



# Clustering Approach for Higher-Order Deterministic Masking

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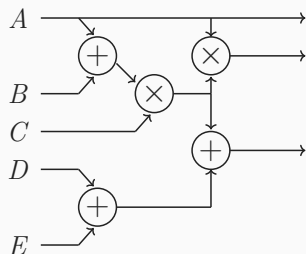
Vahid Jahandideh, Jan Schoone, Lejla Batina  
Radboud University (The Netherlands)

GelreCrypt 2025  
6 November, 2025



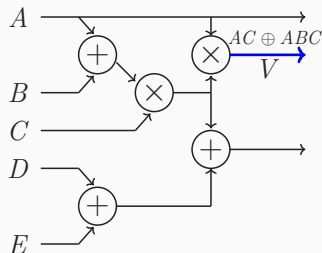
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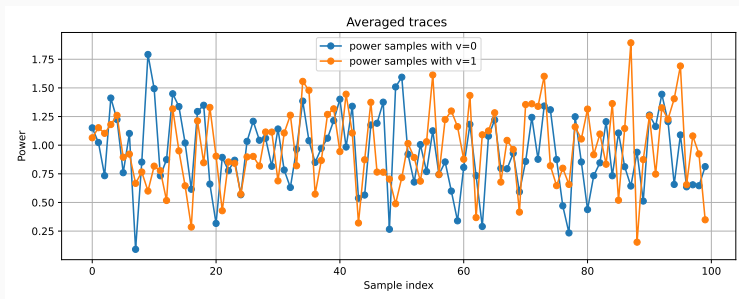
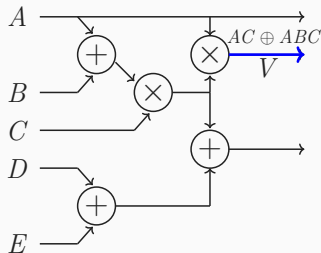
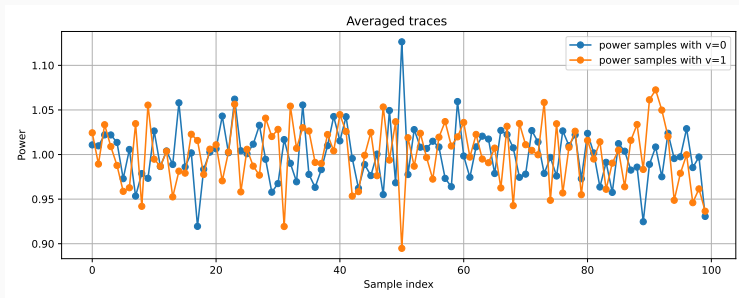
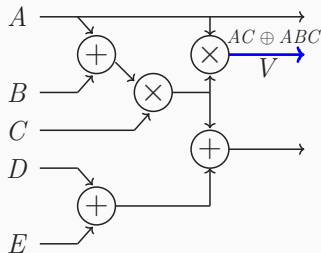


Figure: A single trace.

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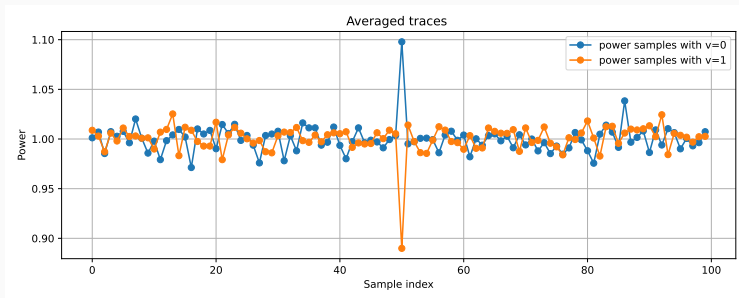
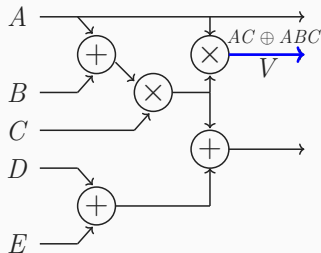
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**Figure:** 100 traces aggregated.

