

SONY

ASK 2012

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Recent Meet-in-the-Middle Attacks on Block Ciphers

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(Joint work with Kyoji Shibutani)

Outline

1. Meet-in-the-Middle (MitM) attacks on Block ciphers
2. MitM on Block cipher having *simple* KSF
 - XTEA, LED, Piccolo (@ ACISP 2012 w/ K. Shibutani)
 - GOST (@ FSE 2011 and JoC)
3. MitM on Block cipher having *complex* KSF
 - All subkeys recovery attack (@ SAC 2012 w/ K. Shibutani)
 - KATAN-32/48/64, SHACAL-2, CAST-128
4. Conclusion

1.Meet-in-the-Middle Attack on Block Cipher

Background

- **Meet-in-the-Middle (MitM) attack** was proposed by Diffie and Hellman (1977)
 - Applied to Block Cipher such as Triple DES.

- It was extended to **Preimage Attack** on hash function by Aoki and Sasaki (2008) [AS08]
 - Develop several novel techniques: Splice and Cut, Initial structure, partial matching [AS08, SA09, KRS12]
 - Full Preimage Attacks on MD5 and Tiger [SA09, GLRW10]
 - Best Preimage Attacks on SHA-1 and SHA-2 [KK12, KRS12]
 - Convert it into Collision attack : Pseudo collision on SHA-2 [LIS12]
Collision Attack on Skein [K'12]

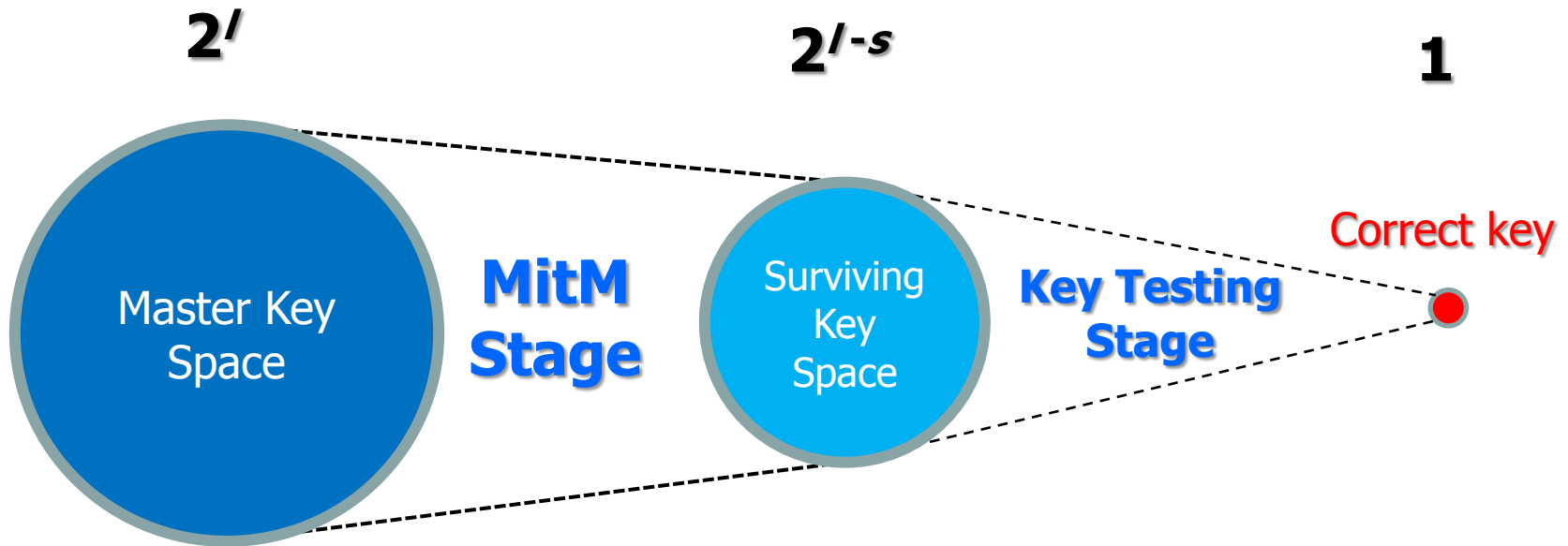
- Recently, MitM is applied to Block cipher with several techniques.
 - Single Key Attacks on full KTANTAN and GOST [BR09, I'11]
 - Best Attacks on AES, IDEA, XTEA, LED and Piccolo [BKR11, KLR11, IS12]

Meet-in-the-Middle Attack on Block Cipher [BR09]

- Consists of two stages : MitM stage \Rightarrow Key testing stage

@ MITM stage : Filter out a part of wrong keys by using [MitM techniques](#)

@ Key testing stage : Find the correct key in the brute force manner.



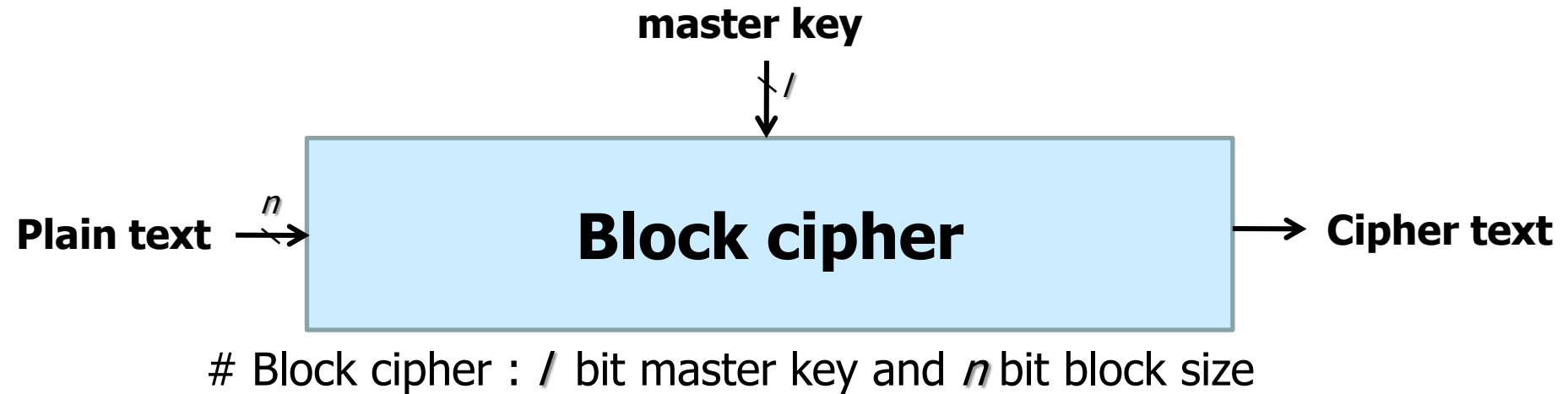
l : key size in bit

s : matching state in bit

MitM Stage

■ Preparation

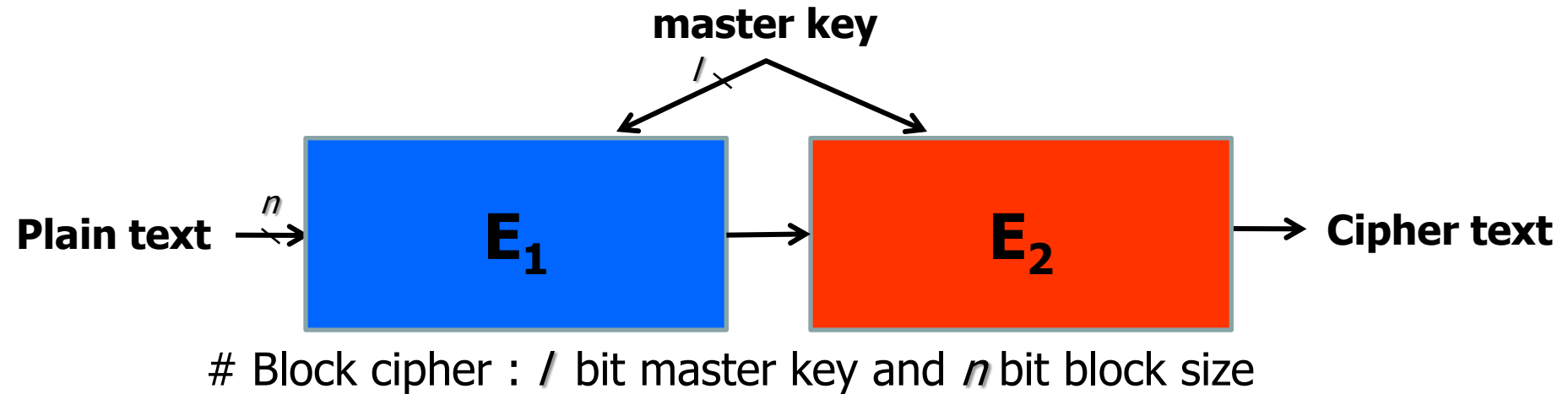
- Divide Block cipher into two sub function E_1 and E_2



MitM Stage

■ Preparation

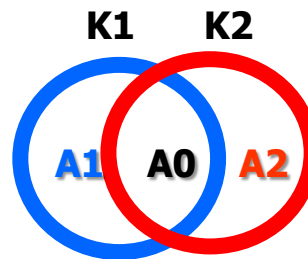
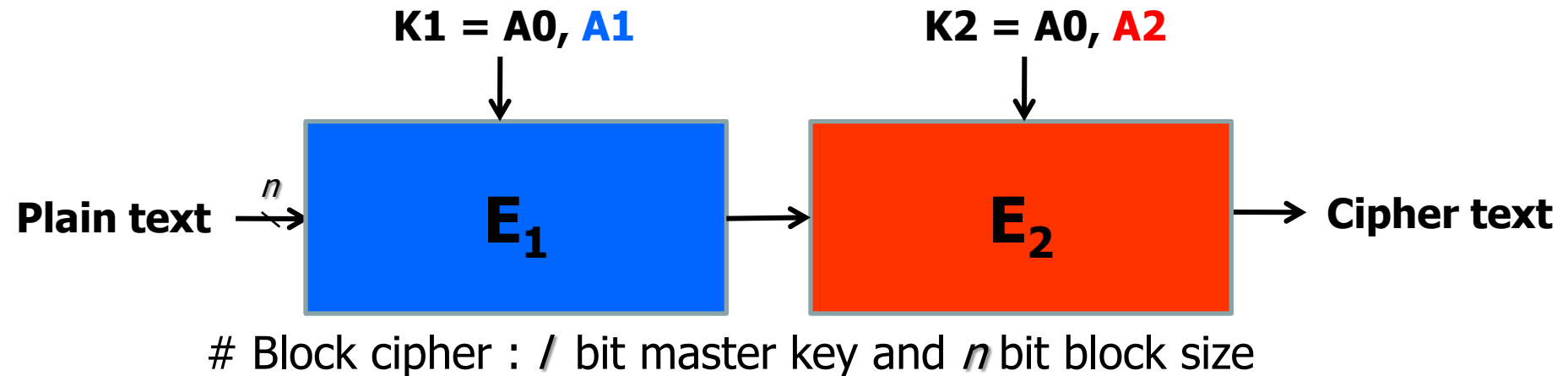
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MitM Stage

■ Preparation

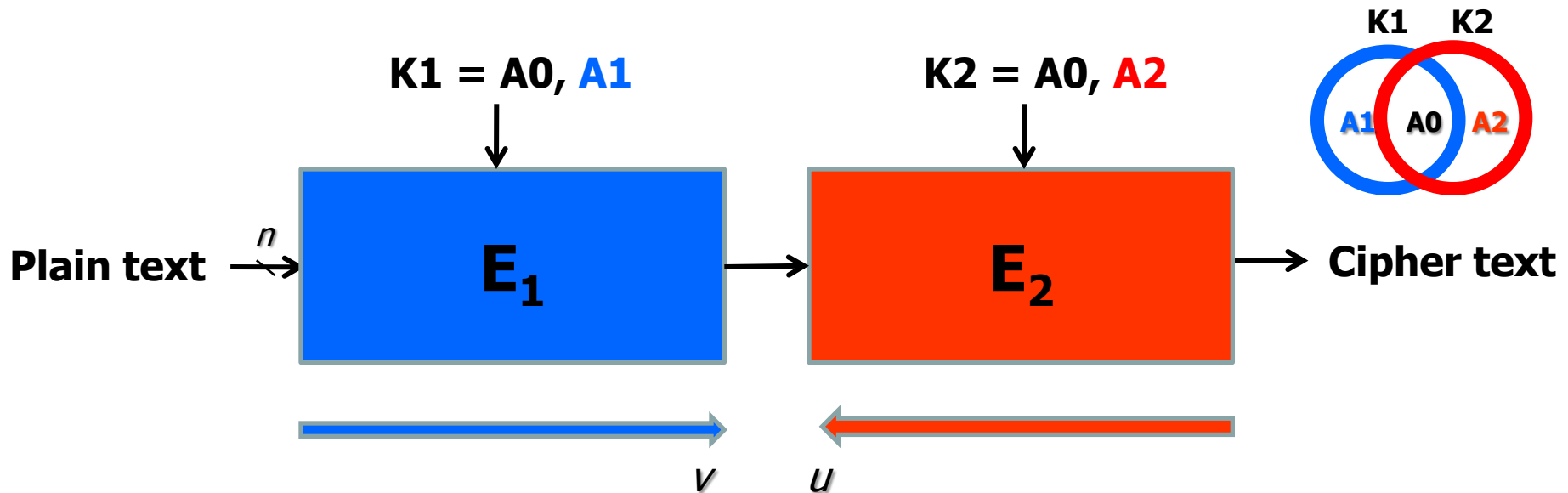
- Divide Block cipher into two sub function E_1 and E_2
- Construct 3-subset of master key **A0**, **A1**, and **A2**



$$\begin{aligned} A0 &= K1 \cap K2 \\ A1 &= K1 / (K1 \cap K2) \\ A2 &= K2 / (K1 \cap K2) \end{aligned}$$

K1: sub set of key bits used in E_1 .
K2: sub set of key bits used in E_2 .

MitM Stage



1. Guess the value of **A0**
2. Compute v for all value of **A1** and make a table (**A1**, v) pairs
3. Compute u for all value of **A2**
4. If $v = u$, then regard (**A0**, **A1**, **A2**) as key candidates
5. Repeat 2-4 with all value of **A0** ($2^{|A0|}$ times)

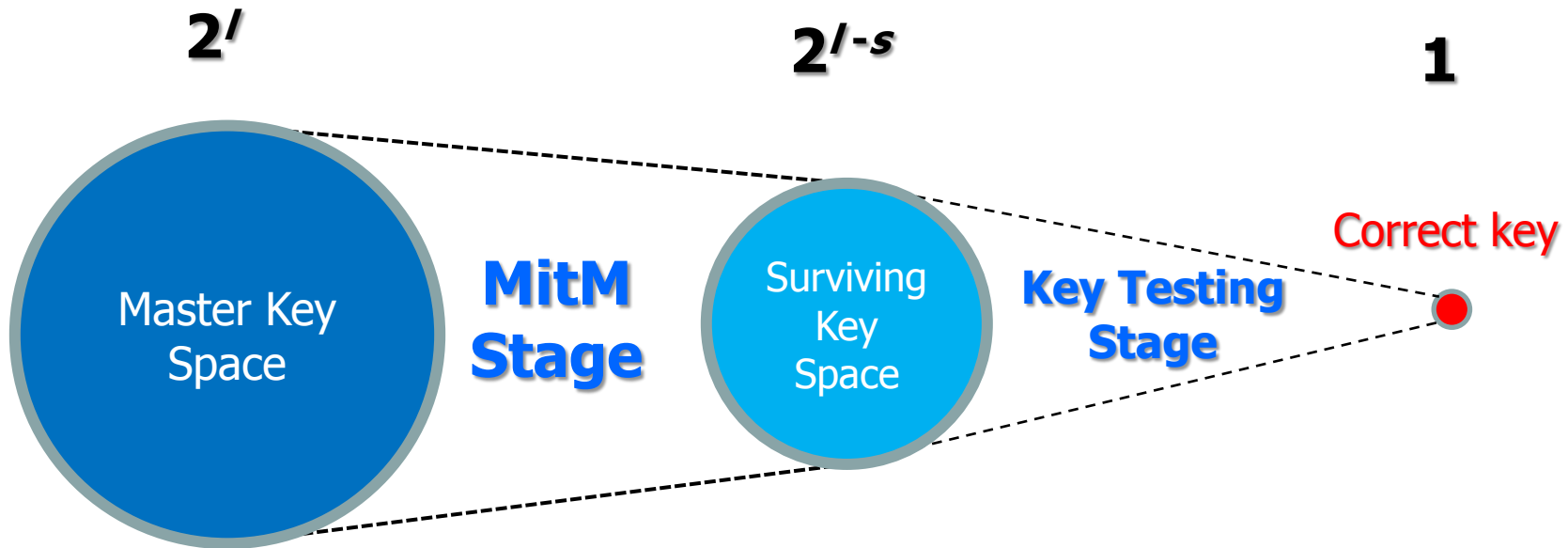
of surviving key candidates :

$$(2^{|A1|+|A2|} / 2^s) \times 2^{|A0|} = 2^{l-s}$$

l : key size in bit
 s : matching state size

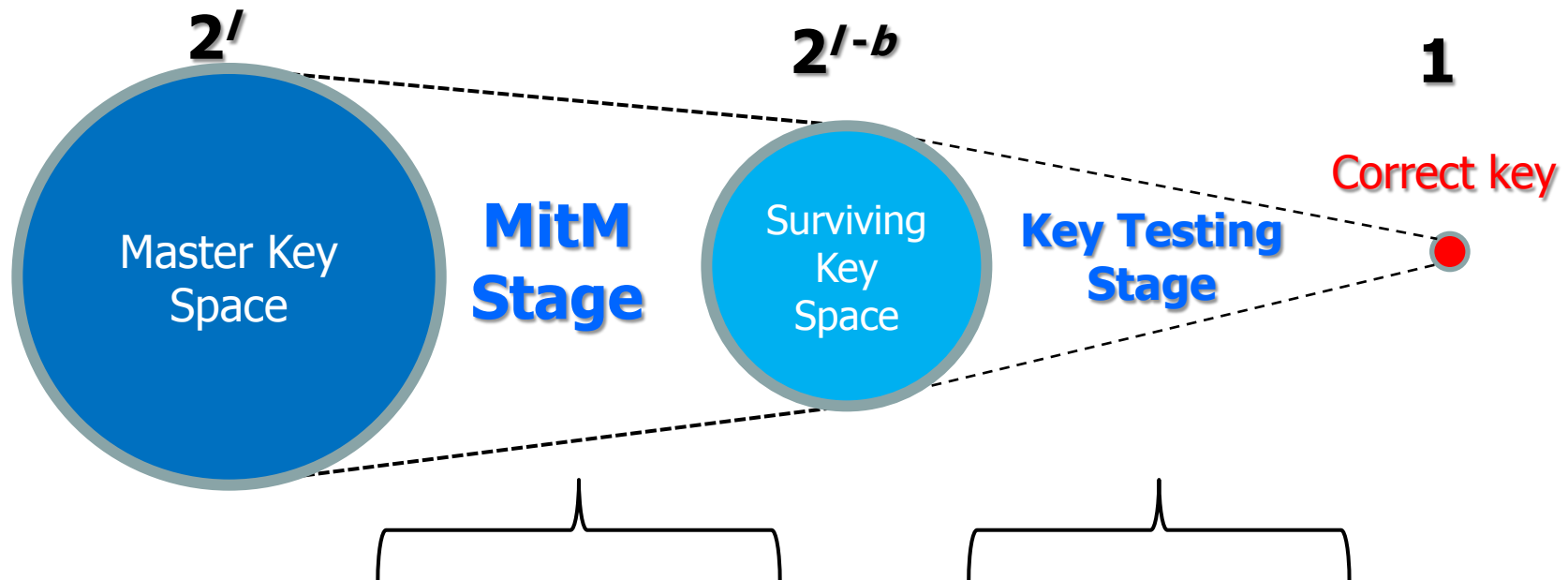
Key Testing Stage

- Test surviving keys in brute force manner by using additional data.



I : key size in bit
 s : matching state size

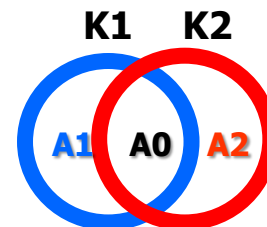
Evaluation



$$\begin{array}{lcl} \text{Complexity} & = & 2^{|A0|}(2^{|A1|} + 2^{|A2|}) + (2^{l-s} + 2^{l-2s} + \dots) \\ \text{Data} & = \max & (1, l/b) \end{array}$$

The Point of the attack :

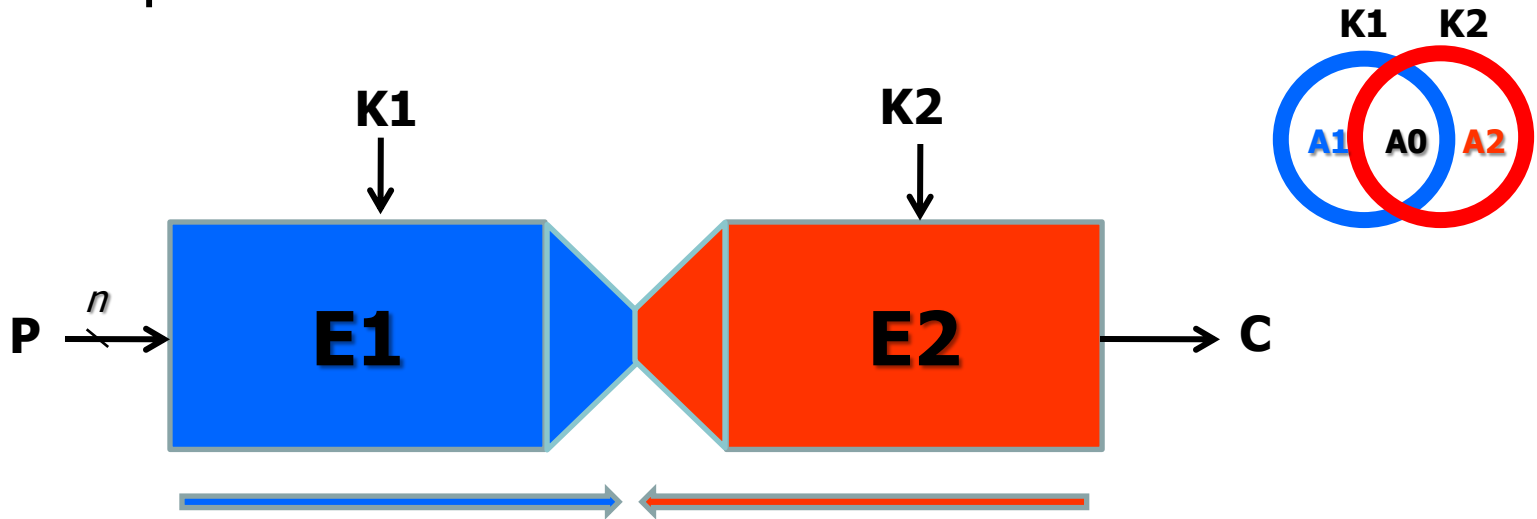
Find independent sets of master key bit such as A1 and A2



Advanced techniques

Partial Matching [AS08]

- Match a part of state instead of **full** state



Advantage:

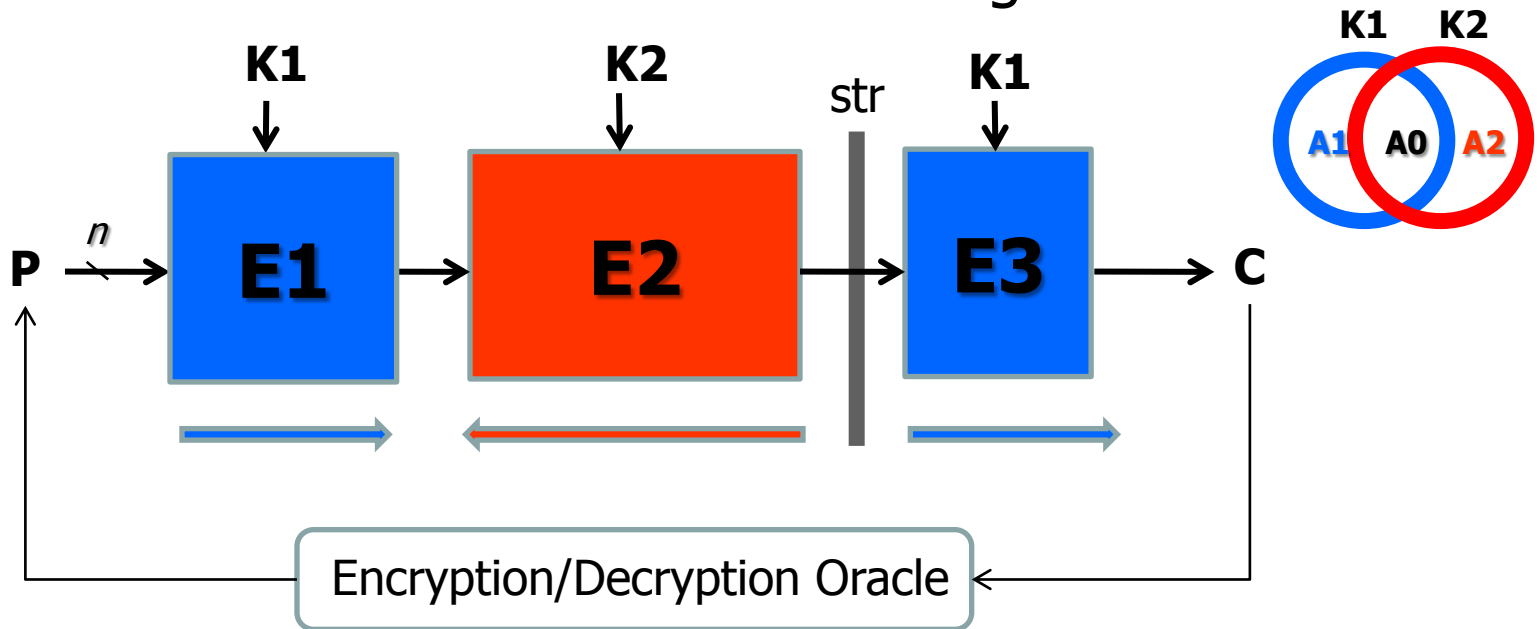
=> allow to omit key bits around matching state

