

TAGADA

Tool for Automatically Generation of Abstraction-Based Differential Attacks
SKCAM 25' | March 15, 2025

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Outline

Why Tagada ?

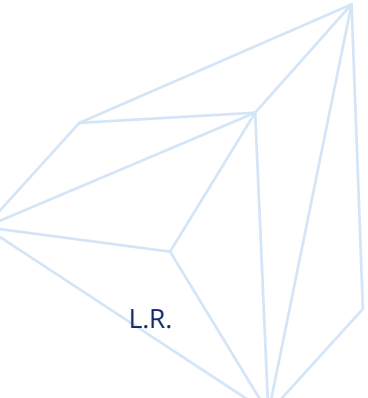
What is TAGADA ?

How TAGADA works?

Our results

Further work

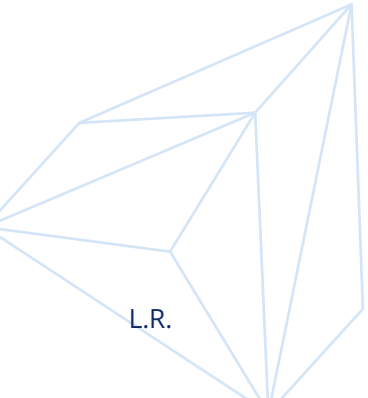
Bibliography



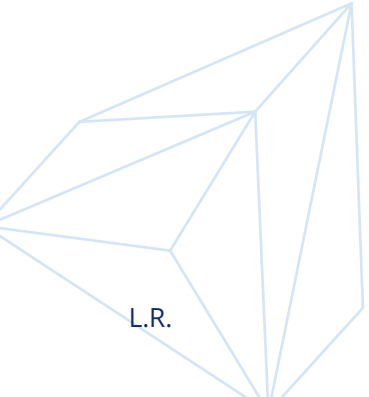
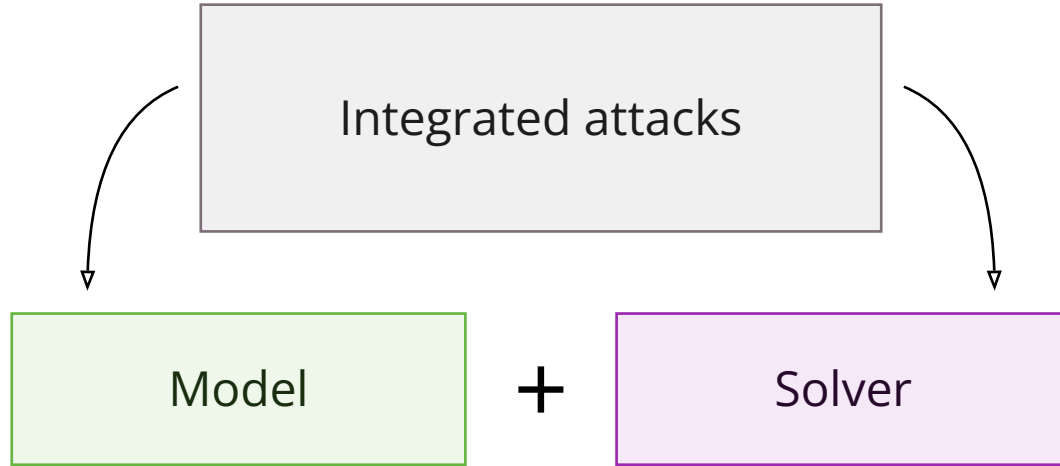
Why Tagada ?



