



arm

The QARMA Chakra

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ATG – The birthplace of the ARM architecture

Acknowledgements

What follows is not only my work.

In fact, quite a few parts of it are joint work.

Some of the folks that suffered greatly while working with me are Subhadeep Banik, Light Darkman, Senyang Huang, Francesco Regazzoni, and Andrey Bogdanov.

Acknowledgements

Thanks also to: Can Acar, Satish Anand, Christof Beierle, Christina Boura, Antonio Cardoso Costa, Mike Campbell, Alexander Dent, Simonetta Diaz, Itai Dinur, Xiaoyang Dong, Maria Eichlseder, Alexandr Gantman, Renwei Ge, Scott McGregor, Richard Grisenthwaite, Yatin Hoskote, Jérémy Jean, Gregor Leander, Jason Parker and the amazing, spectacular REDACTED team he leads at ARM, Rene Peralta, Prakash Ramrakhyani, Andrew Rose, Greg Rose, Brian Rosenberg, Andreas Sandberg, David Schall, Arrigo Triulzi, Meltem Sönmez Turan, and Robert Turner.

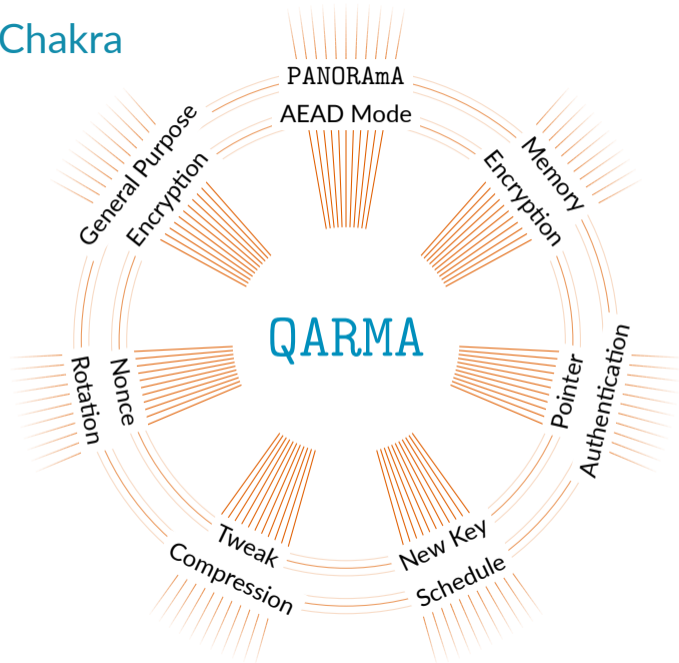
We used tools developed by: Leo Perrin; Oleksandr Kazymyrov, Maksim Storetvedt, and Anna Maria Eilertsen; Stjepan Picek, Lejla Batina, Domagoj Jakobović, Barış Ege, and Marin Golub; Gregor Leander, Brice Minaud, and Sondre Rønjom; and the SageMath and GUROBI developers.

Connections

What is the QARMA Chakra

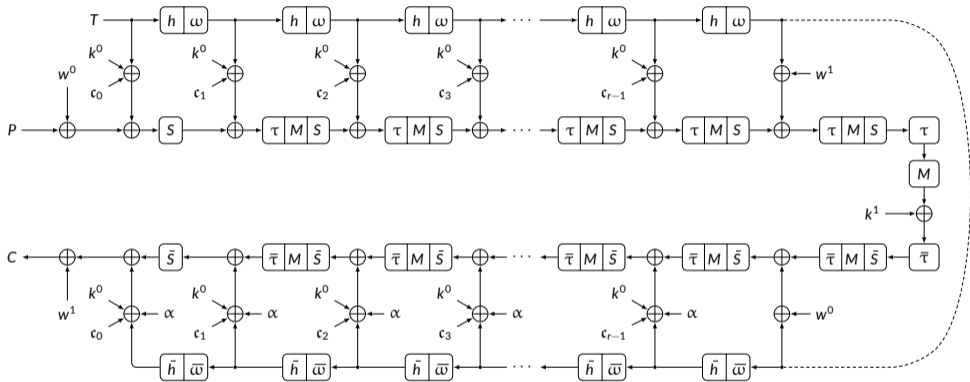
A set of technologies developed *around* QARMA, connected with each other and to QARMA itself.

The QARMA Chakra



Feature Overview

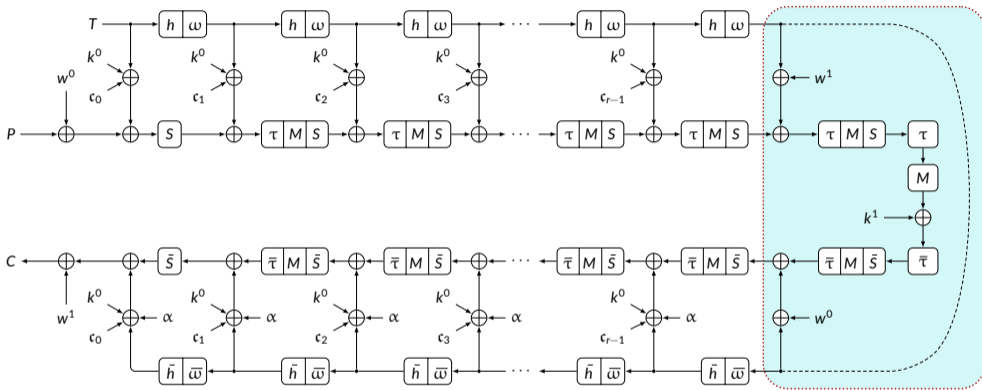
QARMA Encryption



Texts / tweak / state = vectors of sixteen 4/8-bit cells / 4×4 matrices

τ, h = Cell Shuffles; M = Involutory Almost MDS matrix; S = 16 S-Boxes; ω = LSFR $\times 7$

