Improving the performance of Luffa Hash Algorithm

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Abstract. Luffa is a new hash algorithm that has been accepted for round two of the NIST hash function competition SHA-3. Computational efficiency is the second most important evaluation criteria used to compare candidate algorithms. In this paper, we describe a fast software implementation of the Luffa hash algorithm for the Intel Core 2 Duo platform. We explore the use of the perfect shuffle operation to improve the performance of 64-bit implementation and 128-bit implementation with the Intel Supplemental SSSE3 instructions. In addition, we introduce a new way of implementing Luffa based on a Parallel Table Lookup instruction. The timings of our 64-bit implementation (C code) resulted in a 16 to 32% speed improvement over the previous fastest implementation.

1. Introduction

Hash functions are an important component of many security applications, such as digital signature schemes, data identification and key derivation. Its main use is to provide data integrity and message authentication. One of the most used hash algorithm is the SHA-1 [NIST 2002], published by NIST (National Institute of Standards and Technology) and adopted by important security protocols, like IPsec, TLS/SSL and SSH.

Recent attacks on the widely used SHA-1 [Wang et al. 2005, Biham et al. 2005] compromised its security. This scenario motivated NIST to launch a public competition for the selection of a new secure hash function, the SHA-3. The competition counted initially with 64 submissions.

For the second round, NIST selected 14 candidates using the following three categories of evaluation criteria: 1) security, 2) cost and performance and 3) algorithm and implementation characteristics. The Intel Core 2 Duo processor was chosen as a reference to evaluate the software performance of the candidates.

Luffa is a family of four hash functions: Luffa-224, Luffa-256, Luffa-384 and Luffa-512 [Canniere et al. 2009a], designed by Carrière, Sato and Watanabe. In December 2009 the Luffa hash algorithm was selected for the second round. Its design is based on a variant of the sponge construction [Bertoni et al. 2007], processing multiple permutations in parallel.

Since its submission, there have been some implementations of Luffa, both in hardware and software. The authors provided software implementations for 8, 32 and 64-bit platforms [Canniere et al. 2009b], exploring the algorithm inherent parallelism through SSE (Streaming SIMD Extensions). They also submitted implementations for the eBACS project [Bernstein and Lange]. In [Pornin 2010] Pornin reported a software implementation of Luffa in C and Java, and included in his sphlib library [Pornin].

The authors in [Oikawa et al. 2010] provided implementations for GPUs (Graphics Processing Unit), processing lots of different messages. For hardware implementation, recent works [Kobayashi et al. 2010, Tillich et al. 2009, Knežević and Verbauwhede 2009, Namin and Hasan 2009] show that Luffa ranked among the fastest algorithms in comparison to other SHA-3 second round candidates.

Some attacks were made on the algorithm and its permutation. Preimage and second preimage attacks under free-start setting were discussed by [Jia 2009]. Collision attacks under semi-free-start setting were presented by [Canniere et al. 2009b, Khovratovich et al. 2010]. In addittion, distinguishers and collision attacks were made on the reduced round variants of the algorithm [Canniere et al. 2009b]. However, none of these attacks actually affects the security of Luffa.

In this paper, we focus on software implementation of Luffa hash algorithm for the Intel Core 2 Duo processor. Our work takes advantage of the parallelism provided by the algorithm and combines it to a technique called perfect shuffle [Warren 2002] and the SSE vector instructions. The performance results of our optimized C code for 64-bit implementation outperforms the Reference Implementation version 2.01 [Canniere et al. 2009a]. In addition, we describe a new approach to implement Luffa for 128-bit registers.

Organization of the paper A brief description of Luffa algorithm is presented in Section 2. In Section 3 we explain the perfect shuffle technique. Section 4 describes the SSE shuffle instructions and their usage. The application of the techniques in our implementation is presented in Section 5. Finally, Section 6 gives the experimental results for Intel Core 2 Duo processor with different compilers.

