
Error Detection by Parity Modification for the 128-bit Serpent Encryption Algorithm

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Modified input parity

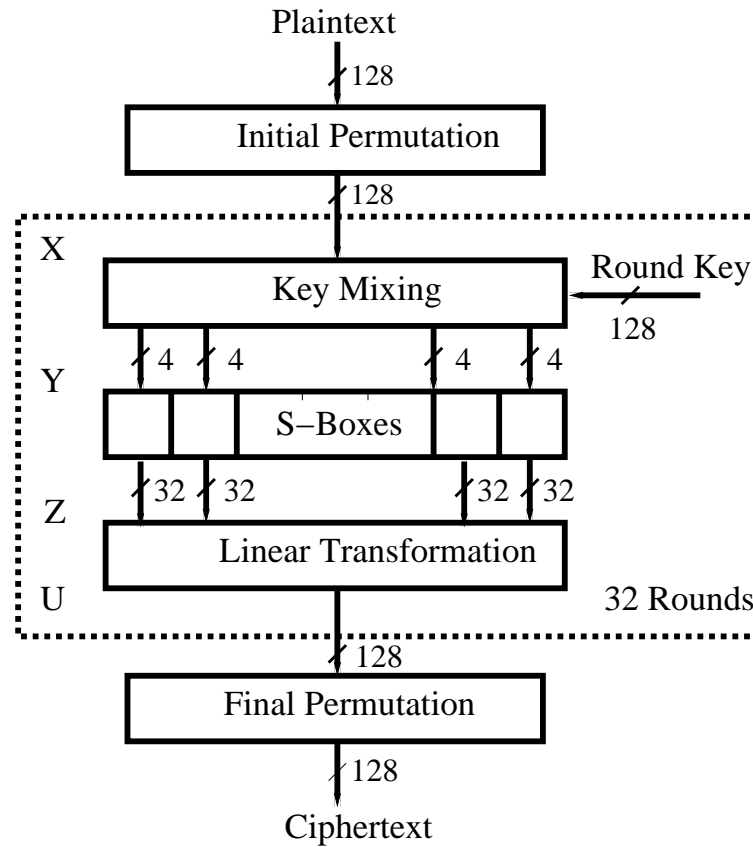
Essence of the proposed method

- The input-parity is determined and modified step by step in accordance with the processing steps of the cryptographic algorithm into the output-parity and compared with the actual output parity
 - Often the same hardware can be used for the computation of the input-parity and of the output-parity
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Serpent Encryption Algorithm

