

# Differential Analysis of Block Ciphers SIMON and SPECK

Alex Biryukov, Arnab Roy, Vesselin Velichkov



## Introduction

Light-Weight Block Ciphers: SIMON and SPECK

## Differential Analysis

SIMON: Round Function

Search for Differential Trail

Search for Differential

## Differential Effect in SIMON

Embedded Bipartite Graphs

## Key Recovery Attacks

Practical Attack: 19-round SIMON32

Attacking 11-round SPECK

Attack Summary

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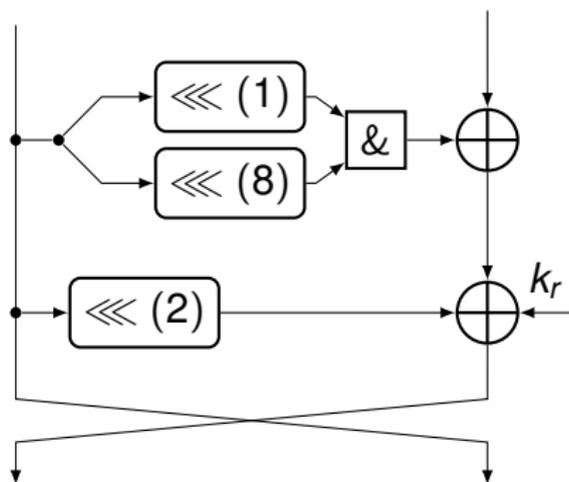
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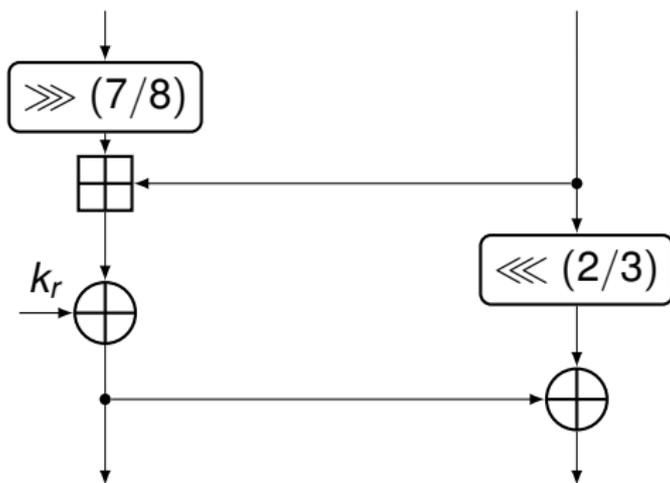
## Conclusion

- ▶ SIMON , SPECK - proposed in 2013, by a group of researchers from the NSA
- ▶ Competitive designs – Simplicity, Efficiency
- ▶ Both are constructed on ARX principle
- ▶ SIMON – Feistel design with ARX based function
- ▶ SPECK – ARX, Resemblance with *Threefish*

Feistel design with very simple  $F$ -function

Block Size – 32, 48, 64 with key size 64, 72 or 96, 96 or 128 respectively.

Round function is similar to Threefish XOR round-key instead of (modular)adding the round-key



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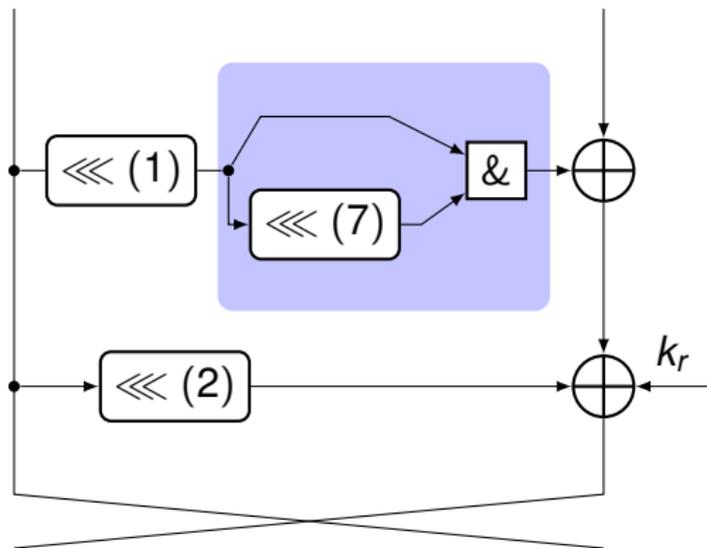
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# SIMON: DP of A(nd)RX round function

$\Pr(\alpha \rightarrow \gamma) =$

$$\frac{|\{x : (x \wedge (x \lll r)) \oplus ((x \oplus \alpha) \wedge ((x \oplus \alpha) \lll r)) = \gamma\}|}{2^n}$$



# DP: Path counting in DAG

Find DP  $\iff$  Count paths in a DAG

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 $\alpha_0 \alpha_3 \gamma_0$ 

