

# What the Fork: Implementation Aspects of the Forkcipher Primitive

NIST LWC Workshop 2019

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**ForkAE**

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## ForkAE is a NIST second round candidate

Designers: Elena Andreeva, Virginie Lallemand, Antoon Purnal,  
Reza Reyhanitabar, Arnab Roy, Damian Vizár

**NEWS:** ForkAE is accepted at ASIACRYPT 2019  
full version: ePrint report 2019/1004

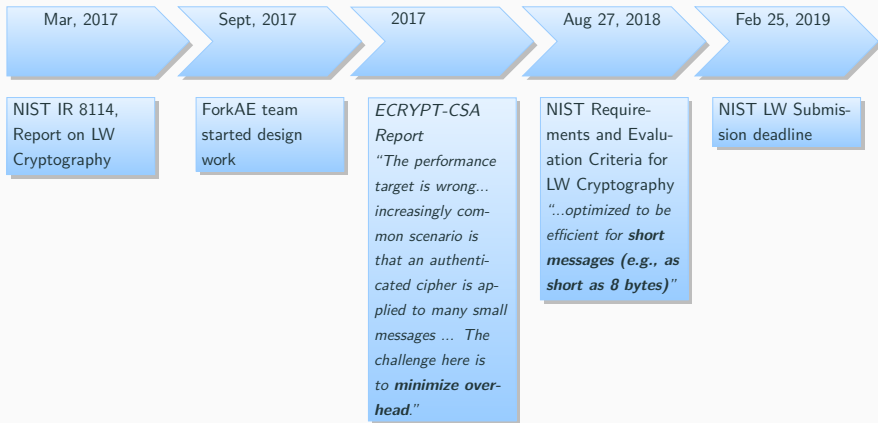
Optimized SW, HW, SC implementations, new modes coming!

<https://www.esat.kuleuven.be/cosic/forkae/>

We will announce **cryptanalysis challenges and PRIZES** for new ForkAE cryptanalysis/security results: to be handed at **SILC** - Security and Implementation of Lightweight Cryptography - EC2020 collocated Workshop, May 10, 2020

<https://www.esat.kuleuven.be/cosic/events/silc2020/>

# ForkAE Project



## Numerous examples

- ✓ **CAN-FD automotive protocol** by 2020
- ✓ Bluetooth, SigFox, LoraWan and ZigBee protocols
- ✓ **Narrowband IoT (NB-IoT)** applications
  - smart sensors
  - traffic lights
  - smart parking
  - smart anything
- ✓ **Health applications**
- ✓ **Industrial control systems**

**Most cryptosystems optimized for long messages**

# Design Goals

## Secure

- ✓ Well-analysed: based on SKINNY
- ✓ Provably secure: PAEF and SAEF

## Efficient

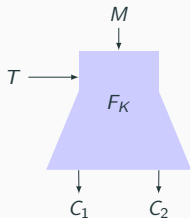
- ✓ **Excellent performance for small messages**
- ✓ Excellent throughput per area in HW
- ✓ Inherits LW implementation features of SKINNY
- ✓ Multiple trade-offs in speed-resource design space

## Flexible

key size: 128 bits and variable block, nonce, tag sizes

# ForkAE Design Idea

$$F : \mathcal{K} \times \mathcal{M} \times \mathcal{T} \mapsto \mathcal{C}_1 \times \mathcal{C}_2 \text{ with } |\mathcal{M}| = |\mathcal{C}_1| = |\mathcal{C}_2|$$

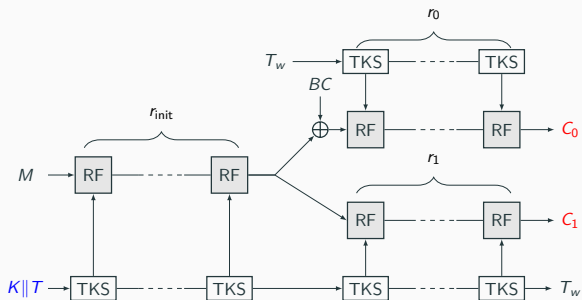


Primitive $F$	$ M $	$ T $	$ T  +  K $
FORKSKINNY-64-192	64	64	192
FORKSKINNY-128-192	128	64	192
FORKSKINNY-128-256	128	128	256
FORKSKINNY-128-288	128	128	288