- Initial permutation
 - 32 rounds
 - componentwise key-addition
 - 32 nonlinear substitution boxes
 - linear transformation
 - Final permutation
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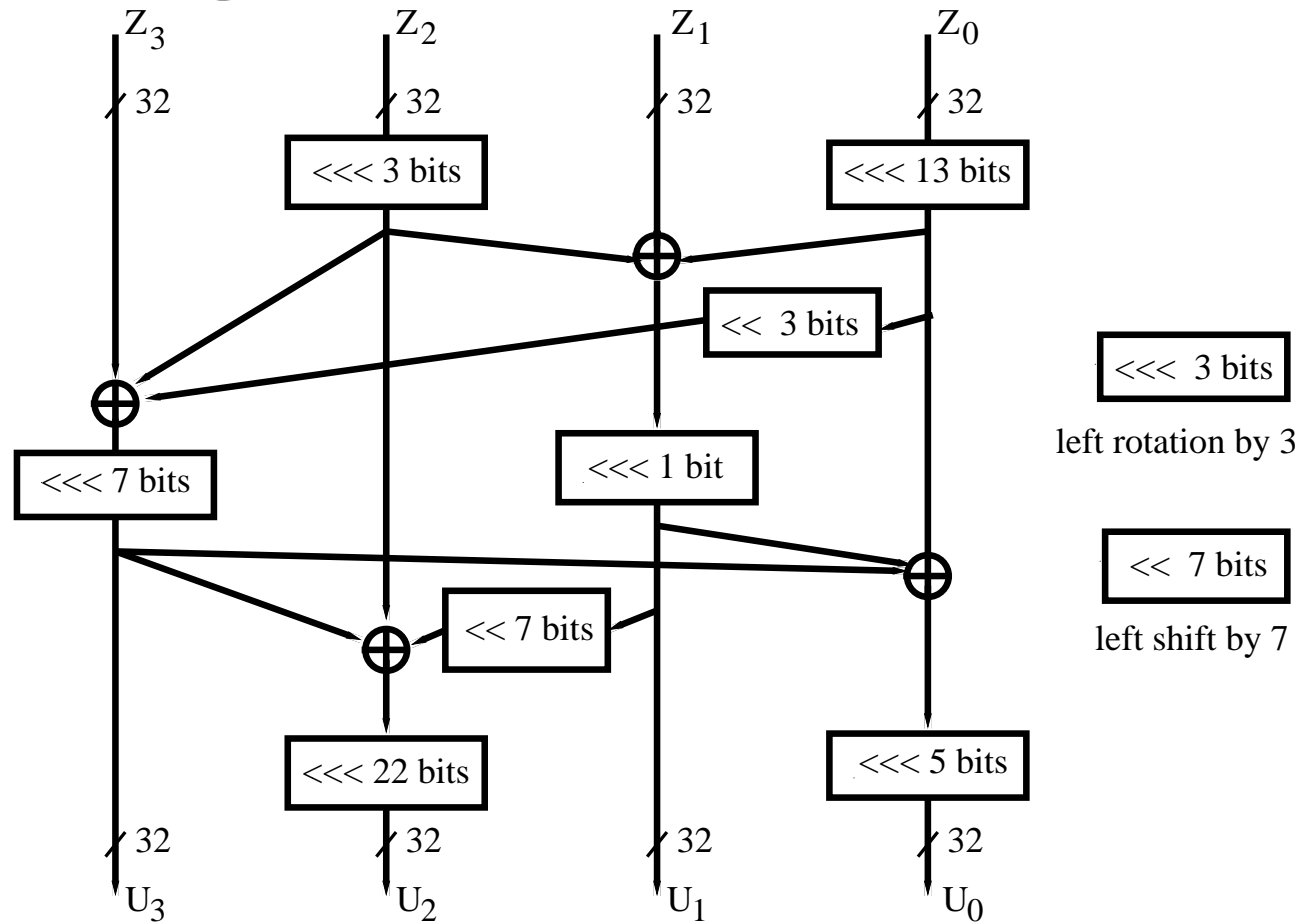
Serpent Encryption Algorithm



Serpent Encryption Algorithm: S-boxes

X	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
Y	3	8	15	1	10	6	5	11	14	13	4	2	7	0	9	12

Serpent algorithm: Linear Transformation



Ordinary Parity Prediction

$$y_1(x) = f_1(x), \dots, y_m(x) = f_m(x)$$

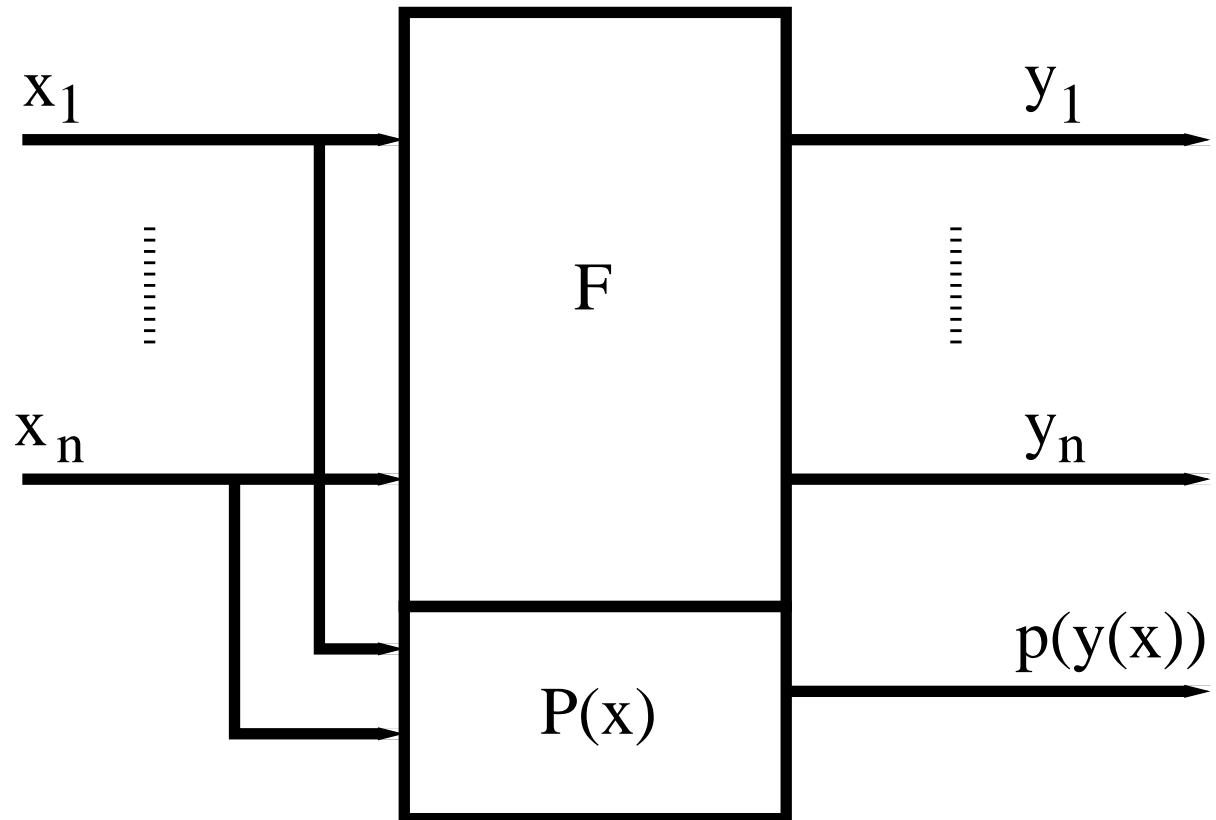
- $P(y(x)) = \underbrace{y_1(x) \oplus \dots \oplus y_m(x)}_{\text{optimized}},$
 - $P(y(x))$ is determined as a function of the inputs
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Ordinary Parity Prediction