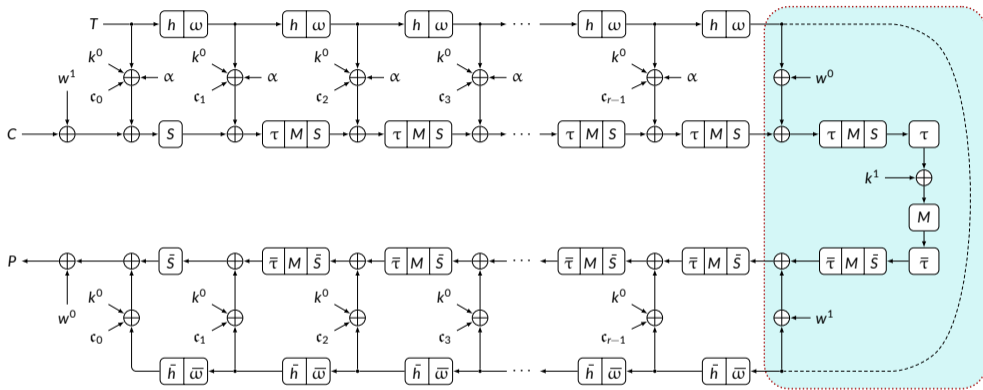
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QARMA Decryption

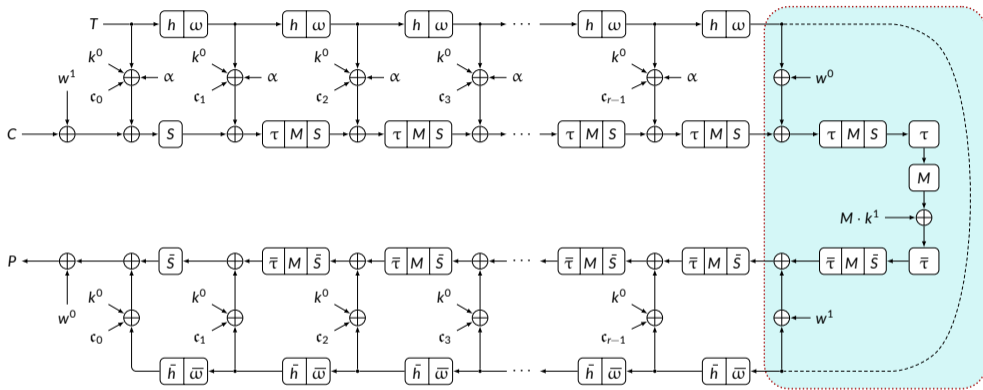


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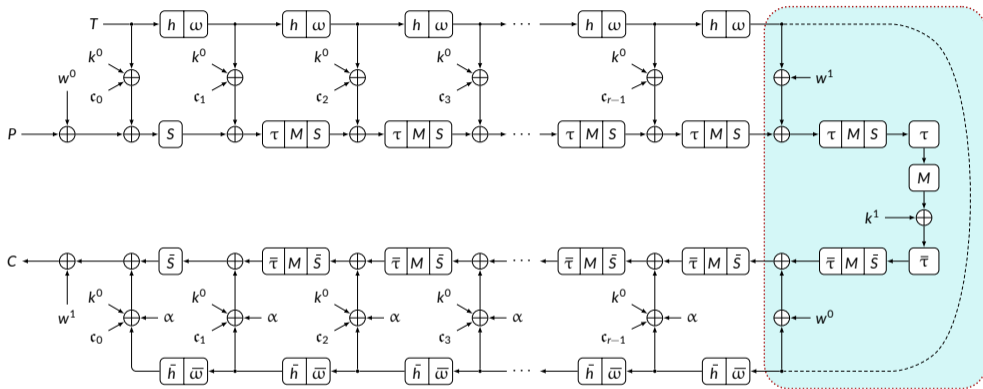


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Features

- QARMA-64 and QARMA-128 are Public Domain!
- Builds on very well understood design methodologies – all aspects explained and verifiable.
- Designed 18 years after the AES, 5 years after PRINCE, learns from Even-Mansour, MIDORI.
- Stealthily already deployed (Pointer Authentication) – ARM partners already know how to implement it!
- Tweakable. Ideal for Θ CB-like modes with BBB security.
- Very short latency (best in class).
- Area and power consumption not minimal, but very small. Good for parallelism.
- In HW, round probably the lightest among those with a full layer of optimal 4-bit S-Boxes with full diffusion and all non-zero component functions of degree 3, and Almost-MDS diffusion.
- Various pipelining and/or unrolling options possible, including very fine grained.
- Code size: even a t-box implementation should be smaller than the AES's.
- Mostly nibble and byte based, so implementation easy on microcontrollers.
- Cool name.
- Hopefully, also secure (so far so good).

