n), \varepsilon(n))$ -adaptive PRF, if for every oracle-aided algorithm (distinguisher) D of running time $T(n)$ and large enough n , it holds that

$$|\Pr_{f \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n}[\mathsf{D}^f(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[\mathsf{D}^\pi(1^n) = 1]| \leq \varepsilon(n),$$

where Π_n is the set of all functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$. If we limit D above to be non-adaptive (i.e., it has to write all his oracle calls before making the first call), then \mathcal{F} is called $(T(n), \varepsilon(n))$ -non-adaptive PRF.

The ensemble \mathcal{F} is a t -adaptive PRF, if it is a $(t, 1/t)$ -adaptive PRF according to the above definition. It is polynomially secure adaptive PRF (for short, adaptive PRF), if it is a p -adaptive PRF for every $p \in \text{poly}$. Finally, it is super-polynomial secure adaptive PRF, if it T -adaptive PRF for some $T(n) \in n^{\omega(1)}$. The same conventions are also used for non-adaptive PRFs.

Clearly, a super-polynomial secure PRF is also polynomially secure. In Section 4 we prove that the converse is also true: a polynomially secure PRF is also super-polynomial secure PRF.

3 Our Construction

In this section we present the main contribution of this paper — a direct construction of an adaptive pseudorandom function family from a non-adaptive one.

Theorem 2 (restatement of Theorem 1). Let T be a polynomial-time computable integer function, let $\mathcal{H} = \{\mathcal{H}_n: \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto [T(n)]_{\{0, 1\}^n}\}$ be an efficient pairwise independent function family ensemble, and let $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n: \{0, 1\}^n \mapsto \{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}\}$ be a $(p(n) \cdot T(n), \varepsilon(n))$ -non-adaptive PRF, where $p \in \text{poly}$ is determined by the computation time of T , \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{H} . Then $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $\left(s(n), \varepsilon(n) + \frac{s(n)^2}{T(n)}\right)$ -adaptive PRF for every $s(n) < T(n)$.

Theorem 2 yields the following simpler statement.

Corollary 2. Let T , p and \mathcal{H} be as in Theorem 2. Assuming \mathcal{F} is a $(p(n)T(n))$ -non-adaptive PRF, then $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $\left(\sqrt[3]{T(n)}/2\right)$ -adaptive PRF.

Proof. Applying Theorem 2 with respect to $s(n) = \sqrt[3]{T(n)}/2$ and $\varepsilon(n) = \frac{1}{p(n)T(n)}$, yields that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $\left(s(n), \frac{1}{p(n)T(n)} + \frac{s(n)^2}{T(n)}\right)$ -adaptive PRF. Since $\frac{1}{p(n)T(n)} < \frac{1}{2s(n)}$ and $\frac{s(n)^2}{T(n)} \leq \frac{1}{2s(n)}$, it follows that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is a $(s, 1/s)$ -adaptive PRF. \square

To prove Theorem 2, we use the (non efficient) function family ensemble $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$, where $\Pi = \Pi_\ell$ (i.e., the ensemble of all functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^\ell$), and $\ell = \ell(n)$ is the output length of \mathcal{F} . We first show that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is *computationally* indistinguishable from $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$, and complete the proof showing that $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ is *statistically* indistinguishable from Π .

3.1 $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is Computationally Indistinguishable From $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$

Lemma 1. *Let T , \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{H} be as in Theorem 2. Then for every oracle-aided distinguisher D of running time T , there exists a non-adaptive oracle-aided distinguisher \widehat{D} of running time $p(n) \cdot T(n)$, for some $p \in \text{poly}$ (determined by the computation time of T , \mathcal{F} and \mathcal{H}), with*

$$|\Pr_{g \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n}[\widehat{D}^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{g \leftarrow \Pi_n}[\widehat{D}^g(1^n) = 1]| = |\Pr_{g \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{g \leftarrow \Pi_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1]|$$

for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$, where Π_n is the set of all functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^{\ell(n)}$.