<b>00</b>	<b>0</b>
-----------	----------

 $\alpha_2 \alpha_0 \gamma_2$ 

<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
-----------	----------

 $\alpha_4 \alpha_2 \gamma_4$ 

<b>01</b>	<b>0</b>
-----------	----------

 $\alpha_1 \alpha_4 \gamma_1$ 

<b>10</b>	<b>0</b>
-----------	----------

 $\alpha_3 \alpha_1 \gamma_3$ 

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0	0	0
---	---	---

$\alpha_2 \alpha_0 \gamma_2$

1	0	0
---	---	---

$\alpha_4 \alpha_2 \gamma_4$

0	1	0
---	---	---

$\alpha_4 \alpha_3 \alpha_2 \alpha_1 \alpha_0$

$\alpha_2 \alpha_1 \alpha_0 \alpha_4 \alpha_3$

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0	1	0
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01	0
----	---

 $x_0 \underline{x_3}$ 

00
----

 $x_2 x_0$ 

00
----

 $x_4 x_2$ 

00
----

 $x_1 x_4$ 

00
----

 $\underline{x_3} x_1$ 

00
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01
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01
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01
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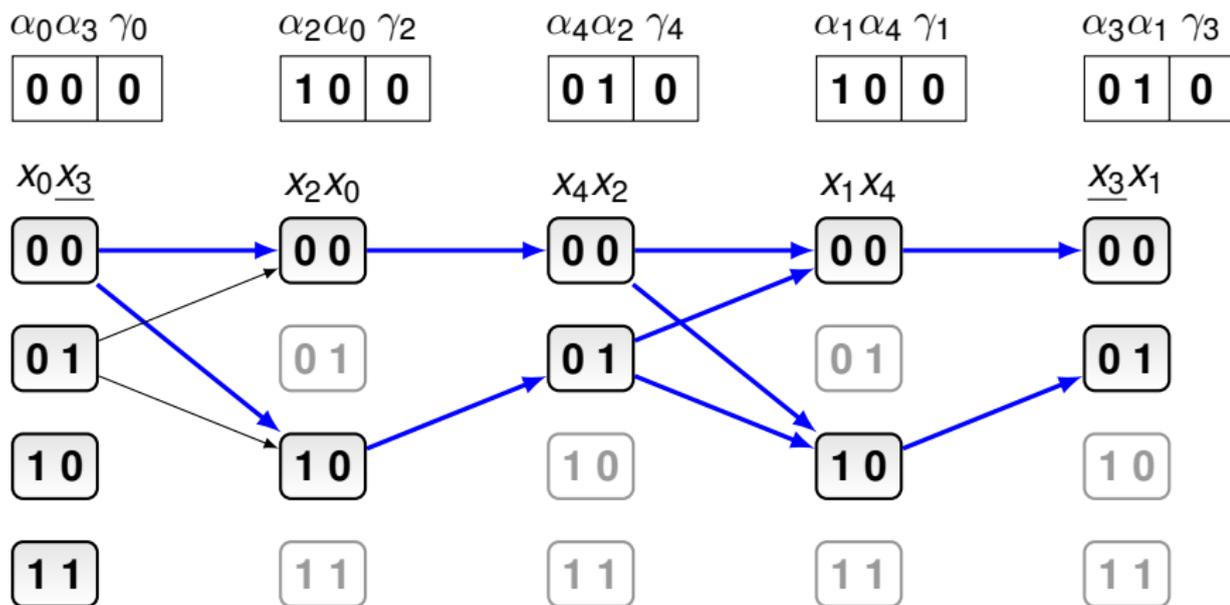
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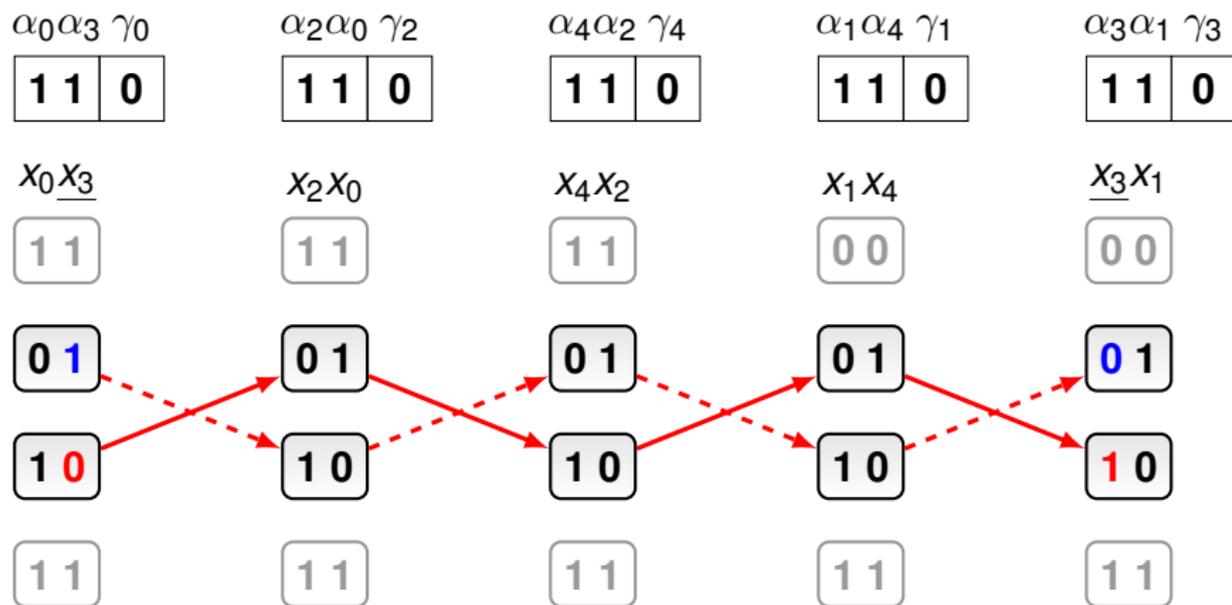
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Find DP  $\iff$  Count paths in a DAG (Example:  $n=5, r=2$ )