2. The Luffa algorithm

Luffa operates by iterating a mixing function called round function; its final transformation consists of iterations of an output function and a round function with a fixed message 0^{256} . The round function has fixed length input and output and differ according to the message digest size. It takes as input a message block and a chaining variable.

Hash length (bits)	Message block size (bits)	Chaining size (bits)	Number of permutations
224	256	3 blocks of 256 (768)	3
256	256	3 blocks of 256 (768)	3
384	256	4 blocks of 256 (1024)	4
512	256	5 blocks of 256 (1280)	5

Table 1. Luffa attributes

The round function is divided in two parts: the Message Injection and the non-linear permutations. In this Section we will focus on the permutations due to its significance to our work. Technical details of Luffa can be found in [Canniere et al. 2009a, Canniere et al. 2009b].

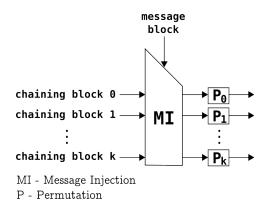


Figure 1. Luffa round function

2.1. Message Injection

In this phase, the message block is mixed with the chaining variable; this mixing is made through functions represented by matrices over a ring $GF((2^{32})^8)$. For example, the message injection function for Luffa-224 and Luffa-256 is presented below:

$$\begin{pmatrix} X_0 \\ X_1 \\ X_2 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 3 & 2 & 2 & 1 \\ 2 & 3 & 2 & 2 \\ 2 & 2 & 3 & 4 \end{pmatrix} \begin{pmatrix} H_0 \\ H_1 \\ H_2 \\ M \end{pmatrix}$$

In [Canniere et al. 2009b], the authors suggest the implementation of the message injection functions using only multiplications by x (0x02) and XOR instructions. Therefore, the function presented above can be implemented through scheme depicted in Figure 2.

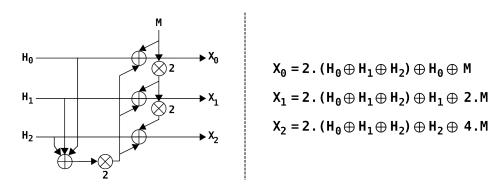


Figure 2. Message Injection function for Luffa-224 and Luffa-256

2.2. Permutation

The permutations have input and output size of 256 bits, and their number will vary with the message digest size, as shown in Table 1. Each permutation consists of a Tweak and eight iterations of the following functions, also called the step functions: SubCrumb, MixWord and AddConstant.

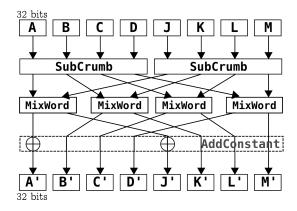


Figure 3. Luffa step functions

2.2.1. Tweak

This step is processed only once for each permutation, and it is defined as an n-bit left rotation at the last four 32-bit words on a 256-bit input. The value n is defined according to the chaining block number.

2.2.2. SubCrumb

SubCrumb is a bit slice substitution function; it takes four bits in the same position from four 32-bit words and uses as input to a S-box defined below.

$$S[16] = \{13, 14, 0, 1, 5, 10, 7, 6, 11, 3, 9, 12, 15, 8, 2, 4\}$$

Then, the resulting bits from S are returned to the four words in the same position. This operation is done for each of the 32 bits of the input words.

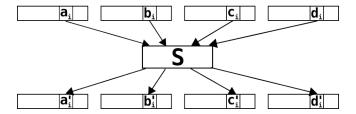


Figure 4. SubCrumb function applied to the i^{th} bits of the input words

In the Luffa specification, the authors suggest to implement the SubCrumb function using logical operations [Canniere et al. 2009a], whose sequences of instructions are shown in Table 2.

Table 2. SubCrumb instructions for Intel Core 2 Duo

MOV r4 r0	OR r0 r1	XOR r2 r3
NOT r1	XOR r0 r3	AND r3 r4
XOR r1 r3	XOR r3 r2	AND r2 r0
NOT r0	XOR r2 r1	OR r1 r3
XOR r4 r1	XOR r3 r2	AND r2 r1
XOR r1 r0		

2.2.3. MixWord

This function does a linear permutation of two 32-bit words through left rotations and XORs. The scheme is presented in Figure 5.