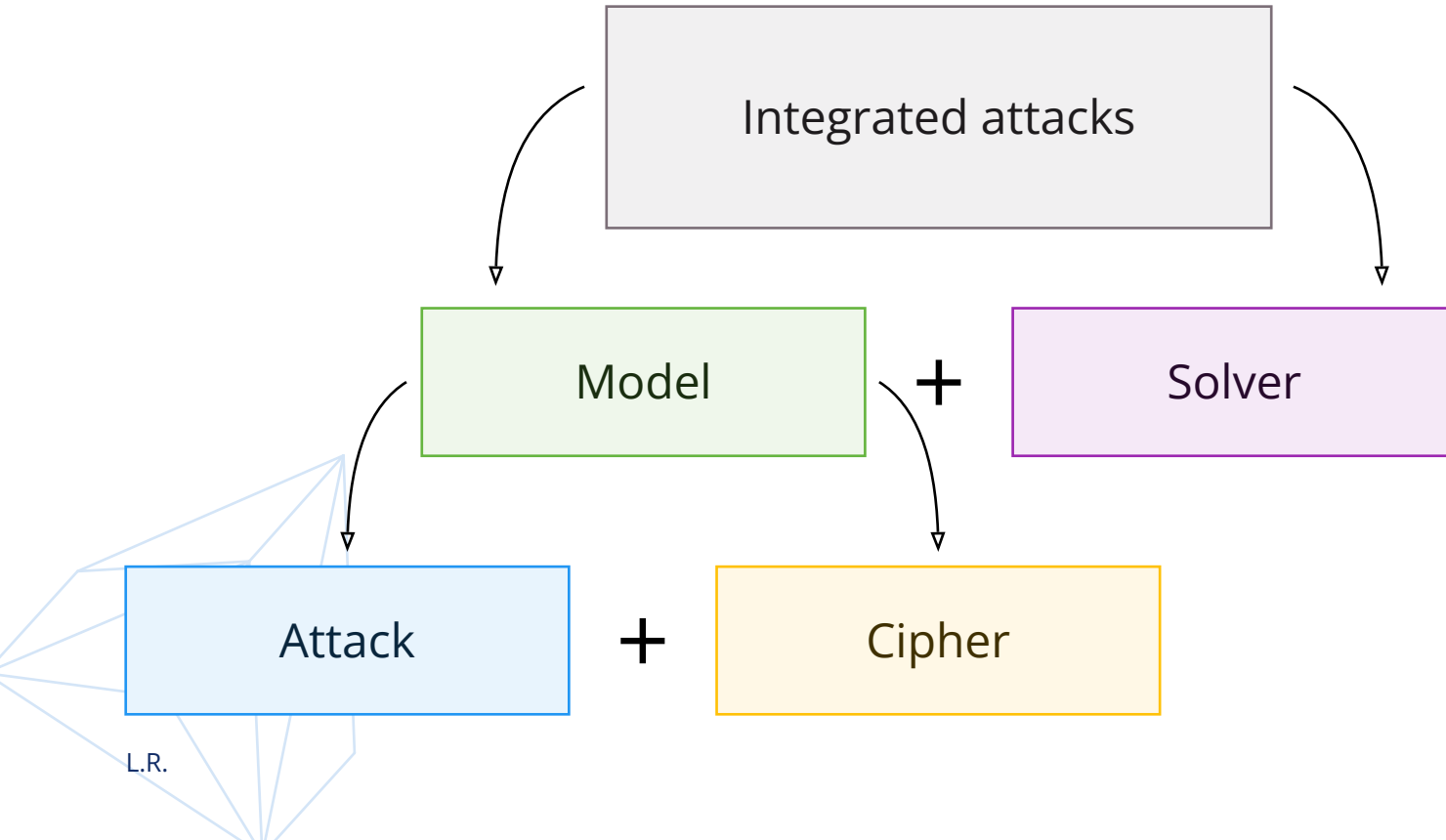
The idea



The idea

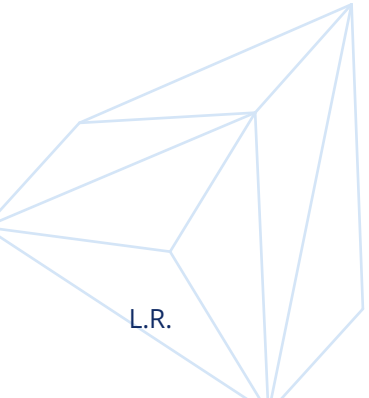


The idea



Why Tagada ?

Why ?



L.R.

How block ciphers are created ?

Basic known primitives

- \oplus , \otimes , \boxplus , \boxminus , \lll , \ggg , SBoxes, etc.

Common structures

- SPN (Substitution Permutation Network)
- Feistel Networks
- ARX (Add Rotate Xor)



Why Tagada ?

AES vs Midori

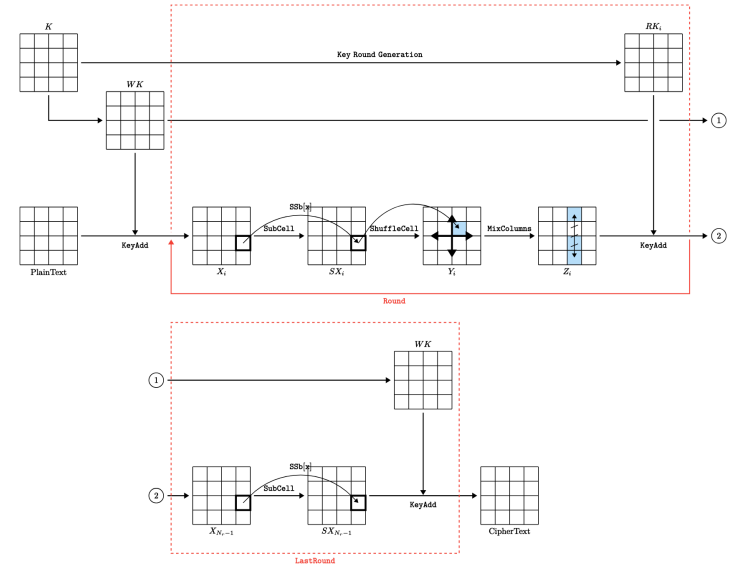
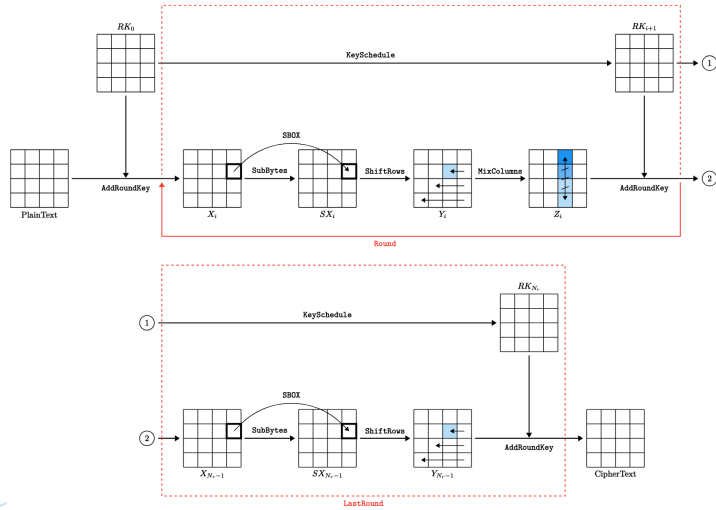


Figure 1: Representation of AES [1] cipher (from [2]).