# Example: Impossible I/O Difference



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- ▶ **Matsui**[EuroCrypt'94] : while selecting DP of round  $\ell$  check  $p = p_1 \cdot p_2 \dots p_\ell \cdot B_{n-\ell} \geq \overline{B}_n$ , if  $p \geq \overline{B}_n$  update the bound
- ▶ Problem: DDT requires exponential memory for ARX designs

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- ▶ **Biryukov-Velichkov** [CT-RSA'14]: Use partial DDT table for ARX (*Threshold Search*)
- ▶ The pDDT -  $\mathcal{D}$  contains  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  iff  $p(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \geq p_\tau$

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- ▶ The pDDT -  $\mathcal{D}$  contains  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  iff  $p(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \geq p_\tau$
- ▶ While searching, if some  $(\alpha \rightarrow \beta) \notin \mathcal{D}$ , then it is possible to take several options e.g. Choose greedily, Search all possible, Highway-Country Road approach

# Using the *Threshold Search* for ARX

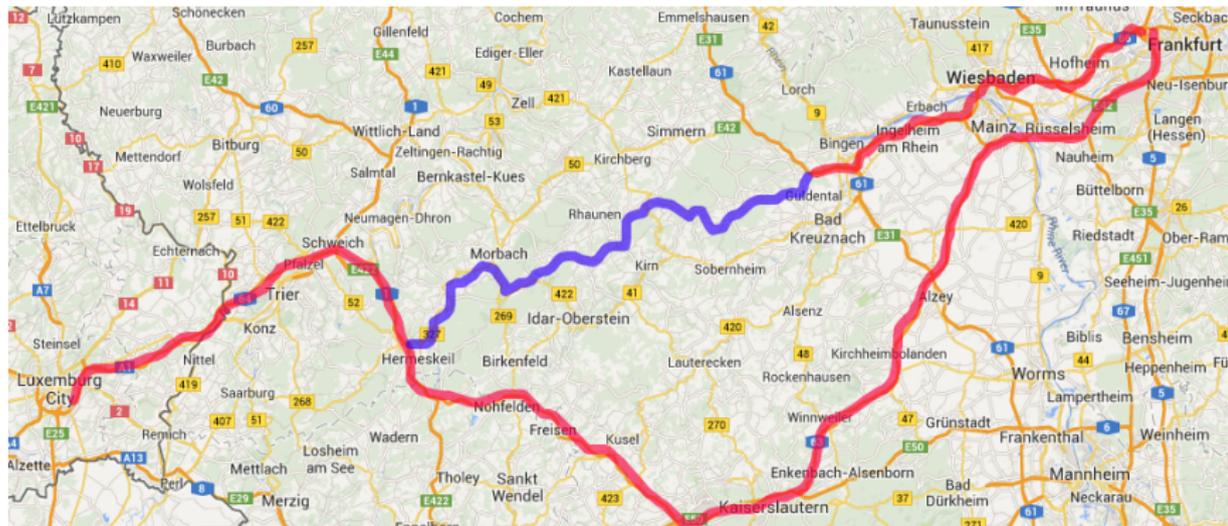
- ▶ Parameters in *Threshold Search*: Size of pDDT (and  $p_\tau$ ), precomputation time for pDDT
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- ▶ Restrict size of  $\mathcal{D}'$  – By Hamming weight of the differences; Used for SPECK
- ▶ Another way – select  $(\alpha \rightarrow \beta)$  at round  $\ell$  such that at round  $\ell + 1$  there is at least one transition  $\in \mathcal{D}$ ; Used for SIMON together with Hamming weight

