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Near Collision Attack on the Grain v1 Stream Cipher

Bin Zhang* and Zhenqi Li†

*Institute of Information Engineering,
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100093, China.

†Institute of Software,
Chinese Academy of Sciences, Beijing, 100190, China.
{zhangbin, lizhenqi}@is.iscas.ac.cn

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- **Introduction**
- Description of Grain v1
- Main idea & some key observations
- The general attack model: NCA-1.0
- NCA-2.0 & NCA-3.0
- Simulations
- Conclusions

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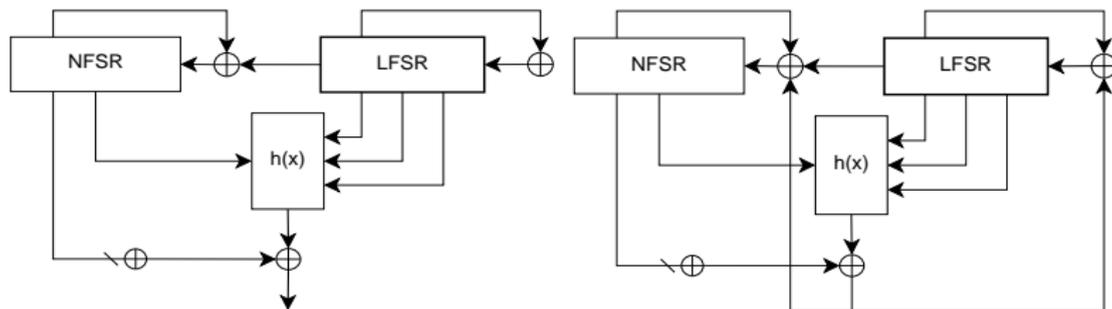
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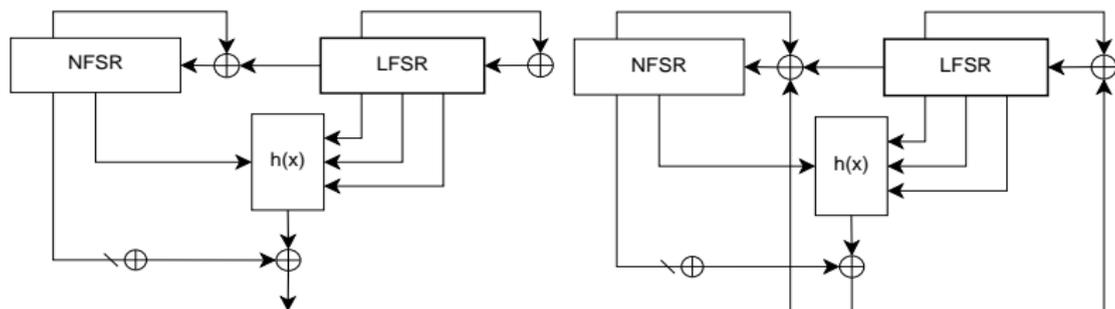
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- A new variant, Grain-128a with **optional authentication** was proposed by Ågren *et al.*

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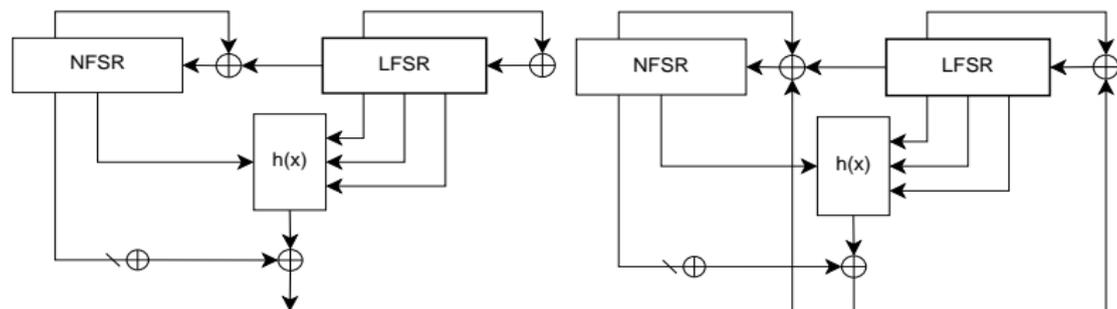
Description of Grain v1