Figure 2: Representation of Midori [3] encryption (from [2]).

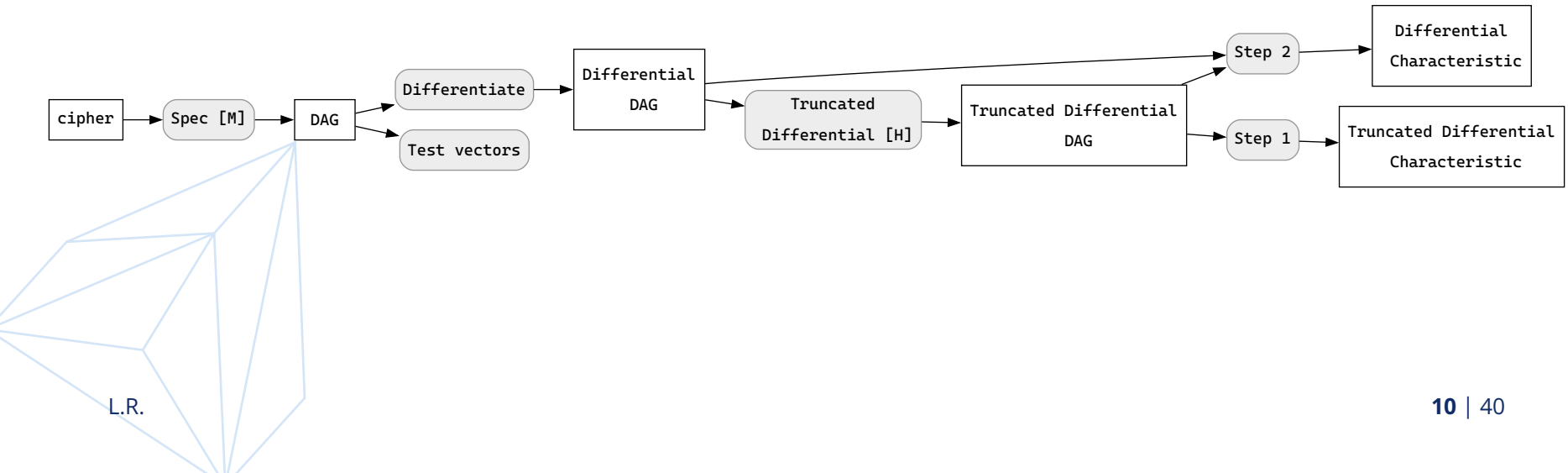
The expected benefit

Some vulnerabilities discovered in one cipher can be exploited in other ciphers that reuse the same construction.

What is TAGADA ?

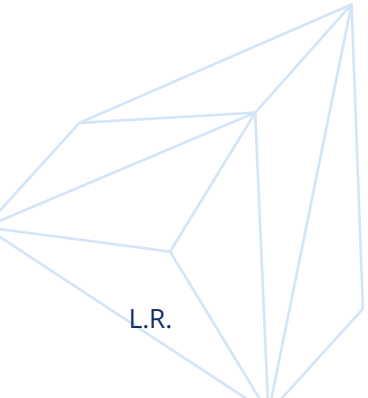


Tool for Automatic Generation of Abstraction-Based Differential Attacks



Data Representation

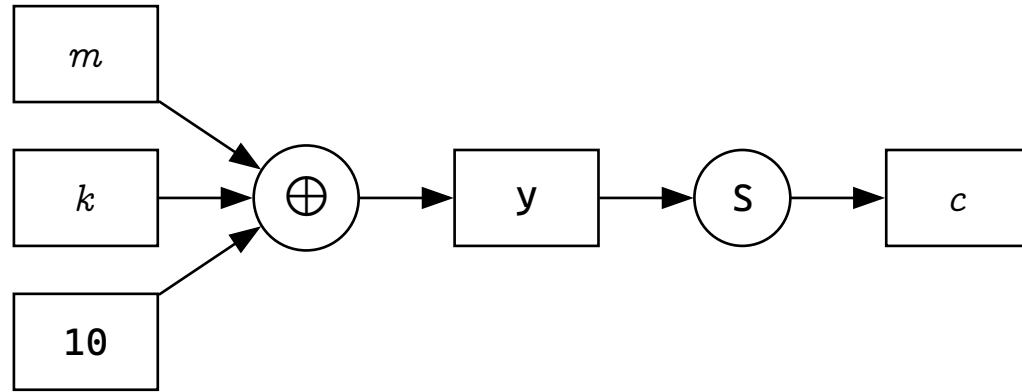
A cipher function E_K is represented as a bipartite DAG (Directed Acyclic Graph) $G = (N, E)$ where N is the states and operations of the cipher and E is the set of relations that links the states and the operations.



What is TAGADA ?

Example

$$c = S[m \oplus k \oplus 10]$$



$$G = (N, E) :$$

$$N = \{m, k, 10, y, z, \oplus, S\},$$

$$E = \{((m, k, 10), \oplus, (y)), ((y), S, (c))\}$$

Specification (manual)

Objective

Transforms the source cipher into a DAG builder.