$$y_1(x) = f_1(x), \dots, y_m(x) = f_m(x)$$

- $P(y) = y_1 \oplus \dots \oplus y_n$,
 $P(y)$ is determined as the *XOR*-sum of the circuit-outputs
 - $P(y(x))$ is compared with $P(y)$.
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Ordinary Parity Prediction



Proposed Method: Modified Input Parity

- Input-parity \oplus Output-parity: $\underbrace{P(x) \oplus P(y(x))}_{\text{optimized}} =$
 $\underbrace{x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus x_n \oplus y_1(x) \oplus \dots \oplus y_n(x)}_{\text{optimized}}$
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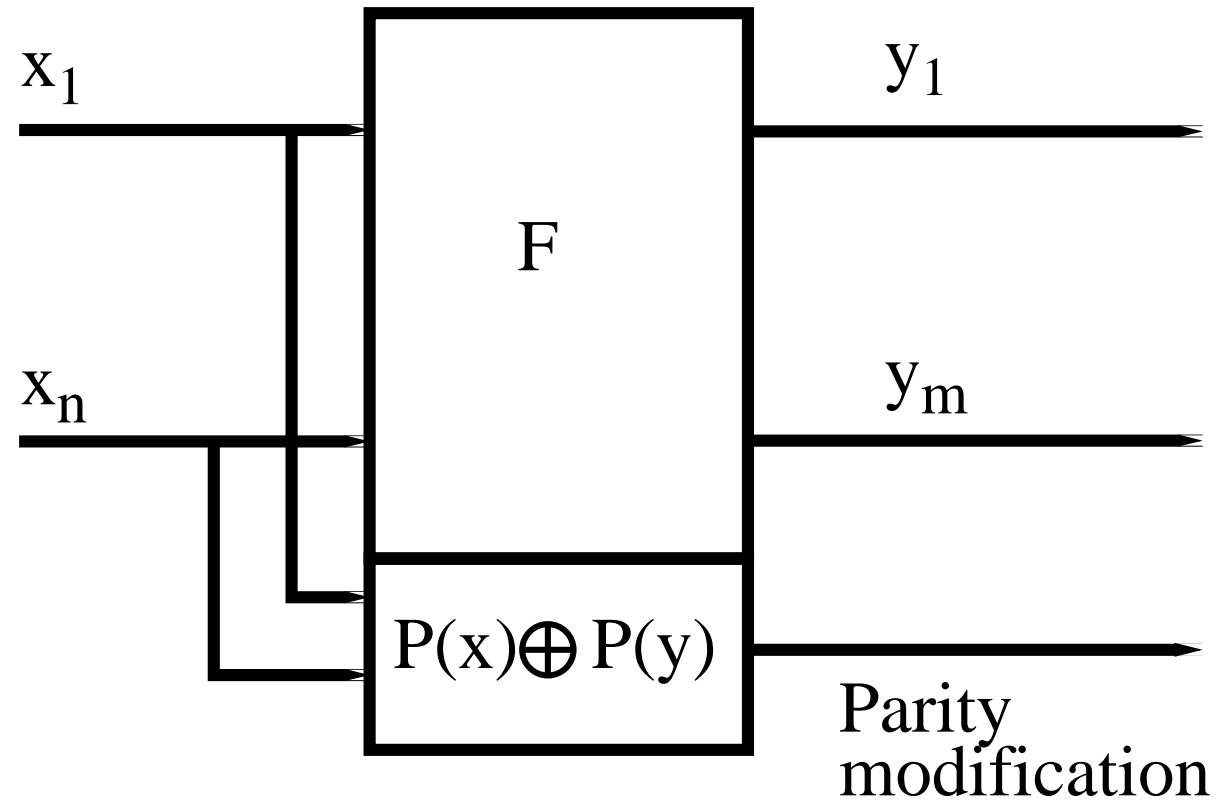
Proposed Method: Modified Parity