Considered attacks

- Linear and differential cryptanalysis (MILP models, following Beierle)
- —, under related tweak model (MILP models, following Beierle)
- Reflection Attacks (follows from structure)
- Generic attacks on Even-Mansour schemes (follows from structure)
- Slide attacks (follows from round heterogeneity)
- Meet-in-the-middle attacks (following MIDORI/MANTIS)
- Invariant subspace attacks (heuristic arguments)
- Algebraic cryptanalysis (equations and variables counting, degree growth)
- Imp. diff. & zero corr. linear cryptanalysis (following Sun et al. EC '16)
- Higher order differential cryptanalysis (following MIDORI/MANTIS)
- And more...

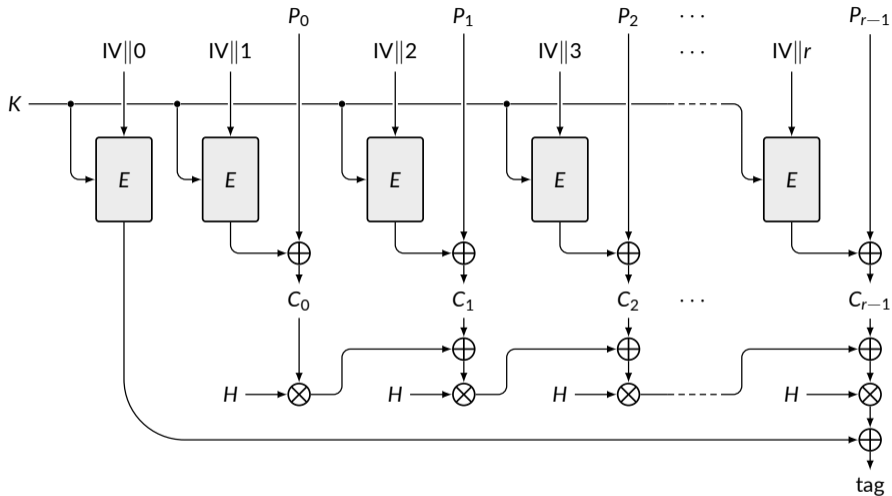
Cryptanalysis of QARMA – Selected Published Results

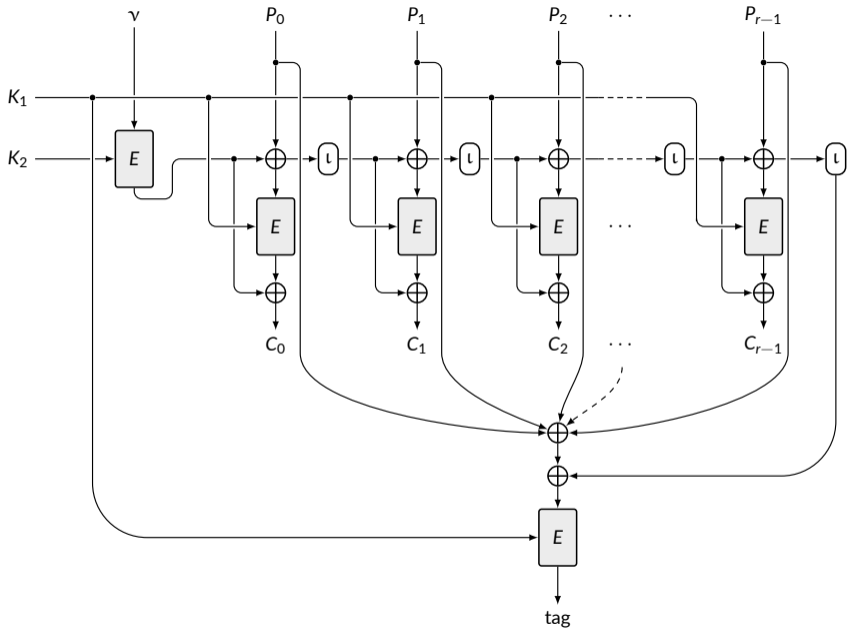
Cipher	Rounds Attacked	Outer Whitening?	Attack Complexity			Technique	Ref.
			Time	Data	Memory		
64	4 + 6	N	$2^{116} + 2^{70.1}$	2^{53} CP	2^{116}	MITM	[ZD16]
64	4 + 4	Y	$2^{33} + 2^{90}$	2^{16} CP	2^{90}	MITM	[LJ18]
64	4 + 5	Y	$2^{48} + 2^{89}$	2^{16} CP	2^{89}	MITM	[LJ18]
64	4 + 6	Y	2^{72}	2^{61} CP	$2^{78.2}$ bits	trunc. imp. diff.	[YQC18]
64	4 + 6	Y	2^{59}	2^{59} KP	$2^{29.6}$ bits	rel-tweak stat. sat.	[LHW19]
64	4 + 7	Y	$2^{120.4}$	2^{61} CP	2^{116}	trunc. imp. diff.	[YQC18]
64	3 + 8	Y	$2^{64.4} + 2^{80}$	2^{61} CP	2^{61}	imp. diff.	[ZDW18]
64	4 + 8	Y	$2^{66.2}$	$2^{48.4}$ CP	$2^{53.70}$	zero corr./Integral	[ADG ⁺ 19]
128	4 + 6	N	$2^{232} + 2^{141.7}$	2^{105} CP	2^{232}	MITM	[ZD16]
128	5 + 5	Y	2^{156}	2^{88} CP	2^{152} bits	MITM	[LJ18]
128*	4 + 6	Y	$2^{237.3}$	2^{122} CP	2^{144}	trunc. imp. diff.	[YQC18]
128*	4 + 7	Y	$2^{241.8}$	2^{122} CP	2^{232}	trunc. imp. diff.	[YQC18]
128	4 + 7	Y	$2^{126.1}$	$2^{126.1}$ KP	2^{71} bits	rel-tweak stat. sat.	[LHW19]