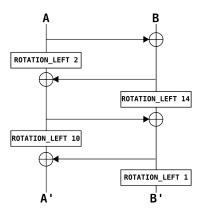


Figure 5. MixWord function

2.2.4. AddConstant

The Luffa constants are XORed to the chaining variable 32-bit words 0 and 4. Those constants are different for each chaining block number and for each iteration of the step functions; they consist of sixteen 32-bit words for each chaining block.

The algorithm must execute three to five permutations for each iteration, depending on the message digest size. However, the permutations are independent and can be executed simultaneously. This attribute will be explored through the 64-bit and 128-bit SSE registers and the instruction sets designed to work with them.

3. Perfect Shuffle

The perfect shuffle is a bit permutation that perfectly interleaves the bits of two or more words [Warren 2002]. This operation for two words is illustrated in Figure 6.

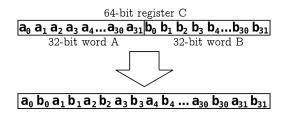


Figure 6. A perfect shuffle of two 32-bit words inside a 64-bit register

Some operations, such as the rotations, become simpler when the perfect shuffle operation is used. For example, to do a left rotation of the two 32-bit words A and B from Figure 6 by n bits without perfect shuffling we would need the following instructions on x86-64 architecture:

//rax holds the C register and rbx is an auxiliary register

```
mov rbx, rax shl rax, n shr rbx, (32-n) and rax, MASK0 //it is necessary to apply masks to clean the and rbx, MASK1 //bits that have crossed the words boundaries. xor rax, rbx
```

Requiring six instructions. However, with the interleaved bits of two 32-bit words, a left rotation of n bits can be done with just one instruction:

```
//rax holds C register rotl rax, \$(2*n)
```

A similar operation, called bit permutation, is proposed in the Keccak algorithm [Bertoni et al. 2010] for speeding up the 32-bit software implementation.

4. Streaming SIMD Extensions

The SSE instruction set was designed by Intel and first released in Pentium III processors. To this first set more instructions were added, originating different versions: SSE2, SSE3, SSE4 [Intel 2002] and the AVX [Intel 2010]. SSE provides 128-bit registers, along with the 70 new instructions. One of the most powerful operations is the shuffle.

4.1. Shuffle instruction

The shuffle instruction requires two operands where one of them is a mask. The resulting register gets the elements from the operands according to the mask. As an example, a shuffle SSE C intrinsic [Intel 2002] applied to a SSE 128-bit register with four packed 32-bit words is shown in Figure 7. In this case, the result is a left rotation by 32 bits.

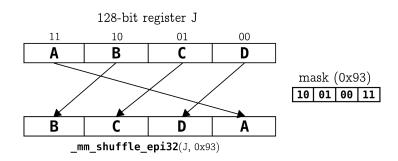


Figure 7. Left rotation through shuffle instruction

Byte shuffle has the same characteristic as the 32-bit shuffle instructions presented above, but the mask is now represented by another 128-bit register. The byte shuffle can also be used as a Parallel Table Lookup (PTLU) instruction. If the programmer uses the table as the operand and the operand as the mask, an 8-bit PTLU would be implemented. An example is depicted in Figure 8.

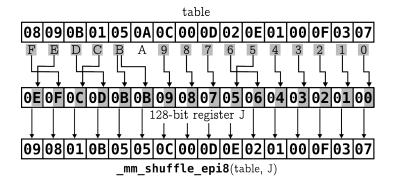


Figure 8. Byte shuffle implemented as a PTLU

5. Proposed Technique

In this section we explain how the operations presented in the previous sections were used to implement Luffa for 64-bit and SSE platforms.