In particular, the pseudorandomness of \mathcal{F} yields that $\mathcal{F} \circ \mathcal{H}$ is computationally indistinguishable from the ensemble $\{\Pi_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ by an adaptive distinguisher of running time T .

Proof. The distinguisher \widehat{D} is defined as follows:

Algorithm 3 (\widehat{D})

Input: 1^n .

Oracle: a function ϕ over $\{0, 1\}^n$.

1. Compute $\phi(x)$ for every $x \in [T(n)]_{\{0,1\}^n}$.
2. Set $g = \phi \circ h$, where h is uniformly chosen in \mathcal{H}_n .
3. Emulate $D^g(1^n)$: answer a query x to ϕ made by D with $g(x)$, using the information obtained in Step 1.

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Note that \widehat{D} makes $T(n)$ non-adaptive queries to ϕ , and it can be implemented to run in time $p(n)T(n)$, for large enough $p \in \text{poly}$. We conclude the proof by observing that in case ϕ is uniformly drawn from \mathcal{F}_n , the emulation of D done in \widehat{D}^ϕ is identical to a random execution of D^g with $g \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n$. Similarly, in case ϕ is uniformly drawn from Π_n , the emulation is identical to a random execution of D^π with $\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n$. \square

3.2 $\Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$ is Statistically Indistinguishable From Π

The following lemma is commonly used for proving the security of hash based MACs (cf., [9, Proposition 6.3.6]), yet for completeness we give it a full proof below.

Lemma 2. *Let n, T be integers with $T \leq 2^n$, and let \mathcal{H} be a pairwise-independent function family mapping string of length n to $[T]_{\{0,1\}^n}$. Let D be an (unbounded) s -query oracle-aided algorithm (i.e., making at most s queries), then*

$$|\Pr_{g \leftarrow \Pi \circ \mathcal{H}}[D^g = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi}[D^\pi = 1]| \leq s^2/T,$$

where Π is the set of all functions from $\{0, 1\}^n$ to $\{0, 1\}^\ell$ (for some $\ell \in \mathbb{N}$).

Proof. We assume for simplicity that D is deterministic (the reduction to the randomized case is standard) and makes exactly s valid (i.e., inside $\{0,1\}^n$) distinct queries, and let $\Omega = (\{0,1\}^\ell)^s$. Consider the following random process:

Algorithm 4

1. Emulate D , while answering the i 'th query q_i with a uniformly chosen $a_i \in \{0,1\}^\ell$.
Set $\bar{q} = (q_1, \dots, q_s)$ and $\bar{a} = (a_1, \dots, a_s)$.
 2. Choose $h \leftarrow \mathcal{H}$.
 3. Emulate D again, while answering the i 'th query q'_i with $a'_i = a_i$ (the same a_i from Step 1), if $h(q'_i) \notin \{h(q'_j)\}_{j \in [i-1]}$, and with $a'_i = a_j$, if $h(q'_i) = h(q'_j)$ for some $j \in [i-1]$.
Set $\bar{q}' = (q'_1, \dots, q'_s)$ and $\bar{a}' = (a'_1, \dots, a'_s)$.
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Let $\bar{A}, \bar{Q}, \bar{A}', \bar{Q}'$ and H be the (jointly distributed) random variables induced by the values of $\bar{q}, \bar{a}, \bar{q}', \bar{a}'$ and h respectively, in a random execution of the above process. It is not hard to verify that \bar{A} is distributed the same as the oracle answers in a random execution of D^π with $\pi \leftarrow \Pi$, and that \bar{A}' is distributed the same as the oracle answers in a random execution of D^g with $g \leftarrow \Pi \circ \mathcal{H}$. Hence, for proving Lemma 2, it suffices to bound the statistical distance between \bar{A} and \bar{A}' .

