

# CAESAR candidate PiCipher

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# Design goals for PiCipher

1. To be nonce based authenticated encryption cipher with associated data with security ranges between 96 and 256 bits of security (CAESAR requested feature)
2. To be easier than AES-GCM to run it in a parallel mode (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM)
  - To be faster than AES-GCM on the hardware that has AES-NI (but using other parallel potentials of the same hardware like many cores and SIMD)
  - To be faster than AES-GCM on hardware that does not have AES-NI
  - To be faster than AES-GCM on any parallel architecture
  - To be able to offer incremental encryptions and tag productions (Extra feature)
3. To offer better than AES-GCM security features in a case when nonce is reused (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
  - To be resistant to insider attacks that know the secret key
5. To offer better than AES-GCM properties for preventing DoS attacks (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
6. For certain parameters to offer the flexibility of tweakable (wide-block) encryption (that gives authentication too) (Extra feature)
7. For certain parameters to be lightweight in HW, for other parameters to be fast in SW

# Design principles in PiCipher

- It is based on several solid cryptographic concepts
  - Encrypt-then-MAC principle,
  - XOR MAC scheme,
  - Two-pass sponge construction
- Its permutation is based on 16-bit or 32-bit or 64-bit ARX operations
- Possibility to Plug&Play other permutation in PiCipher

# The main component in PiCipher is “Triplex”

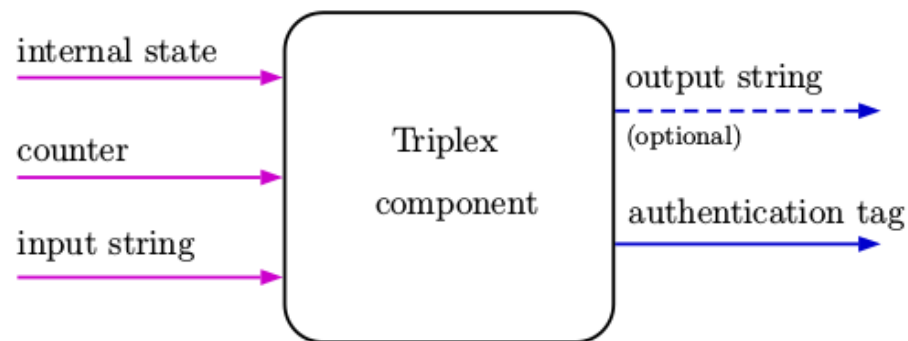


Fig. 1: A general scheme of the triplex component

# Inside the Triplex

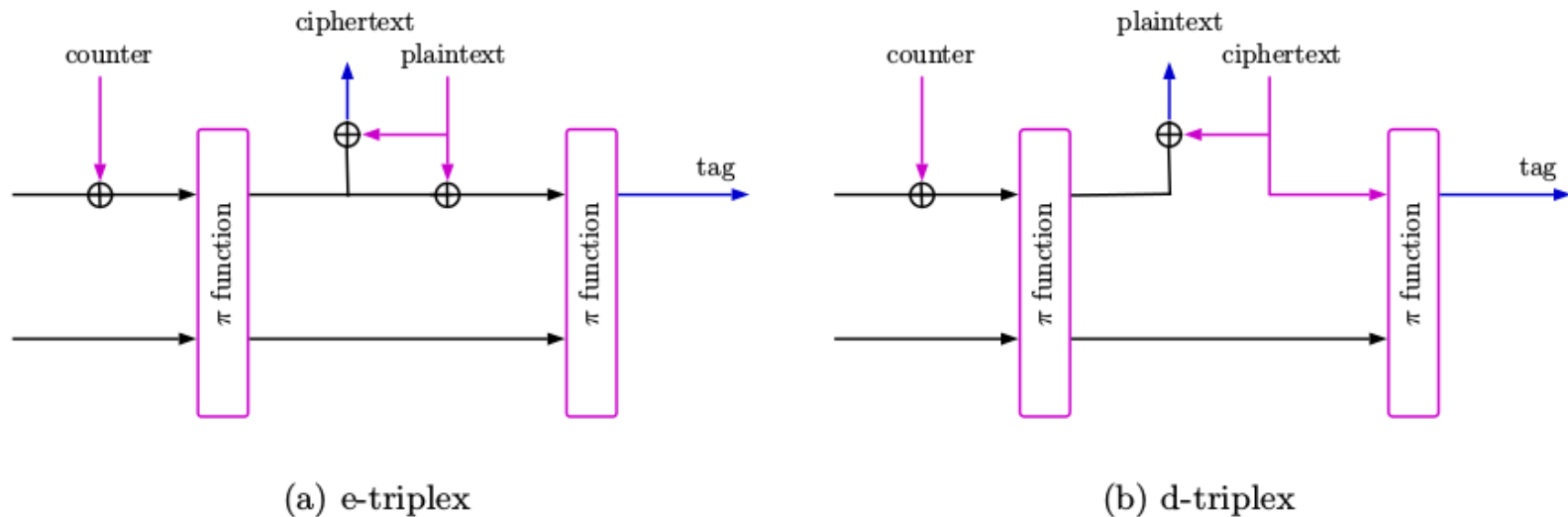


Fig. 2: The Triplex component

# Why “Triplex”, why not Sponge Duplex?

# Why “Triplex”, why not Sponge Duplex?

**We did not want to violate the rights of the  
US Patent US2842789 A: “Combined sponge  
and squeegee with duplex control means”**

# Why “Triplex”, why not Sponge Duplex?

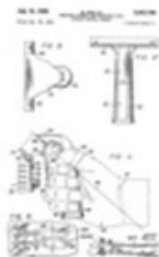
Patents

Combined sponge and squeegee with duplex  
control means

US 2842789 A

IMAGES (2)

of the  
sponge  
means”





# Why “Triplex”, why not Sponge Duplex?

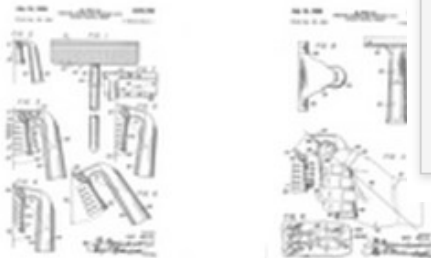
Patents


of the

**Combined spong  
control means**

US 2842789 A

**IMAGES** (2)



Publication number	US2842789 A
Publication type	Grant
Publication date	15 Jul 1958
Filing date	25 Jan 1954
Priority date 	25 Jan 1954
Inventors	<a href="#">Bert Wells</a>
Original Assignee	<a href="#">Bert Wells</a>
Export Citation	<a href="#">BiBTeX</a> , <a href="#">EndNote</a> , <a href="#">RefMan</a>
<a href="#">Patent Citations</a> (10), <a href="#">Referenced by</a> (23), <a href="#">Classifications</a> (10)	
<b>External Links:</b> <a href="#">USPTO</a> , <a href="#">USPTO Assignment</a> , <a href="#">Espacenet</a>	