- The non-linear filter function $h(x)$ is balanced and correlation immune of the first order, defined as:

$$h(x) = x_1 + x_4 + x_0x_3 + x_2x_3 + x_3x_4 + x_0x_1x_2 + x_0x_2x_3 + x_0x_2x_4 + x_1x_2x_4 + x_2x_3x_4.$$

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- The output function is taken as $z_i = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}} n_{i+k} + h(l_{i+3}, l_{i+25}, l_{i+46}, l_{i+64}, n_{i+63})$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{1, 2, 4, 10, 31, 43, 56\}$.

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Main idea

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- It is observed that the distribution of the keystream segment differences is **non-uniform**, given a low Hamming weight internal state difference.
- Three attacks has been proposed: NCA-1.0, NCA-2.0 combined with BSW sampling, NCA-3.0 utilizing the non-uniform distribution of the internal state differences for a fixed keystream difference.

Definition

Two n -bit strings s, s' are d -near-collision, if $w_H(s \oplus s') \leq d$.

Similar to the birthday paradox, which states that two random subsets of a space with 2^n elements are expected to intersect when the product of their sizes exceeds 2^n , we present the following **lemma of d -near-collision**.

Lemma

Given two random subsets A, B of a space with 2^n elements, then there exists a pair (a, b) with $a \in A$ and $b \in B$ that is an d -near-collision if

$$|A| \cdot |B| \geq \frac{2^n}{V(n, d)} \quad (1)$$

holds, where $|A|$ and $|B|$ are the size of A and B respectively.

$$V(n, d) = \sum_{i=0}^d \binom{n}{i}.$$

Observation I-State recovery with known state difference

- Denote the LFSR state as $L^{t_1} = (l_0^{t_1}, l_1^{t_1}, \dots, l_{79}^{t_1})$ at time t_1 and $L^{t_2} = (l_0^{t_2}, l_1^{t_2}, \dots, l_{79}^{t_2})$ at time t_2 ($0 \leq t_1 < t_2$). Then, we can derive

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} l_0^{t_2} = c_0^0 l_0^{t_1} + c_1^0 l_1^{t_1} + \dots + c_{79}^0 l_{79}^{t_1} \\ l_1^{t_2} = c_0^1 l_0^{t_1} + c_1^1 l_1^{t_1} + \dots + c_{79}^1 l_{79}^{t_1} \\ \vdots \\ l_{79}^{t_2} = c_0^{79} l_0^{t_1} + c_1^{79} l_1^{t_1} + \dots + c_{79}^{79} l_{79}^{t_1}, \end{array} \right.$$

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- Suppose that we know the difference $\Delta L = (l_0^{t_1} \oplus l_0^{t_2}, \dots, l_{79}^{t_1} \oplus l_{79}^{t_2}) = (\Delta l_0, \Delta l_1, \dots, \Delta l_{79})$ with the time interval $\Delta t = t_2 - t_1$. Then,

$$\begin{cases} \Delta l_0 = l_0^{t_2} \oplus l_0^{t_1} = (c_0^0 + 1)l_0^{t_1} + xc_1^0 l_1^{t_1} + \dots + c_{79}^0 l_{79}^{t_1} \\ \Delta l_1 = l_1^{t_2} \oplus l_1^{t_1} = c_0^1 l_0^{t_1} + (c_1^1 + 1)l_1^{t_1} + \dots + c_{79}^1 l_{79}^{t_1} \\ \vdots \\ \Delta l_{79} = l_{79}^{t_2} \oplus l_{79}^{t_1} = c_0^{79} l_0^{t_1} + c_1^{79} l_1^{t_1} + \dots + (c_{79}^{79} + 1)l_{79}^{t_1}. \end{cases}$$

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- The next step is to recover the NFSR state at t_1 and t_2 , the time complexity is bounded by $2^{20.3}$ cipher ticks.

