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A Standard Cell-Based DPA Attack Countermeasure using Homogeneous Dual-Rail Logic (HDRL)

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Abstract—DPA (Differential Power Analysis) attacks statistically find the correlation between power consumption and secret data in crypto-hardware. WDDL (Wave Dynamic Differential Logic) is a standard cell-based countermeasure for DPA and guarantees a 100% switching factor to shield the power information. However, our experiments observe that WDDL fails to compensate the power imbalance. This paper proposes Homogeneous Dual-Rail Logic (HDRL), a standard cell DPA attack countermeasure that theoretically guarantees fully balanced power consumption and significantly improves DPA attack resistivity. Our experimental results on the AES S-Box circuit show that HDRL successfully prevents DPA attacks in all cases. In addition, HDRL achieves such higher security with only 100.0% energy overhead while WDDL incurs 231.7% energy overhead. Also, HDRL requires the same area overhead as WDDL. HDRL's better resistivity and lower energy overhead make it a promising countermeasure for standard cell based embedded crypto-applications such as smart cards.

I. INTRODUCTION

Side-channel attacks are a substantive security threat for crypto-hardware systems. Kocher et al. [1] proposed DPA (Differential Power Analysis) attack that is one of the most difficult side-channel attacks to prevent. A number of transistor through register-transfer level countermeasures have been proposed [2]–[22] with varying DPA attack resistivity. In particular, WDDL (Wave Dynamic Differential Logic) [7]–[12] has been well researched since it requires only standard cells, which reduces design cost and time compared to full-custom ASIC countermeasures. WDDL incurs over 2x area and energy overheads due to pairing a complementary cell with every cell in the original circuit. Despite sacrificing such overheads, WDDL is still vulnerable to DPA attacks.

This paper proposes Homogeneous Dual-Rail Logic (HDRL) that guarantees fully balanced power consumption of standard cells. Experimental results on an AES S-Box circuit exemplar demonstrate HDRL provides higher DPA attack resistivity in all instances with much lower energy (100.0% vs. 231.7%) overhead and similar area overhead compared with traditional WDDL. Since HDRL is a standard cell countermeasure, HDRL is a promising approach, where design cost and time are critical.

II. DPA ATTACK MODEL FORMULATION

Fig. 1 shows the 128-bit AES circuit with 16 S-Boxes [23]. Note this paper evaluates HDRL using the AES circuit; however, HDRL is also applicable to any other crypto-hardware. PlainText, CipherText, and ScheduledKey of Fig. 1 are 128-bit vectors of plain text, cipher text, and scheduled key (consists of 16 sub 8-bit secret Keys), respectively. It takes 10 Rounds (cycles) until the valid CipherText is out. According to Morioka et al. [24], S-Boxes consume 75% of energy in an AES circuit. Thus, S-Boxes are the easiest targets for adversaries to conduct DPA attacks. Fig. 2 shows the DPA

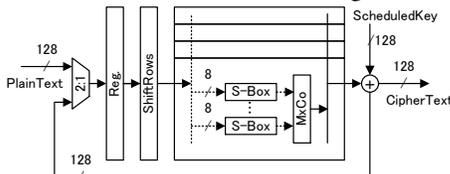


Fig. 1. AES Data Path

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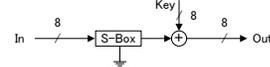


Fig. 2. DPA Attack Model on AES S-Box

attack model for evaluating a single AES S-Box [19], [22], [25], [26]. In Fig. 2, adversaries attempt to uncover Key (the sub 8-bit secret key of ScheduledKey in Fig. 1), and they measure VSS current of the circuit.

The following is the DPA attack procedure. Adversaries observe the Out and VSS current of Fig. 2 as many times as possible. By collecting a number of data, DPA can statistically find the correlation between Key and VSS (even if VSS is noisy data). Adversaries group the observed VSS into either G_0 or G_1 referring to a selection function D in Eq. (1). D returns an 8-bit value [25].

$$D = Sbox^{-1}(c \oplus k_{est.}) \quad (1)$$

c , $k_{est.}$, and $Sbox^{-1}$ are 8-bit cipher text, estimated 8-bit sub secret key, and inverse AES S-Box function, respectively. Moreover, c is an element of CipherText and equivalent to Out in Fig. 2. The returned D value equals to In in Fig. 2 iff $k_{est.} = Key$.

Let A_0 and A_1 be the average VSS current in G_0 and G_1 .

$$0 \leq t < \text{clock period} \quad (2)$$

$$A_0(t) = \frac{1}{|G_0|} \sum_{D(c, k_{est.}) \in G_0} p_c(t) \quad (3)$$

$$A_1(t) = \frac{1}{|G_1|} \sum_{D(c, k_{est.}) \in G_1} p_c(t) \quad (4)$$

, where t is the time VSS current is sampled. $p_c(t)$ is the measured VSS current with respect to cipher text c at time t . Every $p_c(t)$ has to belong to either G_0 or G_1 . $|G_0|$ and $|G_1|$ are the number of $p_c(t)$ in the group.