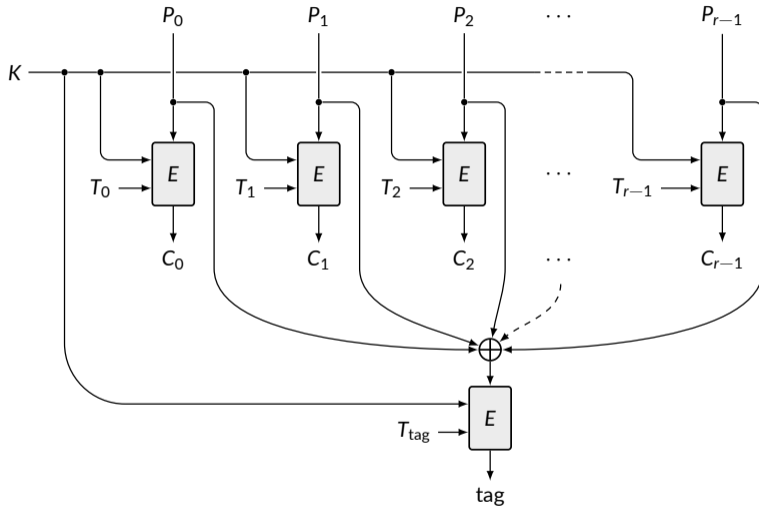
Implementation results (Power at 10 MHz)

	Block Cipher	Area (GE)	Power (mW)	Energy (nJ)	Delay (ns)
1	MIDORI-128	21647	17.60	1.76	18.80
2	AES-128	51126	66.33	6.63	25.10
	AES-192	58313	87.47	8.75	28.91
	AES-256	71711	133.74	13.37	33.78
3	Deoxys-BC-256	61713	108.83	10.88	34.91
	Deoxys-BC-384	74940	145.59	14.56	40.04
4	QARMA-128 ₁₁	31242	29.05	2.91	17.87
	QARMA-128 ₁₂	33827	41.59	4.16	19.35
	QARMA-128 ₁₃	36412	48.42	4.84	20.83
	QARMA-128 ₁₄	38998	55.78	5.58	22.32

Memory Encryption







... and many others.

General Purpose Encryption (Including Data at Rest)