What is TAGADA ?

```
def encryption(x, mk, nr)
  k = mk.each_slice(16).to_a
  @builder.named("K_0", k[0])
  @builder.named("K_1", k[1])
  for r in 1...nr
    for i in 0...BR_HALF
      x[2 * i + 1] = @xor3.call(
        @s.call(x[2 * i]),
        k[(r - 1) % 2][i],
        x[2 * i + 1]
      )
    end
    x[1] = @xor2.call(x[1], RC0[r])
    x[3] = @xor2.call(x[3], RC1[r])
    permutation(x)
    @builder.named("X_#{r}", x)
  end
  for i in 0...BR_HALF
    x[2 * i + 1] = @xor3.call(
      @s.call(x[2 * i]),
      k[(nr - 1) % 2][i],
      x[2 * i + 1]
    )
  end
  x[1] = @xor2.call(x[1], RC0[nr])
  x[3] = @xor2.call(x[3], RC1[nr])
  x
end
```

Listing 1: TAGADA WARP builder.

L.R.

Algorithm Encryption(K, M)

1. $(K_0^0 \parallel K_1^0 \parallel \dots \parallel K_{15}^0, K_0^1 \parallel K_1^1 \parallel \dots \parallel K_{15}^1) \leftarrow K$
2. $X_0 \parallel X_1 \parallel \dots \parallel X_{31} \leftarrow M$
3. **for** $r = 1$ **to** 40 **do**
4. **for** $i = 0$ **to** 15 **do**
5. $X_{2i+1} \leftarrow S(X_{2i}) \oplus K_i^{(r-1) \bmod 2} \oplus X_{2i+1}$
6. **end for**
7. $X_1 \leftarrow X_1 \oplus RC_0^r, X_3 \leftarrow X_3 \oplus RC_1^r$
8. $X'_0 \parallel X'_1 \parallel \dots \parallel X'_{31} \leftarrow X_0 \parallel X_1 \parallel \dots \parallel X_{31}$
9. **for** $i = 0$ **to** 31 **do**
10. $X_{\pi[j]} \leftarrow X'_j$
11. **end for**
12. **end for**
13. **for** $i = 0$ **to** 15 **do**
14. $X_{2i+1} \leftarrow S(X_{2i}) \oplus K_i^0 \oplus X_{2i+1}$
15. **end for**
16. $X_1 \leftarrow X_1 \oplus RC_0^{41}, X_3 \leftarrow X_3 \oplus RC_1^{41}$
17. $C \leftarrow X_0 \parallel X_1 \parallel \dots \parallel X_{31}$
18. **return** C

Figure 4: Encryption algorithm of WARP [4].

Command

```
# Generation of the full AES-128  
docker run -t tagada \  
  bundle exec specs/ciphers/rijndael.rb -p 128 -k 128 > aes.spec.json
```

```
# Generation of 3 rounds of WARP  
docker run -t tagada \  
  bundle exec specs/ciphers/warp.rb -r 3 > warp-r3.spec.json
```

What is TAGADA ?

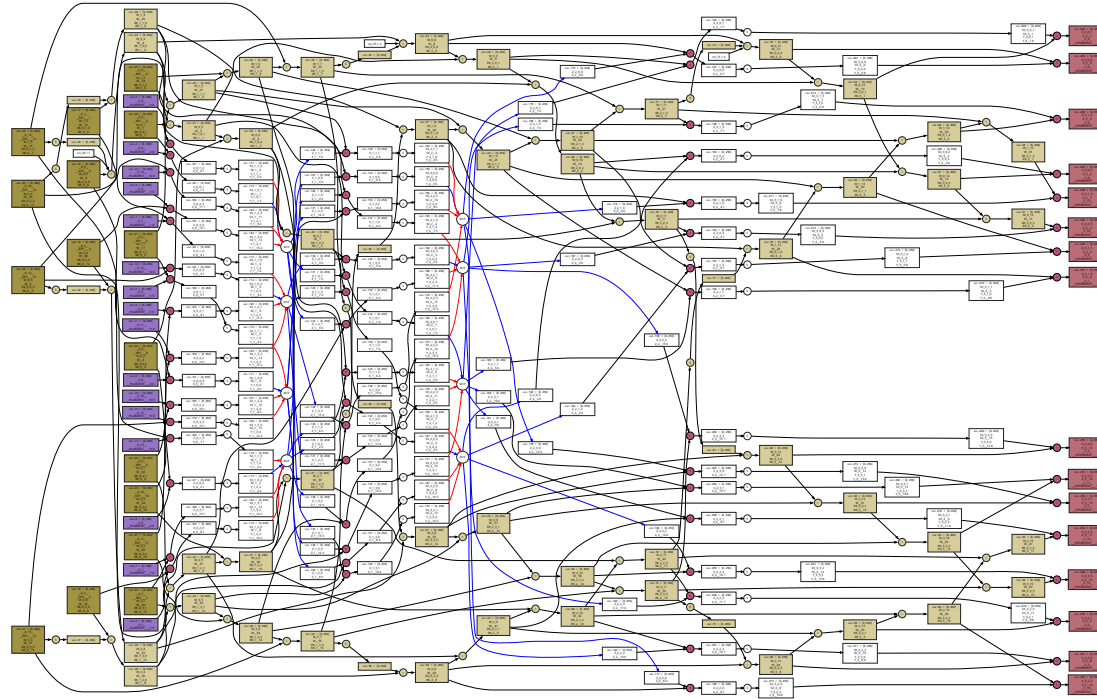


Figure 5: Representation of 3 rounds of AES in the TAGADA library.

