

PRESENT Cipher

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Abstract. In this paper we describe the design of the PRESENT cipher and comment on the design decisions taken while developing the cipher. We also discuss Differential cryptanalysis and Linear cryptanalysis on round reduced version of the Cipher.

Keywords: PRESENT · Differential cryptanalysis · Linear Cryptanalysis

1 Introduction

As we know Advanced Encryption Standard(AES) and Data Encryption Standard (DES) are the most studied algorithms in cryptanalysis and both algorithms have proven resistance against various cryptanalysis techniques developed to compromise the security of ciphers. The Present cipher is a lightweight cipher designed with the goal of hardware performance on low powered devices while providing reasonable security. The structure of the Present is distinctly similar to AES. Similar to AES the round reduced versions are vulnerable to various cryptanalysis techniques including Linear and Differential cryptanalysis. The Present cipher is now ISO/IEC 29192-2:2019 standard. The cipher is majorly used in applications with low computing power like RFID cards or IoT nodes.

2 List of contributions

1. Rudraksh Kashyap: Rudraksh analysed the design choices of the PRESENT cipher. He examined the properties of the S-box and the permutation layer. He studied and analysed the specifications of the cipher and he also implemented the cipher in C.
2. Ajay Tarole : Ajay analysed differential cryptanalysis and also implemented the differential attack on the 3-rounds of the PRESENT cipher in C using the idea of differential and filtering.
3. Ashish Kumar Suraj : Ashish analysed the Linear properties and Integral properties of the PRESENT cipher. He also analysed the resistance of the cipher against linear attacks.

3 The Present Cipher

The PRESENT cipher has a block length of 64 bits and it supports 80-bit and 128-bit keys. We describe and analyze the 80-bit key version of Present cipher as security provided by an 80-bit key is adequate for applications like RFID tags and IoT security. The present cipher has a public S-box, Bit Permutation, and key schedule. The cipher is an Ultra-Lightweight block cipher.

The PRESENT cipher has a public S-box, Bit Permutation, and key schedule.

3.1 Substitution-Permutation Network

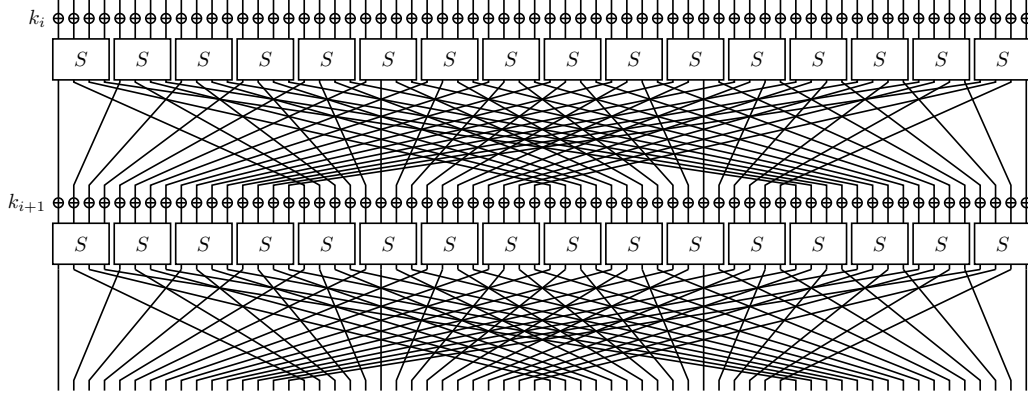


Figure 1: SP Network for PRESENT Cipher

3.2 Cipher Design

The Present-80 is an example of SP-network. Figure.2 shows the higher level pseudo-code for implementing the encryption algorithm. The PRESENT cipher has 31 rounds and each round consists of a the round key followed by 4-bit non-linear substitution layer and linear bit-wise permutation. The 4-bit S-Box is applied 16 times for the 64-bit input during each round.

```

generateRoundKeys()
for i = 1 to 31 do

    addRoundKey(STATE, K_i)

    sBoxLayer(STATE)
    pLayer(STATE)

    addRoundKey(STATE, K_{32})