Introducing PANORAmA

PArallelisable

NOnce

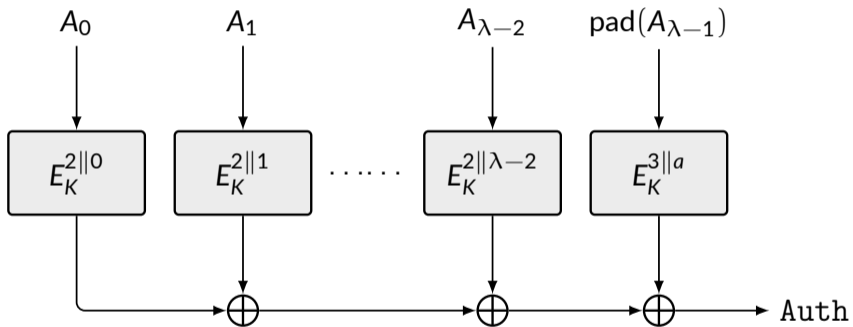
Rotating

Authenticated Encryption

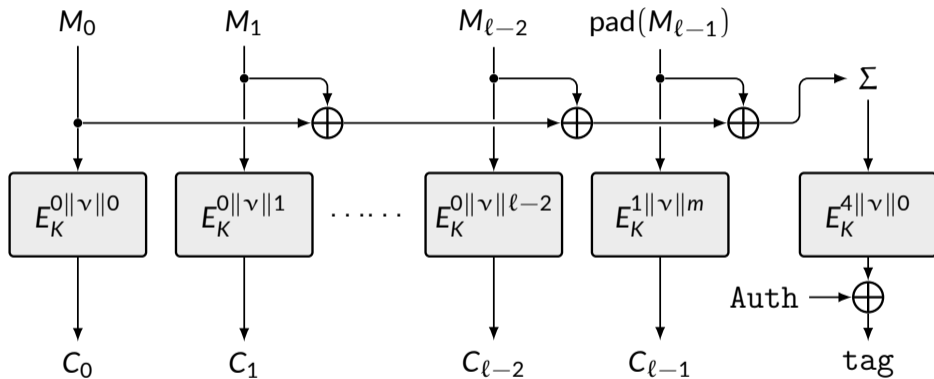
cum

Associated Data

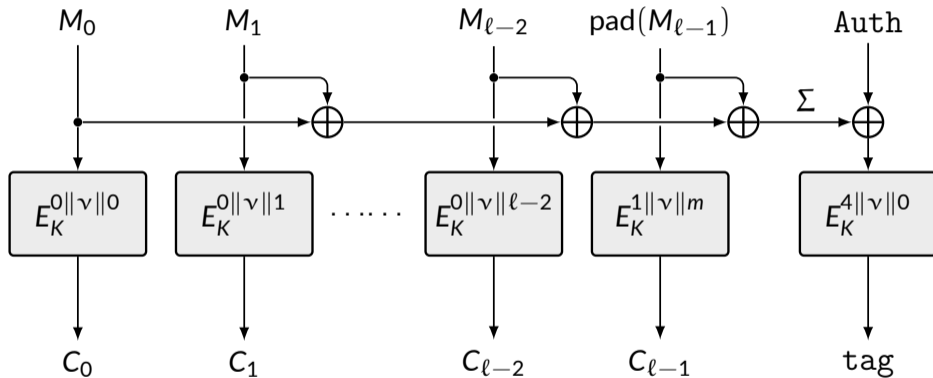
AD Processing



Message Processing



Alternative Message Processing



Usage

- These schemes can be instantiated with any compatible TBC.
- QARMA is suitable.

Nonce Rotation

Entropy is like good Real Estate – always at a Premium

- Suppose you have a TBC with only a 128 bit tweak (or even a 64-bit one!).
- Suppose there is a call for standards that asks for 96-bit nonces and processing of at least 2^{46} blocks.
- But in a 128-bit tweak you can only fit, say, 4 bits for tweak domain separation, 96 bits for the nonce, and 28 bits for a block index.
- What can you do?

~~Design a new cipher with larger tweak?~~

~~(Risky and expensive, usually 40++% more latency, see for instance SKINNY).~~

~~If the nonce itself is a counter, increase it every 2^{28} blocks – the primitive should return the new nonce value if updated.~~

In general, change (“rotate”) it every 2^{28} blocks – in an unpredictable way, so that nonce, and thus tweak repetitions cannot be exploited.

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Description

1. Start with a nonce ν . Set $N \leftarrow \nu$.
2. Encrypt first 2^{28} blocks (a chunk) using tweaks $0000\|N\|i$, i the block index.
Note that i , once put into the tweak, is truncated to the least significant 28 bits.

3. Set

$$N \leftarrow E_K^{1111\|\nu\|(i\gg 28)}(\text{magic number})$$

truncated to 96 bits.

4. Encrypt now up to 2^{28} blocks (if finished, stop) using tweaks $1000\|N\|i$.
5. More to encrypt? go to step 3.

Analysis

1. Eve asks for encryption of all-zero messages, observes repetitions only after

$$\geq (2 \cdot 2^{28} + 1) \cdot \sqrt{2} \cdot 2^{48}$$

expected blocks.

2. This is roughly $2^{77.5}$. Barely distinguishable from a random function, since collisions may happen anyway after $2^{64.5}$ blocks.
3. (Lower bounds only? N is truncated to $96 \gg \frac{1}{2} 128$ bits.)
4. NIST requirements only ask to be able to process at least 2^{46} blocks.
5. ???
6. Profit!

Tweak Compression

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~~Nonce rotation? Some may not like it, for whatever reason.~~

Use a PRF to compress $2n$ or $3n$ bits worth of tweak material onto just n bits, and modify the mode to make tweak collisions non-exploitable.

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How to construct a suitable PRF?

- Ad hoc? Noooooooooo.
- So let us try putting $T = T_0 \parallel \dots \parallel T_{c-1}$ and

$$\text{compressed tweak} = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} g_i(T_i) .$$

- Multiply in Galois fields by keys and add? $g_i(T_i) = k_i \cdot T_i$ (First idea.)
Exploitable. (Hint: collisions give relations between these keys.)
- Multiply in Galois fields by keys, add, then encrypt?
Better. But. Still. Exploitable.
- Construct the PRF by adding PRPs? Much. Better.

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$$\text{compressed tweak} = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} E_K^{\text{tweak}_i}(T_i)$$

followed by

$$C = E_K^{\text{compressed tweak}}(P) .$$

This has two problems.

- Kills the advantages of having: A short tweak input; not too many rounds; usage of TBC based modes of operation.
- Collisions give same encryption function.

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Description

We could try

$$\text{compressed tweak} = \sum_{i=0}^{c-1} g_i(T_i \oplus K_0) \quad (\text{I shall call you mini-}T, \text{ or } T_{\text{effective}})$$

g_i = a few rounds of QARMA with unique round constants, no tweak, key K_1 .