**Minimizes overhead**

Single FORKSKINNY call both authenticates and encrypts  $M$

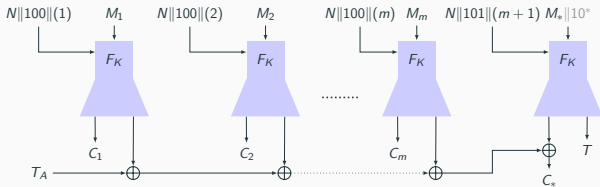
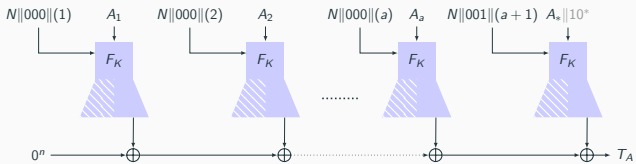
# Forkcipher Primitive



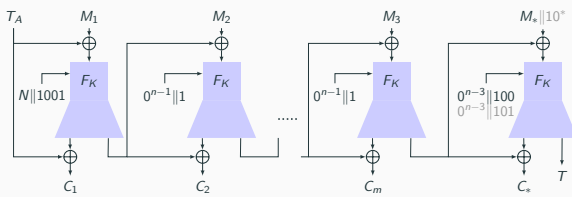
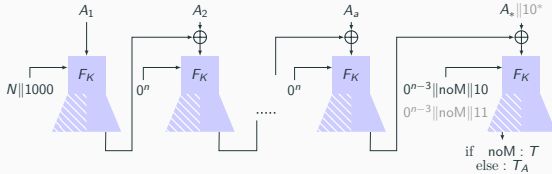
Primitive	block	tweak	tweakey	$r_{init}$	$r_0$	$r_1$
FORKSKINNY-64-192	64	64	192	17	23	23
FORKSKINNY-128-192	128	64	192	21	27	27
FORKSKINNY-128-256	128	128	256	21	27	27
FORKSKINNY-128-288	128	128	288	25	31	31



# Mode: PAEF



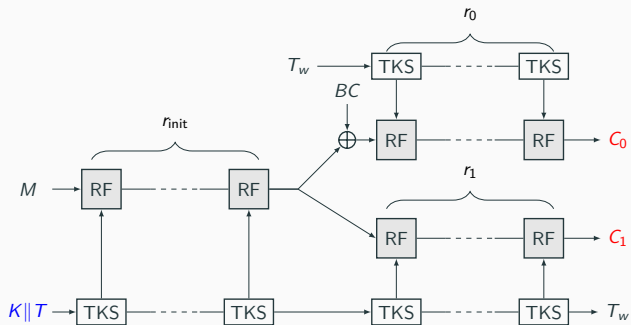
# Mode: SAEF



# Hardware implementation aspects

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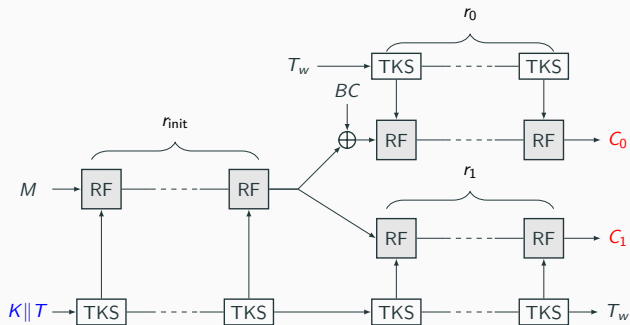
# Hardware implementation aspects

Round-based implementations

Primitive-level parallelism

Stateless forkcipher?

