# Collision attack on NaSHA-512

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**Abstract.** The hash function NaSHA [1] is a new algorithm proposed for SHA-3. The compression function adopts quasigroup transformations, which raise obstacles to analysis. However, the high probability difference to cause inner collision can be found in the quasigroup transformations. We propose a collision attack to NaSHA-512 with the time complexity  $2^{192}$  and negligible memory, which is lower than the complexity of birthday attack to NaSHA-512. Using the similar method, we find free-start collision on all versions with negligible complexity.

# 1 Description of NaSHA

NaSHA [1] is a hash functions family, defined as NaSHA-(m,k,r). It adopts linear transformations  $LinTr_{2^s}$  and quasigroup transformations  $\mathcal{MT}$ . The parameters m denotes the length of hash value, k denotes the complexity of  $\mathcal{MT}$  and  $2^{2^r}$  denotes the order of used quasigroup.

The main transformations of  $\mathcal{MT}$  is defined by three transformations  $\mathcal{A}_l$ ,  $\rho$  and  $\mathcal{RA}_l$ .

#### Definition 1 (The operation of quasigroup \*).

The operation of quasigroup \* is built from the Extended Feistel Networks  $F_{A,B,C}(L,R) = (r \oplus A, L \oplus B \oplus f_{a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha,\beta,\gamma}(R+C))$ , which is illustrated in Fig 1. The operation  $*(a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha,\beta,\gamma,A,B,C)$  denoted by

$$x *_{(a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha,\beta,\gamma,A,B,C)} y = F_{A,B,C}(x \oplus y) \oplus y$$

is the quasigroup operation in  $\mathbb{Z}_2^{64}$ .

Definition 2 (Quasigroup additive string transformations  $A_l: Q^t \to Q^t$  with leader l). Let t be a positive integer, let (Q, \*) be quasigroup,  $Q = (z)_{2^n}$ , and  $l, x_j, z_j \in Q$ .

$$A_l(x_1, \dots x_t) = (z_1, \dots z_t) \Leftrightarrow z_j = \begin{cases} (l+x_1) * x_1, & j=1\\ (z_{j-1} + x_j) * x_j, & 2 \le j \le t \end{cases}$$

where + is addition modulo  $2^n$ . The element l is said to be a leader of A. The transformation is illustrated in Fig 2.

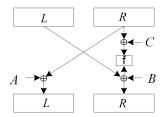


Fig. 1. The extended Feistel networks



Fig. 2. The transformations  $A_l$ 

The definition of  $\rho$  and  $\mathcal{RA}_l$  can be refer to the specification of NaSHA [1]. We ignore them because them have no relation with the attack.

We give a short description of NaSHA-(512,2,6), which adopts 2048-bit (32 words) state and output 512-bit hash value.

Firstly, the 512-bits message block M and the 512-bits initial value H form the state S alternately:

$$S = M_1 ||H_1||M_2||H_2||M_3||H_3||...||M_{16}||H_{16}|$$

Secondly, update state words 32 times by the transformations of  $LinTr_{512}$ , which is defined by:

$$LinTr_{512}(S_1||S_2||...||S_{31}||S_{32}) = (S_7 \oplus S_{15} \oplus S_{25} \oplus S_{32})||S_1||S_2||...||S_{31})$$

Then choose parameters for the quasigroup transformations  $\mathcal{MT}$  according to the values of  $S_1$  to  $S_{16}$ . And update the state one time by quasigroup transformations  $\mathcal{MT}$ .

After all message blocks have been processed, NaSHA-(512,2,6) output:

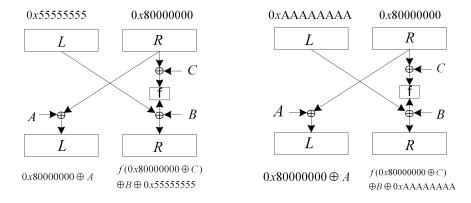
NaSHA-
$$(512, 2, 6)(M) = S_4||S_8||...||S_{28}||S_{32}|$$

### 2 Observations of NaSHA

We observed some properties, which help us to find collision in NaSHA-512.

Observation 1 (Differential of basic calculation) (a + x) \* x is the basic calculation in the transformations  $A_l$ , which is defined by the Extended Feistel Network.

