

Related-Key Boomerang Attacks on AES

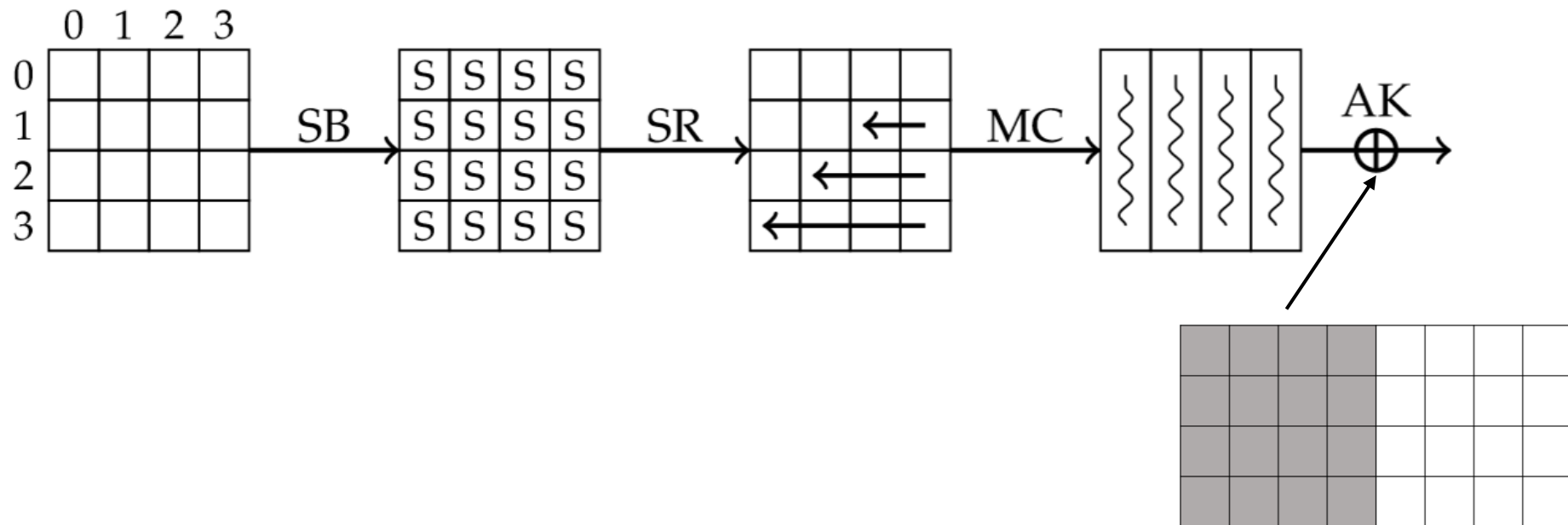
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2021

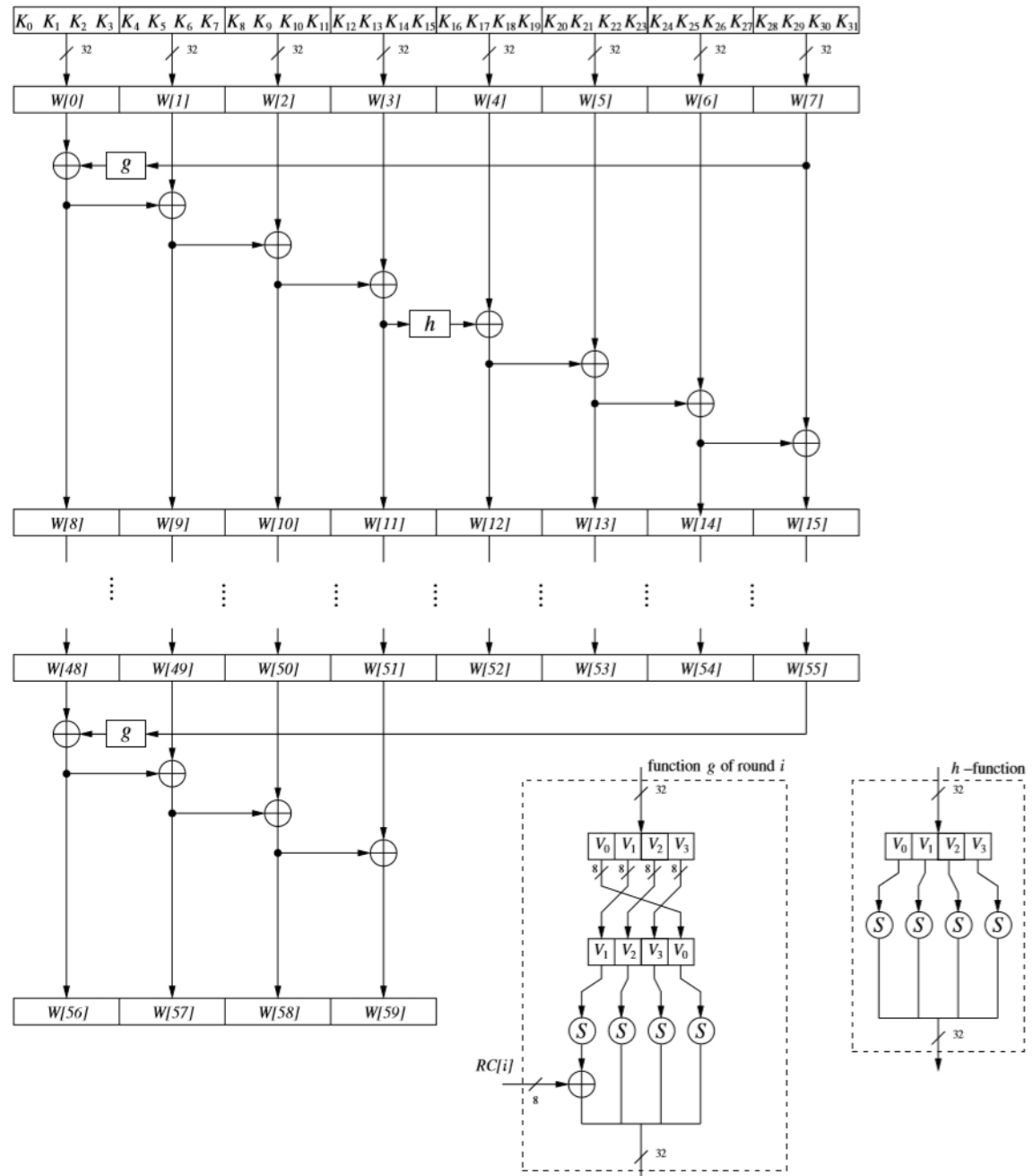


- Preliminaries
- Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192
- Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Preliminaries



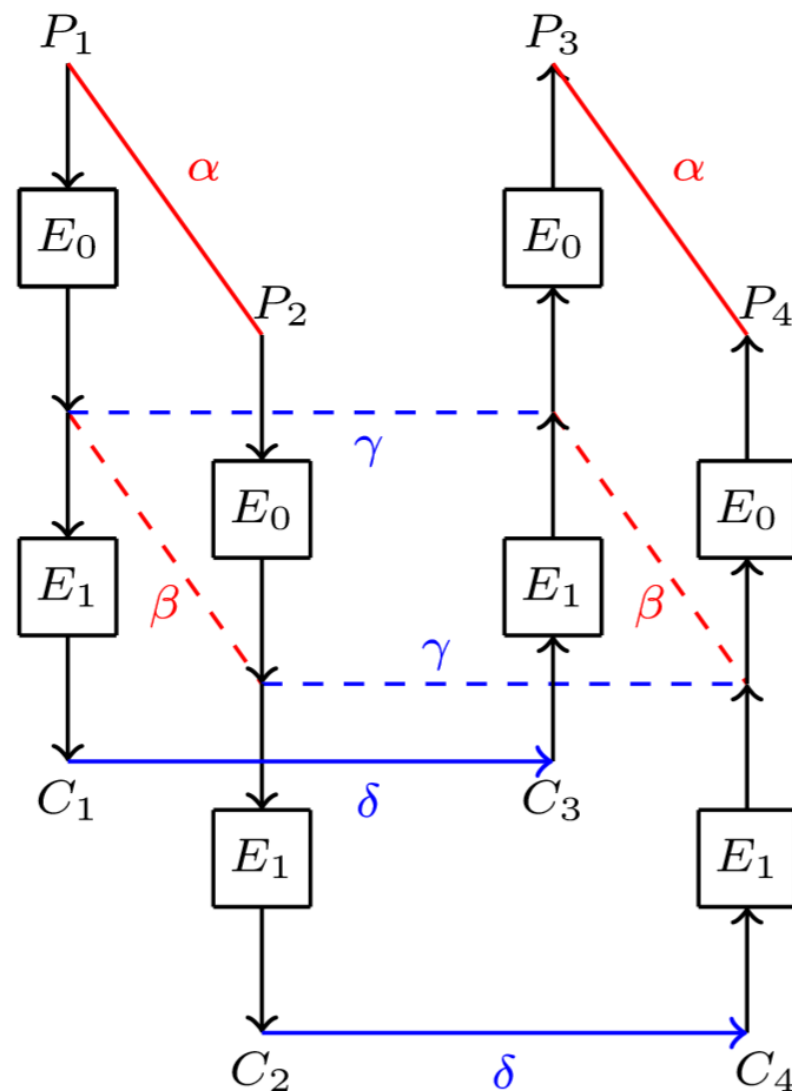
7 ROUND



Preliminaries

Boomerang Attack :

- Cipher E divided into two sub-ciphers
- $E = E_0 \circ E_1$
- $E_0: P[\alpha \rightarrow \beta] = p$
- $E_1: P[\gamma \rightarrow \delta] = q$
- The two trails are assumed to be independent.
- Distinguish probability:
- $\Pr[E^{-1}(E(x) \oplus \delta) \oplus E^{-1}(E(x \oplus \alpha) \oplus \delta) = \alpha] = p^2 q^2$



Related-Key Attack Model :

Class of cryptanalytic attacks in which the attacker knows or chooses a relation between several keys and is given access to encryption/decryption functions with all these keys.

The relation between the keys can be an arbitrary bijective function R (or even a family of such functions) chosen in advance by the attacker.

EX:

$$K_2 = F^{-1}(F(K_1) \oplus C) = RC(K_2)$$

Single round of the
AES-256 key schedule

Constant C
(chosen by the attacker)

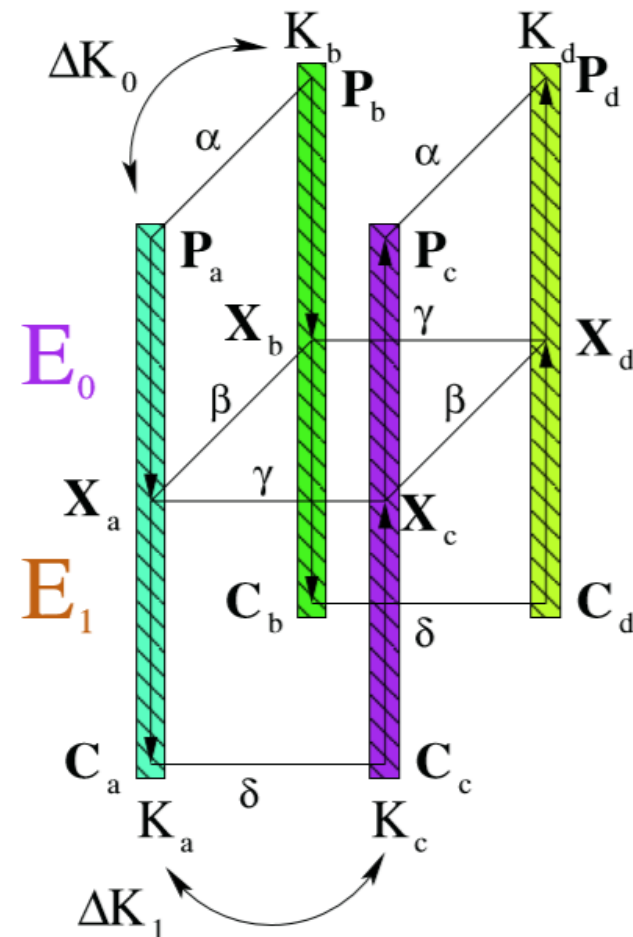
Related Key Boomerang Attack :

$$K_b = K_a \oplus \Delta K_0$$

$$K_c = K_a \oplus \Delta K_1$$

$$K_d = K_a \oplus \Delta K_0 \oplus \Delta K_1$$

- Choose P_a and compute $P_d = P_a \oplus \alpha$
- Encrypt P_a under K_a and P_b under K_b
- Compute $C_c = C_a \oplus \delta$ and $C_d = C_b \oplus \delta$
- Decrypt C_c under K_c and C_d under K_d
- Test whether $P_c \oplus P_d = \alpha$
- If $P_c \oplus P_d = \alpha$ then (P_a, P_b, P_c, P_d) forms a right quartet.



