

Workgroup: Crypto Forum  
Internet-Draft:  
draft-irtf-cfrg-kangarootwelve-08  
Published: 19 August 2022  
Intended Status: Informational  
Expires: 20 February 2023

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## KangarooTwelve

### Abstract

This document defines the KangarooTwelve eXtendable Output Function (XOF), a hash function with output of arbitrary length. It provides an efficient and secure hashing primitive, which is able to exploit the parallelism of the implementation in a scalable way. It uses tree hashing over a round-reduced version of SHAKE128 as underlying primitive.

This document builds up on the definitions of the permutations and of the sponge construction in [FIPS 202], and is meant to serve as a stable reference and an implementation guide.

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## Table of Contents

- [1. Introduction](#)
  - [1.1. Conventions](#)
- [2. Specifications](#)
  - [2.1. Inner function F](#)
  - [2.2. Tree hashing over F](#)
  - [2.3. length\\_encode\( x \)](#)
- [3. Test vectors](#)
- [4. IANA Considerations](#)
- [5. Security Considerations](#)
- [6. References](#)
  - [6.1. Normative References](#)
  - [6.2. Informative References](#)
- [Appendix A. Pseudocode](#)
  - [A.1. Keccak-p\[1600,n\\_r=12\]](#)
  - [A.2. KangarooTwelve](#)
- [Authors' Addresses](#)

## 1. Introduction

This document defines the KangarooTwelve eXtendable Output Function (XOF) [[K12](#)], i.e. a generalization of a hash function that can return an output of arbitrary length. KangarooTwelve is based on a Keccak-p permutation specified in [[FIPS202](#)] and has a higher speed than SHAKE and SHA-3.

The SHA-3 functions process data in a serial manner and are unable to optimally exploit parallelism available in modern CPU architectures. Similar to ParallelHash [[SP800-185](#)], KangarooTwelve splits the input message into fragments to exploit available parallelism. It then applies an inner hash function F on each of them separately before applying F again on the concatenation of the digests. It makes use of Sakura coding for ensuring soundness of the tree hashing mode [[SAKURA](#)]. The inner hash function F is a sponge function and uses a round-reduced version of the permutation Keccak-f used in SHA-3, making it faster than ParallelHash. Its security builds up on the scrutiny that Keccak has received since its publication [[KECCAK\\_CRYPTANALYSIS](#)].

With respect to [[FIPS202](#)] and [[SP800-185](#)] functions, KangarooTwelve features the following advantages:

- \*Unlike SHA3-224, SHA3-256, SHA3-384, SHA3-512, KangarooTwelve has an extendable output.

- \*Unlike any [[FIPS202](#)] defined function, similarly to functions defined in [[SP800-185](#)], KangarooTwelve allows the use of a customization string.

\*Unlike any [FIPS202] and [SP800-185] functions but ParallelHash, KangarooTwelve splits the input message into fragments to exploit available parallelism.

\*Unlike ParallelHash, KangarooTwelve does not have overhead when processing short messages.

\*The Keccak-f permutation in KangarooTwelve has half the number of rounds of the one used in SHA3, making it faster than any function defined in [FIPS202] and [SP800-185].

## 1.1. Conventions

The key words "MUST", "MUST NOT", "REQUIRED", "SHALL", "SHALL NOT", "SHOULD", "SHOULD NOT", "RECOMMENDED", "MAY", and "OPTIONAL" in this document are to be interpreted as described in RFC 2119 [RFC2119].

The following notations are used throughout the document:

``...`` denotes a string of bytes given in hexadecimal. For example, ``0B 80``.

`|s|` denotes the length of a byte string `s``. For example, `|`FF FF`| = 2`.

``00^b`` denotes a byte string consisting of the concatenation of `b` bytes ``00``. For example, ``00^7 = `00 00 00 00 00 00 00``.

``00^0`` denotes the empty byte-string.

`a||b` denotes the concatenation of two strings `a` and `b`. For example, ``10`||`F1` = `10 F1``

`s[n:m]` denotes the selection of bytes from `n` (inclusive) to `m` (exclusive) of a string `s`. The indexing of a byte-string starts at 0. For example, for `s = `A5 C6 D7``, `s[0:1] = `A5`` and `s[1:3] = `C6 D7``.