```

Figure 2: Pseudo Code for PRESENT cipher encryption

3.3 Add Round Key

Provided the round key $K_i = k_{63}, k_{62} \dots k_0$ for $1 \leq i \leq 32$ and the current state $S = s_{63}, s_{62} \dots s_0$, addRoundKey performs the following operation

$$S \rightarrow S \oplus K_i$$

$$\implies s_t \rightarrow s_t \oplus k_t$$

for $0 \leq t \leq 63$.

3.4 Substitution Layer

The S-box is 4-bit to 4-bit mapping. The S-box is a mapping $S : F_2^4 \rightarrow F_2^4$ where F is a finite field. Table 1 shows the mapping of S-Box in Hexadecimal notation.

Table 1: Present sBox

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
$S[x]$	C	5	6	B	9	0	A	D	3	E	F	8	4	7	1	2

To improve the avalanche-effect, the PRESENT S-Box satisfies the following conditions.

1. For any fixed input difference $\Delta_I \in \mathbb{F}_2^4, \Delta_I \neq 0$ and output difference $\Delta_O \in \mathbb{F}_2^4, \Delta_I \neq 0$, the following condition must be satisfied

$$\#\{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^4 \mid S(\Delta_I + x) + S(x) = \Delta_O\} \leq 4$$

2. For any fixed input difference $\Delta_I \in \mathbb{F}_2^4, \Delta_I \neq 0$ and output difference $\Delta_O \in \mathbb{F}_2^4$ such that $wt(\Delta_O) = wt(\Delta_I) = 1$, the following condition must be satisfied

$$\{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^4 \mid S(\Delta_I + x) + S(x) = \Delta_O\} = \Phi$$

where $wt(x)$ is the hamming weight of x .

3.5 Permutation Layer

The permutation layer is a bit permutation. The permutation function $P(i)$ maps the i^{th} bit of input to $P(i)$ in the output of the permutation layer. The Table 2 is the mapping of $P(i)$ in tabular form.

Table 2: pLayer

i	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
P(i)	0	16	32	48	1	17	33	49	2	18	34	50	3	19	35	51
i	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31
P(i)	4	20	36	52	5	21	37	53	6	22	38	54	7	23	39	55
i	32	33	34	35	36	37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47
P(i)	8	24	40	56	9	25	41	57	10	26	42	58	11	27	43	59
i	48	49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60	61	62	63
P(i)	12	28	44	60	13	29	45	61	14	30	46	62	15	31	47	63

3.6 Key schedule Algorithm

The PRESENT cipher supports 80-bit or 128-bit long key but in this section we discuss the 80-bit key schedule algorithm. Firstly, the initial 80-bit key is stored in a key register K and is represented as $K = k_{79}k_{78}..k_0$. At any round i , PRESENT extracts the 64-bits round key $K_i = k_{63}k_{62}..k_{0s}$ from the current Key (left most 64 bits) register as follows :

$$K_i = k_{63}k_{62}..k_{0s} = k_{79}k_{78}..k_{16}$$

After round key extraction, the key register K is updated according to the following rules :

1. The contents of the key register K is rotated by 61-bits to the left.

$$[k_{79}k_{78}..k_0] = [k_{18}k_{17}..k_{20}k_{19}]$$

2. The 4-leftmost bits of the key register K is passed through the PRESENT S-box.

$$[k_{79}k_{78}k_{77}k_{76}] = S[k_{79}k_{78}k_{77}k_{76}]$$

3. The 5-bits of key register k , $k_{19}k_{18}k_{17}k_{16}k_{15}$ is exclusive-ored with the least significant bits of the round counter value i .

$$[k_{19}k_{18}k_{17}k_{16}k_{15}] = [k_{19}k_{18}k_{17}k_{16}k_{15}] \oplus \text{round} - \text{counter}$$

4 Security Analysis/Attacks

In this section, we present the results of security analysis of PRESENT.