What is TAGADA ?

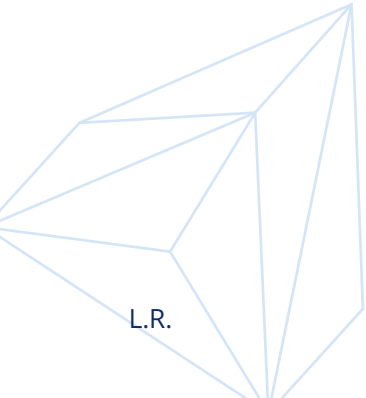
Test vectors

D.3 Other Block Lengths and Key Lengths

The values in this section correspond to the ciphertexts obtained by encrypting the all-zero string with the all-zero key (values on the first lines), and by encrypting the result again with the all-zero key (values on the second lines). The values are given for the five different block lengths and the five different key lengths. The values were generated with the program listed in Appendix E.

```
block length 128  key length 128
66E94BD4EF8A2C3B884CFA59CA342B2E
F795BD4A52E29ED713D313FA20E98DBC
```

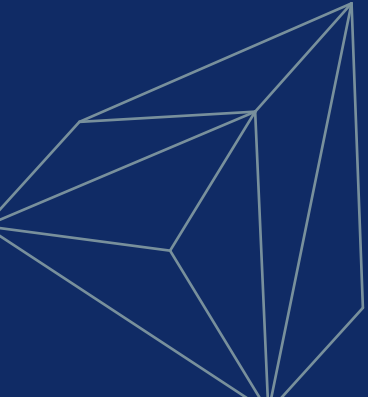
Figure 6: AES-128 test vectors.



```
#!/bin/bash
java -jar 'tagada.jar' \
test vector aes128.spec.json \
--radix hex \
--plaintext 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00 \
--key 00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00,00 \
--ciphertext 66,E9,4B,D4,EF,8A,2C,3B,88,4C,FA,59,CA,34,2B,2E

### Output ###
ok
```

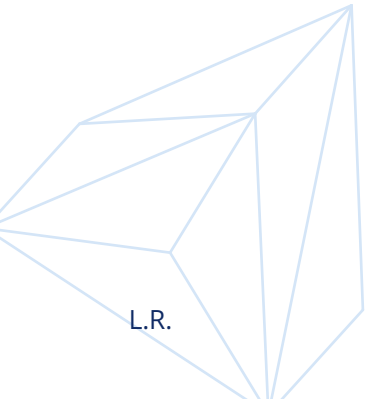
How TAGADA works?



Differentiate

Differential Attack

What is the probability to observe an output difference δ_c when we have injected an input difference δ_m in the plaintext and a difference δ_k in the key ?



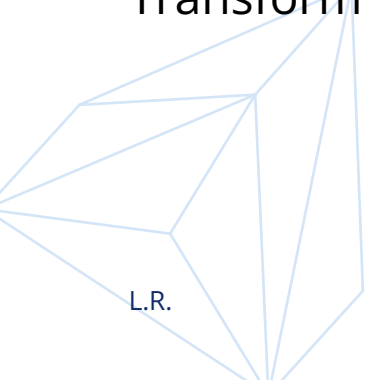
Differentiate

Differential Attack

What is the probability to observe an output difference δ_c when we have injected an input difference δ_m in the plaintext and a difference δ_k in the key ?

Objective

Transform the specification graph into a differential graph.



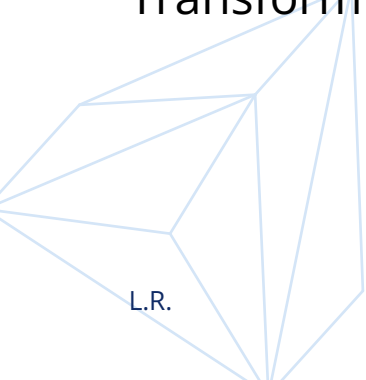
Differentiate

Differential Attack

What is the probability to observe an output difference δ_c when we have injected an input difference δ_m in the plaintext and a difference δ_k in the key ?

Objective

Transform the specification graph into a differential graph.



$$c = S[m \oplus k \oplus 10]$$

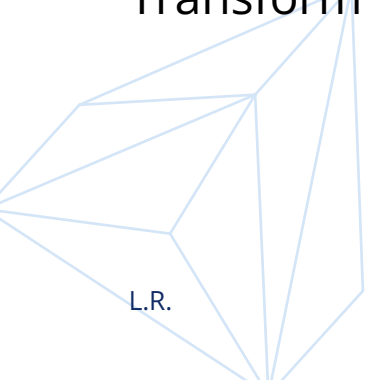
Differentiate

Differential Attack

What is the probability to observe an output difference δ_c when we have injected an input difference δ_m in the plaintext and a difference δ_k in the key ?