There are two well-known grouping methods for making G_0 or G_1 . One refers to the i th bit of the 8-bit D value. In this method, $p_c(t)$ is grouped into

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} G_0 \text{ when } D[i] = 0 \\ G_1 \text{ when } D[i] = 1 \end{array} \right\} \quad (5)$$

The other grouping refers to Hamming weight of the D [27]. In this method, $p_c(t)$ is grouped into

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} G_0 \text{ when } 0 \leq \text{Hamming weight of } D < 4 \\ G_1 \text{ when } 4 < \text{Hamming weight of } D \leq 8 \end{array} \right\} \quad (6)$$

When $k_{est.} \neq Key$, the absolute difference between A_0 and A_1 is expected to be close to zero. In contrast, when $k_{est.} = Key$, the absolute differential power between A_0 and A_1 is expected to become the largest amongst all $2^8 = 256$ candidates of 8-bit $k_{est.}$. This largest differential power is denoted as DP and formulated as follows.

$$DP = \arg \max_t |A_0(t) - A_1(t)| \quad (7)$$

Ideal countermeasures have the same differential power (i.e., $DP \approx 0$) for all $k_{est.}$ candidates so that adversaries lose the reasoning for $k_{est.} = Key$.

DPA is much faster than brute-force attacks. The DPA search space is $2^8 \times 16$ (128-bit AES uses 16 S-Boxes) whereas there are 2^{128} possible candidates of 128-bit ScheduledKey. This paper focuses on the first order DPA formulated above to compare HDRL to WDDL rather than higher order DPA.

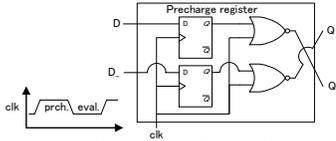


Fig. 3. WDDL Pre-charge Timing and Generation

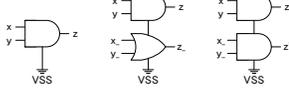


Fig. 4. (a) Normal (b) WDDL (c) HDRL AND

III. RELATED WORK

A number of countermeasures against DPA attacks have been researched [2]–[22]. Randomization countermeasures [2]–[6], [19]–[21] mask intermediate results and agitate power information. These countermeasures make it difficult to perform DPA but do not guarantee to obscure the power information despite sacrificing performance.

Power balancing is another approach for mitigating DPA. Transistor level countermeasures [13]–[18] can level the DP imbalance. However, the full-custom ASIC solution requires prohibitively expensive design cost and time.

WDDL [7]–[12] is a dual-rail pre-charge logic that requires only standard cells and is applicable to traditional CAD flow. WDDL couples a complementary cell to every original cell and guarantees at least one of the cells switches every cycle. E.g., AND cells are paired with OR cells. However, this approach incurs over $2x$ area and energy overheads; nonetheless, WDDL does not suppress DP well as shown in the next section.

Fig. 3 shows the timing of WDDL pre-charge step and generation [11]. When the clk is 1, the pre-charge wave of 0 traverses the combinational circuit connected to the pre-charge register in Fig. 3. Therefore, all meaningful switchings start from 0, and one of the primary or complementary cells switches at the evaluation time (when the clk is 0). As a result, a 100% switching factor is guaranteed.

The most recent work by Tanimura et al. [22] examined the selective insertion of complementary cells that maintains WDDL level attack resistivity while simultaneously lowering the area and energy overheads. Although this approach incurs lower overheads, it still leaks the power information, just as WDDL does.

IV. HOMOGENEOUS DUAL-RAIL LOGIC

Homogeneous Dual-Rail Logic (HDRL) wisely combines VSS current waves and suppresses the DP curves. Theoretically, HDRL is able to force DP to be 0 with the hypothesis that the inputs to a cell are hardly distinguishable by observing its VSS. HDRL does not require the pre-charge step and there is no delay overhead. One can implement HDRL using the same cells for both the primary and complementary cells.

A. HDRL AND Exemplar

Fig. 4 (a), (b), and (c) show how to organize Normal, WDDL, and HDRL AND cells, as exemplars. The Normal AND cell has two inputs: x and y , and the WDDL and HDRL AND cells have four inputs: x , x_{-} , y , and y_{-} . x_{-} and y_{-} are negations of inputs x and y , respectively. The complementary cell of WDDL is an OR cell. In contrast, the complementary cell of HDRL is the same as the primary (AND) cell. All Fig. 4 (a), (b), and (c) have VSS, and the primary and complementary cells of Fig. 4 (b) and (c) share the same VSS. Note that HDRL does not always have to take negation of primary inputs. The detailed input value conditions to the complementary cells will be presented in the next subsection (Proposition 1).

TABLE I shows the tools we use throughout this paper to validate our approach. The target hardware design files are

TABLE I
EXPERIMENTAL TOOLS

Current Measurement Tool	Synopsys NanoSim C-2009.06
Plotting Tool	Synopsys CosmosScope C-2009.06-SP1
Standard Cell Library	Synopsys SAED_EDK 90nm

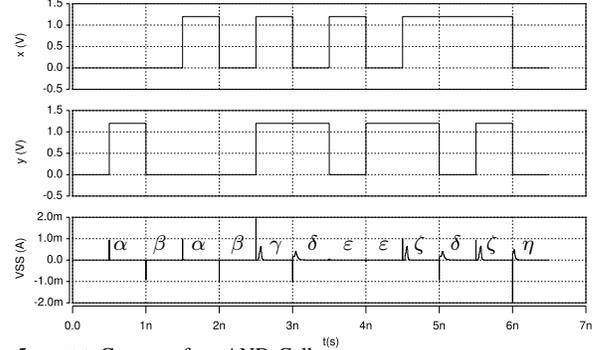


Fig. 5. VSS Current of an AND Cell

described in Verilog gate-level netlists. NanoSim measures the VSS current, and the time resolution is 10ps. The VDD is 1.2V.