4.1 Differential cryptanalysis

In this section, we use $X = x_{15}, x_{14}, \dots, x_1, x_0$ to denote the XOR difference of the 16 nibbles in each step, where x_0 being the least significant nibble. And we denote K_i as the subkey for i^{th} round.

We first, present the Difference Distribution table (DDT) of S-box in Table 3.

Table 3: DDT of the S-box

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	16	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
1	0	0	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	4	0	0	0	4	0	0
2	0	0	0	2	0	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	2	2	0
3	0	2	0	2	2	0	4	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
4	0	0	0	0	0	4	2	2	0	2	2	0	2	0	2	0
5	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	0	2	2	2	4	2	0	0
6	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	4	2	0	0	4
7	0	4	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	0	4
8	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	4
9	0	0	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	0	0	2	0	4	0
A	0	0	2	2	0	4	0	0	2	0	2	0	0	2	2	0
B	0	2	0	0	2	0	0	0	4	2	2	2	0	2	0	0
C	0	0	2	0	0	4	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	0	2	0
D	0	2	4	2	2	0	0	2	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
E	0	0	2	2	0	0	2	2	2	2	0	0	2	2	0	0
F	0	4	0	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	4

From the properties of the S-box and permutation layer, we will now make some important observations. We divide the 16 S-box into 4 groups.

We can observe the following properties from S-box :

1. The inputs of the S-box is come from 4 separate S-boxes of the same group.
2. The inputs to a group of 4 S-boxes come from 16 different S-boxes.
3. The output from an S-box go into 4 distinct S-boxes, each of which belongs to a distinct group of S-boxes in the next round.
4. The output of S-boxes from different group go to different S-boxes.

Now, from the above observations(S-box properties) and the DDT, we conclude that one bit input difference will cause at least two bits output difference, resulting in at least two active S-boxes in the next round and the maximum differential probability of the DDT is 2^{-2} .