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192

NOTATION:

AES operations:

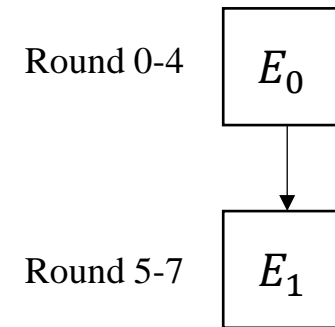
SubBytes (SB)

ShiftRows (SR)

MixColumn (MC)

AddRoundKey (AK)

$$\text{AES-192} = E_0 \circ E_1$$



State Matrix =

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

The Structure of the Keys :

$$K_b = K_a \oplus \Delta K^*$$

$$K_c = K_a \oplus \Delta K'$$

$$K_d = K_a \oplus \Delta K^* \oplus \Delta K'$$

Choose the key differences as

$$\Delta K^* = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline & & a & a & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

and

$$\Delta K' = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|c|c|} \hline a & & & & a & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline & & & & & \\ \hline \end{array}$$

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192

The Structure of the Keys :

Using the key schedule algorithm of AES-192 and key differences ΔK^* and $\Delta K'$, we can derive the round key differences

ΔK_0^*

	a	a

ΔK_1^*

ΔK_2^*

a		

ΔK_3^*

	a	a

ΔK_4^*

a	a	
	b	b

ΔK_5^*

a		a
b	b	b

ΔK_6^*

	a	a
c	c	c
b	b	

ΔK_7^*

	d	d
c	c	
b	b	b

$\Delta K_0'$

a		

$\Delta K_1'$

a	a	a

$\Delta K_2'$

a	a	

$\Delta K_3'$

a	a	

$\Delta K_4'$

	a	a

$\Delta K_5'$

$\Delta K_6'$

a		

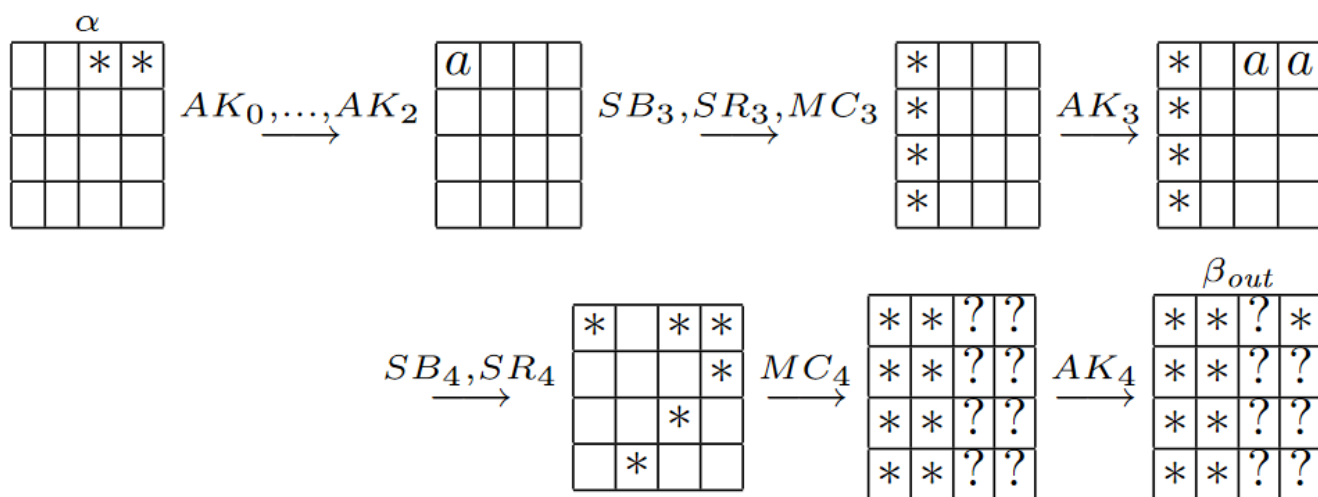
$\Delta K_7'$

	a	a

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192

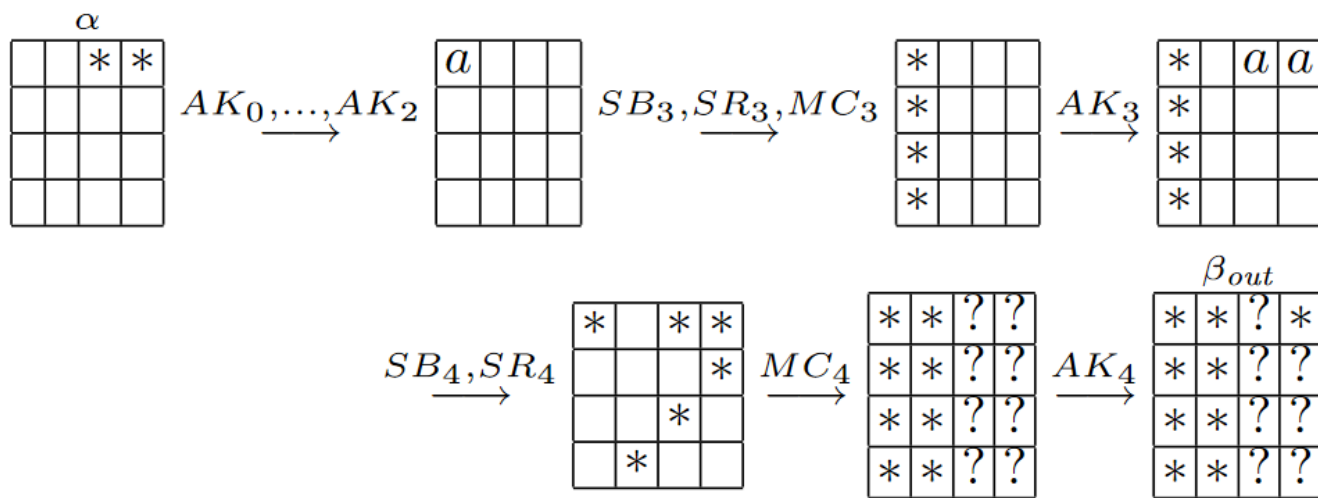
The Related-Key Differential E_0 for rounds 1 –4:

- The input difference α of E_0 has a non-zero difference in bytes 8 and 12.
- These differences are of value a with the probability 2^{-16} .
- This is the probability that two randomly chosen non-zero bytes are of value a .



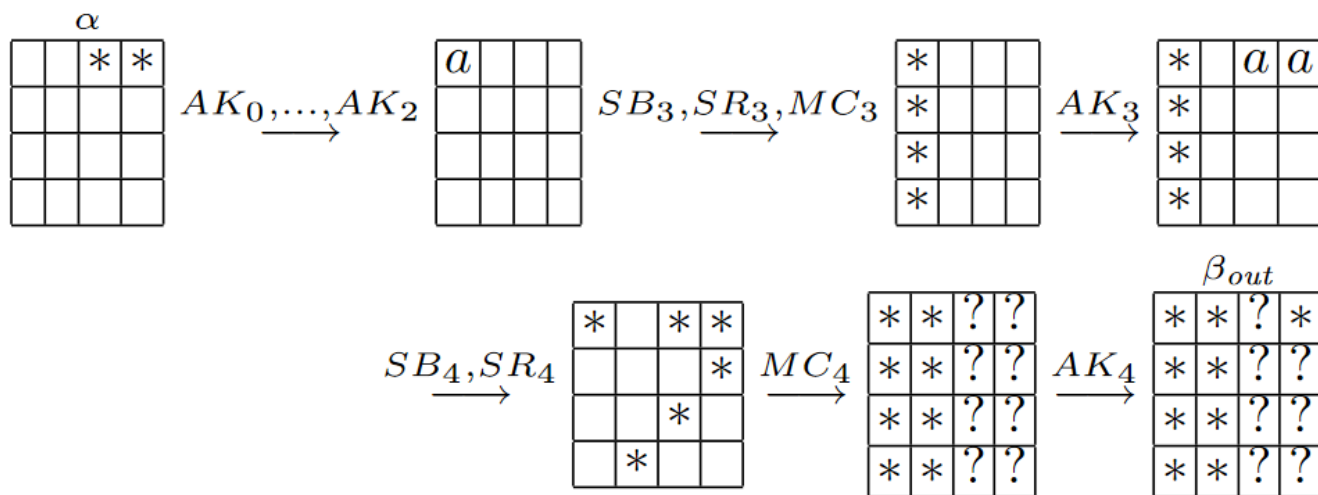
The Related-Key Differential E_0 for rounds 1 –4:

- The whitening key addition AK_0 generates a zero difference in each byte of the state matrix.
- These zero differences remain until AK_2 is applied, since ΔK_1 has only zero differences and does not alter the differences in the state matrix.
- AK_2 generates an a difference in byte 0, which is transformed into a non-zero difference after SB_3 .



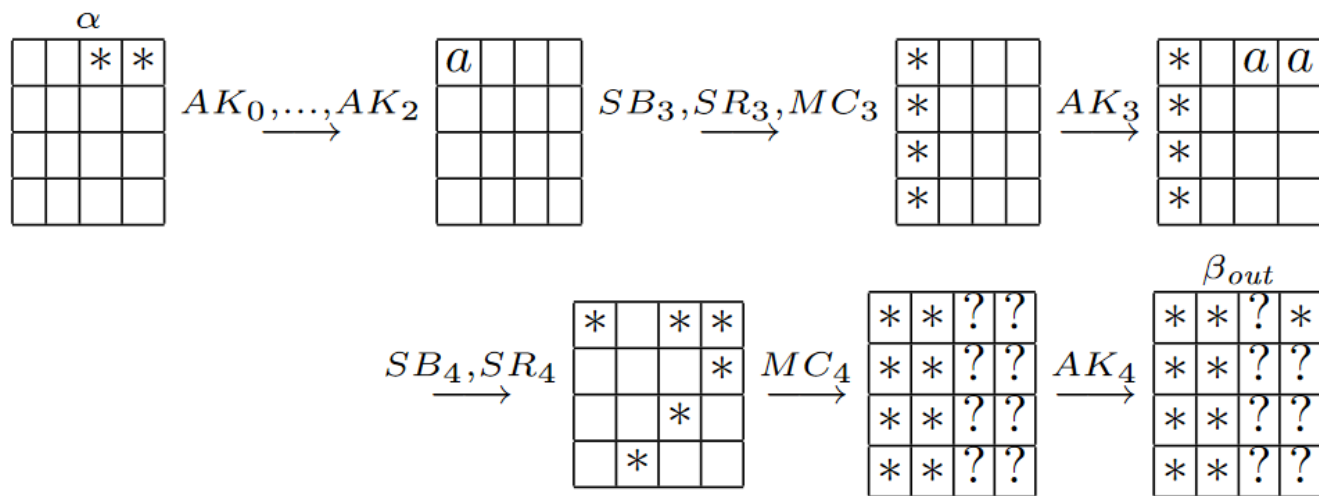
The Related-Key Differential E_0 for rounds 1 –4:

- MC_3 creates a non-zero difference in bytes 0,1,2 and 3, while AK_3 inserts an a difference in bytes 8 and 12.
- After applying SR_4 we just have one non-zero byte in column 0 and 1 and two non-zero bytes in column 2 and 3



The Related-Key Differential E_0 for rounds 1 –4:

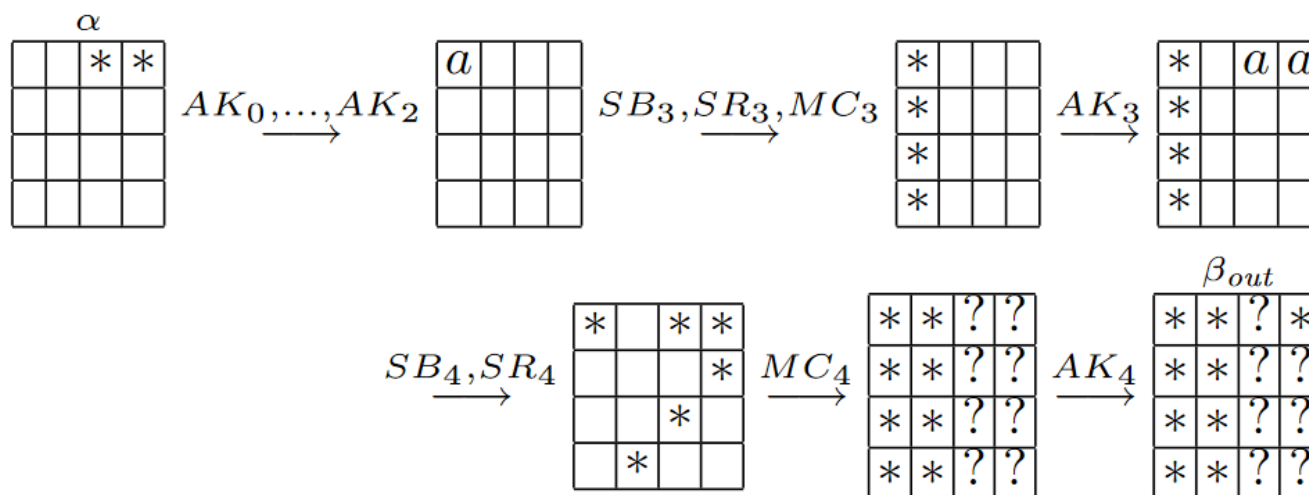
- Four non-zero bytes remain after MC_4 in column 0 and 1 with probability one, while we do not know which bytes of column 2 and 3 are non-zero. These bytes are labeled with ?.
- Then AK_4 places a difference in byte 12. We call β_{out} the difference obtaining after passing the related-key differential E_0 .



