

# Structural attacks on block ciphers

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- 1 Preliminaries
- 2 Subspaces in block ciphers
- 3 From subspace trails to invariant subspaces in Simpira
- 4 Zero-difference cryptanalysis of AES

## Block ciphers

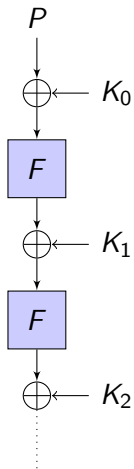


Figure: Typical Design

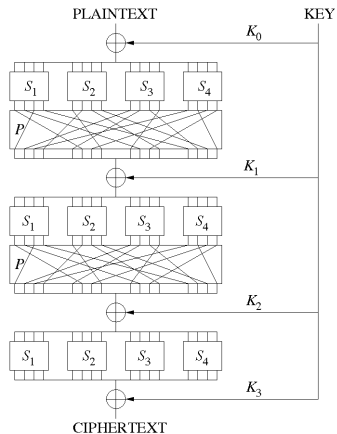


Figure: Classical SPN

# Block ciphers as family of permutations

## Block ciphers

A block cipher defines a map

$$\mathcal{E} : \mathcal{P} \times \mathcal{K} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

that takes plaintexts and keys to ciphertexts.

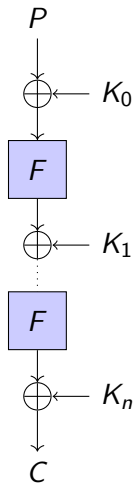
## Set of permutations

- fixing a key  $K \in \mathcal{K}$  defines a permutation

$$\mathcal{E}_K : \mathcal{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$$

- fixing all keys defines a set

$$E = \{\mathcal{E}_0, \mathcal{E}_1, \dots, \mathcal{E}_{|\mathcal{K}|-1}\}$$



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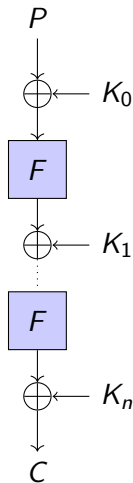
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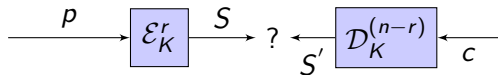
*Is the block cipher sufficiently generic ?*



### Distinguishers and property testing

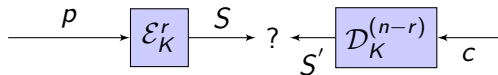
Is there a property that distinguishes one or a class of few from the many ?

# Distinguisher to key recovery



- distinguisher for  $r$  out of  $n$  rounds of the cipher
  - guess enough key bytes in decryption direction
  - verify key guess in the middle using distinguisher

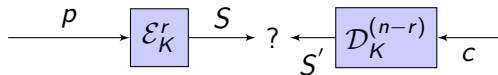
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# Subspace attacks

# Subspace cryptanalysis

## Basic exploitation

Plaintexts or ciphertexts stay inside linear and affine subspaces for many rounds (form of truncated differentials)

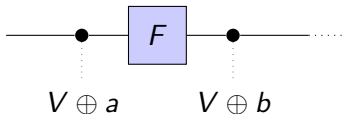
## Brief overview

- *A Cryptanalysis of PRINTcipher: The Invariant Subspace Attack*(CRYPTO'11)
- *A Generic Approach to Invariant Subspace Attacks: Cryptanalysis of Robin, iSCREAM and Zorro*, (EC'15)
- *Subspace Trail Cryptanalysis and its Applications to AES* (FSE '17)
- related to superbox cryptanalysis and truncated differentials
- ...active research area

# Some notation

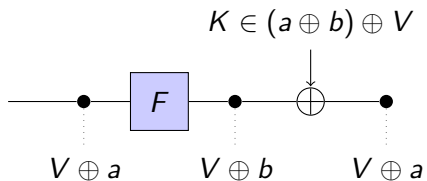
- $\mathbb{F}^n$  is n-dimensional space over field  $\mathbb{F}$
- let  $V$  be a subspace of  $\mathbb{F}^n$
- Let  $F$  be a function on  $\mathbb{F}^n$  (a permutation)
- $S = F(V) = \{F(v), | v \in V\}$
- **cosets** :  $V \oplus a = \{v \oplus a | v \in V\}$  for  $V \subseteq \mathbb{F}^n$

# Invariant subspace attacks



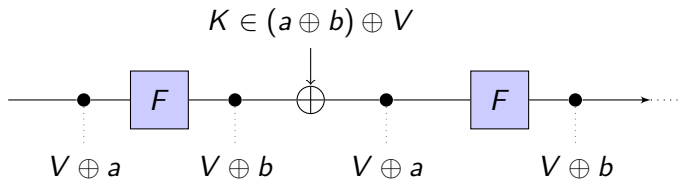
Consider a permutation formed by iterating a permutation  $F$  xored with a fixed round key  $K$ . Assume the round function maps a coset  $V \oplus a$  to a coset  $V \oplus b$

## Invariant subspace attacks



...and that the fixed round key  $K$  is in  $V \oplus (a \oplus b)$ .

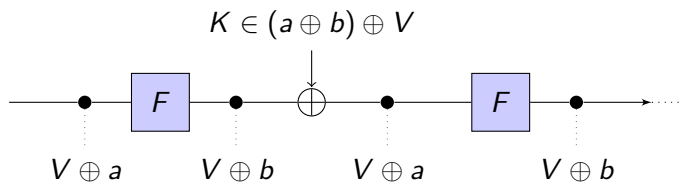
## Invariant subspace attacks



Then this process repeats itself.