Objective

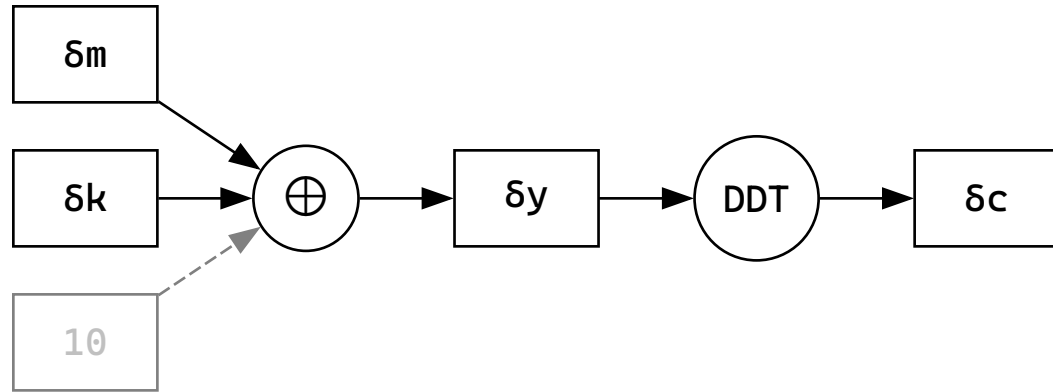
Transform the specification graph into a differential graph.



$$c = S[m \oplus k \oplus 10] \rightarrow \Pr[\delta_c \mid \delta_m \wedge \delta_k]$$

How TAGADA works?

$$\Pr[\delta_c \mid \delta_m \wedge \delta_k] = \Pr[\delta_c \mid \delta_y] \cdot \Pr[\delta_y \mid \delta_m \wedge \delta_k]$$



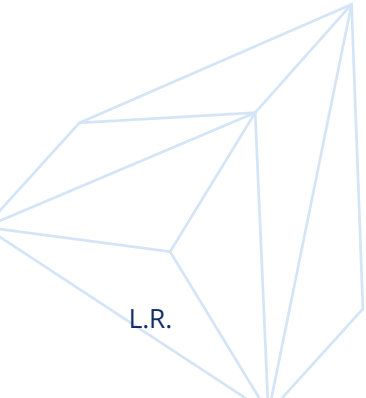
$$G = (N, E) :$$

$$N = \{\delta_m, \delta_k, \delta_y, \delta_z, \oplus, \text{DDT}\},$$

$$E = \{((\delta_m, \delta_k), \oplus, (\delta_y)), ((\delta_y), \text{DDT}, (\delta_c))\}$$

The model

```
var  $\delta_m$  : 0..15;  
var  $\delta_k$  : 0..15;  
var  $\delta_y$  : 0..15;  
var  $\delta_c$  : 0..15;  
var  $\Pr[\delta_z \mid \delta_y]$  :  $\{1, 2^{-2}, 2^{-3}\}$ ;  
constraint  $\delta_y = \delta_m \oplus \delta_k$ ;  
constraint  $(\delta_y, \delta_c, \Pr[\delta_c \mid \delta_y]) \in \text{Table}_{\text{DDT}}$ ;  
var objective =  $\Pr[\delta_z \mid \delta_y]$ ;  
maximize objective;
```



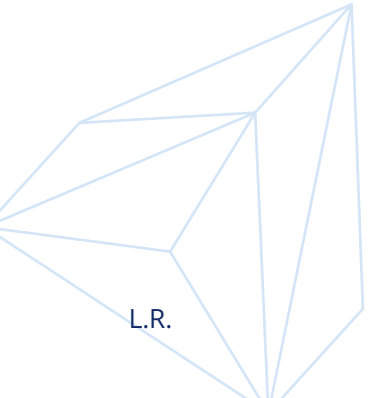
Command

```
# Transform a specification graph into a differential one  
java -jar 'tagada.jar' transform differentiate \  
aes128-r3.spec.json > aes128-r3.diff.json
```

Truncate Differential

Objective

Transforms the differential graph into a truncated differential graph.



Truncate Differential

Objective

Transforms the differential graph into a truncated differential graph.

Truncated Differential Attack

What is the probability to have Δ_c when we have Δ_m and Δ_k ?



Truncate Differential

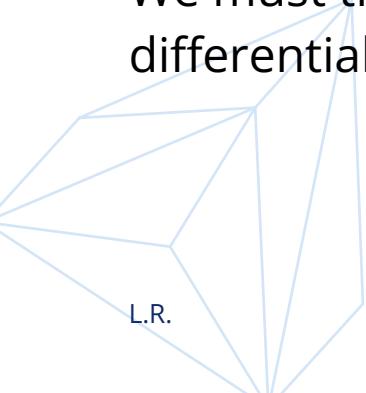
Objective

Transforms the differential graph into a truncated differential graph.

Truncated Differential Attack

What is the probability to have Δ_c when we have Δ_m and Δ_k ?

We must transform the representation of the graph into a truncated differential attack representation.



Truncate Differential

Objective

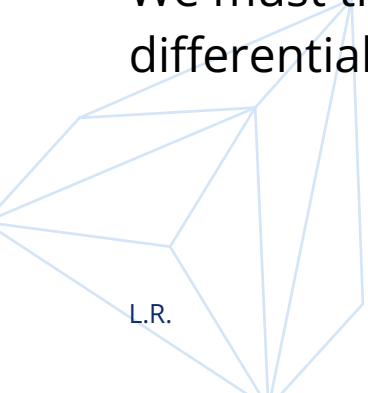
Transforms the differential graph into a truncated differential graph.

Truncated Differential Attack

What is the probability to have Δ_c when we have Δ_m and Δ_k ?

