

# Security Analysis of SKINNY under Related-Tweakey Settings

Guozhen Liu<sup>1,2</sup>, Mohona Ghosh<sup>1</sup>, and Ling Song<sup>1,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

<sup>2</sup> Shanghai JiaoTong University, China

<sup>3</sup> State Key Laboratory of Information Security,  
Institute of Information Engineering, Chinese Academy of Sciences, China

liuguozhen@sjtu.edu.cn, {mohonaghosh, songling}@ntu.edu.sg

**Abstract.** In CRYPTO'16, a new family of tweakable lightweight block ciphers - SKINNY was introduced. Denoting the variants of SKINNY as SKINNY- $n-t$ , where  $n$  represents the block size and  $t$  represents the tweak length, the design specifies  $t \in \{n, 2n, 3n\}$ . In this work, we evaluate the security of SKINNY against differential cryptanalysis in the related-tweakey model. First, we investigate truncated related-tweakey differential trails of SKINNY and search for longest impossible and rectangle distinguishers where there is only one active cell in the input and the output. Based on the distinguishers obtained, 18, 22 and 27 rounds of SKINNY- $n-n$ , SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$  can be attacked respectively. Moreover, actual differential trails for SKINNY under related-tweakey model are also explored and optimal differential trails of SKINNY-64 within certain number of rounds are searched with an indirect searching method based on Mixed-Integer Linear Programming. The results show a trend that as the number of rounds increases, the probability of optimal differential trails is much lower than the probability derived from lower bounds of active Sboxes in SKINNY.

**Keywords:** Block cipher, SKINNY, Impossible Differential Attack, Rectangle Attack, Related-Tweakey

## 1 Introduction

Ubiquitous computing is rapidly emerging as the new computing paradigm in information technology sector. The mass development and deployment of pervasive devices such as RFID tags, sensors, smartcards etc. promises many benefits such as lower implementation costs, optimized performance and increased efficiency. At the same time, these devices demand harsh costs constraints like lower memory availability, lower area requirements and power constraints. Ensuring strong security from cryptographic point of view under such circumstances becomes a striving issue. Lightweight cryptography is a field of cryptography which encompasses the current state-of-the-art cryptographic algorithms that are tailored for implementation in constrained environments and directly cater to the

security concerns of low cost devices. With the growing interest of symmetric cryptographic community in this field, several lightweight variants of traditional cryptographic primitives such as *lightweight block ciphers* (PRESENT [12], LED [15], SIMON [4] etc.), *lightweight hash functions* (Spongnet [11], Photon [14], Quark [2] etc.) and *lightweight stream ciphers* (Mickey [3], Grain [16], Trivium [13] etc.) have been proposed and studied in literature to address the design and security goals of lightweight ciphers.

In this work, we focus on the security analysis of SKINNY which is the latest addition to the list of lightweight block ciphers. Proposed by Beierle et al. in CRYPTO'16 [5], the design of SKINNY has many attractive features. Firstly, its design can be seen as a first step towards bridging the gap between high operational efficiency vs. strong security. By careful analysis and thorough investigation, the designers of SKINNY show how non-optimal but very light internal crypto components can be combined together to provide a cipher which has competitive performance as well as strong security guarantees in both single key as well as related key settings. Currently, all the other existing lightweight block ciphers can address only one of the parameters effectively. Secondly, inspired from the TWEAKEY framework [17], SKINNY replaces its key input with a tweakable input. This provides the users of SKINNY an added advantage of enjoying the benefits of a tweakable block cipher.

The official SKINNY specification [6] defines two block sizes, i.e., 64-bit and 128-bit. Depending on the block length  $n$ , the tweakable length  $t$  can be  $n$ ,  $2n$  or  $3n$ . Consequently, if we denote a variant of SKINNY as SKINNY- $n-t$ , then the six variants of SKINNY are - SKINNY-64-64, SKINNY-64-128, SKINNY-64-192, SKINNY-128-128, SKINNY-128-256 and SKINNY-128-384. In the design document of SKINNY [6], the designers provide a detailed security evaluation of SKINNY against the traditional block cipher cryptanalysis. However, apart from the differential and linear attacks, for which the lower bounds on the number of active S-boxes under the single key as well as related-tweakey settings have been provided, for other attack types such as MITM, impossible, integral attacks etc. the analysis has been restricted to single key model only. Moreover, in these attacks, only SKINNY- $n-n$  variants have been investigated. Combined with the fact that SKINNY block cipher is yet to receive an external analysis from the cryptographic community motivated us to analyze the security of all SKINNY variants under the related-tweakey model. We utilize related-tweakey impossible and rectangle attacks for our analysis.

***Our Contribution.*** Our main results are summarized in Table 1. For most of our attacks, we employ truncated differential trails to serve our purpose. In all these results, we construct distinguishers where there is only one active cell in the input and the output difference. Moreover, the position of the active cell has been chosen such that maximum number of rounds can be extended in the forward and backward direction from the distinguisher. Under these conditions, the distinguishers so constructed are the longest. However, employing actual differential trails helps in getting longer distinguishers and sometimes getting better cryptanalytic results. Moreover, optimal differential trails of SKINNY-64

within certain number of rounds are searched with an indirect searching method based on Mixed-Integer Linear Programming. The results show a positive trend for the designers that as the number of rounds increases, the probability of optimal differential trails is much lower than the probability derived from lower bounds of active Sboxes in SKINNY.

Recently, the designers of SKINNY announced a competition where they invited the cryptographic community to break SKINNY-64-128 and SKINNY-128-128 under the following categories [1].

- SKINNY-64-128: 18- or 20- or 22- or 24- or 26-rounds
- SKINNY-128-128: 22- or 24- or 26- or 28- or 30-rounds

Through our attacks, we are able to cryptanalyze upto 22-rounds of SKINNY-64-128.

**Table 1:** Summary of cryptanalytic results on SKINNY

Version	Block Size	Rounds	Data	Time	Memory	Dist. Type	Attack Type	Ref.
$n-n$	64	18	$2^{62.8}$	$2^{62.8}$	$2^{62.8}$	Trunc. Diff.	Impossible	§ 3
	128	18	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{123.5}$	Trunc. Diff.	Impossible	
$n-2n$	64	22	$2^{63}$	$2^{109.9}$	$2^{63}$	Trunc. Diff.	Rect.	§ 4
	128	22	$2^{126.5}$	$2^{234}$	$2^{126.5}$	Trunc. Diff.	Rect.	
	128	22	$2^{118.92}$	$2^{250.84}$	$2^{120}$	Diff.	Rect.	§ 5
$n-3n$	64	27	$2^{63}$	$2^{154.9}$	$2^{80}$	Trunc. Diff.	Rect.	§ 4
	128	27	$2^{126.5}$	$2^{322}$	$2^{160}$	Trunc. Diff.	Rect.	
	128	27	$2^{112}$	$2^{300}$	$2^{144}$	Diff.	Rect.	§ 5

**Organization.** This work is organized as follows. In Section 2, we provide a brief description of SKINNY followed by the important notations adopted throughout the work. In Section 3, we give details of our 18-round attack on SKINNY- $n-n$  followed by results on other SKINNY variants under related-tweakey impossible differential attack. In Section 4, we discuss our 22-round attack on SKINNY- $n-2n$  using the related-tweakey boomerang attack and present our results on other variants. In the above sections, we utilize truncated differential trails for our analysis. In Section 5, we investigate actual differential characteristics For SKINNY and present our related-tweakey rectangle attacks based on them. Finally, in Section 6 we summarize and conclude our work.

## 2 Preliminaries

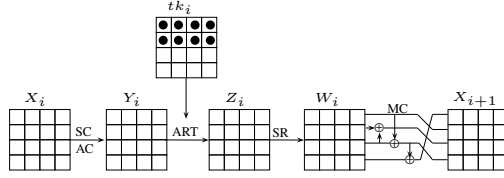
In this section, we first describe SKINNY and then mention the key notations and definitions used in our cryptanalysis technique to facilitate better understanding.

## 2.1 Description of SKINNY

The SKINNY block cipher adopts substitution-permutation network and elements of TWEAKEY framework [17] in its design. Represented as SKINNY- $n-t$ , where,  $n/t$  denotes the block size/ tweak size respectively, this block cipher has six variants namely - SKINNY-64-64, SKINNY-64-128, SKINNY-64/192, SKINNY-128/128, SKINNY-128/256 and SKINNY- 128/384. The number of rounds in each variant are 32, 36, 40, 40, 48 and 56 respectively. Both the 64-bit and 128-bit internal states ( $S$ ) are represented as  $4 \times 4$  array of cells with each cell being a nibble in case of  $n = 64$ -bits and a byte in case of  $n = 128$ -bits. The tweak state is seen as a group of  $z$   $4 \times 4$  arrays, where,  $z = \frac{t}{n}$  and  $z \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ . The arrays are marked as  $TK-1 / TK-1$ ,  $TK-2 / TK-1$ ,  $TK-2$ ,  $TK-3$  for  $z = 1 / 2 / 3$  respectively. <sup>4</sup> In all the cases, the cells are numbered row-wise (as shown in Fig. 1). Each round consists of 5 basic operations (as shown in Fig. 2):

0	1	2	3
4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15

**Figure 1:** Cell numbering in a state of Skinny



**Figure 2:**  $i^{th}$  round of SKINNY. Only the first two rows (cells marked with ● in the round tweak key  $tk_i$ ) are xor'ed in each round

1. *SubCells (SC)* - The non-linear substitution layer uses a 4-bit S-box in case of  $n = 64$ -bits and a 8-bit S-box in case of  $n = 128$ -bits. The maximal differential probability of both 4-bit and 8-bit S-boxes is  $2^{-2}$  and each of them can be shown to be built as a generalized Feistel structure.
2. *AddConstants (AC)* - This step involves xoring three round constants to the first three cells of the first column of an internal state.
3. *AddRoundTweakey (ART)* - In this step, the first two rows of the round tweak key ( $tk_i$ ) are xor'ed with the first two rows of the corresponding internal state. The cells of the round tweak key are of the same size as the respective cell size of the internal state. The round tweak key ( $tk_i$ ) is defined as:

- $z = 1$ :  $tk_i = (TK-1)_i$
- $z = 2$ :  $tk_i = (TK-1)_i \oplus (TK-2)_i$
- $z = 3$ :  $tk_i = (TK-1)_i \oplus (TK-2)_i \oplus (TK-3)_i$

The tweakeys  $(TK-1)_i$ ,  $(TK-2)_i$  and  $(TK-3)_i$  for each round  $i$  are generated by a *tweakey scheduling algorithm*.

<sup>4</sup> The notations followed here are adopted from the original SKINNY document [5] to facilitate better understanding in the subsequent sections.

4. *ShiftRows (SR)* - The linear shift rows operation performs circular right shift on each row of the internal state. The number of shifts in each row  $j$  is  $j$  for  $0 \leq j \leq 3$ .
5. *MixColumns (MC)* - This linear transformation pre-multiplies each column of the internal state by a  $4 \times 4$  binary matrix  $M$  shown below. Again, the construction of *MC* operation is based on a generalized Feistel structure and thus the inverse MixColumns operation ( $M^{-1}$ ) can be computed as shown below.

$$M = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & 0 \end{pmatrix} \qquad M^{-1} = \begin{pmatrix} 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{pmatrix}$$

***Tweakey Scheduling Algorithm (TSA)***. - The tweakey schedule of SKINNY is a linear scheduling algorithm. The tweakey input is first loaded with a  $n$ ,  $2n$  or a  $3n$ -bit tweakey input. Accordingly, we have  $TK-1$  with  $z = 1$  or  $(TK-1, TK-2)$  with  $z = 2$  or  $(TK-1, TK-2, TK-3)$  with  $z = 3$ . The cells in each of these  $4 \times 4$   $TK-m$  arrays (for  $m \in \{1, 2, 3\}$ ) are numbered row-wise as shown in Fig. 1. The round tweakeys are then generated using the tweakey scheduling algorithm as follows:

- *Permutation Phase*: In this phase, a permutation  $P$  defined as:

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

is first applied to each of the  $TK-m$  arrays as:  $TK-m[i] \leftarrow P[i]$  for all  $0 \leq i \leq 15$  depending on  $z = 1, 2$  or  $3$ .

