

Improved (Related-key) Differential Cryptanalysis on GIFT

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Abstract. In this paper, we reevaluate the security of GIFT against differential cryptanalysis under both single-key scenario and related-key scenario. Firstly, we apply Matsui’s algorithm to search related-key differential trails of GIFT. We add three constraints to limit the search space and search the optimal related-key differential trails on the limited search space. We obtain related-key differential trails of GIFT-64/128 for up to 15/14 rounds, which are the best results on related-key differential trails of GIFT so far. Secondly, we propose an automatic algorithm to increase the probability of the related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT by searching the clustering of the related-key differential trails utilized in the boomerang distinguisher. We find a 20-round related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT-64 with probability $2^{-58.557}$. The 25-round related-key rectangle attack on GIFT-64 is constructed based on it. This is the longest attack on GIFT-64. We also find a 19-round related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT-128 with probability $2^{-109.626}$. We propose a 23-round related-key rectangle attack on GIFT-128 utilizing the 19-round distinguisher, which is the longest related-key attack on GIFT-128. The 24-round related-key rectangle attack on GIFT-64 and 22-round related-key boomerang attack on GIFT-128 are also presented. Thirdly, we search the clustering of the single-key differential trails. We increase the probability of a 20-round single-key differential distinguisher of GIFT-128 from $2^{-121.415}$ to $2^{-120.245}$. The time complexity of the 26-round differential attack on GIFT-128 is improved from $2^{124.415}$ to $2^{123.245}$.

Keywords: Matsui’s algorithm · Related-key differential trail · Single-key differential trail · Clustering effect · Boomerang attack · Rectangle attack · GIFT

1 Introduction

GIFT is a lightweight Substitution-Permutation-Network block cipher proposed by Banik *et al.* at CHES’17 [7]. GIFT has two versions named GIFT-64 and GIFT-128, whose block sizes are 64 and 128 bits respectively and round numbers are 28 and 40 respectively. The key length of GIFT-64 and GIFT-128 are both 128 bits. As the inheritor of PRESENT [16], GIFT achieves improvements over PRESENT in both security and efficiency. GIFT is the underlying block cipher of the lightweight authenticated encryption schemes GIFT-COFB [1], HYENA [2], SUNDAE-GIFT [3], LOTUS-AEAD and LOCUS-AEAD [4], which are all the round 2 candidates of the NIST lightweight crypto standardization process [5].

Differential cryptanalysis [13] is one of the most fundamental methods for cryptanalysis of block ciphers. The most important step of differential cryptanalysis is to find differential trails with high probabilities. *Boomerang attack* [31] and *rectangle attack* [11,23] are extensions of differential cryptanalysis. *Related-key boomerang attack* [24,12] is a combination of boomerang attack and related-key differential cryptanalysis [10].

In recent years, the resistance of GIFT against (related-key) differential cryptanalysis have been extensively studied. **In single-key scenario**, Zhou *et al.* [35] succeed in searching the optimal differential trails of GIFT-64 for up to 14 rounds. Ji *et al.* [22] found the optimal differential trails of GIFT-128 for up to 19 rounds. Li *et al.* [25] obtained a 20-round differential trail of GIFT-128 and presented a 26-round attack on GIFT-128. **In related-key scenario**, the designers [7] gave lower bounds of the probabilities of the optimal related-key differential trails of GIFT-64 for up to

12 rounds and GIFT-128 for up to 9 rounds. Liu and Sasaki [27] searched related-key differential trails of GIFT-64 for up to 21 rounds. They succeed in attacking 21-round GIFT-128 with a 19-round related-key boomerang distinguisher and 23-round GIFT-64 with a 20-round related-key boomerang distinguisher. In [18], Chen *et al.* constructed a 20-round related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT-64 with probability $Pr = 2^{-50}$. Based on this 20-round distinguisher, a 23-round related-key rectangle attack was proposed in [18] and a 24-round related-key rectangle attack was proposed by Zhao *et al.* in [34]. According to the analysis in [32], the probability of the 20-round distinguisher should be corrected to $Pr = 2^{-68}$. The 23-round and 24-round attack are invalid since $Pr < 2^{-64}$ [11]. The detailed proof process is demonstrated in App.C.

Matsui’s algorithm [28] is a branch-and-bound depth-first automatic search algorithm proposed by Matsui to search optimal single-key differential and linear trails of DES. Some improvements of Matsui’s algorithm have been presented and applied to DESL, FEAL, NOEKEON and SPONGENT [29,6,8,22]. In [22], Ji *et al.* applied three methods to speed up the search process of Matsui’s algorithm. The improved Matsui’s algorithm given in [22] is easy to implement and performs well in searching the optimal single-key differential trails of GIFT.

In this paper, we focus on the following two issues. **Firstly**, the lower bounds of the probabilities of the optimal related-key differential trails of GIFT found in [7,27] are loose. We hope to find related-key differential trails of GIFT with higher probabilities. We apply Matsui’s algorithm to search related-key differential trails of GIFT. **Secondly**, both the probability of the single-key differential distinguisher and the related-key boomerang distinguisher can be improved by considering the clustering of the differential trails. The definitions of *the clustering of an R -round single-key differential trail* and *the clustering of the related-key differential trails utilized in an R -round related-key boomerang distinguisher* are presented in Definition 4 and Definition 5. We research how to find the clustering of the single-key differential trails and the related-key differential trails utilized in the related-key boomerang distinguisher.

Our Contributions

1 We apply Matsui’s algorithm to search related-key differential trails of GIFT. We search related-key differential trails of GIFT according to the following three steps:

- Firstly, apply the speeding-up methods in [22] to speed up the search process.
- Secondly, add three constraints to limit the search space.
- Finally, search the optimal related-key differential trails on the limited search space.

The adjusted Matsui’s algorithm devoted to searching related-key differential trails of GIFT is shown in Alg.1.

- We succeed in finding related-key differential trails of GIFT-64/128 for up to 15/14 rounds. The results are summarized in Table 1.
- As we can see from Table 1, compared with the known results in [7,27,18], **the related-key differential trails of GIFT we find are the best results so far.** For GIFT-128, we find related-key differential trails for up to 14 round, while the previous results up to 9 rounds. For both GIFT-64 and GIFT-128, our results provide tighter lower bounds for the probabilities of the optimal related-key trails.

In [27], the authors presented a 9-round related-key differential trail l of GIFT-128 with weight 29.830. Through our verification, we find that l cannot be reproduced. It is because that the round key difference of l cannot be generated from the master key difference.

2 We propose an automatic search algorithm to search the clustering of the related-key differential trails utilized in the related-key boomerang distinguisher. The new algorithm is presented as Alg.2. The target cipher E of the related-key boomerang distinguisher is decomposed as $E_1 \circ E_m \circ E_0$.

- **For GIFT-64**, we increase the probability of a 20-round related-key boomerang distinguisher from $2^{-67.660}$ to $2^{-58.557}$. The clustering of the 10-round related-key differential trail utilized in E_0 consists of 5728 trails. The clustering of the 9-round related-key differential trail utilized in E_1 consists of 312 trails.

Table 1. The weight¹ of the n -round related-key differential trails of GIFT

n	GIFT-64				GIFT-128	
	[7]	[18]	[27]	Sect.3	[7]	Sect.3
5	1.415			1.415	7.000	6.830
6	5.000			4.000	11.000	10.830
7	6.415			6.000	20.000	15.830
8	10.000			8.000	25.000	22.830
9	16.000	14.000	13.415	13.415	31.000	30.000
10	22.000			20.415		37.000
11	27.000		28.830	26.000		44.000
12				31.000		56.000
13			39.000	37.000		65.830
14				42.830		77.830
15			50.000	48.000		

¹ The *weight* is the negative logarithm of the *probability* with base 2.

The 25-round and 24-round related-key rectangle attacks are achieved taking advantage of the 20-round distinguisher. **This is the longest attack on GIFT-64 so far**, while the previous longest attack is the 23-round related-key boomerang attack proposed in [27].

- **For GIFT-128**, we increase the probability of a 19-round related-key boomerang distinguisher from $2^{-120.00}$ to $2^{-109.626}$. The clustering of the 9-round related-key differential trail utilized in E_0 contains 3952 trails. The clustering of the 9-round related-key differential trail utilized in E_1 contains 2944 trails.

Applying the 19-round distinguisher, we propose a 23-round related-key rectangle attack and a 22-round related-key boomerang attack. **This is the longest related-key attack on GIFT-128**, while the previous longest related-key attack is the 21-round related-key boomerang attack proposed in [27].

