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## SHA-2

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**SHA-2** is a set of **cryptographic hash functions** designed by the NSA (U.S. **National Security Agency**).<sup>[3]</sup> SHA stands for **Secure Hash Algorithm**. Cryptographic hash functions are mathematical operations run on digital data; by comparing the computed "hash" (the output from execution of the algorithm) to a known and expected hash value, a person can determine the data's integrity. For example, computing the hash of a downloaded file and comparing the result to a previously published hash result can show whether the download has been modified or tampered with.<sup>[4]</sup> A key aspect of cryptographic hash functions is their **collision resistance**: nobody should be able to find two different input values that result in the same hash output.

SHA-2 includes significant changes from its predecessor, **SHA-1**. The SHA-2 family consists of six hash functions with **digests** (hash values) that are 224, 256, 384 or 512 bits: **SHA-224**, **SHA-256**, **SHA-384**, **SHA-512**, **SHA-512/224**, **SHA-512/256**.

SHA-256 and SHA-512 are novel hash functions computed with 32-bit and 64-bit words, respectively. They use different shift amounts and additive constants, but their structures are otherwise virtually identical, differing only in the number of rounds. SHA-224 and SHA-384 are simply truncated versions of the first two, computed with different initial values. SHA-512/224 and SHA-512/256 are also truncated versions of SHA-512, but the initial values are generated using the method described in FIPS PUB 180-4. SHA-2 was published in 2001 by the **NIST** as a U.S. federal standard (**FIPS**). The SHA-2 family of algorithms are patented in US 6829355 . The **United States** has released the patent under a royalty-free license.<sup>[5]</sup>

In 2005, an algorithm emerged for finding SHA-1 collisions in about 2000-times fewer steps than was previously thought possible.<sup>[6]</sup> Although (as of 2015) no example of a SHA-1 collision has been published yet, the security margin left by SHA-1 is weaker than intended, and its use is therefore no longer recommended for applications that depend on collision resistance, such as **digital signatures**. Although SHA-2 bears some similarity to the SHA-1 algorithm, these attacks have not been successfully extended to SHA-2.

Currently, the best public attacks break **preimage resistance** 52 rounds of SHA-256 or 57 rounds of SHA-512, and **collision resistance** for 46 rounds of SHA-256, as shown in the *Cryptanalysis and validation* section below.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

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### Hash standard [edit]

With the publication of FIPS PUB 180-2, NIST added three additional hash functions in the SHA family. The algorithms are collectively known as SHA-2, named after their digest lengths (in bits): SHA-256, SHA-384, and SHA-512.

The algorithms were first published in 2001 in the draft FIPS PUB 180-2, at which time public review and comments were accepted. In August 2002, FIPS PUB 180-2 became the new **Secure Hash Standard**, replacing FIPS PUB 180-1, which was released in April 1995. The updated standard included the original **SHA-1** algorithm, with updated technical notation consistent with that describing the inner workings of the SHA-2 family.<sup>[7]</sup>

In February 2004, a change notice was published for FIPS PUB 180-2, specifying an additional variant, SHA-224, defined to match the key length of two-key **Triple DES**.<sup>[8]</sup> In October 2008, the standard was updated in FIPS PUB 180-3, including SHA-224 from the change notice, but otherwise making no fundamental changes to the standard. The primary motivation for updating the standard was relocating security information about the hash algorithms and recommendations for their use to Special Publications 800-107 and 800-57.<sup>[9][10][11]</sup> Detailed test data and example message digests were also removed from the standard, and provided as separate documents.<sup>[12]</sup>

In January 2011, NIST published SP800-131A, which specified a move from the current minimum security of 80-bits (provided by SHA-1) allowable for federal government use until the end of 2013, with 112-bit security (provided by SHA-2) being the minimum requirement current thereafter, and the recommended security level from the publication date.<sup>[13]</sup>

In March 2012, the standard was updated in FIPS PUB 180-4, adding the hash functions SHA-512/224 and SHA-512/256, and describing a method for generating initial values for truncated versions of SHA-512. Additionally, a restriction on padding the input data prior to hash calculation was removed, allowing hash data to be calculated simultaneously with content generation, such as a real-time video or audio feed. Padding the final data block must still occur prior to hash output.<sup>[14]</sup>

In July 2012, NIST revised SP800-57, which provides guidance for cryptographic key management. The publication disallows creation of digital signatures with a hash security lower than 112-bits after 2013. The previous revision from 2007 specified the cutoff to be the end of 2010.<sup>[11]</sup> In August 2012, NIST revised SP800-107 in the same manner.<sup>[10]</sup>

The **NIST hash function competition** selected a new hash function, **SHA-3**, in 2012.<sup>[15]</sup> The SHA-3 algorithm is not derived from SHA-2.