Disadvantage:

=> decrease rate of rejected keys @matching state

Splice and Cut [AS08]

- regard the first and last round as contiguous rounds



Advantage:

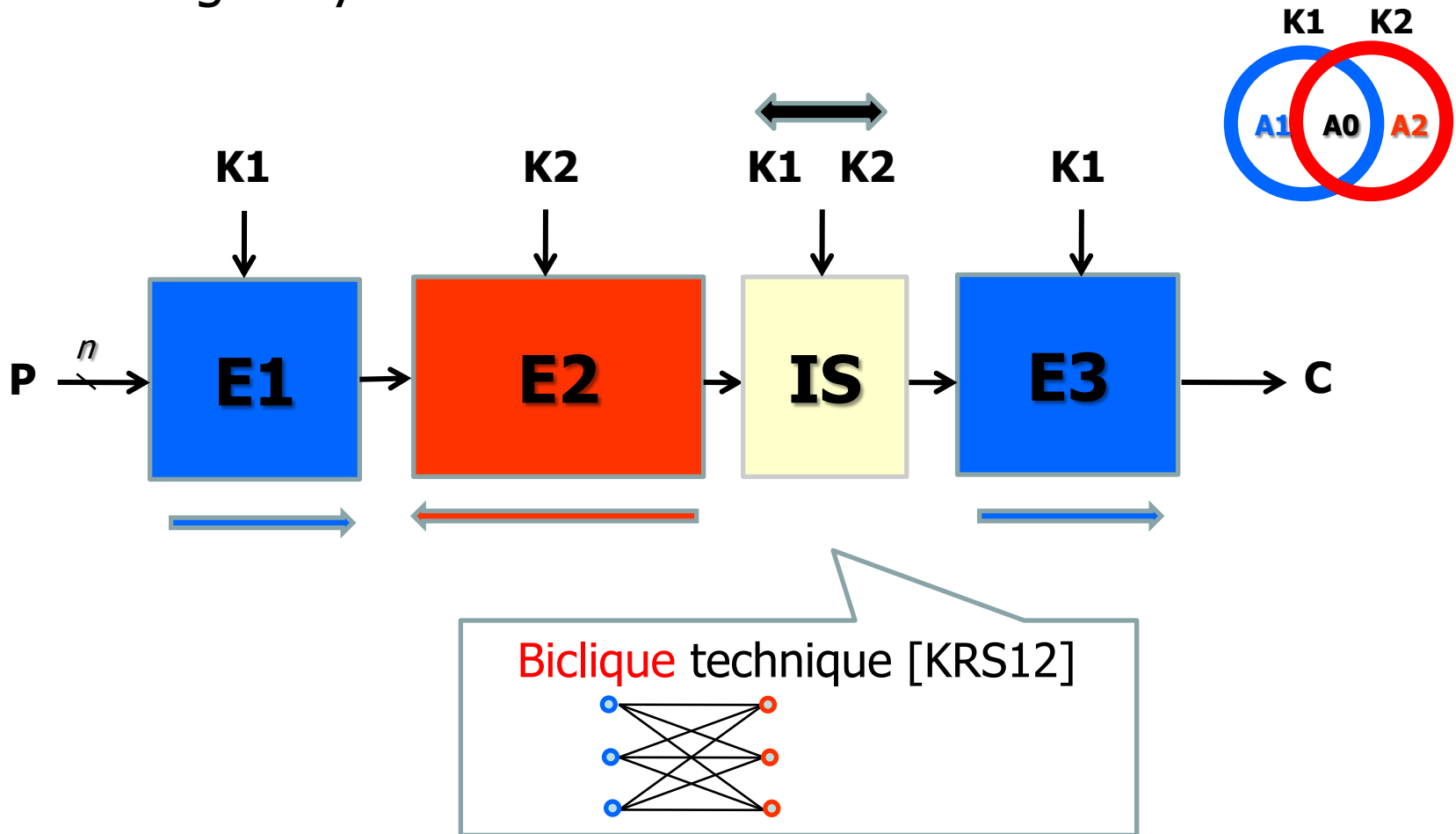
=> choose chunks freely similar to hash functions

Disadvantage:

=> increase required data complexity

Initial Structure [SA09]

- Exchange key bits around start state



2.MitM attack on Block Cipher having Simple KSF

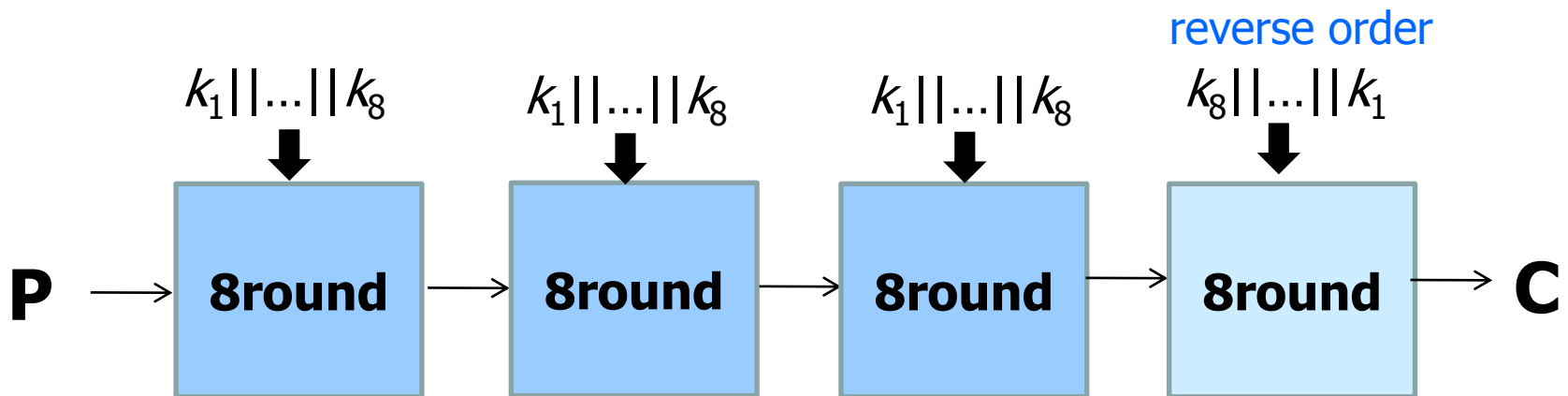
- XTEA, LED, Piccolo (ACISP 2012, w/ K.Shibutani)
- GOST (FSE 2011, JoC)

Simple Key Scheduling

- Simple Key Scheduling = Bit (word) Permutation based
 - Used in many lightweight Block ciphers
 - GOST, XTEA, HIGHT, LED, Piccolo

Ex : GOST block cipher

=> 256 bit key is divided into eight 32 bit words s.t. $k_1 || \dots || k_8$



It is relatively easy to evaluate of security against MitM, because we can focus on only data processing part

Target Ciphers

■ XTEA (64-bit block, 128 bit key) [NW97]

- developed in 1997
- Data processing part : Feistel

■ LED (64-bit block, 64-128 bit key) [GPPR11]

- Proposed @ CHES2011
- Data processing part : SPN (AES base)

■ Piccolo (64-bit block, 80/128 bit key) [SIHMAS11]

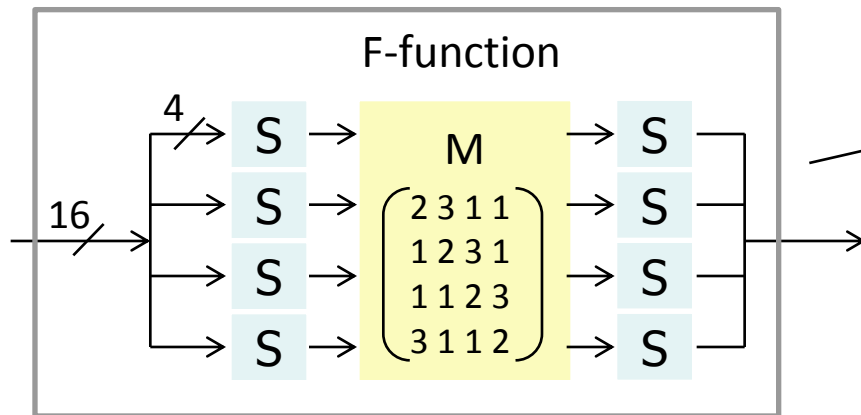
- Proposed @ CHES2011
- Data processing part : A variant of Generalized Feistel

All of them employ [simple key scheduling Function](#)

Piccolo: Overall Structure

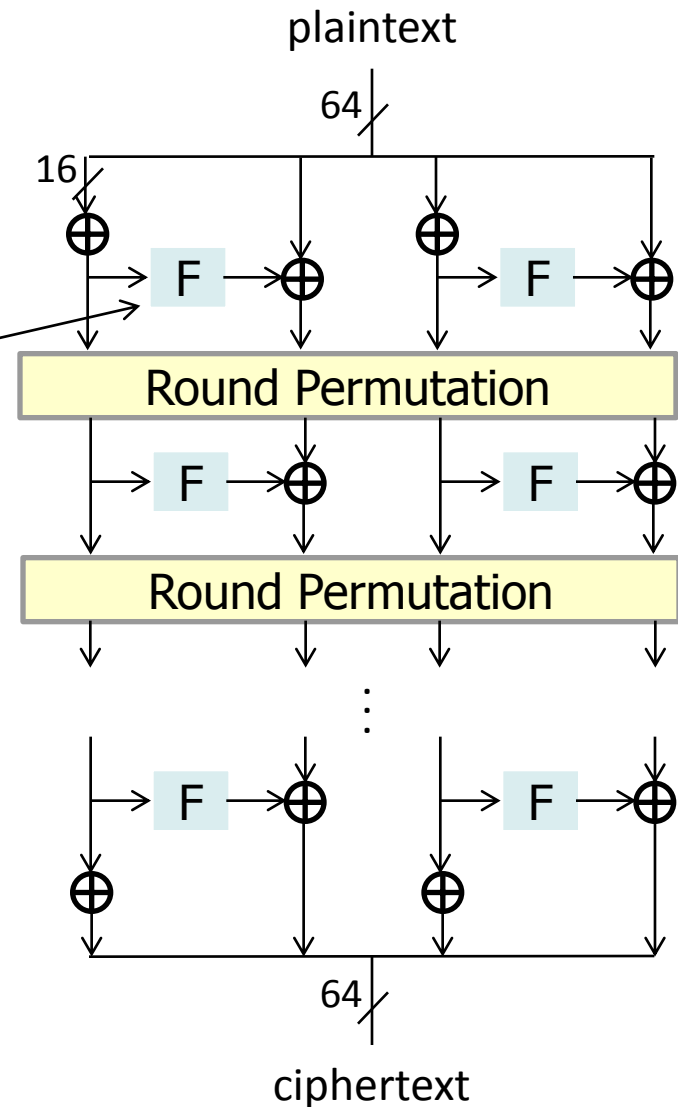
Data processing part:

a variant of generalized Feistel network



Keyless SPS-type F-function

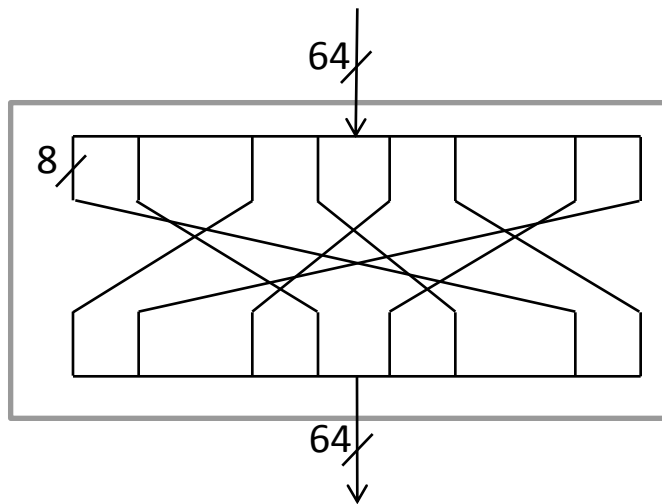
#round : 25 (80-bit key), 31 (128-bit key)



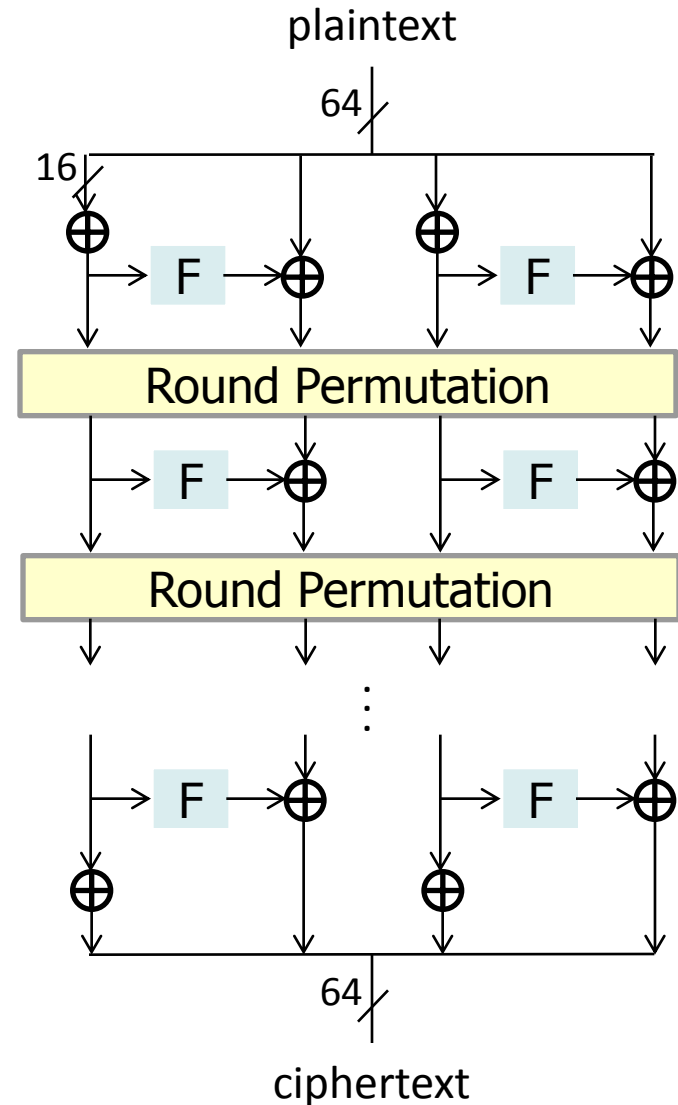
Piccolo: Overall Structure

Data processing part:

a variant of generalized Feistel network



Half-word based round permutation



Piccolo: Overall Structure

Key scheduling part:

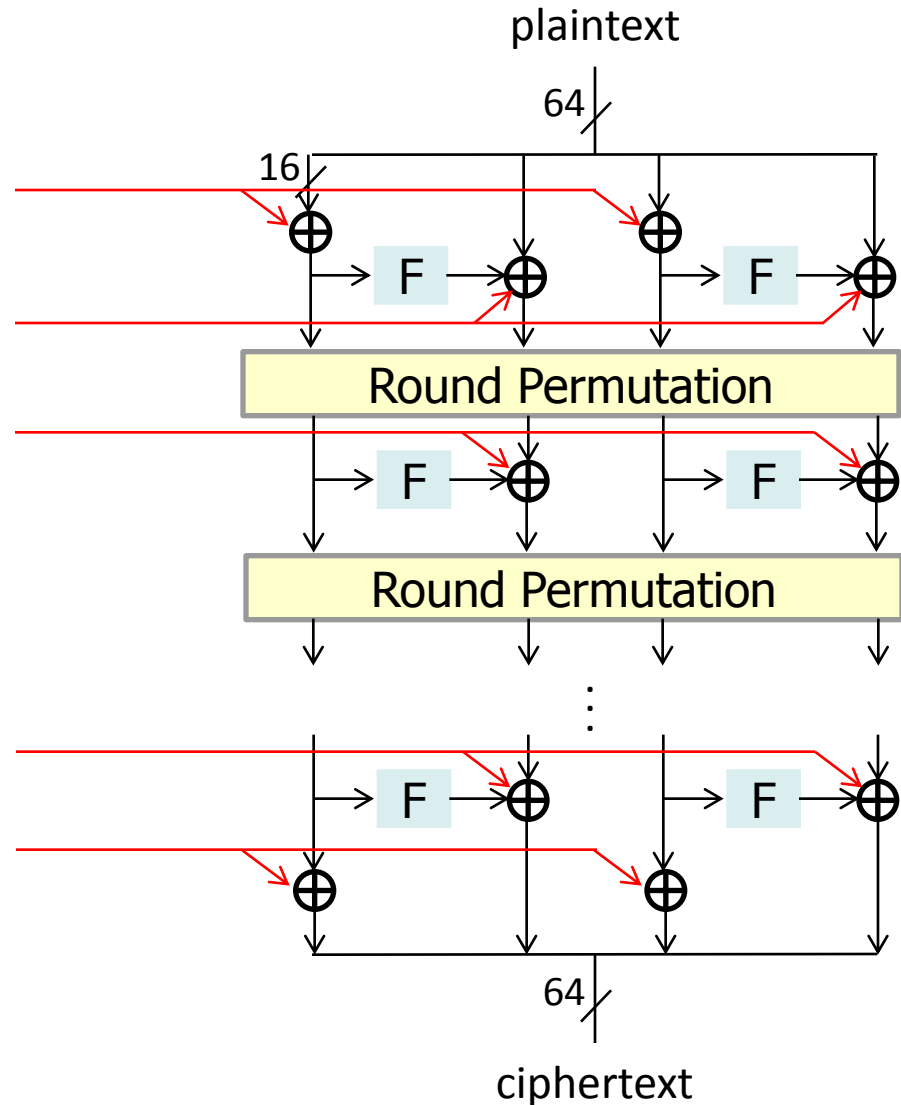
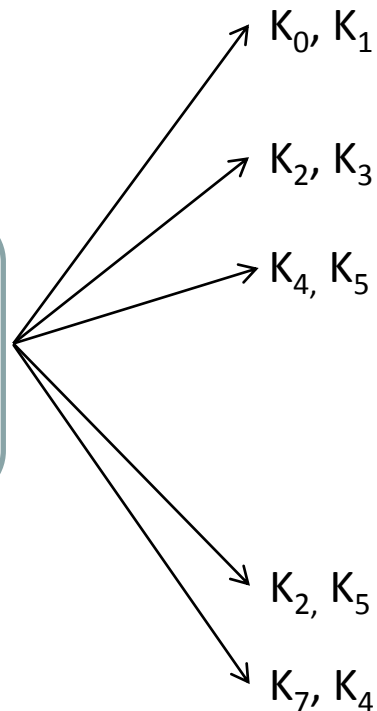
"16-bit word Permutation"

(128-bit key)

key =

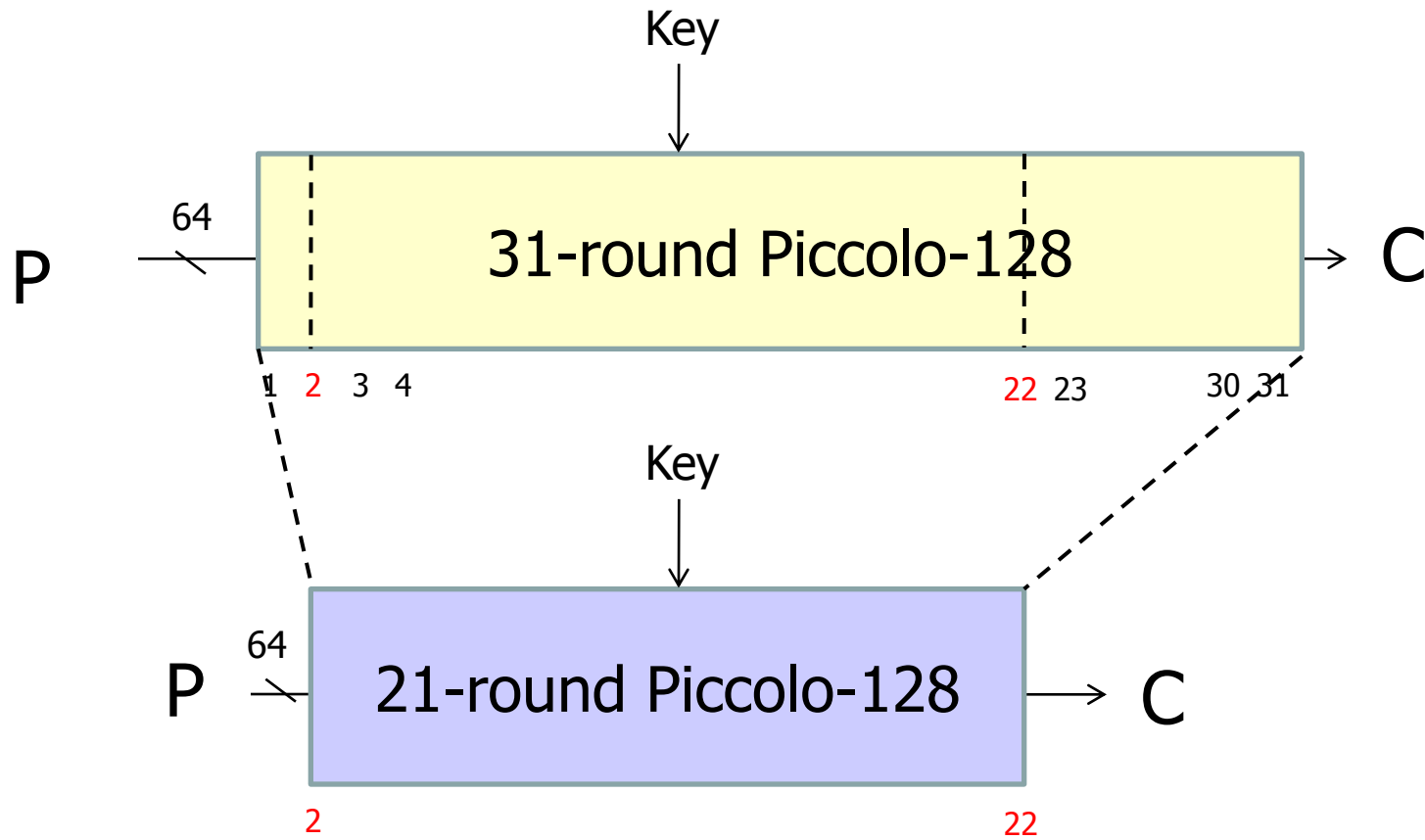
$\{K_0 \mid K_1 \mid \dots \mid K_6 \mid K_7\}$

($|K_i| = 16\text{-bit}$)



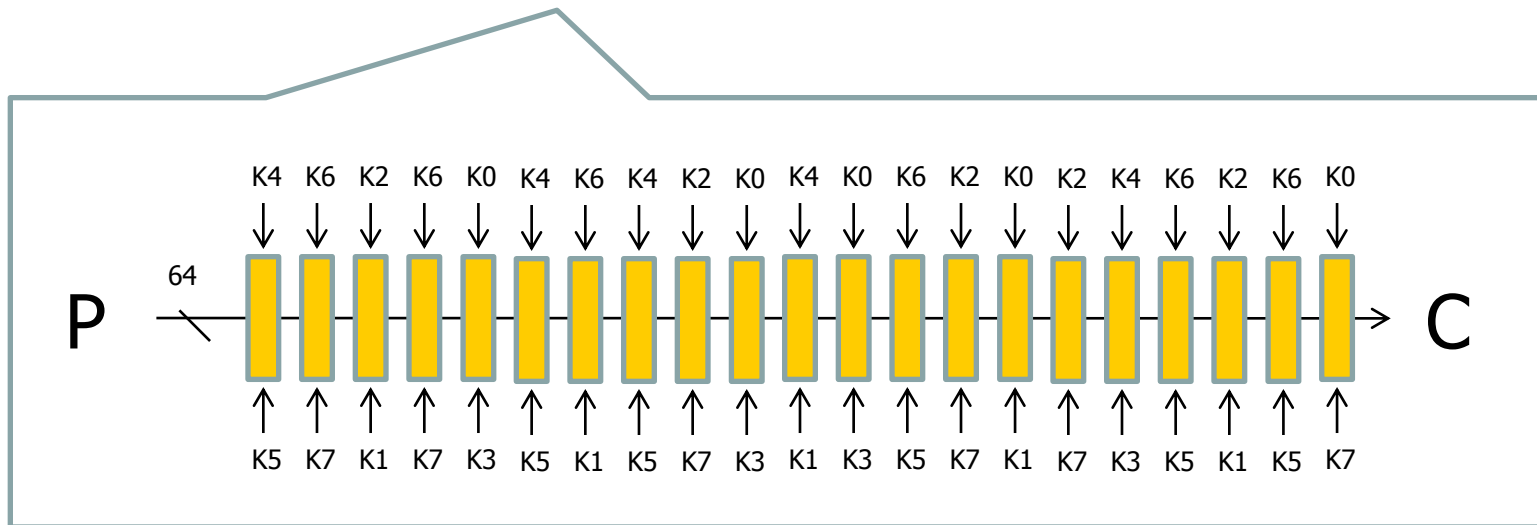
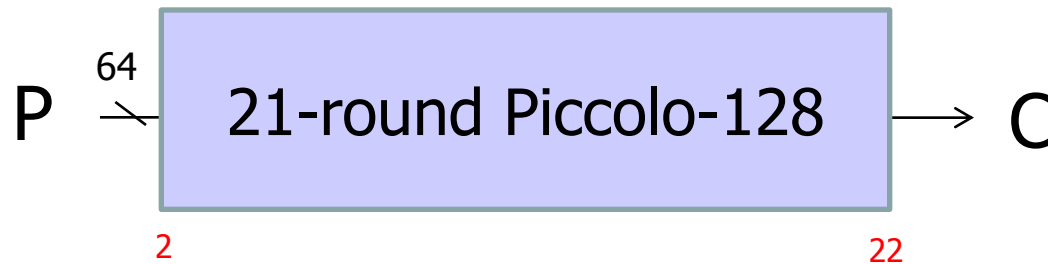
Target variant of Piccolo-128