Table 2. Summary of the cryptanalytic results on GIFT

GIFT-64						
Rounds	Approach	Setting	Time	Data	Memory	Ref.
20	DC	SK	$2^{112.68}$	2^{62}	2^{112}	[17]
21	DC	SK	$2^{107.61}$	2^{64}	2^{96}	[17]
23	Boomerang	RK	$2^{126.6}$	$2^{63.3}$	-	[27]
24	Rectangle	RK	$2^{106.00}$	$2^{63.78}$	$2^{64.10}$	Sect.5.2
25	Rectangle	RK	$2^{120.92}$	$2^{63.78}$	$2^{64.10}$	Sect.5.1
GIFT-128						
Rounds	Approach	Setting	Time	Data	Memory	Ref.
21	Boomerang	RK	$2^{126.6}$	$2^{126.6}$	-	[27]
22	Boomerang	RK	$2^{112.63}$	$2^{112.63}$	2^{52}	App.B
23	Rectangle	RK	$2^{126.89}$	$2^{121.31}$	$2^{121.63}$	Sect.6.2
23	DC	SK	2^{120}	2^{120}	2^{86}	[36]
26	DC	SK	$2^{124.415}$	$2^{124.415}$	2^{109}	[25]
26	DC	SK	$2^{123.245}$	$2^{123.245}$	2^{109}	Sect.6.1

3 We apply Matsui’s algorithm to search the clustering of the single-key differential trails.

- We increase the probability of a 20-round single-key differential distinguisher of GIFT-128 from $2^{-121.415}$ to $2^{-120.245}$. The clustering of the 20-round single-key differential trail is composed by four trails. We improve the time complexity of the 26-round differential attack on GIFT-128 constructed in [25] from $2^{124.415}$ to $2^{123.245}$.

The cryptanalytic results are summarized in Table 2.

Organization. The paper is organized as follows. In Sect.2, we give a brief description of GIFT, the speeding-up methods on Matsui’s algorithm and the related-key boomerang and rectangle attack. The definitions and notations adopted throughout the paper are also presented in Sect.2. In Sect.3, we introduce how to apply Matsui’s algorithm in related-key scenario. Sect.4 declares how to search the clustering of the single-key/related-key differential trails. Sect.5 and Sect.6 provide the details of the 25/24-round attacks on GIFT-64 and the 26/23-round attacks on GIFT-128 respectively. The details of the 22-round attack on GIFT-128 are presented in App.B. Sect.7 is the conclusion and future work.

2 Preliminaries

2.1 Description of GIFT

Let n be the block size of GIFT. The master key is $iniK := k_7 || k_6 || \dots || k_0$, in which $|iniK| = 128$, $|k_i| = 16$. Each round of GIFT consists of three steps: **SubCells**, **PermBits**, and **AddRoundKey**.

Table 3. The specifications of the S-box GS in GIFT

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
$GS(x)$	1	a	4	c	6	f	3	9	2	d	b	7	5	0	8	e

1 **SubCells.** The S-box GS is applied to every nibble of the cipher state. The specifications of GS is given in Table 3.

2 **PermBits.** Update the cipher state by a linear bit permutation $P(\cdot)$ as $b_{P(i)} \leftarrow b_i, \forall i \in \{0, \dots, n-1\}$.

3 **AddRoundKey.** An $n/2$ -bit round key RK is extracted from the key state. It is further partitioned into two s -bit words $RK := U || V = u_{s-1} \dots u_0 || v_{s-1} \dots v_0, s = n/4$.

For GIFT-64, RK is XORed to the state as $b_{4i+1} \leftarrow b_{4i+1} \oplus u_i, b_{4i} \leftarrow b_{4i} \oplus v_i, \forall i \in \{0, \dots, 15\}$. For GIFT-128, RK is XORed to the state as $b_{4i+2} \leftarrow b_{4i+2} \oplus u_i, b_{4i+1} \leftarrow b_{4i+1} \oplus v_i, \forall i \in \{0, \dots, 31\}$.

For both versions, a single bit “1” and a 6-bit constant C are XORed into the internal state at positions $n-1, 23, 19, 15, 11, 7$ and 3 respectively.

Key Schedule. For GIFT-64, $RK = U || V = k_1 || k_0$. For GIFT-128, $RK = U || V = k_5 || k_4 || k_1 || k_0$. For both versions, the key state is updated as

$$k_7 || k_6 || \dots || k_1 || k_0 \leftarrow k_1 \ggg 2 || k_0 \ggg 12 || \dots || k_3 || k_2,$$

where $\ggg i$ is an i -bit right rotation within a 16-bit word.

We refer readers to [7] for more details of GIFT.

2.2 Definitions and Notations

Definition 1 ([20]). *The weight of a difference propagation* (a', b') is the negative of the binary logarithm of the difference propagation probability over the transformation h , i.e.,

$$w_r(a', b') = -\log_2^{Pr^h}(a', b'). \quad (1)$$

a' is the input difference and b' is the output difference.

Definition 2 ([19]). Let φ be an invertible function from \mathbb{F}_2^m to \mathbb{F}_2^m , and $\Delta_0, \nabla_0 \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$. The **boomerang connectivity table** (BCT) of φ is defined by a $2^m \times 2^m$ table, in which the entry for (Δ_0, ∇_0) is computed by:

$$\text{BCT}(\Delta_0, \nabla_0) = \#\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n | \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(x) \oplus \nabla_0) \oplus \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(x \oplus \Delta_0) \oplus \nabla_0) = \Delta_0\}. \quad (2)$$

Definition 3 ([32]). Let φ be an invertible function from \mathbb{F}_2^m to \mathbb{F}_2^m , and $\Delta_0, \Delta_1, \nabla_0, \nabla_1 \in \mathbb{F}_2^m$. The **boomerang difference table** (BDT) of φ is a three-dimensional table, in which the entry for $(\Delta_0, \Delta_1, \nabla_0)$ is computed by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BDT}(\Delta_0, \Delta_1, \nabla_0) = \#\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n | \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(x) \oplus \nabla_0) \oplus \varphi^{-1}(\varphi(x \oplus \Delta_0) \oplus \nabla_0) = \Delta_0, \\ \varphi(x) \oplus \varphi(x \oplus \Delta_0) = \Delta_1\}. \end{aligned} \quad (3)$$

The iBDT, as a variant of BDT, is evaluated by:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iBDT}(\nabla_0, \nabla_1, \Delta_0) = \#\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n | \varphi(\varphi^{-1}(x) \oplus \Delta_0) \oplus \varphi(\varphi^{-1}(x \oplus \nabla_0) \oplus \Delta_0) = \nabla_0, \\ \varphi^{-1}(x) \oplus \varphi^{-1}(x \oplus \nabla_0) = \nabla_1\}. \end{aligned} \quad (4)$$

The notations used in this paper are defined as follows:

$S(\cdot), P(\cdot), K(\cdot)$: SubCells operation, PermBits operation, AddRoundKey operation
n	: the block size of cipher E
k	: the master key size of cipher E
2ns	: the number of the S-boxes in $S(\cdot)$; $2\text{ns} = n/4$ for GIFT
MKD	: the master key difference
X_i, Y_i	: the input and the output of $S(\cdot)$ in round i
Z_i	: the output of $P(\cdot)$ in round i
K_i	: the round key of round i
$\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i, \Delta Z_i, \Delta K_i$: the differential value of X_i, Y_i, Z_i and K_i
$W(l)$: the weight of the differential trail l
$W(\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i)$: the weight of $\Delta X_i \xrightarrow{S(\cdot)} \Delta Y_i$ in round i
$B_R := \min[\sum_{i=1}^R W(\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i)]$: the weight of the R -round optimal differential trail
Bc_R	: the upper bound of B_R
bw	: the value of Bc_R minus B_R ; $Bc_R = B_R + bw$
DDT	: the <i>difference distribution table</i> of the S-box
LAT	: the <i>linear approximation table</i> of the S-box

$E := E_1 \circ E_m \circ E_0$: the target cipher of the boomerang or rectangle distinguisher
$E' := E_f \circ E \circ E_b$: the target cipher of the boomerang or rectangle attack
E_b	: the extension cipher added at the start of E
E_f	: the extension cipher added at the end of E
r_b, r_f	: the number of active bits in the input difference of E_b and the output difference of E_f
m_b, m_f	: the number of key bits needed to be guessed in E_b and E_f