# Why "Triplex", why not Sponge Duplex?

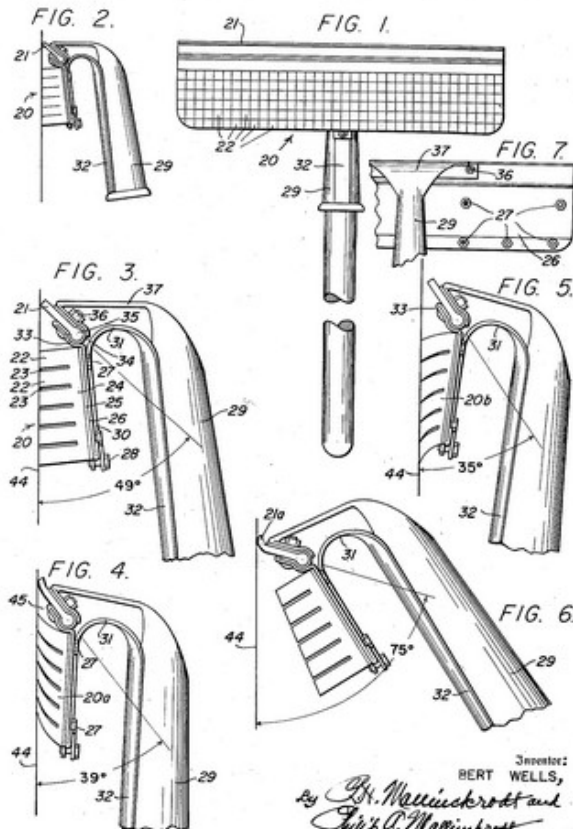
July 15, 1958

B. WELLS  
COMBINED SPONGE AND SQUEEGEE WITH  
DUPLIX CONTROL MEANS

2,842,789

Filed Jan. 25, 1954

2 Sheets-Sheet 1



Inventor:  
BERT WELLS,  
By *A. Mallinckrodt and  
Philip C. Mallinckrodt*  
Attorneys

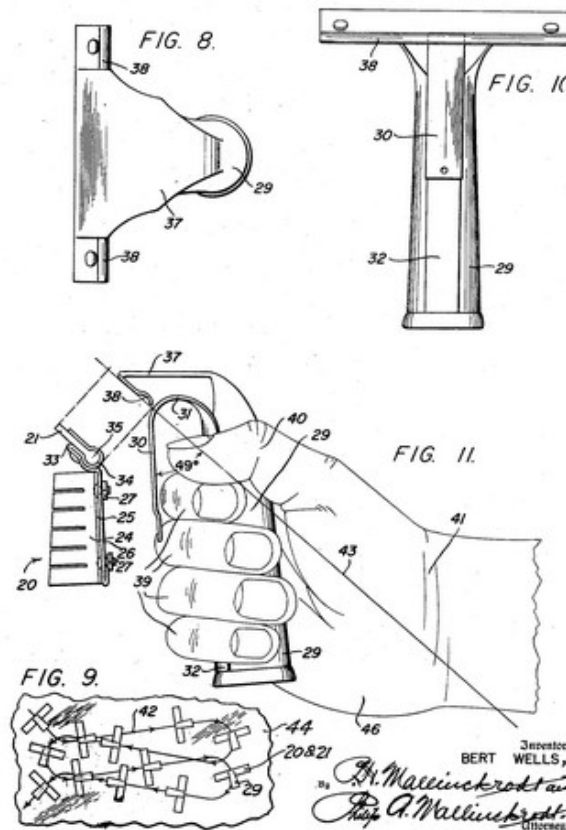
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# Inside PiCipher