The Related-Key Differential E_0 for rounds 1 –4:

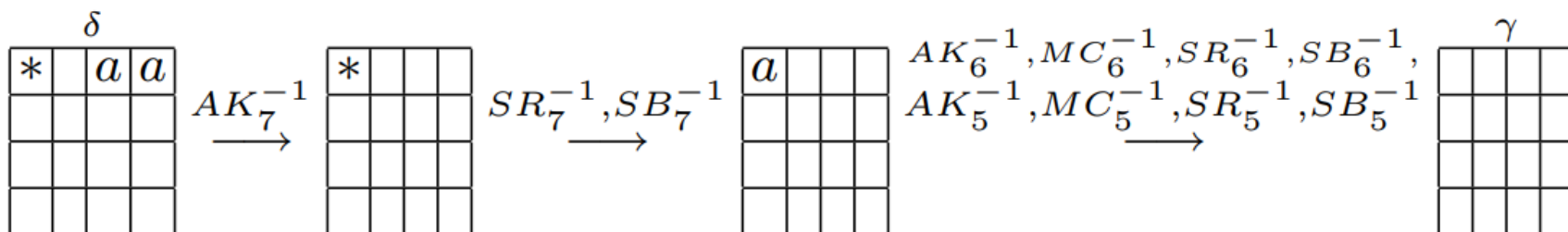
So,

$$\Pr(\alpha \rightarrow \beta_{out}) = 2^{-16}$$



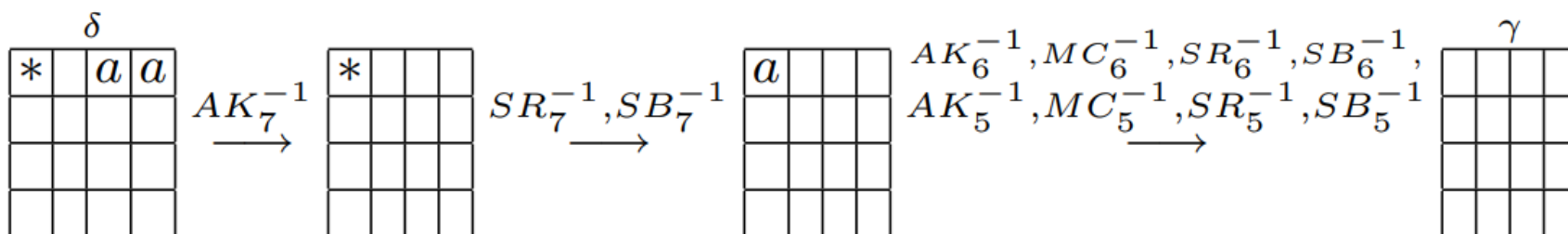
The Related-Key Differential E^{1-1} for rounds 7–5.

- The input difference δ consists of a non-zero difference in byte 0 and two a differences in bytes 8 and 12. This differences vanish after AK_7^{-1} , since $\Delta K'_7$ has two a differences in bytes 8 and 12 while the other bytes of $\Delta K'_7$ have a zero difference. Only the nonzero difference in byte 0 remains.
- SB_7^{-1} generates an a difference in byte 0 with probability 2^{-8} since we assume that the S-Box acts like a random permutation



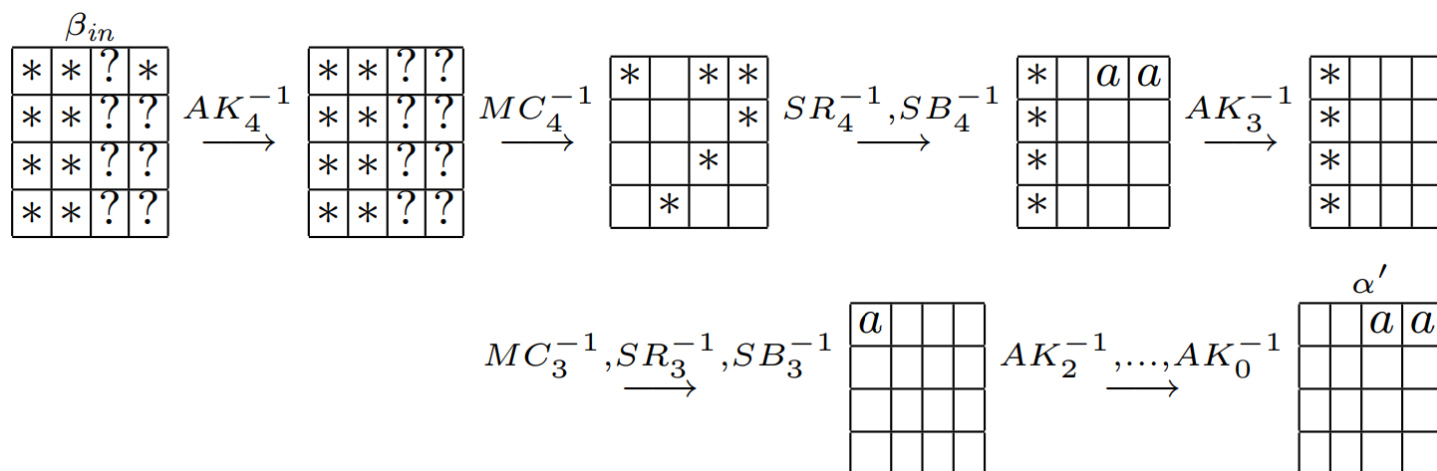
The Related-Key Differential E^{1-1} for rounds 7–5.

- If this occurs the text difference after SB_7^{-1} is equal to the subkey difference $\Delta K'_6$. Hence, all bytes have a zero difference after applying AK_6^{-1} . All bytes will also have a zero difference after AK_5^{-1} , since $\Delta K'_5$ has a zero difference in each byte.
- We call the text difference after applying E^{1-1} γ which consists of 16 zero bytes.
- The probability of E^{1-1} is $\Pr(\gamma \leftarrow \delta) = 2^{-8}$



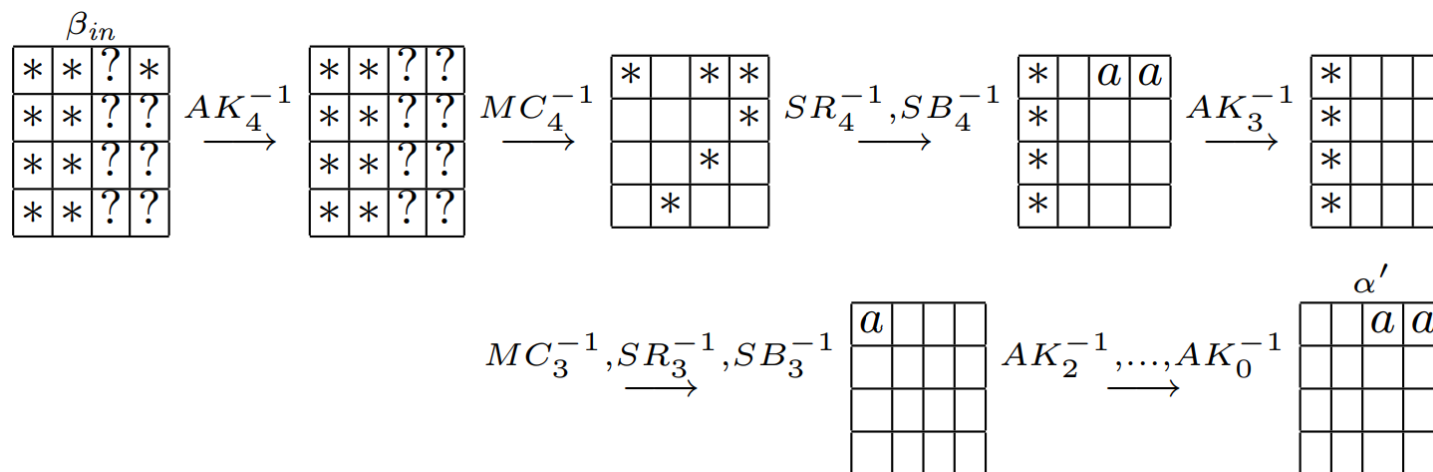
The Related-Key Differential E^{0-1} for rounds 4-1

- MC_4^{-1} can be undone with probability 1 .
- SB_4^{-1} then transforms a non-zero difference into an a difference with probability 2^{-8} . Regarding bytes 8 and 12 we have the probability 2^{-16} of doing so.
- The resulting a differences in bytes 8 and 12 are canceled out by AK_3^{-1} . After that MC_3^{-1} generates a non-zero with a fixed position from four non-zero bytes with probability 2^{-24}



The Related-Key Differential $E^{0^{-1}}$ for rounds 4–1

- We have only one a difference after SB_3^{-1} in byte 0 with probability $2^{-24} * 2^{-8} = 2^{-32}$.
- This a difference is canceled out by AK_2^{-1} . We call α the difference that is the output of the related-key differential E_0^{-1} α has an a difference in the bytes 8 and 12.
- The differential E_0^{-1} has the probability $\Pr(\alpha \leftarrow \beta_{in}) = 2^{-16} * 2^{-32} = 2^{-48}$

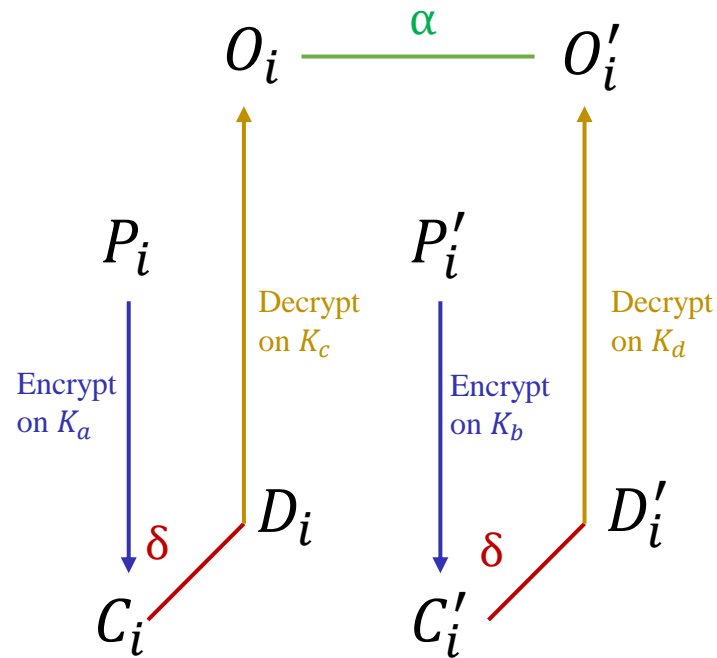


The Attack :

1. Choose $2^{49.5}$ structures $S_1, S_2, \dots, S_{2^{49.5}}$ of 2^{16} plaintexts $P_i, i \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2^{16}\}$, where all bytes are fixed except for bytes 8 and 12. Ask for encryption of P_i under K_a to obtain the ciphertexts C_i , i.e., $C_i = E_{K_a}(P_i)$.
2. Compute $2^{49.5}$ structures $S'_1, S'_2, \dots, S'_{2^{49.5}}$ of 2^{16} plaintexts $P'_i = P_i$. Ask for encryption of the P'_i under K_b , where $K_b = K_a \oplus \Delta K^*$ to obtain the ciphertexts C'_i , i.e., $C'_i = E_{K_b}(P'_i)$.
3. Compute $2^{49.5}$ structures $S_1^*, S_2^*, \dots, S_{2^{49.5}}^*$ of 2^{16} ciphertexts D_i , i.e., $D_i = C_i \oplus \delta$ where δ is a fixed difference with any non-zero byte difference in byte 0 and two a differences in bytes 8 and 12. Ask for decryption of D_i under K_c to obtain the plaintexts O_i , i.e., $O_i = E_{K_c}^{-1}(D_i)$.
4. Compute $2^{49.5}$ structures $S_1'^*, S_2'^*, \dots, S_{2^{49.5}}'^*$ of 2^{16} ciphertexts D'_i , i.e., $D'_i = C'_i \oplus \delta$ where δ is as in Step 3. Ask for decryption of D'_i under K_d to obtain the plaintexts O'_i , i.e., $O'_i = E_{K_d}^{-1}(D'_i)$.
5. Store only those quartets $(P_i, P'_j, O_i, O'_j), i, j \in \{1, 2, \dots, 2^{16}\}$ in the set M where $O_i \oplus O'_j$ have an a difference in bytes 8 and 12, while the remaining byte differences are zero.