Unrolling strategies



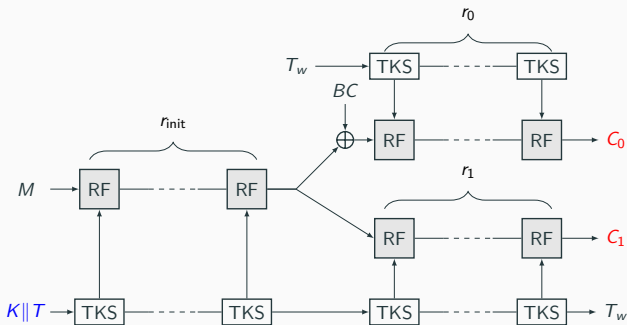
# Hardware implementation aspects

## Round-based implementations

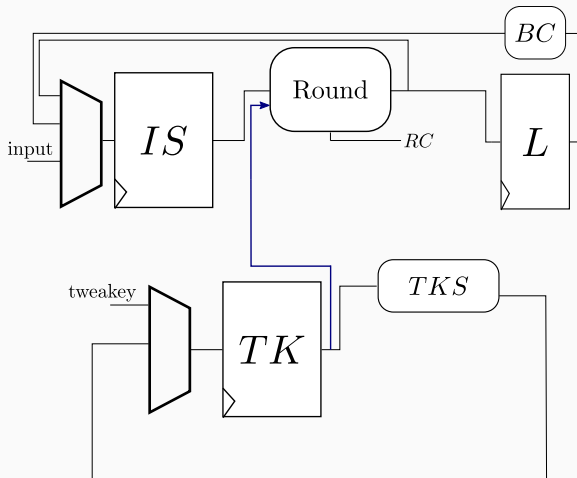
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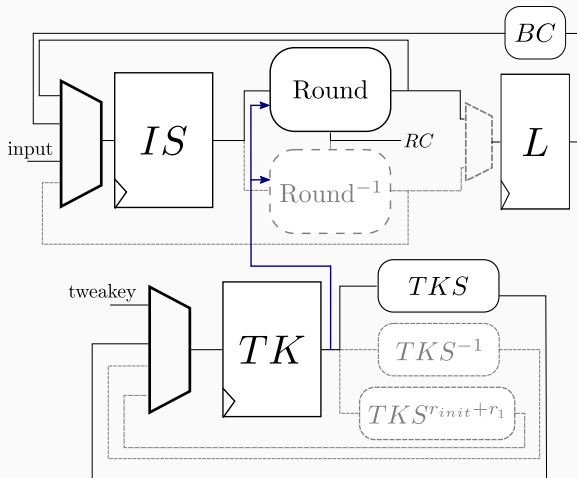
Unrolling strategies



## Round-based architecture

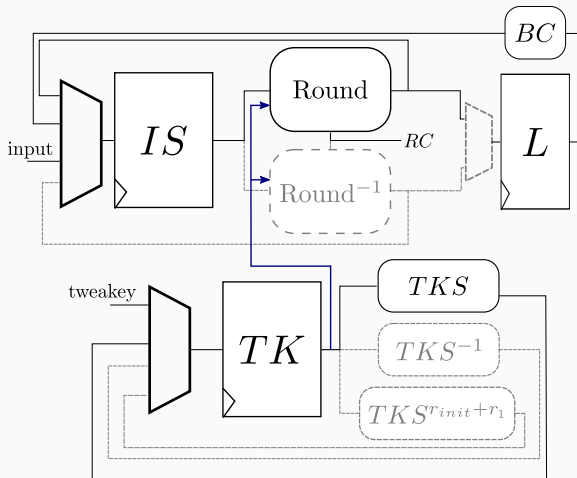


# Round-based architecture





## Round-based architecture



**Instance-specific optimizations:** key schedule, empty *TK* bits

# Skinny and ForkSkinny

Area [GE]		
Primitive	ENC-ONLY	ENC+DEC
SKINNY-64-192	3003	4522
SKINNY-128-256	4992	6355
SKINNY-128-384	5914	8311
FORKSKINNY-64-192	3692	5362
FORKSKINNY-128-192	5299	7305
FORKSKINNY-128-256	5842	8101
FORKSKINNY-128-288	6751	9182

Maximal frequency [MHz]		
Primitive	ENC-ONLY	ENC+DEC
SKINNY-64-192	1351	1087
SKINNY-128-256	1087	1020
SKINNY-128-384	1020	962
FORKSKINNY-64-192	1282	980
FORKSKINNY-128-192	1064	877
FORKSKINNY-128-256	1064	917
FORKSKINNY-128-288	990	862