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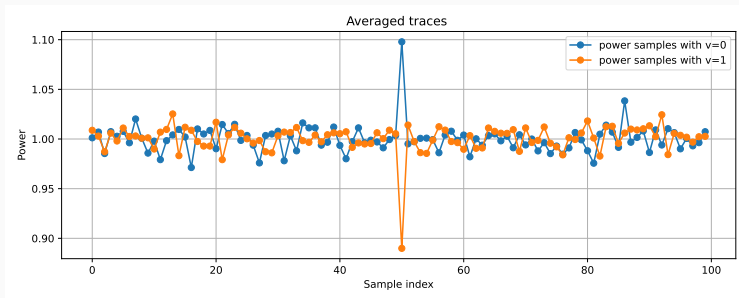
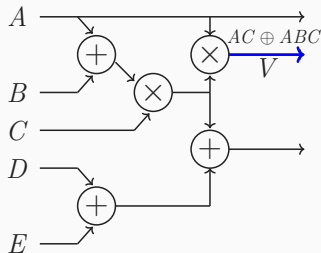
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**Figure:** 1000 traces aggregated.

**Take-away:** These correlations let an adversary learn operands or even recover secret keys.



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## Multiplication (goal)

Given shares  $[X_0, \dots, X_{n-1}]$  and  $[Y_0, \dots, Y_{n-1}]$ , securely compute  $n$  shares of  $Z = XY$  without leaking  $X$  or  $Y$ .

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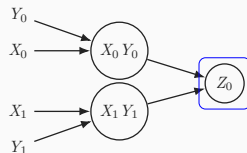
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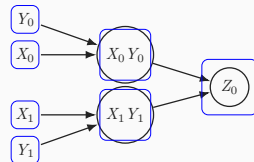
Probe  $Z_0$  (probing).



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Probe  $Z_0$  (glitch-extended):  
fan-in exposed.

## Example

Let  $X = X_0 \oplus X_1$  and  $Y = Y_0 \oplus Y_1$ . A 2-share “schoolbook” multiplication over  $\mathbb{F}_2$ :

$$\begin{cases} Z_0 &= X_0 Y_0 \oplus X_1 Y_1, \\ Z_1 &= X_0 Y_1 \oplus X_1 Y_0. \end{cases}$$

Implication. Probing  $Z_0$  (or  $Z_1$ ) reveals  $X$  and  $Y$ .

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### Challenge

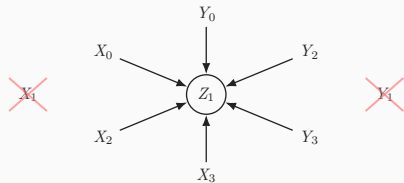
How can we perform secure multiplication under the glitch-extended probing model without relying on online randomness?

$$\begin{cases} Z_0 = (1 \oplus X_2 \oplus X_3)(1 \oplus Y_1 \oplus Y_2) \oplus Y_3 \oplus X_1, \\ Z_1 = (1 \oplus X_0 \oplus X_2)(1 \oplus Y_0 \oplus Y_3) \oplus Y_2 \oplus X_3, \\ Z_2 = (X_1 \oplus X_3)(Y_0 \oplus Y_3) \oplus Y_1 \oplus X_1, \\ Z_3 = (X_0 \oplus X_1)(Y_1 \oplus Y_2) \oplus Y_0 \oplus X_0. \end{cases}$$



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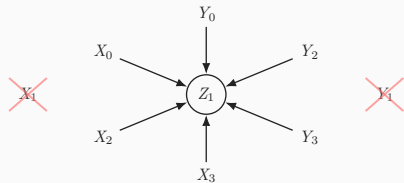
- **Glitch-extended safety example.** Probing  $Z_1$  does **not** reveal  $X_1$  or  $Y_1$ :  
 $\text{fanin}(Z_1) = \{X_0, X_2, X_3, Y_0, Y_2, Y_3\}.$



Probe  $Z_1$  (glitch-extended):  
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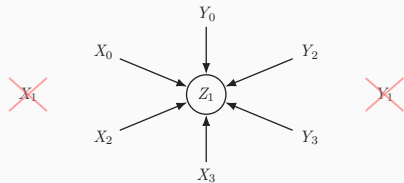
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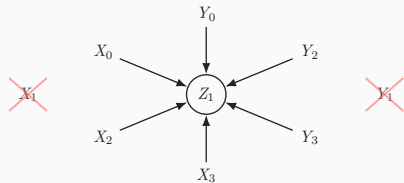
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### Computer-Aided Search

To date, no deterministic multiplication gadget secure against two or more glitch-extended probes is known.