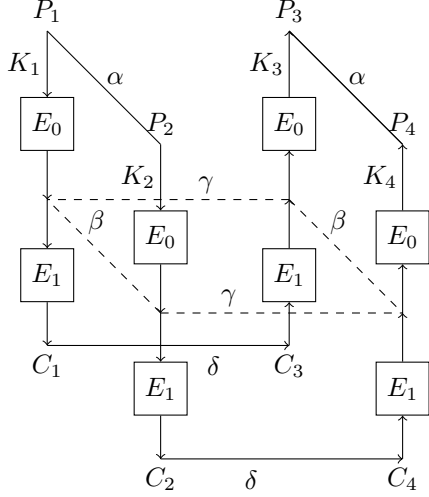


Fig. 1. The Boomerang Distinguisher

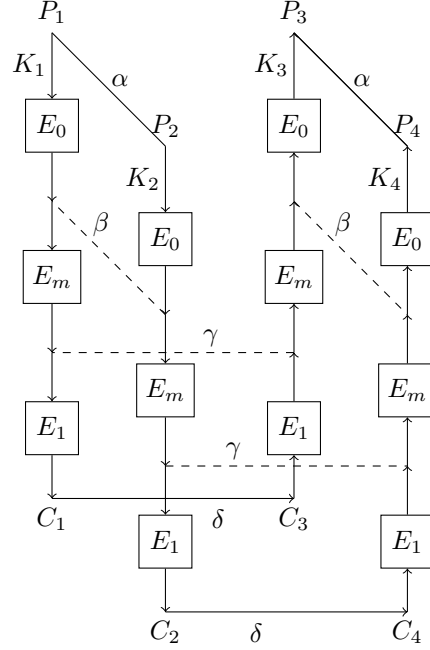


Fig. 2. The Sandwich Distinguisher

2.3 Three Methods to Speed Up Matsui's Algorithm

Matsui's algorithm [28] works by induction on the number of rounds and derives the R -round optimal weight B_R from the knowledge of all i -round optimal weight B_i ($1 \leq i < R$). The program requires an initial value for B_R , which is represented as B_{C_R} . It works correctly for any B_{C_R} as long as $B_{C_R} \geq B_R$. In [22], Ji *et al.* applied three methods to improve the efficiency of Matsui's algorithm. The three speeding-up methods are named (1) *Reconstructing DDT and LAT According to Weight*, (2) *Executing Linear Layer Operations in Minimal Cost* and (3) *Merging Two 4-bit S-boxes into One 8-bit S-box*.

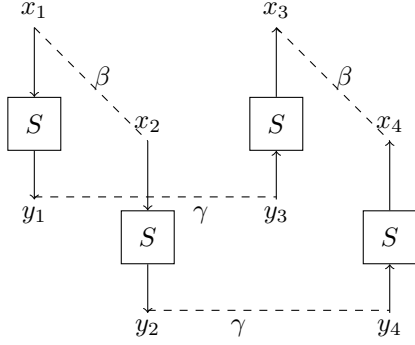
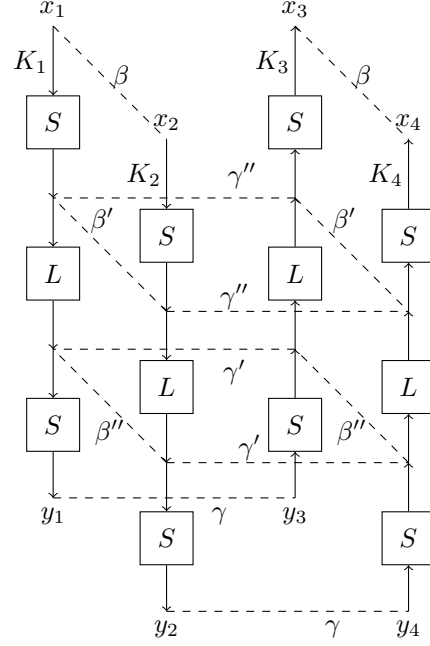
Speeding-up method-1 contributes to pruning unsatisfiable candidates quickly. The authors reconstructed the DDT table to sort the input and output differences according to their weights. **Speeding-up method-2 and method-3** contribute to reducing the cost of executing linear layer operations. The authors merged 2ns 4-bit S-boxes into ns 8-bit new S-boxes. The new linear table is constructed according to the output differences of each S-box. The SSE instructions are applied to reduce the cost of linear layer operations.

The improved Matsui's algorithm for GIFT is demonstrated as Alg.3 in App.A. We refer readers to [22] for more details of the speeding-up methods.

2.4 Related-key Boomerang Attack and Rectangle Attack

Basic Related-key Boomerang Attack and Rectangle Attack. *Related-key boomerang attack* is an adaptive chosen-plaintext/ciphertext attack. As is shown in Fig.1, the adversary can split the target cipher E into two sub-ciphers E_0 and E_1 , *i.e.* $E = E_1 \circ E_0$. Assume that there are a differential trail $\alpha \rightarrow \beta$ under the key difference ΔK over E_0 with probability p and a differential trail $\gamma \rightarrow \delta$ under the key difference ∇K over E_1 with probability q . Once K_1 is known, the other three keys are determined: $K_2 = K_1 \oplus \Delta K$, $K_3 = K_1 \oplus \nabla K$, $K_4 = K_2 \oplus \nabla K$. Given $P_1 \oplus P_2 = \alpha$ and $K_1 \oplus K_2 = \Delta K$, the probability that we obtain two plaintexts satisfying $P_3 \oplus P_4 = \alpha$ through the boomerang distinguisher is:

$$p^2 q^2 = Pr[E^{-1}(E(x, K_1) \oplus \delta, K_3) \oplus E^{-1}(E(x \oplus \alpha, K_2) \oplus \delta, K_4) = \alpha] \quad (5)$$

Fig. 3. A 1-round E_m Fig. 4. A 2-round E_m

If (P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4) can pass the boomerang distinguisher, then it is called a **right quartet**.

For a random permutation, given $P_1 \oplus P_2 = \alpha$ and $K_1 \oplus K_2 = \Delta K$, the probability that two random plaintexts satisfying $P_3 \oplus P_4 = \alpha$ is 2^{-n} . Therefore, only if $pq > 2^{-n/2}$ can we count more right quartets than random noise through the related-key boomerang distinguisher.

Related-key rectangle attack is a chosen-plaintext attack, which is a further development of the related-key boomerang attack. In Fig.1, given $P_1 \oplus P_2 = \alpha$ and $P_3 \oplus P_4 = \alpha$ under K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4 , the probability that the corresponding ciphertexts C_1, C_2, C_3, C_4 meets $C_1 \oplus C_3 = \delta$ and $C_2 \oplus C_4 = \delta$ (or $C_1 \oplus C_4 = \delta$ and $C_2 \oplus C_3 = \delta$) is $2^{-n}p^2q^2$. If (P_1, P_2, P_3, P_4) can pass the rectangle distinguisher under (K_1, K_2, K_3, K_4) , then it is called a **right quartet**. For a random permutation, we get a right quartet with probability 2^{-2n} in the rectangle attack. Thus, only if $pq > 2^{-n/2}$ can we count more right quartets than random noise.

Boomerang Switch. The interaction between the two differential trails over E_0 and E_1 is utilized to improve the boomerang and rectangle attack [14,15], which is called **the boomerang switch** [15]. The idea of the boomerang switch is to minimize the overall complexity of the distinguisher by optimizing the transition between E_0 and E_1 . In [21], a new framework named **sandwich attack** was proposed. As is shown in Fig.2, the sandwich attack decomposes the target cipher E as $E_1 \circ E_m \circ E_0$. The propagation of the boomerang switch is captured by the propagation of E_m .

For the fixed β and γ , the probability that a quartet can pass E_m is :

$$r := Pr[E_m^{-1}(E_m(x, K_1) \oplus \gamma, K_3) \oplus E_m^{-1}(E_m(x \oplus \beta, K_2) \oplus \gamma, K_4) = \beta] \quad (6)$$

Thus, the probability that we obtain a right quartet through the sandwich distinguisher (*i.e.* the boomerang distinguisher with boomerang switch) is p^2q^2r .

The value of r can be evaluated by the boomerang connectivity table [19] or the boomerang difference table [32] at the S-box level. Let $\beta[2ns]||\dots||\beta[1] := \beta$ and $\gamma[2ns]||\dots||\gamma[1] := \gamma$. Let S and L be the non-linear and linear layer operations of E , $\beta' = S(\beta)$, $\beta'' = L(\beta')$, $\gamma' = S^{-1}(\gamma)$ and $\gamma'' = L^{-1}(\gamma')$. For a 1-round E_m , the propagation of β and γ is illustrated in Fig.3. Then we have

$$r = 2^{-n} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2ns} \text{BCT}(\beta[i], \gamma[i]).$$

For a 2-round E_m , the propagation of β and γ is illustrated in Fig.4. Then we have

$$r = 2^{-2n} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2n} (\text{BDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i], \gamma''[i]) \times \text{iBDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i], \beta''[i])).$$

For a related-key boomerang distinguisher, if there are multiple trails $\alpha \xrightarrow{E_0} \beta_i$ and $\gamma_j \xrightarrow{E_1} \delta$ ($\beta_i \neq \gamma_j$) under fixed α , ΔK , δ and ∇K , the probability of obtaining a right quartet can be increased to:

$$\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 := \sum_{i,j} p_i^2 q_j^2 r_{ij}, \quad (7)$$

in which $p_i = \Pr(\alpha \xrightarrow{E_0} \beta_i)$, $q_j = \Pr(\gamma_j \xrightarrow{E_1} \delta)$ and $r_{ij} = \Pr(\beta_i \xrightarrow{E_m} \gamma_j)$.