Fig. 5 shows VSS current of the Normal AND of Fig. 4 (a). The top two charts are the voltages of x and y . These inputs are comprised of all xy switching combinations. The bottom chart represents the VSS current. Fig. 5 shows that the VSS current flows only when inputs are switching, which is a feature of CMOS. Furthermore, we can label and categorize the each VSS current shape. For example, there are approximately the same VSS current shapes at 0.5ns and 1.5ns, and let us label them α . α is defined as the VSS current when either x or y is switching from 0 to 1; i.e., $\{(x:0 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 1)$ or $(x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 0)\}$. Note that the c-load difference of the inputs, x and y , are ignorably small due to the symmetry of the AND cell inputs (equally drive two n- and p-mos transistors).

Let us define all the VSS current wave labels as follows.

$$\alpha \text{ when } \{(x:0 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 1), (x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 0)\} \quad (8)$$

$$\beta \text{ when } \{(x:0 \rightarrow 0, y:1 \rightarrow 0), (x:1 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 0)\} \quad (9)$$

$$\gamma \text{ when } \{(x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (10)$$

$$\delta \text{ when } \{(x:1 \rightarrow 1, y:1 \rightarrow 0), (x:1 \rightarrow 0, y:1 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (11)$$

$$\epsilon \text{ when } \{(x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:1 \rightarrow 0), (x:1 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (12)$$

$$\zeta \text{ when } \{(x:1 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 1), (x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:1 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (13)$$

$$\eta \text{ when } \{(x:1 \rightarrow 0, y:1 \rightarrow 0)\} \quad (14)$$

Based on Eqs. (3) and (4), the DP curve of the AND cell is calculated as follows (grouping $(x:0,1 \rightarrow 0)$ and $(x:0,1 \rightarrow 1)$ VSS current waves into G_0 and G_1 , respectively).

$$A_{x=0} = 1/6(\alpha + \beta + \gamma + \delta + \epsilon + \eta) \quad (15)$$

$$A_{x=1} = 1/6(\alpha + \gamma + \epsilon + \zeta + \delta + \zeta) \quad (16)$$

$$DP = |A_{x=0} - A_{x=1}| = 1/6|(2\beta + \eta) - (\gamma + 2\zeta)| \neq 0 \quad (17)$$

As Eq. (17) shows, the DP is not equal to zero. This is also true even if we change grouping by x with grouping by y .

Fig. 6 shows the VSS current of the complementary (OR) cell in WDDL AND (Fig. 4 (b)). The input vector and labeling method is the same as Eqs. (8)–(14); however all the current labels have ' mark, and $\alpha \neq \alpha'$.

Fig. 7 shows VSS current of the WDDL AND in Fig. 4 (b). The top four charts are the voltages of x , x_{-} , y , and y_{-} . The bottom chart represents the VSS current. Since WDDL requires all input vectors to be 0 at the pre-charge step, the transitions of x , x_{-} , y , and y_{-} start always from 0. Hence, there are only four cases of input switching combinations:

$$\{(x:0 \rightarrow 0, x_{-}:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 0, y_{-}:0 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (18)$$

$$\{(x:0 \rightarrow 0, x_{-}:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 1, y_{-}:0 \rightarrow 0)\} \quad (19)$$

$$\{(x:0 \rightarrow 1, x_{-}:0 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 0, y_{-}:0 \rightarrow 1)\} \quad (20)$$

$$\{(x:0 \rightarrow 1, x_{-}:0 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 1, y_{-}:0 \rightarrow 0)\} \quad (21)$$

All the VSS current waves are defined as combinations of AND cell labels and OR cell labels. The VSS current waves of Eqs. (18)–(21) correspond to the following four equations.

$$\gamma' = 0 + \gamma' \quad (22)$$

$$\alpha'' = \alpha + \alpha' \quad (23)$$

$$\alpha''' = \alpha + \alpha' \quad (24)$$

$$\gamma = \gamma + 0 \quad (25)$$

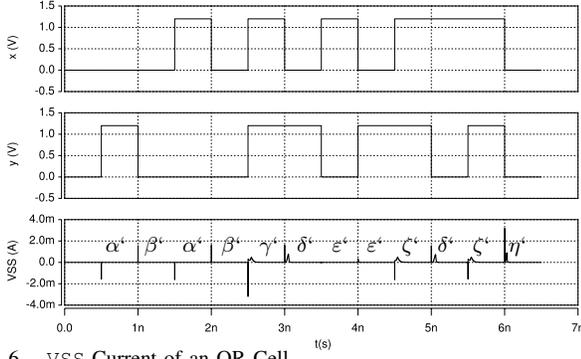


Fig. 6. VSS Current of an OR Cell

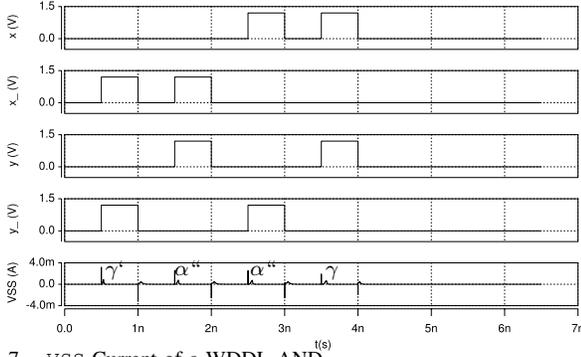


Fig. 7. VSS Current of a WDDL AND

Again, let us calculate the DP curve of the WDDL AND.

$$A_{x=0} = 1/2(\alpha'' + \gamma') \quad (26)$$

$$A_{x=1} = 1/2(\alpha'' + \gamma) \quad (27)$$

$$DP = |A_{x=0} - A_{x=1}| = 1/2|\gamma' - \gamma| \neq 0 \quad (28)$$

As Eq. (28) shows, the DP of WDDL is not equal to zero, either.