## Diving into the Problem (1/3)

Let shares of  $X$  be  $(X_0, \dots, X_{n-1})$  and shares of  $Y$  be  $(Y_0, \dots, Y_{n-1})$ .

$$Z = XY$$

Probe  $Z_k$  (glitch-extended) reveals  
all  $(i, j) \in \mathbf{L}_k$

|       |       |       |       |       |
|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| $X_3$ |       |       |       |       |
| $X_2$ |       |       |       |       |
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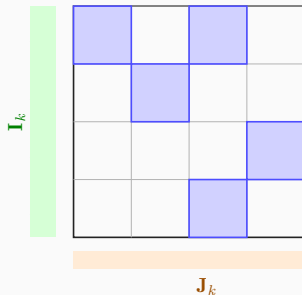
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$\mathbf{I}_k = \{i \mid \exists j : (i, j) \in \mathbf{L}_k\}$ ,  $\mathbf{J}_k = \{j \mid \exists i : (i, j) \in \mathbf{L}_k\}$ .

Equivalently, probing  $Z_k$  exposes all  $X_i$  for  $i \in \mathbf{I}_k$  and all  $Y_j$  for  $j \in \mathbf{J}_k$ .

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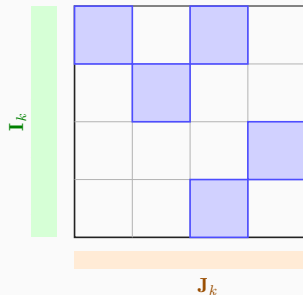
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**Goal:** choose  $\mathbf{L}_k$  so that each probe reveals as few shares as possible.

Probe  $Z_k$  (glitch-extended) reveals all  $(i, j) \in \mathbf{L}_k$



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We can show that

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Best case (tight):

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This gadget is first-order probing secure, but **not uniform**.

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Can we generalize this pattern for square values of  $n$ ?

Formalizing the pattern.

## Formalizing the pattern.

- For  $n = s^2$ , index the  $n$  shares by a grid  $\{0, \dots, s-1\} \times \{0, \dots, s-1\}$ . A **cluster**  $C = \{\mathbf{A}_0, \dots, \mathbf{A}_{s-1}\}$  is a partition of the indices into  $s$  **multi-shares** (blocks) of size  $s$ :

$$\mathbf{A}_i \subseteq [n], \quad |\mathbf{A}_i| = s, \quad \mathbf{A}_i \cap \mathbf{A}_j = \emptyset \ (i \neq j), \quad \bigcup_i \mathbf{A}_i = [n].$$

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# Searching for a Grouping Strategy

Formalizing the pattern.

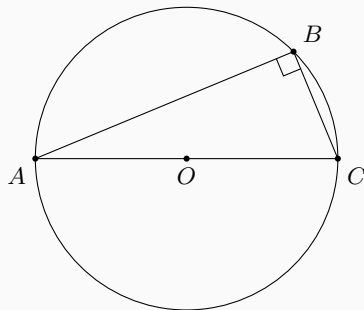
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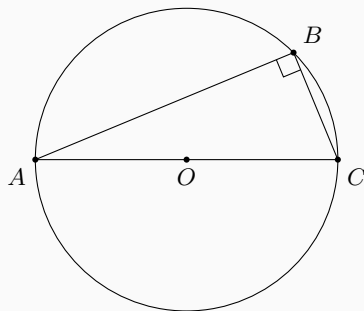
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**Geometric view.** Take  $s \times s$  grid points (“shares”) as the points of the affine plane. Two parallel classes of lines give exactly such cluster families: lines within a class are parallel (partition), and lines from different classes intersect in one point. This is why our search leads to **finite affine geometry**.