**Synthesis:** NANGATE 45NM in typical operating conditions

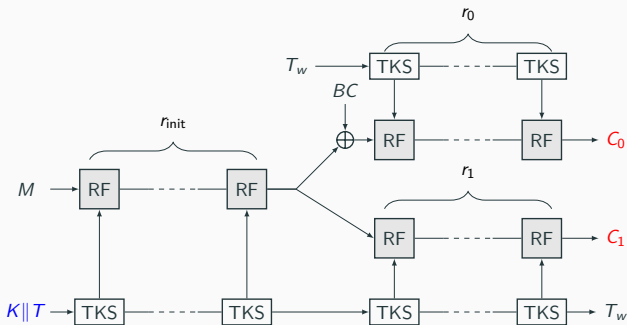
# Hardware implementation aspects

Round-based implementations

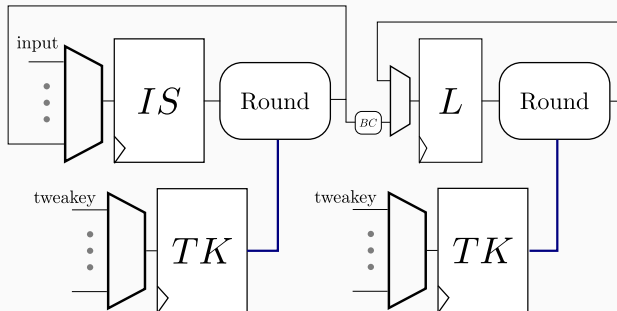
**Primitive-level parallelism**

Stateless forkcipher?

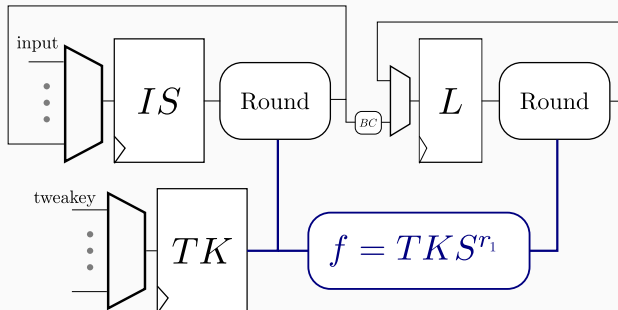
Unrolling strategies



## Fast-forwarding – concept



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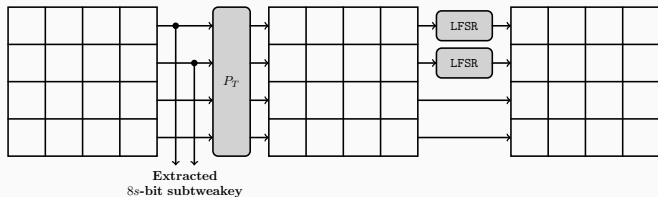


### Lightweight parallelism (//)

**Two** forward round functions (**one** inverse for decryption)

$TK$  only **once**

## Fast-forwarding – critical path



Fast-forwarding **only slightly influences critical path**

# Skinny and ForkSkinny – parallel

Area [GE]				
Primitive	ENC-ONLY		ENC+DEC	
	Regular	Parallel	Regular	Parallel
SKINNY-64-192	3003	/	4522	/
SKINNY-128-256	4992	/	6355	/
SKINNY-128-384	5914	/	8311	/
FORKSKINNY-64-192	3692	4307	5362	6229
FORKSKINNY-128-192	5299	6113	7305	8608
FORKSKINNY-128-256	5842	6688	8101	9450
FORKSKINNY-128-288	6751	7917	9182	10876

Maximal frequency [MHz]				
Primitive	ENC-ONLY		ENC+DEC	
	Regular	Parallel	Regular	Parallel
SKINNY-64-192	1351	/	1087	/
SKINNY-128-256	1087	/	1020	/
SKINNY-128-384	1020	/	962	/
FORKSKINNY-64-192	1282	1253	980	952
FORKSKINNY-128-192	1064	1020	877	877
FORKSKINNY-128-256	1064	1020	917	884
FORKSKINNY-128-288	990	962	862	820

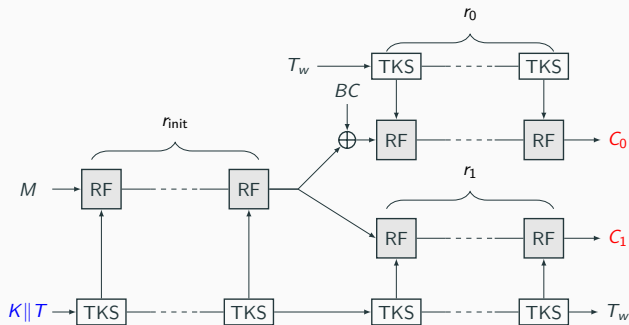
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**Stateless forkcipher?**