# Highway-Country Road Analogy

## Route: Luxembourg to Frankfurt



The Highway only route – 2hr 46min  
Highway-Country Road – 2hr 31min

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- ▶ We extend the *Threshold Search* for clustering trails.
- ▶ **Main Idea:** for round  $\ell$  select transition with  $p_\ell$ :  
 $(p_1 \cdot p_2 \dots p_{\ell-1} p_\ell \cdot B_{n-\ell}) \geq \epsilon \cdot B_n$
- ▶ Input: Best trail found by *threshold Search*, pDDT table,  $\epsilon$

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- ▶ Input: Best trail found by *threshold Search*, pDDT table,  $\epsilon$
- ▶ **Efficiency:** Hamming weight and probability constraints can be applied
- ▶ Difference with branch-and-bound – We prune the search tree by limiting the search to  $\epsilon$  region of the best known probability

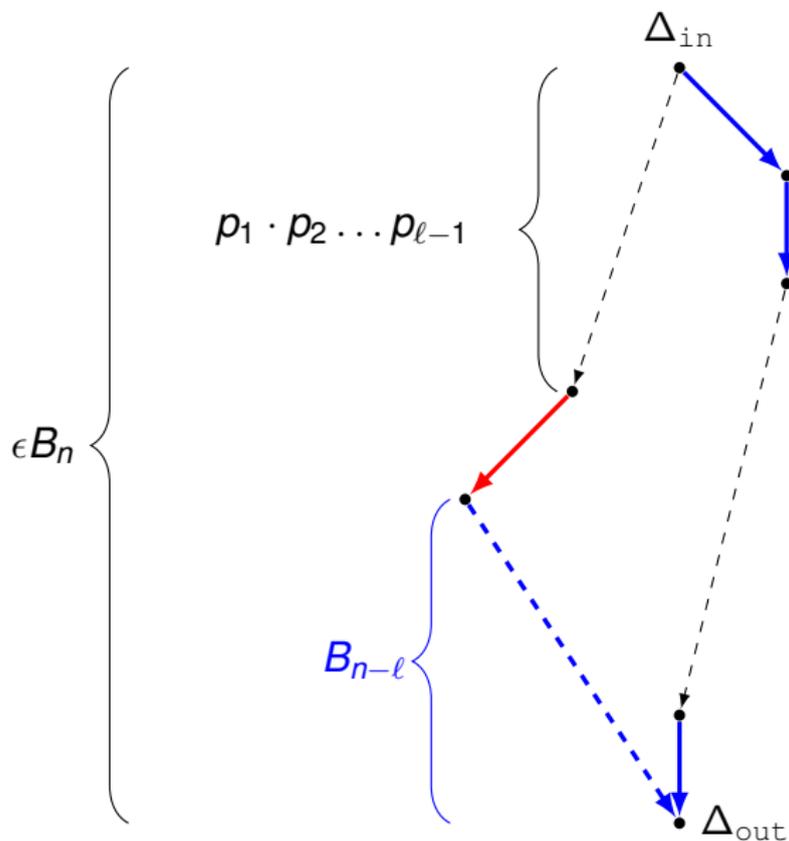
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- ▶ **Efficiency:** Hamming weight and probability constraints can be applied
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- ▶ We apply this technique to both SIMON and SPECK

# An overview: Differential Search





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# Search Results

Cipher	# rounds	$\log_2 p$ , trail	$\log_2 p$ , diff.	# trails
SIMON32	13	<b>-36</b>	<b>-29.69</b>	<b>45083</b>
			<b>-28.11</b>	full search
	14	-36	-30.20	-
			<b>-30.94</b>	full search
SIMON48	15	<b>-48</b>	<b>-42.11</b>	<b>112573</b>
			-52	-43.01
SIMON64	20	<b>-70</b>	<b>-58.68</b>	<b>210771</b>
		-70	-59.01	-
	21	-72	<b>-60.53</b>	<b>337309</b>
		-72	-61.01	-
SPECK32	9	<b>-30</b>	<b>-30</b>	1
SPECK48	10	<b>-40</b>	<b>-39.75</b>	<b>137</b>
			-40.55	-
	11	<b>-47</b>	<b>-46.48</b>	<b>384</b>
SPECK64	13	<b>-58</b>	<b>-57.70</b>	48
			-58.90	-
	14	<b>-60</b>	<b>-59.11</b>	<b>125</b>