### Applications [edit]

*For more details on this topic, see **Cryptographic hash function § Applications**.*

The SHA-2 hash function is implemented in some widely used security applications and protocols, including **TLS** and **SSL**, **PGP**, **SSH**, **S/MIME**, and **IPsec**.

SHA-256 is used as part of the process of authenticating **Debian GNU/Linux** software packages<sup>[16]</sup> and in the **DKIM** message signing standard; SHA-512 is part of a system to authenticate archival video from the **International Criminal Tribunal of the Rwandan genocide**.<sup>[17]</sup> SHA-256 and SHA-512 are proposed for use in **DNSSEC**.<sup>[18]</sup> Unix and Linux vendors are moving to using 256- and 512-bit SHA-2 for secure password hashing.<sup>[19]</sup>

Several **cryptocurrencies** like **Bitcoin** use SHA-256 for verifying transactions and calculating **proof-of-work** or **proof-of-stake**. The rise of **ASIC** SHA-2 accelerator chips has led to the use of **crypt**-based proof-of-work schemes.

SHA-1 and SHA-2 are the secure hash algorithms required by law for use in certain **U.S. Government** applications, including use within other cryptographic algorithms and protocols, for the protection of sensitive unclassified information. FIPS PUB 180-1 also encouraged adoption and use of SHA-1 by private and commercial organizations. SHA-1 is being retired for most government uses; the U.S. National Institute of Standards and Technology says, "Federal agencies ***should*** stop using SHA-1 for...applications that require collision resistance as soon as practical, and must use the SHA-2 family of hash functions for these applications after 2010" (emphasis in original).<sup>[20]</sup> NIST's directive that U.S. government agencies must stop uses of SHA-1 after 2010<sup>[21]</sup> was hoped to accelerate migration away from SHA-1.

The SHA-2 functions were not quickly adopted, despite better security than SHA-1. Reasons might include lack of support for SHA-2 on systems running Windows XP SP2 or older<sup>[22]</sup> and a lack of perceived urgency since SHA-1 collisions have not yet been found. The **Google Chrome** team announced a plan to make browser gradually stop honoring SHA-1-dependent **TLS** certificates over a period from late 2014 and early 2015.<sup>[23][24][25]</sup>

### Cryptanalysis and validation [edit]

For a hash function for which *L* is the number of **bits** in the **message digest**, finding a message that corresponds to a given message digest can always be done using a **brute force** search in 2<sup>*L*</sup> evaluations. This is called a **preimage attack** and may or may not be practical depending on *L* and the particular computing environment. The second criterion, finding two different messages that produce the same message digest, known as a **collision**, requires on average only 2<sup>*L*/2</sup> evaluations using a **birthday attack**.

Some of the applications that use cryptographic hashes, such as password storage, are only minimally affected by a **collision attack**. Constructing a password that works for a given account requires a preimage attack, as well as access to the hash of the original password (typically in the **shadow** file) which may or may not be trivial. Reversing password encryption (e.g., to obtain a password to

#### SHA-2

##### General

**Designers**  **National Security Agency**  
**First published**  2001  
**Series**  (**SHA-0**), **SHA-1**, SHA-2, **SHA-3**  
**Certification**  **FIPS PUB 180-4**, **CRYPTREC**, **NESSIE**

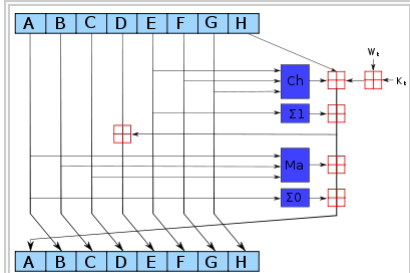
##### Detail

**Digest sizes**  224, 256, 384, or 512 bits  
**Structure**  **Merkle–Damgård construction**  
**Rounds**  64 or 80

##### Best public cryptanalysis

A2011 attack breaks **preimage resistance** for 57 out of 80 rounds of SHA-512, and 52 out of 64 rounds for SHA-256.<sup>[1]</sup>