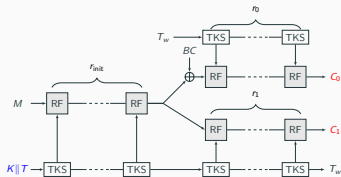
Unrolling strategies







# Can be small, too

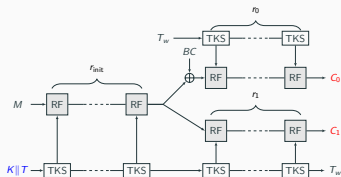


Forkcipher implementation **without storing state**

**Restart**

**Recompute**

# Can be small, too



Forkcipher implementation **without storing state**

**Restart**

**Recompute** (confirmed by Balli-Banik for FORKAES <sup>1</sup>)

<sup>1</sup><https://eprint.iacr.org/2019/1213>

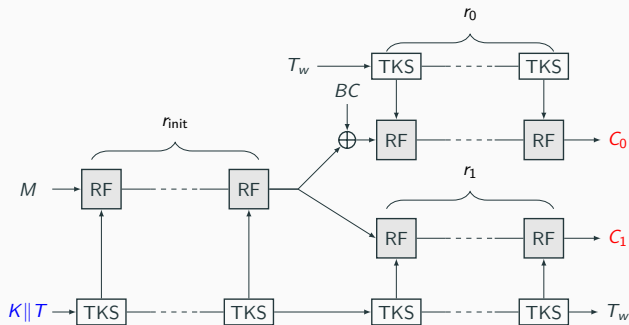
# Hardware implementation aspects

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**Unrolling strategies**



## Unrolling strategies

Instance <b>(1 cycle)</b>	Area [GE]	Critical path [ns]
ForkSkinny-64-192	34167	26
ForkSkinny-128-192	62387	37

## Unrolling strategies

Instance <b>(1 cycle)</b>	Area [GE]	Critical path [ns]
ForkSkinny-64-192	34167	26
ForkSkinny-128-192	62387	37

Instance <b>(3 cycles)</b>	Area [GE]	Critical path [ns]
ForkSkinny-64-192	16221	14
ForkSkinny-128-192	29666	20

# Comparison

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# Comparison with Skinny-based designs

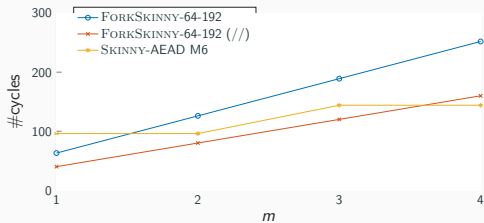
Implementation (round-based)	Area [GE] E-ONLY	Area [GE] ENCDEC	Number of cycles for encrypting $(a + m)$ 64-bit blocks						General
			$a = 0$			$a = 1$			
			$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 3$	$m = 0$	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	
Sk-AEAD M6	8095	9458	96	96	144	48	96	<b>96</b>	$48(\lceil \frac{a}{2} \rceil + \lceil \frac{m}{2} \rceil + 1)$
PAEF-64-192	5034	6704	<b>63</b>	126	189	<b>40</b>	103	166	$40(a + 1.575m)$
PAEF-64-192 (//)	5500	7422	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	<b>120</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>80</b>	120	$40(a + m)$

Implementation (round-based)	Area [GE] E-ONLY	Area [GE] ENCDEC	Number of cycles for encrypting $(a + m)$ 128-bit blocks						General
			$a = 0$			$a = 1$			
			$m = 1$	$m = 2$	$m = 3$	$m = 0$	$m = 1$	$m = 2$	
ROMULUS-N3	6288	6406	96	144	192	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	$48(\lceil \frac{a-1}{1.75} \rceil + m + 1)$
SAEF-128-192	7197	9203	<b>75</b>	150	225	<b>48</b>	123	198	$48(a + 1.562m)$
SAEF-128-256	7740	9999	<b>75</b>	150	225	<b>48</b>	123	198	$48(a + 1.562m)$
SAEF-128-192 (//)	7713	10804	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	$48(a + m)$
SAEF-128-256 (//)	8288	11646	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	$48(a + m)$
Sk-AEAD M5	8746	10109	96	144	192	96	144	192	$48(a + m + 1)$
PAEF-128-192 (//)	8020	11112	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	$48(a + m)$
PAEF-128-256 (//)	8745	12103	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>144</b>	$48(a + m)$
ROMULUS-N1	7018	7136	112	168	224	<b>56</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>168</b>	$56(\lceil \frac{a-1}{2} \rceil + m + 1)$
Sk-AEAD M1-2	9966	12363	112	168	224	112	168	224	$56(a + m + 1)$
PAEF-128-288	9274	11705	<b>87</b>	174	261	<b>56</b>	<b>143</b>	230	$56(a + 1.553m)$
PAEF-128-288 (//)	10141	13697	<b>56</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>168</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>168</b>	$56(a + m)$