Let us label all the VSS current waves of the complementary cell in HDRL (Fig. 4 (c)) using ' mark. Since we use the same cell for the both primary and complementary cells for HDRL, it is obvious that

$$\alpha = \alpha', \beta = \beta', \gamma = \gamma', \delta = \delta', \epsilon = \epsilon', \zeta = \zeta', \eta = \eta' \quad (29)$$

These equations result in the VSS current waves of HDRL to be defined as combinations of two AND cell labels:

$$\alpha'' = \alpha + \delta' \quad (30)$$

$$\beta'' = \beta + \zeta' \quad (31)$$

$$\gamma'' = \gamma + \eta' \quad (32)$$

$$\delta'' = \delta + \alpha' = \alpha + \delta' = \alpha'' \quad (33)$$

$$\epsilon'' = \epsilon + \epsilon' \quad (34)$$

$$\zeta'' = \zeta + \beta' = \beta + \zeta' = \beta'' \quad (35)$$

$$\eta'' = \eta + \gamma' = \gamma + \eta' = \gamma'' \quad (36)$$

Fig. 8 shows VSS current of the HDRL AND in Fig. 4 (c). The top four charts are the voltages of x , x_{-} , y , and y_{-} . The bottom chart represents the VSS current. As Fig. 8 and Eqs. (33), (35), and (36) show, δ'' , ζ'' , and η'' are interchangeable with α'' , β'' , and γ'' , respectively. Accordingly, the DP curve of the HDRL AND cell become theoretically zero as follows.

$$A_{x=0} = 1/6(\alpha'' + \beta'' + \beta'' + \delta'' + \epsilon'' + \eta'') \quad (37)$$

$$A_{x=1} = 1/6(\alpha'' + \gamma'' + \epsilon'' + \zeta'' + \delta'' + \zeta'') \quad (38)$$

$$DP = |A_{x=0} - A_{x=1}| = 1/6 \left| (2\beta'' + \eta'') - (\gamma'' + 2\zeta'') \right| = 1/6 \left| (2\beta'' + \eta'') - (\eta'' + 2\beta'') \right| = 0 \quad (39)$$

The reason why all switching for HDRL are positive is complementing positive current flows are larger than equal to negative flows. Additionally, we are measuring the VSS current. Ideally, VSS should not flow negative current.

We assume evenly distributed conditions between $A_{x=0}$ and $A_{x=1}$. If $A_{x=0}$ and $A_{x=1}$ do not have evenly distributed conditions, the DP would become false positive/negative sign for all the $k_{est.}$ candidates. For example, if the number of

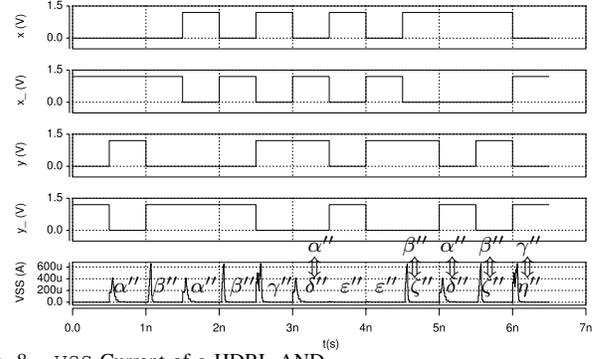


Fig. 8. VSS Current of a HDRL AND

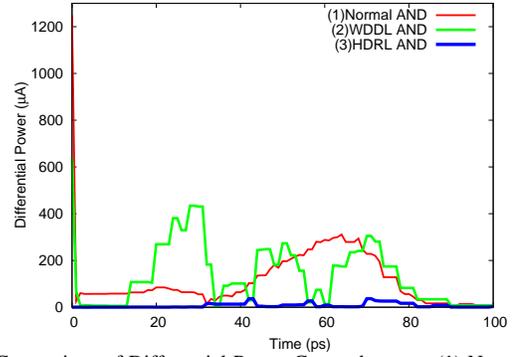


Fig. 9. Comparison of Differential Power Curves between (1) Normal AND (Eq. (17)), (2) WDDL AND (Eq. (28)), (3) HDRL AND (Eq. (39))

sample power data for $A_{x=0}$ is too small compared to that of $A_{x=1}$, $A_{x=0}$ could be too imprecise on average or distorted by noise from the environment that affects the quality of DP . Therefore, an evenly distributed condition is, in fact, the best condition for the adversaries. Note that our focus is on the first order DPA (i.e. $x:0 \rightarrow 0$ and $x:1 \rightarrow 0$ are treated as $x:0$, and we cannot distinguish them).