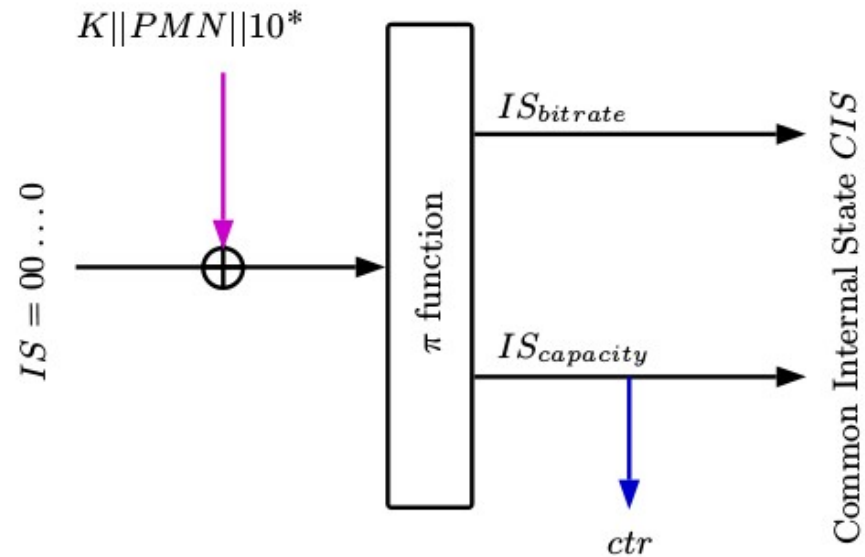


Fig. 3: Initialization step

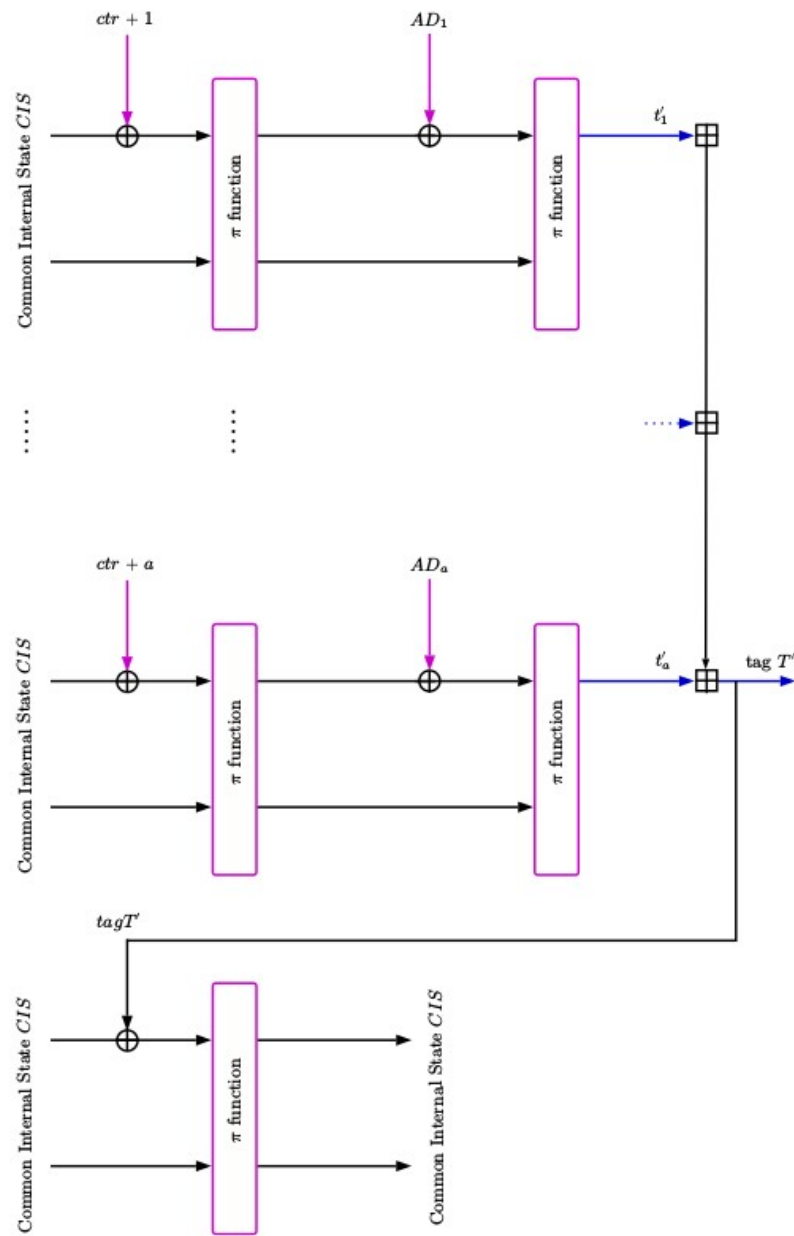


Fig. 4: Processing the associated data  $AD$  with  $a$  blocks in parallel

# Inside PiCipher

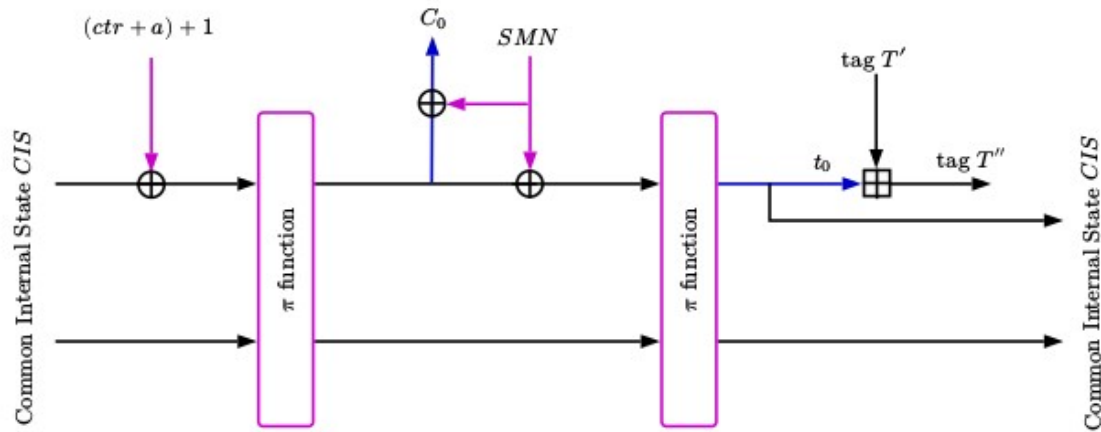


Fig. 5: Processing the secret message number  $SMN$

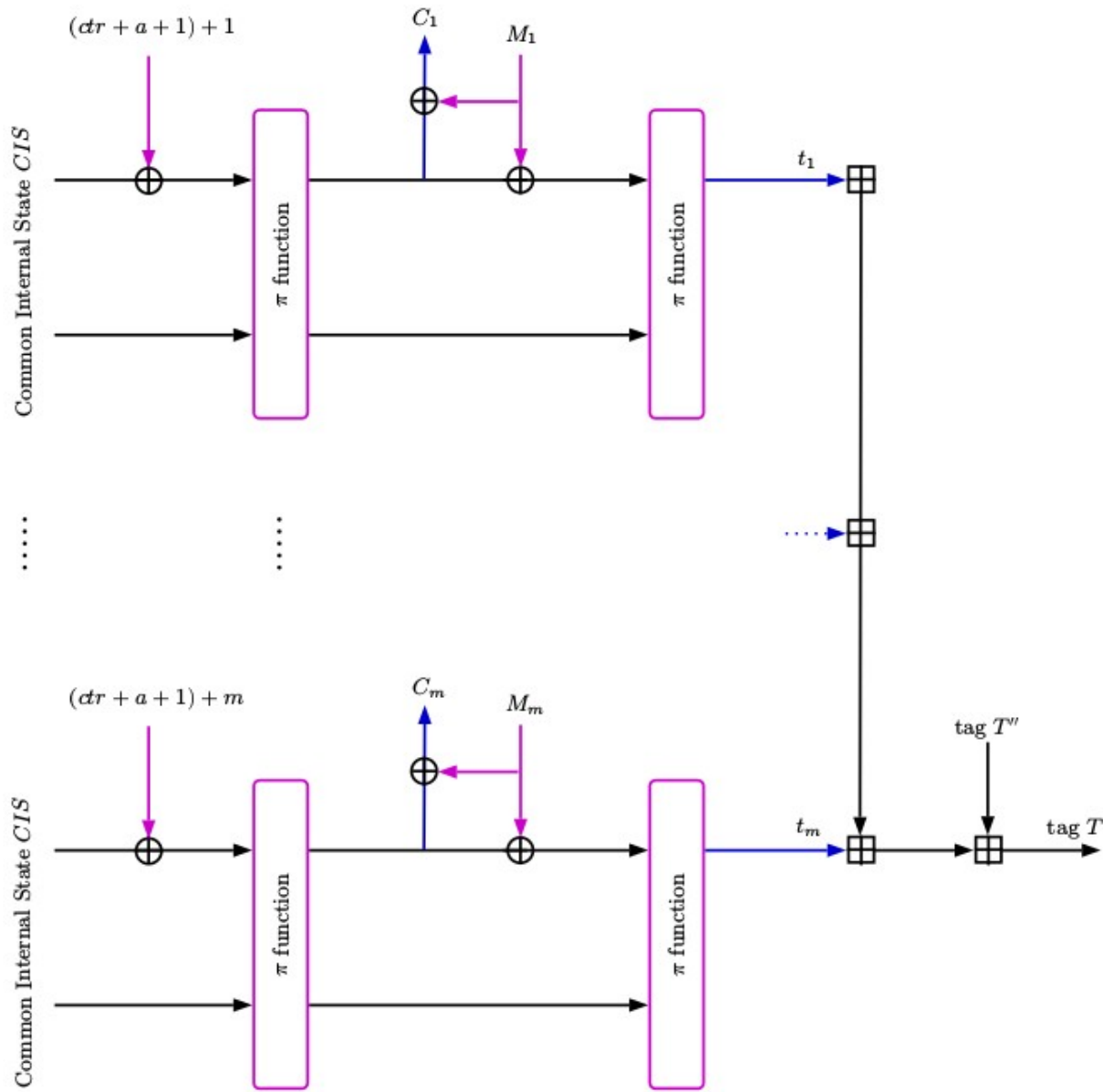


Fig. 6: Processing the message  $M$  with  $m$  blocks in parallel

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

1. To be nonce based authenticated encryption cipher with associated data with security ranges between 96 and 256 bits of security (CAESAR requested feature)

	Word size $\omega$ (in bits)	$klen$ (in bits)	$PMN$ (in bits)	$SMN$ (in bits)	$b$ (in bits)	$N$	$bitrate$ (in bits)	Tag $t$ (in bits)	$R$
$\pi$ 16-Cipher096	16	96	32	0 or 128	256	4	128	128	4
$\pi$ 16-Cipher128	16	128	32	0 or 128	256	4	128	128	4
$\pi$ 32-Cipher128	32	128	128	0 or 256	512	4	256	256	4
$\pi$ 32-Cipher256	32	256	128	0 or 256	512	4	256	256	4
$\pi$ 64-Cipher128	64	128	128	0 or 512	1024	4	512	512	4
$\pi$ 64-Cipher256	64	256	128	0 or 512	1024	4	512	512	4

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

2. To be easier than AES-GCM to run it in a parallel mode (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM)
  - To be faster than AES-GCM on the hardware that has AES-NI (but using other parallel potentials of the same hardware like many cores and SIMD)
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  - To be able to offer incremental encryptions and tag productions (Extra feature)



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# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

