The Skinny Family of Tweakable Block Ciphers

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SKINNY website

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Paper, Specifications, Results and Updates available at :
https://sites.google.com/site/skinnycipher/

Any new cryptanalysis of SKINNY is welcome!

• The STK construction

- Block ciphers
- The example of AES
- ▶ TWEAKEY framework and the STK construction

The Skinny tweakable block cipher

- SKINNY security
- SKINNY performances
- 5 Future works

The STK construction

- Block ciphers
- ▶ The example of AES
- ▶ TWEAKEY framework and the STK construction

The Skinny tweakable block cipher

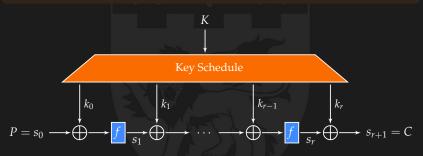
- SKINNY security
- SKINNY performances
- **5** Future works

• The STK construction Block ciphers

Iterated block ciphers

An iterated block cipher is composed of two parts :

- an internal permutation *f* repeated *r* times (also named round function)
- ▷ a key schedule that generates r + 1 subkeys $K \rightarrow (k_0, \ldots, k_r)$

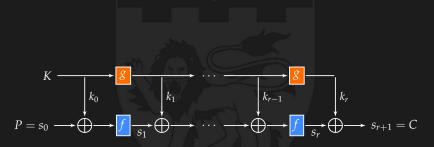


For a compression function, the key schedule is also named the message expansion

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For a compression function, the key schedule is also named the message expansion

Permutations

We know how to design a good permutation :

- Feistel network
 - DES, SHA-2

Substitution-Permutation network (SPN)

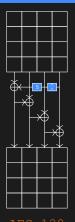
AES, Keccak (SHA-3)

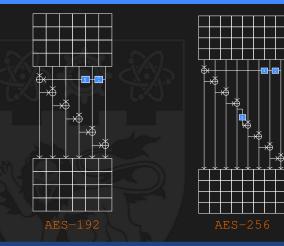
Many recent primitives try to use only permutations to avoid the key schedule (sponge functions, Grøstl, LED)

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The AES key schedules





Rationale :

- XORs for inter-column diffusion, shift for inter-row diffusion, Sbox for non-linearity, counter to break symmetries
- ▷ quite different from the AES round function

Security issues with the AES key schedule



Related-key attacks on the full AES-256 and AES-192

- existence of 2-round local collision paths [BKN09]
- 14-round path with only 24 active Sboxes (5 in the key schedule, 19 in the internal state)
- later improved in [BK09] using boomerang technique (since very good small differential paths exist) :
 key recovery attack with 2^{99.5} time and data
- harder to attack AES-192 and so far no attack on AES-128

Proven bounds for AES-128

Single-key model											
Rounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
min	1	5	9	25	26	30	34	50	51	55	
Related-key	mo	del (trun	cated	d dif	terer	ices)				
Rounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
min	0	1	3	9	11	13	15	21	23	25	
Related-key model (actual differences)											
Rounds	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	_
min	0	1	5	13	17	?	?	?	?	?	

Skinny

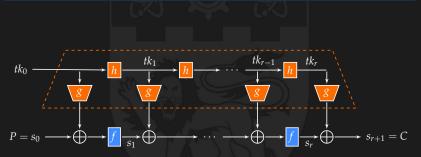
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- ▷ The example of AE
- ▷ TWEAKEY framework and the STK construction
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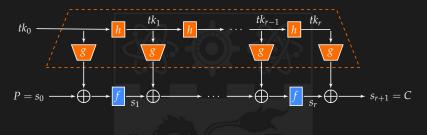
The TWEAKEY framework





TWEAKEY generalizes the class of key-alternating ciphers

The TWEAKEY framework



The main issue :

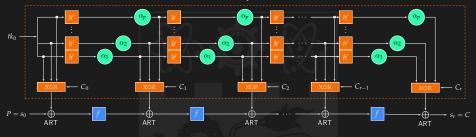
adding more tweakey state makes the security drop, or renders security hard to study, even for automated tools

Idea :

separate the tweakey material in several words, design a secure tweakey schedule for one word and then superpose them in a secure way