Adversaries may intentionally select inputs that causes undistributed conditions between $A_{x=0}$ and $A_{x=1}$ and use the intermediate power shape for more simple attacks such as SPA (Simple Power Analysis). In this case, the power shapes of both WDDL and HDRL are dependent on inputs. For example, WDDL consumes γ' for $(x:0 \rightarrow 0, y:0 \rightarrow 0)$, and γ for $(x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:0 \rightarrow 1)$. There is no guarantee that these two input produces the same power shape.

We cannot directly (theoretically) compare the resistivity of WDDL and HDRL against SPA attacks until we experiment on actual FPGAs/ASICs since the success rate of SPA largely depends on the noise of the environment. In DPA theory, the noise is canceled out so that DPA is considered as a more practical attacking method compared to SPA. We focus on the theoretical analysis of HDRL against DPA attacks in this paper. Further analysis of SPA attacks on HDRL might be an interesting future work.

Switching current of a specific cell can be significant in WDDL. In the manuscript, Figs. 7 and 8 show the switching current of WDDL and HDRL AND, respectively. In Fig. 7, the peak of current reaches $3.3mA$. In contrast, Fig. 8 shows that the peak of current is only $700\mu A$. As those figures show, the switching current of a specific WDDL cell could be more significant than a HDRL cell

Fig. 9 is the simulation result of Eqs. (17), (28), and (39). HDRL AND cell (Eq. (39)) is virtually flat zero (not exactly zero due to the slight c-load difference between x and y), whereas both Normal and WDDL AND cells (Eqs. (17) and (28)) are far from the horizontal axis. We also observed similar results for other cells. The peak of Normal AND is $1248\mu A$ as opposed that of WDDL AND is $637\mu A$. The peak of WDDL AND and Normal AND is at time 0 in Fig. 9 (close enough

TABLE II
TRUTH TABLE OF w AND w_-

w		w_-				
0	→	0	→	1	→	1
0	→	1	→	1	→	0
1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0

to time 0), the peak of WDDL AND is smaller than that of Normal AND.

This exemplar shows HDRL suppresses DP better than WDDL. WDDL works well only on the assumption that the primary and complementary cells have an equal amount of VSS current flowing through them, which is not true with most standard cell libraries. HDRL overcomes this problem and, in fact, requires smaller amount of energy overhead (shown in the experimental results).

The zero DP means the input vectors are independent from the DP of the circuit. In contrast, the non-zero DP means there is a dependency between the input and power consumption. In the later case, DPA theoretically would find the dependency of input data on power consumption eventually with adequate power sampling data.

In fact, there are slight dependencies between input vectors and the DP for wrong $k_{est.}$, but DPA considers this small dependencies as zero (because the DP for the correct Key becomes notably high without countermeasures). HDRL does not guarantee that the DP is zero for wrong $k_{est.}$ keys. HDRL guarantees the zero DP only for the correct Key . Therefore, there may be small dependencies between the input and power consumption for wrong $k_{est.}$ keys.

Besides, in crypto-hardware, the surrounding circuit (e.g. there are ≥ 16 S-Boxes in AES) consumes power at the same time. Even though the real inputs become independent from the DP (zero DP) with the HDRL technique, the surrounding power consumption make the FALSE DP .

From the adversaries' point of view, they cannot tell whether it is the real DP (input dependent) or false DP (input independent but looks like dependent) from the amount of the DP . The purpose of having zero DP consumption is to delete the dependency of inputs on power consumption, not for changing the key ranks even though the rank of correct Key becomes lower as a corresponding result. What we can achieve with HDRL is to make the DP independent from the inputs. The drawback of WDDL is it cannot guarantee the zero DP , meaning the dependency is still there.

B. Generalized HDRL

Beyond a single AND gate example, we will show that HDRL still theoretically guarantees fully balanced power consumption for arbitrary combinational circuit. The following Propositions 1–3 guarantee that one can simply duplicate an original circuit so as to make a complementary circuit of HDRL.

Proposition 1: The sufficient conditions that w_- is the input of the corresponding complementary cell to a primary cell with an input w are that $Pr(w=1)=Pr(w_-=1)$, where Pr stands for probability, and w and w_- have **neither** concurrent $\{(w:0 \rightarrow 1, w_-:0 \rightarrow 1)$ **nor** $(w:1 \rightarrow 0, w_-:1 \rightarrow 0)\}$ switches.

Proof: Suppose a HDRL AND such as Fig. 4 (c) whose inputs satisfy Proposition 1 but $DP \neq 0$. This supposition contradicts Eq. (39). Thus, Proposition 1 is true. ■

Note negations of primary circuit inputs satisfy Proposition 1. TABLE II shows the truth table of w and w_- that covers all possible combinations of switching for HDRL. In TABLE II, w_- is a negation of w . Since w and w_- are $Pr(w=1)=Pr(w_-=1)$ and have neither concurrent $\{(w:0 \rightarrow 1, w_-:0 \rightarrow 1)$ **nor** $(w:1 \rightarrow 0, w_-:1 \rightarrow 0)\}$ switches, w and w_- satisfy the Proposition 1. The reason why we used negations of primary circuit inputs is that they are easily generated. HDRL complementary circuit inputs do not have to be negations of primary circuit inputs, but have to satisfy Proposition 1.