2. To be easier than A  
GCM)

**How AES-GCM can run in  
fully parallel mode?**

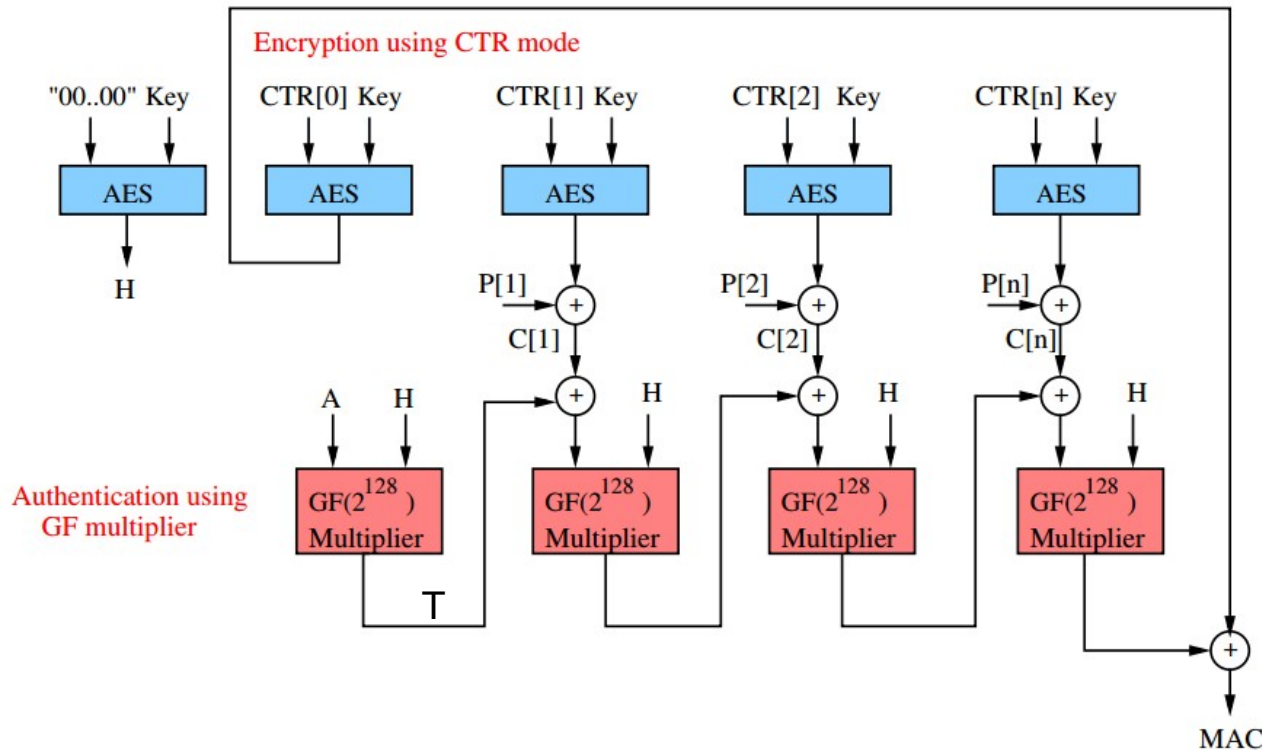
comparison with AES-

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

## How AES-GCM can run in fully parallel mode?

2. To be easier than A  
 - To be faster than

(Comparison with AES-GCM)  
 and other parallel



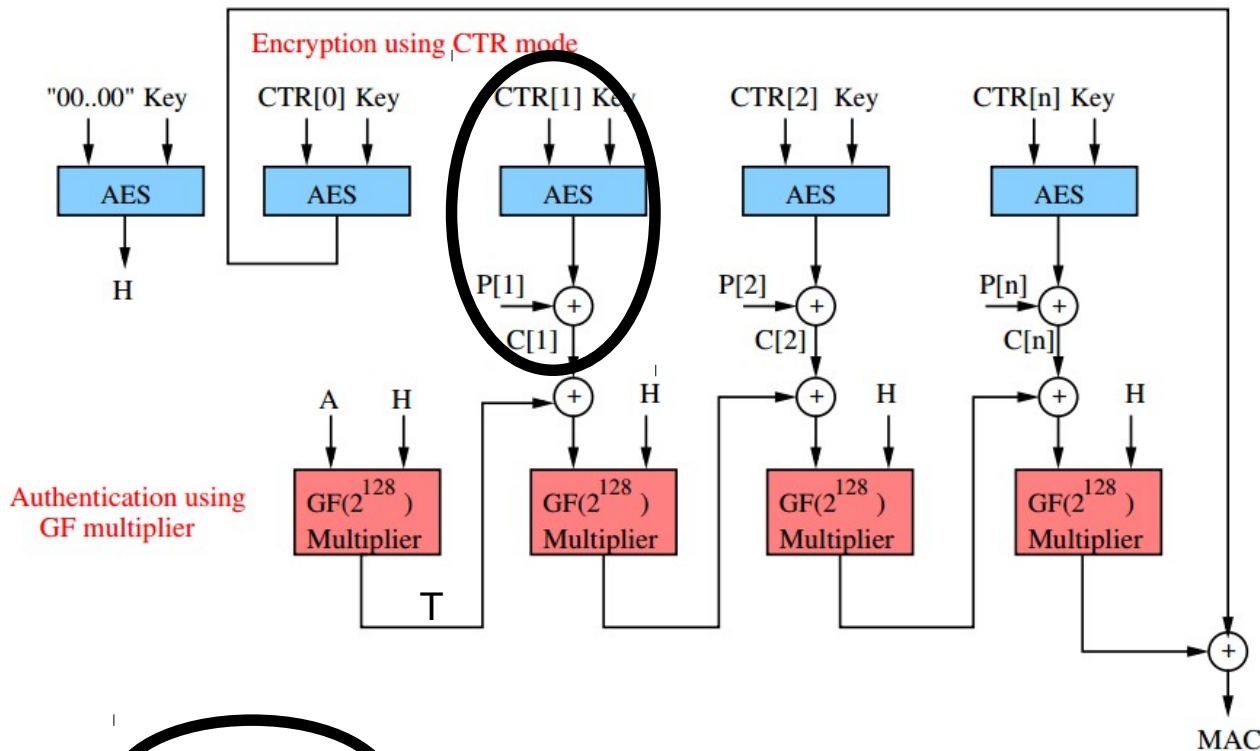
$$MAC = (T+C[1]).H^N + (C[2]).H^{N-1} + \dots + (C[n-1]).H^2 + (C[n]).H$$

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

2. To be easier than A (comparison with AES-GCM)

**How AES-GCM can run in fully parallel mode?**

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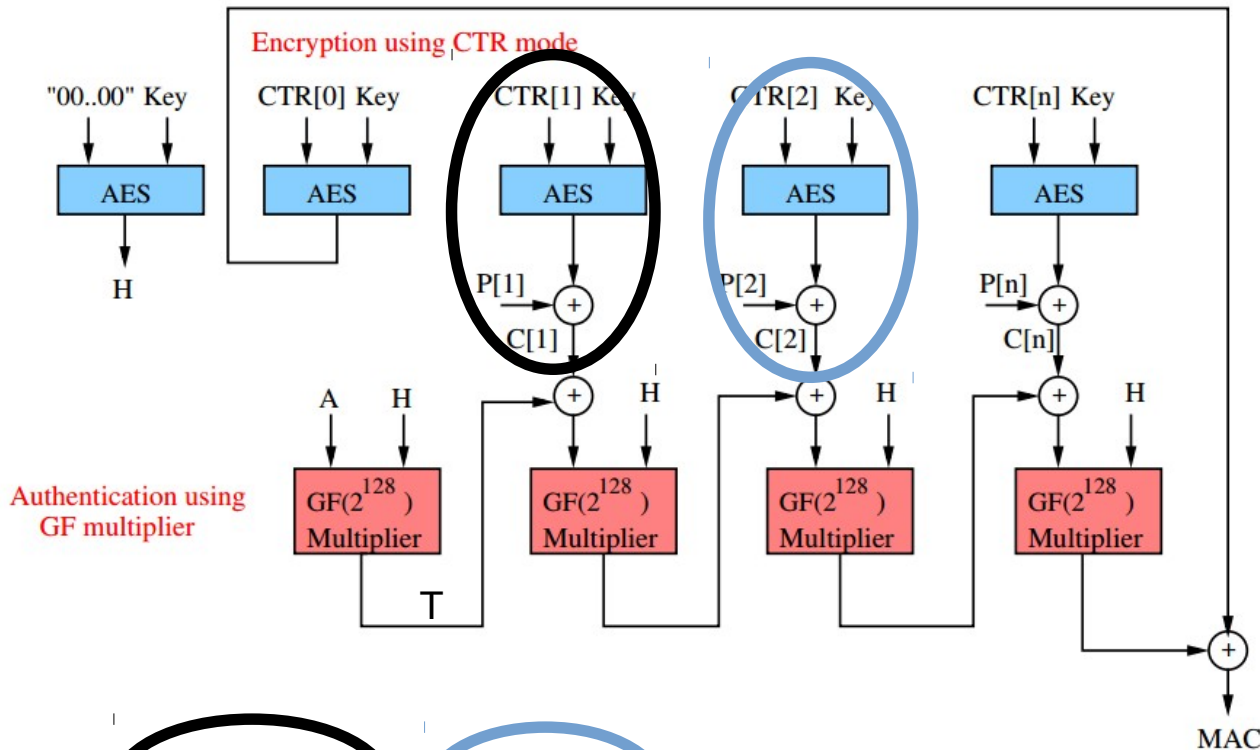
$$MAC = (T + C[1]) \cdot H^N + (C[2]) \cdot H^{N-1} + \dots + (C[n-1]) \cdot H^2 + (C[n]) \cdot H$$

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

## How AES-GCM can run in fully parallel mode?

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- To be faster than ...