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192

The Attack :



$\alpha =$

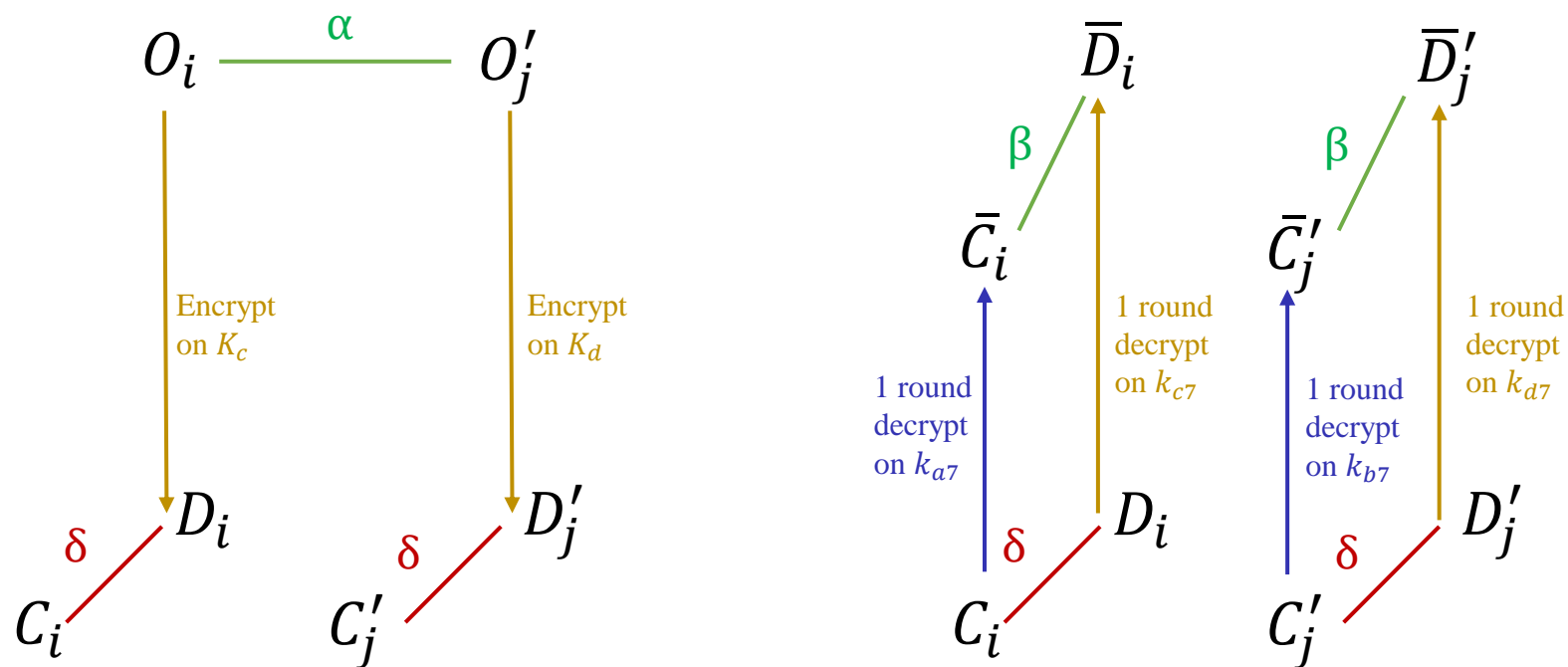
0	0	a	a
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0
0	0	0	0

The Attack :

6. For each 8-bit key k_{a7} compute $k_{b7} = k_{a7}$, $k_{c7} = k_{a7}$ and $k_{d7} = k_{a7}$.
For each quartet passing the test in Step 5:
 - 6.1. Ask for encryption of (O_i, O'_j) under K_c, K_d to obtain (D_i, D'_j) and compute (C_i, C'_j) respectively.
 - 6.2. Partially decrypt a ciphertext quartet (C_i, C'_j, D_i, D'_j) , i.e., $\bar{C}_i = d_{7k_{a7}}(C_i)$, $\bar{C}'_j = d_{7k_{b7}}(C'_j)$, $\bar{D}_i = d_{7k_{c7}}(D_i)$ and $\bar{D}'_j = d_{7k_{d7}}(D'_j)$.
 - 6.3. Increase the counter for the used 8-bit subkey k_{a7} by one if $\bar{C}_i \oplus \bar{D}_i$ and $\bar{C}'_j \oplus \bar{D}'_j$ have an a -difference in byte 0.
7. Output the 8-bit subkey k_{a7} which counts at least two quartets as the correct one.

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on 7-Round AES-192

The Attack :



Analysis of the Attack :

We have $2^{49.5} * (2^{16})^2 = 2^{81.5}$ quartets.

Right quartet occurs with probability :

$$\Pr(\alpha \rightarrow \beta_{out}) * (\Pr(\gamma \leftarrow \delta))^2 * \Pr(\alpha \leftarrow \beta_{in}) = 2^{-16} * (2^{-8})^2 * 2^{48} = 2^{80}$$

So we expect,

$$2^{81.5} * 2^{-80} = 2^{1.5} \approx 3 \text{ right quartets.}$$

A random permutation of a difference $O_i \oplus O'_j$ has 14 zero byte difference with probability 2^{-112}

So we expect

$$2^{81.5} * 2^{-112} = 2^{-30.5} \text{ false quartets}$$

Analysis of the Attack :

We have $2^{49.5} * (2^{16})^2 = 2^{81.5}$ quartets.

Right quartet occurs with probability :

$$\Pr(\alpha \rightarrow \beta_{out}) * (\Pr(\gamma \leftarrow \delta))^2 * \Pr(\alpha \leftarrow \beta_{in}) = 2^{-16} * (2^{-8})^2 * 2^{48} = 2^{80}$$

So we expect,

$$2^{81.5} * 2^{-80} = 2^{1.5} \approx 3 \text{ right quartet.}$$

Data complexity : $2^{16} * 2^2 = 2^{18}$

Time complexity : $2^{49.5} * 2^2 * 2^{16} = 2^{67.5}$ (7-Round AES-192 encryption)

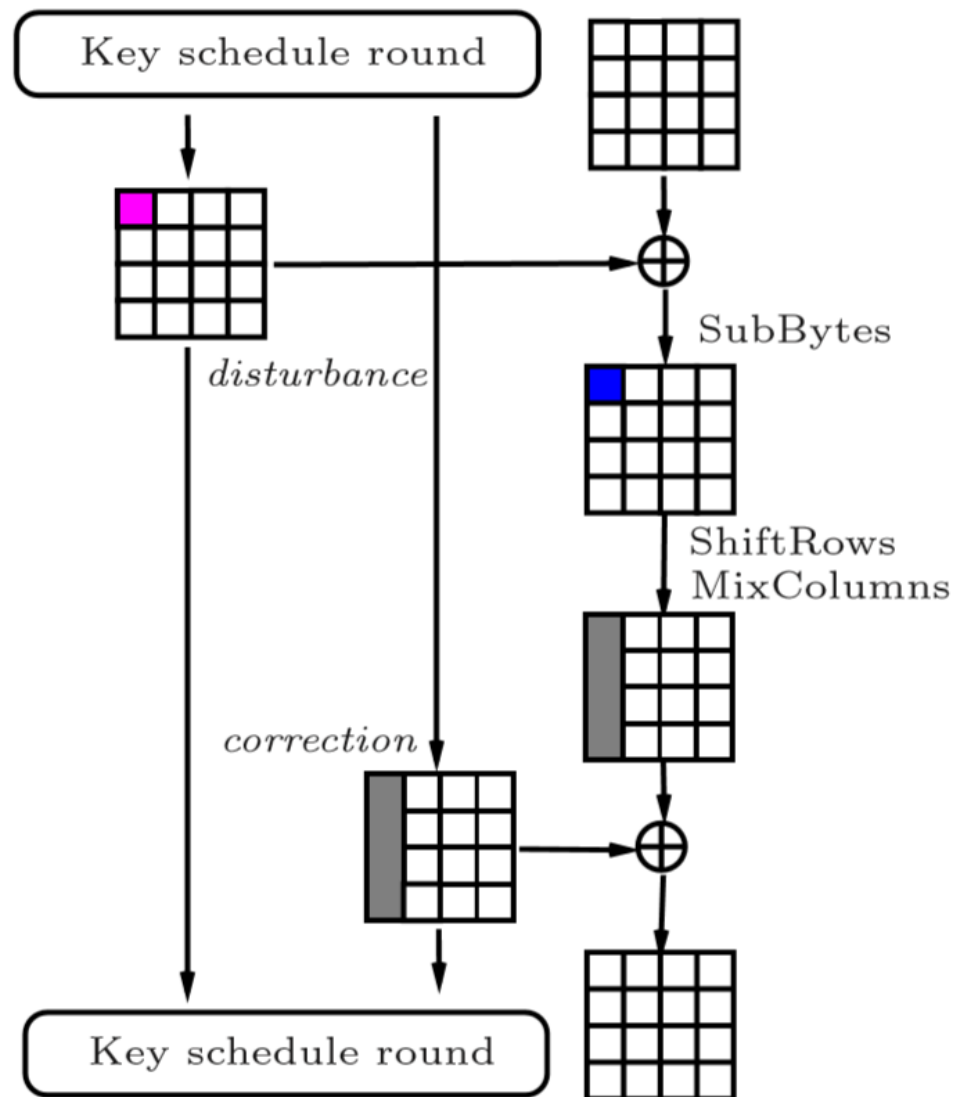
Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Local Collisions:

IDEA : Inject a difference into the internal state, causing a disturbance, and then to correct it with the next injections.

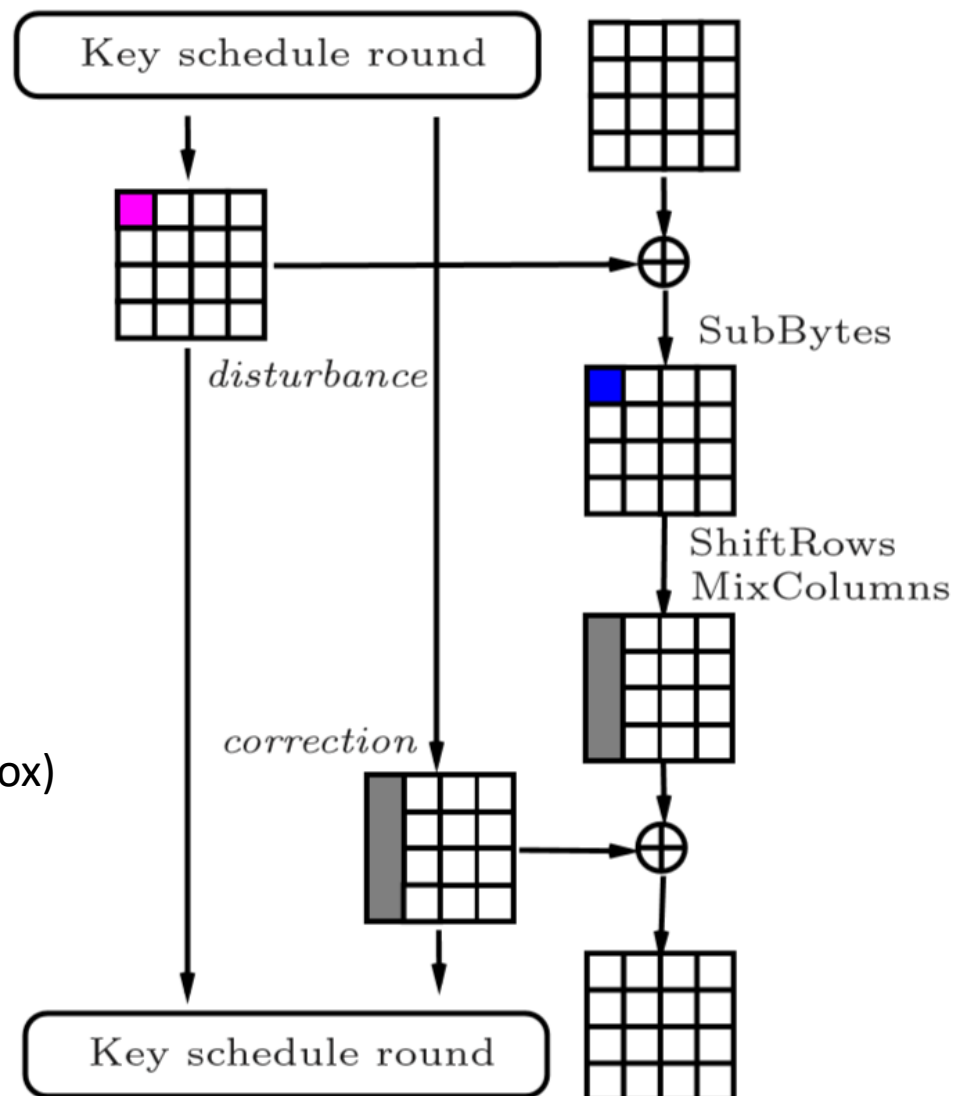
GOAL : Have as few disturbances as possible in order to reduce the complexity of the attack.



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

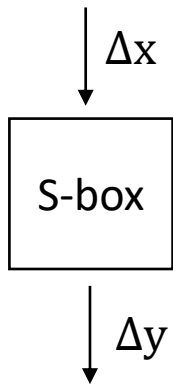
Attacker cannot control the key itself and thus the attack should work for any key pair with a given difference.