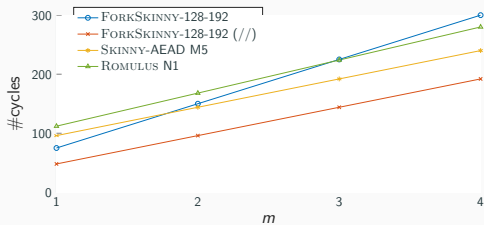
**Hybrid area estimation:** primitive synthesized, mode estimated  
(SFF/MUX/XOR/NAND with 7.67/2.33/2/1 GE)



# Message sizes

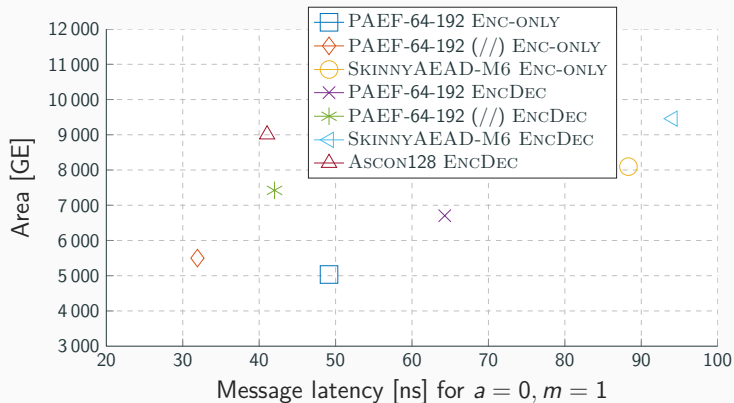


## 64-bit blocks



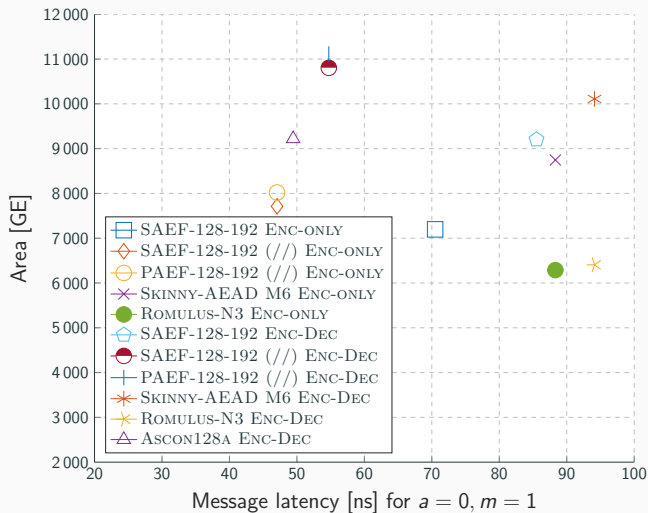
## 128-bit blocks

# Speed-area exploration (64 bits)



**64-bit blocks ( $a = 0, m = 1$ )**

# Speed-area exploration (128 bits)



**128-bit blocks ( $a = 0, m = 1$ )**

## Conclusion

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- Excellent performance on **shortest of messages**
- Novel **implementation aspects** of forkcipher
- Cheap **primitive-level parallelism**

<https://github.com/byt3bit/forkae/>



Watch

123



Star

45



Fork

42

## Conclusion

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123



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45



ForkAE

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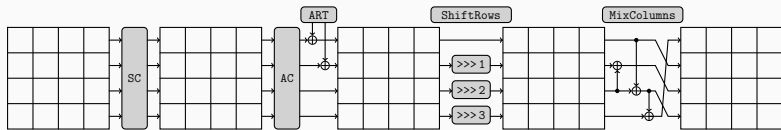
Thank you!

## Extra slides

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# Skinny round function



SKINNY round function