A new key-recovery model for the related-key boomerang and rectangle attack against block ciphers with linear key schedules was constructed by Zhao *et al.* in [33,34]. This new model is a modification of Liu *et al.*'s model [26]. In this paper, we utilize the model proposed by Zhao *et al.* to perform the key-recovery attack against GIFT.

3 Searching Related-key Differential Trails

3.1 Applying Matsui's Algorithm in Related-key Scenario

Our objective is to find related-key differential trails with high probabilities. We apply Matsui's algorithm to search related-key differential trails of GIFT. Firstly, we apply the speeding-up methods introduced in Sect.2.3 to improve the search process. Secondly, we add three constraints to limit the search space. Finally, we search the optimal related-key differential trails on the limited search space. **The adjusted Matsui's algorithm aiming at searching optimal related-key differential trails of GIFT on limited search space is demonstrated in Alg.1.**

Let R be the round number of E . Let $\Delta iniK := \Delta k_7 || \dots || \Delta k_0$ be the master key difference and ΔK_i be the round key difference in round i . **We utilize the following three constraints to limit the search space:**

1 Restricting the input difference of round fr to zero and traverse fr from 1 to R .

It has been declared in [29] that the number of candidates in the first two rounds of Matsui's algorithm is the dominant factor of the search complexity. In Alg.3, the number of candidates ΔY_1 in Procedure Round-1 depends on the value of $Bc_R - B_{R-1}$. Alg.1 starts from Procedure Round- fr with only one candidate $\Delta Y_{fr} = 0$. Since $\Delta Y_{fr} = 0$, we can determine the input difference of round $i+1$ which is ΔK_i and the output difference of round $i-1$ which is ΔK_{i-1} . Therefore, the complexity of Matsui's algorithm in related-key scenario is improved benefitting from constraint-1.

2 Restricting the number of the active bits in the master key difference.

The key schedule of GIFT is a linear transformation. The value of ΔK_i are determined by $\Delta iniK$. The input difference of $S(\cdot)$ in round i is $\Delta X_i = P(\Delta Y_{i-1}) \oplus \Delta K_{i-1}$. The related-key differential trails with small weight will not contain too many active S-boxes in $S(\cdot)$. Thus, there should not be too many active bits in ΔK_i ($1 \leq i \leq R$). The details of constraint-2 are as follows.

- Restricting the number of the active bits in $\Delta iniK$ to no more than four when $R < 11$.
- Restricting the number of the active bits in $\Delta iniK$ to no more than three when $R \geq 11$.
- Restricting the four active bit positions to belong to four different Δk_j ($0 \leq j \leq 7$) if the number of the active bits is four.

The total number of the candidate $\Delta iniK$ is $C_{128}^1 + C_{128}^2 + C_{128}^3 + C_7^4 \cdot (C_{16}^1)^4 = 4937152$.

3 Restricting the number of the active S-boxes in round i ($1 \leq i \leq R$) to no more than five when $R \geq 11$.

Algorithm 1 The Adjusted Matsui’s Algorithm of Searching Optimal Related-key Differential Trails for GIFT on Limited Search Space

Require: $R (\geq 3)$; $B_0 = 0, B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{R-1}; B_{C_R}$; iniKeyDiff [4937152]; $ns := n/8$

Ensure: $B_R = B_{C_R}$; the R -round related-key differential trails with minimal weight

```

1: for each iniKeyDiff  $[v]$  do
2:   gen roundkey  $\Delta K_i, 1 \leq i \leq R$ 
3:   for  $fr = 1$  to  $R$  do
4:      $\Delta X_{fr} \leftarrow 0, \Delta Y_{fr} \leftarrow 0, w_{fr} \leftarrow 0$ 
5:     if  $fr = R$  then
6:        $\Delta Y_{fr-1} \leftarrow P^{-1}(\Delta K_{fr-1})$ 
7:       call Round- $i$ -In
8:     else
9:        $\Delta X_{fr+1} \leftarrow \Delta K_{fr}$ 
10:      call Round- $i$ 
11:    end if
12:  end for
13: end for

14: Procedure Round- $i, 2 \leq i \leq R - 1$ :
15: for each  $\Delta Y_i$  do
16:    $w_i \leftarrow W(\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i)$ 
17:   if  $B_{R-i} + B_{fr-1} + \sum_{j=fr}^i w_j \geq B_{C_R}$  then
18:     break
19:   else
20:      $\Delta X_{i+1} \leftarrow P(\Delta Y_i) \oplus \Delta K_i$ 
21:     call Round- $(i+1)$ 
22:   end if
23: end for

24: Procedure Round- $R$ :
25:  $w_R \leftarrow \min_{\Delta Y_R} W(\Delta X_R, \Delta Y_R)$ 

26: if  $B_{fr-1} + \sum_{j=fr}^R w_j \leq B_{C_R}$  then
27:   if  $fr = 1$  then
28:      $B_{C_R} = \sum_{j=1}^R w_j$ 
29:   else
30:      $\Delta Y_{fr-1} \leftarrow P^{-1}(\Delta K_{fr-1})$ 
31:     call Round- $i$ -In
32:   end if
33: end if
34: return to the upper procedure

35: Procedure Round- $i$ -In,  $2 \leq i \leq R - 1$ :
36: for each  $\Delta X_i$  do
37:    $w_i \leftarrow W(\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i)$ 
38:   if  $B_{i-1} + \sum_{j=i}^R w_j \geq B_{C_R}$  then
39:     break
40:   else
41:      $\Delta Y_{i-1} \leftarrow P^{-1}(\Delta X_i \oplus \Delta K_{i-1})$ 
42:     call Round- $(i-1)$ -In
43:   end if
44: end for

45: Procedure Round-1-In:
46:  $w_1 \leftarrow \min_{\Delta X_R} W(\Delta X_R, \Delta Y_R)$ 
47: if  $\sum_{j=1}^R w_j \leq B_{C_R}$  then
48:    $B_{C_R} = \sum_{j=1}^R w_j$ 
49: end if
50: return to the upper procedure

```

3.2 Results on Related-key Differential Trails of GIFT

Applying Alg.1, we find related-key differential trails of GIFT-64/128 for up to 15/14 rounds. The results are summarized in Table 1. Table 10 in App.D presents a 15-round related-key differential trail of GIFT-64 and a 14-round related-key differential trail of GIFT-128 found by Alg.1.

Compared to the previous results in [7,27,18], the optimal related-key differential trails found by Alg.1 on the limited search space are the best results known so far. We find related-key differential trails of GIFT-128 for up to 14 rounds, while the previous results up to 9 rounds. We provide tighter lower bounds for the probabilities of the optimal related-key trails of both GIFT-64 and GIFT-128. It indicates that the three constraints we choose perform well in limiting the search space while preserving the related-key differential trails with high probabilities.

4 Increasing the Probability of the Distinguisher Utilizing Clustering Effect

Both the probability of the single-key differential distinguisher and the related-key boomerang distinguisher can be increased by searching the clustering of the differential trails. Next, we give the

definitions of **the clustering of an R -round single-key differential trail** and **the clustering of the related-key differential trails utilized in an R -round boomerang distinguisher** and explain how to search the clustering.

4.1 Single-key Scenario

Definition 4. *The clustering of an R -round single-key differential trail* is defined as:

$$\mathcal{C}(R, \eta_{in}, \eta_{out}, B_{C_R}) := \{\text{all } R\text{-round single-key differential trails } l^i \mid W(l^i) \leq B_{C_R}, \Delta X_1 = \eta_{in}, P(\Delta Y_R) = \eta_{out}\}. \quad (8)$$

In fact, for an R -round single-key differential trail \mathcal{L} with fixed input difference η_{in} and output difference η_{out} , the clustering of \mathcal{L} is composed by all the differential trails whose input difference is η_{in} and output difference is η_{out} , *i.e.* $\mathcal{C}(R, \eta_{in}, \eta_{out}, \infty)$. It will take immeasurable time to determine all the trails in $\mathcal{C}(R, \eta_{in}, \eta_{out}, \infty)$. Therefore, we only search all the trails with weight no more than B_{C_R} . The choice of B_{C_R} is heuristic. \square

We call Alg.3 to search $\mathcal{C}(R, \eta_{in}, \eta_{out}, B_{C_R})$. The greater the value of B_{C_R} , the more trails can we find, while the longer the search time is required.