Let Coll be the event that $H(\bar{Q}_i) = H(\bar{Q}_j)$ for some $i \neq j \in [s]$. Since the queries and answers in both emulations of Algorithm 4 are the same until a collision with respect to H occurs, it follows that

$$\Pr[\bar{A} \neq \bar{A}'] \leq \Pr[\text{Coll}] \tag{1}$$

On the other hand, since H is chosen *after* \bar{Q} is set, the pairwise independent of \mathcal{H} yields that

$$\Pr[\text{Coll}] \leq s^2/T, \tag{2}$$

and therefore $\Pr[\bar{A} \neq \bar{A}'] \leq s^2/T$. It follows that $\Pr[\bar{A} \in C] \leq \Pr[\bar{A}' \in C] + s^2/T$ for every $C \subseteq \Omega$, yielding that $\text{SD}(\bar{A}, \bar{A}') \leq s^2/T$. \square

3.3 Putting It Together

We are now finally ready to prove Theorem 2.

Proof (of Theorem 2). Let D be an oracle-aided algorithm of running time s with $s(n) < T(n)$. Lemma 1 yields that $|\Pr_{g \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{g \leftarrow \Pi_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1]| \leq \varepsilon(n)$ for large enough n , where Lemma 2 yields that $|\Pr_{g \leftarrow \Pi_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[D^\pi(1^n) = 1]| \leq s(n)^2/T(n)$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. Hence, the triangle inequality yields that $|\Pr_{g \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n \circ \mathcal{H}_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[D^\pi(1^n) = 1]| \leq \varepsilon(n) + s(n)^2/T(n)$ for large enough n , as requested. \square

3.4 Handling Polynomial Security

Corollary 2 is only useful when the security of the underlying non-adaptive PRF (i.e., T) is efficiently computable (or when considering non-uniform PRF constructions, see Section 1.1). In this section we show how to handle the important case of polynomially secure non-adaptive PRF. We use the following “combiner”.

Definition 6. Let \mathcal{H} be a function family into $\{0, 1\}^n$. For $i \in [n]$, let $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^i$ be the function family $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^i = \{\widehat{h} : h \in \mathcal{H}\}$, where $\widehat{h}(x) = 0^{n-i} || h(x)_{1, \dots, i}$.

Corollary 3. Let \mathcal{F} be a $T(n)$ -non-adaptive PRF, let \mathcal{H} be an efficient length-preserving pairwise-independent function family ensemble, and let $\mathcal{I}(n) \subseteq [n]$ be polynomial-time computable (in n) index set. Define the function family ensemble $G = \{G_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$, where $G_n = \bigoplus_{i \in \mathcal{I}(n)} (\mathcal{F}_n \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^i)$.

There exists $q \in \text{poly}$ such that G is a $(\sqrt[3]{2^{t(n)}}/2)$ -adaptive PRF, for every polynomial-time computable integer function t , with $t(n) \in \mathcal{I}(n)$ and $2^{t(n)} \leq T(n)/q(n)$.

Before proving the corollary, let us first use it for constructing adaptive PRF from non-adaptive polynomially secure one.

Corollary 4 (restatement of Corollary 1). Let \mathcal{F} be a polynomially secure non-adaptive PRF, let \mathcal{H} be an efficient pairwise-independent length-preserving function family ensemble and let $k(n) \in \omega(1)$ be polynomial-time computable function. Then $G := \{\bigoplus_{i \in [k(n)]} (\mathcal{F}_n \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^{\lfloor i \cdot \log n \rfloor})\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is polynomially secure adaptive PRF.

Proof. Let $\mathcal{I}(n) := \{\lfloor \log n \rfloor, \lfloor 2 \cdot \log n \rfloor, \dots, \lfloor k(n) \cdot \log n \rfloor\}$. Applying Corollary 3 with respect to \mathcal{F} , \mathcal{H} , \mathcal{I} and $t(n) = \lfloor c \cdot \log n \rfloor$, where $c \in \mathbb{N}$, yields that G is a $O(\sqrt[3]{n^c})$ -adaptive PRF. It follows that G is p -adaptive PRF for every $p \in \text{poly}$. Namely, G is polynomially secure adaptive PRF. \square

Remark 1 (unknown security). Corollary 3 is also useful when the security of \mathcal{F} is “not known” in the construction time. Taking $\mathcal{I}(n) = \{1, 2, 4, \dots, 2^{\lfloor \log n \rfloor}\}$ (resulting in $\log n$ calls to \mathcal{F}) and assuming that \mathcal{F} is found to be $T(n)$ -non-adaptive PRF for some polynomial-time computable T , the resulting PRF is guaranteed to be $O(\sqrt[6]{T(n)})$ -adaptive PRF (neglecting polynomial factors).

