

EPFL / I & C

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Exercise S#3

The Davis-Meyer scheme shows how to build a good compression function from a block cipher. In this exercise, we study another construction and show that it is weak. Let $\mathsf{E}:\{0,1\}^\ell\times\{0,1\}^n\to\{0,1\}^n$ be a block cipher that encrypts a message $m\in\{0,1\}^n$ under the key $k\in\{0,1\}^\ell$ as $\mathsf{E}_k(m)$. Consider the following construction:

$$f: \{0,1\}^n \times \{0,1\}^\ell \longrightarrow \{0,1\}^n (x,y) \longmapsto \mathsf{E}_y(x) \oplus y.$$

Show how to easily find a collision on f.

Hint: The block cipher E and the corresponding decryption algorithm D are known to the adversary.