5.1. 64-bit platform

In this scenario, data parallelism is possible through the allocation of two 32-bit words from different chaining blocks in one 64-bit register, as depicted in Figure 9. In this way, we can process two permutations simultaneously.

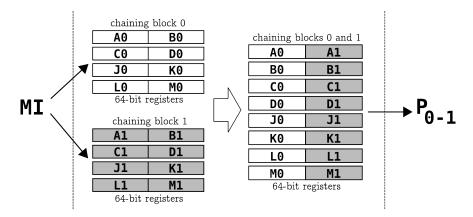


Figure 9. 64-bit parallelism

However, this way of disposing the two 32-bit word causes a huge overhead to the rotations processing, an operation often executed in Luffa, mainly in the MixWord. This function cost was increased by 139% in comparison to the authors' method (representing each 32-bit word in a distinct register). The reason was the number of instructions needed to rotate the two words, as shown in Section 3.

Through the application of perfect shuffle we could reduce the rotations cost to a single instruction. To keep the perfect shuffle overhead as low as possible, we apply the perfect shuffle only once per round function in the message block, maintaining this notation throughout the algorithm. The reverse transformation is done once, before computing the hash value. This scheme is shown in Figure 10.

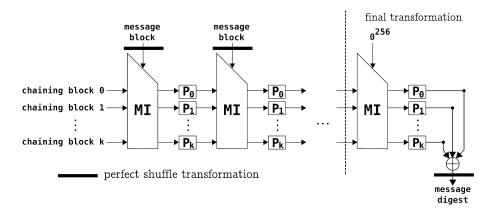


Figure 10. Perfect Shuffle in Luffa

The overhead of this implementation consists of two operations: disposing the registers as depicted in Figure 9, which costs about 2 cycles/byte; and the perfect shuffle applied on the message block, which costs about 3 cycles/byte using the implementation suggested in [Warren 2002]. Therefore, the total overhead cost resulted in about 5 cycles/byte.

Luffa-384 is the most benefited version, because it has to process four chaining block permutations, occupying completely two 64-bit registers. For this version of Luffa, the performance was improved by 32%.

5.2. SSE platform

In this scenario, we have 128-bit registers that can allocate four 32-bit words. As a consequence, four permutations can be processed in the same time. The authors' method to dispose the words inside the registers is depicted in Figure 11.

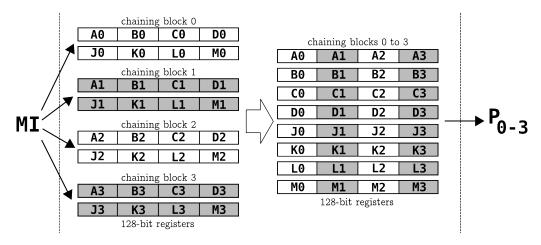


Figure 11. SSE parallelism

In MixWord function, we have four kinds of left rotations: 1, 2, 10 and 14 bits. Due to the SSE instructions one can rotate the four 32-bit words by n bits independently, without masks:

```
//r0 holds the register to be rotated r0 = mm\_xor\_si128(mm\_slli\_epi32(r0, n), \_mm\_srli\_epi32(r0, 32-n));
```

However, if we apply the perfect shuffle in the 128-bit register, interleaving the four 32-bit words, as shown in Figure 12, the MixWord left rotations will become 4, 8, 40 and 56. Three kinds of left rotations can be implemented through byte shuffle and a proper mask, at the cost of just one instruction. For example, an 8-bit (1 byte) left rotation:

```
//r0 holds the register to be rotated
mask = _mm_set_epi8(0x0E, 0x0D, 0x0C, 0x0B, 0x0A, 0x09, 0x08, 0x07, 0x06, 0x05, 0x04, 0x03, 0x02, 0x01, 0x00, 0x0F);
```

 $r0 = _{mm_shuffle_epi8}(r0, mask);$

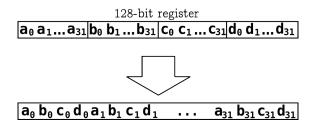


Figure 12. A perfect shuffle of four 32-bit words inside a 128-bit register

In this scenario we have made two kinds of implementations: applying perfect shuffle with the authors' parallel method and just applying perfect shuffle. In the former, the implementation is straightforward, we proceed such as the 64-bit scenario. However, in the latter, we must change the way of implementing the SubCrumb function. Due to the new bit arrangement inside the registers, we need to use PTLU through shuffle instructions instead of the logical operations suggested by the authors.