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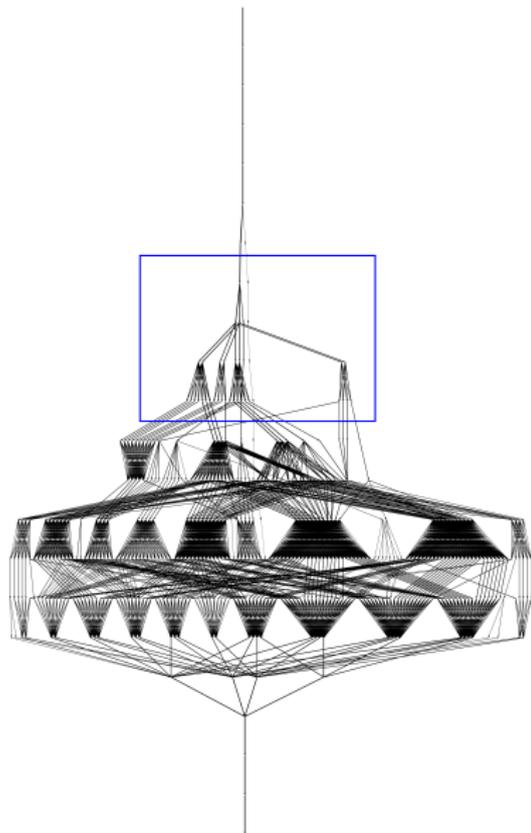
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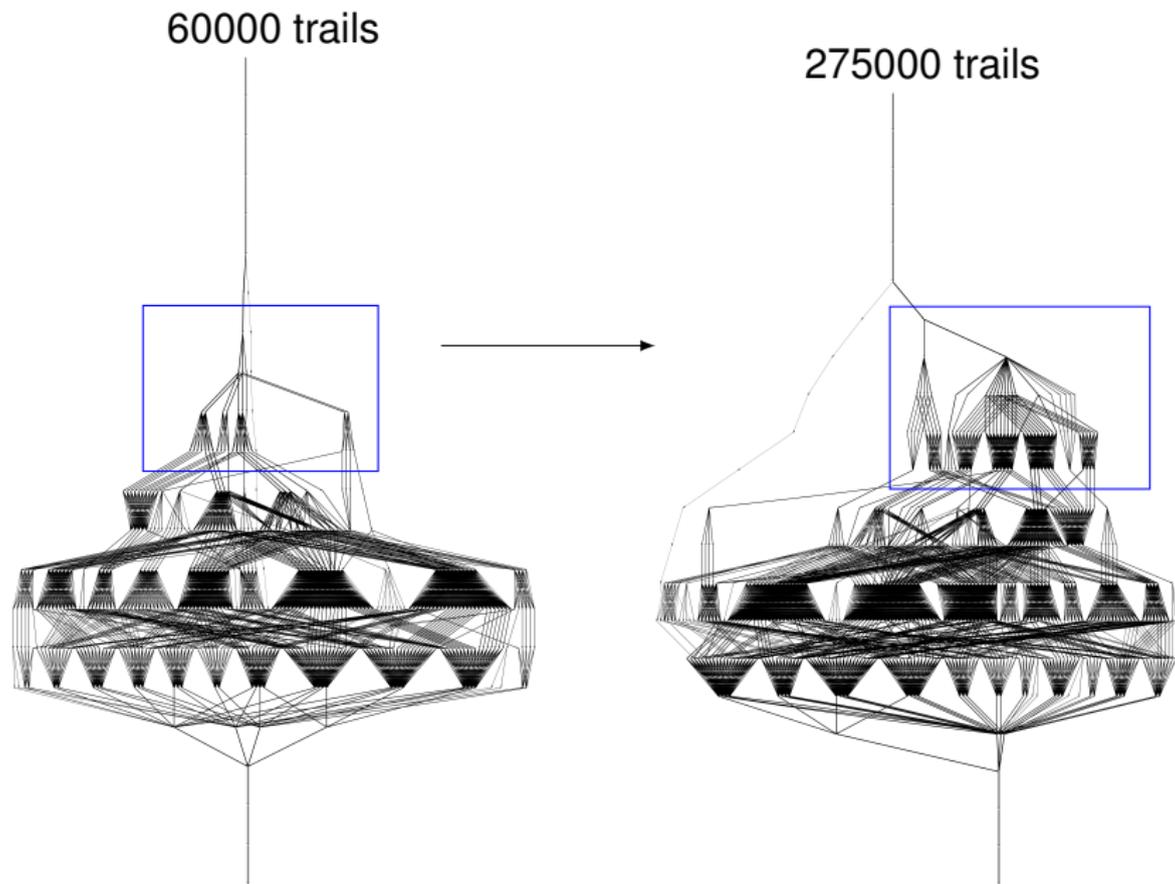
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# The differential graph for SIMON