TABLE III
TRUTH TABLE OF HDRL AND, OR, AND NOT CELL

x	y	AND(x,y)	OR(x,y)	NOT(x)	x'	y'	AND(x',y')	OR(x',y')	NOT(x')	
0	→	0	→	0	→	1	→	1	→	0
0	→	0	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	0
0	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0	→	1
0	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0
1	→	0	→	0	→	1	→	0	→	1
1	→	0	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0
1	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0
1	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	1	→	0
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
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1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
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1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
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1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
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1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1	→	1
1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→	0	→	0	→	1
1	→	1	→	1	→					

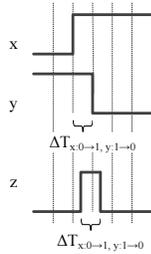


Fig. 10. Glitch Example for an AND Gate

the signal to the input \bar{y}_- (to the complementary AND gate) also delays $\Delta T_{x:0 \rightarrow 1, y:1 \rightarrow 0}$ compared to x_- due to the HDRL circuit duplication. Again, let ε'_g be the label for the power consumption curve of the complementary AND gate for this switching with the glitch, following the definition of Eq. (12).

Similar to Eq. (34), which is one of the HDRL gate power shape definitions let $\varepsilon''_g = \varepsilon_g + \varepsilon'_g$ be the label for the power consumption curve of the HDRL (original + complementary) AND gate for this switching with the glitch. Replacing ε'' with ε''_g in Eqs. (37) and (38) calculates the differential power with this glitch, and the differential power still becomes zero as before. And, the new equations are

$$A_{x=0} = 1/6(\alpha'' + \beta'' + \beta'' + \delta'' + \varepsilon''_g + \eta'') \quad (40)$$

$$A_{x=1} = 1/6(\alpha'' + \gamma'' + \varepsilon''_g + \zeta'' + \delta'' + \zeta'') \quad (41)$$

$$\begin{aligned} DP &= |A_{x=0} - A_{x=1}| \\ &= 1/6 \left| (2\beta'' + \eta'') - (\gamma'' + 2\zeta'') \right| \\ &= 1/6 \left| (2\beta'' + \eta'') - (\eta'' + 2\beta'') \right| = 0 \quad (42) \end{aligned}$$

Note that this differential power equation becomes zero even if we add more or different glitch cases.

From this observation, glitches occurred in the original circuit are complemented with those occurred in the complementary circuit with large number of probing samples. Therefore, as long as the complementary circuit has the same placement and routing as the original circuit, HDRL can overall complement glitches.

Note that since we are targeting ASIC designs in this paper (experiments are based on a standard cell library) and an AES S-box requires only 150-200 gates (without countermeasures), it is possible to get the same wire length for both original and complementary circuit.

The actual wiring delay is not included in the design used for the experiments; however, the NanoSim (fast-SPICE) and the standard library contains the gate delay information that simulates glitches caused by the different number of gates that the signal has passed through. Therefore, the experimental (simulation) results shown in this paper do cover the cases with glitches, which demonstrate that HDRL indeed does complement glitches. Even though the wire delay is taken into account, the zero differential power will be maintained considering the above discussion.

Thus, HDRL is able to complement the glitches without the pre-charge step as long as the both original and complementary circuit have the same glitch characteristics (this should be true since the complementary circuit is the duplication of the original circuit in HDRL). On the contrary, WDDL has different glitch characteristics in the original and complementary circuit, since WDDL uses different cells for the complementary circuit from the original circuit. In HDRL, glitches will be complemented in the same manner that the regular power signatures are complemented.

Different glitching may still occur in the added complementary circuit in HDRL due to the process variations. However the same thing also could happen to WDDL, and the impact of process variations to HDRL is another interesting research topic; however, we focus on the theoretical analysis of HDRL in this paper.

We can consider two methods to feed negated inputs. The first method is use \bar{Q}_N (negation of output Q) output from a D flip-flop. Since D flip-flop has symmetric structure on Q

TABLE IV
RANKS OF CORRECT $Key = 0x13$ WITH 4096 INPUTS

	Eq. (5)							Eq. (6)	
	$i=0$	$i=1$	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$	$i=5$	$i=6$		$i=7$
Normal	94	1	120	76	4	16	1	1	1
WDDL	26	1	47	161	15	232	1	112	3
HDRL	141	9	148	213	232	230	109	165	158

TABLE V
RANKS OF CORRECT $Key = 0x13$ WITH 16384 INPUTS

	Eq. (5)							Eq. (6)	
	$i=0$	$i=1$	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$	$i=5$	$i=6$		$i=7$
Normal	15	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WDDL	1	1	103	129	6	218	1	256	2
HDRL	208	114	237	145	170	13	205	185	172

and \bar{Q}_N , the timing of Q and \bar{Q}_N are supposed to be the same. The other solution is use different flip-flops for original circuit and complementary circuit. Only for the first time, we need to feed the negated inputs from input pins to the flip-flops. After a AES round, the result of original circuit will be stored in the flip-flops in the original circuit, and the result of the complementary circuit will be stored in the flip-flops in the complementary circuit. In this way, both the original circuit and complementary circuit can keep the balanced load and wire delay.

V. EXPERIMENTAL RESULTS

A. Experimental Setup

This section evaluates the DPA attack resistivity of AES S-Boxes. There are three target S-Box designs: “Normal” without countermeasures, “WDDL” pairing each cell with a different complementary cell, and “HDRL” pairing each cell with a same complementary cell. The same tool and setup are used as the previous section. The differential power on each gate may cancel out. Therefore, we conducted experiments using S-Boxes.