Plaintexts in coset  $V \oplus a$  are mapped to itself

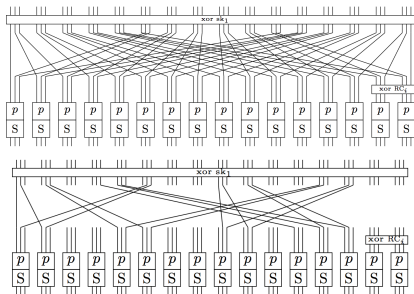
## Invariant subspace attacks



Confidentiality is broken: **Density of weak keys**  $= 2^{n - \dim(V)}$



# A Cryptanalysis of PRINTcipher: The Invariant Subspace Attack, [Leander+]



Inspecting components reveals invariant subspace for large class of keys

- block size  $n = 48$
- Fixed key  $K$  in each round (used for key-dependent  $p$  and XOR)
- Round constant
- Finds  $2^{52}$  weak keys out of  $2^{80}$

# Subspace Trails

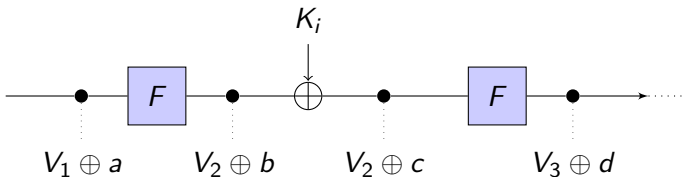


Figure: Subspace trail

Let  $R^m$  denote  $m$  applications of the round function  $F$  with fixed round keys  $K_j$ .

## Subspace Trails

A (constant dimensional) generic subspace trail  $(V_0, V_1, \dots, V_m)$  is such that for each  $a$ , there exist a unique  $b$  such that

$$F(V_i \oplus a) = V_{i+1} \oplus b.$$

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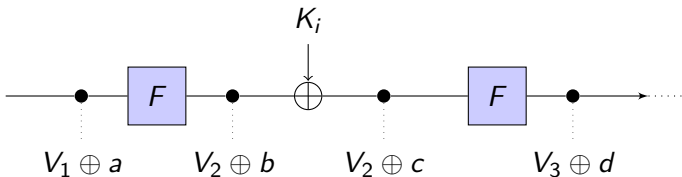


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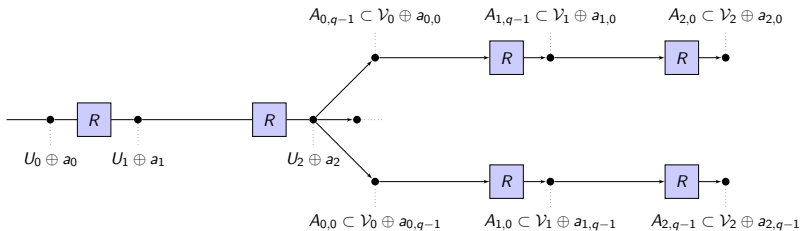
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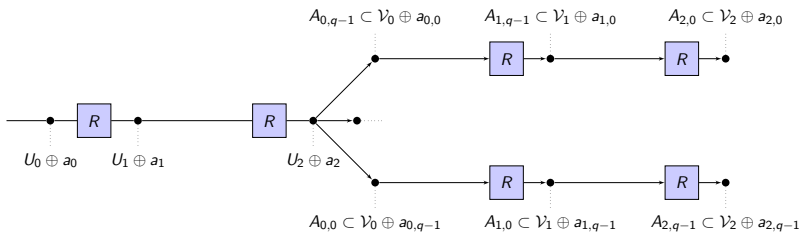
# Connecting trails / Trail branching

- $U = (U_0, \dots, U_m)$
- $V = (V_0, \dots, V_n)$
- $a_i, b_i$  random and fixed constants.
  - $F^m(U_0 \oplus a_0) = U_m \oplus a_m$
  - $F^n(V_0 \oplus b_0) = V_n \oplus b_n$ .
  - Endpoints of  $U$  and  $V$  correlate (intersect)



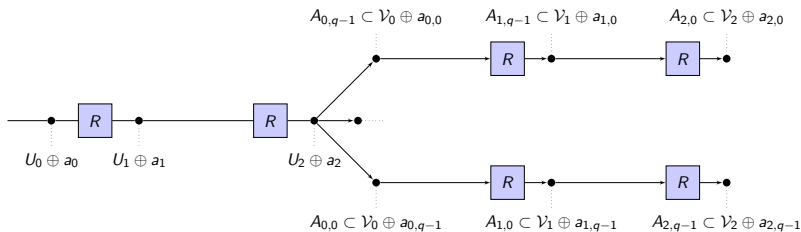
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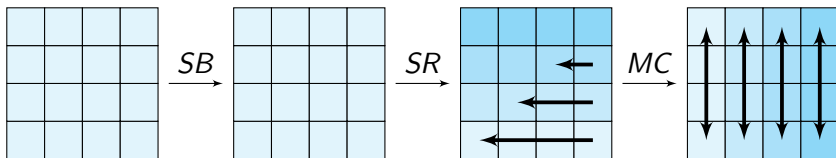


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# Subspace trails in AES



- block size 128 bit, typical key size  $\in \{128, 256\}$ , rounds  $\in \{10, 14\}$
- internal state viewed as a  $4 \times 4$  matrix states over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^8}$
- rounds consist of fixed function  $F$  and addition of round keys
- $F = MC \circ SR \circ SB$

# Diagonal Space

Let  $e_{i,j}$  be the  $4 \times 4$  matrix with a single 1 in position  $i,j$  (or as a vector of length 16 with a single 1 in position  $4 \cdot j + i$ ).

## Definition

**(Diagonal spaces)** The diagonal spaces  $\mathcal{D}_i$  are defined as

$$\mathcal{D}_i = \langle e_{0,i}, e_{1,i+1}, e_{2,i+2}, e_{3,i+3} \rangle$$

where  $i + j$  is computed modulo 4. For instance, the diagonal space  $\mathcal{D}_0$  corresponds to the symbolic matrix

$$\mathcal{D}_0 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} x_1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & x_2 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & x_3 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 & x_4 \end{bmatrix} \mid \forall x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8} \right\}.$$



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**(Mixed spaces)** The  $i$ th mixed subspace  $\mathcal{M}_i$  is defined as  

$$\mathcal{M}_i = MC \circ SR(C_i).$$

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$$\mathcal{M}_0 = \left\{ \begin{bmatrix} \alpha \cdot x_1 & x_4 & x_3 & (\alpha + 1) \cdot x_2 \\ x_1 & x_4 & (\alpha + 1) \cdot x_3 & \alpha \cdot x_2 \\ x_1 & (\alpha + 1) \cdot x_4 & \alpha \cdot x_3 & x_2 \\ (\alpha + 1) \cdot x_1 & \alpha \cdot x_4 & x_3 & x_2 \end{bmatrix} \mid \forall x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8} \right.$$

where  $\alpha$  is the generator of the AES field.