60000 trails



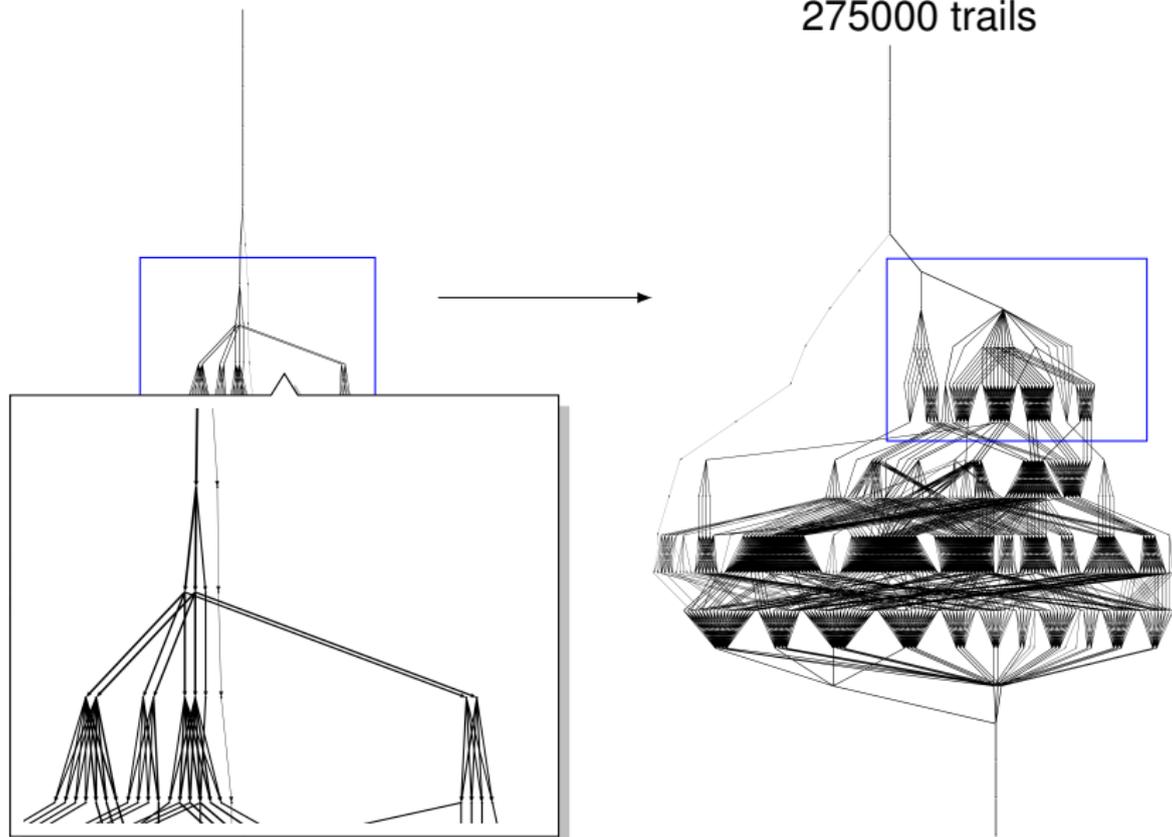
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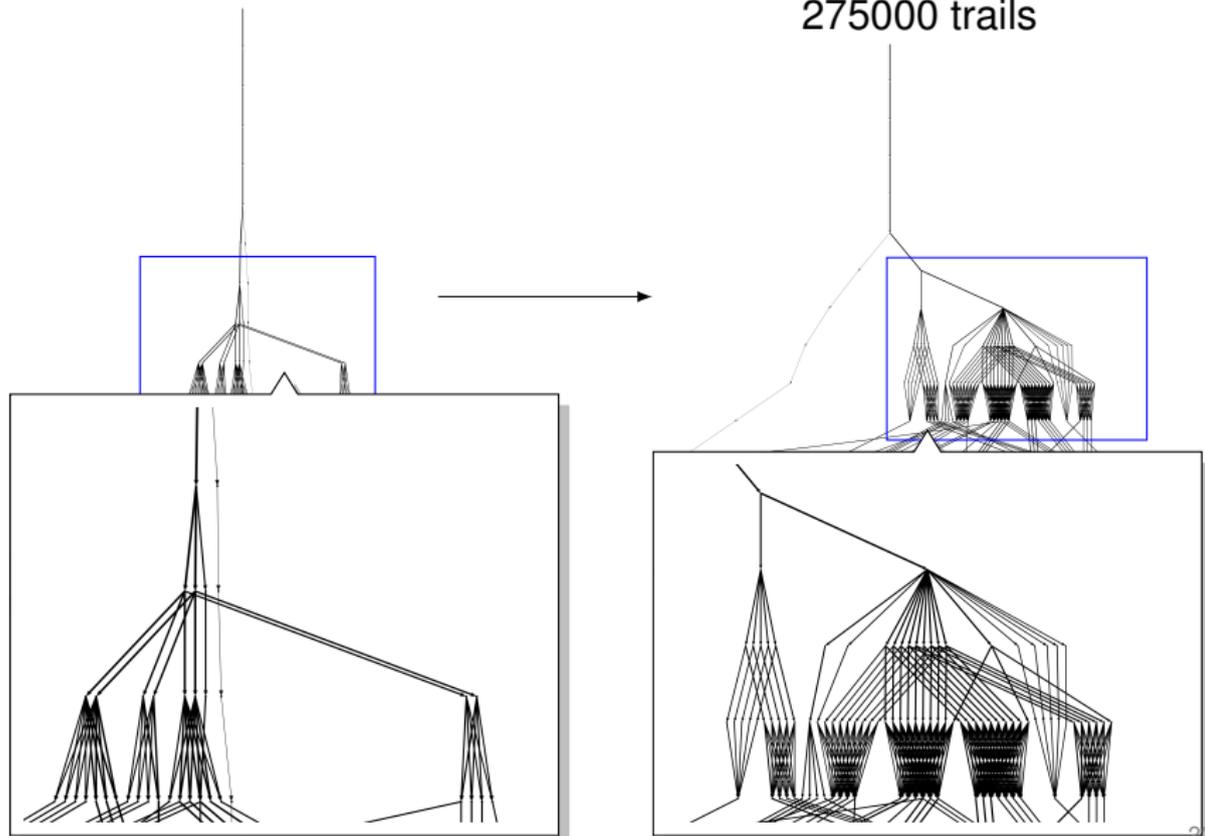
275000 trails