Pseudo-collision attack against up to 46 rounds of SHA-256.<sup>[2]</sup>



One iteration in a SHA-2 family compression function. The blue components perform the following operations:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Ch}(E, F, G) &= (E \wedge F) \oplus (\neg E \wedge G) \\ \text{Ma}(A, B, C) &= (A \wedge B) \oplus (A \wedge C) \oplus (B \wedge C) \\ \Sigma_0(A) &= (A \ggg 2) \oplus (A \ggg 13) \oplus (A \ggg 22) \\ \Sigma_1(E) &= (E \ggg 6) \oplus (E \ggg 11) \oplus (E \ggg 25) \end{aligned}$$

The bitwise rotation uses different constants for SHA-512. The given numbers are for SHA-256. The red  is addition modulo 2<sup>32</sup>.

try against a user's account elsewhere) is not made possible by the attacks. (However, even a secure password hash cannot prevent brute-force attacks on **weak passwords**.)

In the case of document signing, an attacker could not simply fake a signature from an existing document—the attacker would have to produce a pair of documents, one innocuous and one damaging, and get the private key holder to sign the innocuous document. There are practical circumstances in which this is possible; until the end of 2008, it was possible to create forged **SSL** certificates using an **MD5** collision.<sup>[26]</sup>

Increased interest in cryptographic hash analysis during the SHA-3 competition produced several new attacks on the SHA-2 family, the best of which are given in the table below. Only the collision attacks are of practical complexity; none of the attacks extend to the full round hash function.

At **FSE** 2012, researchers at **Sony** gave a presentation suggesting pseudo-collision attacks could be extended to 52 rounds on SHA-256 and 57 rounds on SHA-512 by building upon the biclique pseudo-preimage attack.<sup>[27]</sup>

Published in	Year	Attack method	Attack	Variant	Rounds	Complexity
<i>New Collision Attacks Against Up To 24-step SHA-2</i> <sup>[28]</sup>	2008	Deterministic	Collision	SHA-256	24/64	2 <sup>28.5</sup>
				SHA-512	24/80	2 <sup>32.5</sup>
<i>Preimages for step-reduced SHA-2</i> <sup>[29]</sup>	2009	Meet-in-the-middle	Preimage	SHA-256	42/64	2 <sup>251.7</sup>
					43/64	2 <sup>254.9</sup>
				SHA-512	42/80	2 <sup>502.3</sup>
					46/80	2 <sup>511.5</sup>
<i>Advanced meet-in-the-middle preimage attacks</i> <sup>[30]</sup>	2010	Meet-in-the-middle	Preimage	SHA-256	42/64	2 <sup>248.4</sup>
				SHA-512	42/80	2 <sup>494.6</sup>
<i>Higher-Order Differential Attack on Reduced SHA-256</i> <sup>[2]</sup>	2011	Differential	Pseudo-collision	SHA-256	46/64	2 <sup>178</sup>
					46/64	2 <sup>46</sup>
<i>Bicliques for Preimages: Attacks on Skein-512 and the SHA-2 family</i> <sup>[1]</sup>	2011	Biclique	Preimage	SHA-256	45/64	2 <sup>255.5</sup>
				SHA-512	50/80	2 <sup>511.5</sup>
			Pseudo-preimage	SHA-256	52/64	2 <sup>255</sup>
				SHA-512	57/80	2 <sup>511</sup>
<i>Improving Local Collisions: New Attacks on Reduced SHA-256</i> <sup>[31]</sup>	2013	Differential	Collision	SHA-256	31/64	2 <sup>65.5</sup>
			Pseudo-collision	SHA-256	38/64	2 <sup>37</sup>
<i>Branching Heuristics in Differential Collision Search with Applications to SHA-512</i> <sup>[32]</sup>	2014	Heuristic differential	Pseudo-collision	SHA-512	38/80	2 <sup>40.5</sup>

**Official validation** [edit]

Main article: *Cryptographic Module Validation Program*

Implementations of all FIPS-approved security functions can be officially validated through the **CMVP program**, jointly run by the **National Institute of Standards and Technology** (NIST) and the **Communications Security Establishment** (CSE). For informal verification, a package to generate a high number of test vectors is made available for download on the NIST site; the resulting verification, however, does not replace the formal CMVP validation, which is required by law for certain applications.