Proof (of Corollary 3). It is easy to see that G is efficient, so it is left to argue for its security. Let $q(n) = q'(n)p(n)$, where p is as in the statement of Corollary 2, and $q' \in \text{poly}$ to be determined later. Let t be a polynomial-time computable integer function with $t(n) \in \mathcal{I}(n)$ and $2^{t(n)} \leq T(n)/q(n)$. It follows that $\widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t = \{\widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^{t(n)}\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ is an efficient pairwise-independent function family ensemble, and Corollary 2 yields that $\mathcal{F} \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t$ is a $(\sqrt[3]{q'(n)2^{t(n)}}/2)$ -adaptive PRF.

Assume towards a contradiction that there exists an oracle-aided distinguisher D that runs in time $T'(n) = \sqrt[3]{2^{t(n)}}/2$ and

$$|\Pr_{g \leftarrow G_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[D^\pi(1^n) = 1]| > 1/T'(n) \quad (3)$$

for infinitely many n 's. We use the following distinguisher for breaking the pseudorandomness of $\mathcal{F} \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t$:

Algorithm 5 (\widehat{D})

Input: 1^n .

Oracle: a function ϕ over $\{0, 1\}^n$.

1. For every $i \in \mathcal{I}(n) \setminus \{t(n)\}$, choose $g^i \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^i$.
2. Set $g := \phi \oplus \bigoplus_{i \in \mathcal{I}(n) \setminus \{t(n)\}} g^i$.
3. Emulate $D^g(1^n)$.

.....

Note that \widehat{D} can be implemented to run in time $|\mathcal{I}(n)| \cdot r(n) \cdot T'(n)$ for some $r \in \text{poly}$, which is smaller than $\sqrt[3]{q'(n)2^{t(n)}}/2$ for large enough q' . Also note that in case ϕ is uniformly distributed over Π_n , then g (selected by $\widehat{D}^\phi(1^n)$) is uniformly distributed in Π_n , where in case ϕ is uniformly distributed in $\mathcal{F}_n \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}_n^{t(n)}$, then g is uniformly distributed in G_n . It follows that

$$\left| \Pr_{g \leftarrow (\mathcal{F} \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t)_n}[\widehat{D}^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[\widehat{D}^\pi(1^n) = 1] \right| = |\Pr_{g \leftarrow G_n}[D^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[D^\pi(1^n) = 1]| \quad (4)$$

for every $n \in \mathbb{N}$. In particular, Equation (3) yields that

$$\left| \Pr_{g \leftarrow (\mathcal{F} \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t)_n}[\widehat{D}^g(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[\widehat{D}^\pi(1^n) = 1] \right| > \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{2^{t(n)}}} > \frac{2}{\sqrt[3]{q'(n)2^{t(n)}}}$$

for infinitely many n 's, in contradiction to the pseudorandomness of $\mathcal{F} \circ \widehat{\mathcal{H}}^t$ we proved above. \square

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4 From Polynomial to Super-Polynomial Security

The standard security definition for cryptographic primitives is *polynomial security*: any PPT trying to break the primitive has only negligible success probability. Bellare [1] showed that for any polynomially secure primitive there exists a *single* negligible function μ , such that no PPT can break the primitive with probability larger than μ . Here we take his approach a step further, showing that for a polynomially secure primitive there exists a super-polynomial function T , such that no adversary of running time T breaks the primitive with probability larger than $1/T$.

In the following we identify algorithms with their string description. In particular, when considering algorithm A , we mean the algorithm defined by the string A (according to some canonical representation). We prove the following result.