4.2 Related-key Scenario

Definition 5. *The clustering of the related-key differential trails utilized in an R -round related-key boomerang distinguisher* is defined as:

$$\mathcal{C}(R_0, R_1, R_m, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, B_{C_{R_0}}, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, B_{C_{R_1}}) := \{\text{all combinations of } (l_0^i, l_1^j) \mid l_0^i \in \mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, B_{C_{R_0}}), l_1^j \in \mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, B_{C_{R_1}})\}, \quad (9)$$

in which

$$\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, B_{C_{R_0}}) := \{\text{all } R_0\text{-round related-key differential trails } l_0^i \mid W(l_0^i) \leq B_{C_{R_0}}, \Delta X_1 = \alpha, \text{MKD} = \Delta iniK_0\}, \quad (10)$$

$$\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, B_{C_{R_1}}) := \{\text{all } R_1\text{-round related-key differential trails } l_1^j \mid W(l_1^j) \leq B_{C_{R_1}}, K(\Delta Z_{R_1}) = \delta, \text{MKD} = \Delta iniK_1\}, \quad (11)$$

and $R = R_0 + R_m + R_1$.

In fact, the clustering of an R_0 -round related-key differential trail \mathcal{L} with fixed input difference α and master key difference $\Delta iniK_0$ contains all the related-key differential trails with arbitrary weight, *i.e.* $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, \infty)$. It will take immeasurable time to determine all the trails in $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, \infty)$. Therefore, we only search all the trails with weight no more than $B_{C_{R_0}}$. The choice of $B_{C_{R_0}}$ is heuristic. The modification above also applies to $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, \infty)$. \square

To construct an R -round related-key boomerang distinguisher \mathcal{D} for the target cipher $E = E_1 \circ E_m \circ E_0$, we first determine the round number $R_0/R_m/R_1$ for $E_0/E_m/E_1$ satisfying $R = R_0 + R_m + R_1$. The general way to determine the probability of the distinguisher \mathcal{D} is:

- 1 Choose an R_0 -round trail l_0 for E_0 ; Get the input difference α , the output difference β and the master key difference $\Delta iniK_0$.
- 2 Choose an R_1 -round trail l_1 for E_1 ; Get the input difference γ , the output difference δ and the master key difference $\Delta iniK_1$.
- 3 Apply BCT table to calculate $Pr(\beta \rightarrow \gamma)$ if $R_m = 1$; Apply BDT table and iBDT table to calculate $Pr(\beta \rightarrow \gamma)$ if $R_m = 2$.

For a distinguisher \mathcal{D} with fixed α and δ , there could be multiple values of β and γ . To increase the probability of \mathcal{D} , we hope to find as more combinations of (β, γ) as we can. We propose Alg.2 to search $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D})$, *i.e.* $\mathcal{C}(R_0, R_1, R_m, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, B_{C_{R_0}}, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, B_{C_{R_1}})$ and calculate the probability of \mathcal{D} by traversing all combinations of (l_0^i, l_1^j) in $\mathcal{C}(\mathcal{D})$. The greater the value of $B_{C_{R_0}}$ and $B_{C_{R_1}}$, the more trails can we find.

Algorithm 2 The Algorithm of Increasing the Probability of the Related-key Boomerang Distinguisher for GIFT

Require: $R_0, R_1, R_m; bw; ns := n/8$

Ensure: $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 \leftarrow \max\{\hat{p}_i^2 \hat{q}_j^2\}; \alpha_i, \Delta ini K_0^i; \delta_j, \Delta ini K_1^j$

- 1: **Phase 1: Search all the related-key differential trails with minimal weight**
 - 2: call Alg.1 to search all the R_0 -round related-key trails with minimal weight on the limited search space for E_0
 - 3: $B_{R_0} \leftarrow$ the minimal weight of R_0 -round trails
 - 4: $l_0^1, \dots, l_0^a \leftarrow$ all the R_0 -round trails with weight B_{R_0}
 - 5: **for** each $l_0^i, 1 \leq i \leq a$ **do**
 - 6: $\alpha_i \leftarrow \Delta X_1, \Delta ini K_0^i \leftarrow$ the master key difference
 - 7: **end for**
 - 8: call Alg.1 to search all the R_1 -round related-key trails with minimal weight on the limited search space for E_1
 - 9: $B_{R_1} \leftarrow$ the minimal weight of R_1 -round trails
 - 10: $l_1^1, \dots, l_1^b \leftarrow$ all the R_1 -round trails with weight B_{R_1}
 - 11: **for** each $l_1^j, 1 \leq j \leq b$ **do**
 - 12: $\delta_j \leftarrow K \circ P(\Delta Y_{R_1}), \Delta ini K_1^j \leftarrow$ the master key difference
 - 13: **end for**

 - 14: **Phase 2: Search all the clustering**
 - 15: **for** each $l_0^i, 1 \leq i \leq a$ **do**
 - 16: call Alg.1 to search $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha_i, \Delta ini K_0^i, B_{R_0} + bw)$ /* see Eq.10 for definition */
 - 17: $l_0^{i1}, \dots, l_0^{id} \leftarrow$ all the trails in $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha_i, \Delta ini K_0^i, B_{R_0} + bw)$
 - 18: **for** each $l_0^{iu}, 1 \leq u \leq d$ **do**
 - 19: $\beta^{iu} \leftarrow K \circ P(\Delta Y_{R_0}), B_{R_0}^{iu} \leftarrow W(l_0^{iu})$
 - 20: **end for**
 - 21: **end for**
 - 22: **for** each $l_1^j, 1 \leq j \leq b$ **do**
 - 23: call Alg.1 to search $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta_j, \Delta ini K_1^j, B_{R_1} + bw)$ /* see Eq.11 for definition */
 - 24: $l_1^{j1}, \dots, l_1^{je} \leftarrow$ all the trails in $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta_j, \Delta ini K_1^j, B_{R_1} + bw)$
 - 25: **for** each $l_1^{jv}, 1 \leq v \leq e$ **do**
 - 26: $\gamma^{jv} \leftarrow P^{-1} \circ K^{-1}(\Delta X_1), B_{R_1}^{jv} \leftarrow W(l_1^{jv})$
 - 27: **end for**
 - 28: **end for**

 - 29: **Phase 3: Determine the boomerang distinguisher with highest probability**
 - 30: **for** each $l_0^i (1 \leq i \leq a)$ and $l_1^j (1 \leq j \leq b)$ **do**
 - 31: $\hat{p}_i^2 \hat{q}_j^2 \leftarrow \sum_{u,v} 2^{-2B_{R_0}^{iu}} \cdot 2^{-2B_{R_1}^{jv}} \cdot \text{Middle}(\beta^{iu}, \gamma^{jv}, R_m)$
 - 32: **end for**
 - 33: $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 \leftarrow \max_{i,j} \{\hat{p}_i^2 \hat{q}_j^2\}$

 - 34: **Function** Middle(β, γ, R_m):
 - 35: calculate Pr_{E_m} by the BCT table, if $R_m = 1$
 - 36: calculate Pr_{E_m} by the BDT table and the iBDT table, if $R_m = 2$
 - 37: return Pr_{E_m}
-

Explanations on Alg.2

- 1 Different choices of α (or δ) will lead to different amounts and values of β (or γ).
Therefore, in *Phase 1* of Alg.2, we first determine all the choices of α and δ .
- 2 For GIFT, we find the fact that for fixed $S(\alpha)$ of E_0 and fixed $S^{-1} \circ P^{-1} \circ K^{-1}(\delta)$ of E_1 , the choices of α and δ will not influence the value of $\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2$.
Therefore, in the search process of GIFT, we only care about the value of $S(\alpha)$ (*i.e.* ΔY_1 of E_0) and the value of $S^{-1} \circ P^{-1} \circ K^{-1}(\delta)$ (*i.e.* ΔX_{R_1} of E_1).
- 3 For fixed l_0^i and l_1^j ($1 \leq i \leq a$, $1 \leq j \leq b$), we get $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha_i, \Delta iniK_0^i, B_{R_0} + bw)$ and $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta_j, \Delta iniK_1^j, B_{R_1} + bw)$ through *Phase 2*. In *Phase 3*, we traverse all combinations of (l_0^u, l_1^v) , in which

$$l_0^u \in \mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha_i, \Delta iniK_0^i, B_{R_0} + bw), l_1^v \in \mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta_j, \Delta iniK_1^j, B_{R_1} + bw),$$

to calculate

$$\hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 \leftarrow \sum_{u,v} 2^{-2B_{R_0}^{i_u}} \cdot 2^{-2B_{R_1}^{j_v}} \cdot \text{Middle}(\beta^{i_u}, \gamma^{j_v}, R_m).$$

For each l_0^u and l_1^v , the value of β^{i_u} and γ^{j_v} are determined.