- Input parity $P(x) = x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus x_n$
 - The input-parity $P(x)$ is modified by adding modulo 2 $P(x) \oplus P(y(x))$ to the output parity $P(y)$
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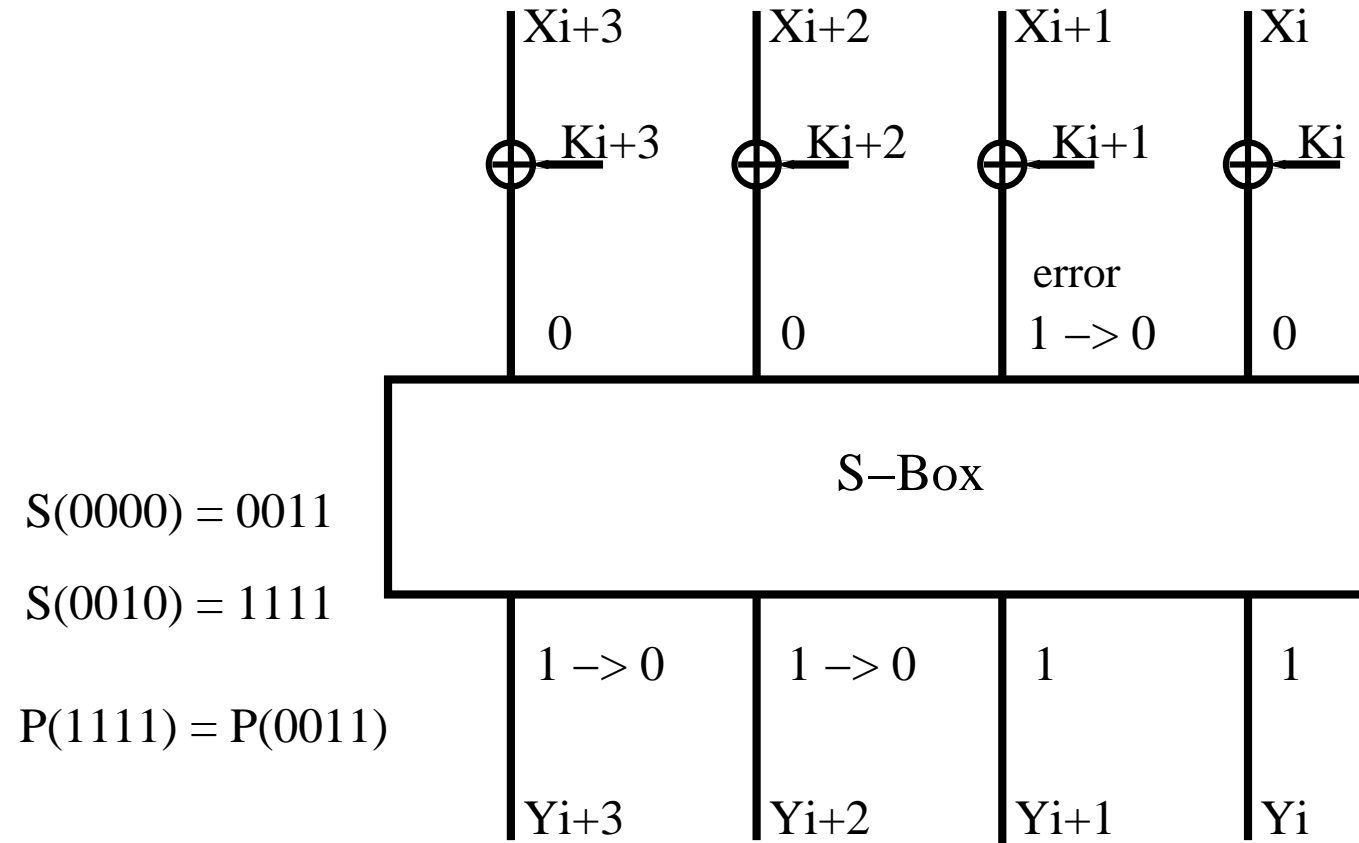
Proposed Method: Modified Parity