Theorem 6. *Let $v: \{0, 1\}^* \times \mathbb{N} \mapsto [0, 1]$ be a function with the following properties: 1) $v(A, n) \leq 1/p(n)$ for every oracle-aided PPT A , $p \in \text{poly}$ and large enough n ; and 2) if the distributions induced by random executions of $A^f(x)$ and $B^f(x)$ are the same for any input $x \in \{0, 1\}^n$ and function f (each distribution describes the algorithm’s output and oracle queries), then $v(A, n) = v(B, n)$.*

Then there exists an integer function $T(n) \in n^{\omega(1)}$ such that following holds: for any algorithm A of running time at most $T(n)$, it holds that $v(A, n) \leq 1/T(n)$ for large enough n .

Remark 2 (Applications). Let f be a polynomially secure OWF (i.e., $\Pr[A(f(U_n)) \in f^{-1}(f(U_n))] = \text{neg}(n)$ for any PPT A). Applying Theorem 6 with $v(A, n) := \Pr[A(f(U_n)) \in f^{-1}(f(U_n))]$ (where if A expects to get an oracle, provide him with the constant function $\phi(x) = 1$), yields that f is super-polynomial secure OWF (i.e., exists $T(n) \in n^{\omega(1)}$ such that $\Pr[A(f(U_n)) \in f^{-1}(f(U_n))] \leq 1/T(n)$ for any algorithm of running time T and large enough n).

Similarly, for a polynomially secure PRF $\mathcal{F} = \{\mathcal{F}_n\}_{n \in \mathbb{N}}$ (see Definition 5), applying Theorem 6 with $v(A, n) := |\Pr_{f \leftarrow \mathcal{F}_n}[A^f(1^n) = 1] - \Pr_{\pi \leftarrow \Pi_n}[A^\pi(1^n) = 1]|$, where Π_n is the set of all functions with the same domain/range as \mathcal{F}_n , yields that \mathcal{F} is super-polynomial secure PRF.

Proof (of Theorem 6). Given a probabilistic algorithm A and an integer i , let A_i denote the variant of A that on input of length n , halts after n^i steps (hence, A_i is a PPT). Let \mathcal{S}_i be the first i strings in $\{0, 1\}^*$, according to some canonical

order, viewed as descriptions of i algorithms. Let $\mathcal{I}(n) = \{i \in [n] : \forall \mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}_i, k \geq n : v(\mathbf{A}_i, k) < 1/k^i\} \cup \{1\}$, let $t(n) = \max \mathcal{I}(n)$ and $T(n) = n^{t(n)}$.

Let \mathbf{A} be an algorithm of running time $T(n)$, and let $i_{\mathbf{A}}$ be the first integer such that $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}_{i_{\mathbf{A}}}$. In Remark 2 we prove that $t(n) \in \omega(1)$, hence it follows that $t(n) > i_{\mathbf{A}}$ for any large enough n . For any such n , the definition of t guarantees that $v(\mathbf{A}_{t(n)}, n) < 1/n^{t(n)} = 1/T(n)$. Since \mathbf{A} is of running time $T(n)$, the second property of v yields that $v(\mathbf{A}, n) = v(\mathbf{A}_{t(n)}, n)$, and therefore $v(\mathbf{A}, n) < 1/T(n)$. \square

Claim. It holds that $t(n) \in \omega(1)$.

Proof. Fix $i \in \mathbb{N}$. For each $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}_i$, let $n_{\mathbf{A}}$ be the first integer such that $v(\mathbf{A}_i, n) \leq 1/n^i$ for every $n \geq n_{\mathbf{A}}$ (note that such $n_{\mathbf{A}}$ exists by the first property of v), and let $n_i = \max\{n_{\mathbf{A}} : \mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}_i\}$. It follows that $v(\mathbf{A}_i, n) \leq 1/n^i$ for every $n \geq n_i$ and $\mathbf{A} \in \mathcal{S}_i$, and therefore $t(n_i) \geq i$. \square