B. Comparison in DPA Attack Resistivity

We measured the V_{SS} current of all 16 S-Boxes in the AES circuit of Round 10 (the last cycle) since CipherText after Round 10 is visible from outside of the circuit. We collected 4096 and 16384 V_{SS} current samples to observe how the ranks of the correct Key vary. Those inputs are randomly generated 128-bit numbers and injected from PlainText of Fig. 1. Key is fixed at $0x13$.

TABLES IV and V summarize the ranks of the correct Key amongst all $k_{est.}$ for all the groupings with 4096 and 16384 inputs, respectively, for attacking one of the 16 S-Boxes. The higher (smaller) rank, the larger DP . The rank of the correct Key hints the adversaries which $k_{est.}$ they should attempt. If the rank of the $k_{est.}$ is always 1 (or constantly ranked at a particular position), there is a higher chance that the $k_{est.}$ is the correct Key by the definition of DPA. Comparison between TABLES IV and V show that the ranks of HDRL vary. For example, the rank of the grouping $i=1$ becomes higher when there are 4096 inputs than 16384 inputs. In contrast, the rank of the grouping $i=5$ becomes lower. Hence, adversaries are unable to confidently assume that what $k_{est.}$ (highly or lowly ranked) is the correct Key . The ranks of WDDL with the groupings $i=1,6$ are the same even though the number of input changes. In such cases, adversaries have more confidence that they only need to check the highest ranked $k_{est.}$ to find the correct Key . Accordingly, HDRL is more secure than WDDL.

In order to show that HDRL functions well for another key, we conducted the same experiment with correct $Key = 0x7F$ and attacked a different S-Box from the previous experiment. TABLES VI and VII shows the ranks of correct Key , and the ranks of correct HDRL Key are more divergent than that of WDDL (the correct key of $i=0$ in both 4096 and 16384

TABLE VI
RANKS OF CORRECT $Key = 0x7F$ WITH 4096 INPUTS

	Eq. (5)								Eq. (6)
	$i=0$	$i=1$	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$	$i=5$	$i=6$	$i=7$	
Normal	46	1	24	96	11	13	67	1	1
WDDL	1	128	214	250	5	172	108	180	142
HDRL	254	15	84	14	252	104	190	49	25

TABLE VII
RANKS OF CORRECT $Key = 0x7F$ WITH 16384 INPUTS

	Eq. (5)								Eq. (6)
	$i=0$	$i=1$	$i=2$	$i=3$	$i=4$	$i=5$	$i=6$	$i=7$	
Normal	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
WDDL	1	1	25	243	4	209	66	122	4
HDRL	199	85	89	73	255	252	112	232	224

cases for WDDL is ranked 1). Thus, the security advantage of HDRL is still the same for the different key, and we observed similar results for other keys as well.

C. Comparison in Overheads

TABLE VIII is the comparison in area and energy consumption, and it shows that HDRL can be implemented incurring significantly smaller energy overhead than WDDL. The power overhead of the WDDL complementary cells alone is 65.85% (not 100%) since the complementary cells are not switching while the primary cells are switching. However, since WDDL requires the pre-charge steps causing twice switching frequency, the total energy overhead becomes $165.85 \times 2 - 100 = 231.7\%$. In contrast, HDRL requires only 100% energy overhead. Since WDDL uses different cells for the complementary circuit from the original circuit, the area and energy might slightly vary for different examples; however, the result of HDRL is not dependent on the example. The area overheads of HDRL and WDDL are almost the same. Note HDRL has no delay overhead since it does not modify the original circuit.

In summary, our experimental results demonstrate that HDRL successfully repels the DPA attacks and achieves higher security with smaller energy overhead compared to WDDL. HDRL gives hardware designers more advantages in energy and design cost (easy to incorporate) with no delay overhead.

VI. CONCLUSIONS

This paper proposed HDRL for DPA attack resistive secure hardware design. Using the AES S-Box circuit as an exemplar, we observed that HDRL successfully repelled DPA attacks with 100% energy overhead while WDDL incurs 231.7% energy overhead. In addition, HDRL requires no delay overhead and similar area overhead as WDDL. HDRL is a promising approach applicable to any standard cell-based crypto-LSI.

APPENDIX

TABLE IX shows the truth table of two HDRL AND cells circuit depicted in Fig. 11. The right most column in the TABLE IX represents the power consumption of the HDRL AND cells denoted as (3) and (4) in Fig. 11. Similar to Eqs. (37), and (38),

$$A_{x=0} = \frac{1}{6}(6\alpha + 6\alpha' + 8\beta + 4\beta' + 3\gamma' + 2\delta + 2\delta' + 2\epsilon + 4\epsilon' + 4\zeta' + 2\eta + \eta') \quad (43)$$

$$A_{x=1} = \frac{1}{6}(6\alpha + 6\alpha' + 4\beta + 8\beta' + 3\gamma + 2\delta + 2\delta' + 4\epsilon + 2\epsilon' + 4\zeta + \eta + 2\eta') \quad (44)$$