The calculations of  $F_{A,B,C}$  are illustrated in Fig 3.



**Fig. 3.** The calculation of  $F_{A,B,C}$ 

Observation 2 (The output of basic calculation) According to the definition of (a+x)\*x, for the same parameters  $(a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha,\beta,\gamma)$ , the output value of (a+x)\*x can be changed by modifying the parameters A, B and C.

Especially, given a and x, we can choose the parameters of A, B and C to make (a+x)\*x=a. For the same parameters  $(a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha,\beta,\gamma,A,B,C)$ , (a+x')\*x'=a always holds if the difference  $\Delta x=x\oplus x'=0$ 0x00000000FFFFFFFF.

Observation 3 (Continuous collisions in  $A_l$ ) According to the observation 1 and the observation 2, difference sequence to generate continuous collisions in full transformation of  $A_l$  can be constructed easily.

Firstly, select the triple x, x', a to make (a + x) \* x = (a + x') \* x' for any quasigroup operation \*. Secondly, select the parameters of the operation \* to make (a + x) \* x = a hold. For the basic calculation of  $(z_{j-1} + x_j) * x_j$ , if  $z_{j-1} = a$  and  $x_j = x_{j+1} = \ldots = x_{j+k} = x$  (k denotes the length of the differential sequence), after the transformation  $A_l$ , all differences on the difference sequence will be absorbed.

We can control the state words before the transformation  $\mathcal{A}_l$  freely to keep  $x_j = x_{j+1} = \ldots = x_{j+k} = x$  due to the message input scheme. It is not easy to control the state words directly after  $\mathcal{A}_l$ , such as  $z_{j-1}$ . The continuous collision requires one word conditions (64 bits) on the first leader  $(z_{j-1})$ .

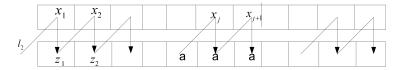


Fig. 4. Continuous collision in  $A_l$ 

Observation 4 (Difference absorption for parameters) The first 16-words of state will be used as parameters of the quasigroup operations. However, it is easy to select differences on state words to make no difference on these parameters.

For example:  $\alpha_1 ||\beta_1||\gamma_1||\alpha_2 = S_7 + S_8$ . If  $\Delta S_7 = \Delta S_8 = \Delta x$  and  $S_7 = x, S_7' = x', S_8 = x', S_8' = x$ , then  $S_7 + S_8 = x + x' = S_7' + S_8'$ . Parameters  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1, \alpha_2$  have no differences.

Observation 5 (Freedom on state words) For NaSHA-512, only 16-word out of 32-word are used to calculate parameters of quasigroup transformation, some state words can be changed freely while parameters of quasigroup transformation keeps.

First 16-word of state is chose to calculate parameters of quasigroup transformation  $A_l$  and  $\mathcal{R}A_l$ . Eight state words are selected as parameters of quasigroup

transformation  $A_l$  as follows:

$$\begin{split} S_3 + S_4 &= l_2, \\ S_5 + S_6 &= a_1 ||b_1||c_1||a_2||b_2||c_2||a_3||b_3, \ c_3 = a_1, \\ S_7 + S_8 &= \alpha_1 ||\beta_1||\gamma_1|| -, \\ S_{11} + S_{12} &= A||B, S_{13} + S_{14} = C||-. \end{split}$$

 $l_2$  is the 64-bit leader of  $\mathcal{A}_l$ , the 8-bit words  $a_1, b_1, c_1, a_2, b_2, c_2, a_3, b_3, c_3$ , the 16-bit words  $\alpha_1, \beta_1, \gamma_1$  and the 32-bit words A, B, C are parameters of the operation \*. (The two – denotes the values do not used in  $\mathcal{A}_l$ ).

These observations can be used to construct collision in full transformation  $\mathcal{A}_l$ .

### 3 Collision attack of NaSHA-512

According to these observations in section 2, we can choose differences on state words to find collision. Some differential patterns can be found. The differential pattern illustrated in Fig 5 can generate collision with least conditions and most free state words. We set three continuous differentials on state words, which results in the complexity of  $2^{3*64}$  because three words conditions need to be fulfilled. We have enough free words to satisfied all conditions. Following we explain the details.

#### 3.1 Differential Pattern

Following we give a differential pattern with three continuous differentials.