- 4 **The value of α and δ should be carefully determined to keep the value of r_b , m_b , r_f and m_f appropriate.** The probability of the distinguisher is the main factor affecting the complexity of the key-recovery attack. Nevertheless the value of r_b , m_b , r_f and m_f can also affect the complexity, which is influenced by the value of α and δ .
Therefore, once we get the value of $\max_{i,j} \{\hat{p}_i^2 \hat{q}_j^2\}$, α_i and δ_j from Alg.2, we should carefully adjust the value of α_i and δ_j to reduce the complexity of the attack.

5 Attacks on GIFT-64**5.1 Related-key Rectangle Attack on 25-round GIFT-64**

Determining the Related-key Rectangle Distinguisher. We utilize a 20-round related-key rectangle distinguisher to attack the 25-round GIFT-64. Choose $R_0 = 10$ for E_0 , $R_1 = 9$ for E_1 , $R_m = 1$ for E_m . Set $bw = 4$. Apply Alg.2 to search the probability of the 20-round distinguisher.

In *Phase 1* of Alg.2, we find sixteen 10-round trails with weight 20.415 for E_0 , marked as l_0^1, \dots, l_0^{16} . We find eight 9-round trails with weight 13.415 for E_1 , marked as l_1^1, \dots, l_1^8 . The details of l_0^1, \dots, l_0^{16} and l_1^1, \dots, l_1^8 are listed in Table 12 and Table 13 in App.D.

In *Phase 3*, we determine the maximum value of $\hat{p}_i^2 \hat{q}_j^2$, which is $\hat{p}_5^2 \hat{q}_8^2 = 2^{-58.557}$. We choose the value of α and δ according to $S(\alpha_5) = 0x0000000000001000$ and $S^{-1} \circ P^{-1} \circ K^{-1}(\delta_8) = 0x0000200000000000$. Finally, we obtain a 20-round related-key rectangle distinguisher with probability $2^{-n} \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = 2^{-64} \cdot 2^{-58.557}$. The specifications of the 20-round related-key rectangle distinguisher of GIFT-64 are shown in Table 4. There are 5728 trails in $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta iniK_0, B_{C_{R_0}})$ and 312 trails in $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta, \Delta iniK_1, B_{C_{R_1}})$.

Table 4. The specifications of 20-round related-key rectangle distinguisher of GIFT-64

$R_0 = 10, R_m = 1, R_1 = 9; B_{C_{R_0}} = 24.415, B_{C_{R_1}} = 17.415; \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = 2^{-58.557}$	
E_0	$\frac{\alpha}{\begin{array}{cccccccc} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & a0 & 00 \end{array}} \quad \frac{\Delta iniK_0}{\begin{array}{cccccccc} 0004 & 0000 & 0000 & 0800 & 0000 & 0000 & 0000 & 0010 \end{array}}$
E_1	$\frac{\delta}{\begin{array}{cccccccc} 04 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 01 & 20 & 10 & 00 \end{array}} \quad \frac{\Delta iniK_1}{\begin{array}{cccccccc} 2000 & 0000 & 0000 & 0000 & 0800 & 0000 & 0200 & 0800 \end{array}}$

We construct the 25-round key-recovery model for GIFT-64, which is shown in Table 5, by appending two rounds at the end of the 20-round distinguisher and appending three rounds at the beginning of the distinguisher.

Table 6. The specifications of the 19-round related-key rectangle distinguisher of GIFT-128
$$R_0 = 9, R_m = 1, R_1 = 9; Bc_{R_0} = 33.000, Bc_{R_1} = 33.000; \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = 2^{-109.626}$$

	α	$\Delta ini K_0$
E_0	00000000000000a0000000000600000000	8000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0002 0000
	δ	$\Delta ini K_1$
E_1	0020000000000000000000004000002020	0000 0000 0000 0000 0002 0000 0002 0000

Finally, we obtain a 19-round related-key rectangle distinguisher with probability $2^{-n} \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 = 2^{-128} \cdot 2^{-109.626}$. The specifications of the 19-round distinguisher are shown in Table 6. There are 3952 trails in $\mathcal{C}_I(R_0, \alpha, \Delta ini K_0, Bc_{R_0})$ and 2944 trails in $\mathcal{C}_O(R_1, \delta, \Delta ini K_1, Bc_{R_1})$.

We construct the 23-round key-recovery model for GIFT-128, which is shown in Table 7, by appending two rounds at the end of the 19-round distinguisher and two rounds at the beginning of the distinguisher.

Data Collection and Key Recovery. To prepare the plaintexts, we collect data in ΔZ_1 of Table 7. There are nine unknown bits in ΔZ_1 marked as “?”, affecting three S-boxes in round 1. Thus, $r_b = 9$ and the number of key bits needed to be guessed in E_b is $m_b = 2 \times 3 = 6$. We have $r_f = 52$ and $m_f = 2 \times (13 + 4) = 34$ in E_f . The following data collection and key recovery process are similar to the process of the 25-round attack in Sect. 5.1.

Construct $y = \sqrt{s} \cdot 2^{n/2-r_b} / \hat{p}\hat{q}$ structures of 2^{r_b} plaintexts each. For each structure, query the 2^{r_b} plaintexts by the encryption oracle under K_1, K_2, K_3 and K_4 . There are about $M^2 \cdot 2^{-2(n-r_f)}$ quartets left after executing step 3(c). Choosing $s = 2$, we have $y = 2^{110.31}$, $M = y \cdot 2^{r_b} = 2^{119.31}$ and $M^2 \cdot 2^{-2(n-r_f)} = 2^{86.62}$. After the key guessing and filtering process, there are about $M^2 \cdot 2^{-2(n-r_f)} \cdot 2^{-(48+24)} = 2^{14.62}$ remaining quartets. The two right quartets will all vote for the right key. The $2^{14.62}$ random quartets will vote for a random key with probability $2^{14.62-m_f} = 2^{-19.38}$. Choose $h = 22$ and select the top 2^{m_f-h} hits in the counter to be the candidates. Exhaustively search the remaining $128 - m_b - m_f$ unknown key bits in the master key.

Complexity Computation and Success Probability. The **data complexity** is $4M = 2^{121.31}$ chosen plaintexts. We need $2^{m_b} \cdot 3M = 2^{126.89}$ looking-up-table operations in step 3(b) and 3(c). We need $2^{m_b} \cdot M^2 \cdot 2^{-2(n-r_f)} \cdot 4 \cdot 2^2 / 23 = 2^{92.10}$ encryptions and $2^{k-h} = 2^{106}$ encryptions to recover the master key. So the **time complexity** is bounded by $2^{126.89}$. The **memory complexity** is bounded by $5M = 2^{121.63}$. The success probability is 92.01% according to Eq. 12.

The related-key boomerang attack on 22-round GIFT-128 is demonstrated in App. B.

7 Conclusion and Future Work

In this paper, we carry out a further research on the resistance of GIFT against single-key and related-key differential cryptanalysis. We succeed in finding related-key differential trails of GIFT-64/128 for up to 15/14 rounds. We find the longest related-key differential trails for GIFT-128 and provide tighter lower bounds for the probabilities of the optimal related-key trails for both GIFT-64 and GIFT-128.

We find a 20-round related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT-64 with probability $2^{-58.557}$ and construct a 25-round related-key rectangle attack, which is the longest attack on GIFT-64. We obtain a 19-round related-key boomerang distinguisher of GIFT-128 with probability $2^{-109.626}$ and propose a 23-round related-key rectangle attack, which is the longest related-key attack on GIFT-128. The probability of the 20-round single-key differential distinguisher of GIFT-128 is also increased from $2^{-121.415}$ to $2^{-120.245}$. We improve the time complexity of the 26-round differential attack on GIFT-128 from $2^{124.415}$ to $2^{123.245}$.