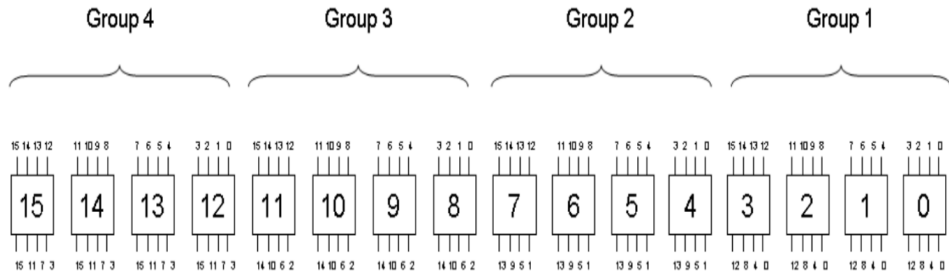


Figure 3: Groups of Sboxes

4.2 Differential Characteristics

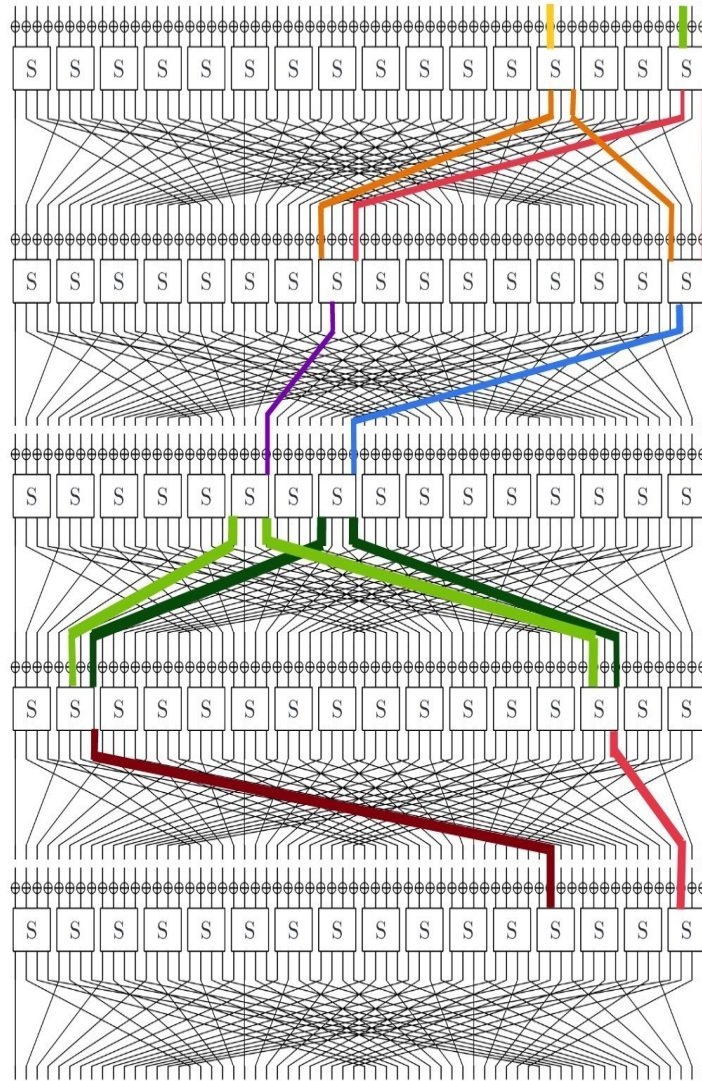
Figure 4: 4-round iterative characteristics with probability 2^{-18}

Table 4: Round wise probability we have to pay

Rounds		Diff.	Prob.
I		$x_3 = 4, x_0 = 4$	
R_1	S	$x_3 = 5, x_0 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_1	P	$x_8 = 9, x_0 = 9$	1
R_2	S	$x_8 = 4, x_0 = 4$	2^{-4}
R_2	P	$x_{10} = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_3	S	$x_{10} = 9, x_8 = 9$	2^{-4}
R_3	P	$x_{14} = 5, x_2 = 5$	1
R_4	S	$x_{14} = 1, x_2 = 1$	2^{-6}
R_4	P	$x_4 = 4, x_0 = 4$	1

Here we are paying 2^{-18} probability and we will reach to our initial input $x_3 = 4$ and $x_0 = 4$ after 4 rounds. Now using the above differential characteristics we can reach next four round(5-8) by paying another 2^{-18} probability. So overall we found 8 round iterative differential characteristics with probability 2^{-36} . For 12 rounds we have to pay 2^{-54} and for 14 round we have to pay 2^{-62} probability.

Rounds		Diff.	Prob.
I		$x_0 = 4, x_3 = 4$	
R_1	S	$x_3 = 5, x_0 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_1	P	$x_8 = 9, x_0 = 9$	1
R_2	S	$x_8 = 4, x_0 = 4$	2^{-4}
R_2	P	$x_{10} = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_3	S	$x_{10} = 9, x_8 = 9$	2^{-4}
R_3	P	$x_{14} = 5, x_2 = 5$	1
R_4	S	$x_{14} = 1, x_2 = 1$	2^{-6}
R_4	P	$x_4 = 4, x_0 = 4$	1
R_5	S	$x_3 = 5, x_0 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_5	P	$x_8 = 9, x_0 = 9$	1
R_6	S	$x_8 = 4, x_0 = 4$	2^{-4}
R_6	P	$x_{10} = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_7	S	$x_{10} = 9, x_8 = 9$	2^{-4}
R_7	P	$x_{14} = 5, x_2 = 5$	1
R_8	S	$x_{14} = 1, x_2 = 1$	2^{-6}
R_8	P	$x_4 = 4, x_0 = 4$	1
R_9	S	$x_3 = 5, x_0 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_9	P	$x_8 = 9, x_0 = 9$	1
R_{10}	S	$x_8 = 4, x_0 = 4$	2^{-4}
R_{10}	P	$x_{10} = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_{11}	S	$x_{10} = 9, x_8 = 9$	2^{-4}
R_{11}	P	$x_{14} = 5, x_2 = 5$	1
R_{12}	S	$x_{14} = 1, x_2 = 1$	2^{-6}
R_{12}	P	$x_4 = 4, x_0 = 4$	1
R_{13}	S	$x_3 = 5, x_0 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_{13}	P	$x_8 = 9, x_0 = 9$	1
R_{14}	S	$x_8 = 4, x_0 = 4$	2^{-4}
R_{14}	P	$x_{10} = 1, x_8 = 1$	1