- *LFSR Updation Phase*: In this phase, all cells of the first two rows of  $TK-2$  /  $(TK-2, TK-3)$  for  $z = 2$  /  $3$  are individually updated using a 4-bit (if the cell is a nibble) or a 8-bit (if the cell is a byte) LFSR. Note that  $TK-1$  is not updated in this phase.

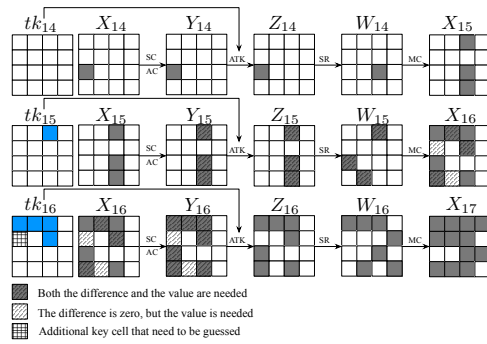
The first two rows of each of the  $(TK-m)_i$  arrays are used to generate the corresponding round tweakey  $tk_i$  as discussed earlier. This process is repeated until all round tweakeys have been generated. For complete details of the state updation process and the tweakey scheduling algorithm, one can refer [5].

## 2.2 Some interesting properties of SKINNY

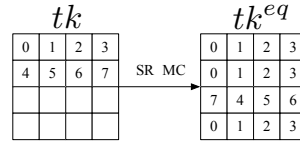
Some interesting properties of SKINNY that were utilized by us during our attacks are as follows:

1. The *TSA* of SKINNY is linear. Hence, if we know the value of differences injected in the master tweakey (at any cell position), the exact differences in all the other round keys can be determined.

- Only the first two rows of each round tweakey are xor'ed with the intermediate state in each round. Thus, because of SKINNY *TSA*, the tweakey cells operating in the  $i^{th}$  round will next appear in  $i^{th} + 2$  round and so on. Moreover, both the phases of SKINNY *TSA* individually update each cell and that too synchronously in all the  $z$ -arrays (i.e., same cell is modified across all the  $z$ -arrays). Combining these two properties together helps in improving the cryptanalytic prospects since difference cancellations can be done in multiple rounds and more rounds can be covered.
- The SKINNY MixColumns matrix is not an MDS matrix. Therefore, during the tweakey recovery phase of an attack, sometimes it is not enough to know the values of only the active cells in the output column of *MC* operation to determine the value of the active cell in the input column and more cells need to be guessed. To highlight this issue, consider Fig. 3.



**Figure 3:** Property of *MixColumns* of SKINNY



**Figure 4:** Reordering of *ART*, *SR* and *MC* operations in a round

In this figure, we have a truncated differential trail with probability 1 from  $\Delta X_{14}$  to  $\Delta X_{17}$ . Now, if we backtrack this trail from  $\Delta X_{17}$  and wish to know the difference at  $\Delta X_{14}[8]$ , it is necessary to determine the value as well as difference at  $Y_{14}[8]$ . This requires us to know the values as well as differences at  $X_{15}[2, 10, 14]$  which in turn can be computed if we know values as well as differences in  $Y_{15}[2, 10, 14] = W_{15}[2, 8, 13]$ . Now, if suppose, values as well as differences in the active cells of the first column of  $X_{16}$  are known, only  $\Delta W_{15}[8]$  can be computed. To compute  $W_{15}[8]$ , value of  $X_{16}[4]$  needs to be known as well (as  $W_{15}[8] = X_{16}[4] \oplus X_{16}[12]$ ). This in turn leads to an additional tweakey cell guess in  $tk_{16}$  as  $tk_{16}[4]$  needs to be guessed to determine  $X_{16}[4]$ .

This property serves as one of the factors in determining the number of rounds covered in the tweakey recovery phase of our attacks.

- The order of *ART*, *SR* and *MC* operations in any round can be changed by first applying *SR* and *MC* operations and then xoring the intermediate state with an equivalent round tweakey input. We denote this equivalent tweakey by  $tk^{eq} = MC(SR(tk))$  as shown in Fig. 4.

### 2.3 Notations and Definitions

The following notations are followed throughout the rest of the paper.

$\mathbf{P}$	: Plaintext
$\mathbf{C}$	: Ciphertext
$c$	: Cell size, where $c \in \{4, 8\}$
$n$	: Block size, where $n \in \{64, 128\}$
$r$	: Number of rounds broken
$\mathbf{R}_d$	: Rounds covered by the distinguisher
$\mathbf{R}_b$	: Rounds extended backward in the tweakey recovery phase
$\mathbf{R}_f$	: Rounds extended forward in the tweakey recovery phase
$i$	: Round number $i$ , where, $1 \leq i \leq r$
$\mathbf{tk}_i$	: Round tweakey of round $i$
$\mathbf{X}_i$	: State before SC, AC in round $i$
$\mathbf{Y}_i$	: State before ART in round $i$
$\mathbf{Z}_i$	: State before SR in round $i$
$\mathbf{W}_i$	: State before MC in round $i$
$\mathbf{Row}(\mathbf{j})$	: $j^{\text{th}}$ row, where, $1 \leq j \leq 4$
$\mathbf{Column}(\mathbf{k})$	: $k^{\text{th}}$ column, where, $1 \leq k \leq 4$
$\Delta \mathbf{s}$	: Difference in a state $\mathbf{s}$
$\mathbf{s}_i[\mathbf{m}]$	: $m^{\text{th}}$ cell of a state $\mathbf{s}$ in round $i$ , where $0 \leq m \leq 15$
$\mathbf{s}_i[\mathbf{p}, \dots, \mathbf{r}]$	: $p^{\text{th}}$ cell, $\dots$ , $r^{\text{th}}$ cell of state $\mathbf{s}$ in round $i$ , where $0 \leq p, r \leq 15$

The time complexity of the attack is measured in terms of number of  $r$ -round SKINNY encryptions required and the memory accesses. The memory complexity is measured in units of 64-bit / 128-bit SKINNY blocks required.

In [5], the designers of SKINNY define the adversarial model to be *TK1*, *TK2* and *TK3* for the scenarios where an attacker can inject differences in the tweakey state based on the respective SKINNY variant used. We follow the same notation in our attacks.

### 3 Related-Tweakey Impossible Differential Attack

In this section, we present our related-tweakey impossible differential attack on SKINNY. We investigate truncated impossible differential trails of SKINNY under certain fixed tweakey differences to mount our attacks. Impossible differential cryptanalysis was first proposed independently by Biham et al. [7] and Knudsen [19]. The main idea of this attack is to find an input difference that can never lead to a particular output difference, i.e., probability of such a differential trail is zero. Then, one can derive the right key by discarding the keys which suggest this impossible differential. Under related-tweakey settings, the development of this differential is studied for two encryptions under related-tweakeys, where the relation between the two secret tweakeys is assumed to be known to the attacker.

Through our related-tweakey impossible differential attacks, we can break 18-rounds, 22-rounds and 27-rounds of SKINNY under *TK1*, *TK2* and *TK3*

respectively. In this section, we discuss in detail our 18-round attack on SKINNY- $n$ - $n$ . Our other attacks work in a similar manner. The attack consists of two phases: *Distinguisher construction phase* and *Tweakey recovery phase*.

### 3.1 12-round Related-Tweakey Impossible Distinguisher under TK1

In this phase, we first construct a 12-round related-tweakey impossible distinguisher. Our distinguisher is placed between Round 4 to Round 16. A 6.5-round related-tweakey differential in the forward direction (having prob. 1) starting at  $Y_4$  (after the  $SC$  and  $AC$  operations in Round 4) is concatenated to a 5.5-round related-tweakey differential (having prob. 1) starting in the reverse direction from  $Y_{16}$  (before the  $ART$  operation in Round 16). The contradiction happens in Round 11 at  $X_{11}[12]$ . The 12-round related-tweakey impossible differential is:

$$(0a00 \mid 0000 \mid 0000 \mid 0000) \xrightarrow{12r} (0000 \mid 0000 \mid 0N00 \mid 0000)$$

Here,  $a$  denotes a fixed non-zero difference and  $N$  denotes any non-zero difference. The round tweakey differences used in the distinguisher are shown in Fig. 5 and in the tweakey recovery phase in Fig. 6.

Since the tweakey schedule for SKINNY is linear, the injected difference value  $a$  in  $\Delta TK-1[11]$  will be preserved in all the even round tweakeys and will be known to the attacker.

The entire impossible differential path is illustrated in Fig. 5.

### 3.2 Tweakey Recovery Attacks

In this section, we use our 12-round related-tweakey impossible differential to attack 18-rounds of SKINNY- $n$ - $n$  using a pair of related-tweakeys. Consider the two secret related-tweakey inputs to be  $(TK-1)^1$  and  $(TK-1)^2 = (TK-1)^1 \oplus \Delta$ , where,  $\Delta = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ a \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0)$ , i.e., they differ at the 11<sup>th</sup> cell-position. The 12-round distinguisher is extended 3.5 rounds at the top and 2.5 rounds in the bottom to cover 6 rounds in the tweakey recovery phase as shown in Fig. 6. As discussed in Section 2.2, the order of  $ART$ ,  $SR$  and  $MC$  operations in round 1 can be changed. Since, the design of SKINNY does not include a pre-whitening key, the input difference at  $W_1$  (denoted as  $P^{ea}$  in Fig. 6) can be considered as the plaintext difference and the equivalent plaintexts so obtained can be rolled back to compute the actual plaintexts. In the following discussion, we start our tweakey recovery attack at  $W_1$  and call the inputs at this position as the plaintext inputs. The steps of our attack are as follows:

1. Consider a pair of structures  $S_1$  and  $S_2$ , where, each structure consists of  $2^{4c}$  plaintexts and for each plaintext pair  $P_1 \in S_1$  &  $P_2 \in S_2$ ,  $P_1 \oplus P_2 = (0 \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \mid 0 \ N \ 0 \ N \mid N \ 0 \ 0 \ 0 \mid 0 \ 0 \ 0 \ N)$ , where  $N$  denotes any cell value. The total number of possible plaintext pairs is  $2^{8c}$ . Generate  $2^x$  such pair of structures and correspondingly  $2^{x+8c}$  plaintext pairs.



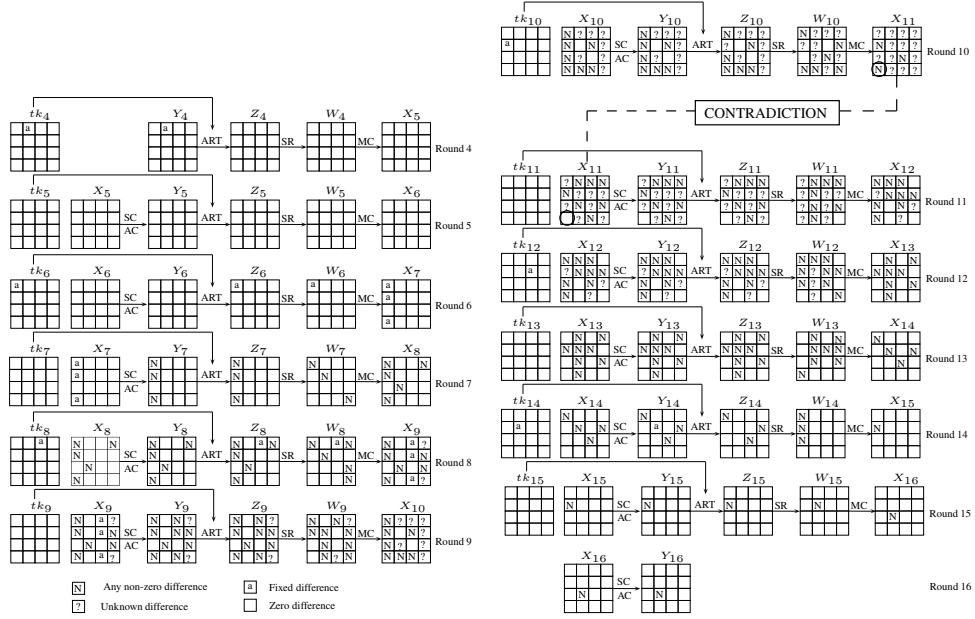


Figure 5: 12-round related-tweakey impossible distinguisher on SKINNY- $n$ - $n$ .