The STK construction (Superposition-TWEAKEY)

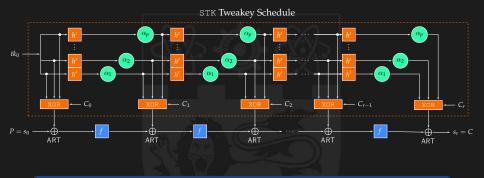
STK Tweakey Schedule



From the TWEAKEY framework to the STK construction :

- the tweakey state update function *h* consists in the same subfunction *h'* applied to each tweakey word
- the subtweakey extraction function g consists in XORing all the words together
 - reduce the implementation overhead
 - reduce the area footprint by reusing code
 - simplify the security analysis

The STK construction (Superposition-TWEAKEY)



From the TWEAKEY framework to the STK construction :

- problem : strong interaction between the parallel branches of tweakey state
- solution : differentiate the parallel branches by simply using distinct small linear layers

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SKINNY goals and results

Goals

- ▷ Provide an alternative to NSA-designed SIMON block cipher
- Construct a lightweight (tweakable) block cipher
- Achieve scalable security
- Suitable for most lightweight applications
- Perform and share full security analysis
- Efficient software/hardware implementations in many scenarios

Results

- ▶ SKINNY family of (tweakable) block ciphers
- ▶ Block sizes n : 64 and 128 bits
- ▶ Various key+tweak sizes : *n*, 2*n* and 3*n* bits
- Security guarantees for differential/linear cryptanalysis (both single and related-key)
- ▷ Efficient and competitive software/hardware implementations
 - Round-based SKINNY-64-128: 1696 GE (SIMON: 1751 GE)
 - on Skylake (avx2) : 2.78 c/B (SIMON : 1.81 c/B) for fixed-key

SKINNY general design strategy

- Start from weak crypto components, but providing very efficient implementations
 - Opposed to AES : strong Sbox and diffusion \Rightarrow only 10 rounds
 - Similar to SIMON : only AND/XOR/ROT ⇒ many rounds
- Reuse AES well-understood design
- Remove all operations not strictly necessary to security
- Result : removing any operations from SKINNY results in an unsecure cipher

SKINNY specifications : overview

Specifications

- ▷ SKINNY has a state of either 64 bit (s = 4) or 128 bits (s = 8).
- ▷ Internal state *IS* : viewed as a 4×4 matrix of *s*-bit elements. ⇒ $|IS| = n = 16s \in \{64, 128\}.$
- ▷ The tweakey size can be n, 2n or 3n.

Number of rounds

	Т	Tweakey size		
Block size <i>n</i>	п	2n	3n	
64	32	36	40	
128	40	48	56	

Comparison : SKINNY-64-128 has 36 rounds, SIMON-64-128 has 44 rounds.

SKINNY round function

AES-like round function

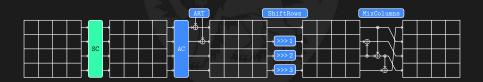
- ▶ **SubCells (SC)** : Application of a *s*-bit Sbox to all 16 cells
- AddConstants (AC) : Inject round constants in the state
- AddRoundTweakey (ART) : Extract and inject the subtweakeys to half the state
- ShiftRows (SR) : Right-rotate line *i* by *i* positions
- MixColumns (MC) : Multiply the state by a binary matrix



SKINNY round function

AES-like round function

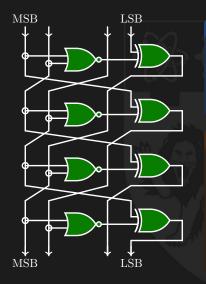
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SKINNY 4-bit Sbox



$S_4: 4$ -bit Sbox for SKINNY-64-*

- ▶ Almost PICCOLO Sbox
- Implementation : 4 NOR and 4 XOR
- Hardware cost : 12 GE