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Table: The distribution of KSDs

ISD	KSD	Proportion	ISD	KSD	Proportion
Δs_1	0xa120	49.4%	Δs_4	0x0000	52.0%
	0xe120	50.6%		0x0080	48.0%
Δs_2	0x0000	12.9%	Δs_3	0x0001	13.2%
	0x0001	13.8%		0x0201	12.1%
	0x2000	38.3%		0x0801	37.2%
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- The results also show that there exists some impossible differences for most of (d, l) pairs.

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- If each keystream bit is treated as a random variable, then for each k_i , the probability that the attacker need to generate l ($1 \leq l \leq 80$) bits keystream is 1 for $l = 1$ and $2^{-(l-1)}$ for $l > 1$

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- Let N_w be the expected number of bits needed to generate for each enumerated key, which is $N_w = \sum_{l=1}^{80} l \cdot P_l = \sum_{l=1}^{80} l \cdot 2^{-(l-1)} \approx 4$. Then, the total time complexity is $(2^{80} - 1) \cdot (160 + 4) \approx 2^{87.4}$ **cipher ticks**.

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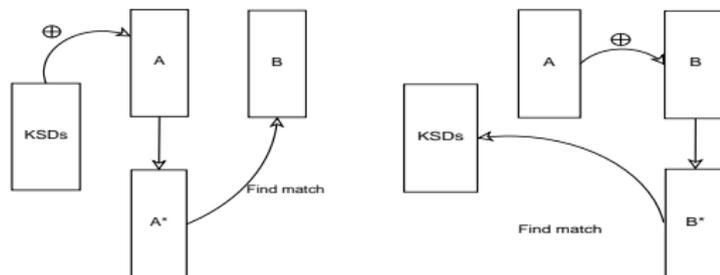
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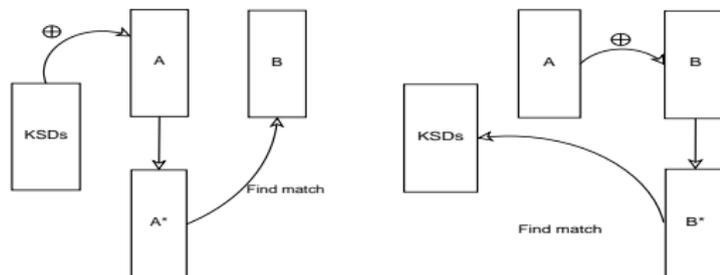
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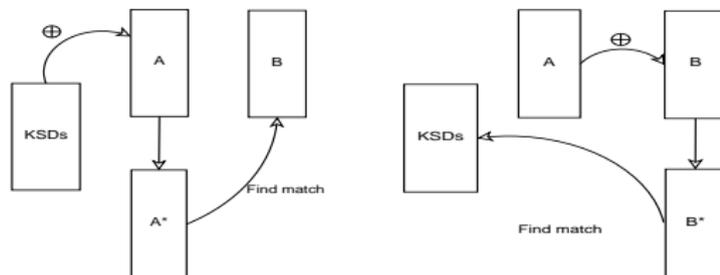


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Complexity Analysis of NCA-1.0

- Pre-computation time: $P = 2 \cdot N \cdot V(n, d) \cdot l$. The data complexity is $D = |A| + |B|$ \hat{l} -bit keystream segments and the memory requirement is $M = M_1 + M_2 = V(n, d) \cdot 2^{6.6} + |A| + |B|$ entries.

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- Step 4: $T_3 = |A| \cdot |B| \cdot V(n, d) \cdot 2^{6.6} \cdot T_K / Q(n, d, l)$.

Table: The attack complexity with various l

l	P	T_1	T_2	T_3	T
102	$2^{95.7}$	$2^{40.9}$	$2^{85.8}$	$2^{86.4}$	$2^{86.4}$
104	$2^{95.7}$	$2^{40.9}$	$2^{85.9}$	$2^{84.4}$	$2^{85.9}$
106	$2^{95.7}$	$2^{40.9}$	$2^{85.9}$	$2^{72.4}$	$2^{85.9}$

$$n = 160, d = 16, D = 2^{45.8}, M = 2^{78.6}$$

Strategy II is chosen in Step 3.

