## Collision Attack on 5 Rounds of Grøstl

Florian Mendel Vincent Rijmen Martin Schläffer



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### The Grøstl Hash Function

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SHA-3 finalist designed by Knudsen et al.

- iterative, Merkle-Damgård design principle
- wide-pipe construction, 2n-bit chaining value

### The Grøstl Compression Function



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Permutation based design

- 8 × 8 state and 10 rounds for Grøstl-256
- 8 × 16 state and 14 rounds for Grøstl-512

## The Grøstl-256 Round Transformations



AES like round transformation

 $r_i = MB \circ SH \circ SB \circ AC$ 

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 $\blacksquare$  Initiated by the design team itself  $\rightarrow$  rebound attack

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### Attacks on the Hash Function

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	rounds	complexity	memory
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⇒ We will show collision attacks for up to 5 rounds of Grøstl

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Iteratively canceling the differences in the chaining variable

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- Attack uses a new type of truncated differential trail spanning over more than one message block
  - Starting with an (almost) arbitrary difference in the chaining variable

- Iteratively canceling the differences in the chaining variable
- Having only differences in one of the two permutations

## Equivalent Description of Grøstl

 To simplify the description of the attack we use an equivalent description of Grøstl

$$\begin{aligned} h'_0 &= MB^{-1}(IV) \\ h'_i &= P'(MB(h'_{i-1}) \oplus m_i) \oplus Q'(m_i) \oplus h'_{i-1} & \text{for } 1 \le i \le t \\ hash &= \Omega(MB(h'_i)) \end{aligned}$$

with  $h_i = MB(h'_i)$ 

The last MixBytes transformation of the permutations P and Q are swapped with the XOR operation of the feed-forward

The core of the attack on 4 rounds are truncated differential trails for P' with only 8 active bytes at the output of round r<sub>4</sub>

$$\mathbf{64} \xrightarrow{r_1} \mathbf{64} \xrightarrow{r_2} \mathbf{8} \xrightarrow{r_3} \mathbf{8} \xrightarrow{r_4} \mathbf{8}$$

Using the rebound attack all the 2<sup>64</sup> solutions for this truncated differential trail with a given/fixed difference difference at the input of P' can be found with complexity 2<sup>64</sup> in time and memory



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- Choose some arbitrary  $m_1, m_1^*$  to get a full active state in  $h'_1$
- Construct 2<sup>64</sup> solutions for the truncated differential trail in P' to find a m<sub>2</sub> such that 8 bytes of the difference in h'<sub>2</sub> are canceled



 Construct 2<sup>64</sup> solutions for a rotated variant of the truncated differential trail to cancel another 8 bytes of the difference in h<sub>3</sub>



### Repeat this in total 8 times until a collision has been found in h'<sub>9</sub>



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 $\Rightarrow\,$  Collision attack for 4 rounds with complexity of 8  $\cdot\,2^{64}=2^{67}$ 

## Extending the Attack to 5 Rounds

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For the attack on 5 rounds we use truncated differential trails with only one active byte at the output of round  $r_3$ 

$$64 \xrightarrow{r_1} 64 \xrightarrow{r_2} 8 \xrightarrow{r_3} 1 \xrightarrow{r_4} 8 \xrightarrow{r_5} 8$$

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Using the rebound attack all the 2<sup>8</sup> solutions for this truncated differential with a given/fixed difference at the input of P' can be found with complexity 2<sup>64</sup> in time and memory



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Each step of the attack will succeed only with probability 2<sup>-56</sup>

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- Any of the 2<sup>8</sup> solutions can be used to generate a new starting point for the next iteration, while keeping the same bytes inactive in chaining variable
- $\Rightarrow$  Collision attack for 5 rounds with complexity of 8  $\cdot$  2<sup>64+56</sup> = 2<sup>123</sup>

## Summary

	rounds	complexity	memory
	3	2 <sup>64</sup>	-
Grøstl-256	4	2 <sup>67</sup>	2 <sup>64</sup>
	5	2 <sup>123</sup>	2 <sup>64</sup>

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- We can use the following sequence of active bytes

128 
$$\xrightarrow{r_1}$$
 128  $\xrightarrow{r_2}$  16  $\xrightarrow{r_3}$  16  $\xrightarrow{r_4}$  16

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for the collision attack on 4 rounds

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for the collision attack on 4 rounds, and

$$128 \xrightarrow{r_1} 64 \xrightarrow{r_2} 8 \xrightarrow{r_3} 2 \xrightarrow{r_4} 16 \xrightarrow{r_5} 16$$

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$$\xrightarrow{r_1}$$
 64  $\xrightarrow{r_2}$  8  $\xrightarrow{r_3}$  2  $\xrightarrow{r_4}$  16  $\xrightarrow{r_5}$  16

for the collision attack on 5 rounds

⇒ Collision attack on 4 and 5 rounds of GrøstI-512 with a complexity of 2<sup>131</sup> and 2<sup>176</sup>

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	5	2 <sup>120</sup>	2 <sup>64</sup>
	3	2 <sup>192</sup>	-
Grøstl-512	4	2 <sup>131</sup>	2 <sup>64</sup>
	5	2 <sup>176</sup>	2 <sup>64</sup>

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## Thank you for your attention!

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