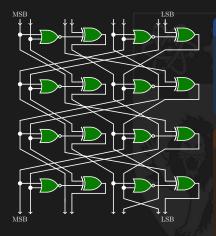
Properties

- ▶ Maximal diff. probability : 2⁻²
- ▶ Maximal abs. linear bias : 2^{-2}

$$\triangleright \deg(\mathcal{S}_4) = \deg(\mathcal{S}_4^{-1}) = 3$$

- One fixed point : $S_4(0xF) = 0xF$
- ▶ Branch number : 2

SKINNY 8-bit Sbox



S_8 : 8-bit Sbox for SKINNY-128-*

- \triangleright Generalize the S_4 construction
- Implementation : 8 NOR and 8 XOR
- Hardware cost : 24 GE

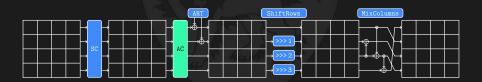
Properties

- ▶ Maximal diff. probability : 2⁻²
- ▶ Maximal abs. linear bias : 2^{-2}
- $\triangleright \ \deg(\mathcal{S}_8) = \deg(\mathcal{S}_8^{-1}) = 6$
- ▷ One fixed point : $S_8(0xFF) = 0xFF$
- ▶ Branch number : 2

SKINNY round function

AES-like round function

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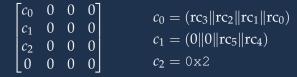
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SKINNY constants addition

We update the constant state with a cheap LSFR :

 $\overline{(rc_5||rc_4||rc_3||rc_2||rc_1||rc_0)} \rightarrow (rc_4||rc_3||rc_2||rc_1||rc_0||rc_5 \oplus rc_4 \oplus 1)$

We XOR the following constant matrix to the state :



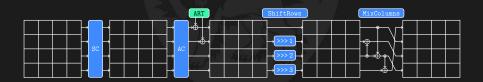
Criterion for the choice of constants :

- placement of c₀, c₁ and c₂ has been chosen to maximise the constants diffusion after application of forward/backward linear layer
- prevent spreading of symmetries, fixed points and more generally subspaces

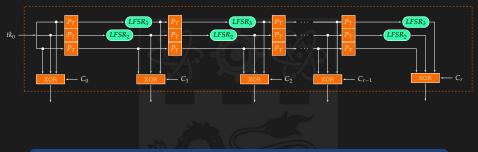
SKINNY round function

AES-like round function

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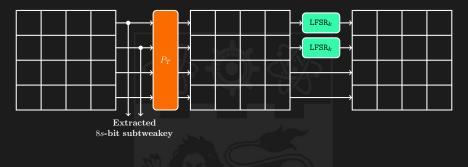
The SKINNY tweakey schedule



In details :

- ▷ P_T will simply be a permutation of the nibbles positions : $P_T = [9, 15, 8, 13, 10, 14, 12, 11, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]$
- nibbles in the top two rows of the k-th tweakey word are updated with LFSR_k
- no whitening key
- very simple transformations : linear and lightweight

The SKINNY tweakey schedule



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The permutations *P_T* in SKINNY tweakey schedule

$P_T = [9, 15, 8, 13, 10, 14, 12, 11, 0, 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7]$

Criterion for the choice of permutation P_T :

- maximize the bounds on the number of active Sboxes in the related-tweakey model
- both halves of the tweakey states will be equally mixed to the cipher internal state
- PT consist of a single cycle
- subtweakeys size is only half of the cipher internal state size to save XOR gates

The LFSRs in SKINNY tweakey schedule

S	ТК	LFSR
4	TK2 TK3	$(x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0) \to (x_2 x_1 x_0 x_3 \oplus x_2) (x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0) \to (x_0 \oplus x_3 x_3 x_2 x_1)$
8	TK2	$\begin{array}{c} (x_7 x_6 x_5 x_4 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0) \rightarrow \\ (x_6 x_5 x_4 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0 x_7 \oplus x_5) \end{array}$
	TK3	$\begin{array}{c} (x_7 x_6 x_5 x_4 x_3 x_2 x_1 x_0) \rightarrow \\ (x_0 \oplus x_6 x_7 x_6 x_5 x_4 x_3 x_2 x_1) \end{array}$

Criterion for the choice of LFSRs :

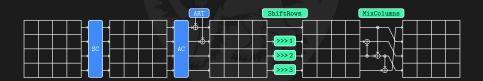
 for a given cell position, a single cancellation can only happen every 30 rounds for TK2, same with two cancellations for TK3