- 21 round reduced Piccolo-128 (round 2-22)



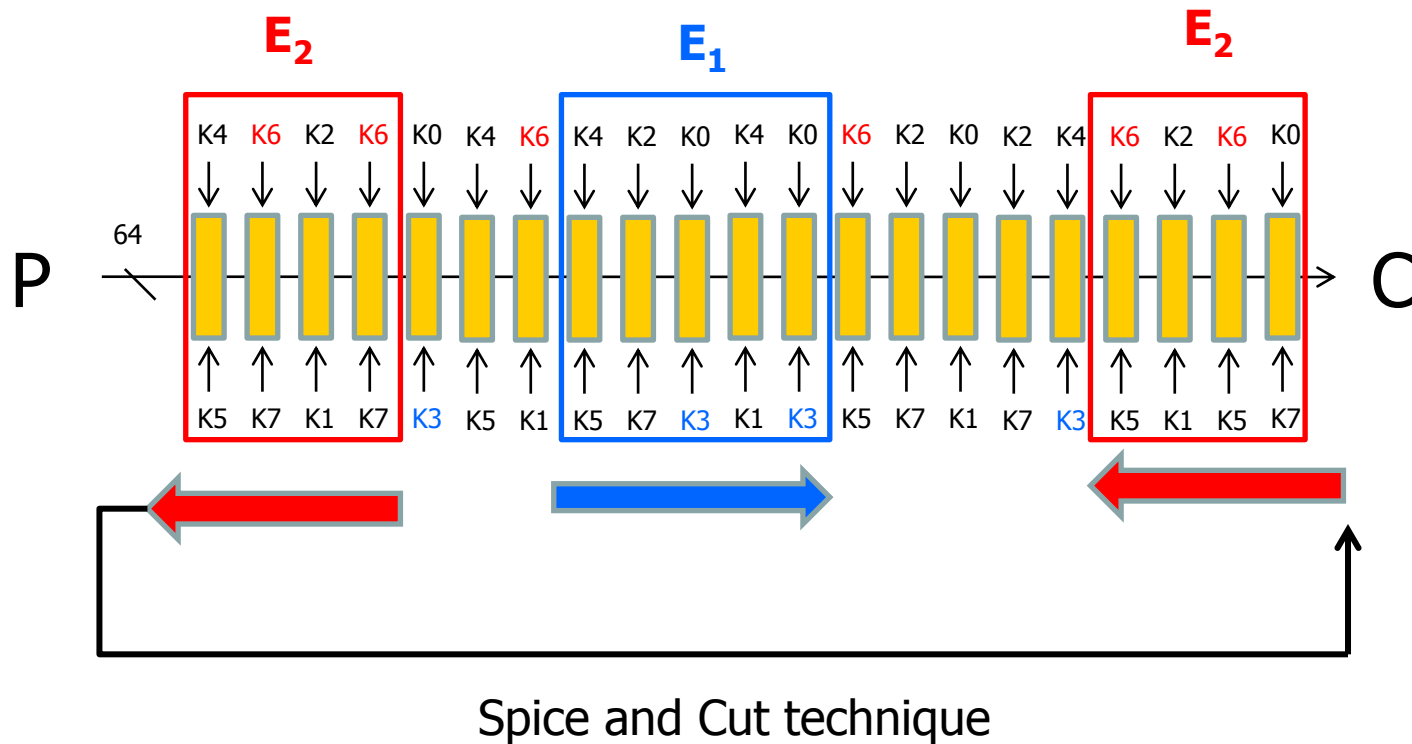
21 round Piccolo-128

- Piccolo's Key scheduling => word permutation



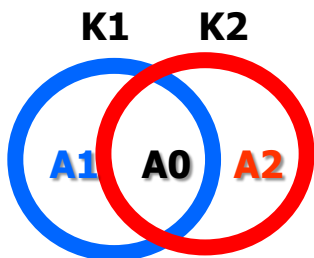
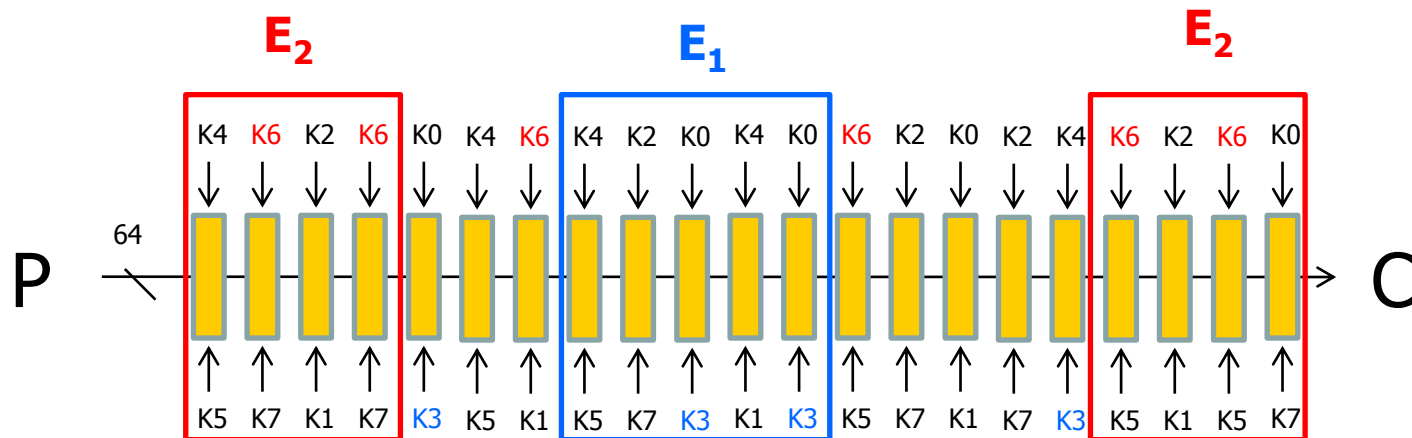
Attacking 21-round Piccolo-128

- Construct two chunks E_1 and E_2 by using Spice and Cut technique



Attacking 21-round Piccolo-128

- Construct two chunks E_1 and E_2 by using Spice and Cut technique
 - Neutral word of E_1 : $K3$
 - Neutral word of E_2 : $K6$



$$A0 = K1 \cap K2 = K0, K1, K2, K4, K5, K7$$

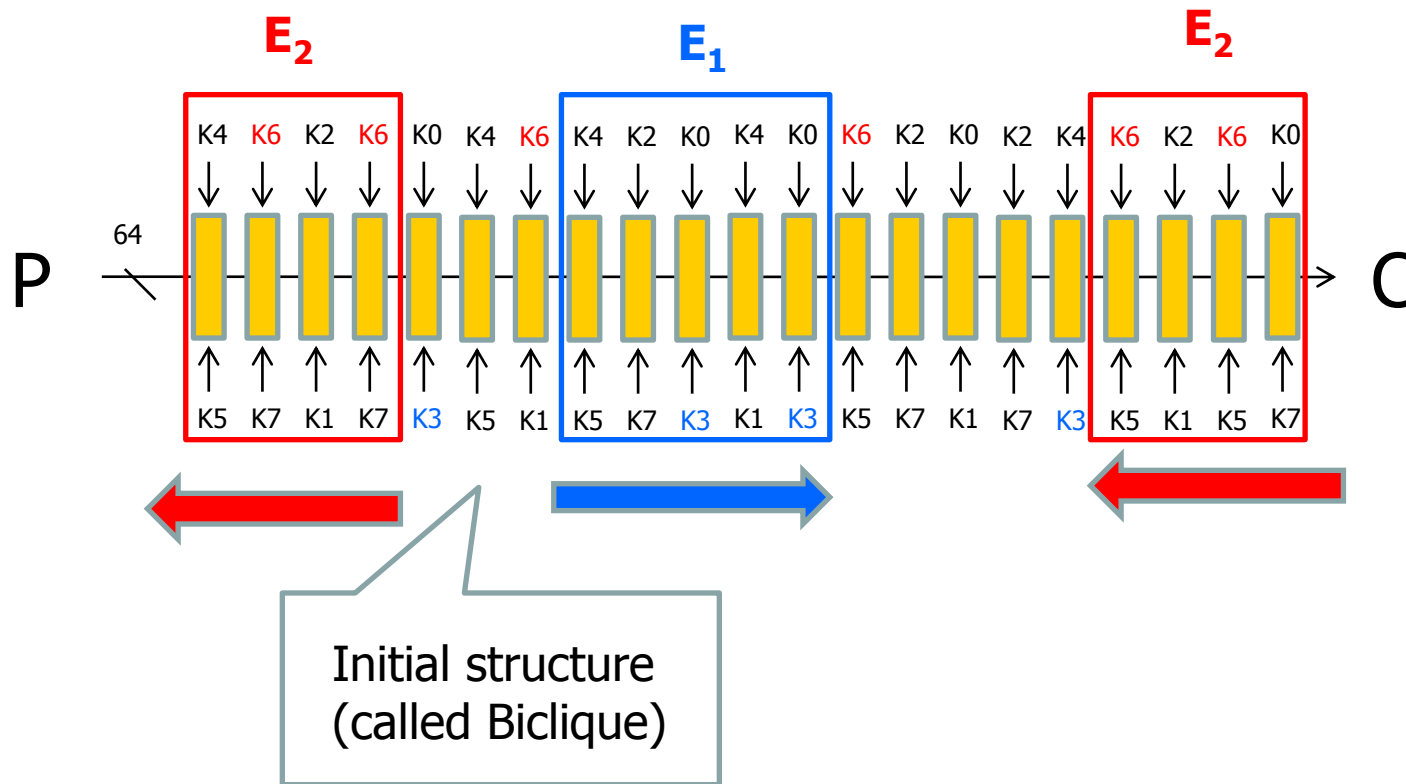
$$A1 = K1 / (K1 \cap K2) = K3$$

$$A2 = K2 / (K1 \cap K2) = K6$$

$$|A0| = 112, |A1| = |A2| = 8$$

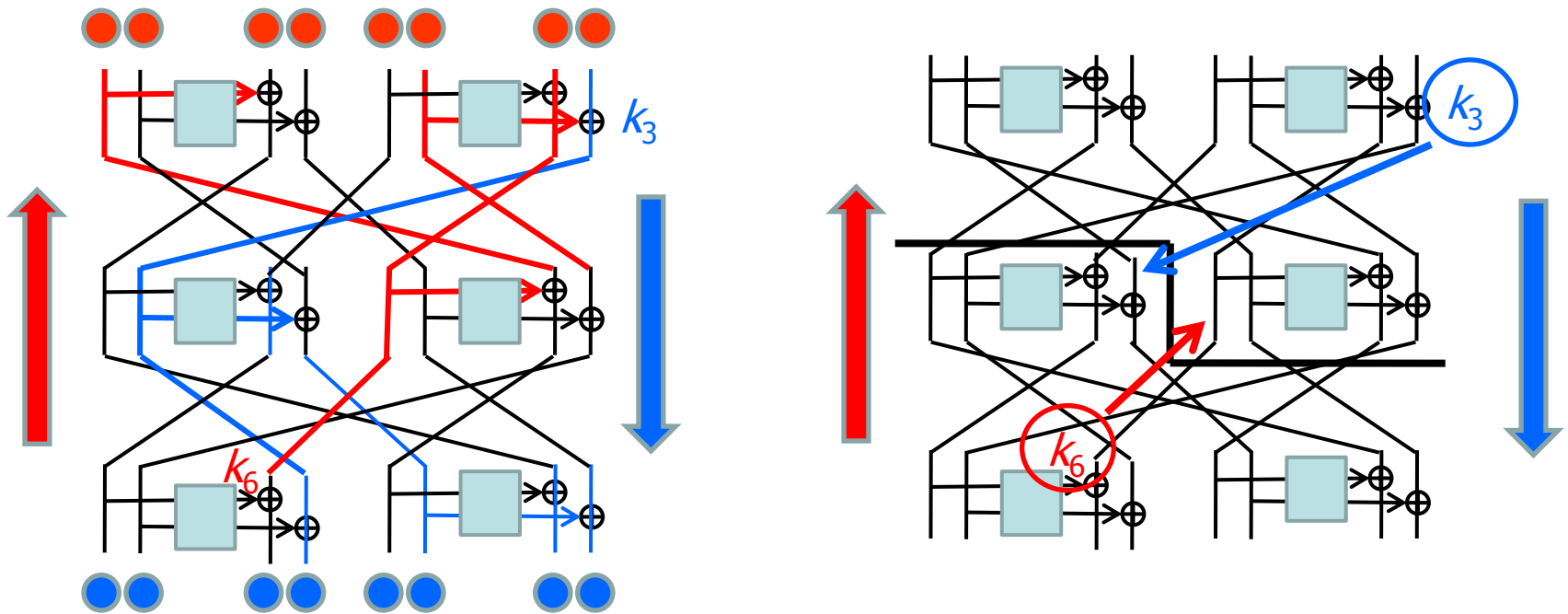
Attacking 21-round Piccolo-128

- Construct two chunks E_1 and E_2 by using Spice and Cut technique
 - Neutral word of E_1 : $K3$
 - Neutral word of E_2 : $K6$



Initial Structure (biclique)

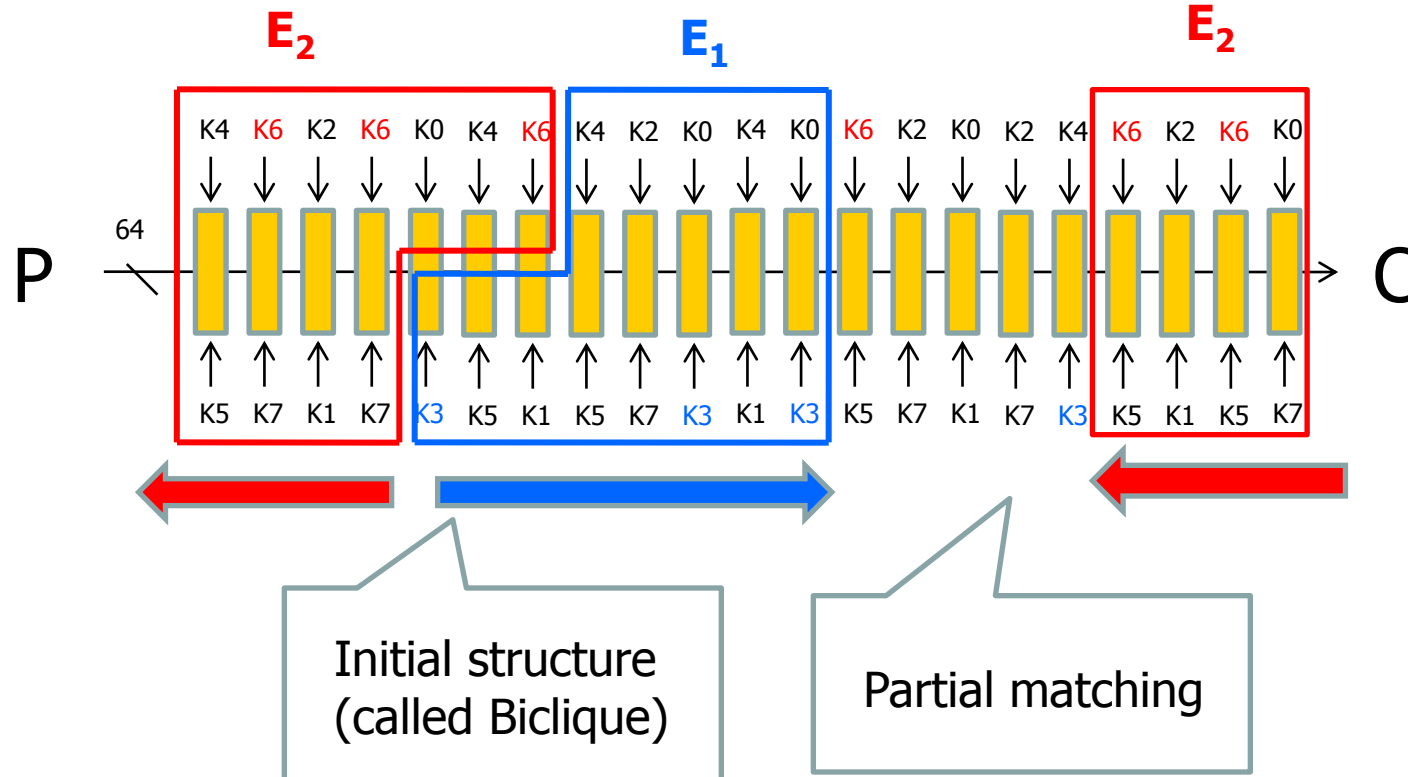
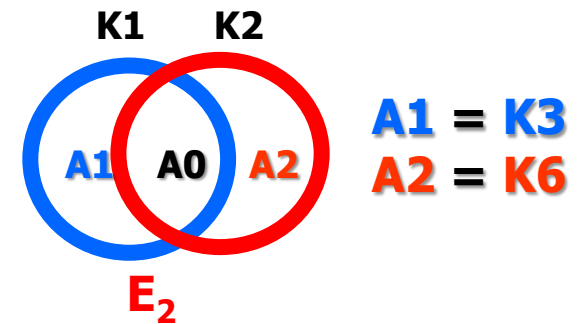
- K3 and K6 are exchangeable/movable
 - These differential trails do not share nonlinear component (formally called Biclique)



Do not share nonlinear function

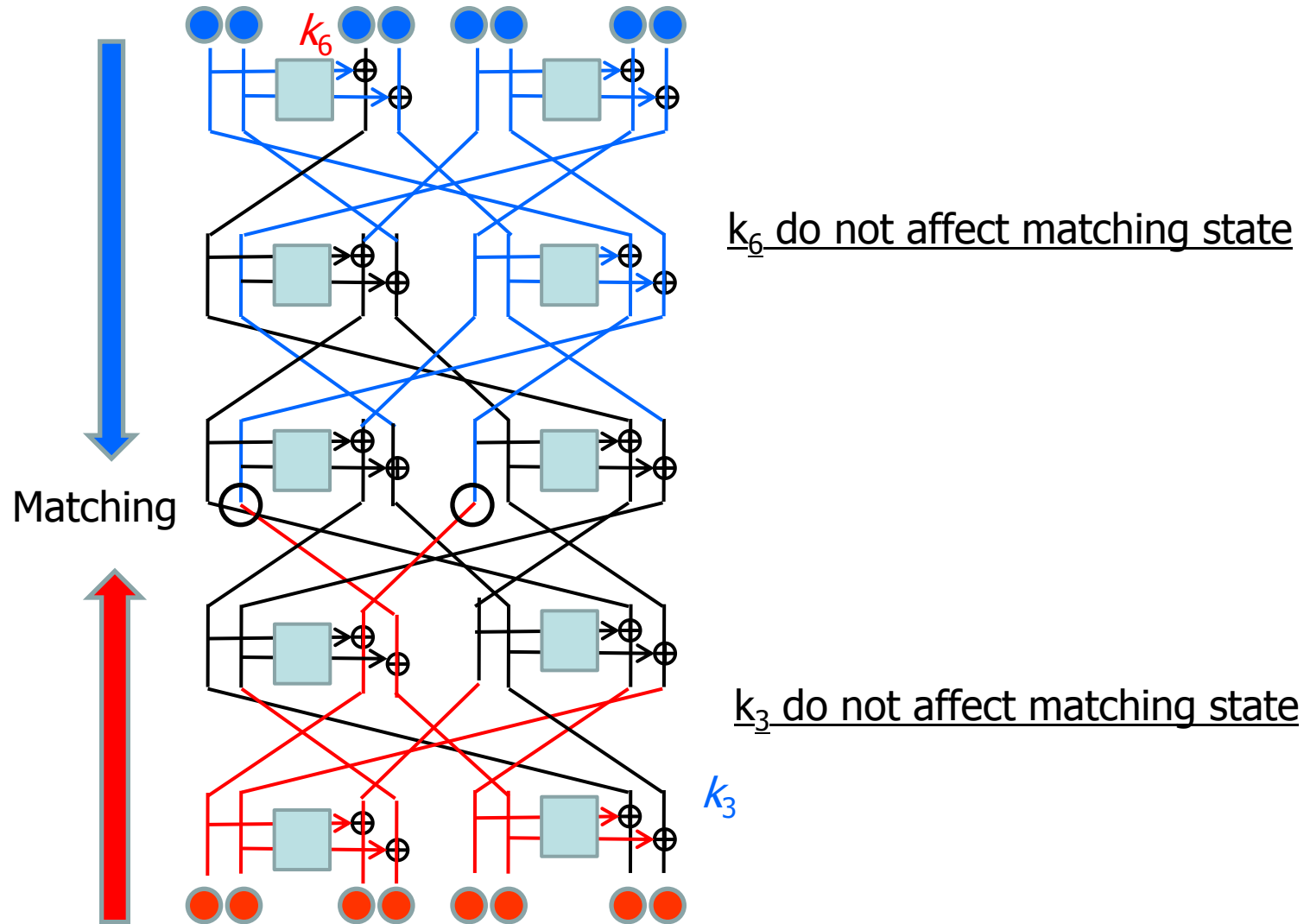
Attacking 21-round Piccolo-128

- Neutral word of forward process : $K3$
- Neutral word of backward process : $K6$



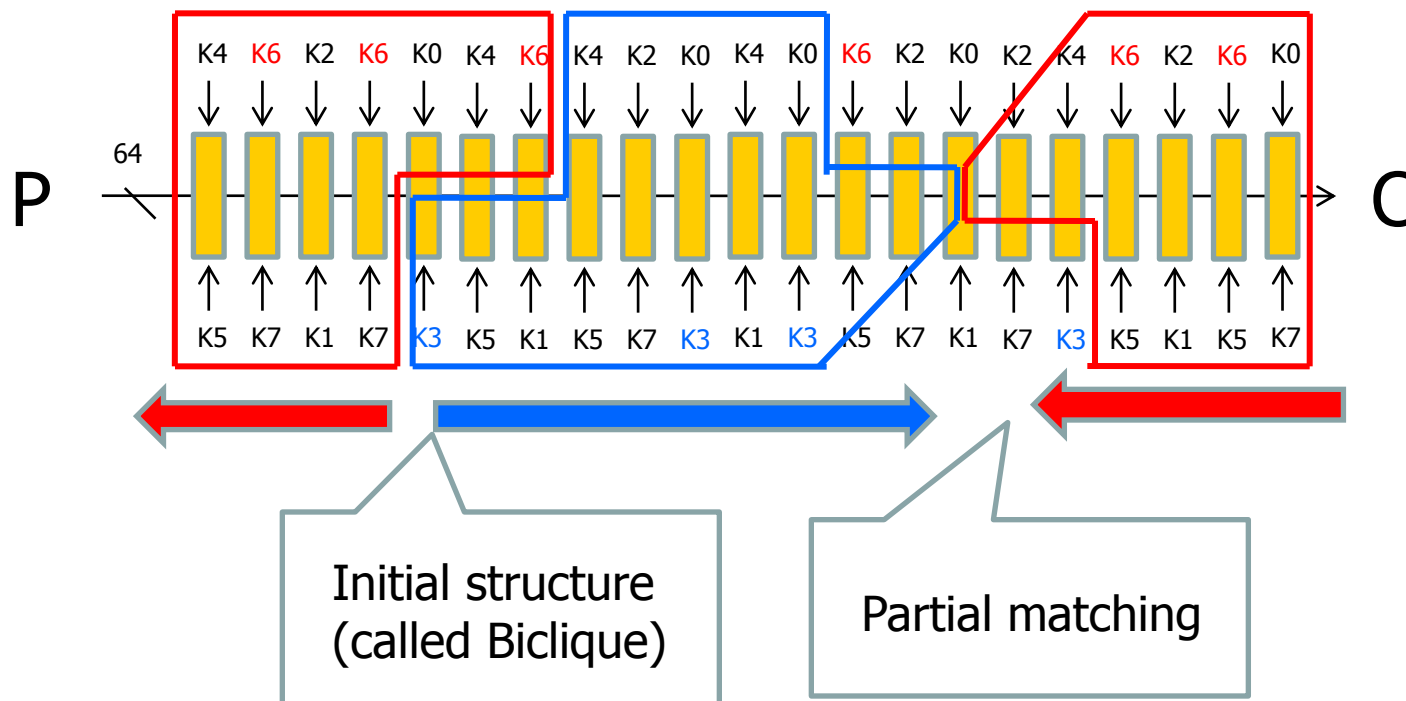
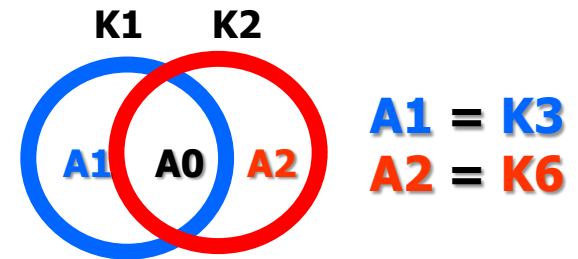
Partial Matching

- some key bits around the matching point can be omitted.