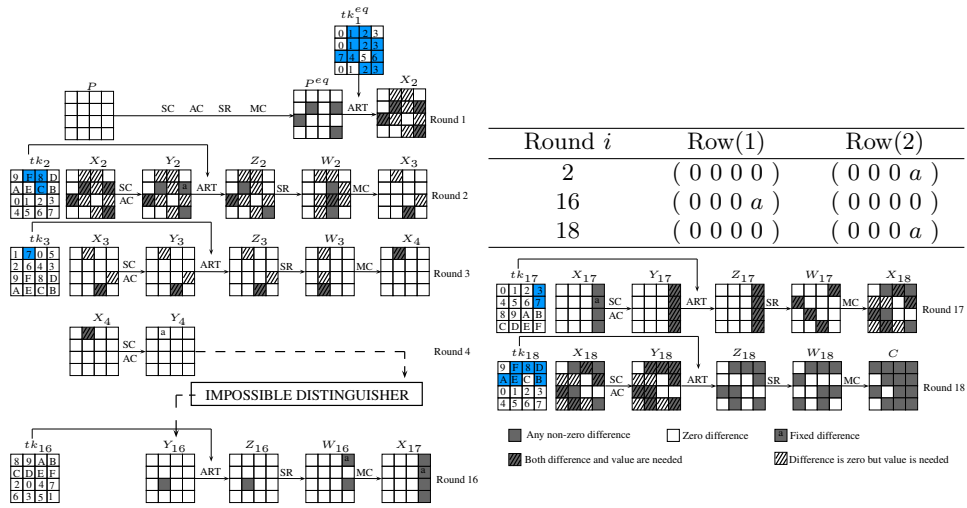


Figure 6: 18-round attack against SKINNY- $n$ - $n$ .

2. Invert back the plaintexts in  $S_1$  and  $S_2$  by one keyless round to get the original plaintexts. Encrypt the pool  $S_1$  under  $(TK-1)^1$  and the pool  $S_2$  under  $(TK-1)^2$  to obtain the corresponding ciphertexts. Repeat this for each pair of structures. In total, we get  $2^{x+8c}$  plaintext-ciphertext pairs.
3. For each ciphertext pair, check if the difference at cells 4, 9 and 12 are zero or not. Out of the total  $2^{x+8c}$  ciphertext pairs, only  $2^{x+5c}$  pairs are expected to remain.
4. For each of the remaining ciphertext pairs, check if  $\Delta W_{18}[0, 5-9, 13, 15]$  has zero difference (happens with probability  $2^{-5c}$ ). Only  $2^x$  pairs remain.
5. Guess  $tk_{18}[1-5, 7]$ . For each tweakkey guess:
  - (a) Compute  $\Delta X_{18}[0-15]$  for all the remaining ciphertext pairs. Check if  $\Delta W_{17}[0-2, 5-8, 10-13, 15]$  has zero difference (happens with probability  $2^{-4c}$ ).  $2^{x-4c}$  pairs further remain. For each of these pairs, compute the value as well as difference at  $W_{17}[3, 4, 9, 14]$ .
  - (b) Guess  $tk_{17}[3, 7]$ . Compute  $\Delta X_{17}[3, 7, 11, 15]$ . Check if  $\Delta X_{17}[7] = a$ . On an average for a given key, this happens with a probability of  $2^{-c}$ . Hence, the number of ciphertext pairs that now exist is  $2^{x-5c}$ . For these pairs, check if  $\Delta W_{16}[7, 15]$  has zero difference. The  $2^{x-7c}$  pairs that remain will lead to the desired output difference (of the impossible differential trail) at  $\Delta Y_{16}$ .
  - (c) Guess  $tk_1^{eq}[1, 2, 9, 11]$ . This allows us to know  $tk_1^{eq}[5, 6, 14]$ . The tweakkey cells  $tk_1^{eq}[7, 8, 15]$  are already known from the guessed cells of  $tk_{17}$ . For each of the  $2^{x-7c}$  plaintext pairs, compute  $\Delta X_2[0-15]$  and  $X_2[1, 2, 5-9, 11, 14, 15]$ . Compute  $\Delta Y_2[5, 7, 8, 15]$  and check if  $\Delta Y_2[7] = a$ .  $2^{x-8c}$  pairs will remain. For the remaining pairs, compute  $\Delta W_2[6, 10, 14]$  and check if it leads to only non-zero difference at  $\Delta X_3[14]$ .  $2^{x-10c}$  pairs are expected to remain. For all these pairs, guess  $tk_2[6]$  and using the knowledge of  $tk_2[1, 2]$  (obtained from the guessed tweakkey cells of  $tk_{18}$ ), compute  $X_3[1, 11, 14]$ . This further allows us to compute  $Y_3[1, 11, 14]$  and  $\Delta Y_3[14] = \Delta X_4[1]$ .
  - (d) For all the  $2^{x-8c}$  pairs that remain, using the knowledge of  $tk_3[1]$  (obtained from the guessed tweakkey cells of  $tk_{17}$ ), compute  $Z_3[1, 11, 14]$  and corresponding  $X_4[1]$ . Check if  $\Delta Y_4[1] = a$ . It is expected that with a probability of  $2^{-c}$ , we will get a pair with the desired input difference at  $\Delta Y_4[1]$ . Such a difference is impossible, and every guess of round tweakkeys  $tk_{18}$ ,  $tk_{17}$ ,  $tk_1^{eq}$ ,  $tk_2$  and  $tk_3$  that suggests such a difference is definitely a wrong guess.
6. After analysing  $2^{x-10c}$  pairs for each guess of  $tk_{18}[1-5, 7]$ ,  $tk_{17}[3, 7]$ ,  $tk_1^{eq}[1, 2, 9, 11]$  and  $tk_2[6]$  (a total of 13 tweakkey cells), total number of wrong tweakkeys that will survive the filtering process are:

$$TK_{rem} = 2^{13c}(1 - 2^{-c})^{2^{x-10c}} \quad (1)$$

For,  $c = 4$ , we put  $TK_{rem} = 2^{47}$ , this suggests  $x = 2^{45.8}$ . For,  $c = 8$ , we put  $TK_{rem} = 2^{96}$ , this suggests  $x = 2^{90.5}$ .

7. For the tweakkeys that remain, we guess the remaining tweakkey cells (3 cells) and exhaustively search the  $TK_{rem} \times 2^{3c}$  tweakkeys to find the correct tweakkey.

**Attack Complexities.** The time complexity of the attack is dominated by Step 2 and Step 7. In Step 2, a total of  $2^x \times 2 \times 2^{4c}$  plaintexts are queried through the encryption oracle. Step 3 requires  $2 \times 2^{x+8c}$  one-round encryption. Step 4 requires  $2 \times 2^{x+5c}$  one-round encryptions. In step 5(a),  $2 \times 2^{6c} \times 2^x$  one-round encryptions are done. Step 5(b) and 5(c) require  $2 \times 2^{2c} \times 2^{x-4c}$  and  $2 \times 2^{5c} \times 2^{x-10c}$  one round encryptions. Step 5(d) requires  $2 \times 2^{13c}(1 + (1 - 2^{-c}) + (1 - 2^{-c})^2 + \dots + (1 - 2^{-c})^{2^{x-10c}})$  one round encryptions. In Step 7,  $TK_{rem} \times 2^{3c}$  tweakeys are searched exhaustively. Thus, the overall time complexity is:

$$2^x \times 2 \times 2^{4c} + TK_{rem} \times 2^{3c}$$

Therefore, for  $c = 4$  and  $8$ , the time complexities of the attack are  $2^{62.8}$  and  $2^{123.5}$  respectively. Since, we are using the early abort technique [20], the memory complexity is determined by  $\max\{2^{x-10c}, 2^{x+4c+1}\}$ . Thus, the data and memory complexities are  $2^{62.8}$  for  $c=4$  and  $2^{123.5}$  for  $c=8$ .

For SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$ , our results are as shown in Table 7. For more information regarding the impossible distinguishers under TK2 and TK3, we refer the readers to Appendix A.

**Table 2:** Results of related-tweakey impossible differential attack on SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$

Model	Version	#Rounds	$R_d$	$R_b$	$R_f$	Data	Time	Memory
TK1	64-64	18	12	3.5	2.5	$2^{62.8}$	$2^{62.8}$	$2^{62.8}$
	128-128	18	12	3.5	2.5	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{123.5}$
TK2	64-128	22	14	4.5	3.5	$2^{62.5}$	$2^{124}$	$2^{62.5}$
	128-256	22	14	4.5	3.5	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{248}$	$2^{123.5}$
TK3	64-192	27	16	6.5	4.5	$2^{63.5}$	$2^{184}$	$2^{63.5}$
	128-384	27	16	6.5	4.5	$2^{123.5}$	$2^{372}$	$2^{123.5}$

**Note.** In the official SKINNY specification [6], in Section 4.3, we found an error in the count of the tweakey byte guesses. The reported tweakey guess is 8 cells whereas through our analysis, we found the total guesses to be 9 cells. The tweakey cell that was missed is  $tk_{16}[4]$  which is required to calculate  $X_{16}[4]$  which in turn will help in calculating the  $\Delta W_{14}[10]$ . The detailed explanation for this is given in Section 2.2, Property 3.

## 4 Truncated Related-Tweakey Differential Trails and Rectangle Attacks

In the last section, we constructed impossible distinguishers by connecting two truncated differential trails which propagate forward and backward with prob-

ability 1 under one related-tweakey. In this section, boomerang (rectangle) distinguishers are constructed by combining two truncated differential trails which propagate forward and backward with probability 1 under two distinct related-tweakeys.

This section first gives a brief introduction of boomerang attacks and rectangle attacks, and then presents rectangle distinguishers of SKINNY based on which 16-, 22- and 27-rounds of SKINNY can be attacked under TK1, TK2 and TK3 respectively.

#### 4.1 Boomerang Attacks and Rectangle Attacks

Boomerang attack, proposed by David Wagner in FSE 1999 [25], allows an attacker to concatenate two short differential trails. This proves beneficial in cases where long differential trails have a very low probability or it is difficult to search a long differential trail. In the basic setting of the attack, the block cipher is treated as a cascade of two sub-ciphers  $E_0$  and  $E_1$ , each having a high probability short differential of its own. These differentials are then combined in a chosen plaintext and ciphertext attack setting to first construct a boomerang distinguisher and then use the distinguisher to recover the secret key.