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel



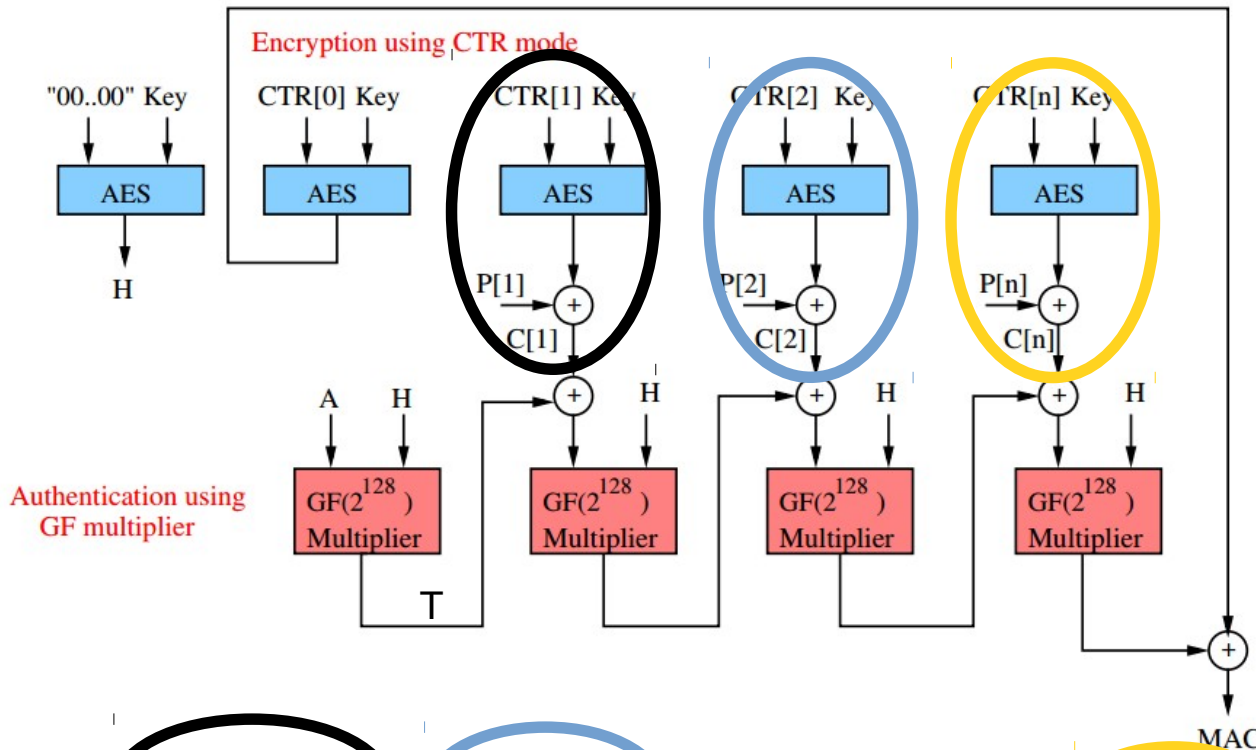
$$MAC = (T + C[1]) \cdot H^N + (C[2]) \cdot H^{N-1} + \dots + (C[n-1]) \cdot H^2 + (C[n]) \cdot H$$

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

## How AES-GCM can run in fully parallel mode?

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(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel



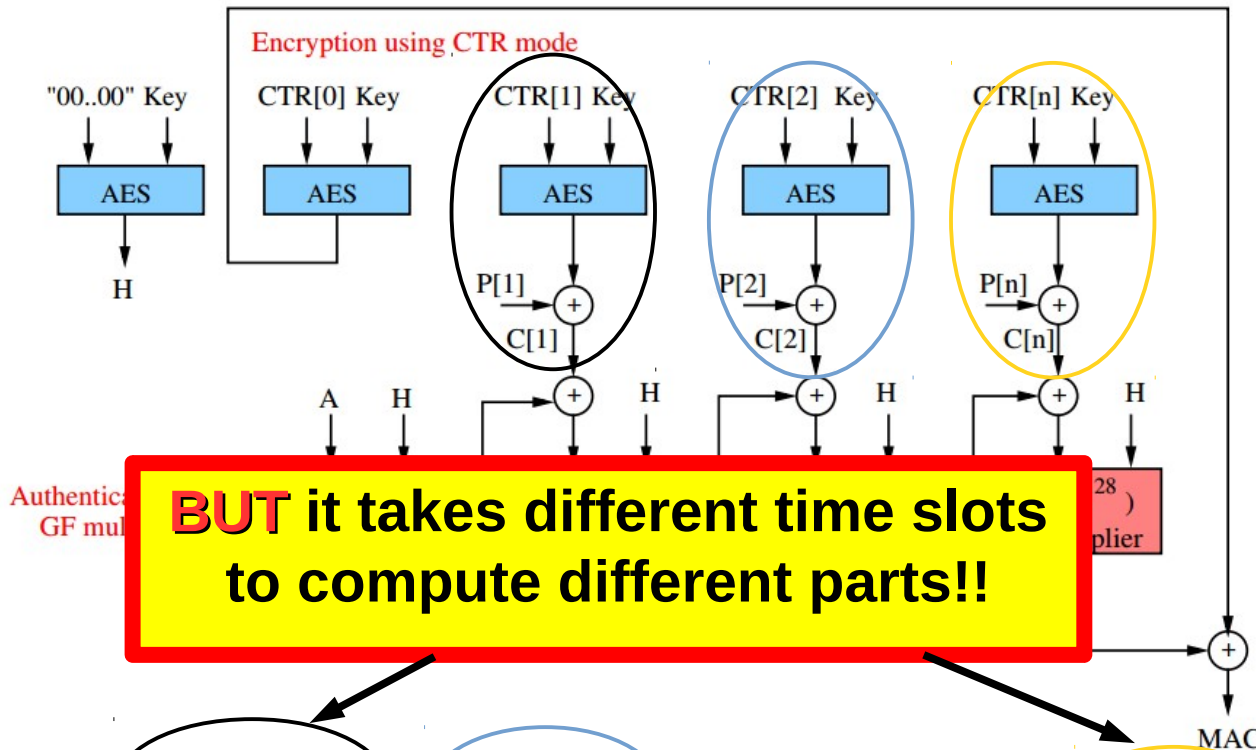
$$\text{MAC} = (T+C[1]).H^N + (C[2]).H^{N-1} + \dots + (C[n-1]).H^2 + (C[n]).H$$

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**How AES-GCM can run in fully parallel mode?**

- 2. To be easier than A...
- To be faster than A...