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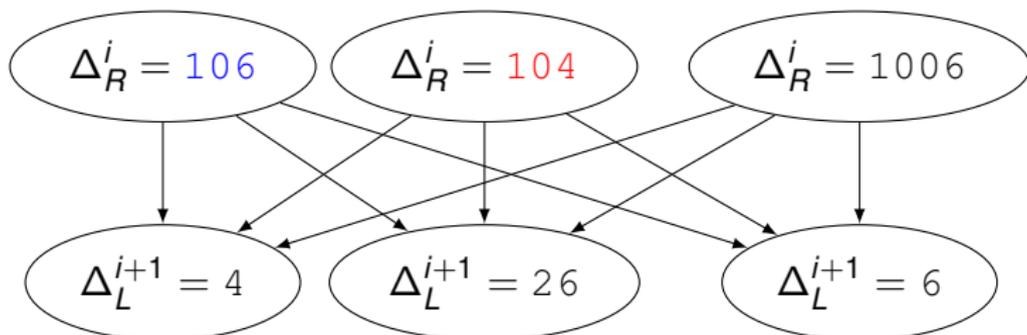
275000 trails



# Bipartite Subgraph of Trails

Feistel:  $\Delta_L^i = 11 \implies \Delta_R^{i+1} = 11$

$\Delta_L^i \xrightarrow{f} \nabla = \{000* \ 000* \ 00*0 \ 00*0\}$



$$\nabla \oplus (\Delta_L^i \lll 2) \oplus \Delta_R^i = \Delta_L^{i+1}$$

$$120 \oplus (22) \oplus 106 = 4$$

$$122 \oplus (22) \oplus 104 = 4$$

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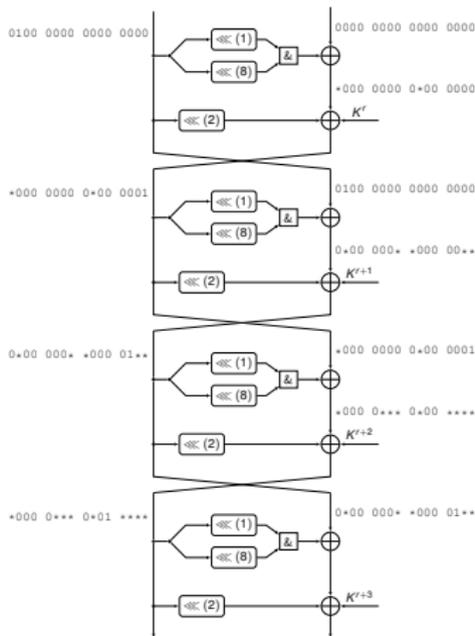
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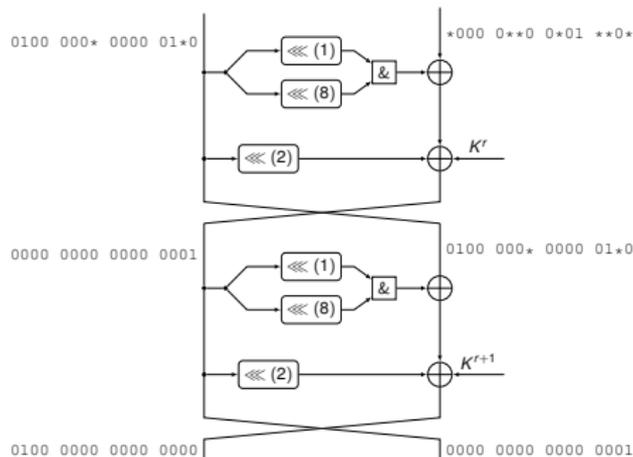
# 19 Round SIMON32: Practical Attack

Use 13 round differential with probability  $\approx 2^{-28.11}$ , Add 2 rounds on top, 4 rounds at the end



Guess 25 bits (and linear combinations) from  $K^{18}, K^{17}, K^{16}$

- ▶ Identify pairs satisfying top 2 rounds truncated difference – guess 2 bits of  $K^0$