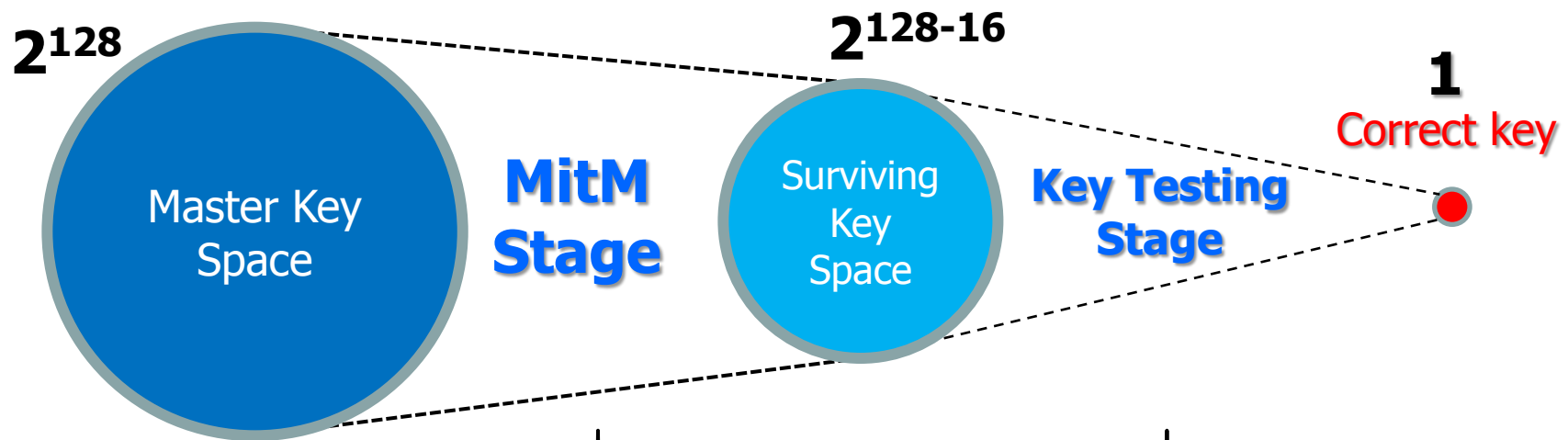


Attacking 21-round Piccolo-128

- Neutral word of forward process : $K3$
- Neutral word of backward process : $K6$



Evaluation



$$\text{Complexity} = 2^{|A0|}(2^{|A1|} + 2^{|A2|}) + (2^{l-b} + 2^{l-2b} + \dots)$$

$$\text{Data} = \max \left(1, \frac{l}{b} \right)$$

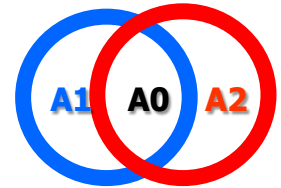
■ 21-round Attack on Piccolo-128 $|A0| = 112, |A1| = |A2| = 8$

- time complexity : $2^{112} (2^8 + 2^8) + 2^{112} = 2^{121}$
- Data : 2^{64} (code book)
- memory 2^8

29-round XTEA Attack

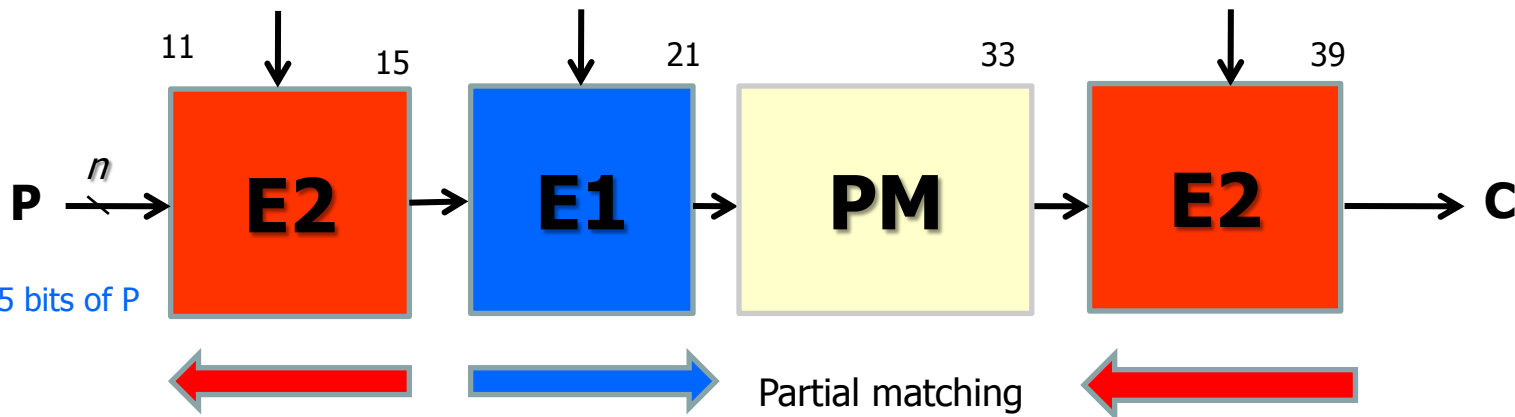
■ round 11 to 39 (29 round) 128 bit key = $K_0 || \dots || K_3$

- Neutral word of forward process : K_0
- Neutral word of backward process : K_3



A_2 = lower 4 bits of K_3 A_1 = lower 4 bits of K_0

A_2 = lower 4 bits of K_3



■ Evaluation of 29-round Attack on XTEA-128

- Time complexity : $2^{120} (2^4 + 2^4) + 2^{124} = 2^{124}$
- Data : 2^{45} KP
- Memory 2^4

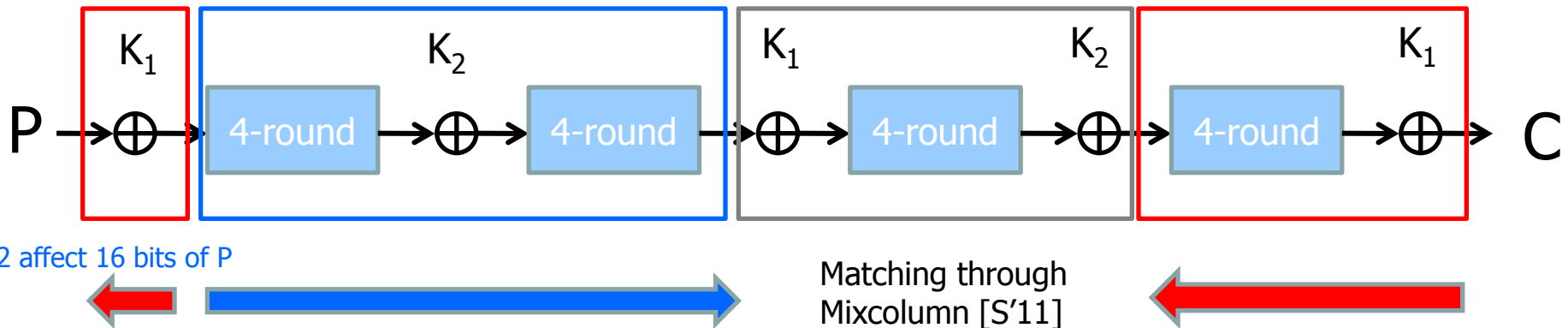
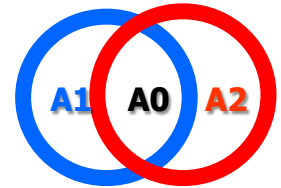
$$|A_0| = 120, |A_1| = |A_2| = 4$$

16 round LED-128 Attack

■ round 1 to 16 (16 round)

A2 = lower 16 bits of K_2 **A1** = lower 16 bits of K_1

128 bit key = $K_1 || K_2$



■ Evaluation of 16-round Attack on LED-128

- Time complexity : $2^{96} (2^{16} + 2^{16}) + 2^{96} = 2^{112}$
- Data : 2^{16} KP
- Memory 2^{16}

$$|A0| = 96, |A1| = |A2| = 16$$

Results

- MitM attack on Block Cipher having Simple KSF
 - Update best attack of target ciphers

Algorithm	#Full round	Type of Attack	#attacked round	Paper
XTEA	64	Meet-in-the-Middle	23	[SMWP11]
		Impossible differential	23	[CWP12]
		zero correlation Linear	27	[BW12]
		Meet in the Middle	28	[SWS+12]
		Meet in the Middle	29	Our
LED-64	32	Differential/Linear	8	[GPPR11]
		Meet in the Middle	8	Our
LED-128	48	Differential/Linear	8	[GPPR11]
		Meet in the Middle	16	Our
Piccolo-64	25	Differential/Linear	9	[SIH+11]
		Meet in the Middle	14	Our
Piccolo-128	31	Differential/Linear	9	[SIH+11]
		Meet in the Middle	21	Our

2.MitM attack on Block Cipher having Simple KSF

- XTEA, LED, Piccolo (ACISP 2012, w/ K.Shibutani)
- GOST (FSE 2011, JoC)

GOST Block Cipher

■ GOST Block Cipher

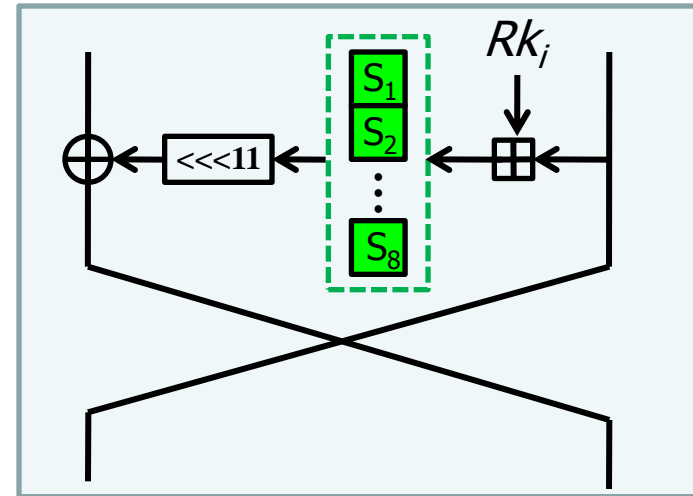
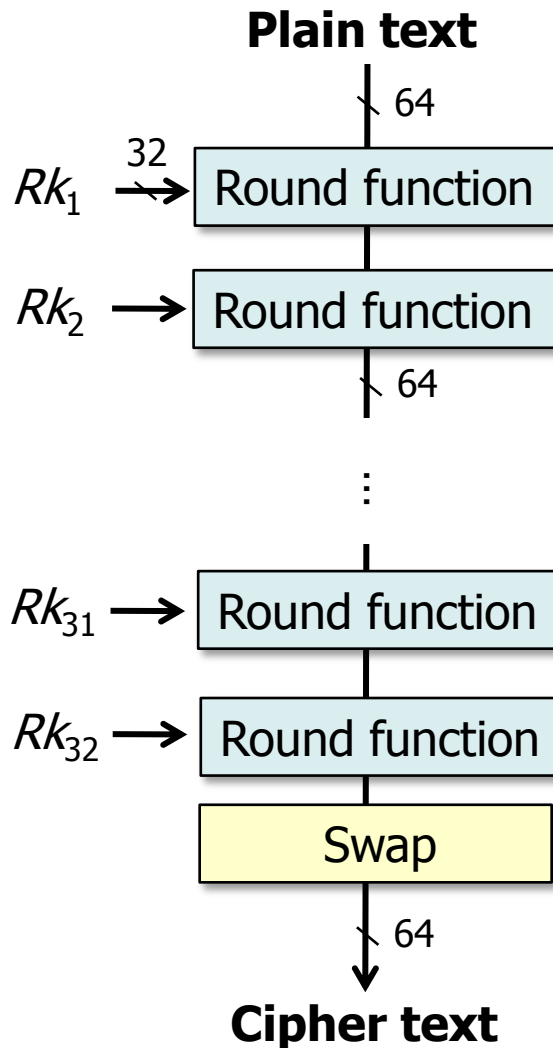
- Soviet Encryption Standard “GOST 28147-89”.
- Standardized in 1989 as the Russian Encryption Standard.
- Called *Russian DES*.
- No Single key attack on Full round GOST until 2011.

■ Implementation Aspect

- A. Poschmann et.al. show the **650-GE** H/W implementation @CHES 2010
- Considered as **Ultra light weight Block cipher**.

Structure of GOST

■ 32-round Feistel Structure with 64-bit block and 256-bit key



Key schedule : 32-bit word permutation

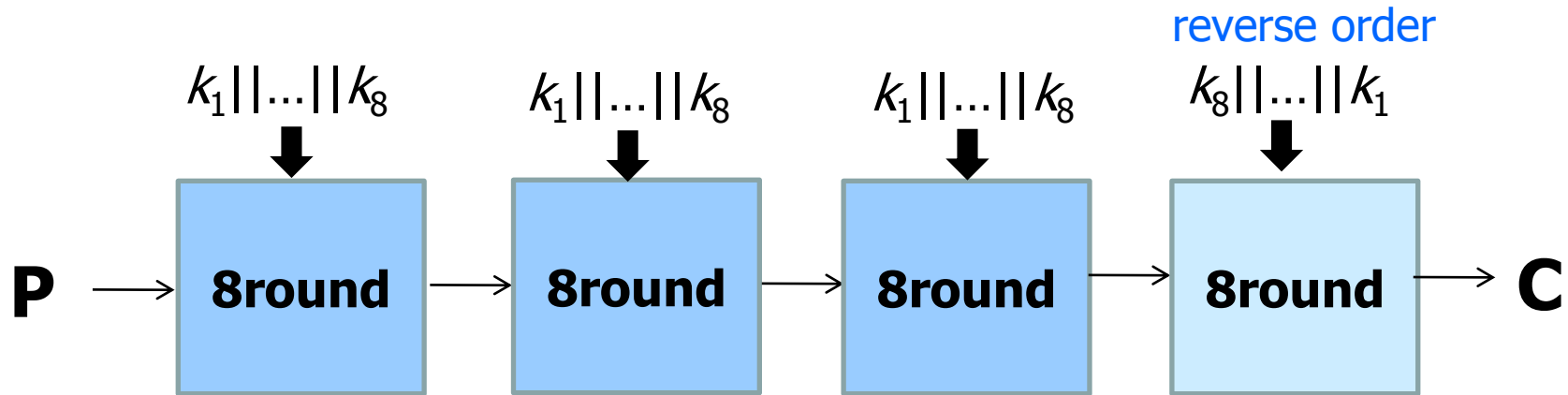
Master key = $K_1 || K_2 || \dots || K_8$

256 bit

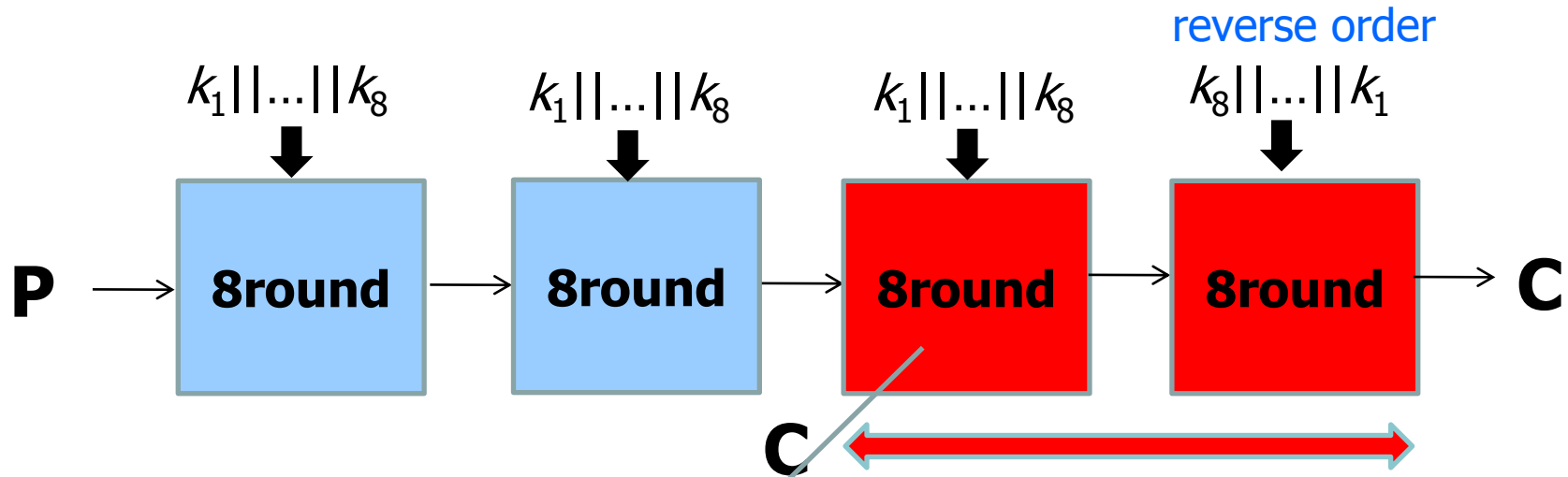
32 bit \times 8

Round	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
Key	k_1	k_2	k_3	k_4	k_5	k_6	k_7	k_8	k_1	k_2	k_3	k_4	k_5	k_6	k_7	k_8
Round	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	30	31	32
Key	k_1	k_2	k_3	k_4	k_5	k_6	k_7	k_8	k_8	k_7	k_6	k_5	k_4	k_3	k_2	k_1

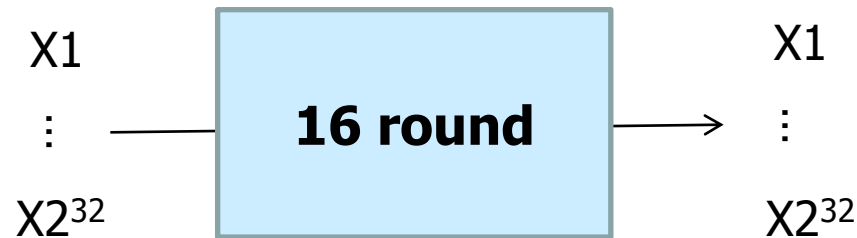
Application to Full GOST



Reflection Property [KM07]

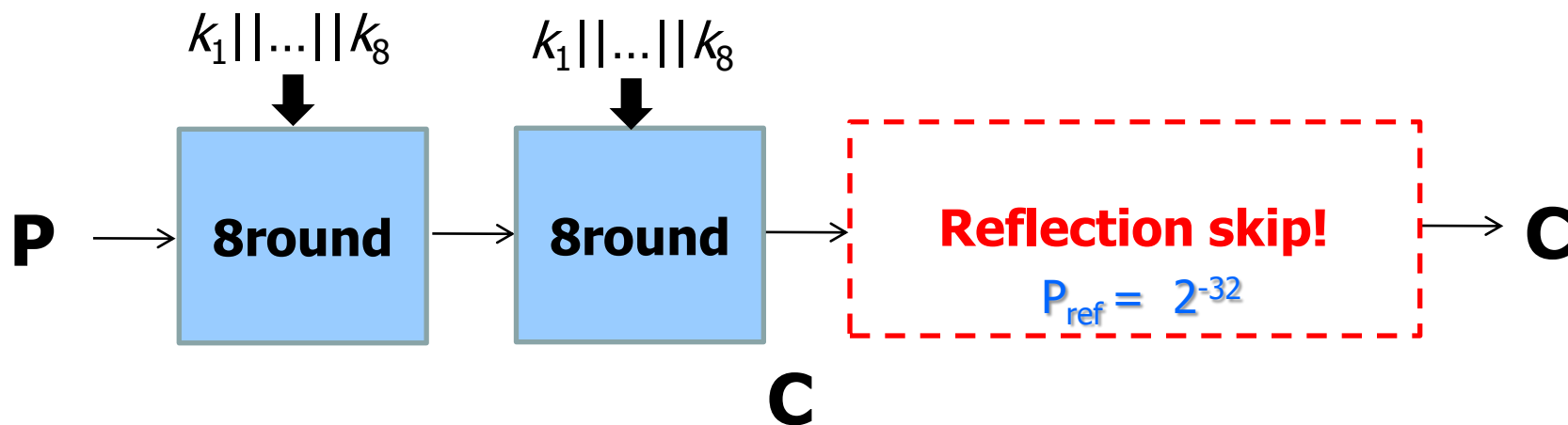


GOST's Reflection property was shown by Kara [K'08].
- # of fixed points of last 16 round is 2^{32}



■ Probability $P_{\text{ref}} = 2^{-32} (>> 2^{-64})$

Reflection Skip



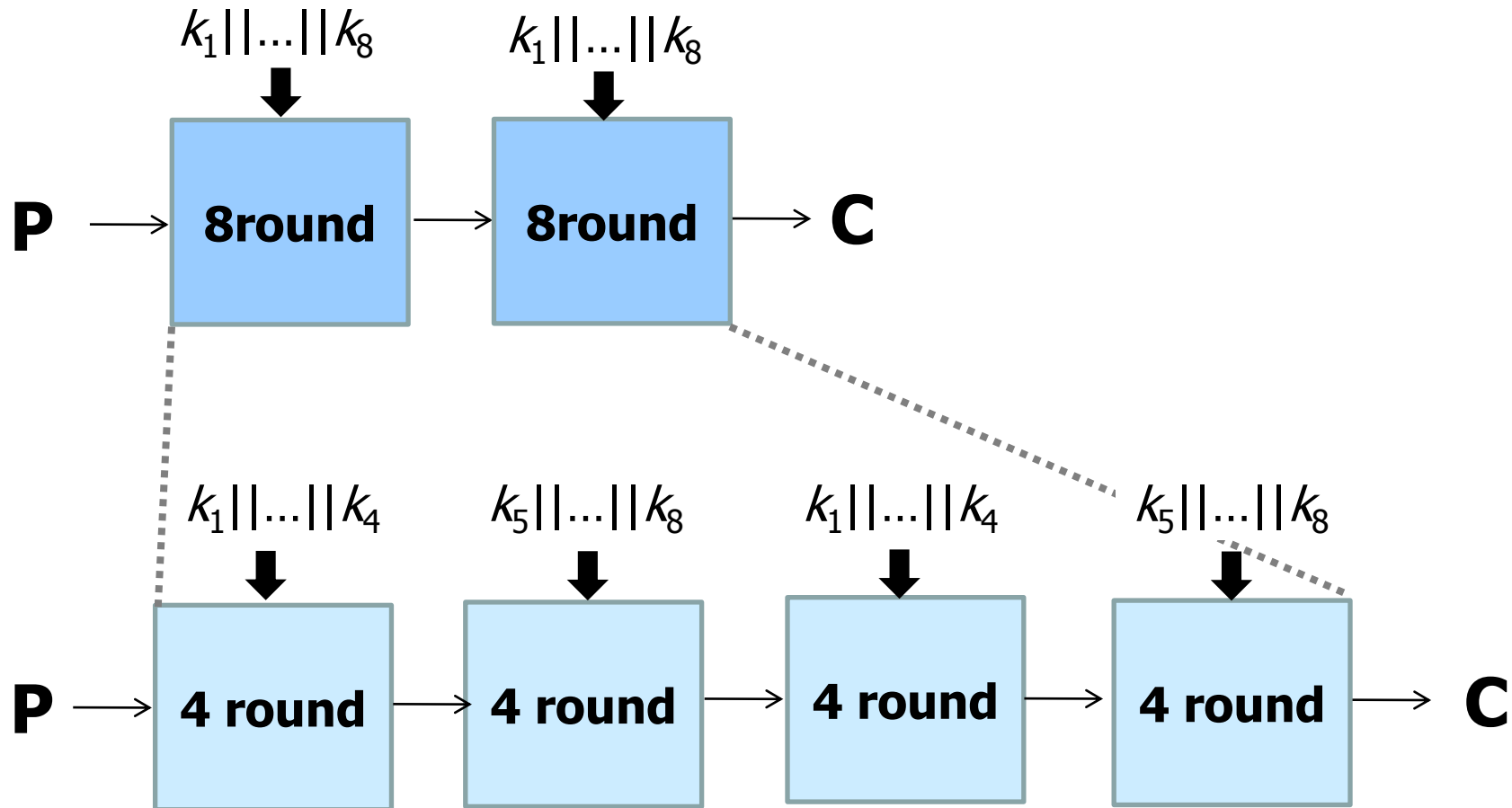
@Data collection stage:

Collect 2^{32} known plaintext/ciphertext pairs

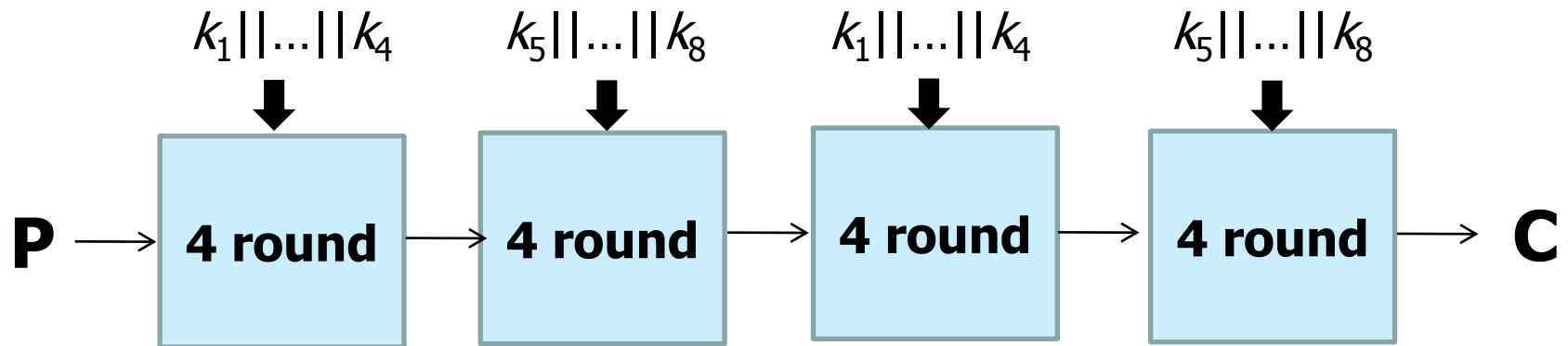
=> There is one pair in which reflection skip occur

R-MITM Stage

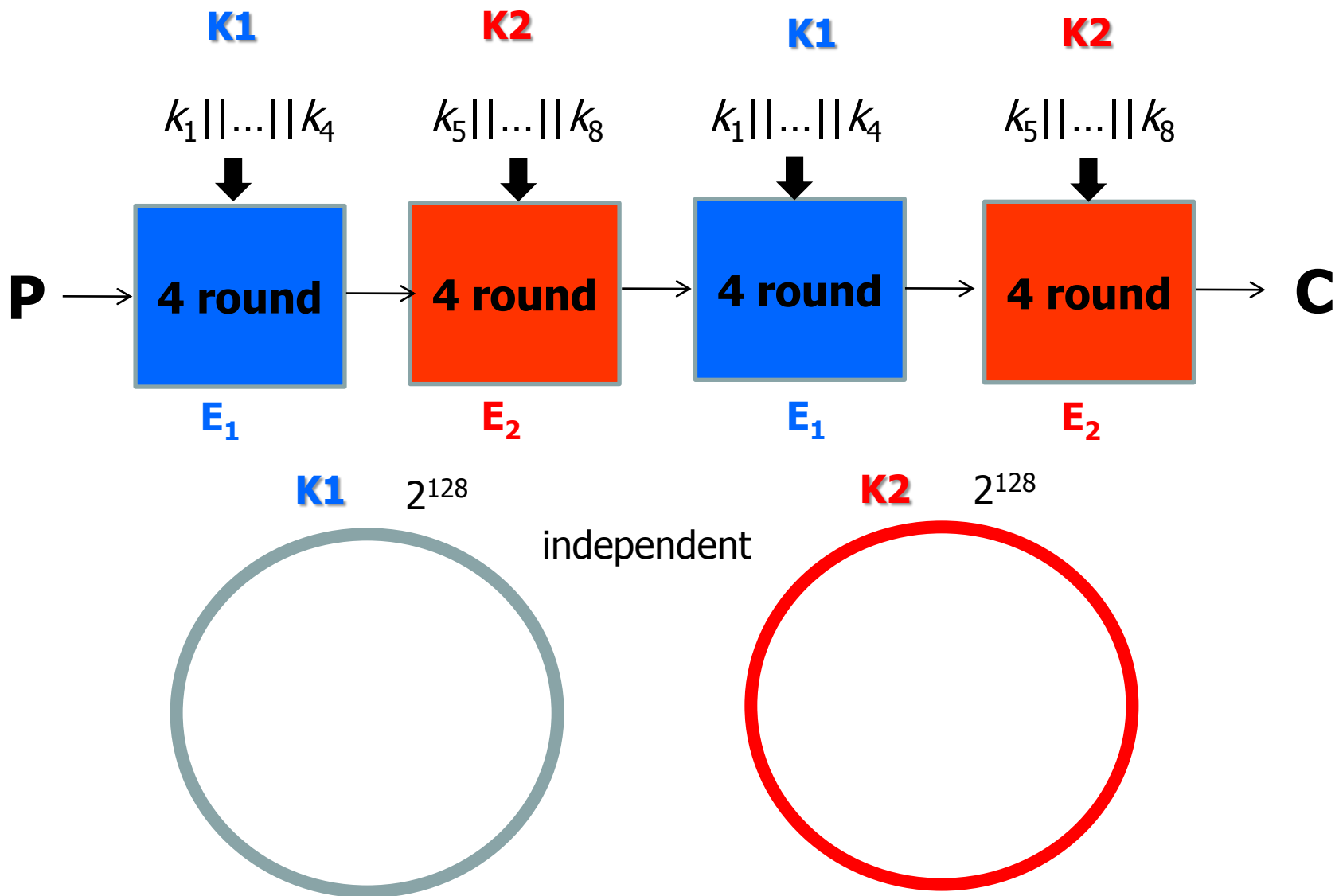
- For all 2^{32} Plaintext/Ciphertext, we mount MitM approach, assuming that the reflection skip occurs.



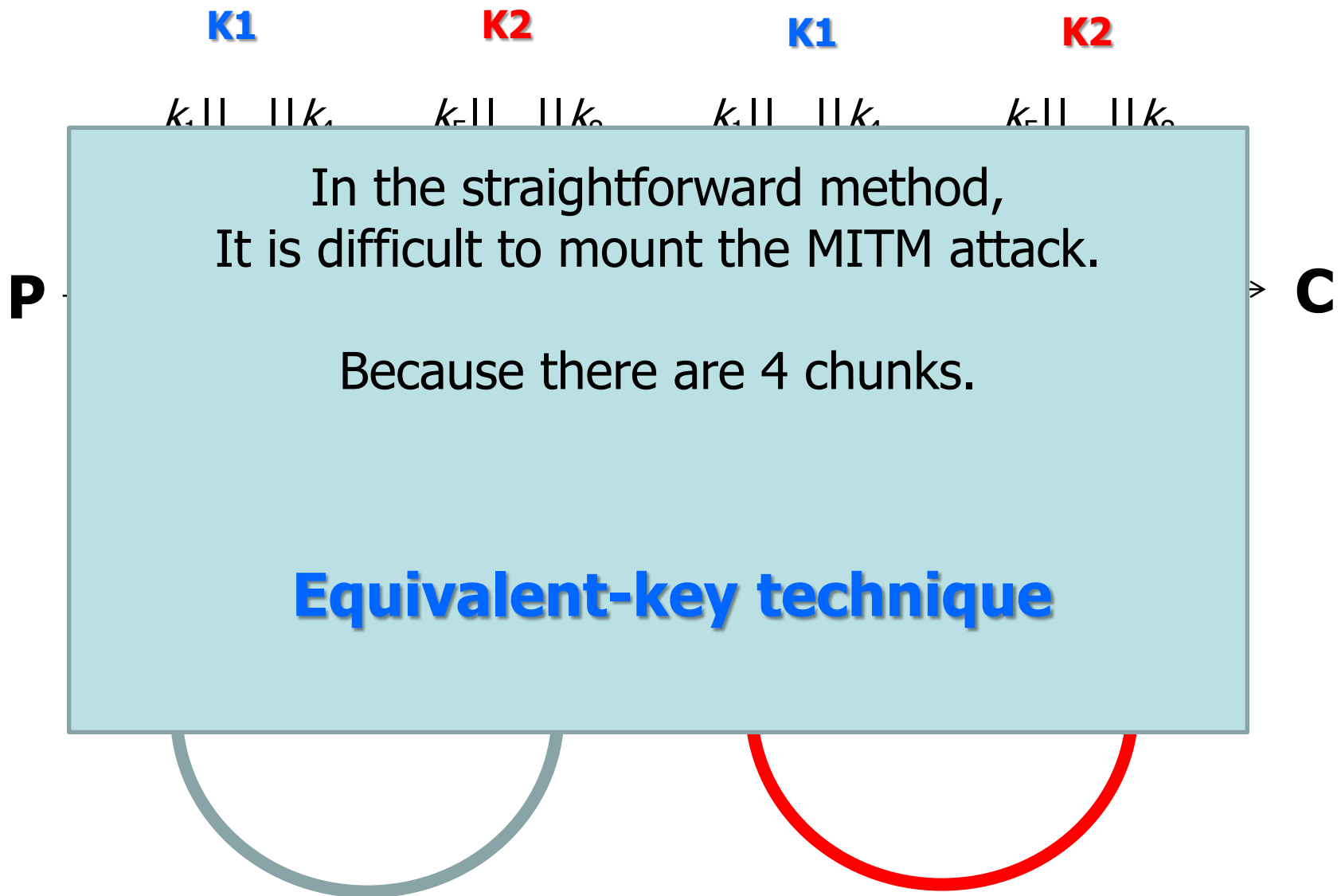
MITM Stage



MITM Stage

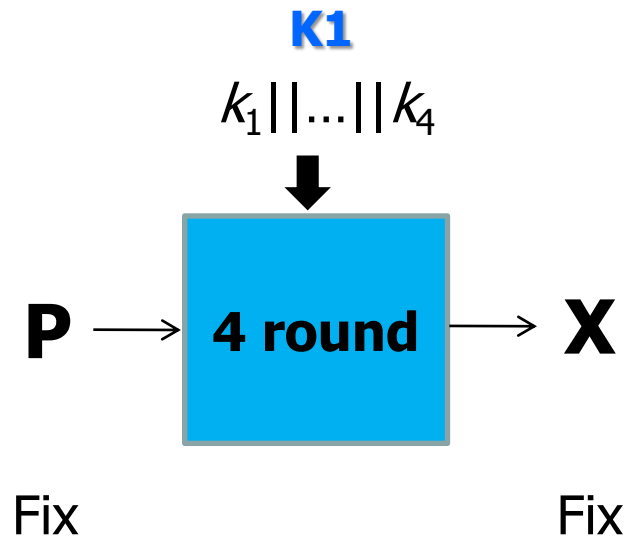


MITM Stage



Equivalent Keys

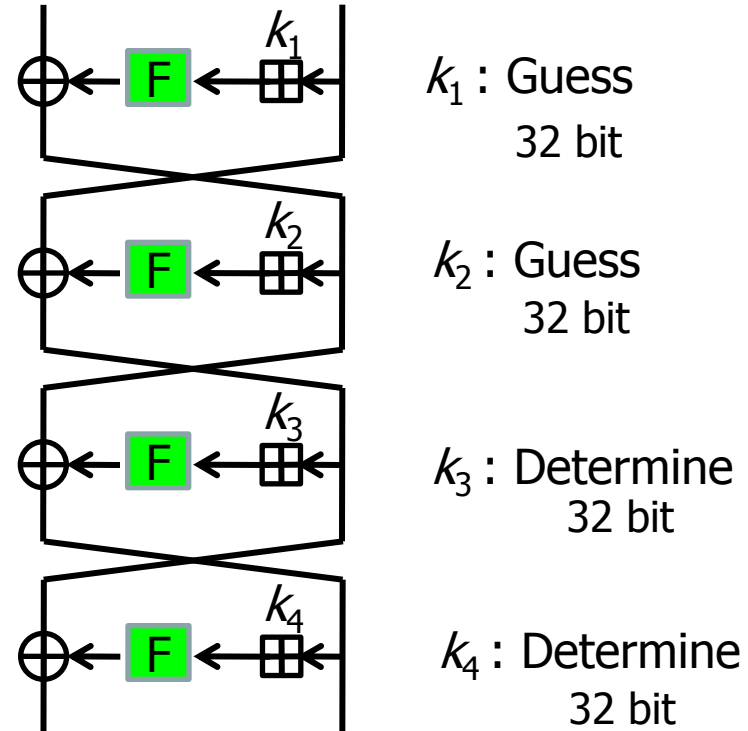
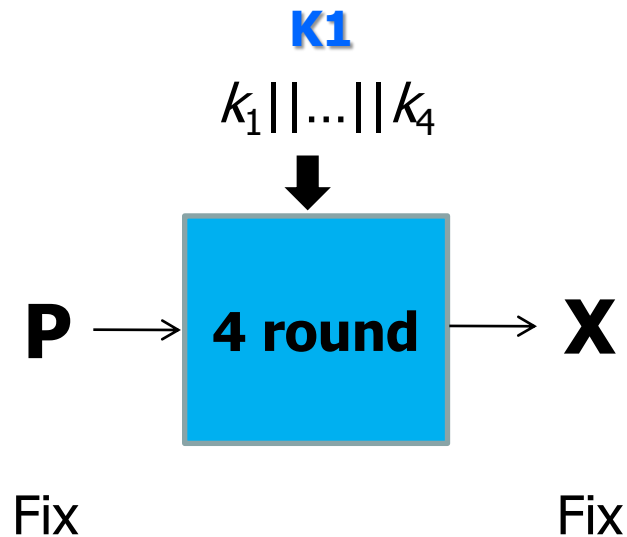
- Define Equivalent keys used for our attack as
“a set of keys that transforms **P** to **X** for 4-round unit”



Equivalent Keys

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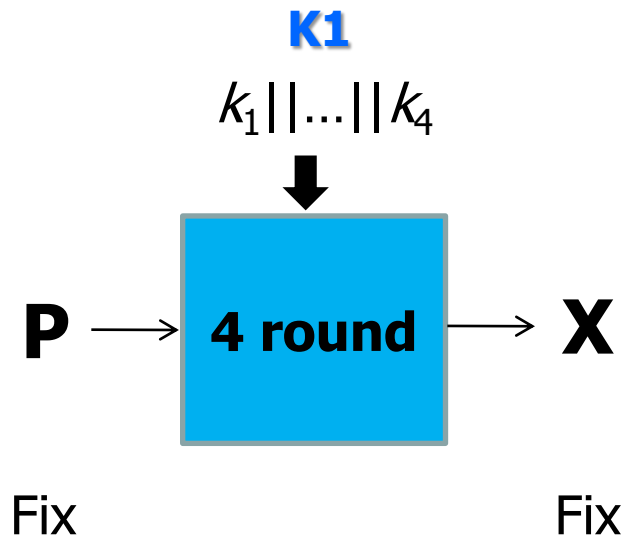
Given the values of (fixed) **P** and **X**,
It is easy to find such set.



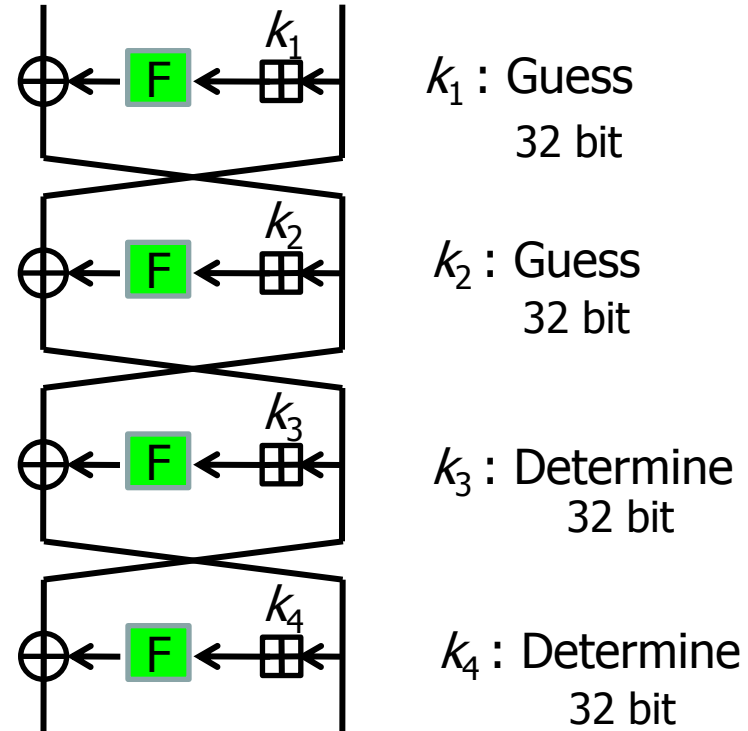
Equivalent Keys

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“a set of keys that transforms **P** to **X** for 4-round unit”

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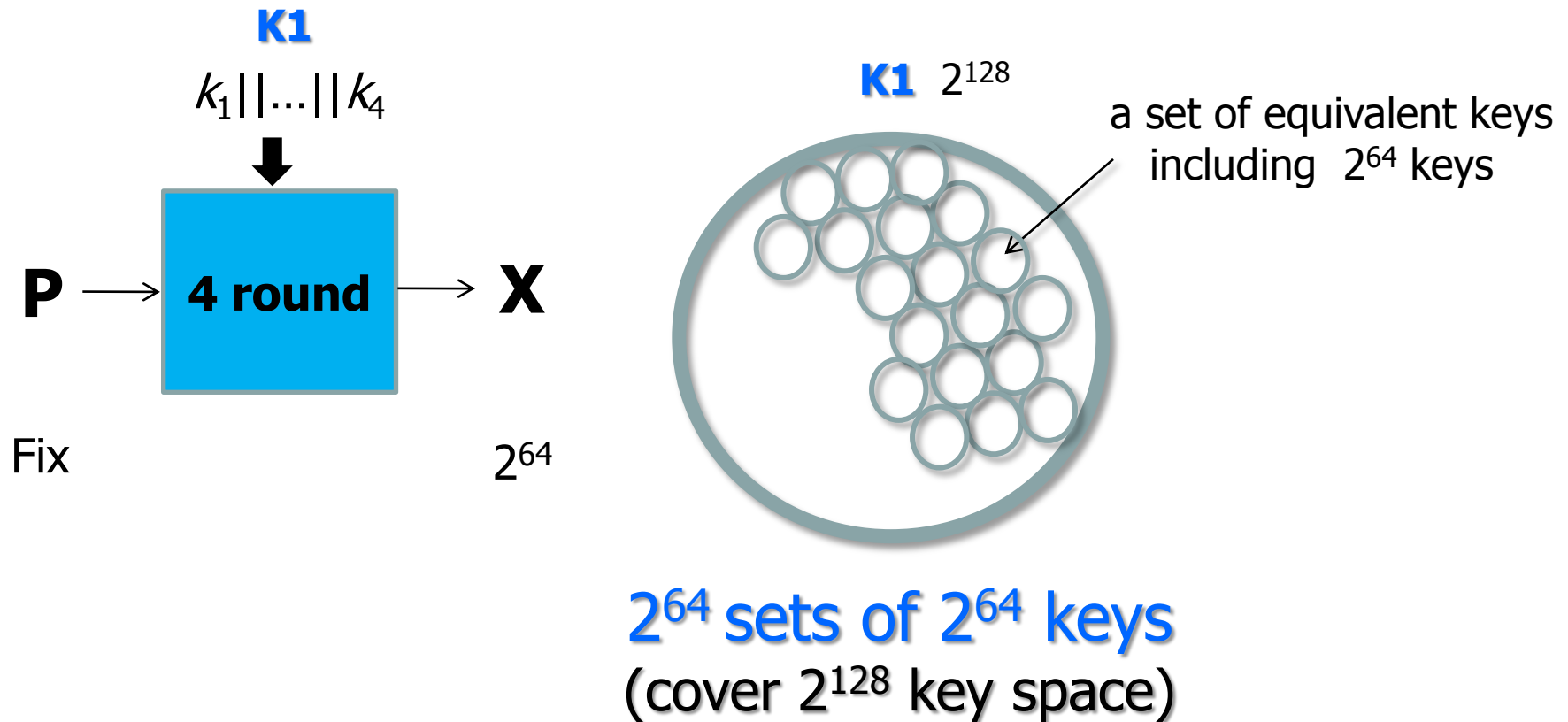


For each (P, X) pair,
there are 2^{64} such equivalent keys

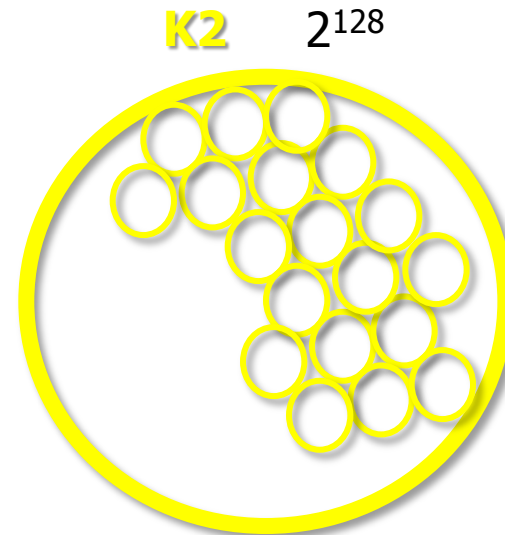
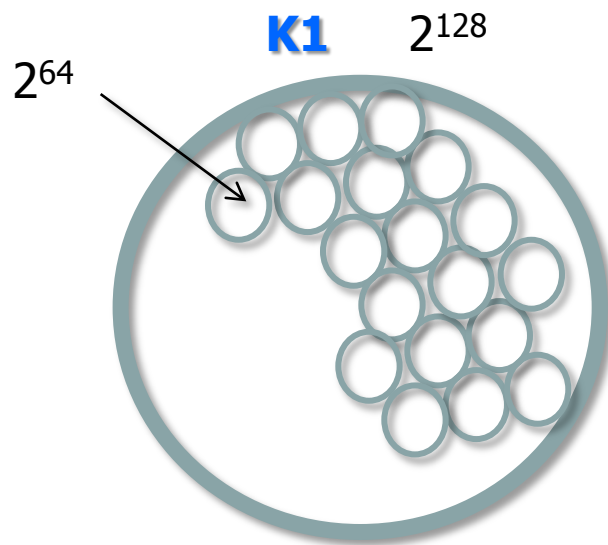
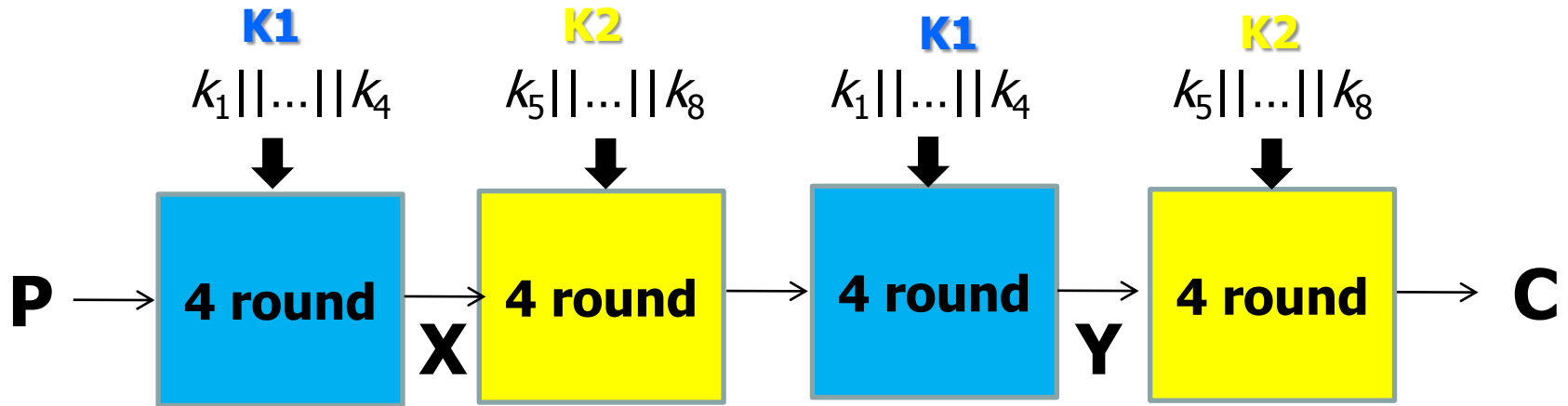


Equivalent Keys

- Categorize K_1 into sets of equivalent keys depending on X , where P is fixed one value and X has 2^{64} values