Suppose  $E_0$  covers the first  $l$  rounds of encryption and  $E_1$  covers the rest  $(r - l)$  rounds of encryption. Let us further suppose, there exists a differential  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  through  $E_0$  with a high probability  $p$ . Similarly, there exists a differential  $\delta \rightarrow \gamma$  through  $(E_1)^{-1}$  which has a high probability  $q$ . The boomerang attack then proceeds as follows:

1. Consider two plaintexts  $X, Y$  such that  $Y = X \oplus \alpha$ . Obtain their corresponding ciphertexts  $X'', Y''$  respectively.
2. The probability that  $E_0(X) \oplus E_0(Y) = X' \oplus Y' = \beta$  is  $\mathbf{p}$ .
3. Obtain,  $Z'' = X'' \oplus \delta$  and  $W'' = Y'' \oplus \delta$ . If we apply  $(E_1)^{-1}$  to each of the pairs  $(X'', Z'')$  and  $(Y'', W'')$ , then with probability  $\mathbf{q}^2$ ,  $(E_1)^{-1}(X'') \oplus (E_1)^{-1}(Z'') = X' \oplus Z' = \gamma$  and  $(E_1)^{-1}(Y'') \oplus (E_1)^{-1}(W'') = Y' \oplus W' = \gamma$ .
4. Then, the following statement holds true: With probability  $\mathbf{pq}^2$ ,  $(E_1)^{-1}(Z'') \oplus (E_1)^{-1}(W'') = \beta$ . This is because,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (E_1)^{-1}(Z'') \oplus (E_1)^{-1}(W'') &= Z' \oplus W' \\
 &= X' \oplus Z' \oplus X' \oplus Y' \oplus Y' \oplus W' \\
 &= \gamma \oplus \beta \oplus \gamma \\
 &= \beta
 \end{aligned}$$

5. Thus, with probability  $\mathbf{p}^2\mathbf{q}^2$ ,  $E^{-1}(Z'') \oplus E^{-1}(W'') = Z \oplus W = \alpha$ .
6. Now if,  $(\mathbf{pq}) > 2^{-n/2}$ , then a valid distinguisher is constructed. This is because, for a random permutation, the expected probability that  $Z' \oplus W' = \alpha$  is  $2^{-n}$ .

Therefore, if  $\mathbf{p}^2\mathbf{q}^2$  is sufficiently large, then the boomerang distinguisher can effectively distinguish between  $E(\cdot)$  and a randomly chosen permutation, given a sufficient number of adaptive chosen plaintexts and ciphertexts. The plaintexts  $(X, Y, Z, W)$  together are termed as a *quartet* and satisfy the following property:

$$X \oplus Y \oplus Z \oplus W = 0$$

The basic boomerang attack explained above requires adaptive chosen plain-/ciphertexts. Later, Kelsey et al. [18] developed amplified boomerangs which are pure chosen-plaintext attacks. In the case of amplified boomerang attacks, the attacker chooses certain amount of plaintext pairs and let the oracle encrypt them. Any two pairs form a quartet  $(X, Y, Z, W)$ , and the difference  $\gamma$  before  $E_1$  holds with probability  $2^{-n}$  for a quartet. Thus one can expect a right quartet where  $X'' \oplus Z'' = Y'' \oplus W'' = \delta$  with probability  $2^{-n}p^2q^2$ . For a random permutation the expected probability is  $2^{-2n}$ , so if  $2^{-n}p^2q^2 > 2^{-2n}$ , a distinguisher can be constructed. In [8], Biham et al. made further improvements which allow any value of  $\beta$  and  $\gamma$  to occur as long as  $\beta \neq \gamma$  and renamed the attack as *rectangle attack*. As a result, the probability of right quartet is increased to  $\hat{p}\hat{q}$ , where  $\sqrt{\Sigma_i \text{Pr}^2(\alpha \rightarrow \beta_i)}$  and  $\sqrt{\Sigma_j \text{Pr}^2(\gamma_j \rightarrow \delta)}$ .

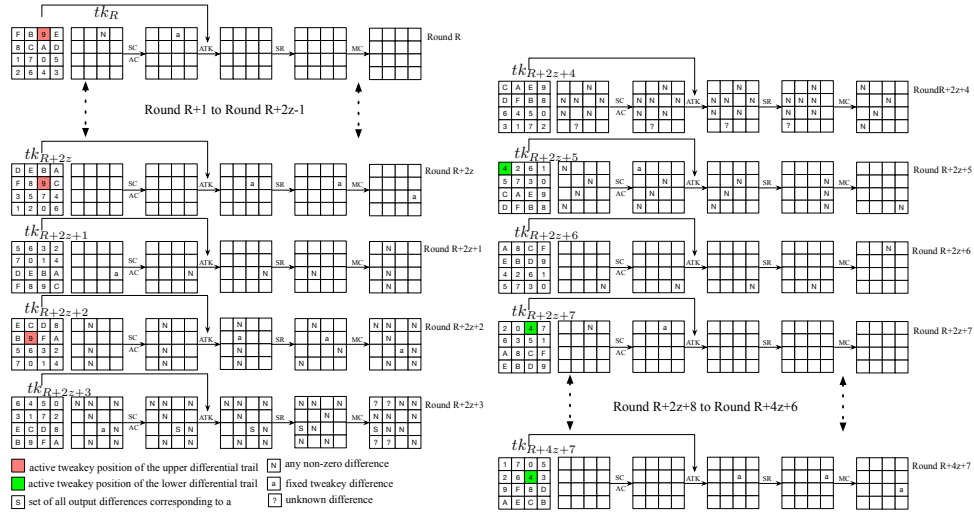
## 4.2 Related-Tweakey Rectangle Distinguishers

Our distinguisher takes the advantage of the differential cancellation behavior of the tweakey schedule to cover as many rounds as possible. As described in the specification [6], for a given cell, only a single cancellation of the interconnected LFSR can happen every 30 rounds for TK2, and two cancellations for TK3. As a consequence, we can introduce tweakey differences to cancel state differences and obtain more rounds in a differential trail. Additionally, as only half of the internal states are XORed with the subtweakeys at each round, if we bring in a tweakey difference in one cell position of the key state, (which cancels the internal state difference) we will have *three* and *five* rounds of *fully inactive internal states* for TK2 and TK3 respectively.

Fig. 7 is a description of the generalized related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher.

For the sake of generalization, the distinguisher begins at round  $R$  and the subtweakey difference  $a$  is constant. As shown in Fig. 7, an input difference will transform to any possible output difference which is denoted by  $N$ . The notation ? means that we are not sure whether the cell is active or not. There is only one active tweakey cell in both the upper and the lower truncated differential trails. In the following we take SKINNY-64 as an example, where each cell is a nibble.

In a typical rectangle distinguisher, usually, two differential trails are constructed, i.e.,  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  and  $\gamma \leftarrow \delta$ . Note that in the related-tweakey case, we specify a tweakey difference  $\Delta_1$  for upper trail  $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$  and a tweakey difference  $\Delta_2$  for lower trail  $\gamma \leftarrow \delta$ . The position of the active tweakey cell is chosen by the rule that the truncated differential trail from round  $R + 2z$  to round  $R + 2z + 3$



**Figure 7:** Description of the generalized related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher.

is the optimal differential trail as well as the truncated differential trail from round  $R + 2z + 7$  to round  $R + 2z + 4$ .

The  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta$  differential trail begins with a state difference  $\alpha$  that contains one active cell in a carefully chosen position relating to the key state permutation. At Round  $R$ , a tweakey difference of one cell position is introduced to cancel the state difference. Therefore we will have  $2z - 1$  rounds of fully non-active internal state in the subsequent encryption process, e.g., we have 5 rounds of fully non-active internal states for TK3.

At round  $R + 2z$ , the key state introduces a cell difference  $a$  to the internal states with the corresponding related-tweakey difference. The introduced internal difference continues to diffuse for four rounds according to the round function of SKINNY. At round  $2z + 2$ , another tweakey difference  $a$  is introduced, which complicates the diffusion of the difference pattern through rounds.

Similarly, at the bottom of the distinguisher the input difference  $\delta$  (tweakey difference  $a$ ) of the differential trail  $\gamma \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$  is cancelled out by the tweakey difference  $\Delta_2$  which result in  $2z - 1$  rounds of fully non-active internal states. At round  $2z + 7$ , difference  $a$  is inserted by the subtweakey difference and continues to distribute for 4 rounds just as the upper trail  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta$ .

A rectangle distinguisher will work as long as the two upper trails  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta$  as well as the two lower trails  $\gamma \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$  agree with each other (note that  $\beta \neq \gamma$ ). Here we denote the two upper trails as  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_1$  and  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_2$  respectively. Equally, we denote the two lower trails as  $\gamma_1 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$  and  $\gamma_2 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$ . Thus, a rectangle distinguisher will succeed as long as  $\beta_1 = \beta_2$  and  $\gamma_1 = \gamma_2$  while  $\beta \neq \gamma$  are satisfied.

Instead of considering specific differential trails with high probability, we focus on all the possible differential trails, which means the output difference  $\beta$  of the upper trail  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta$  can be any possible values. We employ the same strategy when analyzing the differential probability of the lower trail  $\gamma \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$ , i.e.,  $\gamma_1$  and  $\gamma_2$  can be any possible values.

Thus, the probability<sup>5</sup> of the upper trail  $\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta$  of the related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher is  $\sum_{\beta_1, \beta_2} P_r(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_1) \cdot P_r(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_2) \cdot P_r(\beta_1 = \beta_2) = (2^{-3.9})^7 \cdot 2^{-3} = 2^{-30.3}$ . Similarly, the probability of the lower trail  $\gamma \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta$  of the related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher is  $\sum_{\gamma_1, \gamma_2} P_r(\gamma_1 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta) \cdot P_r(\gamma_2 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta) \cdot P_r(\gamma_1 = \gamma_2) = (2^{-3.9})^6 \cdot 2^{-4} = 2^{-27.4}$ . The total probability of the related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher would be  $2^{-30.3} \cdot 2^{-27.4} = 2^{-57.7}$ . To be consistent with conventional notations, we define  $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = \sum_{\beta_1, \beta_2} P_r(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_1) \cdot P_r(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_2) \cdot P_r(\beta_1 = \beta_2) \cdot \sum_{\gamma_1, \gamma_2} P_r(\gamma_1 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta) \cdot P_r(\gamma_2 \xleftarrow{\Delta_2} \delta) \cdot P_r(\gamma_1 = \gamma_2)$ .

The generalized related-tweakey distinguisher is suitable for both the 64-bit block size versions and 128-bit block size versions although we need to adjust the probability of the distinguisher for distinctive versions in use, which is easy work. Particularly, the distinguisher is more effective on more tweaks versions, e.g., the distinguisher is 19 rounds on TK3 while only 15 rounds on TK2.

**Discussion** In order to take full advantage of the tweakey differential cancellation property, the position of the active tweakey cell is determined cautiously with two main factors. First, the tweakey difference ought to offset the state difference at the beginning of the distinguisher, resulting in  $2z - 1$  rounds of fully non-active rounds. Afterwards, the truncated differential trail caused by the tweakey difference should have at most 8 active cell positions at the end, otherwise, the distinguisher won't work. With these requirements, we searched all the possible active cell positions of the tweakey and found 5 positions for the upper truncated differential trail and 4 positions for the lower truncated differential trail that satisfy our requirements.

The above distinguisher is composed of one of the optimal truncated trails with the longest length and the minimal probability. What's more, the chosen active tweakey position also ensures that the truncated differential trails in the extended rounds of the tweakey recovery process are optimal, indicating that it is the best distinguisher under all the considerations.

**Experimental verification of the distinguisher** The validity of our distinguishers is verified with an experiment on SKINNY-64-128 which aims at finding a right quartet for the 14-round boomerang distinguisher with probability  $2^{-40}$ . The result shows that averagely there is one right quartet among  $2^{35.7}$  trials. The experiment not only verifies the correctness of our distinguishers, but also

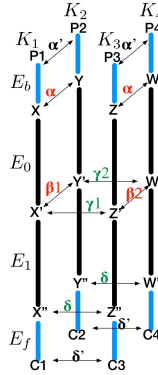
<sup>5</sup> We use  $1/15 = 2^{-3.9}$  and  $2^{-3}$  to compute the probability of two output difference (i.e.,  $\beta_1$  and  $\beta_2$ ) of the truncated differential to collide rather than a general  $2^{-4}$ .

demonstrates that the probability of our distinguishers would not be overestimated. One of the right quartets obtained and more details of the experiment is shown in Appendix C.