As of December 2013, there are over 1300 validated implementations of SHA-256 and over 900 of SHA-512, with only 5 of them being capable of handling messages with a length in bits not a multiple of eight while supporting both variants (see **SHS Validation List** [ⓘ]).

**Examples of SHA-2 variants** [edit]

Hash values of empty string.

```
SHA224("")
0x d14a028c2a3a2bc9476102bb288234c415a2b01f828ea62ac5b3e42f
SHA256("")
0x e3b0c44298fc1c149afbf4c8996fb92427ae41e4649b934ca495991b7852b855
SHA384("")
0x 38b060a751ac96384cd9327eb1b1e36a21fdb71114be07434c0cc7bf63f6e1da274edebfe76f65fbd51ad2f14898b95b
SHA512("")
0x c8f8e1357eef8bdf1542850d66d8007d620e4050b5715dc83f4a921d36ce9ce47d0d13c5d85f2b0ff8318d2877eec2f63b931bd47417a81a538327af927da3e
SHA512/224("")
0x 6ed0dd02806fa89e25de060c19d3ac86cabb87d6a0ddd05c333b84f4
SHA512/256("")
0x c672bd8ief56ed28ab87c3622c5114069bdd3ad7b8f9737498d0c01ecef0967a
```

Even a small change in the message will (with overwhelming probability) result in a mostly different hash, due to the **avalanche effect**. For example, adding a period to the end of the sentence:

```
SHA224("The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog")
0x 730e109bd7a8a32b1cb9d9a09aa2325d2430587ddb0c38bad911525
SHA224("The quick brown fox jumps over the lazy dog.")
0x 619cba8e8e05826e9b8c519c0a5c68f4fb653e8a3d8aa04bb2c8cd4c
```

**Pseudocode** [edit]

**Pseudocode** for the SHA-256 algorithm follows. Note the great increase in mixing between bits of the [w][16 .. 63] words compared to SHA-1.

```
Note 1: All variables are 32 bit unsigned integers and addition is calculated modulo 232
Note 2: For each round, there is one round constant k[i] and one entry in the message schedule array w[i], 0 ≤ i ≤ 63
Note 3: The compression function uses 8 working variables, a through h
Note 4: Big-endian convention is used when expressing the constants in this pseudocode,
      and when parsing message block data from bytes to words, for example,
      the first word of the input message "abc" after padding is 0x61626380

Initialize hash values:
(first 32 bits of the fractional parts of the square roots of the first 8 primes 2..19):
h0 := 0x6a09e667
h1 := 0xbb67ae85
h2 := 0x3c6ef372
h3 := 0xa54ff53a
h4 := 0x510e527f
h5 := 0x9b05688c
h6 := 0x1f83d9ab
h7 := 0x5be0cd19

Initialize array of round constants:
(first 32 bits of the fractional parts of the cube roots of the first 64 primes 2..311):
k[0..63] :=
    0x428a2f98, 0x71374491, 0xb5c0fbcf, 0xe9b5dba5, 0x3956c25b, 0x59f111f1, 0x923f82a4, 0xabc15ed5,
    0xd807aa98, 0x12835b01, 0x243185be, 0x550c7dc3, 0x72be5d74, 0x80deb1fe, 0x9bdc06a7, 0xc19bf174,
    0xe49b69c1, 0xefbe4786, 0x0fc19dc6, 0x240ca1cc, 0x2de92c6f, 0x4a7484aa, 0x5cb0a9dc, 0x76f988da,
    0x983e5152, 0xa831c66d, 0xb00327c8, 0xbf597fc7, 0xc6e00bf3, 0xd5a79147, 0x06ca6351, 0x14292967,
    0x27b70a85, 0x2e1b2138, 0x4d2c6dfc, 0x53380d13, 0x650a7354, 0x766a0abb, 0x81c2c92e, 0x92722c85,
    0xa2bfe8a1, 0xa81a664b, 0xc24b8b70, 0xc76c51a3, 0xd192e819, 0xd6990624, 0xf40e3585, 0x106aa070,
    0x19a4c116, 0x1e376c08, 0x2748774c, 0x34b0bcb5, 0x391c0cb3, 0x4ed8aa4a, 0x5b9cca4f, 0x682e6ff3,
    0x748f82ee, 0x78a5636f, 0x84c87814, 0x8cc70208, 0x90befffa, 0xa4506ceb, 0xbef9a3f7, 0xc67178f2

Pre-processing:
append the bit '1' to the message
```

```
append k bits '0', where k is the minimum number >= 0 such that the resulting message
length (modulo 512 in bits) is 448.
append length of message (without the '1' bit or padding), in bits, as 64-bit big-endian integer
(this will make the entire post-processed length a multiple of 512 bits)
```