This differential holds with probability 2^{-6}
(if we use an optimal differential for an S-box)



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

$$\begin{array}{ccc} 0x01 & \xRightarrow{\text{SubBytes}} & 0x1f; \\ \downarrow & & \\ P = \frac{4}{256} = 2^{-6} & & \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{ccc} \begin{pmatrix} 0x1f \\ 0 \\ 0 \\ 0 \end{pmatrix} & \xRightarrow{\text{MixColumns}} & \begin{pmatrix} 0x3e \\ 0x1f \\ 0x1f \\ 0x21 \end{pmatrix} \\ \downarrow & & \\ P = 1 & & \end{array}$$



$\Delta x = 0x01$

00 02 00 00 02 00 02 00 02 02 02 02 02 02 02
 00 02 00 00 02 02 00 00 02 02 02 00 00 00 02 04
 00 02 02 00 02 00 00 00 00 02 02 00 00 02 00 02
 02 02 00 00 00 02 02 02 02 02 02 02 00 00 00 02
 00 00 00 02 00 00 00 02 02 00 02 02 02 00 02 02
 00 02 00 02 02 00 00 00 02 02 02 00 00 00 00 00
 00 00 02 02 00 02 00 00 00 02 02 02 02 00 02 00
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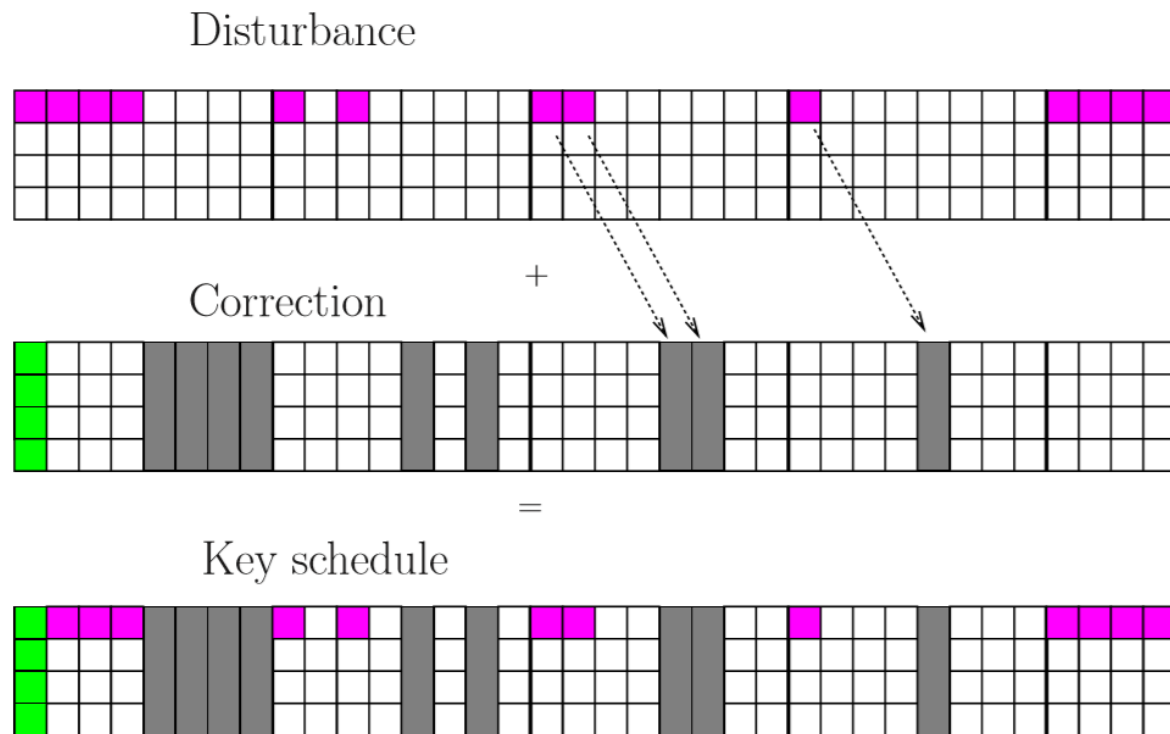
$\Delta y = [0x00 - 0x0f]$

$\Delta y = [0x10 - 0x1f]$

$\Delta y = [0x20 - 0x2f]$

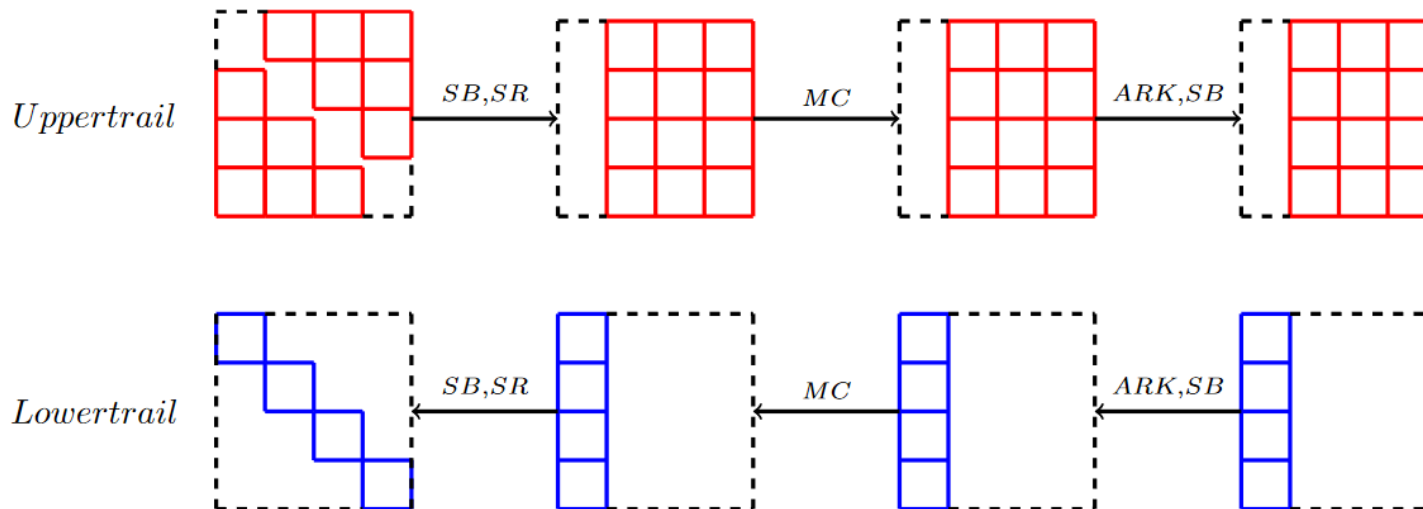
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Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256



Boomerang Switch

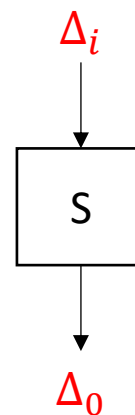
- By default, a cipher is decomposed into rounds.
- However, such decomposition may not be the best for the boomerang attack.
- We propose not only to further decompose the round into simple operations but also to exploit the existing parallelism in these operations. For example, some bytes may be independently processed.



- In such case we can switch in one byte before it is transformed and in another one after it is transformed

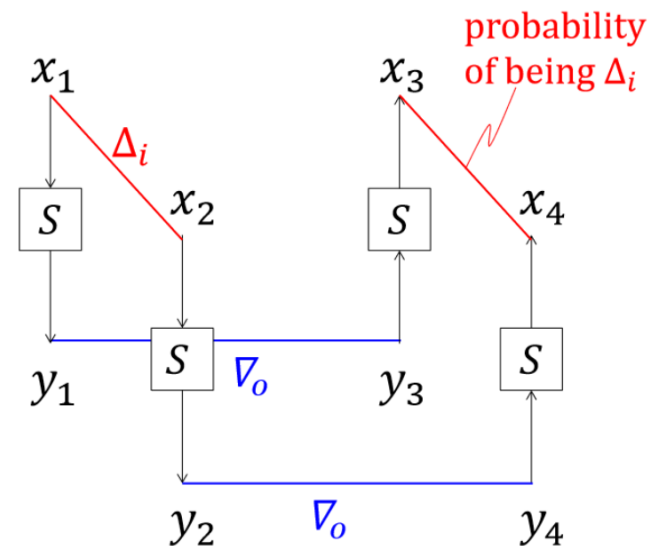
DDT

$$\#\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n | S(x) \oplus S(x \oplus \Delta_i) = \Delta_o\}$$

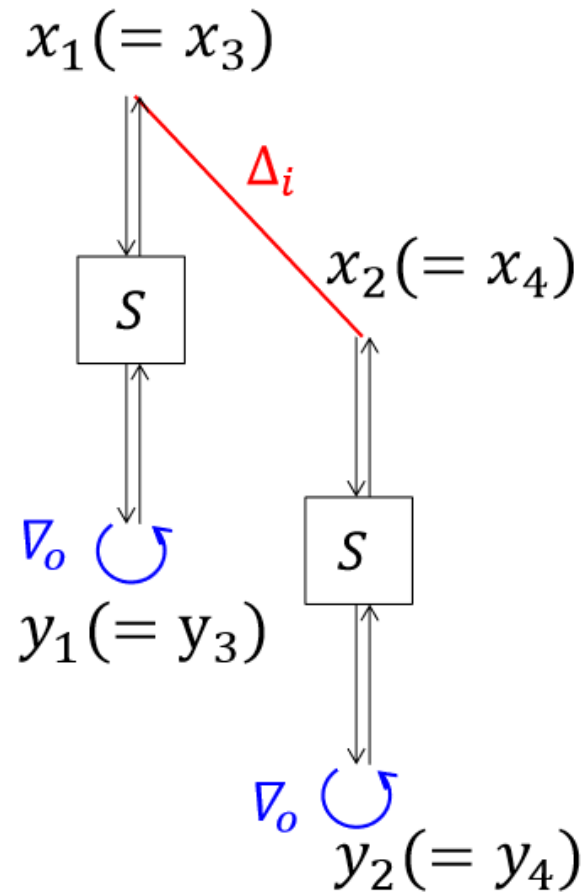


BCT

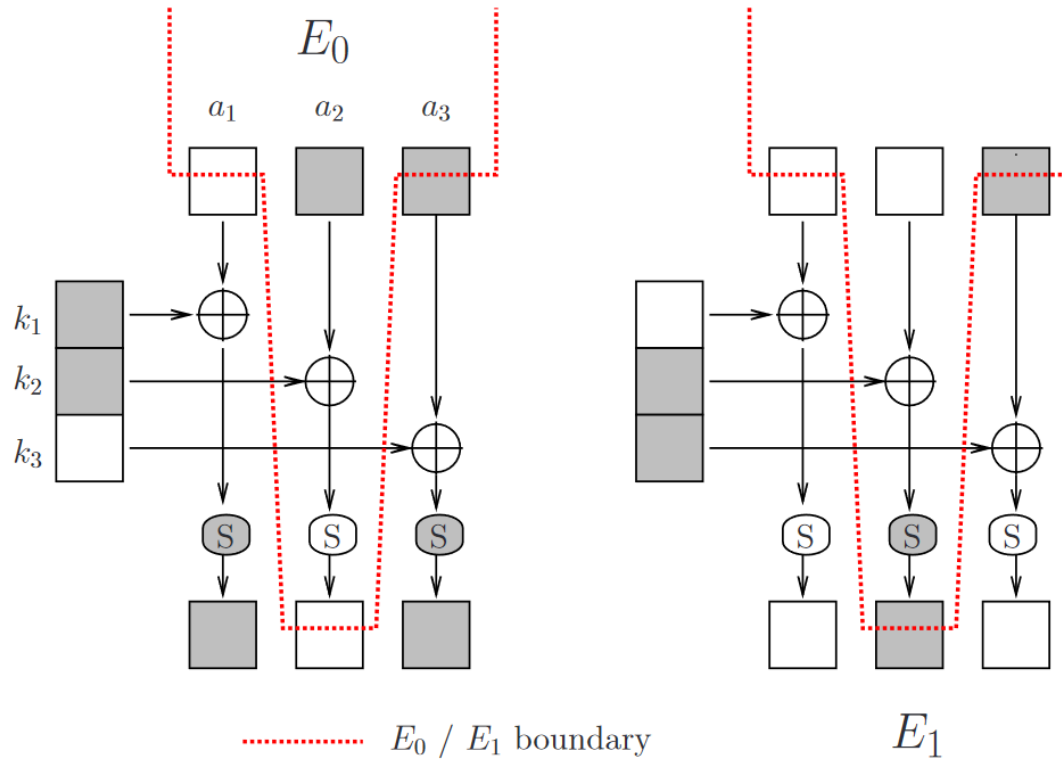
$$\#\{x \in \{0, 1\}^n | S^{-1}(S(x) \oplus \nabla_o) \oplus S^{-1}(S(x \oplus \Delta_i) \oplus \nabla_o) = \Delta_i\}.$$



LADDER SWITCH



Boomerang Switch



Boomerang Switch

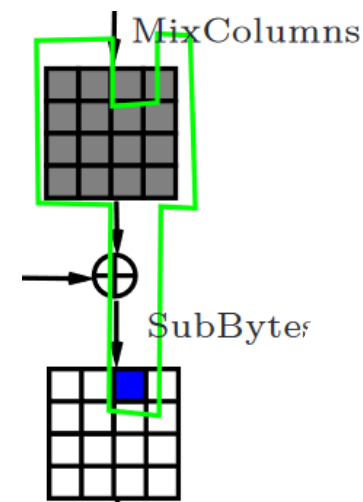
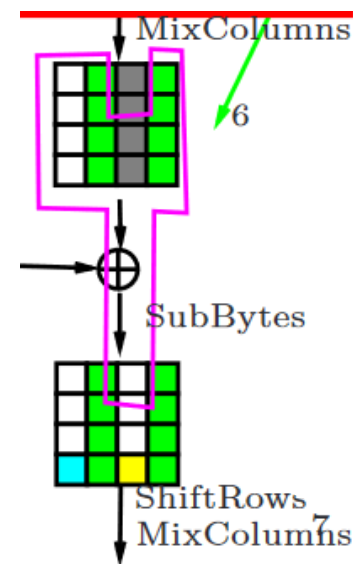
There is one active S-box in round 7 of the lower trail in byte $b_{0,2}^7$

On the other hand, the S-box in the same position is not active in the upper trail.