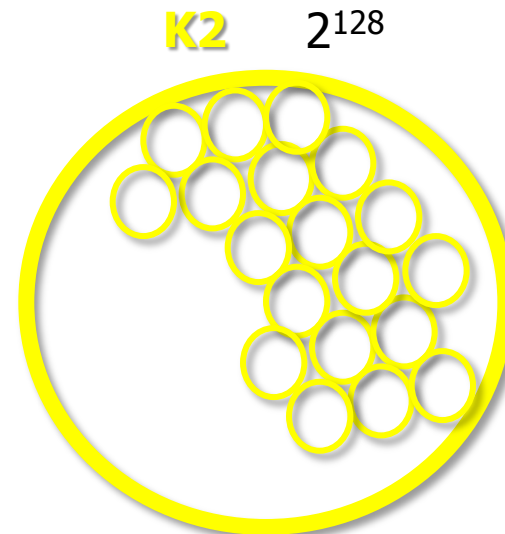
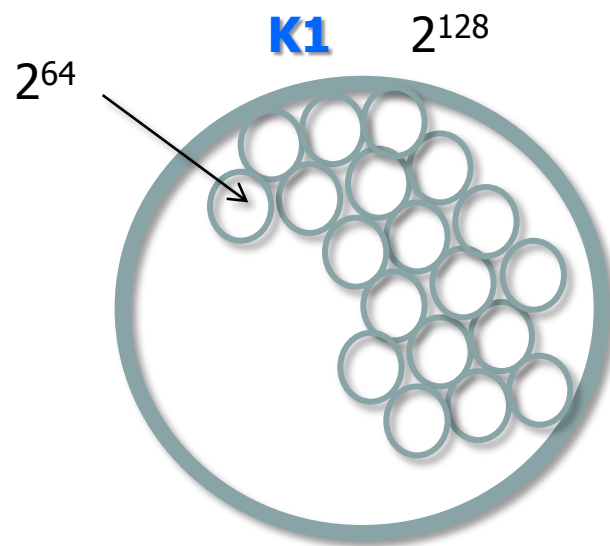
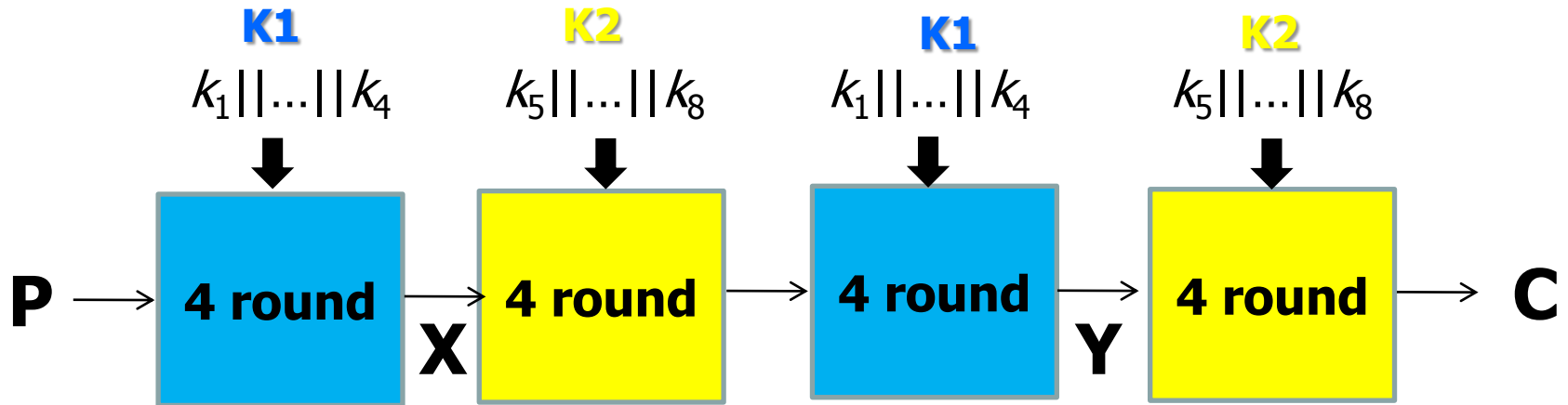


Equivalent Keys



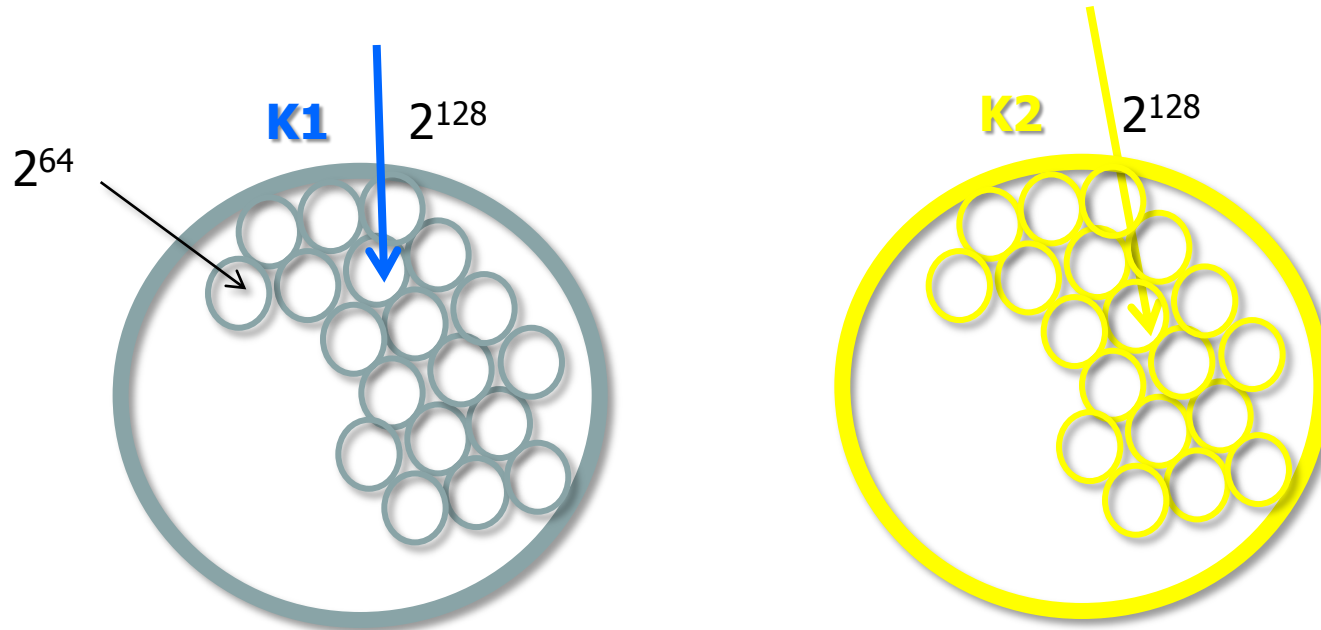
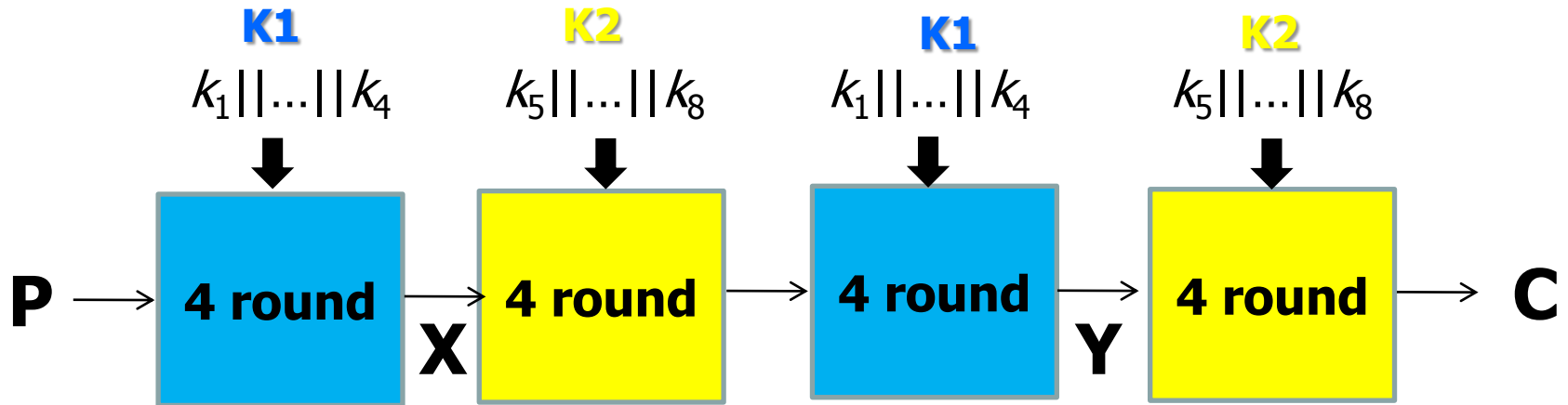
Effective MITM approach

■ Guess values of X and Y.



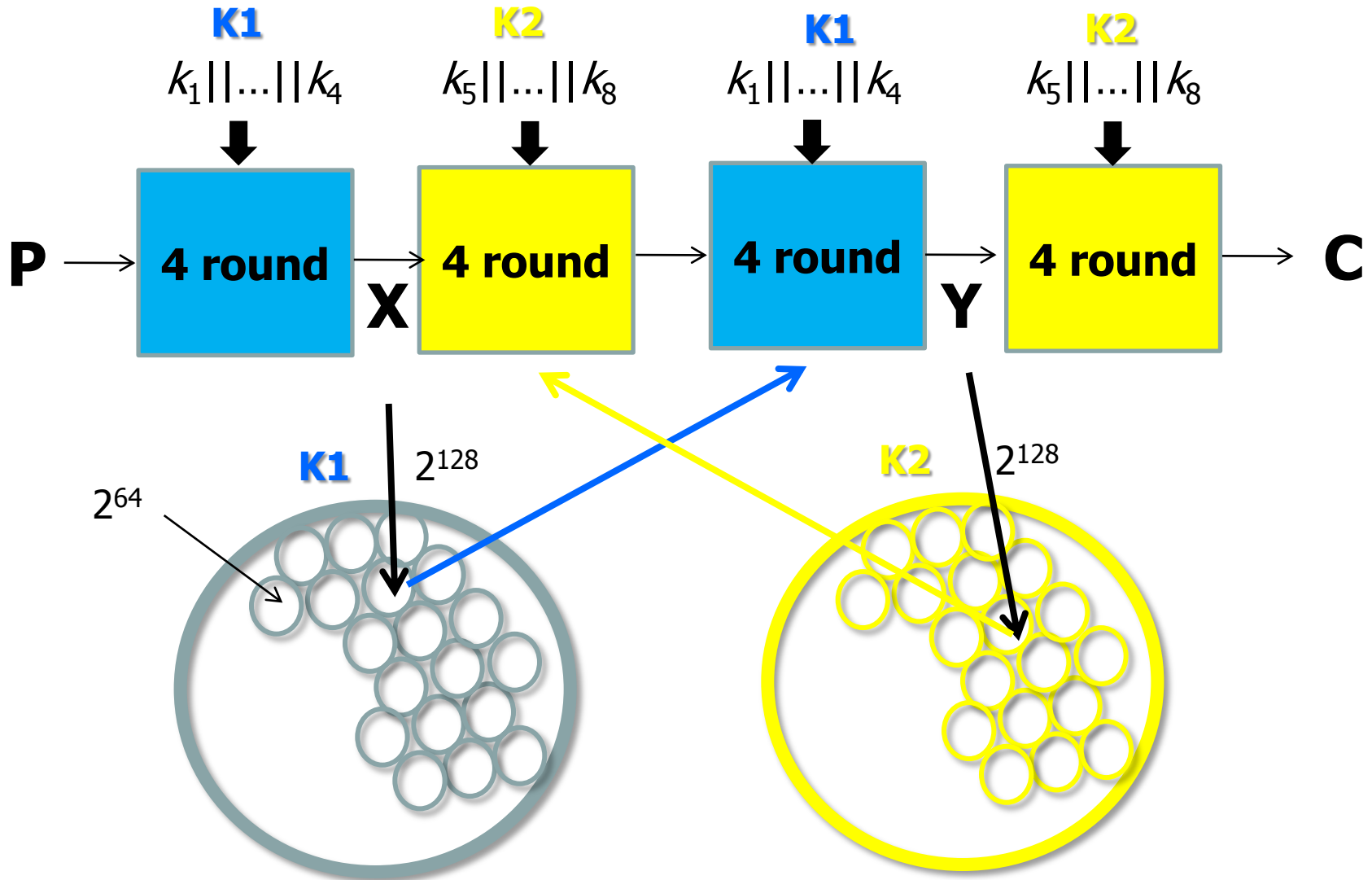
Effective MITM approach

■ Choose two set from K1 and K2, which transform X and Y



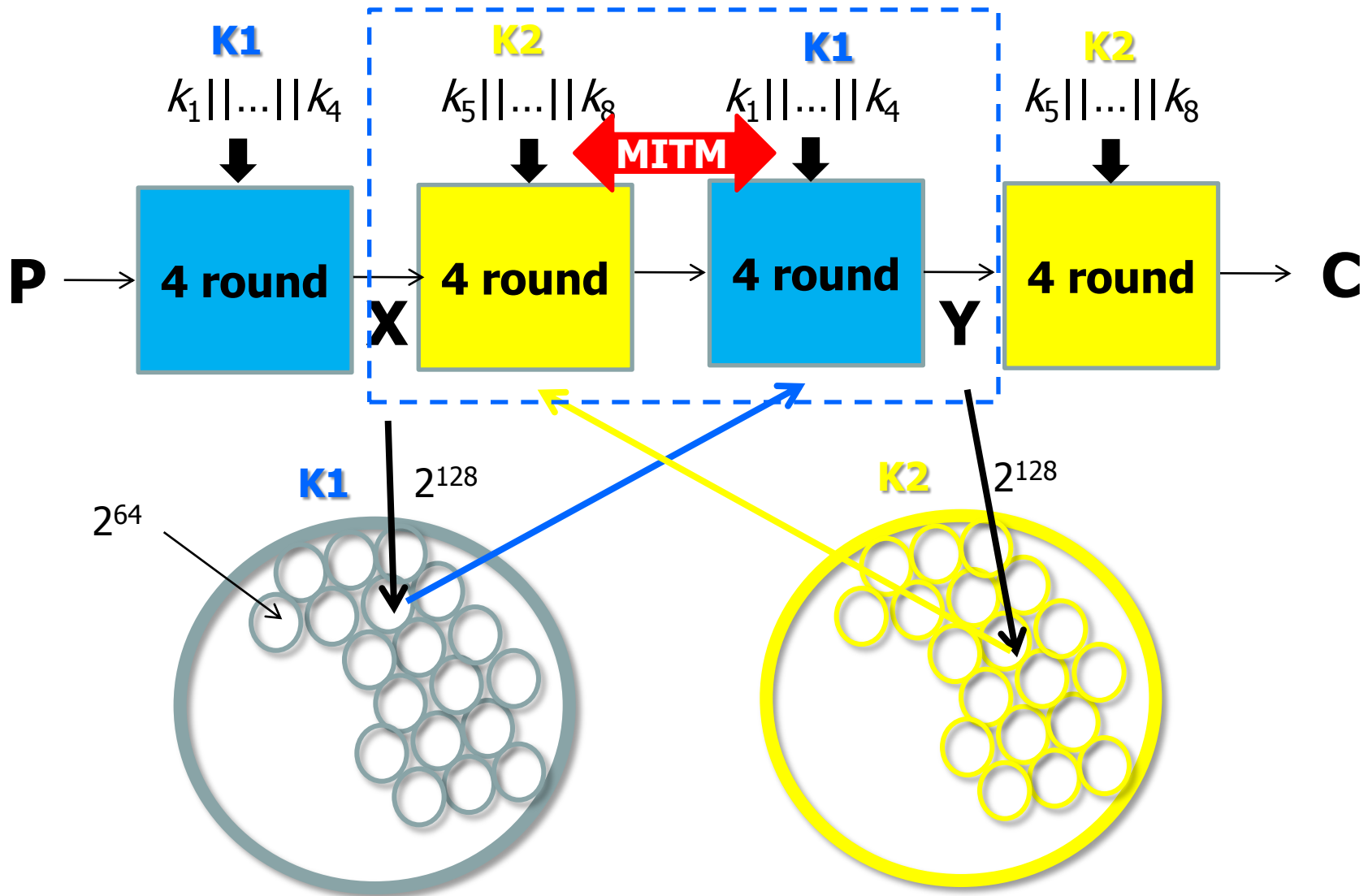
Effective MITM approach

■ Mount MITM approach in only intermediate 8 round.



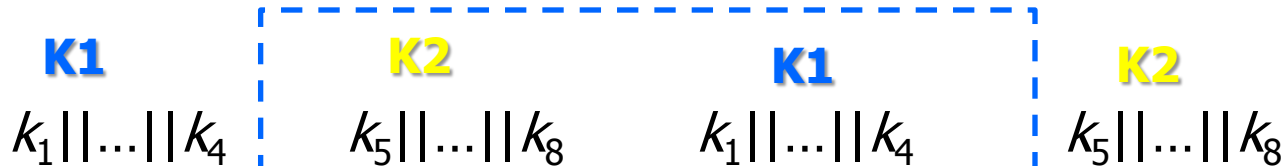
Effective MITM approach

■ Mount MITM approach in only intermediate 8 round.



Effective MITM approach

- Mount MITM approach in only intermediate 8 round.

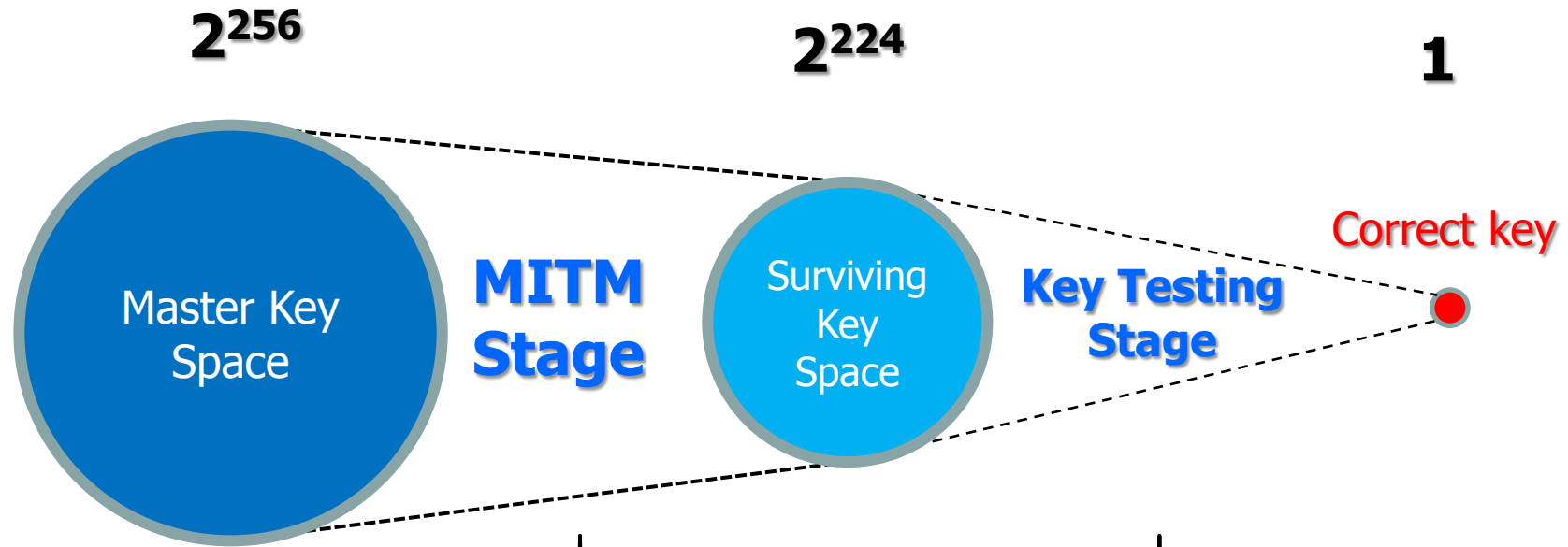


P

**Repeat these steps with all values of X and Y
(2^{128} ($=2^{64} \times 2^{64}$) times)**



Evaluation



$$\begin{aligned}
 \text{Complexity} &= 2^{32} (2^{128}(2^{64}+2^{64}) + (2^{256-32} + 2^{256-64} + \dots)) = 2^{225} \\
 \text{Data} &= \max \left(\frac{2^{32}}{2^{32}}, 8 \right) = 2^{32}
 \end{aligned}$$

It is faster than brute force attack (2^{256})

Result

■ First Single Key Attack on GOST block cipher

- Applicable to any S-box even including not bijective.[Joc ver.]
- Several Improvements have been proposed so far.

Key Setting	Type of Attack	Round	Complexity	Data	Paper
Single Key	Differential	13	-	2^{51} (CP)	[SK00]
	Slide	24	2^{63}	$2^{64} - 2^{18}$ (KP)	[BDK07]
	Slide	30	2^{254}	$2^{64} - 2^{18}$ (KP)	[BDK07]
	Reflection	30	2^{224}	2^{32} (KP)	[K08]
	Reflection-MITM	32 (Full)	2^{225}	2^{32} (KP)	Ours
	MitM attack	32(Full)	2^{192}	2^{64} (KP)	[DDS12]

3.MitM attack on Block Cipher having Complex KSF

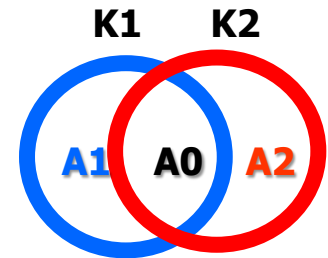
- All Subkeys Recovery Attack on Block cipher
(SAC 2012 w/ K. Shibutani)

MitM Attack on Block Cipher

■ Mainly Exploits low key dependency of KSF.

- Work well for simple key scheduling.
 - Recent Attacks : KTANATAN, GOST, XTEA, IDEA, LED, Piccolo
=> (permutation base KSF)

- Complex KSF is difficult to analyze or evaluate
 - Only AES attack (complicated and specific)



hard to find independent key bits....

■ Our Questions

- How do we evaluate block cipher having complex KSF against MitM attack?
- How secure is complex KSF against MitM attack?

Our Approach

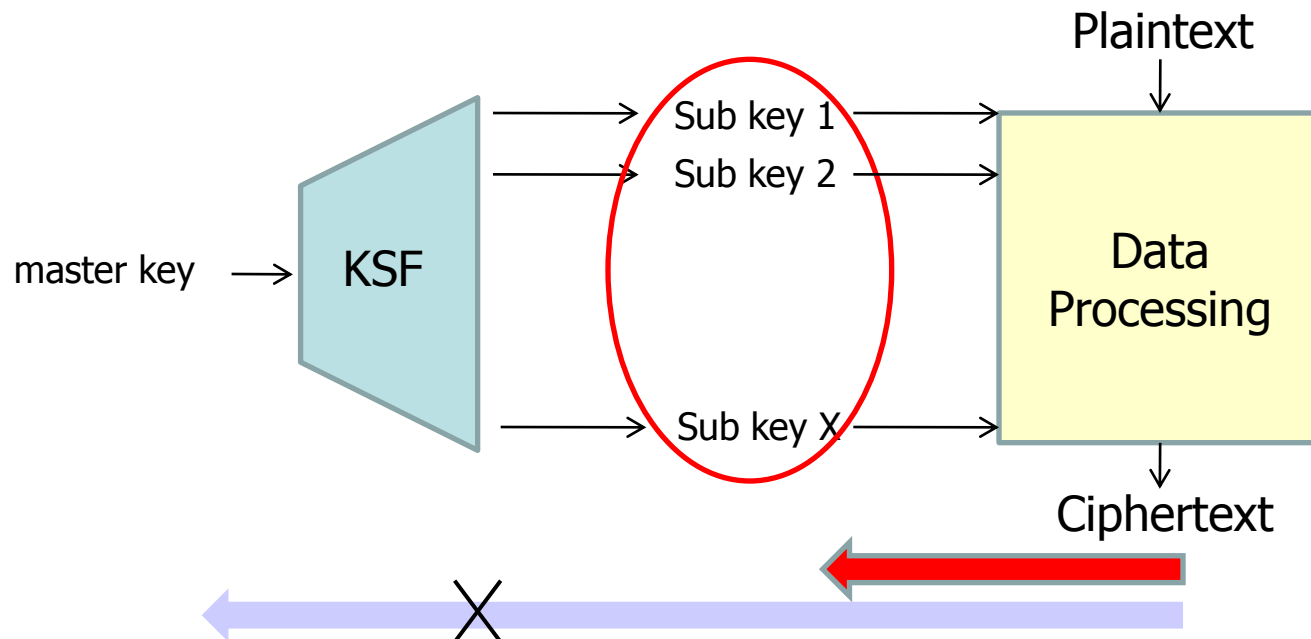
Extend MitM attack so that it can be applied to wider class of block cipher

Give a **general** method for evaluating MitM attack

=> **All Subkey Recovery (ASR) Attack**

■ Our Approach

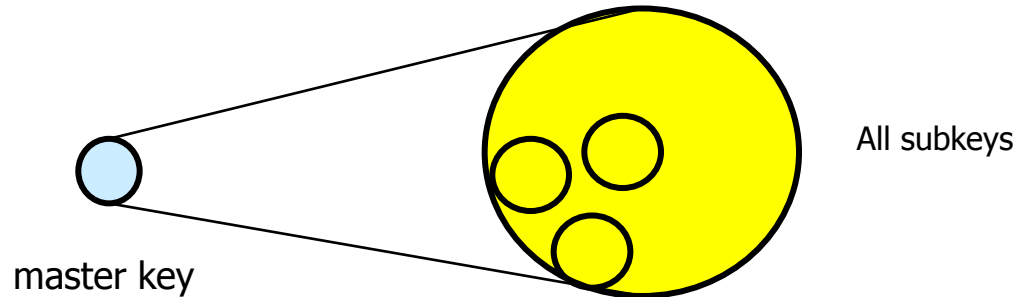
- Finding “**all subkeys**” instead “master key”



Assumption

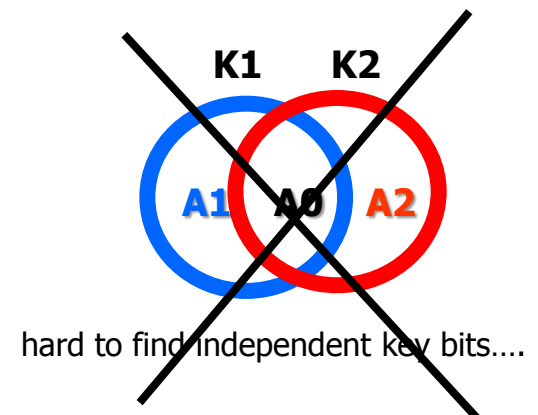
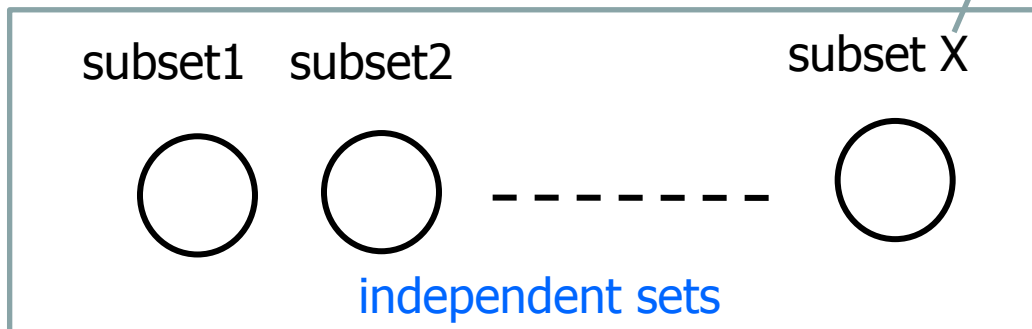
- All subkey are considered as **independent** variables
 - do not use any relation between subkey bits

- Search Space => increase : All subkey space (larger than master key)



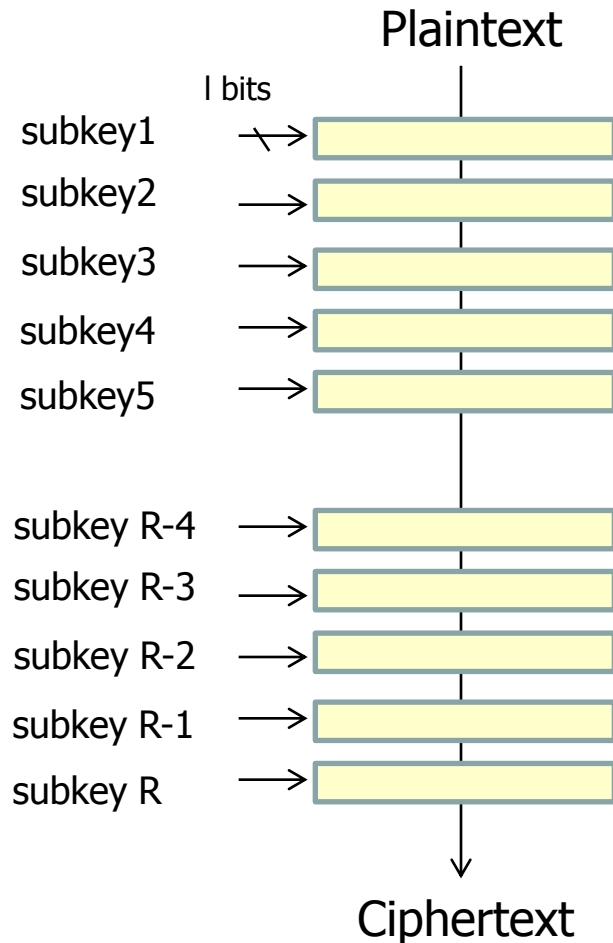
- Easily mount MitM attack!!