In addition, we have used a different approach to implement the multiplication by x computed in the message injection.

5.2.1. SubCrumb

SubCrumb receives eight 32-bit words as input, but the last four words are input in different order from the first four words.

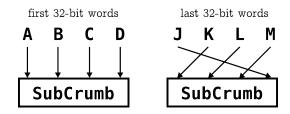


Figure 13. SubCrumb input order

Changing the order inside the register [JKLM] was performance-infeasible, so we use two S-Box tables to deal with the different input orders. The SSE implementation in C code is shown in Appendix A.

5.2.2. Message Injection

Multiplication by x (0x02) in the ring $GF((2^{32})^8)$ with the definition polynomial $\phi(x) = x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x + 1$ is frequently used in the message injection function (See Section 2).

An element $a=A+Bx+Cx^2+Dx^3+Jx^4+Kx^5+Lx^6+Mx^7\in GF((2^{32})^8)$ can be represented using two 128-bit SSE registers. The operation $a.x\mod\phi(x)$ can be computed as follows

$$\begin{aligned} a.x &= Ax + Bx^2 + Cx^3 + Dx^4 + Jx^5 + Kx^6 + Lx^7 + Mx^8 \\ &\text{since } x^8 \equiv x^4 + x^3 + x + 1 \mod \phi(x) \text{ we have} \\ a.x &\equiv Ax + Bx^2 + Cx^3 + Dx^4 + Jx^5 + Kx^6 + Lx^7 \\ &\quad + M(x^4 + x^3 + x + 1) \mod \phi(x) \\ &\equiv M + (A + M)x + Bx^2 + (C + M)x^3 + (D + M)x^4 \\ &\quad + Jx^5 + Kx^6 + Lx^7 \mod \phi(x). \end{aligned}$$

In Figure 14 we depicted the multiplication by x. In terms of SSE registers, the implementation involves some shifting and XOR of the 32-bit words.

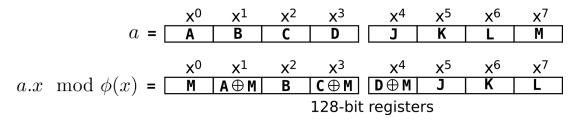


Figure 14. Multiplication $a.x \mod \phi(x)$ represented by 128-bit registers

When an element a is represented using the perfect shuffle operation, the implementation of a.x is a little more complex, requiring some extra bit-level operations. However, the total cost increase is not substantial. The C code of our implementation using SSE intrinsics, is found in Appendix B.

We achieved good performance with Luffa-256, obtaining 15% of speed improvement with the Intel Compiler (ICC). The Luffa-512 could be implemented by mixing the two implementations; the first four blocks were implemented with perfect shuffle and parallelism, while the last block was better suited to be executed with perfect shuffle only.

6. Experimental Results

This section presents the results of our Luffa implementations for 64-bit and SSE platforms. The code was written in C, using intrinsics for SSE instructions. The programs were compiled with ICC v.11.1, GCC v.4.3 (Ubuntu 10.04 64-bit, kernel 2.6.32-24) and Visual Studio 2010 C++ Compiler (Windows Vista Business Edition 64-bit); they were executed in a Intel Core 2 Duo T6400 2.00GHz machine. Compiler flags included optimization level -02 for ICC, -03 for GCC and tuning with -march=core2 switch. For 64-bit platform the flag -no-vec (-mno-sse for GCC) was used to prevent the compilers from using SSE vector instructions. The Visual Studio C++ compiler were executed with the flags 02, GL and tuned with favor:INTEL64.