For 2 n -bit long tweaks

$$\begin{aligned} P &\mapsto E_K^{T_{\text{effective}}} (P \oplus o(g_0(T_0 \oplus K_0))) \\ C &\mapsto D_K^{T_{\text{effective}}} (C) \oplus o(g_0(T_0 \oplus K_0)) . \end{aligned}$$

For 3 n -bit long tweaks

$$\begin{aligned} P &\mapsto E_K^{T_{\text{effective}}} (P \oplus o(g_0(T_0 \oplus K_0))) \oplus o(g_1(T_1 \oplus K_0)) \\ C &\mapsto D_K^{T_{\text{effective}}} (C \oplus o(g_1(T_1 \oplus K_0))) \oplus o(g_0(T_0 \oplus K_0)) . \end{aligned}$$

Analysis

- Make sure the number of rounds is sufficient to guarantee full diffusion.
- At least 3.
- Use a bit-wise MILP model to ensure that the number of active S-Boxes is 30-ish, resp. 60-ish for each pair of functions (g_i, g_j) in the case of 64, resp. 128-bit tweak ciphers. This makes collisions not only roughly as rare as random, but expensive to construct (the QARMA 4-bit S-Box has 2^{-2} lin/diff biases).
- Also: adding the component functions before/after the encryptions (processed with an orthomorphism) will cause collisions to generate non-identical functions (in fact, translates, which are then not detectable).
- ???
- Profit!!!