=> All subkey bits are independent bits



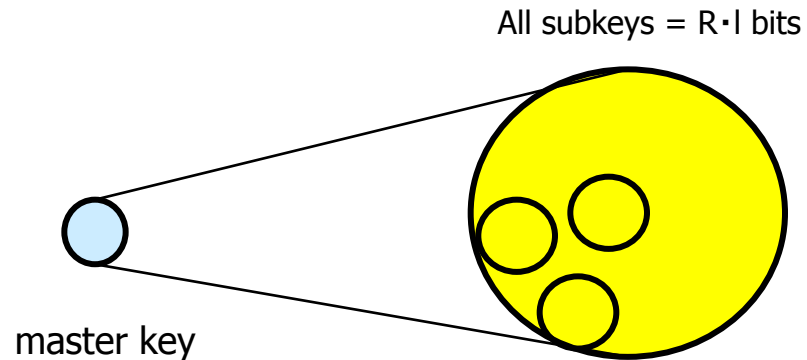
How to recover all subkeys

■ Meet in the Middle Approach



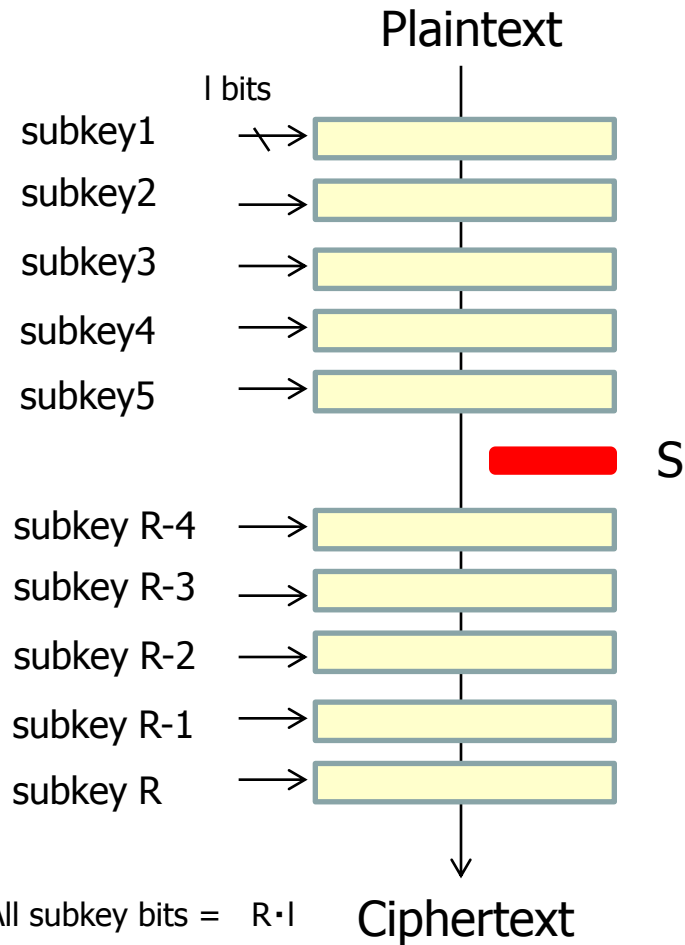
Assumption : All subkeys are independent variables

All subkey : $R \cdot I$ bits ($>$ master key bits)
- R is round number
- I is subkey bits per round



How to recover all subkeys

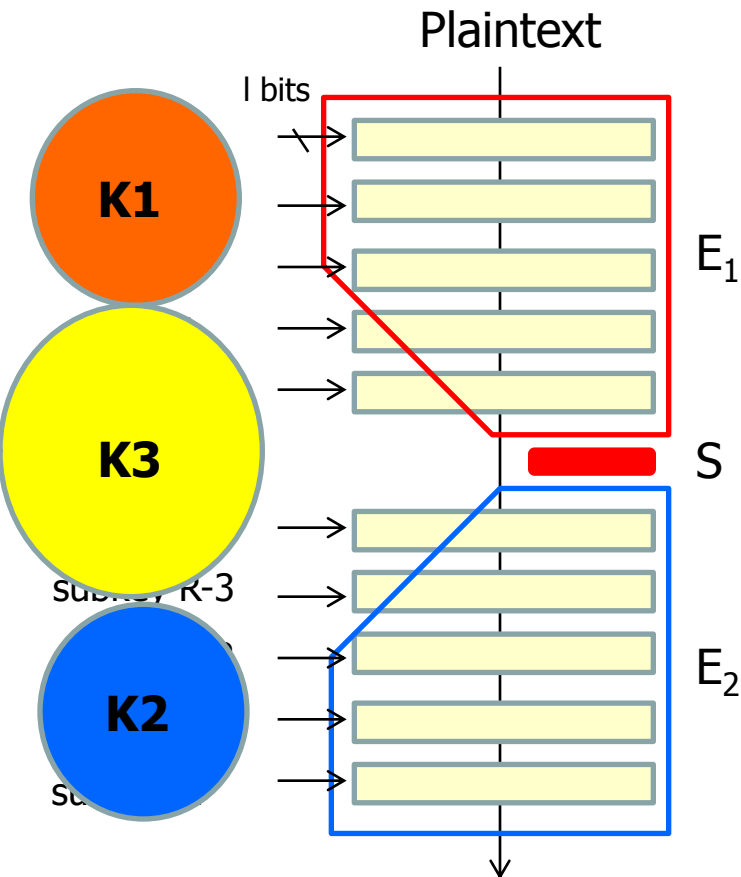
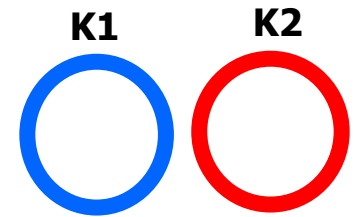
■ Meet in the Middle Approach



1. Choose s -bit matching state S

How to recover all subkeys

■ Meet in the Middle Approach



1. Choose s -bit matching state S
2. Construct sets of **K1** and **K2** such that $s = E_1(\mathbf{K1}, P)$ and $s = E_2(\mathbf{K2}, C)$
3. Compute $s = E_1(\mathbf{K1}, P)$ with all **K1** and Make Table of $(s, \mathbf{K1})$ pairs
4. Compute $s' = E_2(\mathbf{K2}, C)$ with all **K2**
5. If $s = s'$, regard it as key candidate

surviving key candidate : $2^{R \cdot l - s}$

additionally use N plaintext

Parallel MitM

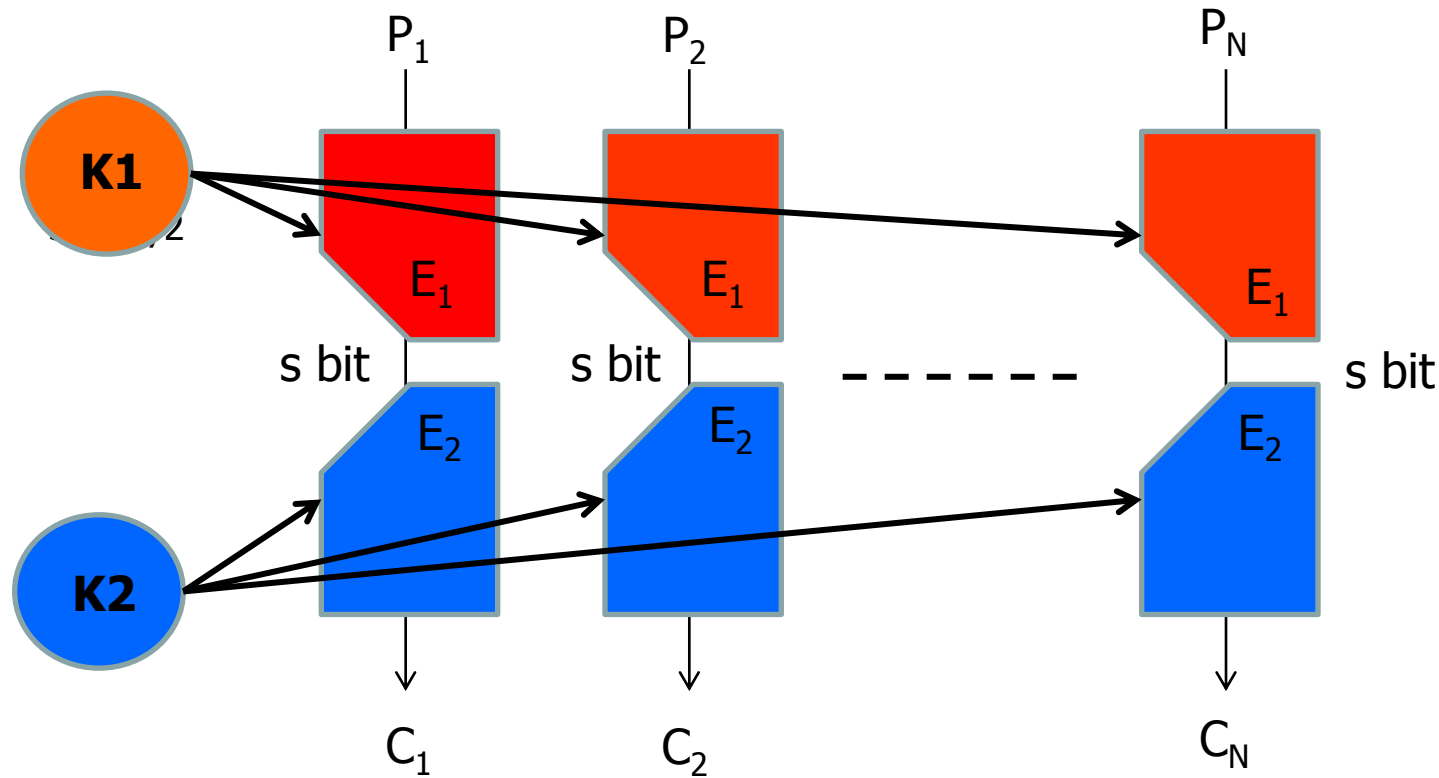
surviving key candidate : $2^{R \cdot l - N \cdot s}$

All subkey bits = $R \cdot l$
 $= |K_{(1)}| + |K_{(2)}| + |K_{(3)}|$

Ciphertext

Parallel MitM attack

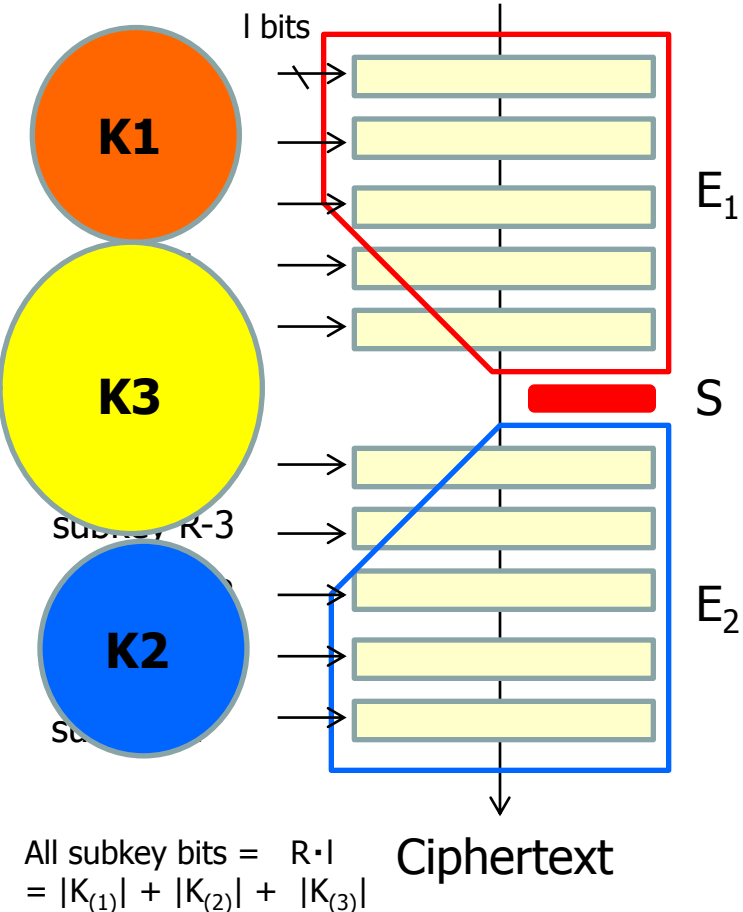
- Given N Plaintext/Ciphertext



Filter out wrong keys by using N matching state

surviving key candidate : $2^{R \cdot l - N \cdot s}$

Evaluation



Time complexity

$$\underbrace{\max(2^{|K(1)|}, 2^{|K(2)|}) \times N}_{\text{MitM filtering}} + \underbrace{2^{R \cdot l - N \cdot s}}_{\text{brute force of surviving key}}$$

Data

$$\max(N, (R \cdot l - N \cdot s)/n) \text{ KP}$$

Memory

$$\min(2^{|K(1)|}, 2^{|K(2)|}) \times N$$

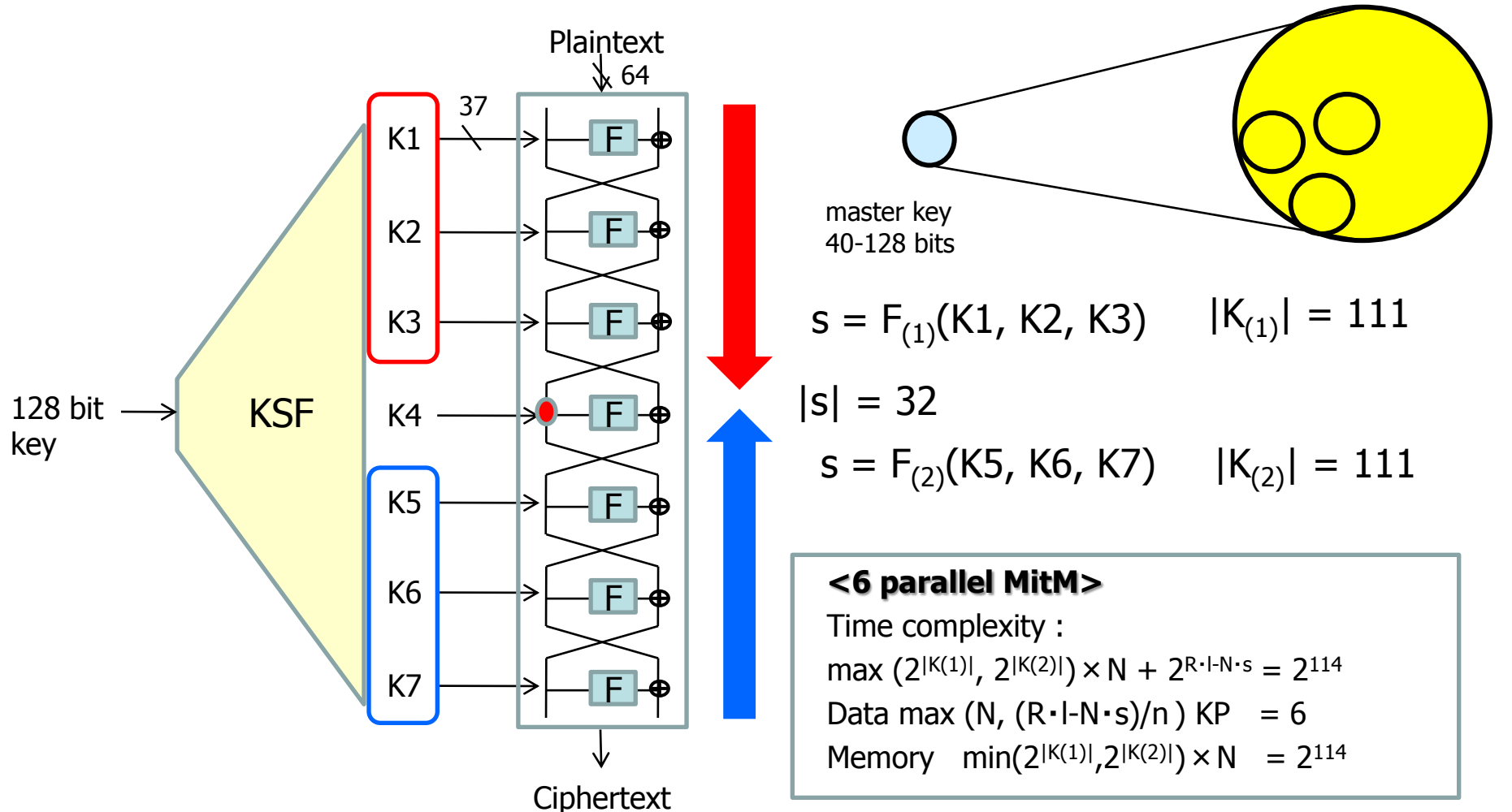
used for matching

Example : 7-round CAST

7-round Balanced Feistel Network

- 40 - 128-bit key, 64-bit block, 37-bit subkey per round

All subkeys = 259 bits



Example : 7-round CAST

7-round Balanced Feistel Network

- 40 - 128-bit key, 64-bit block, 37-bit subkey per round

All subkeys = 259 bits

Best Attack

For 7 round CAST-128 with key size > 110,
ASR attack is more effective than brute force attack

Previous Best attack : 6-round linear attack [M.Wang+09]

Time complexity :

$$\max(2^{|K(1)|}, 2^{|K(2)|}) \times N + 2^{R \cdot l \cdot N \cdot s} = 2^{114}$$

$$\text{Data } \max(N, (R \cdot l \cdot N \cdot s) / n) \text{ KP} = 6$$

$$\text{Memory } \min(2^{|K(1)|}, 2^{|K(2)|}) \times N = 2^{114}$$

Key of ASR Attack

■ Complexity

- $\max(2^{|K(1)|}, 2^{|K(2)|}) \times N + 2^{R \cdot l - N \cdot s}$

=> dominated by $|K(1)|$ and $|K(2)|$



Smaller $|K(1)|$ and $|K(2)|$ leads to more efficient attack

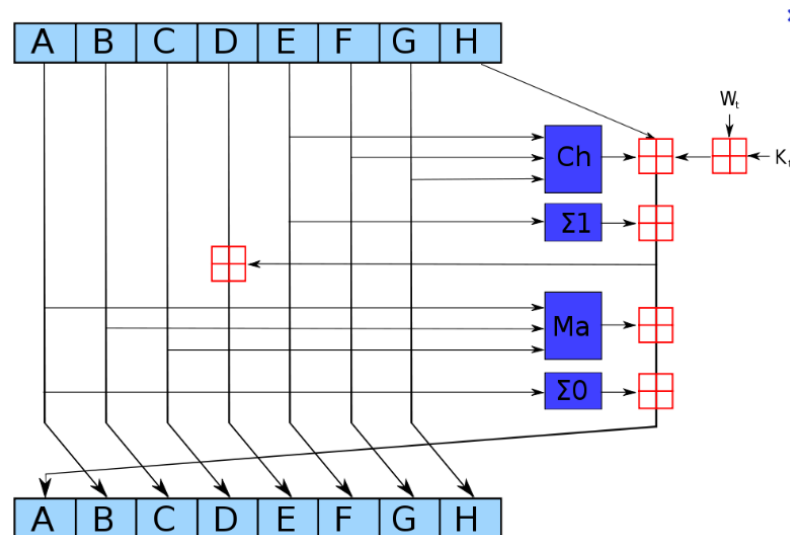
■ Point

Finding the matching state S that can be computed by the smallest $\max(|K(1)|, |K(2)|)$

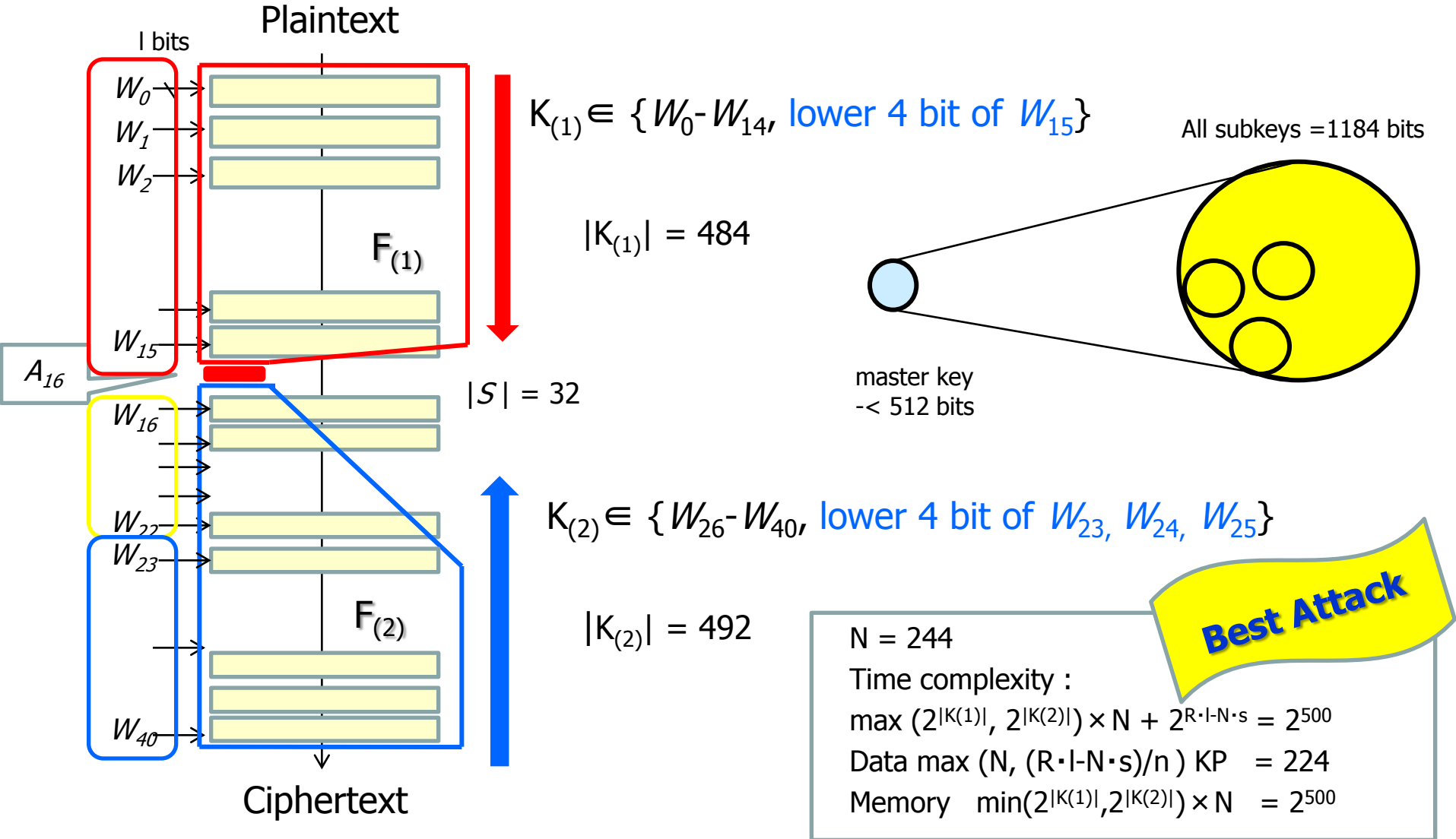
SHACAL-2

- Selected by NESSIE portfolio
- block size : 256 bits, key size : ≤ 512 bits
- Based on SHA-256 compression function
 - 64-round GFN like construction
- Current Attack : 32 round (Differential-linear)