*Process the message in successive 512-bit chunks:*

break message into 512-bit chunks

**for** each chunk

create a 64-entry message schedule array `w[0..63]` of 32-bit words

*(The initial values in `w[0..63]` don't matter, so many implementations zero them here)*

copy chunk into first 16 words `w[0..15]` of the message schedule array

*Extend the first 16 words into the remaining 48 words `w[16..63]` of the message schedule array:*

**for** `i` **from** 16 to 63

`s0` := (`w[i-15]` **rightrotate** 7) **xor** (`w[i-15]` **rightrotate** 18) **xor** (`w[i-15]` **rightshift** 3)

`s1` := (`w[i-2]` **rightrotate** 17) **xor** (`w[i-2]` **rightrotate** 19) **xor** (`w[i-2]` **rightshift** 10)

`w[i]` := `w[i-16]` + `s0` + `w[i-7]` + `s1`

*Initialize working variables to current hash value:*

`a` := `h0`

`b` := `h1`

`c` := `h2`

`d` := `h3`

`e` := `h4`

`f` := `h5`

`g` := `h6`

`h` := `h7`

*Compression function main loop:*

**for** `i` **from** 0 to 63

`S1` := (`e` **rightrotate** 6) **xor** (`e` **rightrotate** 11) **xor** (`e` **rightrotate** 25)

`ch` := (`e` **and** `f`) **xor** ((**not** `e`) **and** `g`)

`temp1` := `h` + `S1` + `ch` + `k[i]` + `w[i]`

`S0` := (`a` **rightrotate** 2) **xor** (`a` **rightrotate** 13) **xor** (`a` **rightrotate** 22)

`maj` := (`a` **and** `b`) **xor** (`a` **and** `c`) **xor** (`b` **and** `c`)

`temp2` := `S0` + `maj`

`h` := `g`

`g` := `f`

`f` := `e`

`e` := `d` + `temp1`

`d` := `c`

`c` := `b`

`b` := `a`

`a` := `temp1` + `temp2`

*Add the compressed chunk to the current hash value:*

`h0` := `h0` + `a`

`h1` := `h1` + `b`

`h2` := `h2` + `c`

`h3` := `h3` + `d`

`h4` := `h4` + `e`

`h5` := `h5` + `f`

`h6` := `h6` + `g`

`h7` := `h7` + `h`

*Produce the final hash value (big-endian):*

`digest` := `hash` := `h0` **append** `h1` **append** `h2` **append** `h3` **append** `h4` **append** `h5` **append** `h6` **append** `h7`

The computation of the `ch` and `maj` values can be optimized the same way as described for SHA-1.

SHA-224 is identical to SHA-256, except that:

- the initial hash values `h0` through `h7` are different, and
- the output is constructed by omitting `h7`.

SHA-224 initial hash values (in big endian):

*(The second 32 bits of the fractional parts of the square roots of the 9th through 16th primes 23..53)*

`h[0..7]` :=

0xc1059ed8, 0x367cd507, 0x3070dd17, 0xf70e5939, 0xffc00b31, 0x68581511, 0x64f98fa7, 0xbefa4fa4

SHA-512 is identical in structure to SHA-256, but:

- the message is broken into 1024-bit chunks,
- the initial hash values and round constants are extended to 64 bits,
- there are 80 rounds instead of 64,
- the message schedule array `w` has 80 64-bit words instead of 64 32-bit words,
- to extend the message schedule array `w`, the loop is from 16 to 79 instead of from 16 to 63,
- the round constants are based on the first 80 primes 2..409,
- the word size used for calculations is 64 bits long,
- the appended length of the message (before pre-processing), in *bits*, is a 128-bit big-endian integer, and
- the shift and rotate amounts used are different.