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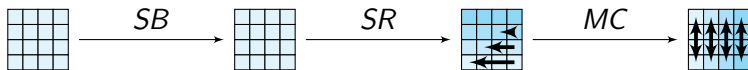
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# Subspace Trail Cryptanalysis and its Applications to AES[GRR17], FSE '17

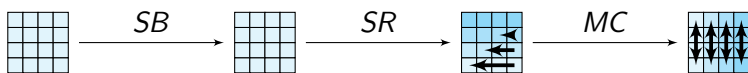


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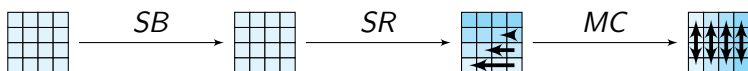


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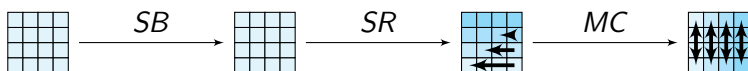
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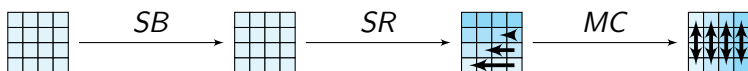
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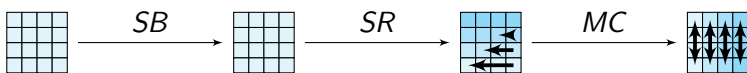


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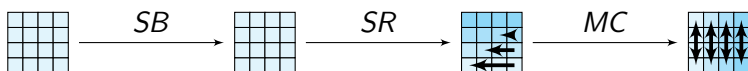


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- 1  $R(\begin{smallmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}) \oplus R(\begin{smallmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}) = \begin{smallmatrix} \blacksquare & \blacksquare \\ \blacksquare & \blacksquare \end{smallmatrix}$
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# Subspace Trail Cryptanalysis and its Applications to AES[GRR17], FSE '17



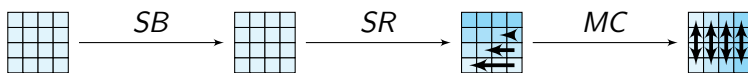
For fixed  $I, J \subset \{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ ,  $|I| + |J| \leq 4$

- 1  $R(\mathcal{D}_I \oplus a) = \mathcal{C}_I \oplus b$
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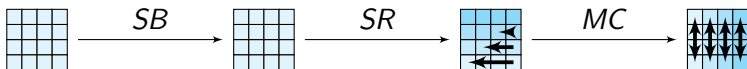


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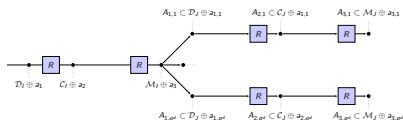
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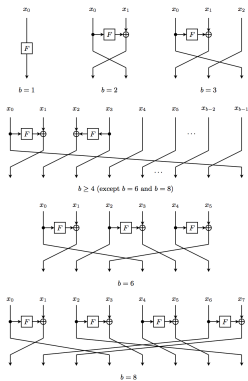
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# Attack on Simpira

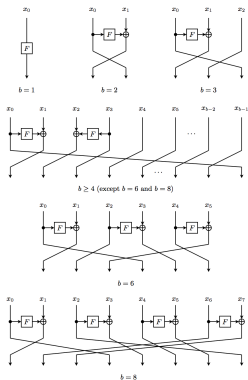
# Simpira (now *Simpira* v1)



- *Simpira*: A Family of Efficient Permutations Using the AES Round Function, [GM16]
- a family of cryptographic permutations supporting  $128 \times b$  bits
- designed to achieve high throughput on all modern 64-bit processors
- uses only one building block, AES (Intel/AMD/ARM native instructions)
- Generalized Feistel Structure
- Claim: no structural distinguishers with complexity below  $2^{128}$ .

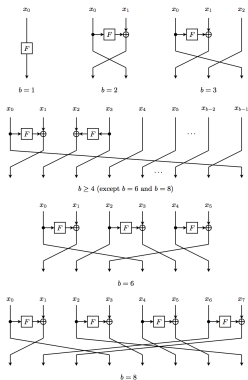


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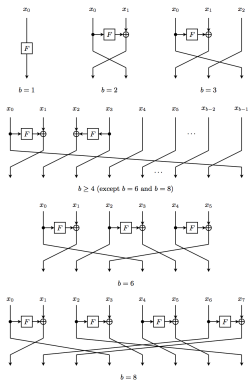
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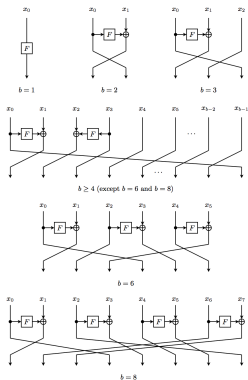
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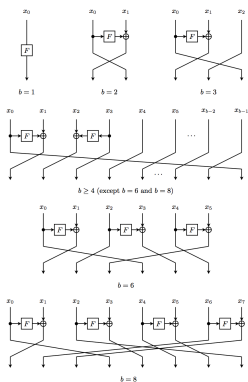
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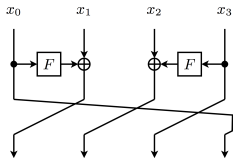


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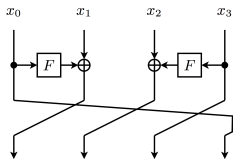


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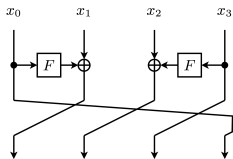
Simpira with  $b = 4$ 

- 512 bit permutation

- $f(x)$ : one AES round minus constants
- F-function:  $F_i^t(x) = f(f(x) + k_{t,i})$
- Different constants in each new F-function
- Iterated for many rounds (not important)
- Suitable for a wide range of applications.