We noted little differences between the compilers GCC, ICC and Microsoft Visual Studio. GCC required more code tunning and produced less efficient programs on the SSE platform. On 64-bit platforms, the three compilers presented similar behaviors. We have chosen GCC due to its popularity and also because it is frequently used for benchmarks. ICC was selected because of its good performance using SSE instructions. The Microsoft Visual Studio was defined by NIST for software evaluation. The Perfect Shuffle implementation was the fastest for every version of the Luffa family.

We got running times for the following four versions of Luffa for 64 bits: Reference, the code provided by the authors in their submission package for NIST ("ANSI C" in 64-bit mode) [Canniere et al. 2009b]; Basic, our implementation based on the optimization used in the authors' code; Parallel, our implementation that uses two 32-bit words in a 64-bit register to execute two permutations in parallel; and Parallel+PS, our implementation based on the perfect shuffle operation combined with the execution of two permutations in parallel.

As a matter of consistency, our new implementation performances are compared with our Basic implementation. In addition, we give the performance of the authors' code executed in our machine, due to the fact that it is the reference code used by NIST for its computational efficiency evaluations. In Tables 3 and 4, are given the preformance results for three families of Luffa: Luffa-256, Luffa-384 and Luffa-512. Luffa-224 has the same algorithm as Luffa-256, with a chopping before the message digest output. Bold text represents the fastest implementation.

Implementation	ICC			GCC			Visual Studio 2010		
	256	384	512	256	384	512	256	384	512
Reference	26.81	41.46	57.31	27.65	41.80	58.49	27.46	42.03	57.90
[Canniere et al. 2009b]	20.01	71.70	37.31	27.03	41.00	30.47	27.40	72.03	31.70
This work:									
Basic	24.31	33.09	41.50	24.43	34.35	46.35	25.34	36.37	46.03
Parallel	33.25	35.28	52.25	35.58	36.83	56.60	51.53	53.81	79.75
Parallel+PS	20.00	22.47	35.09	20.39	23.89	35.85	22.62	25.37	37.34

Table 3. 64-bit platform (cycles/byte), very long message on Intel Core 2 Duo

It can be noticed the overhead occurred when we work in parallel. This overhead is considerably reduced when we apply perfect shuffle, obtaining performance improvements up to 32% (Luffa-384 ICC) over the Basic implementation.

The SSE implementations are presented in the following way: Reference, the code provided by the authors in their submission package for NIST ("C using SSE intrinsics" in 64-bit mode); Basic¹, our implementation based on the optimization used in the authors' code; PS, our implementation based on the perfect shuffle operation; and Parallel+PS, our implementation with the perfect shuffle combined with the execution of four permutations in parallel.

We could achieve up to 15% of performance improvement (Luffa-256 ICC), and a new way to represent the SubCrumb functions, exploring the SSE instructions. We

¹The implementation of the MixWord function was modified to improve the optimizations realized by the Visual Studio Compiler. As a consequence, the codes generated by ICC and GCC became a little slower.

•		. ,	• "	•	9	9			
Implementation	ICC			GCC			Visual Studio 2010		
Implementation	256	384	512	256	384	512	256	384	512
Reference [Canniere et al. 2009b]	17.96	20.93	31.34	16.59	17.96	32.03	17.15	19.09	28.62
This work:									
Basic	13.84	14.78	19.87	15.28	16.18	24.81	20.06	21.28	27.18
PS	11.75	16.22	22.56	15.31	20.90	28.15	15.03	18.40	23.84
Parallel+PS	12.34	14.96	19.81*	15.81	18.15	25.31*	20.81	24.18	30.09*

Table 4. SSE platform (cycles/byte), very long message on Intel Core 2 Duo

consider that PS implementation allowed ICC and Visual Studio to do a better code optimization. GCC could not profit from this new method and generated codes with similar performance. It can be observed that for only the Visual Studio compiler, the Reference code outperformed our Basic implementation.