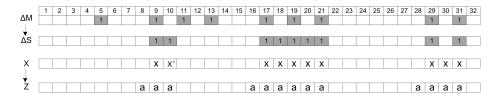


Fig. 5. The differential pattern

Following the differential pattern, we set differences on the state words after  $LinTr_{512}$ :  $\Delta S_9 = \Delta S_{10} = \Delta S_{17} = \Delta S_{18} = \Delta S_{19} = \Delta S_{20} = \Delta S_{21} = \Delta S_{29} = \Delta S_{31} = \Delta x = 0$ x00000000FFFFFFFF. No difference exists on other state words. Set the value of state words  $S_9 = x$ ,  $S_{10} = x'$  and set  $S_{17}$ ,  $S_{18}$ ,  $S_{19}$ ,  $S_{20}$ ,  $S_{21}$ ,  $S_{29}$ ,  $S_{30}$ ,  $S_{31}$  as x or x'.

The state words will be process by the transformation  $A_l$ :

$$A_l(S_1, S_2, ..., S_{31}, S_{32}) = (z_1, z_2, ..., z_{31}, z_{32}).$$

According to the observation 3, if three headers  $z_8 = z_{16} = z_{21} = a$ , all differences on the state words absorbed. That is sufficient conditions for the differential pattern to generate collision attack.

Following we explain how to select free state words to fulfill the three words conditions.

#### 3.2 Free State Words

To use the given differential pattern to generate collision, we need some free state words to satisfy these three words conditions.

Denote H as initial value,  $M_{LinTr_{512}}^{32\times16}$  as the transformation matrix from the state S to H.

$$H = \begin{bmatrix} H_1 \\ H_2 \\ \cdots \\ H_{16} \end{bmatrix} = M_{LinTr_{512}}^{16 \times 32} \times \begin{bmatrix} S_1 \\ S_2 \\ \cdots \\ S_{31} \\ S_{32} \end{bmatrix}$$

According to the linear transformation of  $LinTr_{512}$ , we can get the algebraic equations among state words as follows.

among state words as follows. 
$$S_{7} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{1} \oplus S_{2}$$

$$S_{13} \oplus S_{15}$$

$$S_{15} \oplus S_{16}$$

$$S_{22} \oplus S_{23}$$

$$S_{24} \oplus S_{25}$$

$$S_{26} \oplus S_{27}$$

$$S_{28} \oplus S_{32}$$

$$S_{32} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{15} \oplus S_{10} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{15} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{11} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{12} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{13} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{14} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S_{11}$$

$$S_{15} \oplus S_{11} \oplus S$$

Where H' is a constants vector, which denotes the linear relationship of initial value words.  $S_{fix}$  denotes the linear relationship of these 10 state words  $(S_9, S_{10}, S_{17}, S_{18}, S_{19}, S_{20}, S_{21}, S_{29}, S_{30}, S_{31})$ , which need to be pointed by following the differential pattern, refer to Appendix A. In S' 16 state words are limited by the 16 equations in (1). There are still 6 free words  $(S_5, S_6, S_7, S_8, S_{11}, S_{14})$  left. We need set right parameters A, B and C to make (a+x)\*x = a. The parameters of A, B and C can be calculated by:

$$S_{11} + S_{12} = S_{11} + (S_7 \oplus S_8 \oplus C_1), \tag{2}$$

$$S_{13} + S_{14} = S_{14} + (S_6 \oplus C_2). \tag{3}$$

Where  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  denote the fixed values in H' and  $S_{fix}$ . This two equations (2) and (3) need to be fulfilled and will cost 2 words out of 6 free words.

As a result, we can find 4 free state words left to satisfy three words conditions. For example, we use  $S_{11}$  and  $S_{14}$  for the calculation of parameters and select  $S_5$ ,  $S_6$ ,  $S_7$ ,  $S_8$  as free state words.

#### 3.3 Generate Collision

Following the differential pattern and select free state words, we can find right state words to generate continuous collision of  $\mathcal{A}_l$ . If after the transformation  $\mathcal{A}_l$ , these values of state words  $z_8 = z_{16} = z_{28} = a$  hold, generate continuous collision of  $\mathcal{A}_l$  will happen and we can find collision. Algorithm 1 explains how to find message pairs to generate collision for details.