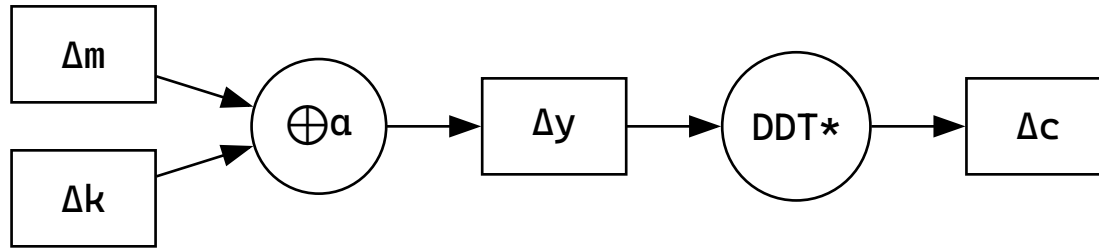
We must transform the representation of the graph into a truncated differential attack representation.

$$\Pr[\delta_c \mid \delta_m \wedge \delta_k] \rightarrow \Pr[\Delta_c \mid \Delta_m \wedge \Delta_k]$$



How TAGADA works?

$$\Pr[\Delta_c \mid \Delta_m \wedge \Delta_k] = \Pr[\Delta_c \mid \Delta_y] \cdot \Pr[\Delta_y \mid \Delta_m \wedge \Delta_k]$$



$$G = (N, E) :$$

$$N = \{ \Delta_m, \Delta_k, \Delta_y, \Delta_z, \oplus_\alpha, \text{DDT}^* \},$$

$$E = \{ ((\Delta_m, \Delta_k), \oplus_\alpha, (\Delta_y)), ((\Delta_y), \text{DDT}^*, (\Delta_c)) \}$$

The model

var $\Delta_m : 0..1$;

var $\Delta_k : 0..1$;

var $\Delta_y : 0..1$;

var $\Delta_c : 0..1$;

var $\Pr[\Delta_c \mid \Delta_y] : \{1, 2^{-2}\}$;

constraint $(\Delta_y, \Delta_m, \Delta_k) \in \{(0, 0, 0), (1, 0, 1), (0, 1, 1), (1, 1, 1)\}$;

constraint $(\Delta_y, \Delta_c, \Pr[\Delta_c \mid \Delta_y]) \in \text{Table}_{\text{DDT}^*}$;

var objective = $\Pr[\Delta_z \mid \Delta_y]$;

maximize objective;

Command

```
# Transform a differential graph into a truncated differential one
java -jar 'tagada.jar' transform truncate-differential \
  aes128-r3.diff.json \
  # Added improvement of [5], this is necessary for
  # ciphers with MDS or Pseudo MDS properties (e.g. AES, Midori)
  --generate-xors 5 \
  --diff-variables --transitivity \
  > aes128-r3.trunc.json
```

Searching Truncated Differential Characteristic (Step1)

```
# Transform a differential graph into a truncated differential one  
java -jar 'tagada.jar' search \  
  best-truncated-differential-characteristic \  
  aes128-r3.trunc.json
```

```
{"__P_0__":1,...,"in_59":0,"out_59":0,"objective":3000}
```

```
// 2-30.00
```

Searching Differential Characteristic (Step2)

```
java -jar 'tagada.jar' \  
  search best-differential-characteristic \  
  aes128-r3.trunc.json aes128-r3.diff.json
```

```
{"__P_0__":18,...,"in_59":0,"out_59":0,"objective":3100}
```

// $2^{-31.00}$

Our results



Step 1 [6]

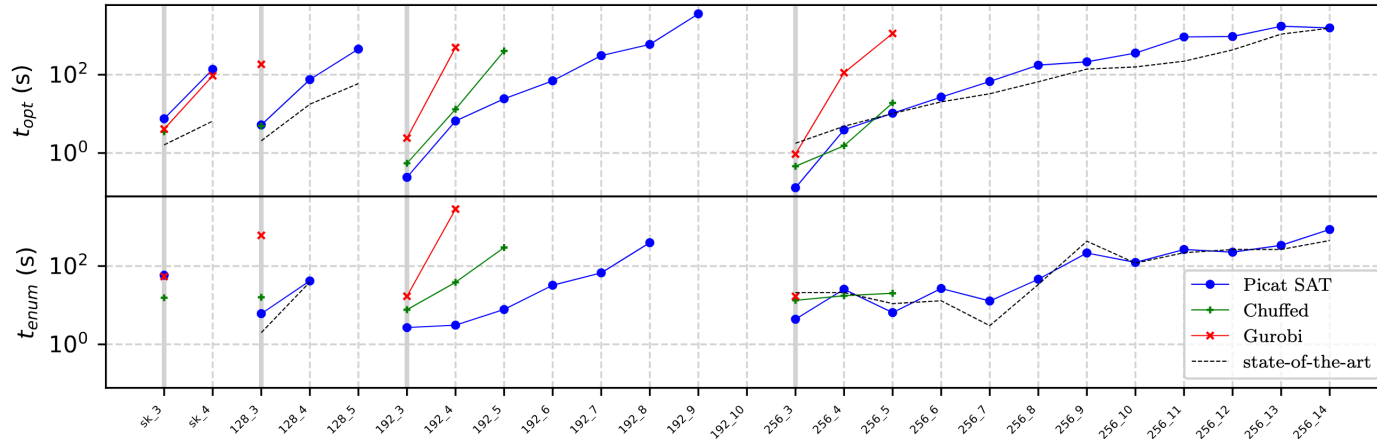


Figure 7: CPU time of Picat-SAT, Chuffed and Gurobi on the model generated by Tagada for AES instances when `--generate-xors = 5` and is selected (top plot for Step1-opt and bottom plot for Step1-enum). State-of-the art is the handcrafted model of [5] run with Picat-SAT.