**Figure:** Thales' Theorem.



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---

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A **finite pre-affine plane** consists of a set of **points**  $P$  and a set of **lines**  $L$  such that it satisfies the postulates (I) and (V).



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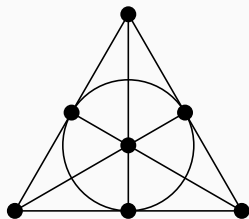
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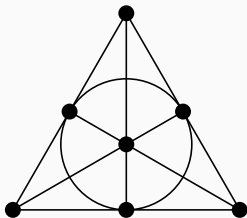
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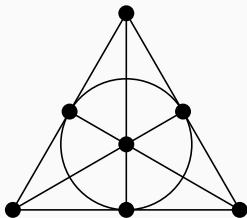


**Figure:** Fano plane.



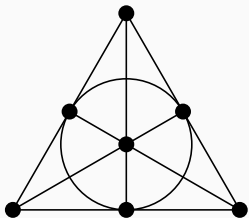
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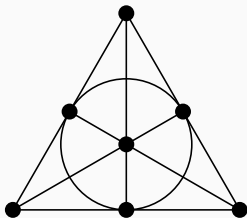
The Fano plane has 7 points and 7 lines,  
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**Figure:** Fano plane.

The Fano plane has 7 points and 7 lines, where each line contains 3 points, each point lies on 3 lines

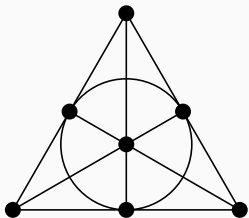




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The Fano plane has 7 points and 7 lines, where each line contains 3 points, each point lies on 3 lines and all lines intersect.

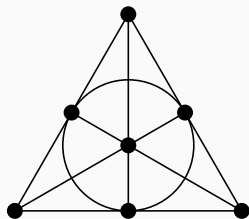
## Non-example and non-trivial example



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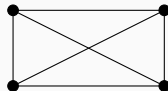
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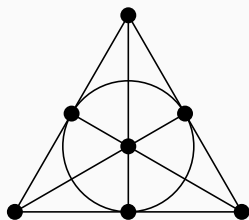


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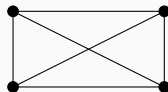


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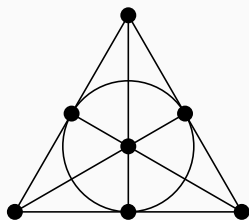
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The Fano plane has 7 points and 7 lines, where each line contains 3 points, each point lies on 3 lines and all lines intersect. It is actually an example of a **projective plane**.



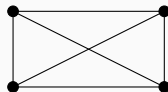
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## Non-example and non-trivial example

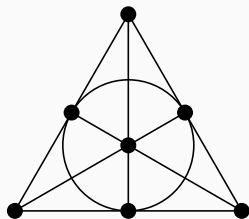


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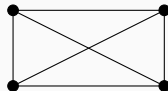


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This finite pre-affine plane has 4 points, 6 lines, and satisfies postulates (I) and (V).

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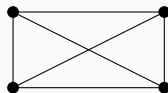
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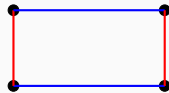


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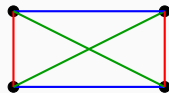


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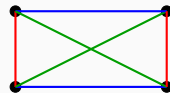


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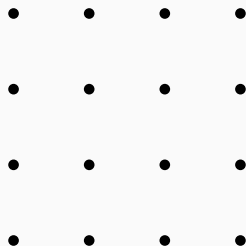
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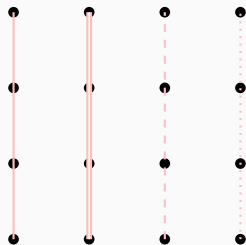
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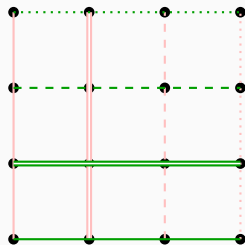