[Y. Shin+04]



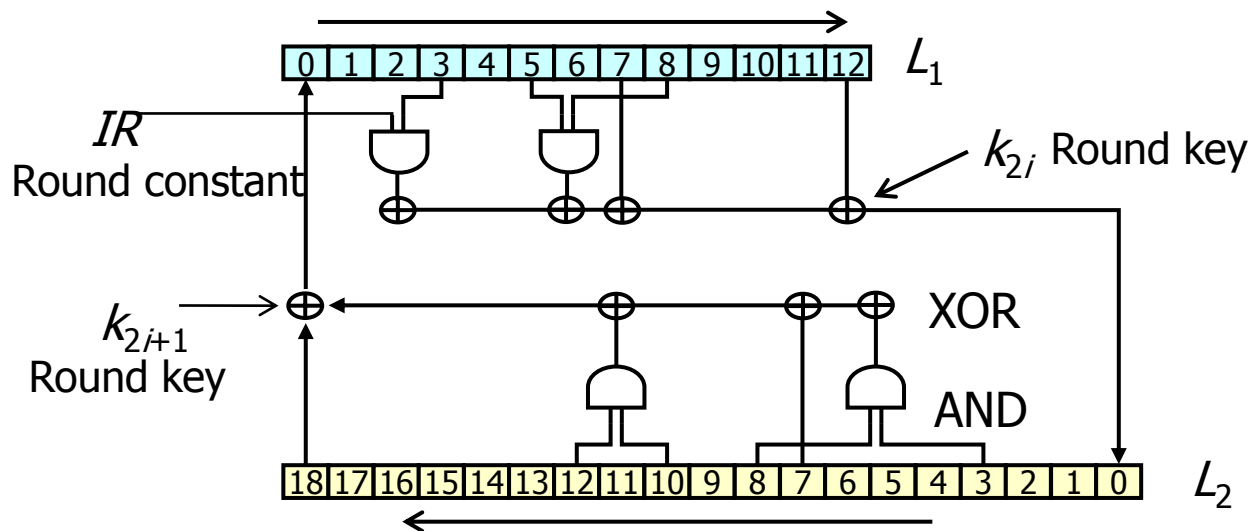
41-round Attack



KATAN Family

- Ultra lightweight block cipher (CHES 2010)
- block size : 32/48/64 bits, key size : 80 bits
- Based on Stream cipher Trivium
 - 254 round LFSR-type construction
- Best Attack 78/70/68 round on KATAN32/48/64

[K+10]

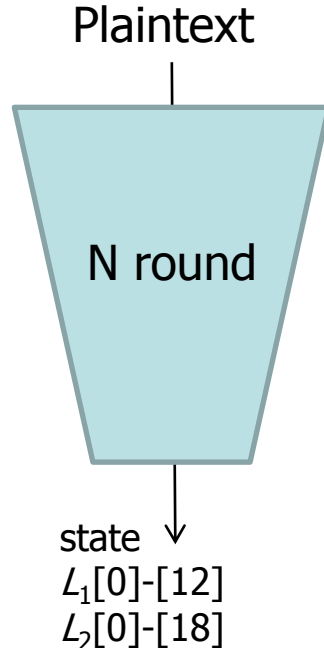


Attack Strategy

■ Point of Attack :

- Finding the state S computed by the smallest $\max(|K(1)|, |K(2)|)$

In order to find “good state”, we exhaustively observe the number of key bits involved in each state per round

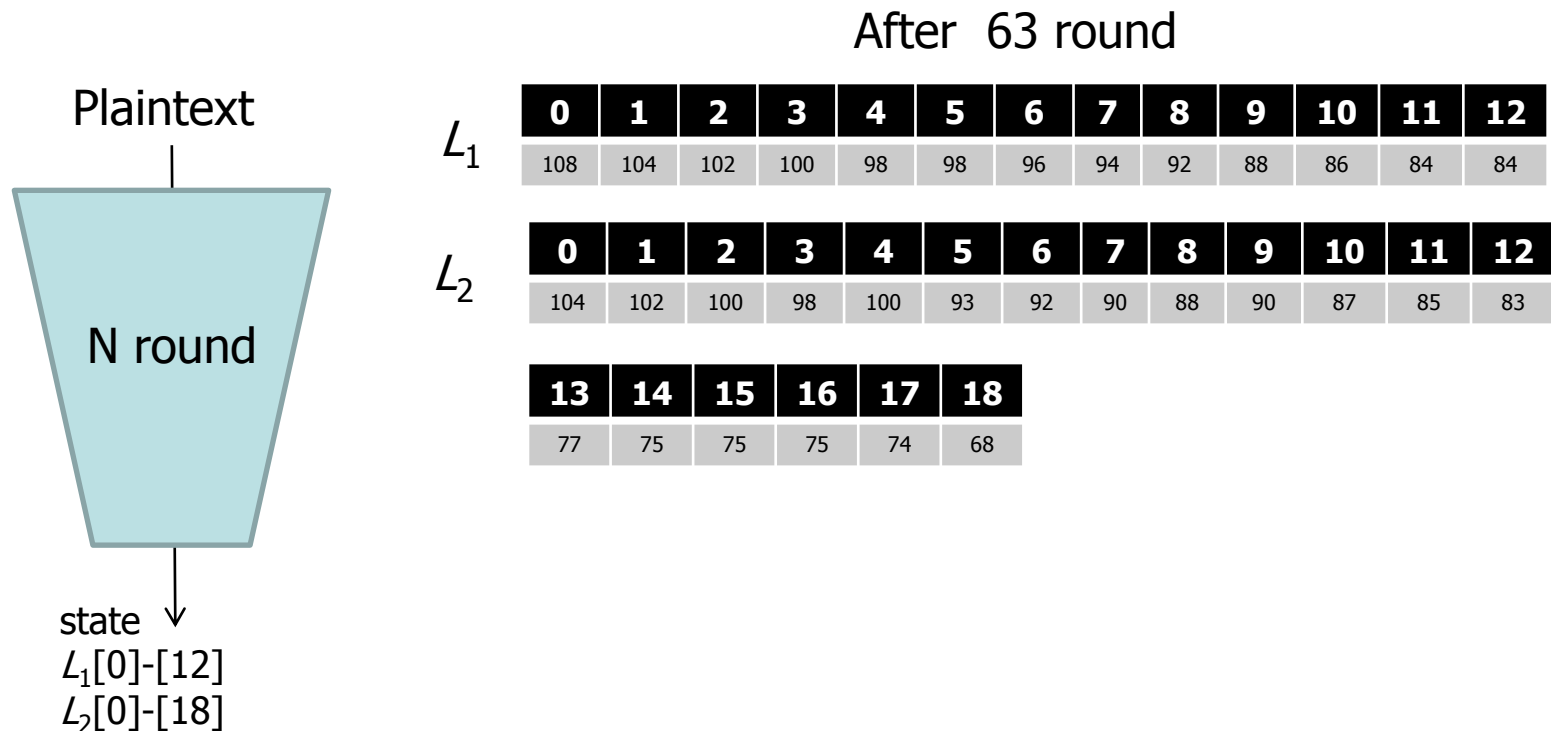


Attack Strategy

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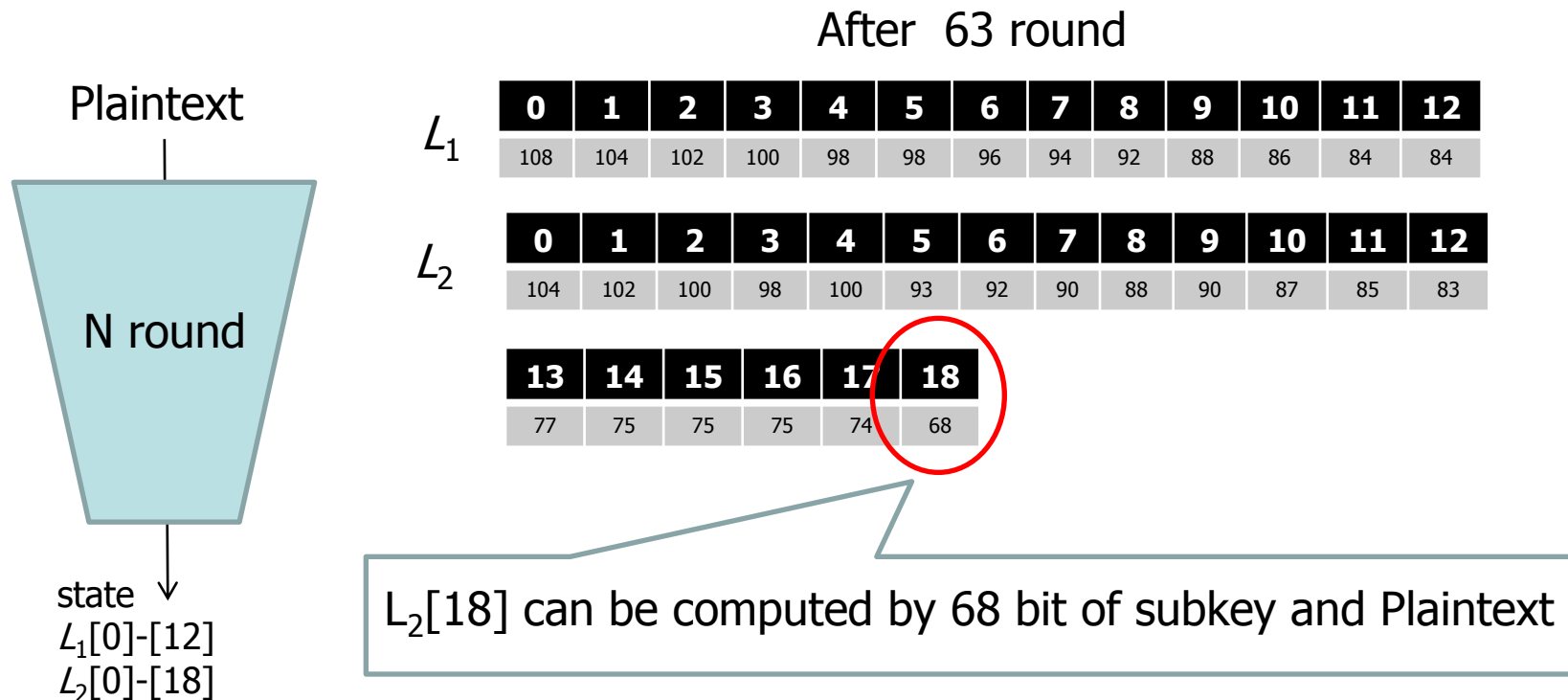


Attack Strategy

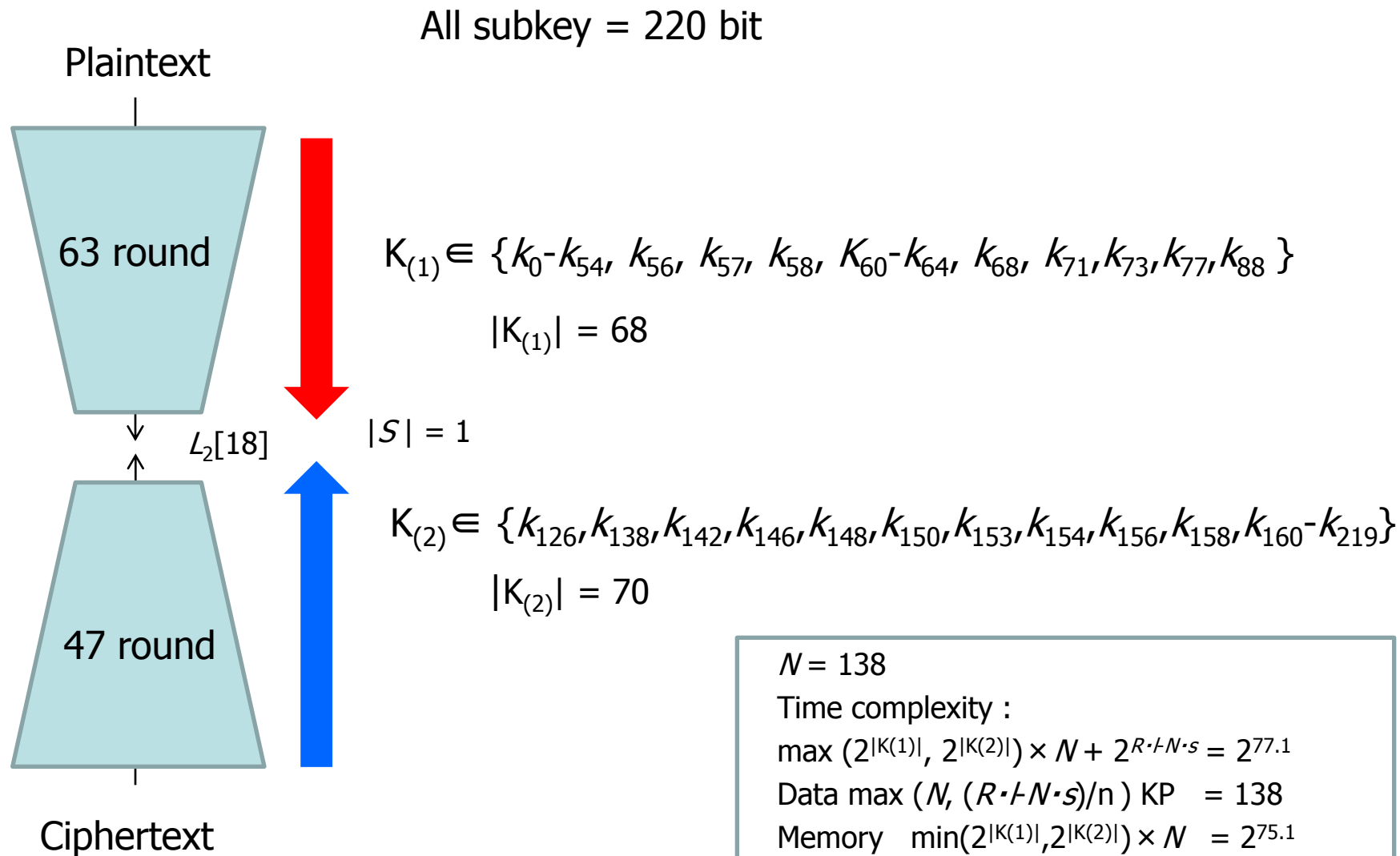
■ Point of Attack :

- Finding the state S computed by the smallest $\max(|K(1)|, |K(2)|)$

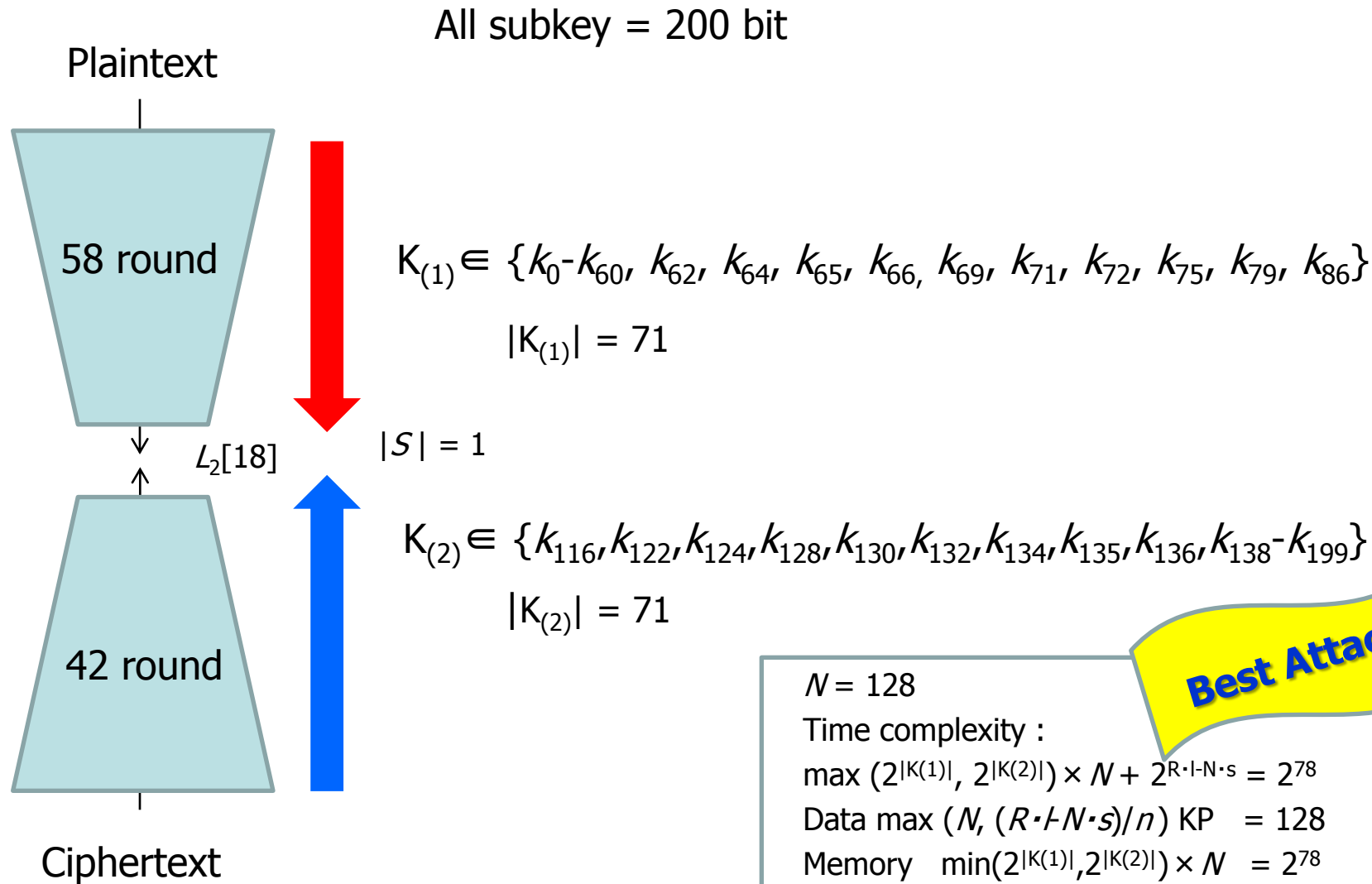
In order to find “good state”, we exhaustively observe the number of key bits involved in each state per round



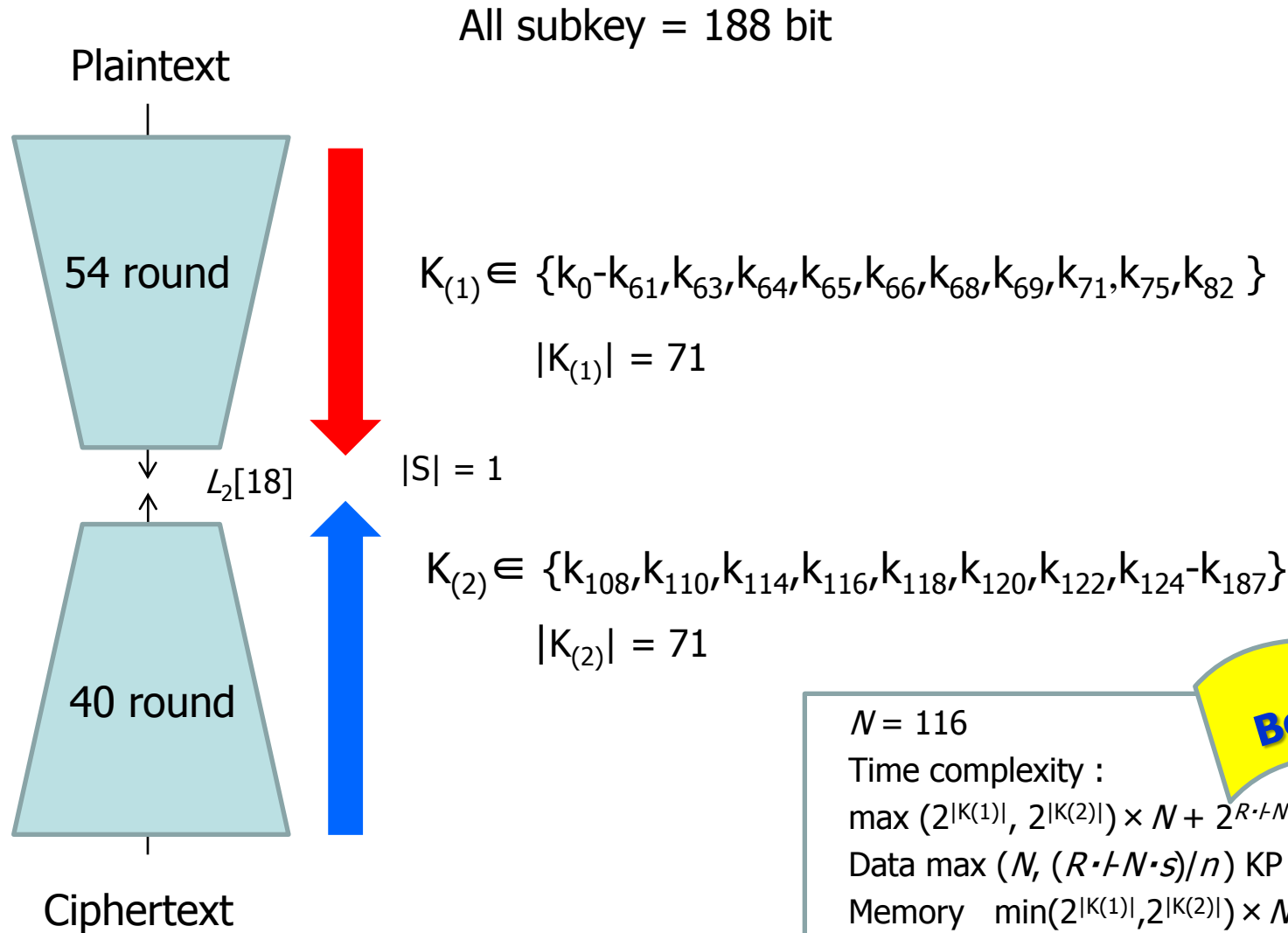
110 round Attack on KATAN32



100 round Attack on KATAN48



94 round Attack on KATAN64



Our Results

- We can update best attack w.r.t. #attacked round

Algorithm	#attacked round	Time	Memory	Data	reference
CAST-128	6	$2^{88.5}$	-	$2^{53.96}$ KP	[MXC09]
	7	2^{114}	2^{114}	6KP	Our
SHACAL-2	32	$2^{504.2}$	$2^{48.4}$	$2^{43.4}$ CP	[S+04]
	41	2^{500}	2^{492}	244 KP	Our
KATAN32	78	2^{76}	-	2^{16} CP	[KMN10]
	110	2^{77}	$2^{75.1}$	138 KP	Our
	115	-	-		[AL12]
KATAN48	70	2^{78}	-	2^{31} CP	[KMN10]
	100	2^{78}	278	128 KP	Our
KATAN64	68	2^{78}	-	2^{32} CP	[KMN10]
	94	$2^{77.68}$	$2^{77.68}$	116 KP	Our
FOX128	5	$2^{205.6}$	-	2^9 CP	[WZF05]
	5	2^{228}	2^{228}	14 KP	Our
Blowfish*	16	2^{292}	2^{260}	9 KP	Our
Blowfish-8R*	8	2^{160}	2^{131}	5 KP	Our

* : Known F function setting

CAST, SHACAL, Blowfish support variable key length, our attacks are applicable to restricted parameter

Advantage and Limitation

■ Advantage

- Our attack works any KSF even if Ideal function.
 - Generic and simple attack
- Thanks to MitM attack w/o Spice and Cut,
Data complexity is very low.

■ Limitation

- When Key size is smaller, ASR attack is less effective.
 - => bound of attack complexity = key size (not all subkeys)
- Huge memory requirement

Conclusion

- Introduced several results w.r.t MitM attack of Block Cipher
 - MitM on Block cipher having *simple* KSF
 - XTEA, LED, Piccolo (@ ACISP 2012 w/ K. Shibutani)
 - GOST (@ FSE 2011 and JoC)
 - MitM on Block cipher having *complex* KSF
 - All subkeys recovery attack (@ SAC 2012 w/ K. Shibutani)
 - KATAN-32/48/64, SHACAL-2, CAST-128

Thank you for your attention

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