4.3 Attack

In this section, we define how exactly we attack the 3-Round Reduced PRESENT Cipher. For this attack, we use 2^{18} chosen plain text pairs. Only 2 active S-boxes (S_0 and S_3) in the first round. Only two bit input difference in plaintext pairs at position 0th bit and 14th bit. Rest of the S-boxes are not active in the first round.

Round Reduced Attack:

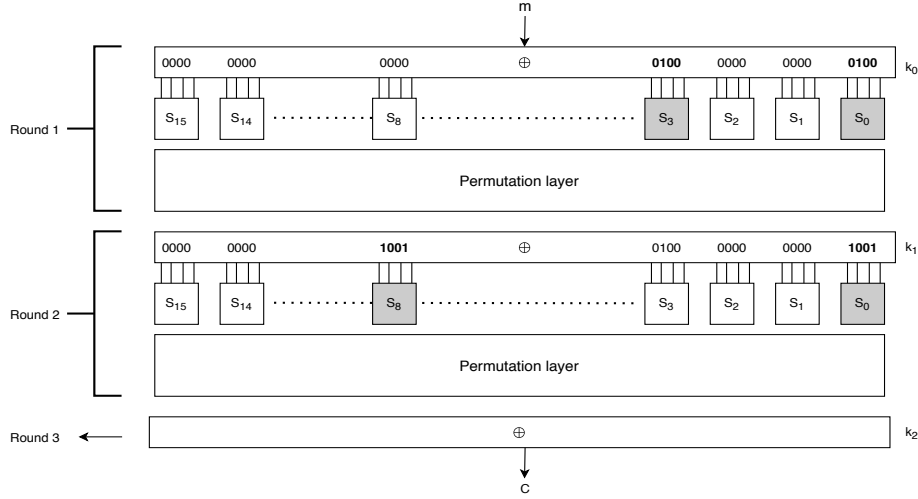


Figure 5: Attack on 3-Round Reduced PRESENT Cipher

Characteristic:

$$(x_0 = 4, x_3 = 4) \xrightarrow{R} (x_0 = 9, x_8 = 9)$$

Table 5: Characteristics

Rounds		Diff.	Prob.
I		$x_0 = 4, x_4 = 4$	
R_1	k_0	$x_0 = 4, x_4 = 4$	1
R_1	S	$x_0 = 5, x_3 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_1	P	$x_0 = 9, x_8 = 9$	1
R_2	k_1	$x_0 = 9, x_8 = 9$	1

Idea of filtering:

1. Decrease Wrong pair \rightarrow Idea of filtering
2. Observe from the DDT that transitions from $9 \rightarrow 2, 4, 6, 8, c, e$
3. Thus, after the effect of permutation layer of the second round, $c_1 \oplus c_2$ must belong to the set given below :
 $\{\{x_4 = 1, x_6 = 1\}, \{x_6 = 1, x_8 = 1\}, \{x_4 = 1, x_6 = 1, x_8 = 1\}, \{x_6 = 1, x_{12} = 1\}, \{x_6 = 1, x_8 = 1, x_{12} = 1\}, \dots\}$ We have written code for this.

Note: Thus, message pair leading to the cipher text difference other than the above set, can be discarded.

So, after filtering only 2^{14} plaintext pairs are left in our case.