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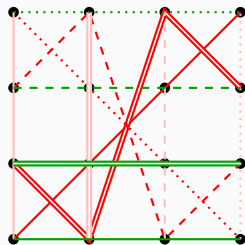
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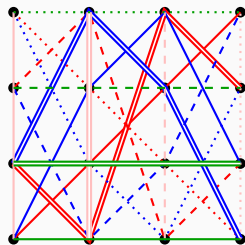
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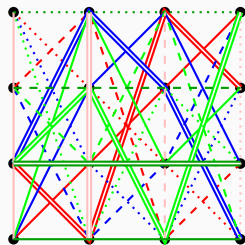
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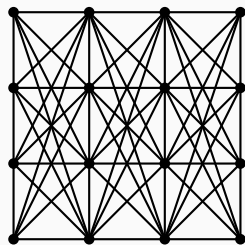
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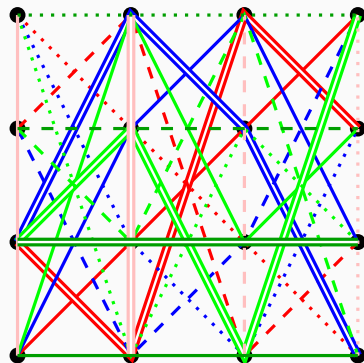
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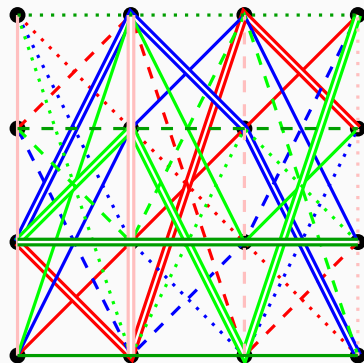
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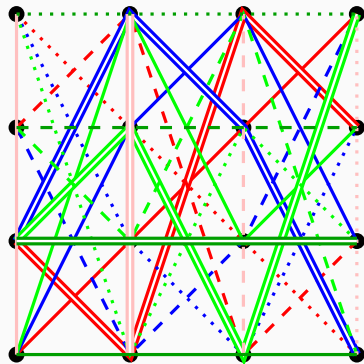
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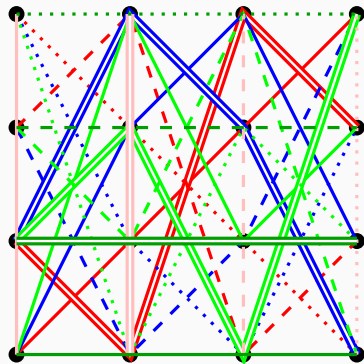
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- Let  $s$  be an odd prime power, and let  $n = s^2$ . Consider all sums:

$$\bigoplus \mathbf{A}_j^h \quad \text{for} \quad 0 \leq h \leq s, \quad 0 \leq j \leq s - 1,$$

where  $\mathbf{A}_j^h$  denotes the  $j$ -th multi-share from the  $h$ -th SMNO cluster of an  $n$ -sharing  $\mathbf{X}$ . Then, the **rank** of the resulting system of linear (parity) relations is  $n$ .

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$$\alpha = \lfloor k/s \rfloor,$$

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$$R_k = \bigoplus_{i=0}^{s-1} \left( \mathbf{A}^0_{\alpha}(\mathbf{X})[i] \oplus \mathbf{A}^{\alpha+1}_{\beta}(\mathbf{X})[i] \oplus \mathbf{A}^0_{\alpha}(\mathbf{Y})[i] \oplus \mathbf{A}^{\alpha+1}_{\beta}(\mathbf{Y})[i] \right),$$

$$W_k = \mathbf{A}^0_{\alpha}(\mathbf{X}) \otimes \mathbf{A}^{\alpha+1}_{\beta}(\mathbf{Y}),$$

$$Z_k = R_k \oplus W_k.$$

Here,  $\mathbf{A}^h_j(\cdot)$  denotes the  $j$ -th multi-share from the  $h$ -th SMNO cluster applied to the input sharing.

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**Thank you for your attention!**