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel



**BUT it takes different time slots to compute different parts!!**

$$MAC = ((T+C[1]).H^N) + ((C[2]).H^{N-1}) + \dots + (C[n-1]).H^2 + ((C[n]).H)$$

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

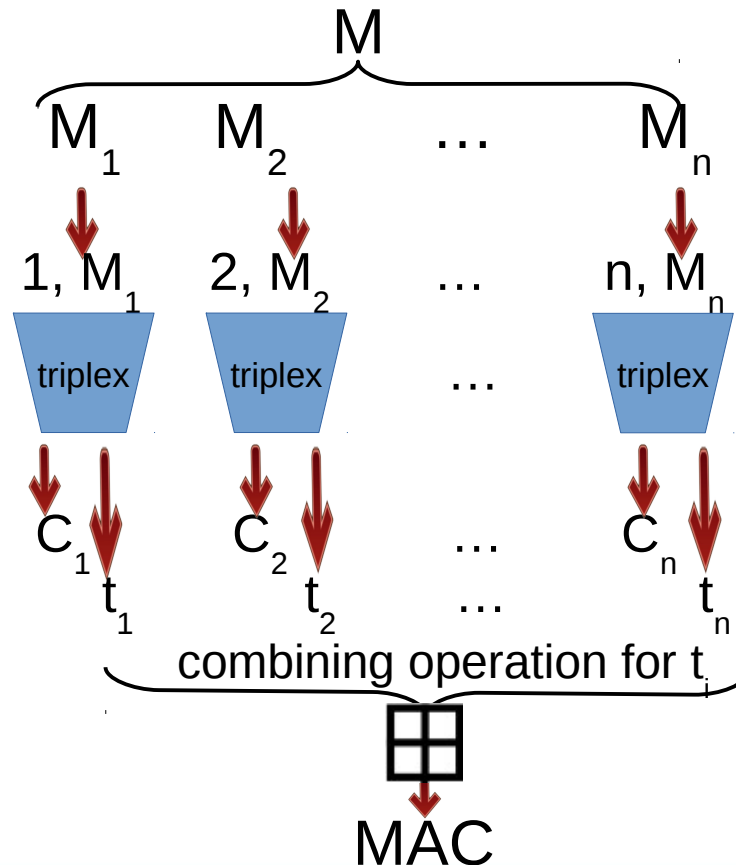
2. To be easier than A

- To be faster than

**How parallel operations are performed in PiCipher?**

(comparison with AES-GCM)

and other parallel



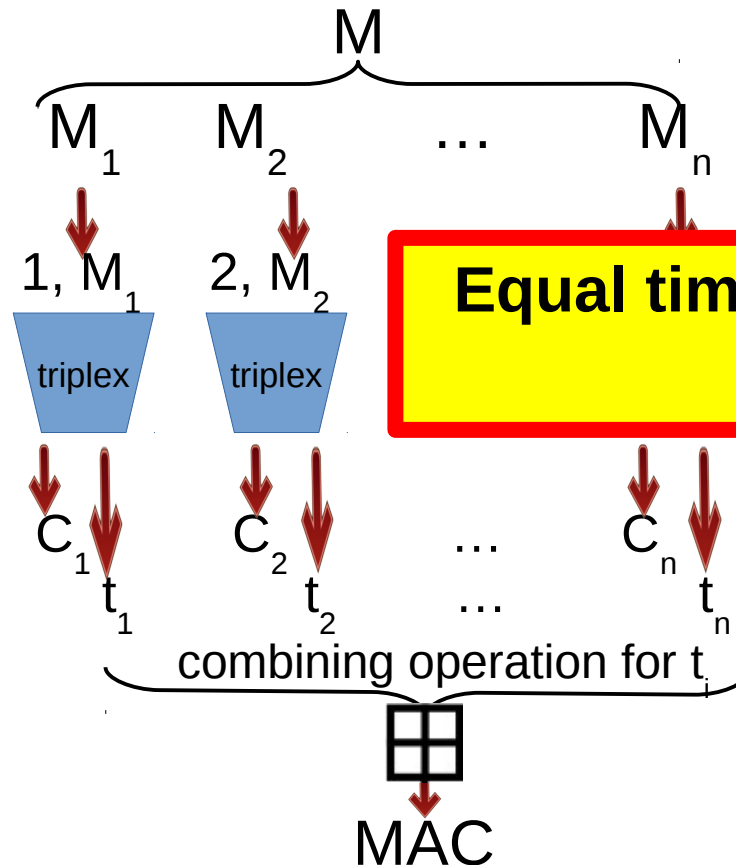


# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- 2. To be easier than AES-GCM
  - To be faster than AES-GCM

**How parallel operations are performed in PiCipher?**

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel



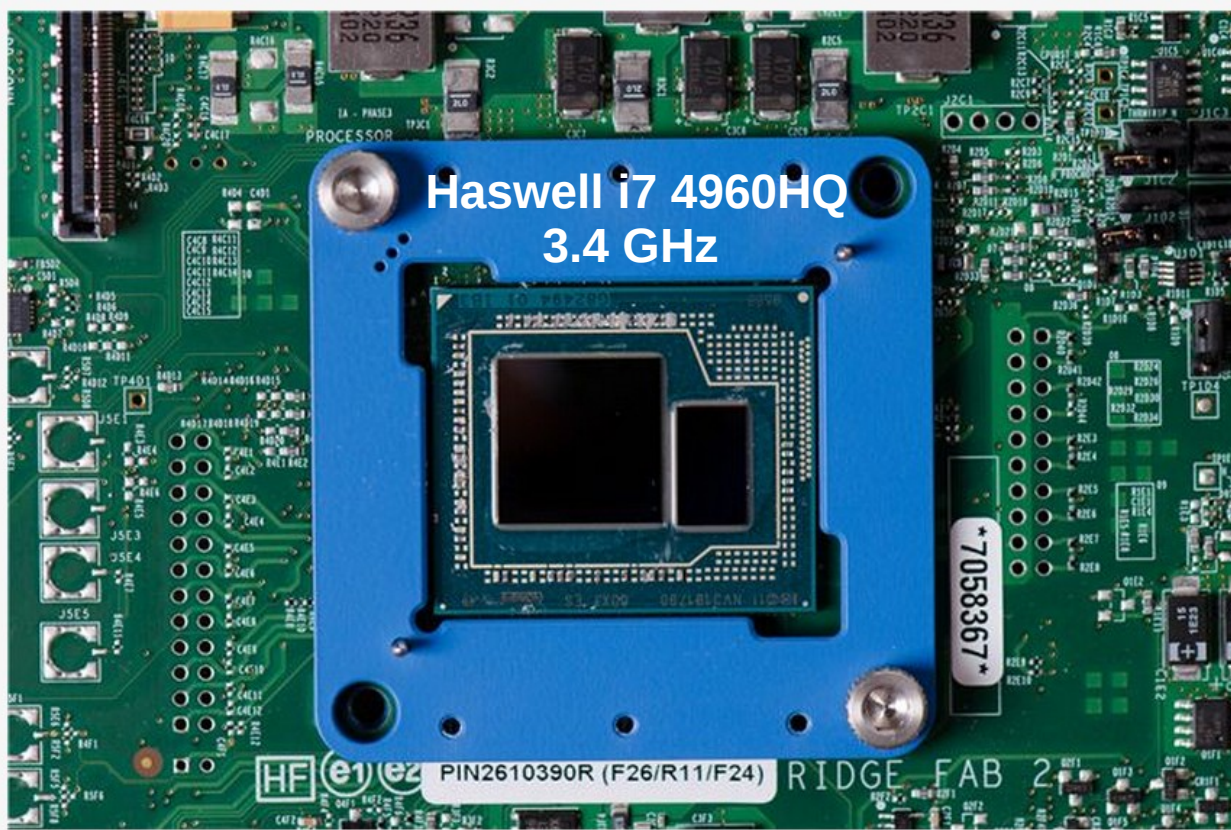
**Equal time to compute all parts!!**

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- 2. To be easier than A...
- To be faster than A...

**How parallel operations are performed in PiCipher?**

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel



**...ne to compute all parts!!**

MAC

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- 2. To be easier than A...
- To be faster than A...

**How parallel operations are performed in PiCipher?**

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel

**AES-GCM ~ 1cpb ~ up to 26 Gbps?**

Haswell i7 4960HQ  
3.4 GHz

**... to compute all parts!!**



MAC

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- 2. To be easier than A...
- To be faster than A...