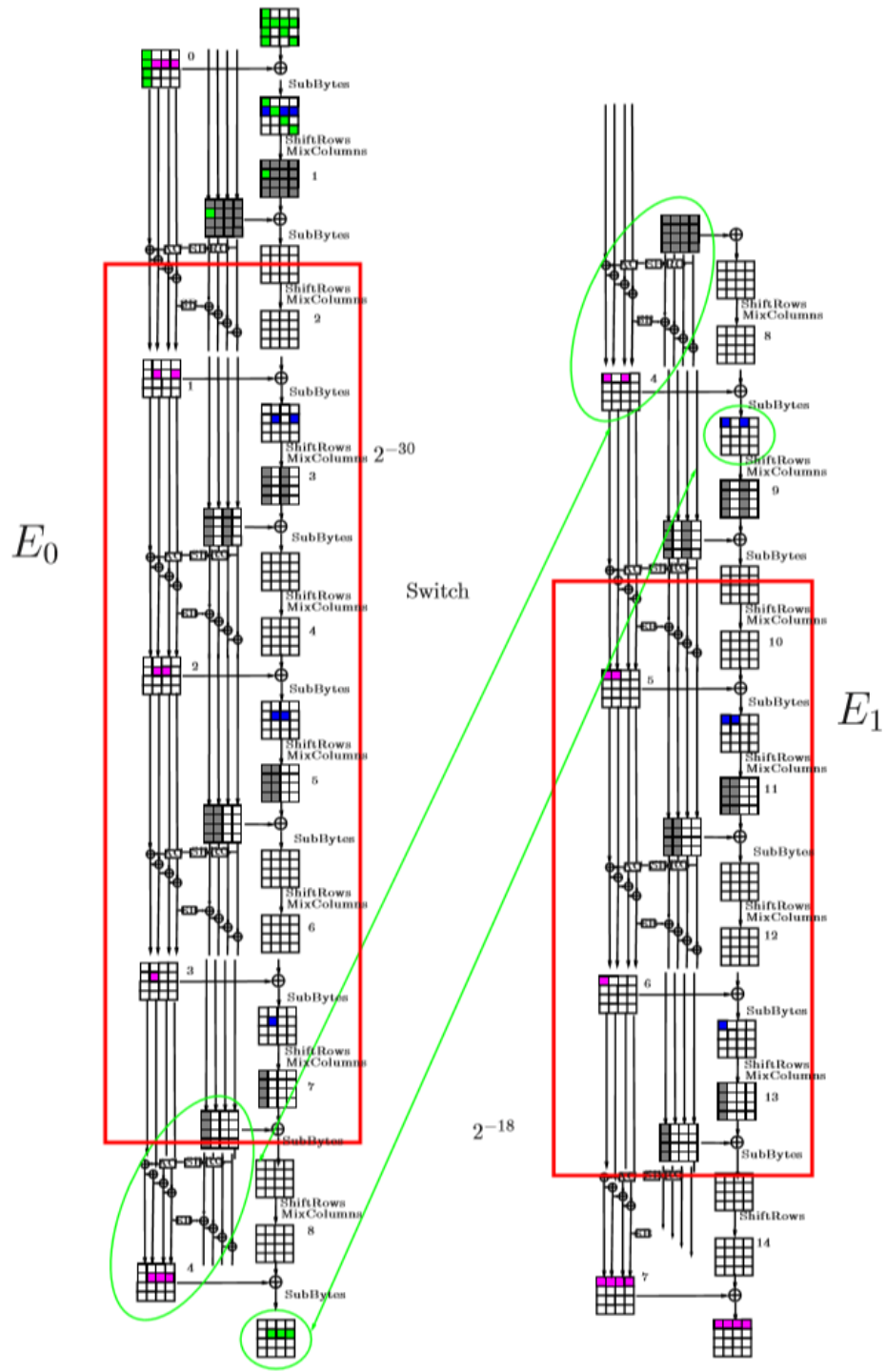
If we would switch after ShiftRows in round 6, we would “pay” the probability in round 7 afterwards.

However, we switch all the state except $b_{0,2}$ after MixColumns, and switch the remaining byte after the S-box application in round 7, where it is not active.

We thus do not pay for this S-box

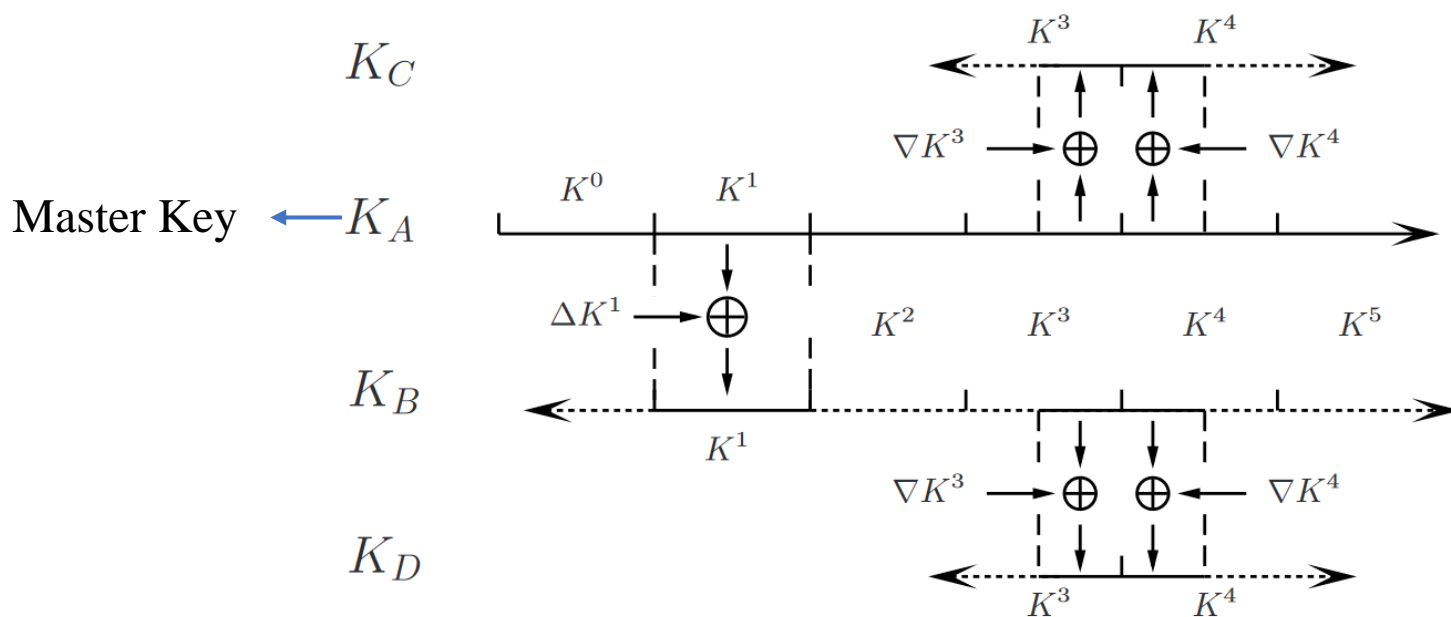


The Trail :



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Related Keys :



1	00 00 00 00 3e 00 3e 00
	00 01 00 01 21 00 21 00
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00
3	? 01 01 01 3e 3e 3e 3e
	X 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f
	? 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f
	? 00 00 00 21 21 21 21
4	01 00 01 00 3e 00 3e 00
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00
	00 00 00 00 21 00 21 00

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Related Keys :

ΔK^i														
0	? 00 00 00 3e 3e 3e 3e				1	00 00 00 00 3e 00 3e 00				2	00 00 00 00 3e 3e 00 00			
	? 01 01 01 ? 21 21 21					00 01 00 01 21 00 21 00					00 01 01 00 21 21 00 00			
	? 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f					00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 00 00			
	? 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f					00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 00 00			
3	00 00 00 00 3e 00 00 00				4	00 00 00 00 3e 3e 3e 3e								
	00 01 00 00 21 00 00 00					00 01 01 01 ? ? ? ?								
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 00 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f								
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 00 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f								
∇K^i														
0	? ? ? ? ? ? ? 00				1	? 01 ? 00 ? ? 00 00				2	? ? 00 00 ? 00 00 00			
	X X X X 1f 1f 1f 00					X 00 X 00 1f 1f 00 00					X X 00 00 1f 00 00 00			
	? ? ? ? 1f 1f 1f 00					? 00 ? 00 1f 1f 00 00					? ? 00 00 1f 00 00 00			
	? ? ? ? 21 21 21 00					? 00 ? 00 21 21 00 00					? ? 00 00 21 00 00 00			
3	? 01 01 01 3e 3e 3e 3e				4	01 00 01 00 3e 00 3e 00				5	01 01 00 00 3e 3e 00 00			
	X 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f					00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 00 00			
	? 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f					00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 00 00			
	? 00 00 00 21 21 21 21					00 00 00 00 21 00 21 00					00 00 00 00 21 21 00 00			
6	01 00 00 00 3e 00 00 00				7	01 01 01 01 ? ? ? ?								
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 00 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f								
	00 00 00 00 1f 00 00 00					00 00 00 00 1f 1f 1f 1f								
	00 00 00 00 21 00 00 00					00 00 00 00 21 21 21 21								

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Internal State :

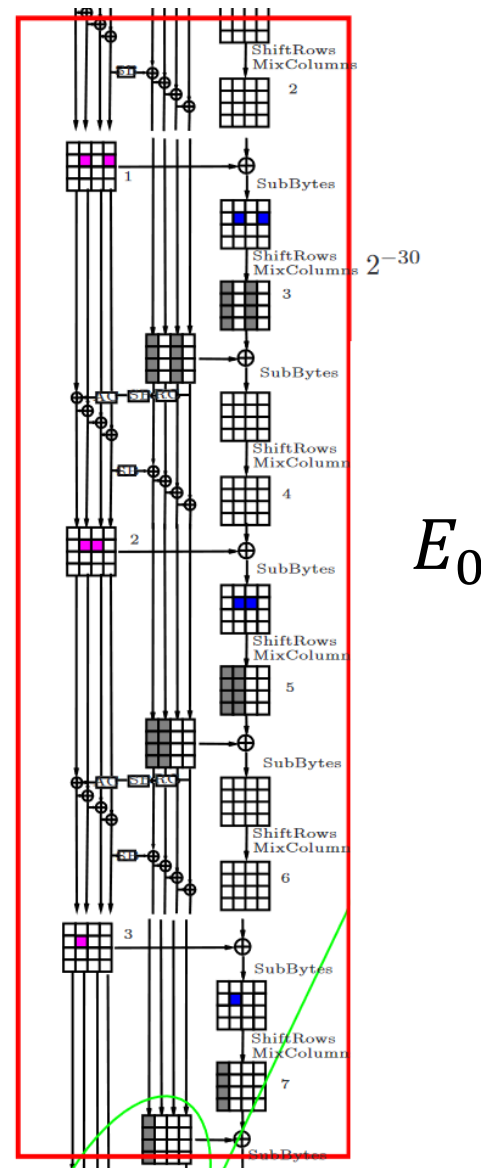
ΔP	? 00 00 00 ? ? ? ? ? 00 ? 00 ? 00 00 ?	ΔA^1	? 00 00 00 1f ? 1f 1f 00 00 ? 00 00 00 00 ?	ΔA^3	00 00 00 00 00 1f 00 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	ΔA^5	00 00 00 00 00 1f 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
ΔA^7	00 00 00 00 00 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	∇A^7	1f 1f 1f 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	∇A^9	1f 00 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	∇A^{11}	1f 1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
∇A^{13}	1f 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00	ΔC	00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00				

- The plaintext difference is specified in 9 bytes.
- We require that all the active S-boxes in the internal state should output the difference $0 \times 1f$ so that the active S-boxes are passed with probability 2^{-6} .
- The only exception is the first round where the input difference in nine active bytes is not specified.

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Internal State :

- Let us start a boomerang attack with a random pair of plaintexts that fit the trail after one round.
- Active S-boxes in rounds 3–7 are passed with probability 2^{-6} each.
- The overall probability is $2^{-6^5} = 2^{-30}$

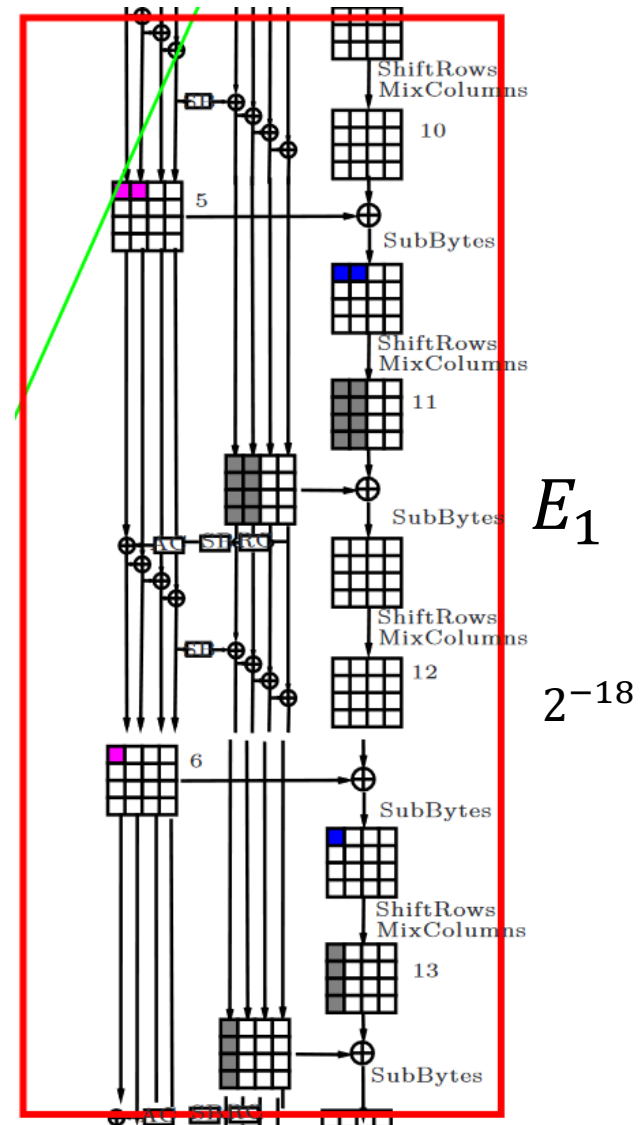


Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Internal State :

- Three S-boxes in rounds 10–14 contribute to the probability, which is thus equal to 2^{-18} .
- Finally we get one boomerang quartet after the first round with probability

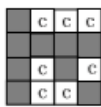
$$2^{-30} * 2^{-30} * 2^{-18} * 2^{-18} = 2^{-96}$$



5.2 The Attack

The attack works as follows. Do the following steps $2^{25.5}$ times:

1. Prepare a structure of plaintexts as specified below.
2. Encrypt it on keys K_A and K_B and keep the resulting sets S_A and S_B in memory.
3. XOR Δ_C to all the ciphertexts in S_A and decrypt the resulting ciphertexts with K_C . Denote the new set of plaintexts by S_C .
4. Repeat previous step for the set S_B and the key K_D . Denote the set of plaintexts by S_D .
5. Compose from S_C and S_D all the possible pairs of plaintexts which are equal

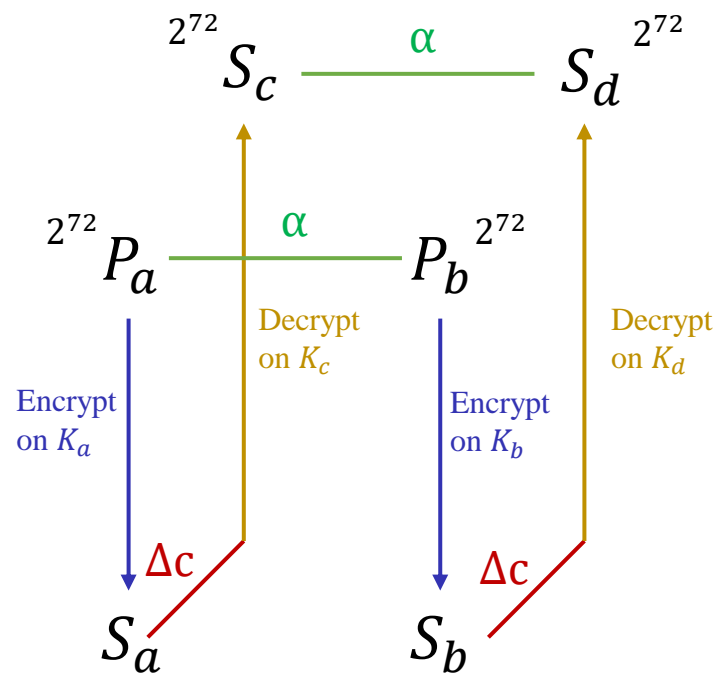


	c	c	c
	c		c
	c	c	

in 56 bits .

6. For every remaining pair check if the difference in $p_{i,0}, i > 1$ is equal on both sides of the boomerang quartet (16-bit filter). Note that $\nabla k_{i,7}^0 = 0$ so $\Delta k_{i,0}^0$ should be equal for both key pairs (K_A, K_B) and (K_C, K_D) .
7. Filter out the quartets whose difference can not be produced by active S-boxes in the first round (one-bit filter per S-box per key pair) and active S-boxes in the key schedule (one-bit filter per S-box), which is a $2 \cdot 2 + 2 = 6$ -bit filter.
8. Gradually recover key values and differences simultaneously filtering out the wrong quartets.

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256



Store quartets (P_a, P_b, S_c, S_d) which satisfies

$$S_c, S_d = \begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \text{ } & c & c & c \\ \hline \text{ } & \text{ } & \text{ } & \text{ } \\ \hline \text{ } & c & \text{ } & c \\ \hline \text{ } & c & c & \text{ } \\ \hline \end{array} \quad \text{For (56 bits)}$$

5.2 The Attack

The attack works as follows. Do the following steps $2^{25.5}$ times:

1. Prepare a structure of plaintexts as specified below.
2. Encrypt it on keys K_A and K_B and keep the resulting sets S_A and S_B in memory.
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5. Compose from S_C and S_D all the possible pairs of plaintexts which are equal

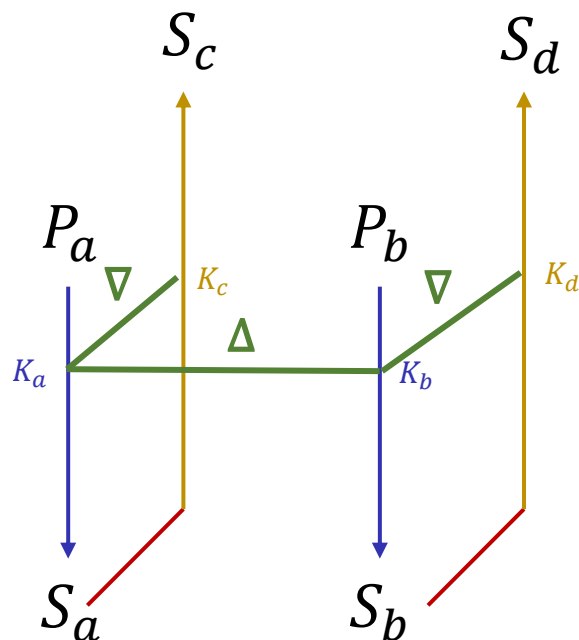
	c	c	c
	c		c
	c	c	

in 56 bits .

6. For every remaining pair check if the difference in $p_{i,0}, i > 1$ is equal on both sides of the boomerang quartet (16-bit filter). Note that $\nabla k_{i,7}^0 = 0$ so $\Delta k_{i,0}^0$ should be equal for both key pairs (K_A, K_B) and (K_C, K_D) .
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Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

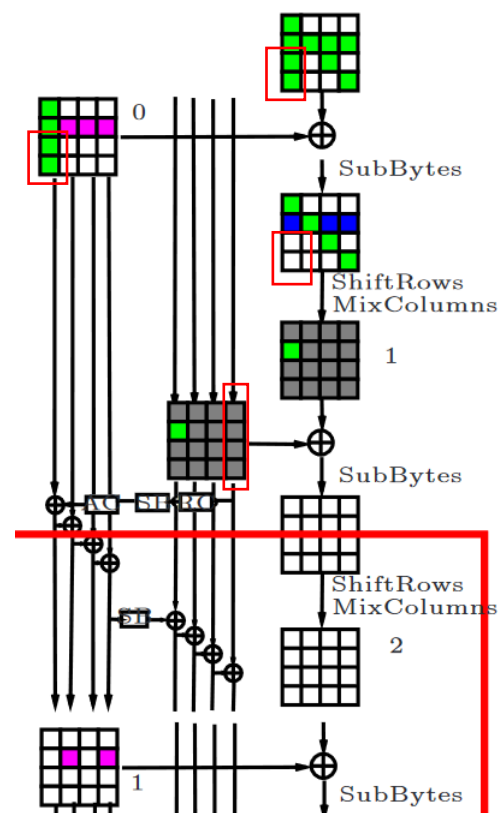
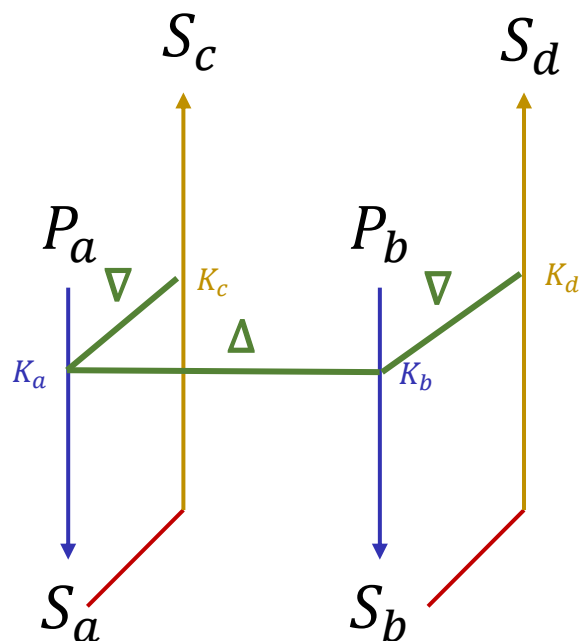
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ΔK^i								
0	?	00	00	00	3e	3e	3e	3e
	?	01	01	01	?	21	21	21
	?	00	00	00	1f	1f	1f	1f
	?	00	00	00	1f	1f	1f	1f
3	00	00	00	00	3e	00	00	00
	00	01	00	00	21	00	00	00
	00	00	00	00	1f	00	00	00
	00	00	00	00	1f	00	00	00
∇K^i								
0	?	?	?	?	?	?	?	00
	X	X	X	X	1f	1f	1f	00
	?	?	?	?	1f	1f	1f	00
	?	?	?	?	21	21	21	00
3	?	01	01	01	3e	3e	3e	3e
	X	00	00	00	1f	1f	1f	1f
	?	00	00	00	1f	1f	1f	1f
	?	00	00	00	21	21	21	21
6	01	00	00	00	3e	00	00	00
	00	00	00	00	1f	00	00	00
	00	00	00	00	1f	00	00	00
	00	00	00	00	21	00	00	00

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

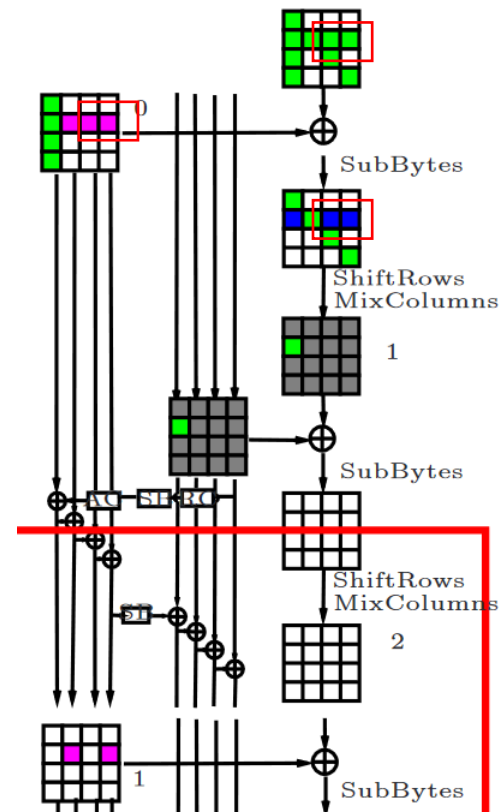
- For every remaining pair check if the difference in $p_{i,0}$, $i > 1$ is equal on both sides of the boomerang quartet (16-bit filter). Note that $\nabla k_{i,7}^0 = 0$ so $\Delta k_{i,0}^0$ should be equal for both key pairs (K_A, K_B) and (K_C, K_D)



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

7. Filter out the quartets whose difference cannot be produced by active S-boxes in the first round (one-bit filter per S-box per key pair) and active S-boxes in the key schedule (one-bit filter per S-box), which is a $2 * 2 + 2 = 6$ -bit filter.

ΔP	$\begin{matrix} ? & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \\ ? & 00 & ? & 00 \\ ? & 00 & 00 & ? \end{matrix}$	ΔA^1	$\begin{matrix} ? & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 1f & ? & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & ? & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & ? \end{matrix}$	ΔA^3	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	ΔA^5	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$
ΔA^7	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	∇A^7	$\begin{matrix} 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	∇A^9	$\begin{matrix} 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	∇A^{11}	$\begin{matrix} 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$
∇A^{13}	$\begin{matrix} 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	ΔC	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$				



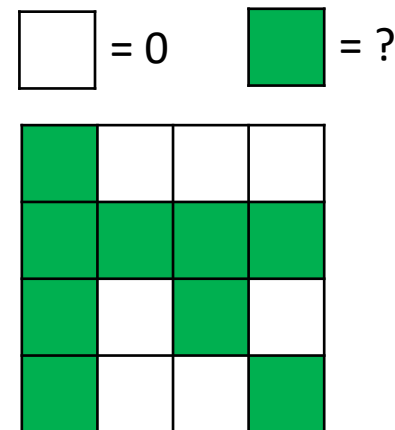
Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Of 2^{72} texts per structure, we can compose 2^{144} ordered pairs.

We expect one right quartet per $2^{96-72} = 2^{24}$ structures, and three right quartets out of $2^{25.5}$ structures.

Let us now compute the number of noisy quartets.
About $2^{144-56-16} = 2^{72}$ pairs come out of step 6.

The next step applies a 6-bit filter, so we get
 $2^{72+25.5-6} = 2^{91.5}$ candidate quartets in total.



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

Key Recovery:

5							0
2	3	1	1	$\overset{3D}{4}$			
0D		5					$\overset{0}{4}$
0D			5				0

1. First, consider 4-tuples of related key bytes in each position $(1, j)$, $j < 4$. Two differences in a tuple are known by default. The third difference is unknown but is equal for all tuples (see Table 2, where it is denoted by X) and gets one of 2^7 values. We use this fact for key derivation and filtering as follows. Consider key bytes $k_{2,2}^0$ and $k_{2,3}^0$. The candidate quartet proposes 2^2 candidates for both 4-tuples of related-key bytes, or 2^4 candidates in total. Since the differences are related with the X-difference, which is a 9-bit filter, this step reveals two key bytes and the value of X and reduces the number of quartets to $2^{91.5-5} = 2^{86.5}$.
2. Now consider the value of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$, which is unknown yet and might be different in two pairs of related keys. Let us notice that it is determined by the value of $k_{2,7}^0$, and $\nabla k_{2,7}^0 = 0$, so that $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ is the same for both related key pairs and can take 2^7 values. Each guess of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ proposes key candidates for byte $k_{2,0}^0$, where we have a 8-bit filter for the 4-tuple of related-key bytes. We thus derive the value of $k_{1,0}^0$ in all keys and reduce the number of candidate quartets to $2^{85.5}$.
3. The same trick holds for the unknown $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$, which can get 2^7 possible values and can be computed for both key pairs simultaneously. Each of these values proposes four candidates for $k_{1,1}^0$, which are filtered with an 8-bit filter. We thus recover $k_{1,1}^0$ and $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$ and reduce the number of quartets to $2^{79.5}$.
4. Finally, we notice that $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$ is completely determined by $k_{1,0}^0, k_{1,1}^0, k_{1,2}^0, k_{1,3}^0$, and $k_{2,7}^0$. There are at most two candidates for the latter value as well as for $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$, so we get a 6-bit filter and reduce the number of quartets to $2^{72.5}$.
5. Each quartet also proposes two candidates for each of key bytes $k_{0,0}^0, k_{2,2}^0$, and $k_{3,3}^0$. Totally, the number of key candidates proposed by each quartet is 2^6 .