Complexity Analysis of NCA-1.0

- Pre-computation time: $P = 2 \cdot N \cdot V(n, d) \cdot l$. The data complexity is $D = |A| + |B|$ \hat{l} -bit keystream segments and the memory requirement is $M = M_1 + M_2 = V(n, d) \cdot 2^{6.6} + |A| + |B|$ entries.
- Step 2: $T_1 = (|A| \cdot \log |A| + |B| \cdot \log |B|) / \Omega$ cipher ticks.
- Step 3: $T_2 = \min\{Q(n, d, l) \cdot m \cdot \log m / \Omega, m^2 \cdot \log Q(n, d, l) / \Omega\}$ ticks.
- Step 4: $T_3 = |A| \cdot |B| \cdot V(n, d) \cdot 2^{6.6} \cdot T_K / Q(n, d, l)$.

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$n = 160, d = 16, D = 2^{45.8}, M = 2^{78.6}$

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- We name this basic attack as NCA-1.0. The pre-computation complexity $P = 2^{95.7}$ exceeds the brute force attack complexity of $2^{87.4}$.

- Introduction
- Description of Grain v1
- Main idea & some key observations
- The general attack model: NCA-1.0
- **NCA-2.0 & NCA-3.0**
- Simulations
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Given the value of 139 particular state bits of Grain and the first 21 keystream bits produced from that state, another 21 internal state bits can be deduced directly.

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Lemma

Given the value of 139 particular state bits of Grain and the first 21 keystream bits produced from that state, another 21 internal state bits can be deduced directly.

- The sampling resistance of Grain is $R = 2^{-21}$. Thus we define a **restricted one-way function** $\tau : \{0, 1\}^{139} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{139}$ by choosing a prefix of 0^{21} .

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 1. For each 139-bit input value x , the remaining 21-bit internal state can be determined by Lemma 2 and the prefix of 0^{21} .
 2. Run the cipher forward for 160 ticks, generate an 160-bit segment $0^{21} || y$, output y .
- Now, the searching space is reduced to a special subset of the internal states.

Complexity Analysis of NCA-2.0

- Now, the goal is to **recover the $n^* = 139$ bits ISD** which contains 60 NFSR state bits and 79 LFSR state bits, instead of the $n = 160$ bits ISD.

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Table: The attack complexities with various l based on sampling resistance

l	P^*	T_1	T_2	T_3	T
92	$2^{83.4}$	$2^{35.9}$	$2^{76.1}$	$2^{75.4}$	$2^{76.1}$
94	$2^{83.4}$	$2^{35.9}$	$2^{76.2}$	$2^{73.4}$	$2^{76.2}$
96	$2^{83.4}$	$2^{35.9}$	$2^{76.2}$	$2^{71.4}$	$2^{76.2}$

$n^* = 139, d = 13, D = 2^{62}, M = 2^{65.9}$.

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- Compared to NCA-1.0, our improved attack reduces P by a factor of $2^{12.3}$ and it saves 10-bit storage for each entry in A and B .
- All the complexities are under the brute force attack complexity of $2^{87.4}$. We name this combined attack as NCA-2.0.

- The second improvement is based on NCA-2.0 by **utilizing the non-uniform distribution of KSDs** among all the tables. Some observations (Example in Section 3.2):

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Assumption

On average, the special tables can cover 50% of all the $V(n^, d)$ different ISDs, when d and l becomes larger.*

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- The assumption indicates that in the off-line stage, we only need to construct those special tables.

Complexity Analysis of NCA-3.0

- All the complexities remain unchanged except $T_2 = \min\{l^3 \cdot m \cdot \log m, m^2 \cdot \log l^3\}$.