Based on Eqs. (29), and (39),

$$DP = |A_{x=0} - A_{x=1}| = 0 \quad (45)$$

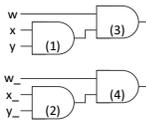


Fig. 11. Two HDRL AND Cells Circuit Exemplar

TABLE VIII
COMPARISON IN AREA AND ENERGY CONSUMPTION

	Area	Energy
Normal	100.0%	100.0%
WDDL	200.3%	331.7%
HDRL	200.0%	200.0%

*Normalized by the Normal S-Box

TABLE IX
TRUTH TABLE OF TWO HDRL AND CELLS CIRCUIT

x	y	AND(x,y)	w	x ₋	y ₋	AND(x ₋ ,y ₋)	w ₋	(3) + (4) Power Consumption
0→0	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	0 + 0
0→0	0→0	0→0	0→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→0 α + δ'
0→0	0→0	0→0	1→0	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	0→1 β + ζ'
0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
0→0	0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→1 0 + δ'
0→0	0→1	0→0	0→1	1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0 α + η'
0→0	0→1	0→0	1→0	1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→1 β + ε'
0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→0 0 + ζ'
0→0	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→1 0 + ζ'
0→0	1→0	0→0	0→1	1→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→0 α + ε'
0→0	1→0	0→0	1→0	1→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	0→1 β + γ'
0→0	1→0	0→0	1→1	1→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	0→0 0 + α'
0→0	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1 0 + 0
0→0	1→1	0→0	0→1	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0 α + β'
0→0	1→1	0→0	1→0	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1 β + α'
0→0	1→1	0→0	1→1	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
0→0	1→1	0→0	1→1	1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
0→1	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	1→1 0 + δ'
0→1	0→0	0→0	0→1	1→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	1→0 α + η'
0→1	0→0	0→0	1→0	1→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	0→1 β + ε'
0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	0→0 0 + β'
0→1	0→1	0→1	0→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→1 α + δ'
0→1	0→1	0→1	0→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0 γ + η'
0→1	0→1	0→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→1 ε + ε'
0→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→0 ζ + α'
0→1	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→1 0 + 0
0→1	1→0	0→0	0→1	1→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→0 α + β'
0→1	1→0	0→0	1→0	1→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→1 β + α'
0→1	1→0	0→0	1→1	1→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
0→1	1→1	0→1	0→0	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1 α + 0
0→1	1→1	0→1	0→1	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0 γ + β'
0→1	1→1	0→1	1→0	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1 ε + α'
0→1	1→1	0→1	1→1	1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 ζ + 0
1→0	0→0	0→0	0→0	0→1	1→1	0→1	1→1	1→1 0 + ζ'
1→0	0→0	0→0	0→1	0→1	1→1	0→1	1→1	1→0 α + ε'
1→0	0→0	0→0	1→0	0→1	1→1	0→1	1→1	0→1 β + γ'
1→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1	1→1	0→1	1→1	0→0 0 + α'
1→0	0→1	0→0	0→0	0→1	1→0	0→0	1→1	1→1 0 + 0
1→0	0→1	0→0	0→1	0→1	1→0	0→0	1→1	1→0 α + β'
1→0	0→1	0→0	1→0	0→1	1→0	0→0	1→1	0→1 β + α'
1→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→1	1→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
1→0	1→0	1→0	0→0	0→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→1 β + ζ'
1→0	1→0	1→0	0→1	0→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→0 ε + ε'
1→0	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	0→1 η + γ'
1→0	1→0	1→0	1→1	0→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	1→0 δ + α'
1→0	1→1	1→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1 β + 0
1→0	1→1	1→0	0→1	0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0 ε + β'
1→0	1→1	1→0	1→0	0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1 η + α'
1→0	1→1	1→0	1→1	0→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 δ + 0
1→1	0→0	0→0	0→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→1 0 + 0
1→1	0→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→0 α + β'
1→1	0→0	0→0	1→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→1 β + α'
1→1	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0
1→1	0→1	0→1	0→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→1 α + 0
1→1	0→1	0→1	0→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→0 γ + β'
1→1	0→1	0→1	1→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→1 ε + α'
1→1	0→1	0→1	1→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→0 ζ + 0
1→1	1→0	1→0	0→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→1 β + 0
1→1	1→0	1→0	0→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	1→0 ε + β'
1→1	1→0	1→0	1→0	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→1 η + α'
1→1	1→0	1→0	1→1	0→0	0→1	0→0	1→1	0→0 δ + 0
1→1	1→1	1→1	0→0	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→1 0 + 0
1→1	1→1	1→1	0→1	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	1→0 ζ + β'
1→1	1→1	1→1	1→0	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→1 δ + α'
1→1	1→1	1→1	1→1	0→0	0→0	0→0	1→1	0→0 0 + 0

Thus, the DP is still zero for multiple cells. From this observation, HDRL with more than one cell (larger functional blocks) indeed complements DP , and this result supports the Proposition 2.

For more intuitive explanation, scan the $AND(x,y)$ column from the top and the $AND(x_{-},y_{-})$ column from the bottom in TABLE IX. The sequences of $AND(x,y)$ from the top and $AND(x_{-},y_{-})$ from the bottom are the same. Similarly, scan the w and w_{-} columns from the top and bottom, respectively. The sequences of those columns are the same, too. From this observation, it follows that the probabilities of signal transitions for the original and complementary circuits are the same assuming large number of plain text inputs by adversaries. Therefore, the zero DP is true for other larger circuits.

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