- Output parity $P(y) = y_1 \oplus \dots \oplus y_n$
 - $P(x) \oplus [P(x) \oplus P(y(x))]$ is compared with $P(y)$
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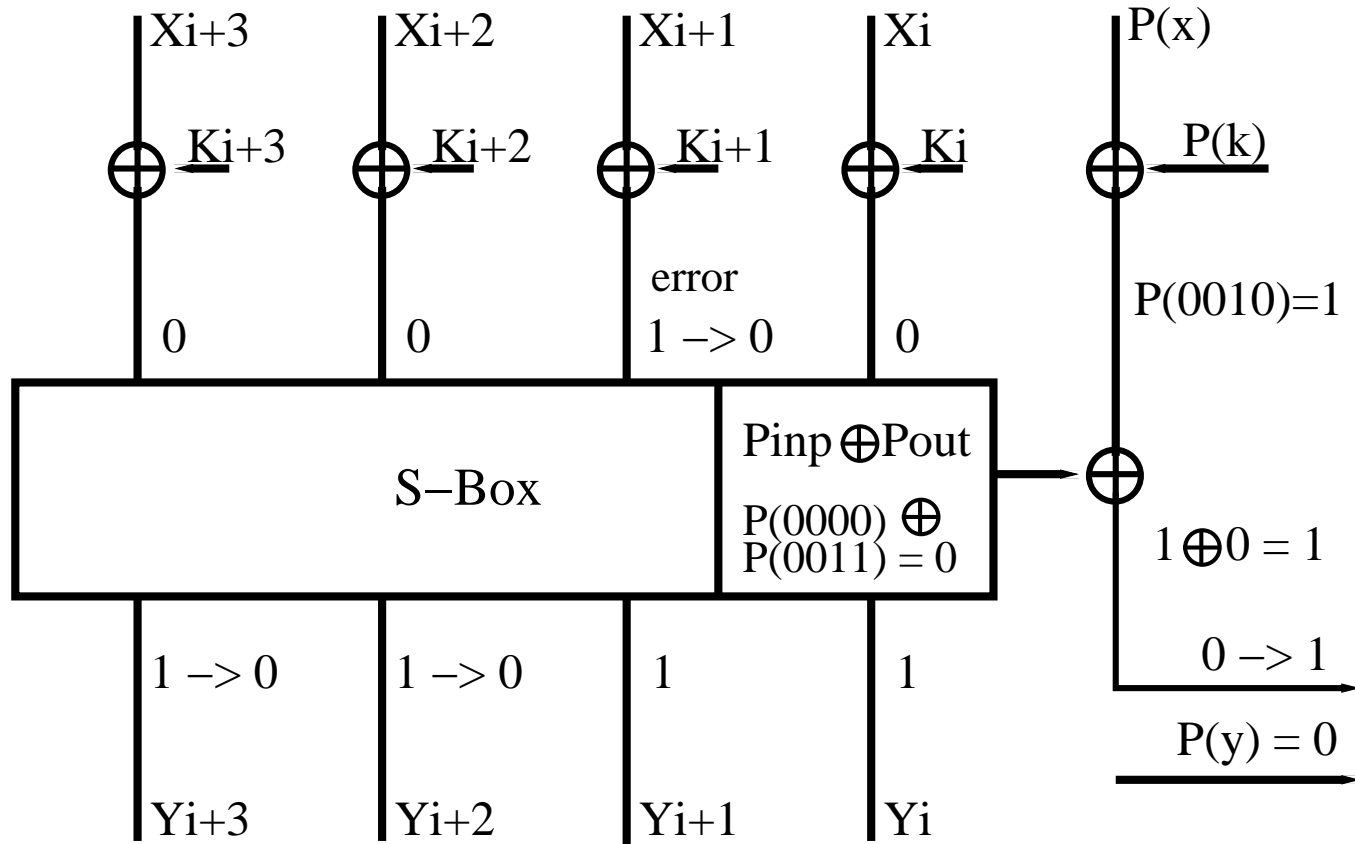
Modified Parity