> cheapest possible LFSRs choice

SKINNY round function

AES-like round function

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SKINNY linear diffusion layer

Best candidate found :

apply right-shiftrows and multiply each 4-bit slice with matrix :

$$\mathbf{M} = \left(\begin{array}{rrrrr} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{array}\right)$$

Criterion for the choice of linear diffusion layer :

- cheap cheap cheap : at most 3 XORs
- M has branching number 2, but good differential paths avoided by a careful choice of M
- maximize the bounds on the number of active Sboxes in the single and related-tweakey model
- fast diffusion (6 rounds forward and backward) and fast tweakey diffusion (only one round forward and backward)

Skinny

Outline

The STK construction

- Block ciphers
- ▷ The example of AE
- ▷ TWEAKEY framework and the STK construction
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- SKINNY security
- SKINNY performances
- **5** Future works

Overview of SKINNY security

Claims

- Security against known classes of attacks
- Security in the related-key model
- No guarantees for known or chosen key
- No claim for related-cipher security (the constants do not encode the cipher parameters)

Attack vectors considered

- Differential/Linear cryptanalysis
- Integral attack
- Division property
- Meet-in-the-middle attack
- Impossible differential attack
- Invariant subspace attack
- Slide attack
- Algebraic attack

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Comparing differential/linear bounds

- ▷ We adapt the number of rounds to get resistance (+ margin) :
 - SKINNY-64-64/128/192 has 32/36/40 rounds
 - SKINNY-128-128/256/384 has 40/48/56 rounds
- ▷ As a result, for all SKINNY variants :
 - SK security reached in 20 40% of the rounds
 - TK2 security reached in 40 50% of the rounds

Comparison	with other 64/	/128 and 12	28/128 ciphers
------------	----------------	-------------	----------------

Cipher	Single Key (SK)	Related Key (RK)
SKINNY-64-128	8/36 = <mark>22%</mark>	15/36 = <mark>42%</mark>
SIMON-64-128	19/44 = 43%	no bound known
SKINNY-128-128	15/40 = 37%	19/40 = 47%
SIMON-128-128	41/72 = 57%	no bound known
AES-128	4/10 = 40%	6/10 = 60%
NOEKEON-128	12/16 = 75%	12/16 = 75%

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Theoretical performances of SKINNY

		#operation	Round-based	
Cipher	Rounds	without KS	with KS	area estimation
SKINNY-64-128	36	117	139.5	8.68
SIMON-64-128	44	88	154	8.68
PRESENT-64-128	31	147.2	161.8	12.43
PICCOLO-64-128	31	162.75	162.75	12.35
SKINNY-128-128	40	130	130	7.01
SIMON-128-128	72	136	204	7.34
NOEKEON-128-12	8 16	100	200	30.36
AES-128-128	10	202.5	248.1	59.12

Example of SKINNY-64-128

(more in the paper)

- \triangleright 1R: (4 NOR + 4 XOR)/4 [SB] + (3 XOR)/4 [MC] + (32 XOR)/64 [ART]
- That is (per bit per round): 1 NOR + 2.25 XOR
- ▷ #operations per bit (without KS) : $(1 + 2.25) \times 36 = 117$

Very low number of operations per plaintext bit

Challenge : do better

Round-based ASIC implementation results

	Area	Delay	Through. @100KHz	Through. @max
-	GE	ns	KBit/s	MBit/s
SKINNY-64-128	1696	1.87	177.78	951.11
SKINNY-128-128	2391	2.89	320.00	1107.20
SKINNY-128-256	3312	2.89	266.67	922.67
SIMON-64-128	1751	1.60	145.45	870
SIMON-128-128	2342	1.60	188.24	1145
SIMON-128-256	3419	1.60	177.78	1081
LED-64-128	3036	Contraction of the second s	133.0	-
PRESENT-64-128	1884		200.00	-
PICCOLO-64-128	1773		193.94	-

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SKINNY for Authenticated Encryption?