Key Guess:

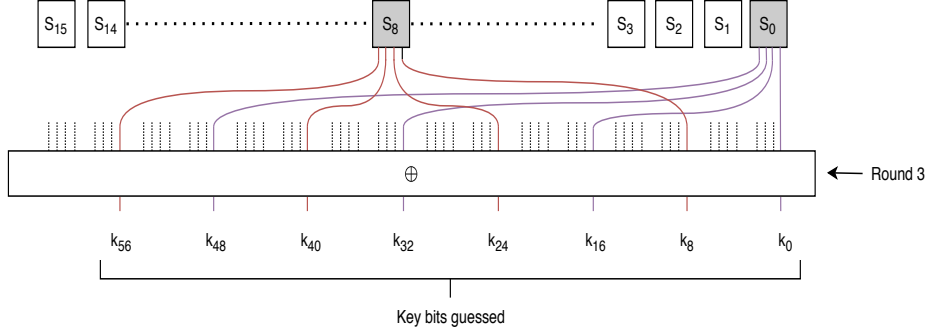


Figure 6: Guess 8 bits of the key k_2

We are able to find 8 bits of key k_2 . In our case only 8 bit right subkey holds for all 2^{14} filtered pairs.

4.4 Analysing the attack

Complexity Analysis:

Data: 2^{18} plaintext pairs or 2^{19} plaintexts

Memory: 2^{14} array used to store filtered pairs

Time:

Filtering:

2 round encryption of 2^{18} plaintext pairs and compare every pairs with set of 36 possible ciphertext that we are using for filtering.

$$36 \times (2 \times 2 \times 2^{18}) = 2^{5.17} \times 2^{20} = 2^{25.17}$$

Attack:

2 round encryption of 2^{14} filtered plaintext pairs then 2^6 key guesses and 2^{14} ciphertext pairs decrypt for 1 round.

$$2 \times (2 \times 2^{14}) + 2^6 \times (2 \times 2^{14}) = 2^{16} + 2^{21} \approx 2^{22}$$

$$(\text{Data, Time, Memory}) = (2^{19}, 2^{25.17}, 2^{14})$$

4.5 Linear cryptanalysis

In this section, we will analyse the linear approximation of the PRESENT Cipher. We first present the Linear Approximation Table of PRESENT:

Table 6: LAT of the S-box

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	A	B	C	D	E	F
0	8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	-	-	-	-	-	-4	-	-4	-	-	-	-	-	-4	-	4
2	-	-	2	2	-2	-2	-	-	2	-2	-	4	-	4	-2	2
3	-	-	2	2	2	-2	-4	-	-2	2	-4	-	-	-	-2	-2
4	-	-	-2	2	-2	-2	-	4	-2	-2	-	-4	-	-	-2	2
5	-	-	-2	2	-2	2	-	-	2	2	-4	-	4	-	2	2
6	-	-	-	-4	-	-	-4	-	-	-4	-	-	4	-	-	-
7	-	-	-	4	4	-	-	-	-	-4	-	-	-	-	4	-
8	-	-	2	-2	-	-	-2	2	-2	2	-	-	-2	2	4	4
9	-	4	-2	-2	-	-	2	-2	-2	-2	-4	-	-2	2	-	-
A	-	-	4	-	2	2	2	-2	-	-	-	-4	2	2	-2	2
B	-	-4	-	-	-2	-2	2	-2	-4	-	-	-	2	2	2	-2
C	-	-	-	-	-2	-2	-2	-2	4	-	-	-4	-2	2	2	-2
D	-	4	4	-	-2	-2	2	2	-	-	-	-	2	-2	2	-2
E	-	-	2	2	-4	4	-2	-2	-2	-2	-	-	-2	-2	-	-
F	-	4	-2	2	-	-	-2	-2	-2	2	4	-	2	2	-	-

We observe some important properties about the LAT of the PRESENT S-box.