Example with Serpent S-Box



Example with Serpent S-Box



Parity-modifications for :Key-addition modulo 2

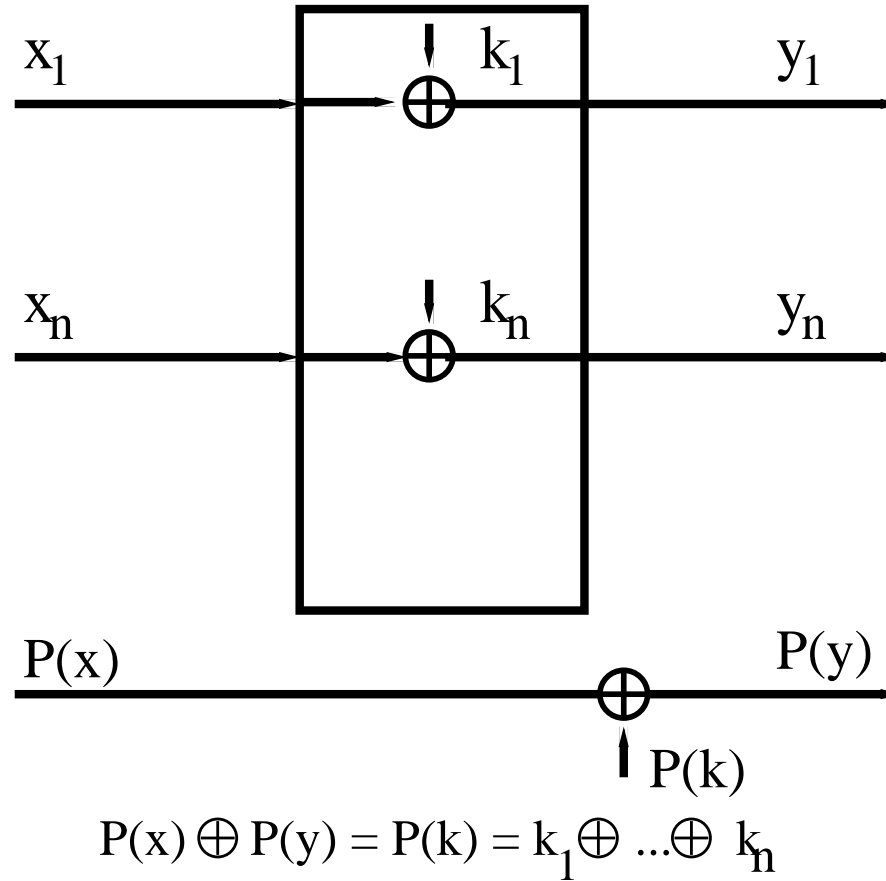
$$y_1 = x_1 \oplus k_1, \dots, y_m = x_m \oplus k_m$$

$$P(y(x)) = x_1 \oplus k_1 \oplus \dots \oplus y_m \oplus k_m = P(x) \oplus P(k)$$