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Table: The attack complexity on Grain with various l based on special tables

l	P^*	T_1	T_2	T_3	T
92	$2^{73.1}$	$2^{41.9}$	$2^{60.5}$	$2^{75.4}$	$2^{75.4}$
94	$2^{73.1}$	$2^{41.9}$	$2^{60.6}$	$2^{73.4}$	$2^{73.4}$
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$n^* = 139$, $d = 10$, $M = 2^{62.8}$ bits, $D = 2^{67.8}$ bits keystream.
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$n^* = 139, d = 10, M = 2^{62.8}$ bits, $D = 2^{67.8}$ bits keystream.
Strategy I is chosen in Step 3.

- We can obtain an attack of $T = 2^{71.4}, M = 2^{62.8}$ and $D = 2^{67.8}$ with the pre-computation complexity $P = 2^{73.1}$. We name this enhanced attack as NCA-3.0.

- Introduction
- Description of Grain v1
- Main idea & some key observations
- The general attack model: NCA-1.0
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- **Simulations**
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- LFSR update function: $l'_{i+32} = l'_{i+30} + l'_{i+25} + l'_{i+16} + l'_i$. NFSR update function:

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- The output function as $z'_i = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}} n'_{i+k} + h(l'_{i+3}, l'_{i+11}, l'_{i+21}, l'_{i+25}, n'_{i+24})$, where $\mathcal{A} = \{1, 4, 10, 21\}$.

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- The output function as $z'_i = \sum_{k \in \mathcal{A}'} n'_{i+k} + h(l'_{i+3}, l'_{i+11}, l'_{i+21}, l'_{i+25}, n'_{i+24})$, where $\mathcal{A}' = \{1, 4, 10, 21\}$.
- Given the value of 53 particular state bits (including 32 bits LFSR and 21 bits NFSR) and the first 11 keystream bits, another 11 internal state bits can be deduced directly. Then **the sampling resistance is $R' = 2^{-11}$** .

Verification of Assumption 1

- We randomly chose 10^4 ISDs with Hamming weight $d \leq 4$ and generate their corresponding KSDs with the proportions. For each ISD, N random internal states were generated to determine the projection from ISD to KSD.

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Table: Verification of Assumption 1

η	l	No. of ISDs	Proportion
50	24	9842	98.4%
1000	24	9851	98.5%
50	32	9202	92.0%
1000	32	9153	91.5%

$$n = 53, d = 4.$$

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Table: Theoretical complexity on reduced version of Grain

Attack	l	P	D	M	T
NCA-2.0	24	$2^{36.3}$	$2^{29.2}$	$2^{23.9}$	$2^{36.2}$
NCA-3.0	24	$2^{36.3}$	$2^{29.2}$	$2^{23.9}$	$2^{36.2}$
NCA-2.0	32	$2^{36.7}$	$2^{29.2}$	$2^{23.9}$	$2^{31.4}$
NCA-3.0	32	$2^{36.7}$	$2^{29.2}$	$2^{23.9}$	$2^{28.2}$

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NCA-3.0	32	$2^{36.7}$	$2^{29.2}$	$2^{23.9}$	$2^{28.2}$

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Table: Pre-computation time of NCA-2.0 & NCA-3.0

Attack	l	Time	Memory	No. of tables
NCA-2.0	24	9 hours, 50 mins	643 MB	8192
NCA-3.0	24	6 hours, 35 mins	216 MB	378
NCA-2.0	32	27 hours, 41 mins	4.45 GB	2097152
NCA-3.0	32	6 hours, 37 mins	11.6 MB	1562

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- We apply NCA-2.0 and NCA-3.0 to the reduced version of Grain respectively for 140 randomly generated (K,IV) pairs.

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Table: The simulation results on reduced version of Grain

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NCA-2.0	24	1 hours, 53 mins	9%
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- How to theoretically derive the relationship between the success probability and these two parameters is our future work.

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- Our attack has been verified on a reduced version of Grain v1 and an extrapolation of the results indicates an attack on the original Grain v1.
- Our attack is just a starting point for further analysis of Grain-like stream ciphers and hopefully it provides some new insights on the design of such compact stream ciphers.

Thanks for your attention!