- Maximum bias of all linear approximations $\leq 2^{-2}$
- Maximum linear approximation of a single bit is $\leq 2^{-3}$

We first try to bound the bias of **four** round of PRESENT using the above observations. Remember the pilling up lemma for m independent events (involving m S-boxes), according to which, the probability of linear approximation is given by :

$$\frac{1}{2} + 2^{m-1} \prod_{i=1}^m \left(p_i - \frac{1}{2} \right)$$

hence, the bias is given by:

$$2^{m-1} \prod_{i=1}^m \epsilon_i$$

The number of active S-boxes in the four rounds can differ, and depending upon the number of active S-boxes involved, we have 3 cases to consider as below (Let the bias of 4-round of PRESENT involving i active S-boxes is denoted as $\epsilon_4^{(i)}$) :

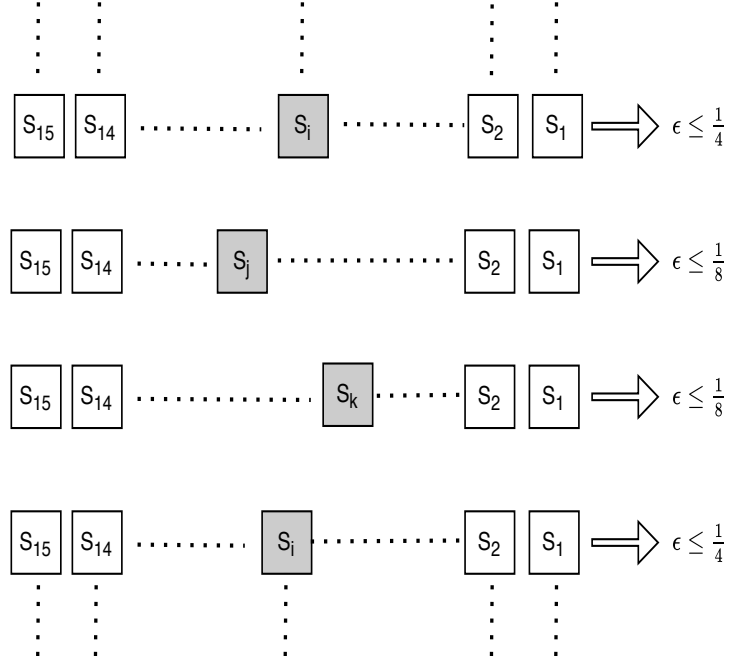
1. Let the number of active S-boxes involved are 4, each round having one active S-box. Then, the maximum bias of the 2 active S-boxes in the middle of the rounds is atmost 2^{-3} and the bias of the other two rounds will be atmost 2^{-2} , as depicted in the figure below.

Thus, the bias of this case is bounded by (using pilling up lemma):

$$\epsilon_4^{(4)} \leq 2^{4-1} \times (2^{-2})^2 \times (2^{-3})^2$$

$$\epsilon_4^{(4)} \leq 2^{-7}$$

2. Let the number of S-boxes involved over the 4 rounds are 5. Then, the pattern of the active S-boxes cannot be $1-2-1-1$ or $1-1-2-1$. From the above observations,

**Figure 7:**

about the S-box we know that, since, the two active S-boxes are initiated by same S-box in the prev. round, therefore they must belong two different sets. Hence, they will activate at least two S-box in the next round. Therefore, the possible pattern for this case is 2-1-1-1 or 1-1-1-2 and hence the bias is bounded by :

$$\epsilon_4^{(5)} \leq 2^{5-1} \times (2^{-2})^4 \times (2^{-3})$$

$$\epsilon_4^{(5)} \leq 2^{-7}$$

- Let the number of active S-boxes is more than 5. In this case, the maximum bias for each round is $\frac{1}{4}$. Therefore, we have :