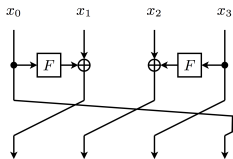
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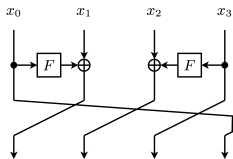
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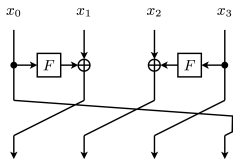


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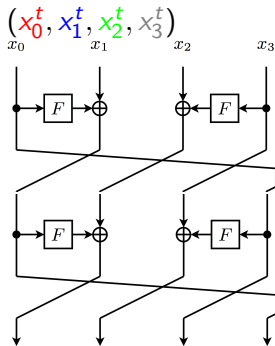
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## Initial observation for two rounds



- $F_i^t(x) = f(f(x) + k_{t,i})$  where  $k_{t,i} \in \mathcal{C}_{0,1}$

- $(x_0^t, x_1^t, x_2^t, x_3^t) \in \mathbb{F}_{2^8}^{4 \times 4 \times 4}$

$$S_{t+1} = (x_0^{t+1}, x_1^{t+1}, x_2^{t+1}, x_3^{t+1})$$

$$= (F_1^t(x_0^t) \oplus x_1^t, F_2^t(x_3^t) \oplus x_2^t, x_3^t, x_0^t)$$

$$S_{t+2} = (x_0^{t+2}, x_1^{t+2}, x_2^{t+2}, x_3^{t+2})$$

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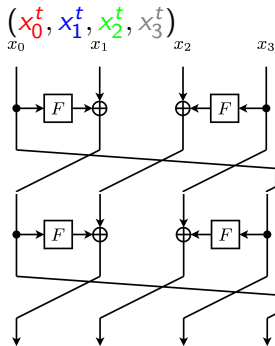
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Structure

$$(a, b, c, d) \xrightarrow{R^2} (z, F_1(a) \oplus d, a, F_2(a) \oplus b).$$

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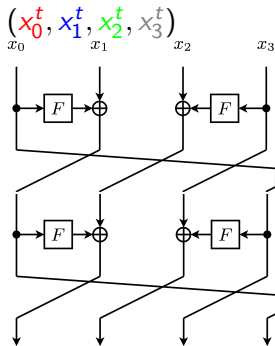
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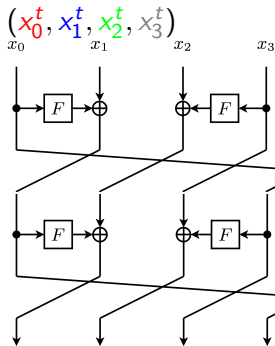
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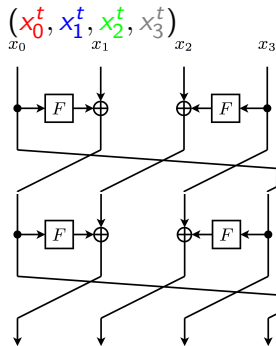
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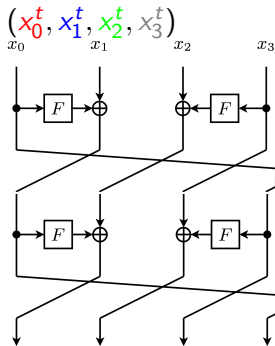
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$$(x_0^{t+2}, F_2^{t+1}(x_0^t) \oplus x_3^t, x_0^t, F_1^t(x_0^t) \oplus x_1^t)$$

Structure

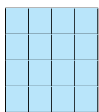
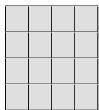
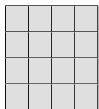
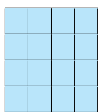
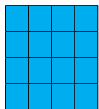
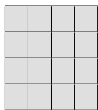
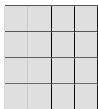
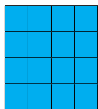
$$(a, b, c, d) \xrightarrow{R^2} (z, F_1(a) \oplus d, a, F_2(a) \oplus b).$$

# The parallel F-function

- $f(x)$  one AES round minus key addition
- $f(x) \times f(x)$  (in parallel)
- constants  $c_1 =$   and  $c_2 =$  

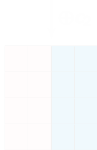
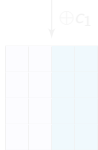
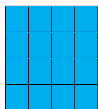
## Parallel F-function

$$F_1(a) \times F_2(a) = f(f(a) \oplus c_1) \times f(f(a) \oplus c_2)$$



 $\downarrow SB$  $\downarrow SR$  $\downarrow MC$  $\downarrow SB$  $\downarrow SR$  $\downarrow MC$ 

Trivial Invariant subspace in  $f(x) \times f(x)$

$$f(a) \times f(a) = b \times b$$



### Constants space

constants  $c_1 =$  and  $c_2 =$ 

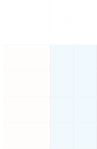
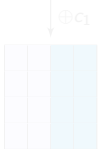
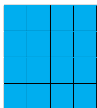
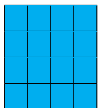
### Adding a constant

We begin with an invariant space  $a \times a$



$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

then add constants to the inputs

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$



### Constants space

constants  $c_1 =$  and  $c_2 =$ 

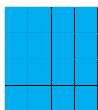
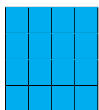
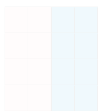
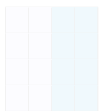
### Adding a constant