Table 7. The 23-round key-recovery model of the related-key rectangle attack for GIFT-128

<i>input</i>	0000 0000 0000 0000 11?? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 11?? 0000 0000 0000 0000
ΔY_1	0000 0000 0000 0000 0100 00?0 000? 1000 ?100 0??0 00?? ?00? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0100 0000 0000 0000 0000
ΔZ_1	0000 11?? ?1?? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0100 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
ΔX_2	0000 11?? ?1?? 0000 ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
ΔY_2	0000 0100 0010 0000 1000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
ΔZ_2	0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 1000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0110 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
$\Delta X_3 (\alpha)$	0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 1010 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0110 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000
:
$\Delta X_{22} (\delta)$	0000 0000 0010 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0100 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0010 0000 0010 0000
ΔY_{22}	0000 0000 ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 ???? 0000
ΔZ_{22}	000? 0000 0000 0000 0000 0001 0000 0?0? ?000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ?000 0000 ?0?0 0?00 0000 0000 0000 0000 0?00 0000 0?0? 00?0 0000 0000 0000 0000 00?0 0000 ?0?0
ΔX_{23}	000? 0000 0010 0000 0000 0001 0000 0?0? ?000 0000 0000 0000 0000 ?000 0000 ?0?0 0?00 0000 0000 0000 0000 0?00 0000 0?0? 00?0 0000 0000 0000 0000 00?0 0000 ?0?0
ΔY_{23}	???? 0000 ???? 0000 0000 ???? 0000 ???? ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 ???? ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 ???? ???? 0000 0000 0000 0000 ???? 0000 ????
ΔZ_{23}	0?0? ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 ?0?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 0?0? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 ?0?0 0?0? ?000 0?0? ?000 0?0? ?000 0?0?
<i>output</i>	0?0? ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 0?00 ?0?0 ?0?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 00?0 0?0? 0?0? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 000? ?0?0 ?0?0 0?0? ?000 0?0? ?000 0?0? ?000 0?0?

Among the 32 candidates of the NIST lightweight crypto standardization process, there are four candidates which are based on GIFT: GIFT-COFB, HYENA, SUNDAE-GIFT, LOTUS-AEAD and LOCUS-AEAD. In the next work, we will study the security of these four lightweight authenticated encryption schemes against single-key/related-key differential cryptanalysis. Besides, We will try to apply Alg.1 and Alg.2 to other SPN ciphers with linear key schedule, for example, SKINNY [9].

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A Improved Matsui’s Algorithm for GIFT

The improved Matsui’s algorithm for GIFT proposed in [22] is demonstrated in Alg.3. There are ten different weights of the difference propagations for the new 8-bit S-box in GIFT, which are denoted by the new set:

$$\text{WeightTable}[10] = \{6.000, 5.000, 4.415, 4.000, 3.415, 3.000, 2.830, 2.000, 1.415, 0.000\}.$$

To implement speeding-up method-1, one new table is constructed as follows:

- **DDTwY[SboxN][WeightN][OutN]**

Classify the output differences of each S-box according to the corresponding weights. $\text{DDTwY}[t][j][r]$ represents the r^{th} output difference of the t^{th} S-box with weight $\text{WeightTable}[j]$. SboxN represents the index of the S-box. It ranges from 1 to ns. WeightN represents the index of the weights. It ranges from 0 to 9. OutN represents the index of the output difference. It ranges from 0 to 255.

Algorithm 3 Improved Matsui’s Algorithm for GIFT**Require:** $R (\geq 3)$; B_1, B_2, \dots, B_{R-1} ; B_{cR} ; WeightTable[10]; $ns := n/8$ **Ensure:** $B_R = B_{cR}$; the optimal single-key differential trails of R -round

```

1: Generate Tables :
2: DDTwY[SboxN][WeightN][OutN]

3: Function Sbox-1( $t, w_1$ ):
4: for  $j = 9$  to  $0$  do
5:    $\alpha \leftarrow w_1 + \text{WeightTable}[j]$ 
6:   if  $[\alpha, B_{R-1}] \geq B_{cR}$  then
7:     break
8:   else
9:     for each DDTwY[ $t$ ][ $j$ ][ $r$ ] do
10:     $\Delta Y_1^t \leftarrow \text{DDTwY}[t][j][r]$ 
11:    /*  $\Delta Y_1^t$  is the  $t^{\text{th}}$  byte of  $\Delta Y_1$  */
12:    if  $t < ns$  then
13:      call Sbox-1( $t + 1, \alpha$ )
14:    else
15:       $w_1 \leftarrow \alpha$ 
16:      call Round-2
17:    end if
18:  end for
19: end if
20: end for

21: Procedure Round-1:
22:  $w_1 \leftarrow 0, \Delta Y_1 \leftarrow 0, t \leftarrow 1$ 
23: call Sbox-1( $t, w_1$ )

24: Procedure Round- $i, 2 \leq i \leq R - 1$ :
25:  $\Delta X_i \leftarrow P(\Delta Y_{i-1})$ 
26: for each  $\Delta Y_i$  do
27:    $w_i \leftarrow W(\Delta X_i, \Delta Y_i)$ 
28:   if  $B_{R-i} + \sum_{j=1}^i w_j \geq B_{cR}$  then
29:     break
30:   else
31:     call Round-( $i + 1$ )
32:   end if
33: end for

34: Procedure Round- $R$ :
35:  $\Delta X_R \leftarrow P(\Delta Y_{R-1})$ 
36:  $w_R \leftarrow \min_{\Delta Y_R} W(\Delta X_R, \Delta Y_R)$ 
37: if  $\sum_{j=1}^R w_j \leq B_{cR}$  then
38:    $B_{cR} = \sum_{j=1}^R w_j$ 
39: end if
40: return to the upper procedure

```

B Related-key Boomerang Attack on 22-round GIFT-128**B.1 Determining the Related-key Boomerang Distinguisher.**

We choose the same 19-round related-key rectangle distinguisher as in Sect.6.2. We append two rounds at the end of the distinguisher and one round at the beginning of the distinguisher. The details of the 22-round key-recovery model are shown in Table 7. The input difference of the 22-round model equals to $\Delta Z_2 = 0x00000000000000800000000006000000$.

B.2 Data Collection.

We collect data of the value of *output* in Table 7. There are 52 unknown bits in *output* marked as “?”, affecting 13 S-boxes in round 23 and four S-boxes in round 22. Thus, $r_f = 52$ and the number of key bits needed to be guessed in E_f is $m_f = 34$. We utilize the key-recovery model proposed by Zhao *et al.* in [33] to perform the boomerang key-recovery attack:

- 1 Choose $y = s/(2^{r_f} \cdot \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2)$ structures of 2^{r_f} ciphertexts each. s is the expected number of right quartets. Each structure takes all the possible values for the r_f active bits while the other $n - r_f$ bits are fixed to some constant.
- 2 For each structure, we obtain the plaintext P_1 for each ciphertext C_1 by calling the decryption oracle under K_1 . Compute P_2 by $P_2 = P_1 \oplus \alpha$ and obtain the ciphertext C_2 by $E_{K_2}(P_2)$. Here we gain a set:

$$L_1 = \{(P_1, C_1, P_2, C_2) : P_1 = E_{K_1}^{-1}(C_1), P_2 = P_1 \oplus \alpha, C_2 = E_{K_2}(P_2)\}.$$

Construct the set L_2 under K_3 and K_4 in a similar way:

$$L_2 = \{(P_3, C_3, P_4, C_4) : P_3 = E_{K_3}^{-1}(C_3), P_4 = P_3 \oplus \alpha, C_4 = E_{K_4}(P_4)\}.$$

- 3 Insert L_1 into a hash table H_1 indexed by the $n - r_f$ bits of C_2 . For each element of L_2 , find the corresponding (P_1, C_1, P_2, C_2) colliding in the $n - r_f$ bits. We gain a total of $y \cdot 2^{2r_f - (n - r_f)} = y \cdot 2^{3r_f - n}$ quartets.
- 4 The process that recovers the subkeys involved in E_f is the same as the one in the related-key rectangle attack in Sect.5.1, The complexity of this step is denoted as ε .
- 5 Select the top $2^{m_f - h}$ hits in the counter to be the candidates which delivers a h bits or higher advantage. Exhaustively search the remaining $k - m_f$ unknown key bits in the master key.

B.3 Key Recovery.

Choose the expected number of right quartets s to be 2, then we have $y = s / (2^{r_f} \cdot \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2) = 2^{58.63}$ and $y \cdot 2^{r_f} = 2^{110.63}$. Make use of all the $y \cdot 2^{3r_f - n} = 2^{86.63}$ quartets obtained in step 3 to recover the subkeys involved in E_f . The key recovery process are similar to the process of the 25-round attack in Sect.5.1. There are about $2^{86.63} \cdot 2^{-(48+24)} = 2^{14.63}$ quartets remain after the key guessing and filtering procedure. Choose $h = 22$ and select the top $2^{m_f - h}$ hits in the counter to be the candidates. Exhaustively search the remaining $128 - m_f$ unknown key bits in the key.

B.4 Complexity Computation.