$$\epsilon_4^{(i)} \leq 2^{i-1} \times (2^{-2})^i \text{ for } i > 5$$

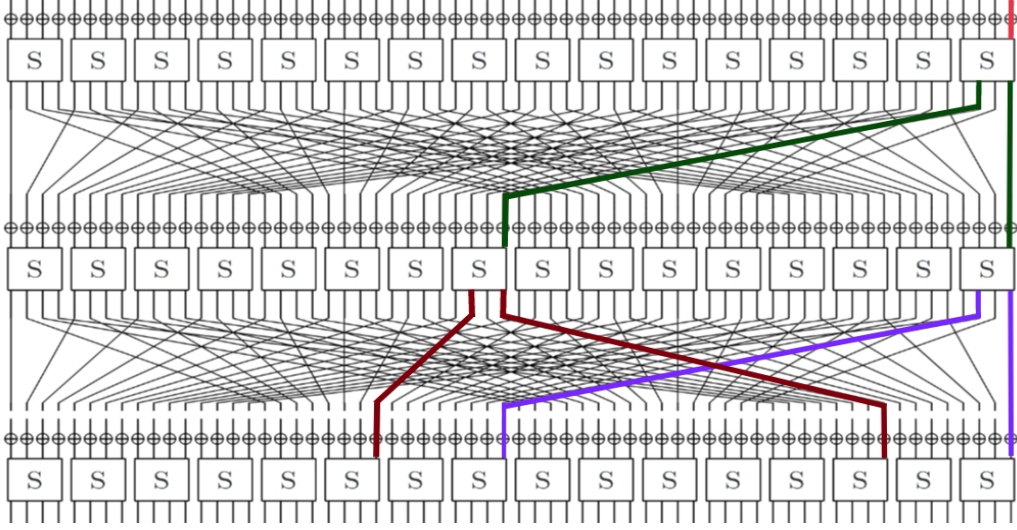
Clearly, the bias is equal to 2^{-7} for $i = 6$ and for $i > 6$, the bias is strictly less than 2^{-7} .

Thus, from the above analysis, we can conclude that the bias of 4-rounds of linear approximation of present is bounded by 2^{-7} , that is, $\epsilon_4 \leq 2^{-7}$. Now, we can use this result to bound the linear approximation bias for 28 rounds of PRESENT, which is :

$$\epsilon_{28} \leq 2^6 \times \epsilon_4^7 = 2^6 \times (2^{-7})^7 \implies \epsilon_{28} \leq 2^{-43}$$

Even for single bit recovery, a good estimate for the number of known plain-texts (N) required for a successful attack is given by : $N = c|\epsilon|^{-2}$, where constant $c \geq 2$. Thus, to attack 31 rounds of PRESENT, the attacker will have to approximate 28 rounds of PRESENT, which will require an order of 2^{86} known plain-texts. This, even exceeds the available space which is 2^{64} .

Two round characteristics:

**Figure 8:** Two round characteristics**Characteristic:**

$$(x_0 = 1) \xrightarrow{R} (x_0 = 1, x_8 = 1) \xrightarrow{R} (x_0 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_8 = 1, x_{10} = 1)$$

$$p_1 = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{4}{16} = \frac{1}{4}$$

$$p_2 = \frac{1}{2} + 2\left(\frac{4}{16}\right)^2 = \frac{1}{2} + \frac{1}{8} = \frac{5}{8}$$

Probability of 2-round Characteristics:

$$\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{5}{8} + \frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{8} = \frac{7}{16} = \frac{1}{2} - \frac{1}{16}$$

Table 7: Characteristics

Rounds		Diff.	Prob.
I		$x_0 = 1$	
R_1	k_0	$x_0 = 1$	1
R_1	S	$x_0 = 5$	2^{-2}
R_1	P	$x_0 = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_2	k_1	$x_0 = 1, x_8 = 1$	1
R_2	S	$x_0 = 5, x_8 = 5$	2^{-4}
R_2	P	$x_0 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_8 = 1, x_{10} = 1$	1
R_3	k_1	$x_0 = 1, x_2 = 1, x_8 = 1, x_{10} = 1$	1

5 Integral cryptanalysis

In this section, we will analyze 5-round integral distinguishers for PRESENT.

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