Step 2 [7]

Cipher	R_{\max}	Pr	Ref.	Cipher	R_{\max}	Pr	Ref.	Cipher	R_{\max}	Pr	Ref.
Midori-64	16	2^{-16}	[8]	Rijndael-128-256	14	2^{-146}	[12]	Rijndael-224-160	4	2^{-122}	[12]
Midori-128	20	2^{-40}	[8]	Rijndael-160-128	4	2^{-112}	[12]	Rijndael-224-192	5	2^{-124}	[12]
Warp	41	2^{-40}	[9]	Rijndael-160-160	6	2^{-138}	[12]	Rijndael-224-224	7	2^{-196}	[12]
Twine-80	18	2^{-64}	[10]	Rijndael-160-192	8	2^{-141}	[12]	Rijndael-224-256	8	2^{-182}	[12]
Twine-128	16	2^{-52}	[10]	Rijndael-160-224	9	2^{-190}	[12]	Rijndael-256-128	3	2^{-54}	[12]
Skinny-64-TK1	11	2^{-64}	[11]	Rijndael-160-256	11	2^{-204}	[12]	Rijndael-256-160	4	2^{-130}	[12]
Skinny-128-TK1	11	2^{-74}	[11]	Rijndael-192-128	3	2^{-54}	[12]	Rijndael-256-192	5	2^{-148}	[12]
Rijndael-128-128	5	2^{-105}	[12]	Rijndael-192-160	5	2^{-118}	[12]	Rijndael-256-224	4	2^{-115}	[12]
Rijndael-128-160	7	2^{-120}	[12]	Rijndael-192-192	7	2^{-153}	[12]	Rijndael-256-256	6	2^{-129}	[12]
Rijndael-128-192	9	2^{-146}	[12]	Rijndael-192-224	8	2^{-205}	[12]				
Rijndael-128-224	12	2^{-212}	[12]	Rijndael-192-256	9	2^{-179}	[12]				
				Rijndael-224-128	3	2^{-54}	[12]				

Table 1: Best differential trails recovered with Tagada (time limit of one day). Detailed results will be available in an extended version of the current paper on eprint.

Further work



Codebase refactor

Tagada 1.0

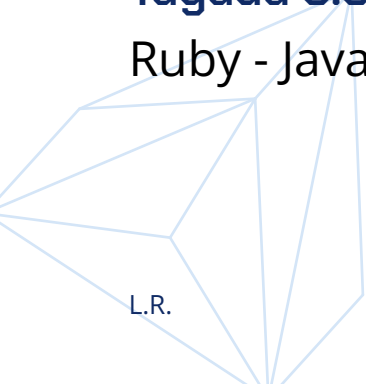
Python, Ruby and Rust (Python bindings)

Tagada 2.0 [7]

Ruby, Rust, Kotlin/Java, MiniZinc (+ external dependencies Picat, OrTools, Gurobi ,etc.)

Tagada 3.0 [WIP]

Ruby - Java

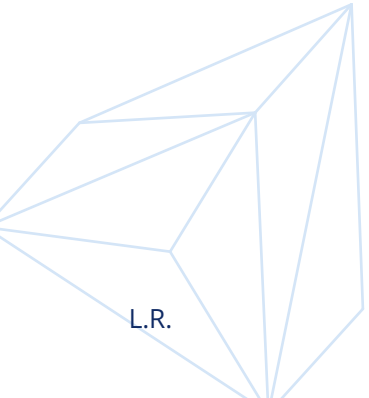


Working directions

- Creating dedicated constraints
 - Very poor filtering quality for the XOR operator
 - How to handle large S-Boxes?
- Include information specific to cryptographic problems in solvers
 - Round functions
 - Cipher symmetries
- Improving abstractions for truncated attacks
 - Creating tight linear system abstractions
 - Handle bit oriented ciphers
- Implementing new attacks

Further work

Thank you



Bibliography



Bibliography

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- [8] D. Gerault, "Security analysis of contactless communication protocols," 2018. [Online]. Available: <https://theses.hal.science/tel-02536478>
- [9] J. S. Teh and A. Biryukov, "Differential Cryptanalysis of WARP." [Online]. Available: <https://eprint.iacr.org/2021/1641>
- [10] K. Sakamoto *et al.*, "Security of Related-Key Differential Attacks on TWINE, Revisited," *IEICE Trans. Fundam. Electron. Commun. Comput. Sci.*, no. 1, pp. 212–214, 2020, doi: [10.1587/TRANSFUN.2019CIL0004](https://doi.org/10.1587/TRANSFUN.2019CIL0004).
- [11] S. Delaune, P. Derbez, P. Huynh, M. Minier, V. Mollimard, and C. Prud'homme, "Efficient Methods to Search for Best Differential Characteristics on SKINNY," in *ACNS 21: 19th International Conference on Applied Cryptography and Network Security, Part-II*, K. Sako and N. O. Tippenhauer, Eds., in Lecture Notes in Computer Science, vol. 12727. Springer, Cham, Switzerland, Jun. 2021, pp. 184–207. doi: [10.1007/978-3-030-78375-4_8](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-030-78375-4_8).

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