#### Algorithm 1 Searching message pairs causing collision

```
Input: x, x', a \text{ s.t. } (a + x) * x = (a + x') * x'
```

Output: the message pairs M and M' causing collision on NaSHA-512.

- 1. Choose  $S_5, S_6, S_7, S_8$  randomly
- 2. Calculate parameters  $a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha_1,\beta_1,\gamma_1$ :  $a_1||b_1||c_1||a_2||b_2||c_2||a_3||b_3=S_5+S_6,c_3=a_1,\\ \alpha_1||\beta_1||\gamma_1||-=S_7+S_8.$
- 3. Calculate parameters A, B, C s.t.(a + x) \* x = (a + x') \* x' = a: Choose parameters C randomly,  $A \leftarrow 0$ ;  $B \leftarrow 0$ ; calculate  $z = ((a + x) *_{a_1,b_1,c_1,a_2,b_2,c_2,a_3,b_3,c_3,\alpha_1,\beta_1,\gamma_1,A,B,C} x,$  $A||B \leftarrow (z \oplus a)$ .
- 4. Calculate State words:

$$S_{12} = S_7 \oplus S_8$$
;  $S_{13} = S_6$ ;  $S_{11} = (A||B) - S_{12}$ ;  $S_{14} = (C||-) - S_{13}$ ;  $S_1 \cdots S_4, S_{15}, S_{16}, S_{22}, \cdots, S_{28}, S_{32}$  according to equation (1).

- 5. Calculate the leader  $l_2$ .
- 6. Do the transformation of  $A_l$  and check:

if 
$$\left\{ \begin{aligned} z_8 &= \mathcal{A}_l(S_1, S_2, \cdots, S_8) = a \text{ and} \\ z_{16} &= \mathcal{A}_l(S_1, S_2, \cdots, S_{16}) = \mathcal{A}_l(z_8, S_9, \cdots, S_{15}, S_{16}) = a \text{ and} \\ z_{28} &= \mathcal{A}_l(S_1, S_2, \cdots, S_{28}) = \mathcal{A}_l(z_{16}, S_{17}, \cdots, S_{21}, S_{22}, \cdots, S_{28}) = a \end{aligned} \right\}$$

Calculate message pair M and M' by inversing transformation  $LinTr_{512}$ , then return the message pair (M and M');

Else go to the step 1.

Generally the conditions (3 words, 192 bits) will cost 3 words out of 4 left free state words. According to the Proposition 4 and Remark 1 in [1], after trying  $2^{192}$  times and we can expect to find the right one.

Complexity analysis: The main complexity comes from the  $2^{192}$  times call of  $\mathcal{A}_l$  and requires negligible memory. Finally, we can find collision to NaSHA-512 with the complexity of  $2^{192}$ .

### 4 Free-start collision of NaSHA

Considering of free-start collision attack, we can find more differentials patterns. Fig 6 shows a free-start differential pattern of NaSHA-256. Fig 7 shows a free-start differential pattern of NaSHA-512.

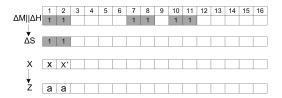


Fig. 6. The free-start differential pattern of NaSHA-256

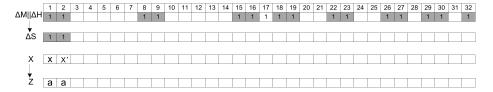


Fig. 7. The free-start differential pattern of NaSHA-512

In the two free-start differential patterns, differences only are deposited on  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ . We select their values as:  $S_1 = x$ ,  $S_2 = x'$ . Choose the value of  $S_3$  and  $S_4$  to make:  $S_3 + S_4 = a$ . Using the similar steps in 3, we can get free-start collisions for all version of NaSHA-(m,k,r). The complexity is trivial. Appendix B gives examples of a message pair and initial values to make free-start collision on NaSHA.

## 5 Conclusion

NaSHA adopts quasigroup transformations, which raises an obstacle to analysis. However, we can find the differential with the high probability in quasigroup

transformations. For NaSHA-512, only 16 words out of 32 words are used as parameters of quasigroup transformations. By analysis the algebraic structure of linear transformation, we can find a collision with the time complexity  $2^{192}$  and negligible memory. The similar differential can be used to find free-start collision for all version with the negligible complexity.