A new Hope

A new Hope^H

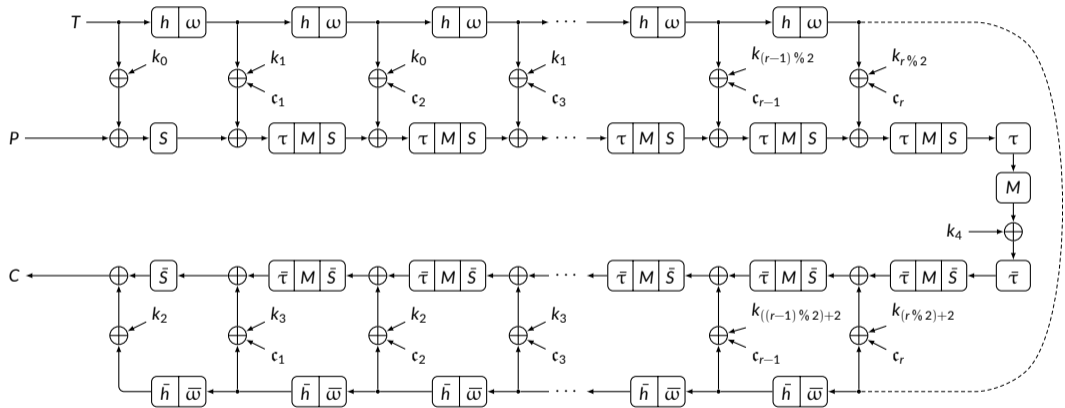
A new Hope^{^H^H}

A new Hope^{H^H^H}

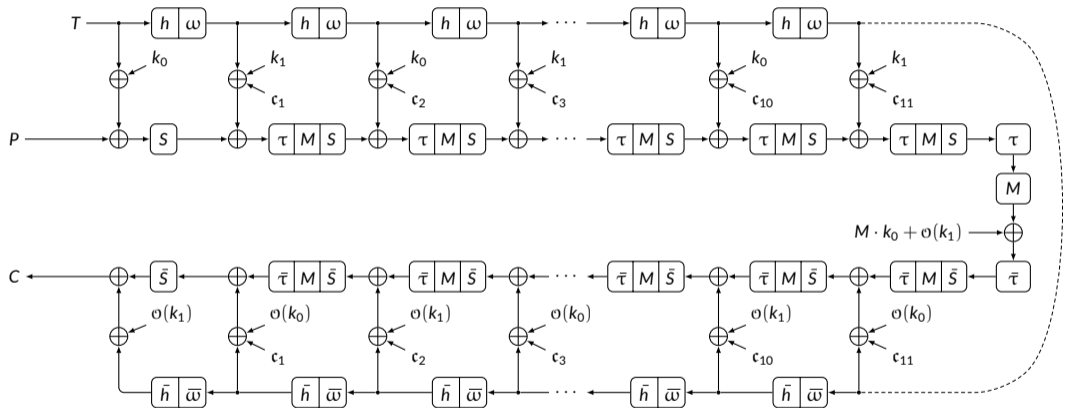
A new Hope^{^H^H^H^H}

A new Hope^{H^H^H^H} Key Schedule

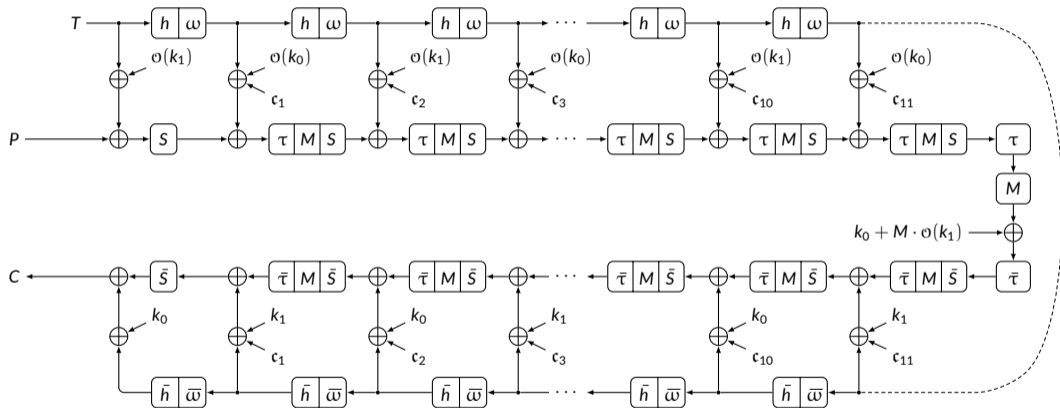
Itai Dinur suggested an Alternating key Construction



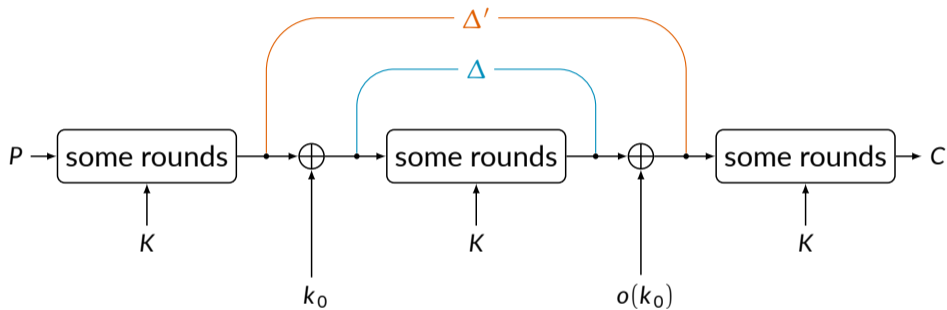
QARMA*: Encryption



QARMA*: Decryption



How to use a Characteristic/Distinguisher



The map $x \mapsto o(x)$ is linear, bijective, and also $x \mapsto x + o(x)$ is bijective. This makes in general Δ' useless unless k_0 is guessed.

More Remarks

Over characteristic 2 algebras, if $o(\cdot)$ is an orthomorphism, then $o^2(\cdot)$ #metoo.

Proof: First, note that $o^2(\cdot)$ is clearly a bijective linear map.

Then $x \mapsto y := x + o(x) \mapsto y + o(y) = x + o(x) + o(x) + o^2(x) = x + o^2(x)$ as a composition of bijections is a bijection. \square

Hence, $o^4(\cdot)$, $o^8(\cdot)$, $o^{2^i}(\cdot)$ are orthomorphisms as well.

Idea: (Perchance, to dream?) Use a simple key schedule where we alternate between partial keys, and modify values using functions that, as much as possible, are pairwise “mutually orthomorphic.”

(Ay, there's the *rub*. Doing it elegantly. Also $o(\cdot)$ is one XOR, then $o^{2^i}(\cdot)$ is 2^i XORs.)

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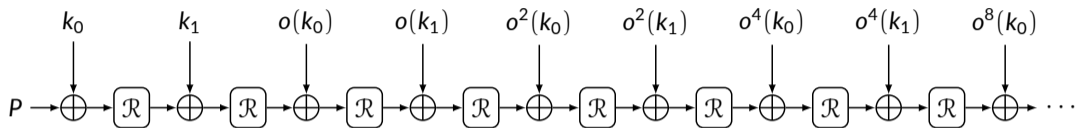
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Example



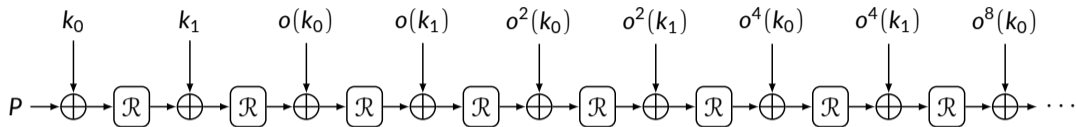
This is a possible starting point. To do: reduce (partial) sliding; and how to properly construt the forward and backward paths of a reflection cipher.

Nearly all of the cryptanalysis done so far would apply almost verbatim or have higher complexities. Invariant Subspace analysis would have to be re-run.

If you find a good way, please do it with us and maybe also Yannick Seurin.

Really, be cooperative. Orr's daughter knows how to use an AK47.