The **data complexity** is $4y \cdot 2^{r_f} = 2^{112.63}$ adapted chosen ciphertexts and plaintexts. We need $4y \cdot 2^{r_f}$ chosen ciphertexts and plaintexts and $y \cdot 2^{r_f}$ looking-up-table operations to construct quartets. $y \cdot 2^{3r_f - n} \cdot \varepsilon = 2^{86.63} \cdot 4 \cdot 2^2 / 22$ encryptions are needed in the key recovery process. Thus, the **time complexity** is bounded by $4y \cdot 2^{r_f} = 2^{112.63}$. The **memory complexity** is the size of each structure and the size of the key counter, which is bounded by $2^{r_f} = 2^{52}$. The success probability is 92.01% according to Eq.12.

C Analyzing the Probability of the 19-round Distinguisher proposed in [18]

The propagation of the 2-round boomerang switch E_m is illustrated in Fig.4. The details of E_m in the 19-round related-key rectangle distinguisher for GIFT-64 proposed in [18] is shown in Table 8. The authors calculated the value of r as 1 according to the BCT table. The probability of the rectangle distinguisher is $2^{-n} \cdot \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 r = 2^{-64} \cdot 2^{-50}$. It should be noted that at the time the authors write the paper [18], the BDT technology has not been proposed yet.

Table 8. The propagation of E_m of the 19-round related-key rectangle distinguisher for GIFT-64 in [18]

rounds	E_0			E_1		
10	β	01 00 00 00 01 02 02 00	γ''	00 00 09 06 00 00 00 85		
	β'	08 00 00 00 06 0a 06 00				
11	β''	00 a2 00 00 80 20 00 44	γ'	00 00 05 0c 0a 00 00 00		
			γ	00 00 08 02 01 00 00 00		

$$^1 \beta' = S(\beta), \beta'' = K \circ P(\beta'), \gamma' = S^{-1}(\gamma), \gamma'' = P^{-1} \circ K^{-1}(\gamma').$$

It has been proved in [32] that when $R_m = 2$, the probability of E_m should be evaluated by the BDT table and iBDT table, which is

$$r = 2^{-2n} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 2n} (\text{BDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i], \gamma''[i]) \times \text{iBDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i], \beta''[i])).$$

Meanwhile,

$$\begin{aligned} \text{BDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i], \gamma''[i]) &= \text{DDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i]), \text{ if } \gamma''[i] = 0; \\ \text{iBDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i], \beta''[i]) &= \text{DDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i]), \text{ if } \beta''[i] = 0. \end{aligned}$$

$\beta[2ns]||\cdots||\beta[1] := \beta$, $\gamma[2ns]||\cdots||\gamma[1] := \gamma$. We correct the value of r according to the data in Table 8:

$$\begin{aligned} r &= 2^{-2n} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 16} (\text{BDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i], \gamma''[i]) \times \text{iBDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i], \beta''[i])) \\ &= 2^{-2n} \sum_{1 \leq i \leq 16} (\text{DDT}(\beta[i], \beta'[i]) \times \text{DDT}(\gamma[i], \gamma'[i])) \\ &= 2^{-18}. \end{aligned}$$

The value of the DDT table is shown in Table 9. As a result, the probability of the rectangle distinguisher in [18] is $2^{-n} \cdot \hat{p}^2 \hat{q}^2 r = 2^{-64} \cdot 2^{-68}$.

We have introduced in Sect. 2.4 that only if $pq > 2^{-n/2}$ can we count more right quartets than random noise through the related-key rectangle distinguisher. For GIFT-64, the distinguisher should satisfy $pq > 2^{-32}$. Therefore, the 23-round related-key rectangle attack proposed in [18] and the 24-round related-key rectangle attack proposed in [34] are invalid.

Table 9. Differential Distribution Table (DDT) of GIFT S-box

		Δ_o															
		0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	a	b	c	d	e	f
Δ_i	0	16															
	1						2	2		2	2	2	2	2			2
	2						4	4			2	2			2	2	
	3						2	2		2			2	2	2	2	2
	4				2		4		6		2				2		
	5			2			2			2				2	2	2	4
	6			4	6				2				2				2
	7			2			2			2	2	2	4	2			
	8				4				4					4			4
	9		2		2			2	2	2		2		2	2		
	a		4					4			2	2			2	2	
	b		2		2			2	2	2	2			2		2	
	c			4		4				2		2		2		2	
	d		2	2		4						2	2		2		2
	e		4			4				2	2			2	2		
	f		2	2		4					2		2			2	2

D (Related-key) Differential Trails

Table 10. Two related-key differential trails of GIFT-64 and GIFT-128

For l_0 , MKD = 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 8002 0000, weight = 48.000
 For l_1 , MKD = 0000 0000 0002 0000 0002 0000 0000 0000, weight = 77.830

r	l_0 : a 15-round trail of GIFT-64		l_1 : a 14-round trail of GIFT-128	
	ΔX_r	w_r	ΔX_r	w_r
1	0600000000600000	4.000	0000c001120000000000000000c0000	12.000
2	0000000000000000	0.000	0c60000000000000000000000000c00000	7.000
3	0000000000000000	0.000	00000000000000a00000000060000000	4.000
4	0000000000000000	0.000	00010000000000000000000000000000	3.000
5	0000000000000000	0.000	c0000000000000000000000000000000	2.000
6	2020000000000000	4.000	00000000000000000000000000000000	0.000
7	5000000050000000	6.000	20000000000000000000000000000000	2.000
8	0000202000000000	5.000	60000000200000000000000000000000	4.000
9	000000005000a00	5.000	00000000202000000000000000000000	6.000
10	0000200100000000	5.000	000000000a0000000000000000a00000	4.000
11	0c00060000000000	4.000	00300010000000000000000000000000	6.000
12	2200000000000000	5.000	11200000000000004400000000000000	12.415
13	6000000090000000	5.000	0000000000003000d0009000e0000000	10.000
14	0000000000100000	3.000	000000400000000000000000000080800	5.415
15	0000008000000000	2.000	01002002000000010400002002000010	
16	0100000000000200			

Table 11. Four 20-round single-key differential trails with weight w_{sum} of GIFT-128

$l^0 : u = 8, v = 8, w_9 = 4.0, w_{14} = 4.0, w_{sum} = 121.415.$
 $l^1 : u = 9, v = 8, w_9 = 5.0, w_{14} = 4.0, w_{sum} = 122.415.$
 $l^2 : u = 8, v = 9, w_9 = 4.0, w_{14} = 5.0, w_{sum} = 122.415.$
 $l^3 : u = 9, v = 9, w_9 = 5.0, w_{14} = 5.0, w_{sum} = 123.415.$

r	ΔX_r	w_r
1	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 a0	2.000
2	00 00 00 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	3.000
3	08 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	2.000
4	20 00 00 00 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	5.000
5	40 40 00 00 20 20 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	8.000
6	50 50 00 00 00 00 00 00 50 50 00 00 00 00 00	11.000
7	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 a0 00 a0	4.000
8	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 11 00 00 00	6.000
9	00 00 0 <u>u</u> 00 00 00 08 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	w_9
10	02 02 00 00 01 01 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	10.000
11	00 00 00 00 50 50 00 00 00 00 00 00 50 50 00	12.000
12	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 a0 00 a0	4.000
13	00 00 00 11 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	6.000
14	0 <u>v</u> 00 00 00 08 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	w_{14}
15	20 20 00 00 10 10 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	10.000
16	50 50 00 00 00 00 00 00 50 50 00 00 00 00 00	12.000
17	00 00 00 00 a0 00 a0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	4.000
18	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 11 00 00 00 00	6.000
19	00 00 00 00 00 00 c0 00 00 00 60 00 00 00 00	4.000
20	00 04 00 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	3.415
21	00 00 00 00 40 01 00 00 20 00 00 00 10 04 00	

Table 16. Two 9-round related-key differential trails of GIFT-128

For l_0^1 , MKD = 8000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0000 0002 0000.
 For l_1^2 , MKD = 0000 0000 0000 0000 0002 0000 0002 0000.

r	l_0^1 : a 9-round trail with weight 30.000		l_1^2 : a 9-round trail with weight 31.000	
	ΔX_r	w_r	ΔX_r	w_r
1	00000000000000a0000000000600000000	4.0	0c60000000000000000000000000100000	7.0
2	00010000000000000000000000000000	3.0	00000000000000a0000000000600000000	4.0
3	c00000000000000000000000000000000	2.0	00010000000000000000000000000000	3.0
4	00000000000000000000000000000000	0.0	c00000000000000000000000000000000	2.0
5	20000000000000000000000000000000	2.0	00000000000000000000000000000000	0.0
6	60000000200000000000000000000000	4.0	20000000000000000000000000000000	2.0
7	00000000202000000000000000000000	5.0	60000000200000000000000000000000	4.0
8	001000000a0000000000000000000000	5.0	00000000202000000000000000000000	4.0
9	00300000800000000000000000000000	5.0	0000000000000000000050000000200000	5.0
10	00200000802000000010000000000000		0020000000000000000000004000002020	