### 4.3 Key Recovery Algorithm Based on Related-Tweakey Rectangle Distinguishers

Our algorithm for using related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher in a key recovery attack is adapted from Biham et al’s algorithm [9] where in their rectangle key recovery attack there is no key difference. Note that this adapted key recovery algorithm is applicable to other block ciphers under related-tweakey (-key) model as long as the key schedule is linear. Here we just give the main results of the adapted tweakey recovery algorithm, and details of the algorithm are provided in Appendix B.

We continue to use the notations and conventions of boomerang and rectangle attacks. The cipher  $E$  is expressed in a concatenation form  $E = E_f \circ E_1 \circ E_0 \circ E_b$  and  $E' = E_1 \circ E_0$  is the rectangle distinguisher(see Fig. 8).  $E_b$  and  $E_f$  are the rounds extended to the backward and forward direction of the distinguisher.



**Figure 8:** Key recovery model of related-tweakey rectangle attack

In a related-tweakey rectangle attack, the quartet of  $(P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4)$  as plaintexts and  $(C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$  as ciphertexts is encrypted with four related-tweakeys  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4)$  which are related with each other with specific tweakey differences. Let the input difference  $\alpha$  of the distinguisher diffuse to the backward direction of the cipher  $E$  for several rounds (which is  $E_b$  section of  $E$ ) with the related-tweakey difference  $\Delta_1$  and store all the possible output differences  $\alpha'$  (which are the actual plaintext differences) corresponding to  $\alpha$  in a set  $U_b$ . Likewise, let the output difference  $\delta$  of the distinguisher diffuse several rounds to the forward direction of the cipher with a related-tweakey difference  $\Delta_2$  and store all the possible output differences  $\delta'$  (which are the actual ciphertext differences) in a set  $U_f$ .



Before we continue we introduce some additional notations. Let  $V_b$  be the space spanned by the values in  $U_b$ . Let  $r_b = \log_2|V_b|$  and  $t_b = \log_2|U_b|$ . Let  $m_b$  be the the number of subtweakey bits which involve in  $E_b$  and affect the difference of plaintexts when encrypting pairs whose difference after  $E_b$  is  $\alpha$ . Similarly, we define  $U_f, V_f, r_f, t_f, m_f$  for  $E_f$ , i.e.,  $U_f$  is the set of ciphertext differences that may cause a difference  $\delta$  before  $E_f$  under the tweakey difference  $\Delta_2$ ,  $V_f$  is the space spanned by values of  $U_f$  and  $r_f = \log_2|V_f|, t_f = \log_2|U_f|$ .  $m_f$  is the number of subtweakey bits which involve in  $E_f$  and affect the difference of ciphertexts when decrypting pairs whose difference before  $E_f$  is  $\delta$ . Using the adapted tweakey recovery algorithm, the complexities of a rectangle attack are as follows.

- Data complexity:  $D = 4M$  chosen plaintexts, where  $M = \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2}/\hat{p}\hat{q}$  and  $s$  is the expected number of right quartets;
- Time complexity:  $4M + 2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{r_f-n} + 2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f-n} + M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f+2t_b-2n}(1 + 2^{t_b-r_b}) + M^2 \cdot 2^{t_b+t_f-2n+1}(2^{m_b+t_f} + 2^{m_f+t_b})$  memory accesses;
- Memory complexity:  $4M + 2^{t_b} + 2^{t_f} + 2^{m_b+m_f}$ .

#### 4.4 Related-Tweakey Rectangle Attacks

This subsection takes SKINNY-64-128 as an example to illustrate our attacks and the attack works similarly for other versions so we just provide the results.

The following Fig. 9 is an dedicated attack<sup>6</sup> of 22 rounds SKINNY-64-128 using the 15-round related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher and extending 3.5 rounds before and after the distinguisher.

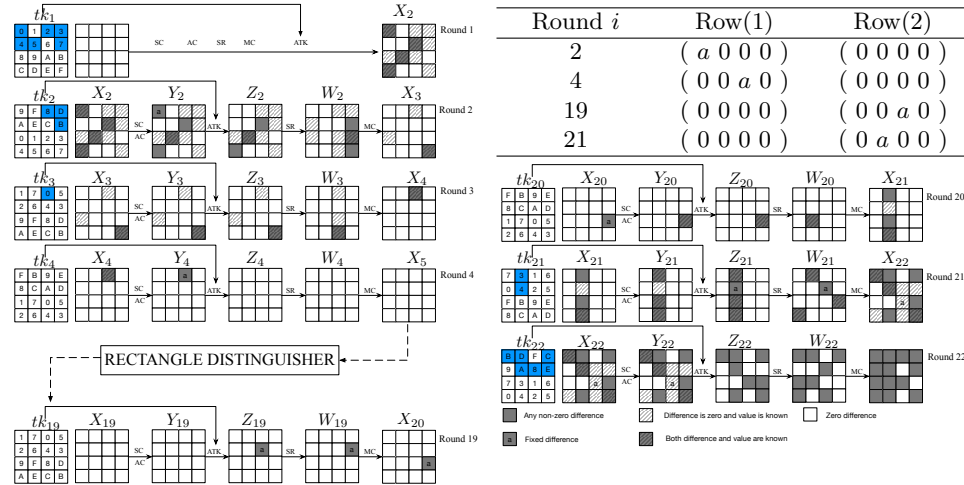


Figure 9: Tweakey rovery attack on 22-round SKINNY-64-128.

<sup>6</sup> The tweakey bits we can recover are actually the XORed value of  $TK1$  and  $TK2$ .

Firstly search a number of right quartets with the algorithm introduced in the previous section. Then check whether the subtweakey guess can pass the test that  $E_b^{K_1}(P_1) \oplus E_b^{K_2}(P_2) = E_b^{K_3}(P_3) \oplus E_b^{K_4}(P_4) = \alpha$  and  $(E_f^{K_1})^{-1}(C_1) \oplus (E_f^{K_3})^{-1}(C_3) = (E_f^{K_2})^{-1}(C_2) \oplus (E_f^{K_4})^{-1}(C_4) = \delta$ . The subtweakey guess that counts with the highest value would be the right subtweakey guess.

In a concrete attack, we choose the cell position and value of tweakey difference so that a distinguisher with the optimal probability can be obtained. As there is no whitening key added before the first round, when recovering the subtweakey we can attack one round for free. The subtweakey bits that affect the input difference  $\alpha$  of the distinguisher are marked specially in each round (refer to Fig. 9).

At this attack scenario, we choose  $r_b = \log_2(15^4) = 15.6$ ,  $t_b = \log_2(15^3) + \log_2 6 = 14.3$ ,  $m_b = 10c = 40$ ,  $r_f = \log_2(15^8) = 31.3$ ,  $t_f = \log_2(15^7) + \log_2 8 = 30.3$  and  $m_f = 8c = 32$ . As we have analyzed previously, the probability of the related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher is  $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = (2^{-3.9})^7 \cdot 2^{-2.4} \cdot (2^{-3.9})^6 \cdot 2^{-4} = 2^{-57.1}$ .

The total data complexity for 22-round SKINNY64-128 is  $D = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2} / \hat{p} \hat{q} = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{32} \cdot 2^{28.5} = \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{62.5}$ , i.e. if we choose  $s = 2$ , the data complexity would be  $2^{63}$ . The time complexity required is  $2^{109.9}$  memory access and the memory complexity is  $2^{63}$ .

If we reduce the related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher by one round, i.e., a 14-round distinguisher, the data complexity and time complexity could be highly reduced. In a 14-round distinguisher, the probability would be  $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = (2^{-3.9})^3 \cdot (2^{-3.9})^6 \cdot 2^{-4} = 2^{-39.1}$ . Using the same tweakey recovery procedure to extend the distinguisher 3.5 rounds at both sides of the distinguisher, the data complexity for 21-round attack is  $D = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2} / \hat{p} \hat{q} = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{32} \cdot 2^{19.5} = \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{53.5} = 2^{54}$  (with  $s = 2$ ). The corresponding time complexity is  $2^{92.9}$  memory access and the memory complexity is  $2^{54}$ .

Table 3 summarizes the results of related-tweakey rectangle attacks on all versions of SKINNY<sup>7</sup>. It shows that the attack is more effective on TK2 and TK3 versions which is consistent with the fact that the attack takes advantage of the key schedule of SKINNY, e.g., 27 rounds of SKINNY-64-192 can be covered. Besides, we can see that the attack covers the same rounds whatever the block size is (64-bit or 128-bit).

## 5 Related-Tweakey Differential Trails and Rectangle Attacks

In the previous sections truncated differential trails are investigated and used to attack reduced versions of SKINNY. This section focuses on differential trails of SKINNY. In the specification of SKINNY [5], the authors only gave lower bounds on the number of differential active Sboxes in SKINNY. It is not clear whether

<sup>7</sup> The values in the table are roughly estimated and the exact complexity would be slightly deviated corresponding to the actual attack implementation.

**Table 3:** Results of related-tweakey rectangle attack on all versions of SKINNY

		#Rounds	$R_d$	$R_t$	$R_f$	Data	Time	Memory
TK1	64-64	16	10	3.5	2.5	$2^{54}$	$2^{54.7}$	$2^{54}$
	128-128	16	10	3.5	2.5	$2^{106.5}$	$2^{112}$	$2^{106.5}$
TK2	64-128	21	14	3.5	3.5	$2^{54}$	$2^{87.9}$	$2^{54}$
	64-128	22	15	3.5	3.5	$2^{63}$	$2^{109.9}$	$2^{63}$
	128-256	22	15	3.5	3.5	$2^{126.5}$	$2^{234}$	$2^{126.5}$
TK3	64-192	27	19	4.5	3.5	$2^{63}$	$2^{154.9}$	$2^{80}$
	128-384	27	19	4.5	3.5	$2^{126.5}$	$2^{322}$	$2^{160}$

exact differential trails satisfying the lower bounds exist or not, especially for SKINNY-128 which employs a differentially non-optimal 8-bit Sbox. This section sheds some light on it and gives some good related-tweakey differential trails for both SKINNY-64 and SKINNY-128 on which boomerang distinguishers can also be constructed.

### 5.1 Strategies for Finding Differential Trails

In this section our aim is to find optimal differential trails for SKINNY-64 and good differential trails for SKINNY-128 in a reasonable time. It is challenging to directly find optimal differential trails, even for block ciphers using 4-bit Sboxes, so we propose an indirect method for finding optimal differential trails for SKINNY-64, which is described as follows.

1. For an  $r$ -round SKINNY-64, find all truncated differential trails with the minimal number of active Sboxes  $AS = AS_{\min}$ , where  $AS_{\min}$  denotes the minimal number of active Sboxes of truncated differential trails;
2. Based on the truncated differential trails, search for a best differential trail, namely the trail with the highest probability. If the best differential trail obtained has probability  $p = 2^{-2AS_{\min+i}}$ ,  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ , then this trail must be the optimal trail for an  $r$ -round SKINNY-64; otherwise, go to Step 3;
3. For  $AS = AS_{\min} + 1$  to  $\lfloor -\log_2 p/2 \rfloor$ , find all truncated differential trails with  $AS$  active Sboxes. Based on the truncated differentials, search for a best differential trail with probability  $p'$ . If  $p > p'$ , let  $p = p'$ . Until  $p = 2^{-2AS+i}$ ,  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$  is satisfied, then the trail related to  $p$  is the optimal trail for an  $r$ -round SKINNY.