$$\text{with } P(k) = k_1 \oplus \dots \oplus k_m$$

Modification: $\oplus P(k)$, 1-bit operation

Key addition



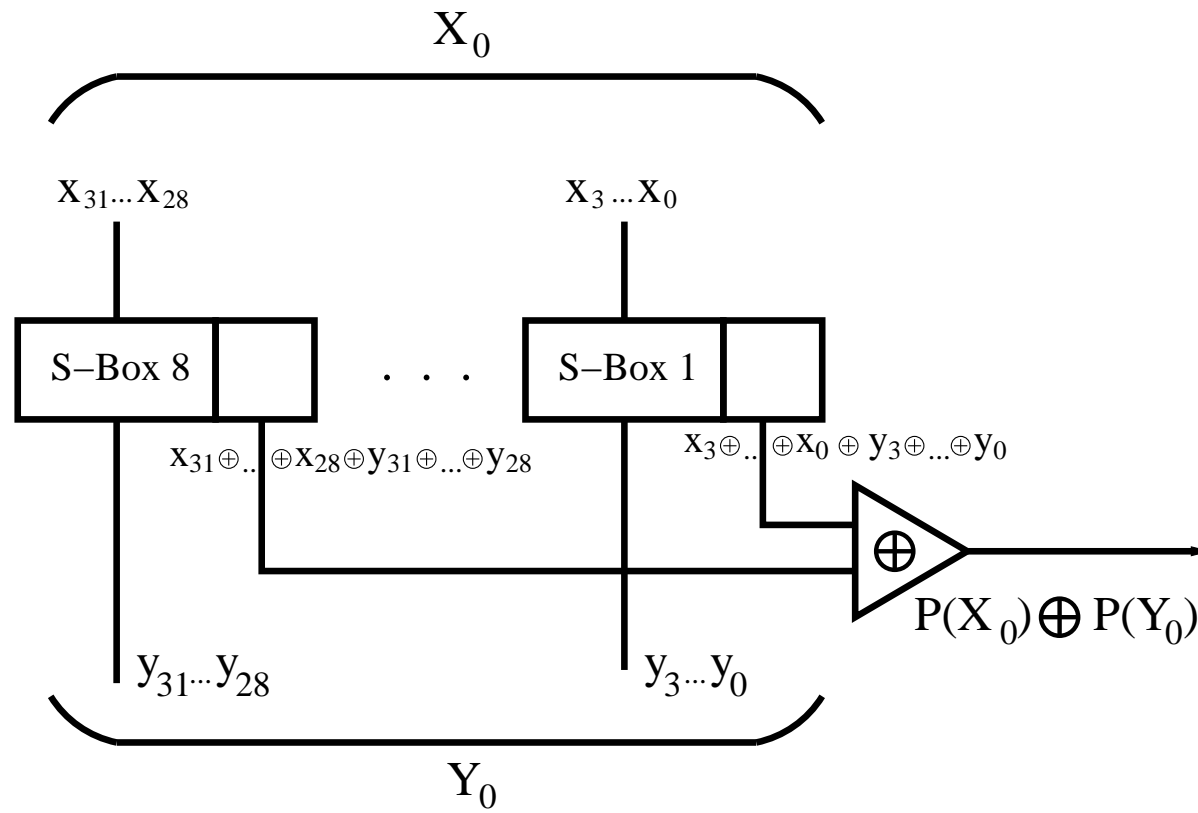
Parity-modifications for :Non-linear Transformation by an S-box

Example: S-box with four inputs $x_1, x_2, x_3, x_4 = x$ and four outputs y_1, y_2, y_3, y_4 with

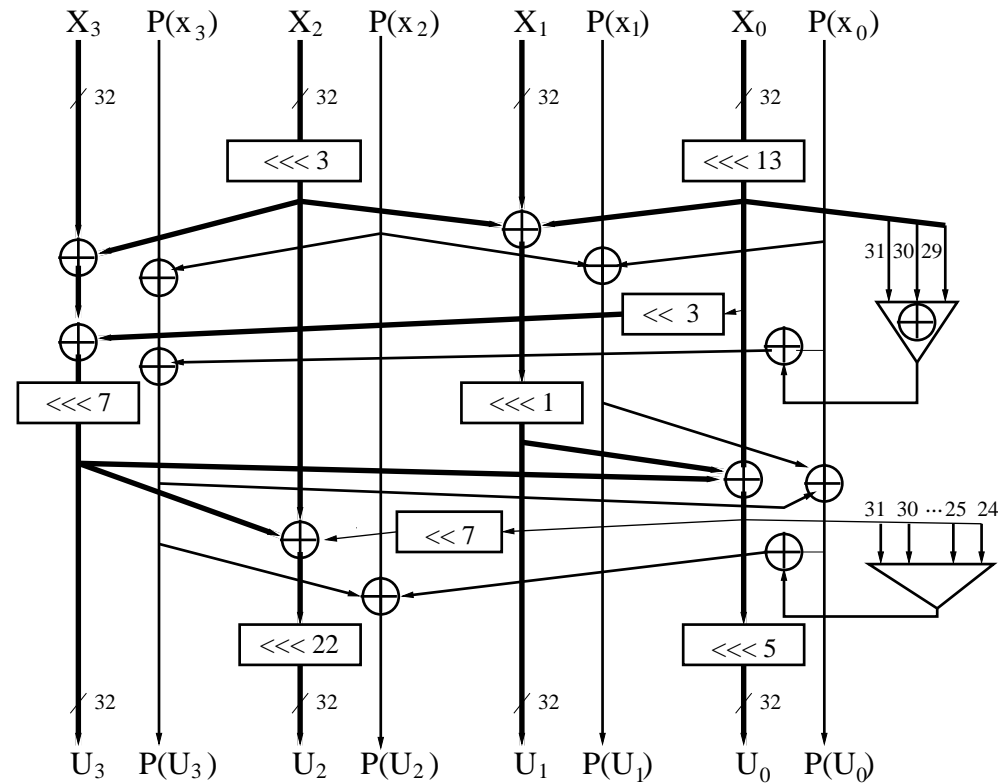
$$y_1(x) = S_1(x), \dots, y_4(x) = S_4(x)$$