SHA-512 initial hash values (in big-endian):

`h[0..7]` := 0x6a09e667f3bcc908, 0xbb67ae8584caa73b, 0x3c6ef372fe94f82b, 0xa54ff53aa5f1d36f1,  
0x510e527fade682d1, 0x9b05688c2b3e6c1f, 0x1f83d9abfb41bd6b, 0x5be0cd19137e2179

SHA-512 round constants:

`k[0..79]` := [ 0x428a2f98d728ae22, 0x7137449123ef65cd, 0xb5c0fbcfec4d3b2f, 0xe9b5dba58189dbbc, 0x3956c25bf348b538,  
0x59f111f1b605d019, 0x923f82a4af194f9b, 0xab1c5ed5da6d8118, 0xd807aa98a3030242, 0x12835b0145706fbe,  
0x243185be4ee4b28c, 0x550c7dc3d5ffb4e2, 0x72be5d74f27b896f, 0x80deb1fe3b1696b1, 0x9bdc06a725c71235,  
0xc19b174cf692694, 0xe49b69c19ef14ad2, 0xefbfe4786384f25e3, 0x0fc19dc68b8cd5b5, 0x240ca1cc77ac9c65,  
0x2de92c6f592b0275, 0x4a7484aa6ea6e483, 0x5cb0a9dcbbd41fbd4, 0x76f988da831153b5, 0x983e5152ee66dfab,  
0xa831c66d2b43210, 0xb00327c898fb213f, 0xbff597fc7beef0ee4, 0xc6e00bf33da88fc2, 0xd5a79147930aa725,  
0x06ca6351e003826f, 0x142929670a0e6e70, 0x27b70a8546d22ffc, 0x2e1b21385c26c926, 0x4d2c6dfc5ac42aed,  
0x53380d139d95b3df, 0x650a73548baf63de, 0x766a0abb3c77b2a8, 0x81c2c92e47edaee6, 0x92722c851482353b,  
0xa2bfe8a14cf10364, 0xa81a664bbc423001, 0xcc24b8b70d0f89791, 0xc76c51a30654be30, 0xd192e819d6ef5218,  
0xd69906245565a910, 0xf40e35855771202a, 0x106aa07032bdbl8, 0x19a4c116b8d2d0c8, 0x1e376c085141ab53,  
0x2748774cdf8eeb99, 0x34b0cbb5e19b48a8, 0x391c0cb3c5c95a63, 0x4ed8aa4ae3418acb, 0x5b9cca4f7763e373,  
0x682e6ff3d6b2b8a3, 0x748f82ee5defb2fc, 0x78a5636f43172f60, 0x84c87814a1f0ab72, 0x8cc702081a6439ec,  
0x90bfefff23631e28, 0xa4506cebd82bde9, 0xbef993f7b2c67915, 0xc67178f2e372532b, 0xca273ceceaa26619c,  
0xd18688c721c0c207, 0xeada7dd6cede0eb1e, 0xf57d4f7fee6ded178, 0x06f067aa72176fba, 0x0a637dc5a2c898a6,  
0x113f9804bef90dae, 0x1b710b35131c471b, 0x28db77f523047d84, 0x32caab7b40c72493, 0x3c9ebe0a15c9bebc,  
0x431d67c49c100d4c, 0x4cc5d4becb3e42b6, 0x597f299cfc657e2a, 0x5fcb6fab3ad6faec, 0x6c44198c4a475817]

SHA-512 Sum & Sigma:

`S0` := (`a` **rightrotate** 28) **xor** (`a` **rightrotate** 34) **xor** (`a` **rightrotate** 39)

`S1` := (`e` **rightrotate** 14) **xor** (`e` **rightrotate** 18) **xor** (`e` **rightrotate** 41)

1. <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Dmitry Khovratovich, Christian Rechberg and Alexandra Savelieva (2011). "Bicliques for Preimages: Attacks on Skein-512 and the SHA-2 family"  (PDF). *IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive*. 2011:286.
2. <sup>a</sup> <sup>b</sup> <sup>c</sup> Mario Lamberger and Florian Mendel (2011). "Higher-Order Differential Attack on Reduced SHA-256"  (PDF). *IACR Cryptology ePrint Archive*. 2011:37.
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12. <sup>a</sup> NIST Algorithm Examples, *Secure Hashing* 
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