We begin with an invariant space  $a \times a$



$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$


 $\downarrow \oplus c_1$ 
 $\downarrow \oplus c_2$ 


## Constants space

constants  $c_1 =$  and  $c_2 =$ 

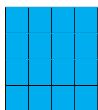
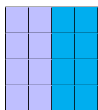
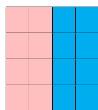
## Adding a constant

We begin with an invariant space  $a \times a$



$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$


 $\downarrow \oplus c_1$ 

 $\downarrow \oplus c_2$ 


## Constants space

constants  $c_1 =$  and  $c_2 =$ 

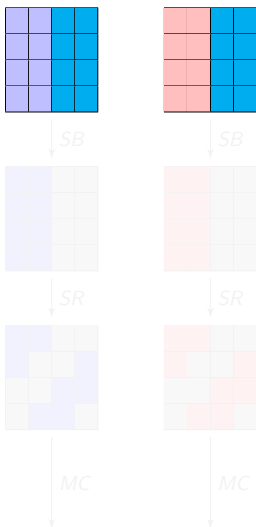
## Adding a constant

We begin with an invariant space  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$



## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

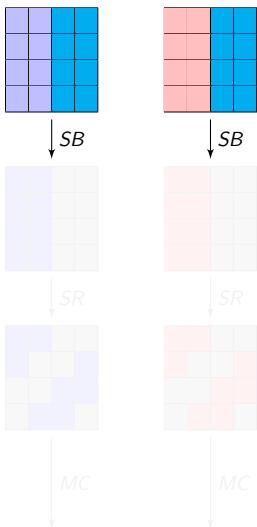
... and apply another AES round...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

Subspace trail in parallel  $F$ -function

$$F_1\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times F_2\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$





## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

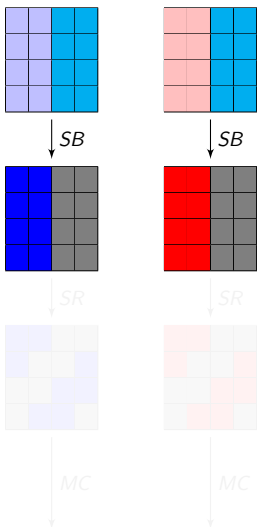
$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

... and apply another AES round...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

Subspace trail in parallel  $F$ -function

$$F_1\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times F_2\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$



## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

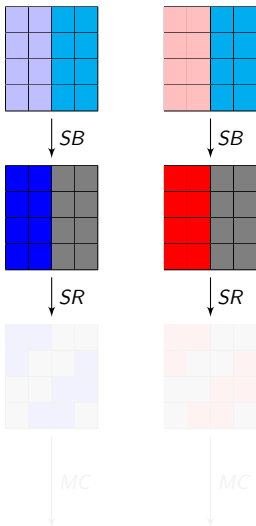
$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

... and apply another AES round...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

Subspace trail in parallel  $F$ -function

$$F_1\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times F_2\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$



## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

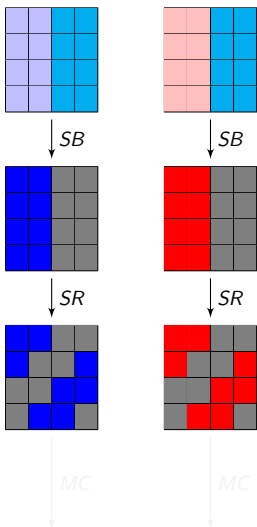
$$f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

... and apply another AES round...

$$f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times f(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) = MC \circ SR(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times MC \circ SR(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array})$$

Subspace trail in parallel  $F$ -function

$$F_1(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times F_2(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) = MC \circ SR(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}) \times MC \circ SR(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array})$$



## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

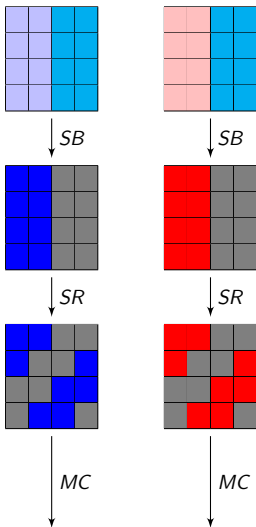
$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

... and apply another AES round...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

Subspace trail in parallel  $F$ -function

$$F_1\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times F_2\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$



## One more round

We begin with an invariant subspace  $a \times a$

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

...then add constants in the middle...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \oplus \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} = \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array} \times \begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}$$

... and apply another AES round...

$$f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times f\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$

## Subspace trail in parallel $F$ -function

$$F_1\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times F_2\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) = MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right) \times MC \circ SR\left(\begin{array}{|c|c|} \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \square & \square \\ \hline \end{array}\right)$$























## Invariant subspaces in Simpira

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where

- $a, b$  set to all possible values ( $q^{32}$ )
- $z_i$  set to all possible values in two left columns ( $q^{16}$ )
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## Conclusion for Simpira

- *Invariant subspaces* in round function from *non-invariant subspaces* in AES F-function.
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# Zero-difference cryptanalysis of AES

# The zero difference pattern

## Definition (Zero difference pattern)

Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$ . Define

$$\nu(\alpha) = (z_0, z_1, \dots, z_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$$

where

$$z_i = \begin{cases} 1 & \text{if } \alpha_j \text{ is zero,} \\ 0 & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

# Setting

- Let  $\alpha = (\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1}) \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$  denote the state of a block cipher.
- Let  $q = 2^k$  and let  $s$  be a  $k \times k$  permutation s-box.
- The S-box working on a state is defined by
$$S(\alpha) = (s(\alpha_0), s(\alpha_1), \dots, s(\alpha_{n-1}))$$
- Let  $L$  be a linear layer in the block cipher
- We consider a substitution permutation network (SPN) of the form  $S \circ L \circ S \circ L \circ S$ .



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# The S-box

## Lemma

*For two states  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  in  $\mathbb{F}_q^n$ , the zero difference pattern is preserved by a permutation S-box*

$$\nu(\alpha \oplus \beta) = \nu(S(\alpha) \oplus S(\beta)).$$

Proof.