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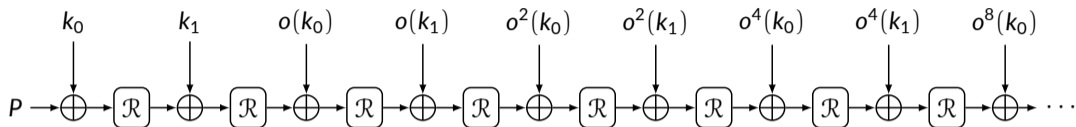
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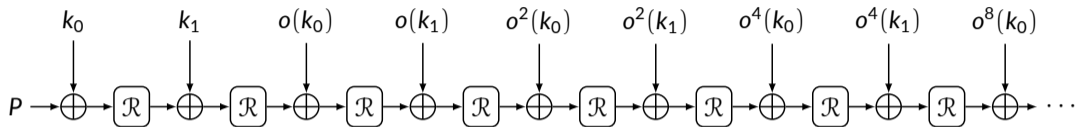


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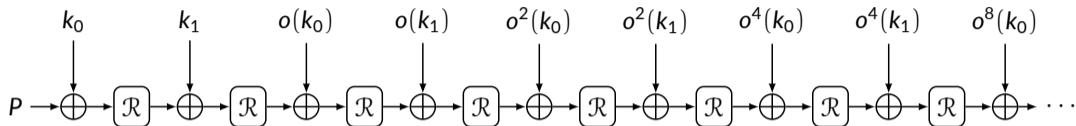
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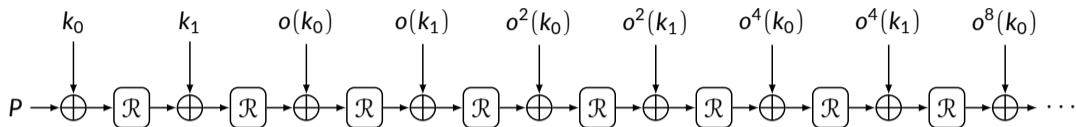
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What about Qameleon?

Introducing Qameleon

QARMA plus
Authentication for
MEMories that
Let
ExfiltratiON

Qameleon

- Qameleon is an AEAD suite of ciphers for various applications.
- In a nutshell, it is PANORAMA instantiated with QARMA, using in some cases Nonce Rotation or Tweak Compression to be able to cover all requirements.
- For those that have read the NIST LWC competition call, they asked for something essentially already proven and well analysed. They stopped short of saying “just give us ASCON and we shall pretend to have a look at the rest.” The next thing may just be a known and studied TBC with an OCB-like mode.
- We use QARMA and a subset of Θ CB (plus NR & TC that come with proofs).
- In our opinion these constructions are even better understood than sponges.
ISO folks in this room, take note!

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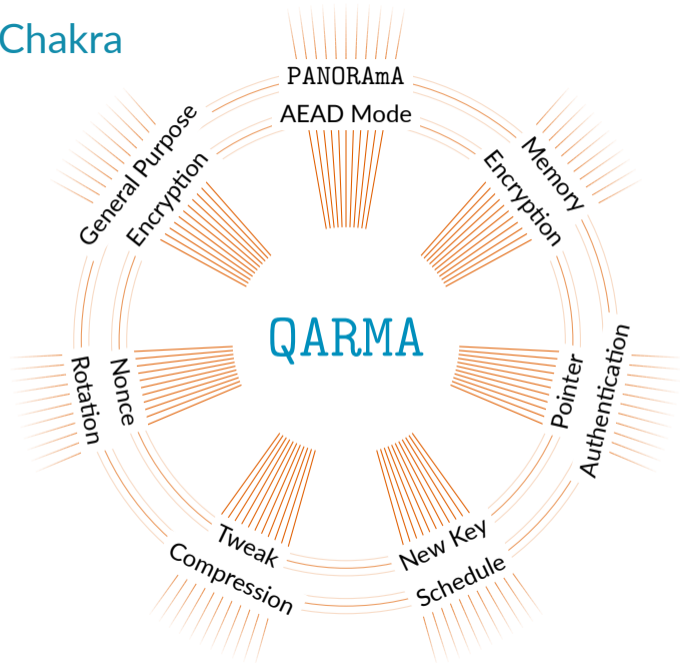
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Implementation results (Power at 10 MHz)

	Variant	Block Cipher	Optimization	Area (GE)	Power(mW)	Delay(ns)
(A)	qameleon12812896gpv1	QARMA-128 ₁₁	Area	35053	35.0	20.98
			Speed	59678	69.4	9.92
(B)	qameleon128128128tcgvp1	QARMA-128 ₁₄	Area	42811	53.9	25.45
			Speed	74177	109.8	11.91
(C)	qameleon12812864gvp1	QARMA-128 ₁₁	Area	46018	45.8	23.08
			Speed	90138	100.3	10.42
(D)	qameleon12812864mev1	QARMA-128 ₁₄	Area	42379	52.9	24.26
			Speed	96708	86.7	9.90
(E)	qameleon1286464mev1	QARMA-128 ₁₁	Area	32457	28.6	18.99
			Speed	56873	61.9	9.00
(F)	qameleon6464tcmev1	QARMA-64 ₇ (TC)	Area	15702	9.5	16.38
			Speed	19408	16.2	7.90
(F)	qameleon6464nnmev1	QARMA-64 ₉	Area	13779	9.8	16.38
			Speed	22892	19.6	8.00
	ΘCB	Deoxys-BC-384	Area	77967	112.1	57.68
			Speed	99128	178.7	29.91

The QARMA Chakra



Questions?

A person is sitting on a large rock in the foreground, looking up at a vast night sky filled with stars and the Milky Way galaxy. The galaxy is a bright, glowing band of light stretching across the sky, with various colors like orange, yellow, and purple. The person is silhouetted against the dark sky. The overall scene is a beautiful, serene night landscape.

arm

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