Following the designers of SKINNY [5], we generate a Mixed-Integer Linear Programming (MILP) model to get truncated differential trails. Basic ideas of converting a differential searching problem into inequalities over integers are introduced in [21, 23, 24]. Once the active pattern, i.e., a truncated differential trail is given, the search for finding the optimal trail with MILP solvers is greatly sped up. In this way optimal differential trails can be found for SKINNY-64 as

long as the number of truncated differential trails that needs to be traversed is reasonable, say less than 5000.

However, for SKINNY-128, 8-bit Sboxes are too heavy for Mixed-Integer Linear Programming solvers, so a dedicated searching algorithm used after obtaining a truncated differential trail with the minimal number of active Sboxes. Our idea is that given a truncated differential trail, there exists a few free active bytes for which all nonzero values are possible, and by traversing all the free active bytes a best differential trail which follows the given truncated differential can be found. In the case of SKINNY-128, only one truncated differential of minimal number of active Sboxes is considered.

## 5.2 Results of Differential Trails

Table 4 lists the results of SKINNY-64 from 6 rounds to 13 rounds under related-tweakey model. For each of TK1, TK2 and TK3, the first line show shows the number of minimal active Sboxes; the second line presents the probability  $p_1$  of best trails following the truncated differentials with the minimal number active Sboxes; and the last line shows the probability  $p_2$  of optimal trails<sup>8</sup>. Under TK1, differential trails with probability  $2^{-2AS_{\min}}$  are found in all cases. However, under TK2, and TK3, as the number of rounds increases, the probability of the optimal trail is much lower than  $2^{-2AS_{\min}}$ .

**Table 4:** Bounds on the number of active Sboxes and probability of trails in SKINNY-64 under related-tweakey models

#rounds		6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
TK1	$AS_{\min}$	6	10	13	16	23	32	38	41
	$-\log_2 p$	12	20	26	32	46	64	76	82
TK2	$AS_{\min}$	2	3	6	9	12	16	21	25
	$-\log_2 p_1$	4	6	12	20	None*	35	49	55
	$-\log_2 p_2$	4	6	12	20	28	35	48	55
TK3	$AS_{\min}$	0	1	2	3	6	10	13	16
	$-\log_2 p_1$	0	2	4	6	12	20	28	43
	$-\log_2 p_2$	0	2	4	6	12	20	28	38

\* No solution is found for all truncated differentials with the minimal number of active Sboxes.

For SKINNY-128, only the cases that are promising in rectangle attacks are considered and the results are shown in Table 5. Note that the highest probability for the 8-bit Sbox used in SKINNY-128 is also  $2^{-2}$ . As can be seen from the results that to make the total number of active Sboxes lower, the average probability of each Sbox is also much lower. For example, the minimal number of active Sboxes of 9-round SKINNY-128-256 is 9, and following one of

<sup>8</sup> For TK1, the second line and the third line are identical, so only one line is kept.

the truncated differential that satisfies this bound, the best trail has probability  $2^{-32.42}$ . While extending an 8-round trail with 6 active Sboxes one round back, we get a 9-round trail with 10 active Sboxes and probability  $2^{-20}$ .

**Table 5:** Bounds on the number of active Sboxes and probability of trails in SKINNY-128 under related-tweakey models

#rounds	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
TK1 $AS_{\min}$	6	10	13				
$-\log_2 p$	12	20	54(36)**				
TK2 $AS_{\min}$			6	9			
$-\log_2 p$			12	32.42(20)			
TK3 $AS_{\min}$					6	10	13
$-\log_2 p$					13	21	63.42(38)

\*\* The values in parentheses are the probability of  $r$ -round differential trails obtained by extending a  $(r-1)$ -round differential trail.

These results show a trend that it is not likely to reach the bounds of  $2^{-2AS_{\min}}$  as the number of rounds increase.

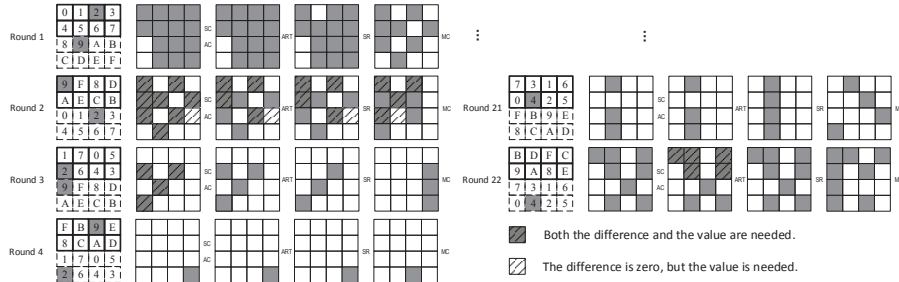
### 5.3 Related-Tweakey Rectangle Attacks

Based on differential trails in the previous subsection, rectangle distinguishers can be constructed. We follow the notations in Section 4. Suppose  $E' = E_1 \circ E_0$  is the rectangle distinguisher. The probability of the upper trail for  $E_0$  under tweakey difference  $\Delta_1$  (resp. lower trail for  $E_1$  under  $\Delta_2$ )  $\Pr(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta)$  ( resp.  $\Pr(\gamma \xrightarrow{\Delta_2} \delta)$ ) is denoted by  $p$  (resp.  $q$ ). If multiple trails are considered for  $E_0$  or  $E_1$ , we denote  $\sqrt{\sum_i \Pr^2(\alpha \xrightarrow{\Delta_1} \beta_i)}$  (resp.  $\sqrt{\sum_j \Pr^2(\gamma_j \xrightarrow{\Delta_2} \delta)}$ ) by  $\hat{p}$  (resp.  $\hat{q}$ ). In the tweakey recovery attack, the same notations of  $E = E_f \circ E_1 \circ E_0 \circ E_b$ ,  $m_b, r_b, t_b, m_f, r_f$  and  $t_f$  are used as in Section 4 and the number of right quartets  $s$  is set to be 4. Under TK1 where the key size is as large as the block size, the rectangle attack doesn't work as well as under TK2 and TK3. Thus, in this section only distinguishers under TK2 and TK3 are presented, together with the tweakey recovery attacks using the adapted key recovery algorithm in Appendix B.

**21-Round attack on SKINNY-64-128** we construct a 17-round rectangle distinguisher by combining an 8-round upper trail with a 9-round lower trail. Details of these two trails are shown in Table 9. For  $E_0$ , if we fix the input difference and the tweakey difference according to the 8-round trail, there are 5477 trails which belong to 1563 differentials, and  $\hat{p} = 2^{-7.15}$ . Similarly for  $E_1$ , if we fix the output difference and the tweakey difference according to the 9-round trail, there are 24 trails which belong to 6 differentials, and  $\hat{q} = 2^{-17.21}$ . By

extending 3 rounds backward and one round forward, we get following parameters:  $r_b = 13c, t_b = 8c, m_b = c = 10c, r_f = 12c, t_f = 7c, m_f = 4c$  where  $c = 4$  is the cell size. Using the adapted key recovery algorithm, a 21-round version of SKINNY-64-128 can be attacked with data complexity of  $D = 2^{59.36}$  chosen plaintexts, time complexity of  $2^{115.72}$  memory accesses and memory complexity of  $2^{59.36}$  blocks.

**22-Round attack on SKINNY-128-256** Following the truncated differentials with the minimal number of active Sboxes, we found an 8-round trail of probability  $2^{-12}$  and a 9-round trail of probability  $2^{-32.42}$ . These two trails are displayed in Table 10. By extending the 8-round trail one round backward, we get a 9-round trail with probability  $2^{-20}$  which is higher than the probability of the 9-round trail obtained directly from a 9-round truncated differential with the minimal number of active Sboxes. We choose the 9-round trail with probability  $2^{-32.42}$  for  $E_0$  and the other one with probability  $2^{-20}$  for  $E_1$ . If the output difference and the tweakey difference are fixed, there are two trails with the same probability for  $E_1$ , so  $\hat{q} = 2^{-19.50}$  and  $\hat{p}\hat{q} = 2^{-51.92}$  for the 18-round rectangle distinguisher. Using the distinguisher from Round 4 to Round 21, we can attack 22 rounds with following parameters:  $r_b = 14c, t_b = 8c, m_b = 10c, r_f = 12c, t_f = 8c, m_f = 5c$  where  $c = 8$  is the cell size. Figure 10 gives a visualized view of the key recovery attack. Using the adapted key recovery algorithm, a 22-round version of SKINNY-128-256 can be attacked with data complexity of  $D = 2^{118.92}$  chosen plaintexts, time complexity of  $2^{250.84}$  memory accesses and memory complexity of  $2^{120}$  blocks.



**Figure 10:** Tweakey recovery attack of 22-round SKINNY-128-256 using a 18-round related-tweakey rectangle distinguisher from Round 4 to Round 21

**26-Round attack on SKINNY-64-192** The best 11-round related-tweakey differential trail for SKINNY-64-192 has probability  $2^{-20}$  as shown in Table 11. The same trail is used for both  $E_0$  and  $E_1$  to get a 22-round distinguisher. If we fix input difference (output difference) and the tweakey difference, there are many trails. Taking 5000 trails into consideration,  $\hat{p} = 2^{-14.51}$ ,  $\hat{q} = 2^{-12.96}$ . By

extending 2 rounds backward and 2 rounds forward, we get following parameters:  $r_b = 13c, t_b = 8c, m_b = 6c, r_f = 16c, t_f = 13c, m_f = 12c$  where  $c = 4$ . Consequently, 26 rounds of SKINNY-64-192 can be attacked with data complexity of  $D = 2^{62.47}$  chosen plaintexts, time complexity of  $2^{160.94}$  memory accesses and memory complexity of  $2^{72}$  blocks.

**27-Round attack on SKINNY-128-384** The best 11-round related-tweakey differential trail for SKINNY-128-384 has probability  $2^{-21}$ , and with the same input difference and output difference there are two tails of the same probability. By extending this 11-round differential trail backward for one round we get a 12-round trail with probability  $2^{-38}$ . We connect the 11-round trail and the 12-round trail to get a 23-round rectangle distinguisher. Using Boomerang switching technique [10] at the meeting point of two trails, four Sboxes of the lower trail can be saved. If we fix the tweakey difference and the output difference, there are  $2^{10}$  trails with the same probability, thus  $\hat{q} = 2^{-25}$ . By extending 2 rounds backward and 2 rounds forward, we get following parameters:  $r_b = 13c, t_b = 8c, m_b = 6c, r_f = 16c, t_f = 13c, m_f = 12c$  where  $c = 8$ . Thus, a 27-round SKINNY-128-384 can be attacked with data complexity of  $D = 2^{112}$  chosen plaintexts, time complexity of  $2^{300}$  memory accesses and memory complexity of  $2^{144}$  blocks.

Results of related-tweakey rectangle attacks on SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$  are summarized in Table 6. As can be seen that even though differential trails based rectangle distinguishers cover more rounds compared with rectangle distinguishers based on truncated differential trails as in Table 3, the total number of rounds attacked is not necessarily more.