Plug SKINNY-128-128 in the Deoxys nonce-respecting AE mode

- ▶ similar to TAE or OCB3
- ▷ full 128-bit (not birthday) security, independent of #data
- > no long initialization required : fast for short inputs
- ▷ only m + 1 calls for m message blocks : fast for short inputs

Performance estimations of serial implementations

- computed serially, the main extra cost of the mode comes from the counter and checksum states (about (128 + 32) * 6GE= 960 GE)
- SKINNY-128-128 can fit it 1481 GE, thus we can hope for a serial implementation of about 2500 GE (throughput about 19 Mbit/s)

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Performance estimations of round-based implementations

- computed round-based, the main extra cost of the mode comes from the counter and checksum states
 (about (128 + 32) * (6GE+2.67GE) = 1387 GE)
- SKINNY-128-128 can fit it 2391 GE, thus we can hope for a round-based implementation of about 3800 GE (throughput about 1100 Mbit/s)

SKINNY for Authenticated Encryption?

Plug SKINNY-128-128 in the Deoxys nonce-respecting AE mode

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- > no long initialization required : fast for short inputs
- ▷ only m + 1 calls for m message blocks : fast for short inputs

SKINNY would be a good lightweight candidate for the CAESAR competition (with good software speed, about 3c/B)

Open problems for SKINNY



Open problems for SKINNY

- ▶ tighter bounds for SKINNY?
- other proofs for SKINNY?
 (MitM, impossible differential, etc.)
- improved cryptanalysis?



The SKINNY cryptanalysis competition

	Tweakey size t		
Block size <i>n</i>	n	2 <i>n</i>	3n
64	32 rounds	36 rounds	40 rounds
128	40 rounds	48 rounds	56 rounds

SKINNY has several versions :

- SKINNY-64-128 has 36 rounds
- SKINNY-128-128 has 40 rounds



The SKINNY cryptanalysis competition

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 ... current best attack reaches 18 rounds only
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SKINNY has several versions :

SKINNY-64-128 has 36 rounds ... current best attack reaches 18 rounds only

SKINNY-128-128 has 40 rounds ... current best attack reaches 18 rounds only

To motivate further cryptanalysis on SKINNY, we propose several (very) reduced versions for a cryptanalysis competition SKINNY securit

The **SKINNY** competition categories

26 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or 40 30 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 36 24 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or 28 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 22 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or 26 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 20 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or 24 rounds of SKINNY-128-128

5 18 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or 22 rounds of SKINNY-128-128

SKINNY-64-128 SKINNY-128-128

SKINNY <mark>securit</mark>

The SKINNY competition categories

We propose **5 categories**, best cryptanalysis for :

- 24 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or
 28 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 gets 4 presents from 4 different countries (chosen by the winner)
- 3 22 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or
 26 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 gets 3 presents from 3 different countries (chosen by the winner)
- 20 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or
 24 rounds of SKINNY-128-128 gets 2 presents from 2 different countries (chosen by the winner)
- 5 18 rounds of SKINNY-64-128 or
 22 rounds of SKINNY-128-128
 gets 1 present (country chosen by the winner)

The SKINNY competition rules

the SKINNY designers will judge the best attack submitted after the deadline, but main criterion will be : final complexity (computations, data and memory), application to other SKINNY versions, novelty, attack model, etc.

b types of attacks :

- single-key and related-key attacks qualify for the competition
- we will decide separately if accelerated brute force (e.g. biclique attacks) qualifies for the competition
- related-cipher attacks do not qualify for the competition
- tweak is allowed for of up to 64 bits for SKINNY-64-128
 (but in that case, security bound is 2^k where k is the key size)
- attacks from the SKINNY document count as already existing attacks
- ▷ if some attacks are similar, the first submitted has priority

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- single-key and related-key attacks qualify for the competition
- we will decide separately if accelerated brute force (e.g. biclique attacks) qualifies for the competition
- related-cipher attacks do not qualify for the competition
- tweak is allowed for of up to 64 bits for SKINNY-64-128
 (but in that case, security bound is 2^k where k is the key size)
- attacks from the SKINNY document count as already existing attacks
- ▷ if some attacks are similar, the first submitted has priority
- gov. agencies can participate to the competition (please send us your full address for prizes delivery)

Submitting to the SKINNY competition



When :

- ▶ start : now !
- end : deadline for submission 1st of March 2017

Attacks are to be submitted to skinny@googlegroups.com (state in the submission from which countries you want the gift)