$$y_5 = x_1 \oplus \dots \oplus x_4 \oplus y_1(x_{1-4}) \oplus \dots \oplus y_4(x_{1-4})$$

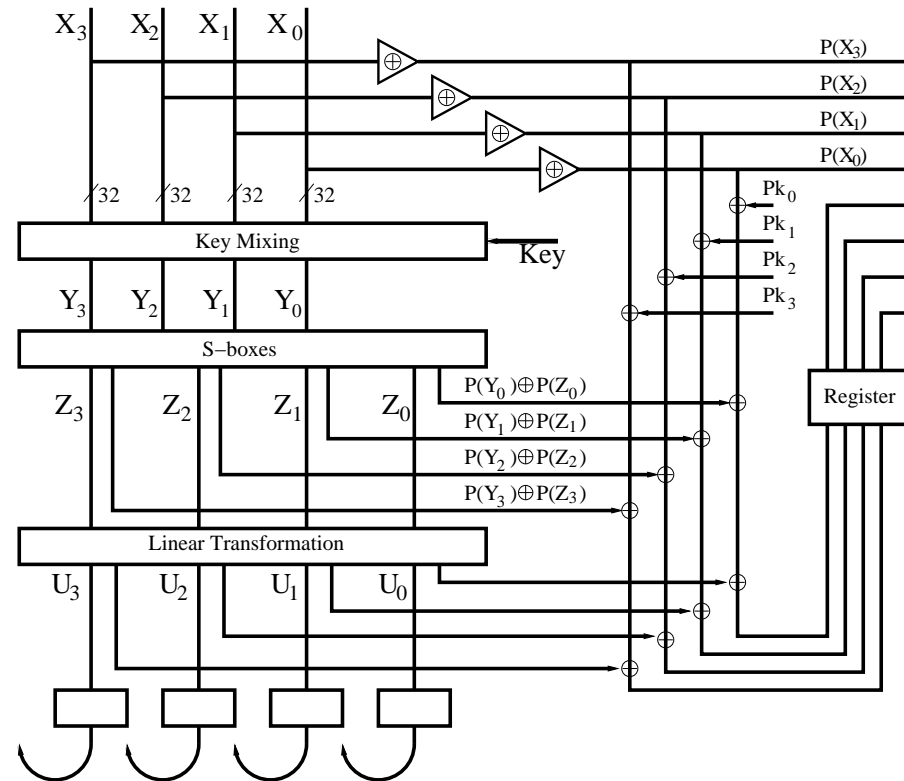
S-boxes



Parity-modifications for the Linear Transformation



Serpent algorithm with error detection



Error detection capability and Area overhead

- If outputs of the s-boxes are independently implemented then we can detect all single stuck-at faults
 - The area overhead for the S-boxes is 8% compared to the s-boxes checked by ordinary parity.
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Conclusions

- A new method of error detection (due to technical faults and due to attacks) for the Serpent Encryption Algorithm has been proposed.
 - The input parity is modified according to the processing steps of the encryption algorithm into the output parity and compared with the actual output parity.
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Conclusions

- the propagation of a single-bit error at the outputs of a processing step into a multi-bit error in the successive processing steps, which is typical for encryption algorithms, does not reduce the error detection capability of the proposed method.
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