We use four differentials

$$\mathcal{D}_1 : (2000, 8000) \rightarrow (2000, 0)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_2 : (4000, 0001) \rightarrow (4000, 0)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_3 : (0004, 0010) \rightarrow (0004, 0)$$

$$\mathcal{D}_4 : (0008, 0020) \rightarrow (0008, 0)$$

Truncated difference for top 2 round

(0010 0000 \*000 001\*, \*\*00 00\*\* 00\*0 1\*\*0)

(0100 000\* 0000 01\*0, \*000 0\*\*0 0\*01 \*\*0\*)

(000\* 0000 01\*0 0100, 0\*\*0 0\*01 \*\*0\* \*000)

(00\*0 0000 1\*00 1000, \*\*00 \*01\* \*0\*\* 0000)

- ▶ Data Collection: Encrypt structure of size  $2^{30}$
- ▶ Filtering:  $2^{30-18} = 2^{12}$  pairs remain for any  $\mathcal{D}_i$
- ▶ Counting : For each  $\mathcal{D}_i$ 
  - ▶  $2^{12}$  pairs, 25 bit guessing
  - ▶  $2^{17}$  candidates for 25 bits
- ▶ Intersection of Counters:
  - ▶  $\mathcal{D}_1, \mathcal{D}_2$  – 19 common bits (guessed)  $\implies 2^{15}$  for 35 bits
  - ▶ Intersection:  $\mathcal{D}_3, \mathcal{D}_1, \mathcal{D}_2$  – 20 bits common
- ▶  $2^{12}$  candidates for 42 bits
- ▶ Intersection with  $\mathcal{D}_4 \implies 2^7$  candidates for 47 bits **But** 39 from last 4 rounds
- ▶ By brute-forcing rest — total  $2^{25+7} = 2^{32}$  key guesses

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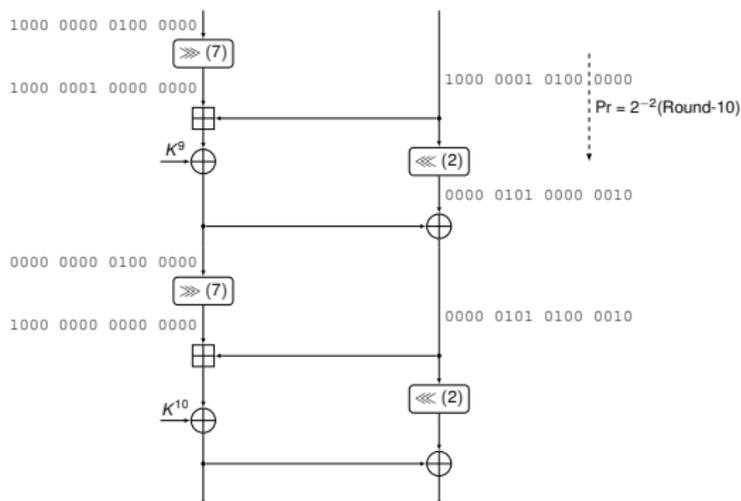
Practical Attack: 19-round SIMON32

**Attacking 11-round SPECK**

Attack Summary

## Conclusion

- ▶ Use 9 round differential with  $p = 2^{-30}$ ; Add one round each on top and at the end



- ▶ Guess 16 bits from  $K^{10}$ , 11 bits from  $K^9$ , 1 carry bit

- ▶ Verify the difference at the end of round 9
- ▶ Keep a counter of size  $2^{28}$
- ▶ Expect  $2^{18}$  counters with 4 increments
- ▶ Bruteforce rest of the  $64 - 27 = 37$  bits of last 4 round-keys
- ▶ Total number of key guessing  $2^{18+37} = 2^{55}$

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# Summary of Attacks

Cipher	Key Size	Rounds Total	Rounds Attacked	Our Results		Known Result	
				Time	Data	Time	Data
SIMON32	64	32	19	$2^{32}$	$2^{31}$	—	—
SIMON48	72	36	20	$2^{52}$	$2^{46}$	—	—
SIMON64	96	36	20	$2^{75}$	$2^{46}$	—	—
	96	42	26	$2^{89}$	$2^{63}$	$2^{94}$	$2^{63*}$
	128	44	26	$2^{121}$	$2^{63}$	$2^{126}$	$2^{63*}$
SPECK32	64	22	11	$2^{55}$	$2^{31}$	—	—
SPECK48	72/96	22	12	$2^{43}$	$2^{43}$	$2^{45.3}$	$2^{45}$
SPECK64	96	26	16	$2^{63}$	$2^{63}$	—	—
	128	27	16	$2^{63}$	$2^{63}$	—	—

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- ▶ Analysis and Linear time (in word size) Algorithm to find DP of SIMON round function
- ▶ Threshold Search with Highway-Country road approach for analysing SIMON and SPECK
- ▶ Extend the *Threshold Search* technique for **Differential Search**
- ▶ Improved differentials for SIMON and SPECK
- ▶ All these methods are generic and can be used to analyse ARX designs
- ▶ Additionally, use the differentials for key recovery attack on reduced round SIMON and SPECK