**Table 6:** Results of related-tweakey rectangle attacks on SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$

Model	Version	#Rounds	$R_d$	$R_b$	$R_f$	Data	Time	Memory
TK2	64-128	21	17	3	1	$2^{59.36}$	$2^{115.72}$	$2^{59.36}$
	128-256	22	18	3	1	$2^{118.92}$	$2^{250.84}$	$2^{120}$
TK3	64-192	26	22	2	2	$2^{62.47}$	$2^{160.94}$	$2^{72}$
	128-384	27	23	2	2	$2^{112}$	$2^{300}$	$2^{144}$

## 6 Conclusion

In this work, we analyze the security of SKINNY under related-tweakey model where the attacker is allowed to introduce a difference in the tweakey state. We investigate impossible differential and rectangle attacks under the related-tweakey settings for our analysis. Using truncated differential trails, we show that

for SKINNY- $n-2n$  and SKINNY- $n-3n$ , same number of rounds can be cryptanalyzed by both the attack techniques. This is despite of the fact that the distinguishers and key recovery phase in both the attacks cover different number of rounds. Only, in case of SKINNY- $n-n$ , impossible differential attack is able to break more rounds comparatively. We also analyze the security of SKINNY using actual differential trails and present our results for the rectangle attacks under TK2 and TK3. We show that for SKINNY-128, better attack complexities are obtained (in terms of data and memory) compared to truncated differential trails. Another interesting outcome of this analysis shows that increased number of rounds in the distinguisher may not necessarily lead to more number of rounds attacked. For SKINNY-64, the results show a trend that as the number of rounds increases, the probability of optimal differential trails is much lower than the probability derived from lower bounds of active Sboxes in SKINNY.

## References

1. <https://sites.google.com/site/skinnycipher/cryptanalysis-competition>
2. Aumasson, J., Henzen, L., Meier, W., Naya-Plasencia, M.: Quark: A lightweight hash. *J. Cryptology* **26**(2) (2013) 313–339
3. Babbage, S., Dodd, M.: The MICKEY stream ciphers. In Robshaw, M.J.B., Billet, O., eds.: *New Stream Cipher Designs - The eSTREAM Finalists*. Volume 4986 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*. Springer (2008) 191–209
4. Beaulieu, R., Shors, D., Smith, J., Treatman-Clark, S., Weeks, B., Wingers, L.: The SIMON and SPECK families of lightweight block ciphers. *IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive* **2013** (2013) 404
5. Beierle, C., Jean, J., Kölbl, S., Leander, G., Moradi, A., Peyrin, T., Sasaki, Y., Sasdrich, P., Sim, S.M.: The SKINNY family of block ciphers and its low-latency variant MANTIS. In Robshaw, M., Katz, J., eds.: *Advances in Cryptology - CRYPTO 2016 - 36th Annual International Cryptology Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, USA, August 14-18, 2016, Proceedings, Part II*. Volume 9815 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*., Springer (2016) 123–153
6. Beierle, C., Jean, J., Kölbl, S., Leander, G., Moradi, A., Peyrin, T., Sasaki, Y., Sasdrich, P., Sim, S.M.: The SKINNY family of block ciphers and its low-latency variant MANTIS. *IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive* **2016** (2016) 660
7. Biham, E., Biryukov, A., Shamir, A.: Cryptanalysis of skipjack reduced to 31 rounds using impossible differentials. *J. Cryptology* **18**(4) (2005) 291–311
8. Biham, E., Dunkelman, O., Keller, N.: The rectangle attack - rectangling the serpent. In Pfitzmann, B., ed.: *Advances in Cryptology - EUROCRYPT 2001, International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptographic Techniques, Innsbruck, Austria, May 6-10, 2001, Proceeding*. Volume 2045 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*., Springer (2001) 340–357
9. Biham, E., Dunkelman, O., Keller, N.: New results on boomerang and rectangle attacks. In Daemen, J., Rijmen, V., eds.: *Fast Software Encryption, 9th International Workshop, FSE 2002, Leuven, Belgium, February 4-6, 2002, Revised Papers*. Volume 2365 of *Lecture Notes in Computer Science*., Springer (2002) 1–16
10. Biryukov, A., Khovratovich, D.: Related-key cryptanalysis of the full AES-192 and AES-256. In Matsui, M., ed.: *Advances in Cryptology - ASIACRYPT 2009, 15th International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptology and*



- Information Security, Tokyo, Japan, December 6-10, 2009. Proceedings. Volume 5912 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2009) 1–18
11. Bogdanov, A., Knezevic, M., Leander, G., Toz, D., Varici, K., Verbauwhede, I.: spongont: A lightweight hash function. [22] 312–325
  12. Bogdanov, A., Knudsen, L.R., Leander, G., Paar, C., Poschmann, A., Robshaw, M.J.B., Seurin, Y., Vikkelsoe, C.: PRESENT: an ultra-lightweight block cipher. In Paillier, P., Verbauwhede, I., eds.: Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems - CHES 2007, 9th International Workshop, Vienna, Austria, September 10-13, 2007, Proceedings. Volume 4727 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2007) 450–466
  13. Cannière, C.D., Preneel, B.: Trivium. In Robshaw, M.J.B., Billet, O., eds.: New Stream Cipher Designs - The eSTREAM Finalists. Volume 4986 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Springer (2008) 244–266
  14. Guo, J., Peyrin, T., Poschmann, A.: The PHOTON family of lightweight hash functions. In Rogaway, P., ed.: Advances in Cryptology - CRYPTO 2011 - 31st Annual Cryptology Conference, Santa Barbara, CA, USA, August 14-18, 2011. Proceedings. Volume 6841 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2011) 222–239
  15. Guo, J., Peyrin, T., Poschmann, A., Robshaw, M.J.B.: The LED block cipher. [22] 326–341
  16. Hell, M., Johansson, T., Maximov, A., Meier, W.: The grain family of stream ciphers. In Robshaw, M.J.B., Billet, O., eds.: New Stream Cipher Designs - The eSTREAM Finalists. Volume 4986 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science. Springer (2008) 179–190
  17. Jean, J., Nikolic, I., Peyrin, T.: Tweaks and keys for block ciphers: The TWEAKEY framework. In Sarkar, P., Iwata, T., eds.: Advances in Cryptology - ASIACRYPT 2014 - 20th International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptology and Information Security, Kaoshiung, Taiwan, R.O.C., December 7-11, 2014, Proceedings, Part II. Volume 8874 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2014) 274–288
  18. Kelsey, J., Kohno, T., Schneier, B.: Amplified boomerang attacks against reduced-round MARS and serpent. In Schneier, B., ed.: Fast Software Encryption, 7th International Workshop, FSE 2000, New York, NY, USA, April 10-12, 2000, Proceedings. Volume 1978 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2000) 75–93
  19. Knudsen, L.: Deal - a 128-bit block cipher. In: NIST AES Proposal. (1998)
  20. Lu, J., Kim, J., Keller, N., Dunkelman, O.: Improving the efficiency of impossible differential cryptanalysis of reduced camellia and MISTY1. In Malkin, T., ed.: Topics in Cryptology - CT-RSA 2008, The Cryptographers' Track at the RSA Conference 2008, San Francisco, CA, USA, April 8-11, 2008. Proceedings. Volume 4964 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2008) 370–386
  21. Mouha, N., Wang, Q., Gu, D., Preneel, B.: Differential and linear cryptanalysis using mixed-integer linear programming. In Wu, C., Yung, M., Lin, D., eds.: Information Security and Cryptology - 7th International Conference, Inscrypt 2011, Beijing, China, November 30 - December 3, 2011. Revised Selected Papers. Volume 7537 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2011) 57–76
  22. Preneel, B., Takagi, T., eds.: Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems - CHES 2011 - 13th International Workshop, Nara, Japan, September 28 - October 1, 2011. Proceedings. Volume 6917 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2011)

23. Sun, S., Hu, L., Song, L., Xie, Y., Wang, P.: Automatic security evaluation of block ciphers with s-bp structures against related-key differential attacks. In Lin, D., Xu, S., Yung, M., eds.: Information Security and Cryptology - 9th International Conference, Inscrypt 2013, Guangzhou, China, November 27-30, 2013, Revised Selected Papers. Volume 8567 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2013) 39–51
24. Sun, S., Hu, L., Wang, P., Qiao, K., Ma, X., Song, L.: Automatic security evaluation and (related-key) differential characteristic search: Application to simon, present, lblock, DES(L) and other bit-oriented block ciphers. In Sarkar, P., Iwata, T., eds.: Advances in Cryptology - ASIACRYPT 2014 - 20th International Conference on the Theory and Application of Cryptology and Information Security, Kaoshiung, Taiwan, R.O.C., December 7-11, 2014. Proceedings, Part I. Volume 8873 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (2014) 158–178
25. Wagner, D.: The boomerang attack. In Knudsen, L.R., ed.: Fast Software Encryption, 6th International Workshop, FSE '99, Rome, Italy, March 24-26, 1999, Proceedings. Volume 1636 of Lecture Notes in Computer Science., Springer (1999) 156–170

## A Truncated Impossible Differentials

Table 7 lists all truncated impossible differentials we found under both single-tweakey model and related-tweakey models. These truncated impossible differentials are found by reusing the Mixed Integer Linear Programming model as in Section 5. There are 12 truncated impossible differentials under all these models. Note that, in the specification of SKINNY [6] the authors state that there are 16 such truncated impossible differentials under single-tweakey model where only one cell is active in both the input and output. For related-tweakey models, no result is reported in [6]. Our impossible differentials under related-tweakey models start with a fully passive state and a master key with only a special active cell which makes first  $2z - 1$  subtweakeys with zero difference and end with one active cell after the SubCells operation of Round  $r$  where  $r$  is the number of rounds in the distinguisher, so each truncated impossible differential is represented with a tuple.

**Table 7:** Truncated impossible differentials

Model	(active cell position in input, active cell position in output)
SK	(12, 8), (13, 8), (12, 11), (14, 9), (14, 11), (15, 10)
11 rounds	(12, 9), (13, 9), (13, 10), (15, 8), (14, 10), (15, 11)
Model	(active cell position in key, active cell position in output)
TK1	(8, 8), (9, 10), (13, 8), (10, 9), (12, 10), (13, 11)
12 rounds	( <b>9, 9</b> ), (10, 8), (13, 9), (14, 9), (14, 10), (15, 10)
TK2	(8, 8), (12, 9), (14, 8), ( <b>10, 10</b> ), (12, 10), (9, 8)
14 rounds	(8, 9), (14, 9), (15, 9), (11, 10), (15, 10), (14, 11)
TK3	(9, 8), (12, 9), ( <b>10, 10</b> ), (8, 10), (15, 8), (12, 8)
16 rounds	(9, 9), (10, 9), (11, 10), (13, 10), (11, 9), (12, 11)

## B Key Recovery Algorithm Based on Related-Tweakey Rectangle Distinguishers

The algorithm in this section is adapted from Biham et al's algorithm where there is no key difference and applicable to other block ciphers under related key model as long as the key schedule is linear. We follow the notations in , our algorithm proceeds as follows:

1. Let  $K_1$  be the secret key and  $K_2 = K_1 \oplus \Delta_1$ ,  $K_3 = K_1 \oplus \Delta_2$  and  $K_4 = K_1 \oplus \Delta_1 \oplus \Delta_2$ . Create  $y = \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2-r_b}/\hat{p}\hat{q}$  structures of  $2^{r_b}$  plaintexts each, where  $s$  is the expected number of right quartets. Encrypt these  $y$  structures with  $K_1, K_2$  respectively. Also, create  $y$  structures of  $2^{r_b}$  plaintexts each and encrypt these  $y$  structures with  $K_3, K_4$  respectively.
2. Initialize a list of  $2^{m_b+m_f}$  counters, each of which corresponds a  $(m_b + m_f)$ -bit subkey guess.
3. Under each key there are  $M = y2^{r_b}$  ciphertexts. Denote the ciphertext sets under  $K_i, i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$  by  $L_i, i \in \{1, 2, 3, 4\}$ . Process  $(L_1, L_3)$  and  $(L_2, L_4)$  independently. Insert the  $L_1$  ciphertexts into a hash table  $H_1$  according to the  $n - r_f$  ciphertext bits that are set to 0 in  $V_f$ . Then for each ciphertext in  $L_3$ , try to find collisions of this ciphertext and ciphertexts in  $H_1$ . If a ciphertext pair from  $L_1$  and  $L_3$  agrees on the  $n - r_f$  bits, check whether the ciphertext difference is in  $U_f$ . Do the same thing for  $(L_2, L_4)$ .
4. For each collision  $(C_1, C_3) \in L_1 \times L_3$  which remains after Step 2, denote  $C_i$ 's structure under  $K_j$  by  $S_{C_i}^{K_j}$  and attach to  $C_1$  the index of  $S_{C_3}^{K_3}$ . For each collision  $(C_2, C_4) \in L_2 \times L_4$ , attach to  $C_2$  the index of  $S_{C_4}^{K_4}$ .
5. In each structure  $S$  under  $K_1, K_2$ , we search for two ciphertexts  $C_1 \in S^{K_1}, C_2 \in S^{K_2}$  which are attached to some other structures under  $K_3$  and  $K_4$  respectively. When we find such a pair, first check that structures that  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are attached to are the same, and that the corresponding plaintext difference  $P_1 \oplus P_2$  is in  $U_b$ . Also, check the difference of the plaintexts which  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are related to.
6. For all the quartets which passed Step 5 denote by  $(P_1, P_2, P_4, P_4)$  the plaintexts of a quartet and by  $(C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$  the corresponding ciphertexts under  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4)$ . Increment the counters of  $(m_b + m_f)$ -bit subkeys which satisfy that  $E_b^{K_1}(P_1) \oplus E_b^{K_2}(P_2) = E_b^{K_3}(P_3) \oplus E_b^{K_4}(P_4) = \alpha$  and  $(E_f^{K_1})^{-1}(C_1) \oplus (E_f^{K_3})^{-1}(C_3) = (E_f^{K_2})^{-1}(C_2) \oplus (E_f^{K_4})^{-1}(C_4) = \delta$ .
7. Output the subkey with maximal number of hits.

The data complexity of the attack is  $D = 4M$  chosen plaintexts. The time complexity of Step 1 is  $D$  encryptions. The time complexity of Step 2 is only  $2^{m_b+m_f}$  memory access using suitable data structures.

Step 3 requires  $2M$  memory access for the insertion for both  $(L_1, L_3)$  and  $(L_2, L_4)$  and thus  $4M$  memory accesses in total. The colliding pairs for both  $(L_1, L_3)$  and  $(L_2, L_4)$  is  $M^2 \cdot 2^{r_f-n}$ . After checking that the ciphertext difference is in  $U_f$ , about  $M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f-n}$  colliding pairs remain for both  $(L_1, L_3)$  and  $(L_2, L_4)$

is  $M^2 \cdot 2^{r_f - n}$ . The time complexity of this step is  $4M + 2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{r_f - n}$  memory accesses.

Step 4 requires one memory access for each pair remained after Step 3. The time complexity is  $2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f - n}$  memory accesses.

Step 5 searches for possible quartets. In structures under  $K_1$  (or  $K_2$ ), there are  $M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f - n}$  attachments which distribute over  $y$  structures. Therefore in each structure  $K_1$  (or  $K_2$ ), we have about  $M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f - n} / y = M \cdot 2^{t_f - r_b - n}$  attachments on average. In the same structure under  $K_1$  and  $K_2$ , there are  $(M \cdot 2^{t_f + r_b - n})^2 / y$  pairs of  $(C_1, C_2)$  where the ciphertexts say  $C_3$  and  $C_4$  that  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are related to are also in the same structure, i.e.  $M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2r_b - 2n}$  possible quartets  $(C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4)$  under  $(K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4)$ . Suppose that the corresponding plaintext is  $(P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4)$ . We check that both  $P_1 \oplus P_2$  and  $P_3 \oplus P_4$  are in  $U_b$ . The probability that both  $P_1 \oplus P_2$  and  $P_3 \oplus P_4$  are in  $U_b$  is  $2^{(t_b - r_b) \times 2}$ , so  $M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2t_b - 2n}$  quartets will be left. In total this step takes  $M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2r_b - 2n} (1 + 2^{t_b - r_b})$  memory accesses.

Step 6 deduces the right subkey from the remaining quartets. Note that a right quartets satisfies  $E_b^{K_1}(P_1) \oplus E_b^{K_2}(P_2) = E_b^{K_3}(P_3) \oplus E_b^{K_4}(P_4) = \alpha$  and key differences  $\Delta_1, \Delta_2$  are chosen in advance and known. With these two key differences,  $K_2, K_3, K_4$  can be computed from  $K_1$ . A right quartet must agree on the  $m_f$  bits of  $K_1$ . There are  $2^{t_b}$  possible input differences that may lead to  $\alpha$  difference after  $E_b$ . Therefore,  $2^{m_b - t_b}$  subkeys on average take one of the difference in  $U_b$  to  $\alpha$ . For two pairs in a quartet, they agree on  $(2^{m_b - t_b})^2 / (2 \cdot 2^{m_b}) = 2^{m_b - 2t_b - 1}$  subkeys for  $E_b$ . Do the same analysis for  $E_f$  part with the corresponding ciphertexts, and we get  $2^{m_f - 2t_f - 1}$  subkey suggestions for  $E_f$ . Each remaining quartet suggests  $2^{m_b + m_f - 2t_b - 2t_f - 2}$  subkeys. There are  $M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2t_b - 2n} \cdot 2^{m_b + m_f - 2t_b - 2t_f - 2} = M^2 \cdot 2^{m_b + m_f - 2n - 2}$  hits. For a wrong key, there are  $M^2 \cdot 2^{-2n - 2}$  ( $< 1/4$ ) hits, while for a right key there are  $c(c > 1)$  hits. Using hash tables, this step can be implemented with  $M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2t_b - 2n} \cdot 2^{m_b - t_b} \cdot 2 + M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2t_b - 2n} \cdot 2^{m_f - t_f} \cdot 2 = M^2 \cdot 2^{t_b + t_f - 2n + 1} (2^{m_b + t_f} + 2^{m_f + t_b})$  memory accesses.

Step 7 requires  $1 \sim 4$  memory accesses using efficient data structures.

More information about the original algorithm of Biham et al. can be found in [9].

Overall, this algorithm requires  $D = 4y2^{r_b} = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{r_b} \cdot 2^{n/2 - r_b} / \hat{p}\hat{q} = 4 \cdot \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2} / \hat{p}\hat{q}$  chosen plaintexts, and time complexity of  $4M + 2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{r_f - n} + 2 \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{t_f - n} + M^2 \cdot 2^{2t_f + 2t_b - 2n} (1 + 2^{t_b - r_b}) + M^2 \cdot 2^{t_b + t_f - 2n + 1} (2^{m_b + t_f} + 2^{m_f + t_b})$  memory accesses. The memory complexity is  $4M + 2^{t_b} + 2^{t_f} + 2^{m_b + m_f}$ .

## C Boomerang Quartets

Even though rectangle distinguishers are used to attack SKINNY, our experiment works on a boomerang distinguisher of SKINNY-64-128, since a rectangle distinguisher is valid as long as the corresponding boomerang distinguisher is valid. What's more, the probability of a rectangle distinguisher is  $2^{-n} p^2 q^2$ , while the probability of the corresponding boomerang is  $p^2 q^2$  which is more practical for verification.

The experiment is implemented in standard C programming language. We aim at finding at least one right quartet that follow our related-tweakey boomerang distinguisher within  $1/p^2q^2$  tested quartets. For the 13-round distinguisher, one right quartet is found among a total of  $2^{12}$  tested quartets while the estimated probability of the distinguisher is  $2^{-27}$ . In total we found  $2^{10.2}$  right quartets in a searching space of  $2^{20}$  quartets. For the 14-round distinguisher, 34 right quartets are found in a searching space of  $2^{40.8}$ , while the estimated probability is  $2^{-40}$ . One of the right quartets is displayed in Table 8.

Note that our distinguisher starts from AddConstant instead of SubCells. According to our 14-round distinguisher, the plaintext difference is simply one cell difference of position 2 (we choose 1 as the actual difference value) so as to the ciphertext difference whose active cell position is 12 (we choose 2 as the actual difference value).

**Table 8:** One of the quartets of the 15-round boomerang distinguisher of SKINNY-64-128

$K_1$	ed19 f85b 920d 6862	8953 f24b fd90 8f60
$\Delta_1$	00e0 0000 0000 0000	00f0 0000 0000 0000
$\Delta_2$	0000 0e00 0000 0000	0000 0d00 0000 0000
$P_1, C_1$	8ae9 28a6 9000 0000	0b08 912a e543 25e0
$P_2, C_2$	8af9 28a6 9000 0000	a4c8 c51b bc2c 646b
$P_3, C_3$	993a cad5 00b8 af00	0b08 912a e541 25e0
$P_4, C_4$	994a cad5 00b8 af00	a4c8 c51b bc2e 646b

## D Differential Trails

In this section, we list the differential trails used in rectangle attacks in Section 5. Note that we only present the master key difference (since the subtweakey differences are determined by master key difference) and the state differences before and after SubCells of each round, where each cell (byte or nibble) of zero difference is denote by ‘0’ and each non-zero cell is given in hexadecimal, ordered from left to right. For the sake of brevity, a round with whole zero state difference may be omitted.

**Table 9:** Trails for SKINNY-64-128

	8-round upper trail $p = 2^{-12}$	9-round lower trail $q = 2^{-20}$
$\Delta K$	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 6,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 9,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,c,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, e,0,0,0 0,0,f,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, b,0,0,0
R1	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,1 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,8	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,2 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,3
R2	0,0,8,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,5,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,3,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,3,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,d,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,c,0
R3	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,c,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,4, 0,0,0,0 0,2,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,2, 0,0,0,0
R4	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,2,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,1,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R7	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,b, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,1, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R8	0,1,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,1,0,0, 0,1,0,0 0,8,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,8,0,0, 0,8,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,4,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,2,0, 0,0,0,0
R9		2,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 2,0,0,0 6,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 5,0,0,0

**Table 10:** Trails for SKINNY-128-256

	8-round trail $q = 2^{-12}$	9-round trail $p = 2^{-32.42}$
$\Delta K$	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 55,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 8a,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,bb,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, a8,0,0,0 0,0,db,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 15,0,0,0
R1	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,08 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,10	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,11 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,60
R2	0,0,10,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,40,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,60,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,60,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,96,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,44,0
R3	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,44,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,14, 0,0,0,0 0,d5,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,d5, 0,0,0,0
R4	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,d5,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,02,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R7	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,01, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,20, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R8	0,20,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,20,0,0, 0,20,0,0 0,80,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,80,0,0, 0,80,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,56,0, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,08,0, 0,0,0,0
R9		08,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 08,0,0,0 10,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 10,0,0,0

**Table 11:** Trails for SKINNY under TK3

	11-round trail for SKINNY-64 $p = 2^{-20}$	11-round trail for SKINNY-128 $q = 2^{-21}$
$\Delta K$	0,a,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,2,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,d,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	0,44,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,04,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 0,51,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R1	0,2,0,0, 1,0,0,0, 0,0,0,1, 0,0,1,0 0,5,0,0, b,0,0,0, 0,0,0,b, 0,0,b,0	0,0c,0,0, 02,0,0,0, 0,0,0,02, 0,0,02,0 0,11,0,0, 08,0,0,0, 0,0,0,08, 0,0,08,0
R2	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,b,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,1,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,08,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,10,0,0
R3	1,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 8,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0	10,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0 40,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0
R10	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,8, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,4, 0,0,0,0	0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,40, 0,0,0,0 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,0,0,04, 0,0,0,0
R11	0,4,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,4,0,0, 0,4,0,0 0,2,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,2,0,0, 0,2,0,0	0,04,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,04,0,0, 0,04,0,0 0,01,0,0, 0,0,0,0, 0,01,0,0, 0,01,0,0