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

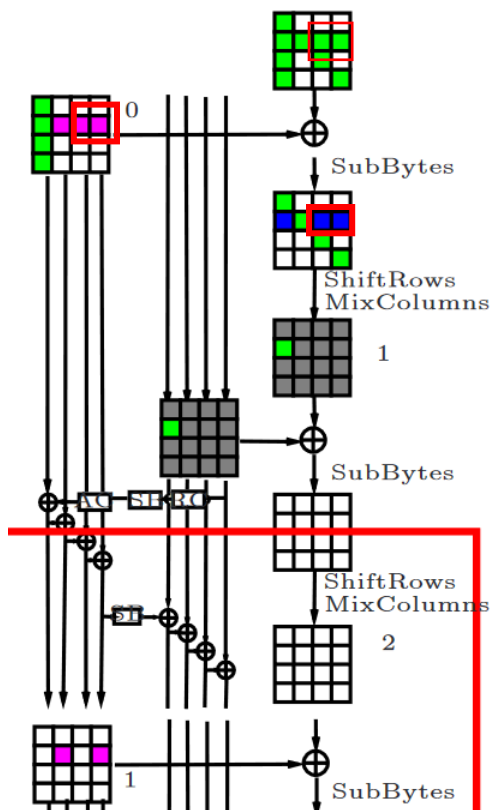
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5							0
2	3	1	1	$3D_4$			
0D		5					0_4
0D			5				0

ΔK^i							
0	?			?			2
	?			?			
	?			?			
	?			?			
3	?			?			4
	?			?			
	?			?			
	?			?			
∇K^i							
0	?			?			2
	?			?			
	?			?			
	?			?			
3	?			?			4
	?			?			
	?			?			
	?			?			
6	?			?			7
	?			?			
	?			?			
	?			?			

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

1. First, consider 4-tuples of related key bytes in each position $(1, j)$, $j < 4$. Two differences in a tuple are known by default. The third difference is unknown but is equal for all tuples (see Table 2, where it is denoted by X) and gets one of 2^7 values. We use this fact for key derivation and filtering as follows. Consider key bytes $k_{2,2}^0$ and $k_{2,3}^0$. The candidate quartet proposes 2^2 candidates for both 4-tuples of related-key bytes, or 2^4 candidates in total. Since the differences are related with the X-difference, which is a 9-bit filter, this step reveals two key bytes and the value of X and reduces the number of quartets to $2^{91.5-5} = 2^{86.5}$.



Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

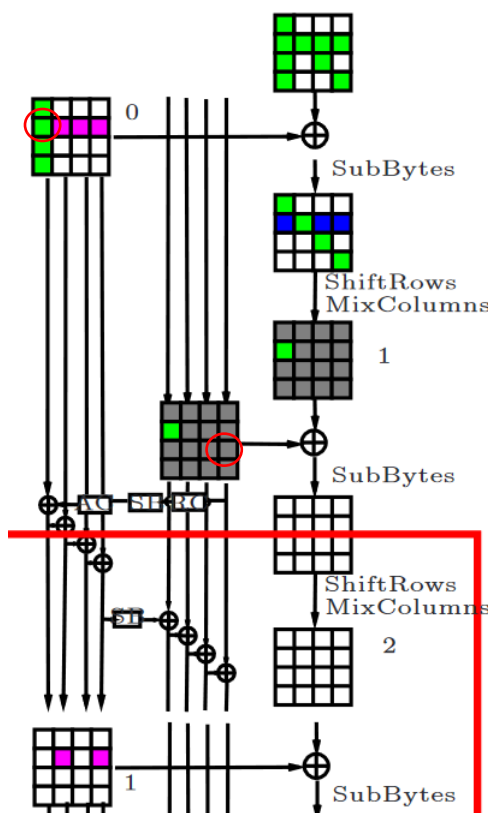
2. Now consider the value of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$, which is unknown yet and might be different in two pairs of related keys. Let us notice that it is determined by the value of $k_{2,7}^0$, and $\nabla k_{2,7}^0 = 0$, so that $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ is the same for both related key pairs and can take 2^7 values. Each guess of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ proposes key candidates for byte $k_{2,0}^0$, where we have a 8-bit filter for the 4-tuple of related-key bytes. We thus derive the value of $k_{1,0}^0$ in all keys and reduce the number of candidate quartets to $2^{85.5}$.

5							0
2	3	1	1	3D_4			
0D		5					0_4
0D			5				0

ΔK^i							
0	$\begin{matrix} ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 3e & 3e & 3e \\ ? & 01 & 01 & 01 & ? & 21 & 21 & 21 \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \end{matrix}$	1	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 3e & 00 \\ 00 & 01 & 00 & 01 & 21 & 00 & 21 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \end{matrix}$	2	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 3e & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 01 & 01 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$		
	$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 01 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$		$\begin{matrix} 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 3e & 3e & 3e \\ 00 & 01 & 01 & 01 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \end{matrix}$				
∇K^i							
0	$\begin{matrix} ? & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? & ? & 00 \\ X & X & X & X & 1f & 1f & 1f & 00 \\ ? & ? & ? & ? & 1f & 1f & 1f & 00 \\ ? & ? & ? & ? & 21 & 21 & 21 & 00 \end{matrix}$	1	$\begin{matrix} ? & 01 & ? & 00 & ? & ? & 00 & 00 \\ X & 00 & X & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ ? & 00 & ? & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ ? & 00 & ? & 00 & 21 & 21 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	2	$\begin{matrix} ? & ? & 00 & 00 & ? & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ X & X & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ ? & ? & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ ? & ? & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$		
	$\begin{matrix} ? & 01 & 01 & 01 & 3e & 3e & 3e & 3e \\ X & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 21 & 21 \end{matrix}$		$\begin{matrix} 01 & 00 & 01 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 3e & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 21 & 00 \end{matrix}$				
3	$\begin{matrix} ? & 01 & 01 & 01 & 3e & 3e & 3e & 3e \\ X & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ ? & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 21 & 21 \end{matrix}$	4	$\begin{matrix} 01 & 00 & 01 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 3e & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 1f & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 21 & 00 \end{matrix}$	5	$\begin{matrix} 01 & 01 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 3e & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$		
	$\begin{matrix} 01 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$		$\begin{matrix} 01 & 01 & 01 & 01 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 21 & 21 \end{matrix}$				
6	$\begin{matrix} 01 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 3e & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 00 & 00 & 00 \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 00 & 00 & 00 \end{matrix}$	7	$\begin{matrix} 01 & 01 & 01 & 01 & ? & ? & ? & ? \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 1f & 1f & 1f & 1f \\ 00 & 00 & 00 & 00 & 21 & 21 & 21 & 21 \end{matrix}$				

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

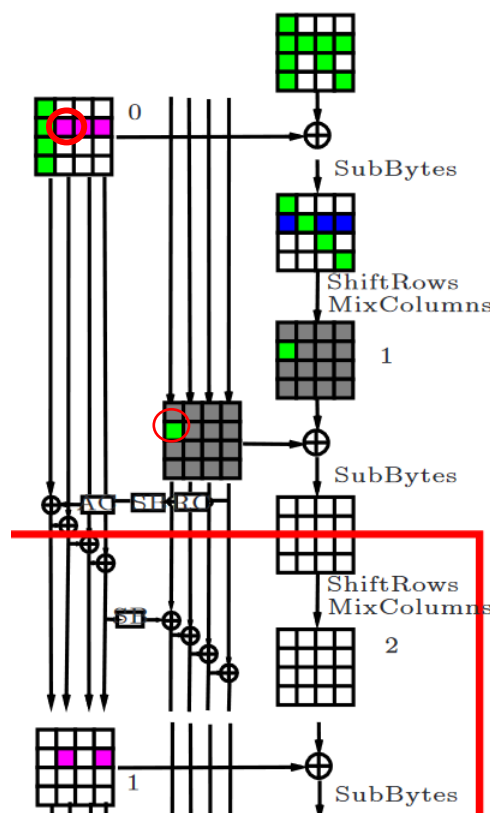
2. Now consider the value of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$, which is unknown yet and might be different in two pairs of related keys. Let us notice that it is determined by the value of $k_{2,7}^0$, and $\nabla k_{2,7}^0 = 0$, so that $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ is the same for both related key pairs and can take 2^7 values. Each guess of $\Delta k_{1,0}^0$ proposes key candidates for byte $k_{2,0}^0$, where we have a 8-bit filter for the 4-tuple of related-key bytes. We thus derive the value of $k_{1,0}^0$ in all keys and reduce the number of candidate quartets to $2^{85.5}$.



5							0
2	3	1	1	$\frac{3D}{4}$			
0D		5					0_4
0D			5				0

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

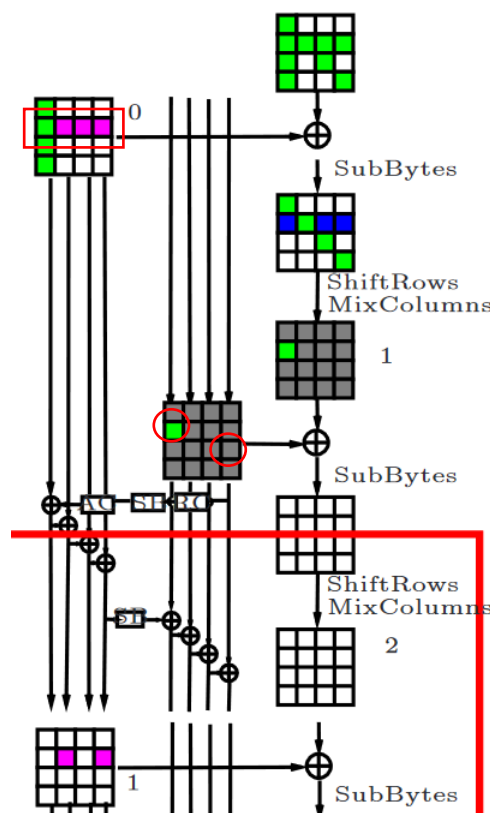
- The same trick holds for the unknown $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$, which can get 2^7 possible values and can be computed for both key pairs simultaneously. Each of these values proposes four candidates for $k_{1,1}^0$, which are filtered with an 8-bit filter. We thus recover $k_{1,1}^0$ and $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$ and reduce the number of quartets to $2^{79.5}$.



5							0
2	3	1	1	$\frac{3D}{4}$			
0D		5					0_4
0D			5				0

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

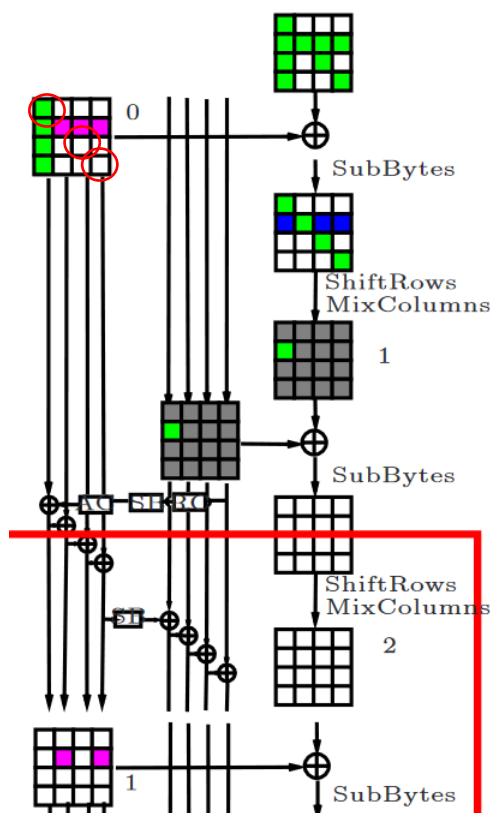
4. Finally, we notice that $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$ is completely determined by $k_{1,0}^0, k_{1,1}^0, k_{1,2}^0, k_{1,3}^0$, and $k_{2,7}^0$. There are at most two candidates for the latter value as well as for $\Delta k_{1,4}^0$, so we get a 6-bit filter and reduce the number of quartets to $2^{72.5}$.



5							0
2	3	1	1	$\frac{3D}{4}$			
0D		5					0_4
0D			5				0

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

5. Each quartet also proposes two candidates for each of key bytes $k_{0,0}^0$, $k_{2,2}^0$, and $k_{3,3}^0$. Totally, the number of key candidates proposed by each quartet is 2^6 .



5							0
2	3	1	1	$\frac{3D}{4}$			
0D		5					$\frac{0}{4}$
0D			5				0

Related-Key Boomerang Attack on Full AES-256

We recover $3 * 7 + 8 * 8 = 85$ bits of K_A

With $2^{72} * 2^{25.5} * 4 = 2^{99.5}$ data and time and $2^{77.5}$ memory.

1. Michael Gorski, Stefan Lucks, New Related-Key Boomerang Attacks on AES, proceedings of INDOCRYPT 2008, Lecture Notes in Computer Science 5365, pp. 266–278, Springer-Verlag, 2008
2. Alex Biryukov, Dmitry Khovratovich, Related-key Cryptanalysis of the Full AES-192 and AES-256, IACR ePrint report 2009/317, 2009. Available online at <http://eprint.iacr.org/2009/317>