Follows since  $\alpha_i \oplus \beta_i = 0$  iff  $s(\alpha_i) \oplus s(\beta_i) = 0$  and thus the S-box preserves the zero difference pattern.  $\square$

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# The exchange operation

## Definition

For a vector  $c \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$  and a pair of states  $\alpha, \beta \in \mathbb{F}_q^n$  define a new state  $\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)$  by

$$\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)_i = \begin{cases} \alpha_i & \text{if } c_i = 1, \\ \beta_i & \text{if } c_i = 0. \end{cases}$$

## Example

Let  $c = (0110)$  and  $\alpha = (\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \alpha_3)$  and  $\beta = (\beta_0, \beta_1, \beta_2, \beta_3)$ .

Then

$$\alpha' = \rho^{(0110)}(\alpha, \beta) = (\beta_0, \alpha_1, \alpha_2, \beta_3)$$

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# Properties of the exchange operation (I)

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- c)  $\rho^c(S(\alpha), S(\beta)) = S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta))$

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$$\rho^c(S(\alpha), S(\beta)) = S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)) = \begin{cases} s(\alpha_i) & \text{if } c_i = 1, \\ s(\beta_i) & \text{if } c_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

# Properties of the exchange operation (I)

## Lemma

- a)  $\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)_i \oplus \rho^c(\beta, \alpha)_i = \alpha \oplus \beta$
- b)  $S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)) \oplus S(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha)) = S(\alpha) \oplus S(\beta)$
- c)  $\rho^c(S(\alpha), S(\beta)) = S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta))$

## Proof.

a)

$$\rho^c(\alpha, \beta) \oplus \rho^c(\beta, \alpha) = \begin{cases} \alpha_i \oplus \beta_i & \text{if } c_i = 1, \\ \beta_i \oplus \alpha_i & \text{if } c_i = 0 \end{cases}$$

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# Properties of the exchange operation (II)

## Lemma

Let  $L$  be a linear transformation. Then

$$L(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)) \oplus L(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha)) = L(\alpha) \oplus L(\beta)$$

Proof.

Lemma 2a) gives

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# Properties of the zero-difference pattern

Let  $\nu(\alpha)$  denote the zero difference pattern of  $\alpha = (\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_{n-1})$ .

## Lemma

a)  $\nu(\alpha \oplus \beta) = \nu(S(\alpha) \oplus S(\beta))$

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a) Since  $S$  is a permutation

$$(\alpha_i \oplus \beta_i) = 0 \text{ iff } s(\alpha_i) \oplus s(\beta_i) = 0$$

b) Since Lemma 3 implies

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then

$$\begin{aligned} (S(L(\alpha)) \oplus S(L(\beta)))_i = 0 &\text{ iff } (L(\alpha) \oplus L(\beta))_i = 0 \\ &\text{ iff } (L(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)) \oplus L(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha)))_i = 0 \\ &\text{ iff } (S(L(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta))) \oplus S(L(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha))))_i = 0 \end{aligned}$$



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# The Zero-differences and the exchange operation

## Theorem

Let  $\alpha' = \rho^c(\alpha, \beta)$  and  $\beta' = \rho^c(\beta, \alpha)$ , then

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 S(\alpha) & \oplus & S(\beta) & = & S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta)) & \oplus & S(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha)) \\
 \downarrow & \color{red}{L} & \downarrow & = & \downarrow & \color{red}{L} & \downarrow \\
 L(S(\alpha)) & \oplus & L(S(\beta)) & = & L(S(\rho^c(\alpha, \beta))) & \oplus & L(S(\rho^c(\beta, \alpha))) \\
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□

# Typical use of exchange operation

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 \mu(p^0) & \oplus & p^1 & \stackrel{(\Leftarrow)}{=} & \mu(p^{0'}) & \oplus & p^{1'} \\
 \downarrow S & & \downarrow & = & \uparrow & S^{-1} & \uparrow \\
 S(p^0) & \oplus & S(p^1) & = & L^{-1}(S^{-1}(c^{0'})) & \oplus & L^{-1}(S^{-1}(c^{1'})) \\
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 \end{array}$$

## Zero difference preservation

- Pick two plaintexts  $p^0$  and  $p^1$  with a zero difference  $\mu(p^0 \oplus p^1)$ .
- Encrypt  $p^0$  and  $p^1$  to  $c^0$  and  $c^1$ .
- Make two new ciphertexts  $c^{0'} = \rho^c(c^0, c^1)$  and  $c^{1'} = \rho^c(c^1, c^2)$ .
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 S(p^0) & \oplus & S(p^1) & = & L^{-1}(S^{-1}(c^{0'})) & \oplus & L^{-1}(S^{-1}(c^{1'})) \\
 \downarrow & \color{red}{L} & \downarrow & = & \uparrow & \color{red}{L^{-1}} & \uparrow \\
 L(S(p^0)) & \oplus & L(S(p^1)) & = & S^{-1}(c^{0'}) & \oplus & S^{-1}(c^{1'}) \\
 \downarrow & \color{red}{S} & \downarrow & = & \uparrow & \color{red}{S^{-1}} & \uparrow \\
 c^0 & \oplus & c^1 & \Rightarrow & c^{0'} & \oplus & c^{1'}
 \end{array}$$

## Zero difference preservation

- Pick two plaintexts  $p^0$  and  $p^1$  with a zero difference  $\mu(p^0 \oplus p^1)$ .
- Encrypt  $p^0$  and  $p^1$  to  $c^0$  and  $c^1$ .
- Make two new ciphertexts  $c^{0'} = \rho^c(c^0, c^1)$  and  $c^{1'} = \rho^c(c^1, c^2)$ .
- Decrypt  $c^{0'}$  and  $c^{1'}$ .
- $\nu(p^0 \oplus p^1) = \nu(p^{0'} \oplus p^{1'})$