### References

 Smile Markovski, Aleksandra Mileva, Algorithm Specications of NaSHA, 2008. http://inf.ugd.edu.mk/images/stories/file/Mileva/Nasha.htm

# A The linear relationships

H' denotes the linear relationship of initial value words  $(H_i)$  as follows.

```
H' = \begin{cases} H_1 \oplus H_2 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{13} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_1 \oplus H_6 \\ H_6 \oplus H_{10} \\ H_2 \\ H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{14} \oplus H_{15} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_3 \\ H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{14} \oplus H_{15} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_1 \oplus H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{13} \oplus H_{14} \oplus H_{15} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_5 \oplus H_{12} \\ H_3 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_9 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{15} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_1 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_4 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_9 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{12} \oplus H_{15} \oplus H_{16} \\ H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_6 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_9 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{14} \oplus H_{15} \\ H_6 \\ H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_9 \oplus H_{10} \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{15} \\ H_6 \\ H_2 \oplus H_3 \oplus H_5 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_8 \oplus H_9 \oplus H_{11} \oplus H_{14} \oplus H_{15} \\ H_5 \oplus H_7 \oplus H_{12} \end{cases}
```

 $S_{fix}$  denotes the linear relationship of these words need to fix for the differential pattern.

tial pattern. 
$$S_{17} \oplus S_{19} \oplus S_{21} \oplus S_{29} \oplus S_{30}$$

$$S_{9} \oplus S_{17} \oplus S_{19} \oplus S_{20} \oplus S_{21} \oplus S_{30} \oplus S_{31}$$

$$S_{19} \oplus S_{29} \oplus S_{30} \oplus S_{31}$$

$$S_{19} \oplus S_{29} \oplus S_{30} \oplus S_{31}$$

$$S_{21} \oplus S_{31} \oplus S_{31} \oplus S_{21} \oplus S_{30} \oplus S_{31}$$

$$S_{21} \oplus S_{31} \oplus S_{31}$$

# B Message pairs for free-start collision of NaSHA

# B.1 Message pairs and initial values for NaSHA-224 and NaSHA-256

M0: (length: 512 bits)

0x7FFFFFFFFFF1405, 0x0000000000000000,

0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000,

0x0000000FFFFFFF, 0x8000000FFFF1405,

0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000

M1:(length:512 bits)

0x7FFFFFF8000EBFA, 0x0000000000000000000,

```
0x000000000000000, 0x00000000FFFFFFF,
0x0000000000000000, 0x80000000FFFF1405,
0x0000000000000000, 0x0000000000000000
The message digest of NaSHA-256 is:
D96E238F061CED9AB4FC687C33875EFD29EC5DEF0DC7173E61C852B21967F58B
The message digest of NaSHA-224 is:
D96E238F061CED9AB4FC687C33875EFD29EC5DEF0DC7173E61C852B2
```

```
B.2 Message pair and initial values for NaSHA-384 and NaSHA-512
M0: (length: 1024 bits)
H0:
0x000000000000000, 0x00000000000000,
0x000000000000000, 0x00000000FFFFFFF,
0xFFFFFFF80000000, 0x000000000000000000,
0x0000000000000000, 0x000000000000000,
0x0000000FFFFFFF, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
0x7FFFFFF8000EBFA, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
0x0000000FFFFFFFF, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
M1: (length: 1024 bits)
H1:
0x0000000FFFFFFF, 0x000000000000000,
0x0000000000000000, 0x000000000000000,
0xFFFFFFF80000000, 0x000000000000000000,
0x000000000000000, 0x00000000FFFFFFF,
0x0000000000000000, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
0x7FFFFFFF7FFF1405, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
0x0000000000000000, 0xFFFFFFF80000000,
The message digest of NaSHA-512 is:
9401156AAA365B353FB7B3FD8A7D4CA944F4BA788C7FCFADBE1411E4ADCBEBD9
ECB7ECF86528134A30C639FB083EC658782D9FBFE730051E15458227E96C3DCF
The message digest of NaSHA-384 is:
```

9401156AAA365B353FB7B3FD8A7D4CA944F4BA788C7FCFADBE1411E4ADCBEBD9

ECB7ECF86528134A30C639FB083EC658