It is presented in Table 5 a comparison of the code size of Reference and PS implementations. It can be observed a length reduction on 64-bit platform, due to the rotation instructions, and a little increase on SSE platform.

•		•		•	` '
		64-bit	SSE		
	Parallel	Parallel+PS	Basic	PS	
Luffa-256	39.175	36.167	35.136	37.057	
Luffa-384	35.428	36.071	35.133	37.043	
Luffa-512	39.239	39.282	35.598	40.599	

Table 5. Binary sizes of 64-bit and SSE implementations compiled in ICC (Kb)

7. Conclusion

This paper presented a fast software implementation of Luffa for the Intel Core Duo processor. We have shown a novel application of the perfect shuffle operation to reduce the computational cost of the bit left rotations used in the MixWord function. We have also described a new way to implement Luffa using the vector SSSE3 instruction set; in particular, our implementation of the SubCrumb function takes advantage of the perfect shuffle operation and the shuffle instruction. The performance numbers of our 64-bit implementations show an improvement of 16 to 32% compared to the Reference [Canniere et al. 2009b] implementation.

As further research, we expect to investigate the application of our optimization techniques for speeding up Luffa and other hash algorithms on different platforms including low-cost 8-bit and 16-bit CPUs.

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^(*) This implementation uses a mix of PS and Parallel+PS. See Section 5.

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Appendix A SubCrumb implementation for SSE platform with perfect shuffle

```
tbl00 = _mm_set_epi8(0x04,0x02,0x08,0x0F,0x0C,0x09,0x03,0x0B,0x06,0x07,0x0A,0x05,0x01,0x00,0x0E,0x0D);
tbl01 = _mm_set_epi8(0x40,0x20,0x80,0xF0,0xC0,0x90,0x30,0xB0,0x60,0x70,0xA0,0x50,0x10,0x00,0xE0,0xD0);
tbl10 = _mm_set_epi8(0x08,0x0C,0x04,0x0E,0x01,0x05,0x0F,0x0A,0x09,0x02,0x03,0x00,0x06,0x0D,0x07,0x0B);
tbl11 = _mm_set_epi8(0x80,0xC0,0x44,0x0E,0x01,0x05,0x0F,0x0A,0x09,0x02,0x30,0x00,0x06,0x0D,0x70,0xB0);
mask = _mm_set_epi32(0x0F0F0F0F, 0x0F0F0F0F, 0x0F0F0F0F, 0x0F0F0F0F);

void SubCrumb_128(__m128i *r0, __m128i tbl0, __m128i tbl1) {
    __m128i tmp;

    tmp = _mm_and_si128(*r0, mask);
    tmp = _mm_shuffle_epi8(tbl0, tmp);
    *r0 = _mm_sulfle_epi8(tbl1, *r0);
    *r0 = _mm_shuffle_epi8(tbl1, *r0);
    *r0 = _mm_xor_si128(*r0, tmp);
}
```

Appendix B Multiplication by x in $GF((2^{32})^8)$ for SSE platform with perfect shuffle

```
mask = _mm_set_epi32(0x88888888, 0x88888888, 0x88888888, 0x88888888);
static void Mult0x02(_m128i *r0, _m128i *r1) {
        _m128i tmp0, tmp1;
        tmp0 = _mm_and_si128(*r0, mask); //D bits
        tmp1 = _mm_and_si128(*r1, mask); //M bits
        *r0 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r0, tmp0);
        *r1 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r1, tmp1);
        *r0 = _mm_slli_epi32(*r0, 1);
        *r1 = _mm_slli_epi32(*r1, 1);
        tmp0 = _mm_srli_epi32(tmp0, 3);
        *r1 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r1, tmp0);
        *r0 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r0, tmp1);
        tmp1 = _mm_srli_epi32(tmp1, 2);
        *r0 = _{mm\_xor\_si128}(*r0, tmp1);
       tmp1 = _mm_srli_epi32(tmp1, 1);
        *r1 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r1, tmp1);
        *r0 = _mm\_xor\_si128(*r0, tmp1);
}
```