# Three Rounds of AES

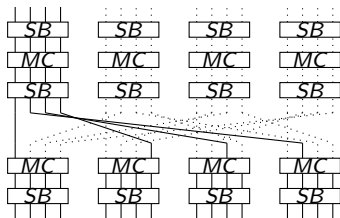


Figure: Three rounds  $SB \circ MC \circ SR \circ S = Q \circ S$

$$R^3 = (AK \circ MC \circ SR \circ SB) \circ (AK \circ MC \circ SR \circ SB) \circ (AK \circ MC \circ SR \circ SB).$$

Rewrite in terms of

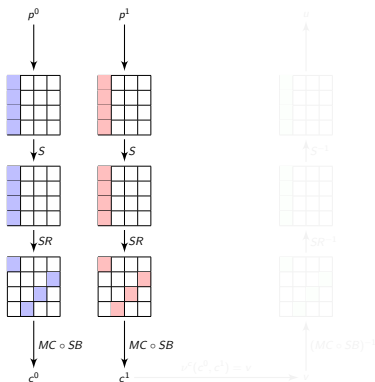
- $S = MC \circ SB \circ MC$
- $L = SR \circ MC \circ SR$

$$R^{*3} = (SB \circ MC \circ SR) \circ (SB \circ MC \circ SB) = Q \circ S$$

# Three Round AES Distinguisher

## Theorem

Three rounds of AES can be distinguished from a random cipher using one pair of chosen plaintexts and one (adaptively) chosen ciphertext.



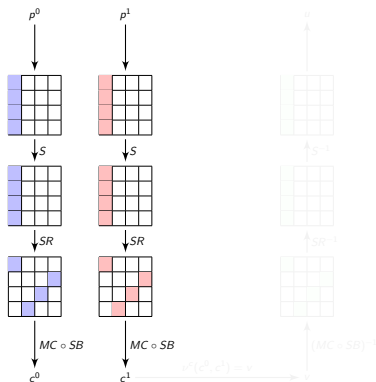
- 1 Select  $p^0 \oplus p^1$  that differ in only one word
- 2 ask for encryption  $c^0$  and  $c^1$  of  $p^0$  and  $p^1$
- 3 Let  $H_i$  be the image of the  $i$ th column of  $SR(S(p^0) \oplus S(p^1))$  under  $MC \circ SB$
- 4 select  $v = (v_0, v_1, v_2, v_3)$  where  $v_i \in \{c_i^0, c_i^1\}$
- 5 ask for decryption (denote  $u$ ) of  $v$
- 6 Then  $v(p^0 \oplus p^1) = v(u \oplus p^j)$  since the  $i$ th component of  $v$  is in  $H_i$

Probability  $2^{-96}$  for random.

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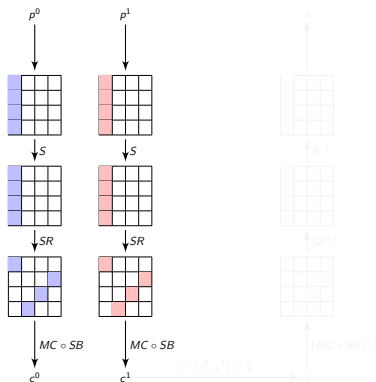
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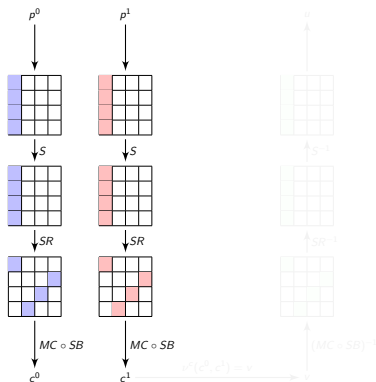
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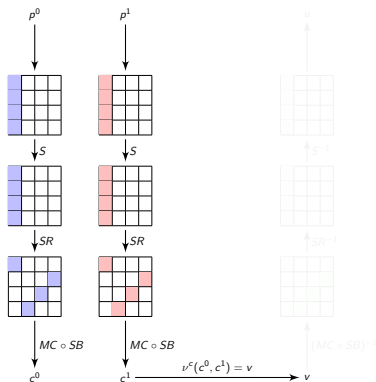
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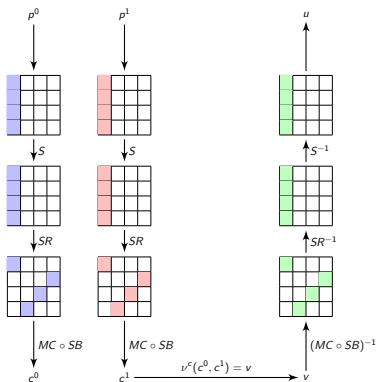
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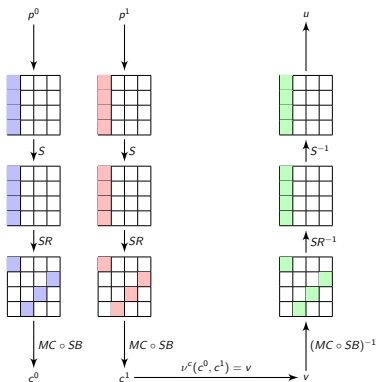
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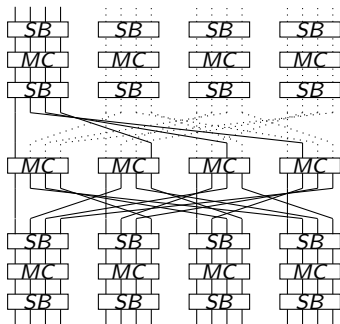
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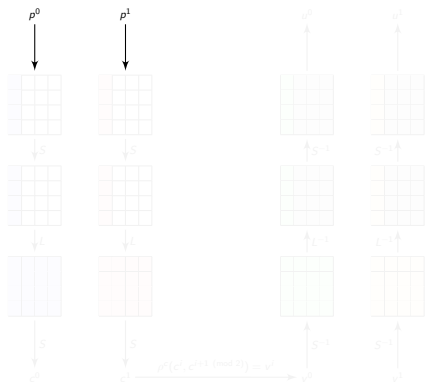
## Four Rounds of AES