**How parallel operations are performed in PiCipher?**

(Comparison with AES-GCM) and other parallel

**AES-GCM ~ 1cpb ~ up to 26 Gbps?**

**Haswell i7 4960HQ  
3.4 GHz**

**... to compute all parts!!**

**GT3 ~ 40 Execution  
Units x 1.3GHz**

**PiCipher ~ 26 Gbps?  
(this is a goal – will it be measurable in SUPERCOP?)**

MAC

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- PiCipher uses  $\text{NONCE}=(\text{PMN}, \text{SMN})$
- In case  $M1$  is encrypted with  $(K, \text{AD}, (\text{PMN}, \text{SMN1}))$  and  $M2$  is encrypted with  $(K, \text{AD}, (\text{PMN}, \text{SMN2}))$  then maximal (as the number of key bits) confidentiality and integrity are preserved
- + something EXTRA: No information if  $M1 = M2$

3. To offer better than AES-GCM security features in a case when nonce is reused (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)

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3. To offer better than AES-GCM security features in a case when nonce is reused (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)

**This intermediate level of robustness against repeated  $(K, \text{AD}, \text{PMN})$  have only two CAESAR candidates: ICEPOLE and PiCipher.**

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
  - To be resistant to insider attacks that know the secret key

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**In last DIAC 2013 we advocated that tag second preimage resistance is in the line of ROBUSTNESS that is mentioned in the CAESAR call.**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
- To be resistant to insider attacks that know the secret key



# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**In last DIAC 2013 we advocated that tag second preimage resistance is in the line of ROBUSTNESS that is mentioned in the CAESAR call.**

**This CRYPTO 2014 we got extra argument in the paper "Security of Symmetric Encryption against Mass Surveillance", Bellare, Paterson, Rogaway**

**Using AEAD where the attacker (performing mass surveillance) can easily produce second tag preimages is scary.**

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**Majority of sponge-based AE ciphers offer that extra feature of being second tag preimage resistant.**

**But in that case they are not parallel and incremental.**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
  - To be resistant to insider attacks that know the secret key

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**In our initial submission we gave security values for the hardness of finding second tag preimages that were in the range between  $2^{52}$ ,  $2^{104}$  and  $2^{208}$  for keys of 96, 128 and 256 bits.**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
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In our initial submission we gave security values for the hardness of finding second tag preimages that were in the range between  $2^{52}$ ,  $2^{104}$  and  $2^{208}$  for keys of 96, 128 and 256 bits.

**HOWEVER**

Gaetan in “Tag Second-preimage Attack against  $\pi$ -cipher” applied Wagner's generalized birthday attack and found second tag preimages with complexities:  $2^{22}$  using messages long  $2^{11}$  blocks,  $2^{31}$  using messages long  $2^{16}$  blocks, and  $2^{45}$  using messages long  $2^{22}$  blocks

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**We responded that:**

- 1. Either we will abandon the claims about that Extra feature**
- OR**
- 2. We will tweak the cipher**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
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- OR**
- 2. We will tweak the cipher**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)

**And on DIAC 2014 workshop we officially claim this:**

**We are not tweaking the cipher, but we still claim the extra feature of being second tag preimage resistant.**

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**How is that possible?**

4. To offer better than AES-GCM resistance for producing second tag preimages (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)
  - To be resistant to insider attacks that know the secret key

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**How is that possible?**

$$\min_{m \leq N_{max}} O\left(m \cdot 2^{\frac{tlen}{1+\lg[m]}}\right)$$

**Complexity for finding second tag preimages if the size of the tag is  $tlen$ , and the size of the message is  $m$  blocks.**



# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

How is that possible?

$$\min_{m \leq N_{max}} O\left(m \cdot 2^{\frac{tlen}{1+\lg[m]}}\right)$$

Complexity for finding second tag preimages if the size of the tag is  $tlen$ , and the size of the message is  $m$  blocks.

**For short messages** such as (1500 bytes messages as the most common IP packet size)  $m=24$  and the second preimage attack has complexity  $2^{106}$ .

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

How is that possible?

We will clarify the tag second preimage resistance of PiCipher in the coming updated documentation.

Complexity of the second preimage attack is the same as the complexity of the first preimage attack if the size of the message is

at least  $m$  blocks.

$m$  blocks.

**For short messages** such as (1500 bytes messages as the most common IP packet size)  $m=24$  and the second preimage attack has complexity  $2^{106}$ .

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

5. To offer better than AES-GCM properties for preventing DoS attacks (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- This is achieved with the use of SMN.
- SMN is the first value that is decrypted.
- If there is a protocol that tells the receiver what is the next SMN value that it expects, then there is no need to continue with the decryption if decrypted SMN is not the same as the expected SMN.
- Much faster reaction by receiver

5. To offer better than AES-GCM properties for preventing DoS attacks (CAESAR comparison with AES-GCM and Extra feature)

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

6. For certain parameters to offer the flexibility of tweakable (wide-block) encryption (that gives authentication too) (Extra feature)

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

- **The default parameters for PiCipher are:**
  - 1. Word size 16,  $N=4$  (internal state  $b=256$  bits)**
  - 2. Word size 32,  $N=4$  (internal state  $b=512$  bits)**
  - 3. Word size 64,  $N=4$  (internal state  $b=1024$  bits)**

6. For certain parameters to offer the flexibility of tweakable (wide-block) encryption (that gives authentication too) (Extra feature)

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**1. We can stretch the N parameter as it suits us:  
For example for encrypting each physical sector of the Advanced HDD Format with size of 4 Kbytes:**

**Word size 64,  $N=256$  (internal state  $b=8$  KBytes)**



6. For certain parameters to offer authentication too) (Extra feature)

lock) encryption (that gives

# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

7. For certain parameters to be lightweight in HW, for other parameters to be fast in SW



# General overview how each of the design goals are achieved

**Lightweight version: Word size 16,  $N=4$  (internal state  $b=256$  bits) ~ 5.5K GE (not that light, but we hope we will improve it)**