Figure:  $S \circ L \circ S$  in AES

# Four Round AES Distinguisher

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*Four rounds of AES can be distinguished from a random cipher using one pair of chosen plaintexts and one (adaptively) chosen ciphertext pair.*



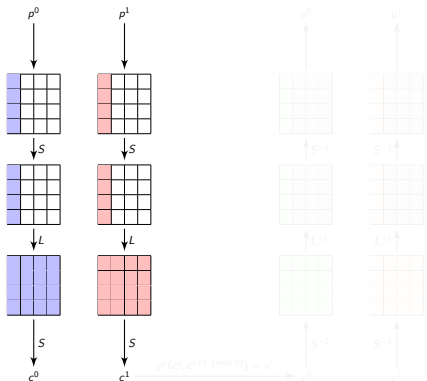
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*Extends to 5-round distinguisher and key-recovery.*

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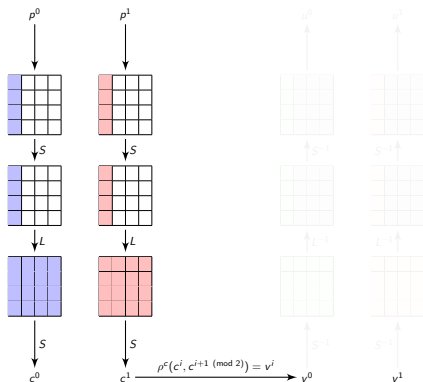
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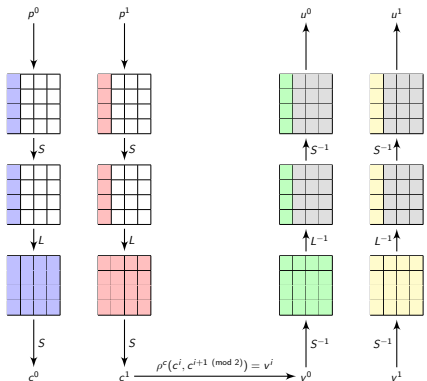
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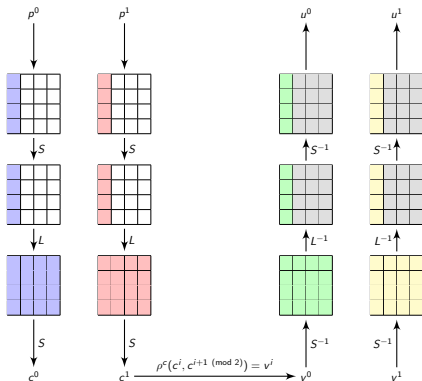
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6 Round AES as  $S \circ L \circ S \circ L \circ S$ 

- 6 rounds AES is  $S \circ L \circ S \circ L \circ S$
- preserve zero differences in middle
- combine with impossible differential property
- first distinguisher for 6 rounds (high complexity)

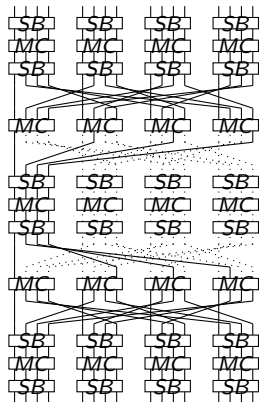


Figure: Six Rounds AES

# Conclusion

- new records 3-6 round distinguishers AES
- new record 5 round key recovery
- can be applied directly to similar designs as well
- can be improved (more rounds) for lightweight designs

# Conclusion

Thank you!







Exchange operation and  $S \circ L \circ S \circ L \circ S$  ciphers

## Theorem

Let

- $p^{0'} = \rho^c(p^0, p^1)$   $p^{1'} = \rho^c(p^1, p^0)$
- $c^{0*} = \rho^c(c^0, c^1)$   $c^{1*} = \rho^c(c^1, c^0)$
- $G_2 = S \circ L \circ S$

$$\nu(G_2(p^{0'}) \oplus G_2(p^{1'})) = \nu(G_2^{-1}(c^{*0}) \oplus G_2^{-1}(c^{*1})).$$

$$\begin{array}{ccccccc}
 p^0 & \oplus & p^1 & = & p^{0'} & \oplus & p^{1'} & & p^{0*} & \oplus & p^{1*} \\
 \downarrow S & & \downarrow S & = & \downarrow S & & \downarrow S & & \uparrow S^{-1} & & \uparrow S^{-1} \\
 S(p^0) & \oplus & S(p^1) & = & S(p^{0'}) & \oplus & S(p^{1'}) & & G_2^{-1}(c^{0*}) & \oplus & G_2^{-1}(c^{1*}) \\
 \downarrow L & & \downarrow L & = & \downarrow L & & \downarrow L & & \uparrow L^{-1} & & \uparrow L^{-1} \\
 L(S(p^0)) & \oplus & L(S(p^1)) & = & L(S(p^{0'})) & \oplus & L(S(p^{1'})) & & \uparrow S^{-1} & & \uparrow S^{-1} \\
 \downarrow S & & \downarrow S & = & \downarrow S & & \downarrow S & & \uparrow L^{-1} & & \uparrow L^{-1} \\
 \downarrow L & & \downarrow L & = & \downarrow G_2 & \oplus & \downarrow G_2 & & \uparrow S^{-1} & & \uparrow S^{-1} \\
 c^0 & \oplus & c^1 & = & G_2(p^{0'}) & \oplus & G_2(p^{1'}) & & \uparrow S^{-1} & & \uparrow S^{-1} \\
 & & & & & & & & \oplus & & \oplus
 \end{array}$$

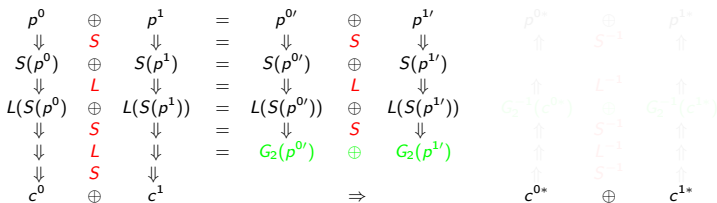
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