**Fast in SW version: Word size 64,  $N=4$  (internal state  $b=1024$  bits) (Non-SSE version 11 cpb)**

7. For certain parameters to be lightweight in HW, for other parameters to be fast in SW

# Inside the permutation

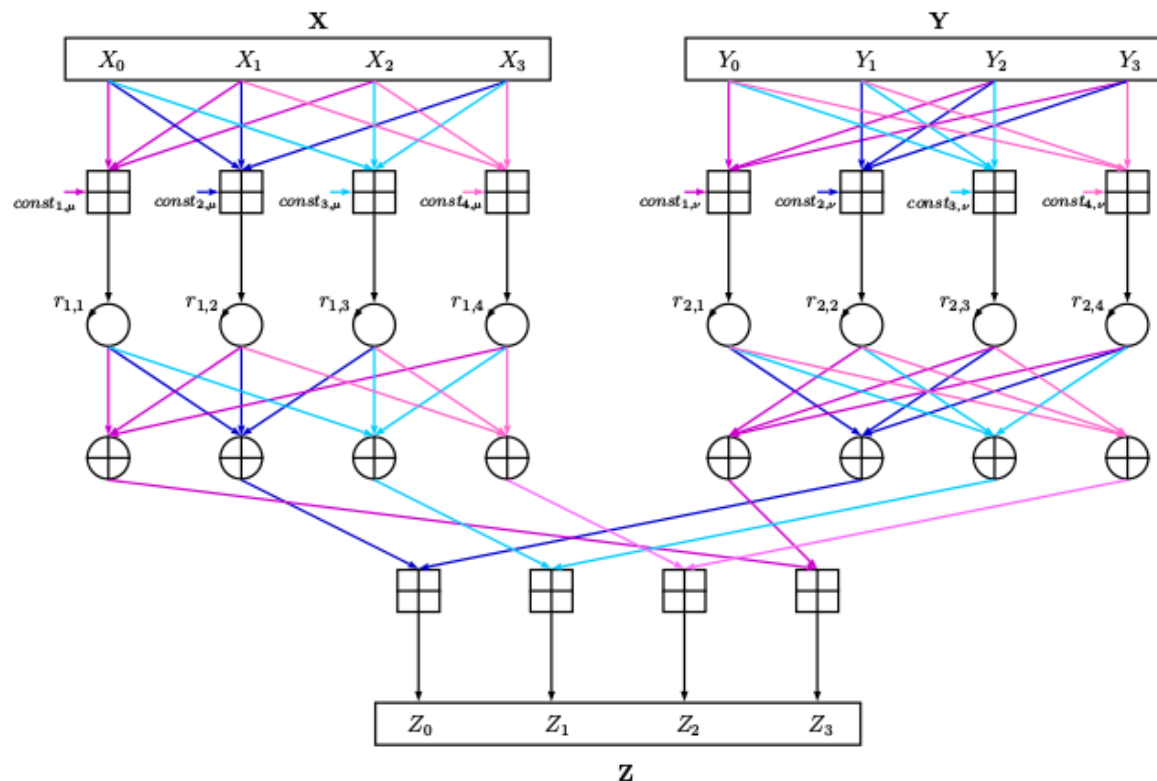


Fig. 7: Graphical representation of the ARX operation  $*$ .

# Inside the permutation

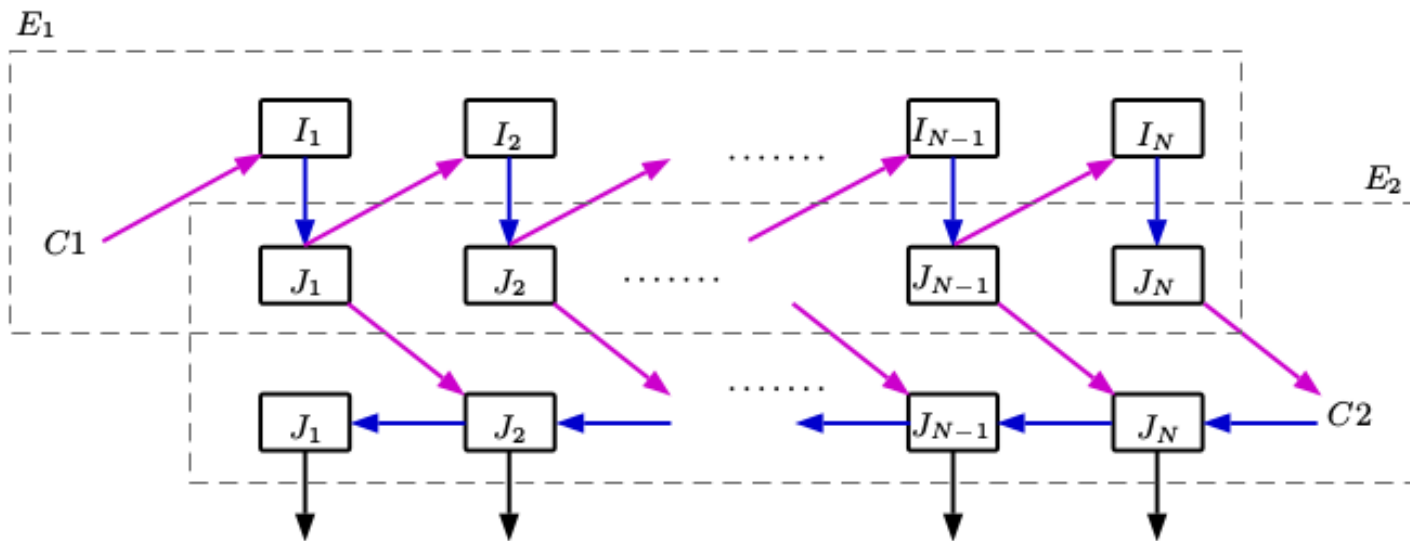


Fig. 8: One round of  $\pi$ -Cipher

# Inside the permutation

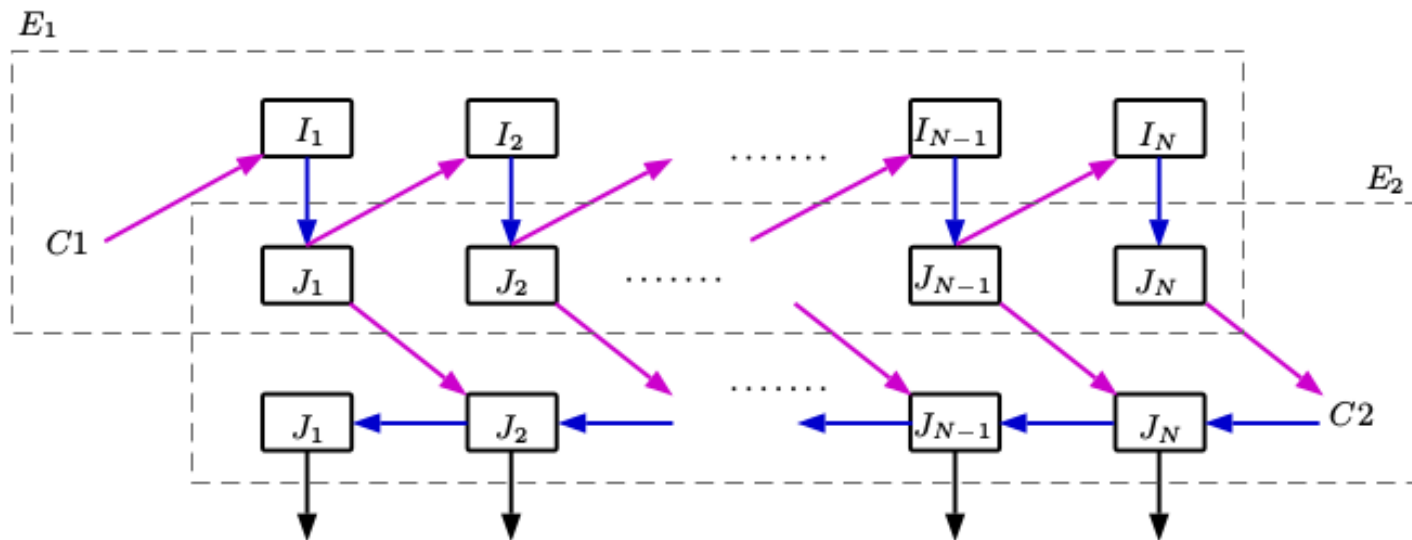


Fig. 8: One round of  $\pi$ -Cipher

**Initial recommendation: 4 Rounds**  
**Too conservative?**  
**Soon we will submit for testing on SUPERCOP**  
**variants with 2 and 1 rounds.**

# Security of PiCipher

- Since it is based on several solid cryptographic concepts
  - Encrypt-then-MAC principle,
  - XOR MAC scheme,
  - Two-pass sponge construction
- We hope that soon will have a security proof similar as the other sponge constructions  
**(we are working on that)**

# Security of PiCipher

- We have extensively tested the quality of used ARX permutation
- Even after one round, one bit difference introduced in the counter variable propagates in  $b/2$  bits where  $b$  is the size of the internal state
- The number of variables that are collectively and bijectively transformed in the operation  $*$  is 4. This is making the operation  $*$  not so suitable for automatic ARX Tools that search for high probability differential characteristics (ARXTool, Gaetan Leurent)

# Conclusions

- In PiCipher we tried to bring novel ideas combined with solid concepts that have been confirmed and accepted by cryptographic community
- PiCipher has unique features such as massive and easy parallel capability, incrementality, a certain level of second tag preimage resistance, and a certain level of resistance if key, associated data and the public message number are repeatedly used (misused).

Thank you for your attention!