`s[n:]` denotes the selection of bytes from `n` to the end of a string `s`. For example, for `s = `A5 C6 D7``, `s[0:] = `A5 C6 D7`` and `s[2:] = `D7``.

In the following, `x` and `y` are byte strings of equal length:

`x^y` denotes `x` takes the value `x XOR y`.

`x & y` denotes `x AND y`.

In the following, `x` and `y` are integers:

`x+=y` denotes `x` takes the value `x + y`.

`x-=y` denotes `x` takes the value `x - y`.

`x**y` denotes the exponentiation of `x` by `y`.

## 2. Specifications

KangarooTwelve is an extendable Output Function (XOF). It takes as input two byte-strings ( $M$ ,  $C$ ) and a positive integer  $L$  where

$M$  byte-string, is the Message and

$C$  byte-string, is an OPTIONAL Customization string and

$L$  positive integer, the requested number of output bytes.

The Customization string MAY serve as domain separation. It is typically a short string such as a name or an identifier (e.g. URI, ODI...)

By default, the Customization string is the empty string. For an API that does not support a customization string input,  $C$  MUST be the empty string.

### 2.1. Inner function $F$

The inner function  $F$  makes use of the permutation Keccak-p[1600, $n_r=12$ ], i.e., a version of the permutation Keccak-f[1600] used in SHAKE and SHA-3 instances reduced to its last  $n_r=12$  rounds and specified in FIPS 202, sections 3.3 and 3.4 [[FIPS202](#)].  $KP$  denotes this permutation.

$F$  is a sponge function calling this permutation  $KP$  with a rate of 168 bytes or 1344 bits. It follows that  $F$  has a capacity of  $1600 - 1344 = 256$  bits or 32 bytes.

The sponge function  $F$  takes:

**input** byte-string of positive length, the input bytes and

**outputByteLen** positive integer, the length of the output in bytes

First non-multiple of 168-bytes-length inputs are padded with zeroes to the next multiple of 168 bytes while inputs multiple of 168 bytes are kept as is. Then a byte ``80`` is XORed to the last byte of the padded message and the resulting string is split into a sequence of 168-byte blocks.

Inputs of length 0 bytes do not happen as a result of the tree hashing mode defined in section 2.2.

As defined by the sponge construction, the process operates on a state and consists of two phases: the absorbing phase that processes the input and the squeezing phase that produces the output.

In the absorbing phase the state is initialized to all-zero. The message blocks are XORed into the first 168 bytes of the state. Each block absorbed is followed with an application of  $KP$  to the state.

In the squeezing phase output is formed by taking the first 168 bytes of the state, repeated as many times as necessary until `outputByteLen` bytes are obtained, interleaved with the application of  $KP$  to the state.

The definition of the function  $F$  equivalently implements the `pad10*1` rule. It assumes an at least one-byte-long input where the last byte is in the ``01`-`7F`` range, and this is the case in `KangarooTwelve`. This last byte serves as domain separation and integrates the first bit of padding of the `pad10*1` rule (hence it cannot be ``00``). Additionally, it must leave room for the second bit of padding (hence it cannot have the MSB set to 1), should it be the last byte of the block. For more details, refer to Section 6.1 of [[K12](#)].

A pseudocode version is available as follows:

```
F(input, outputByteLen):
  offset = 0
  state = `00`^200

  # === Absorb complete blocks ===
  while offset < |input| - 168
    state ^= input[offset : offset + 168] || `00`^32
    state = KP(state)
    offset += 168

  # === Absorb last block and treatment of padding ===
  LastBlockLength = |input| - offset
  state ^= input[offset:] || `00`^(200-LastBlockLength)
  state ^= `00`^167 || `80` || `00`^32
  state = KP(state)

  # === Squeeze ===
  output = `00`^0
  while outputByteLen > 168
    output = output || state[0:168]
    outputByteLen -= 168
    state = KP(state)

  output = output || state[0:outputByteLen]

  return output
end
```

## 2.2. Tree hashing over $F$

On top of the sponge function  $F$ , `KangarooTwelve` uses a Sakura-compatible tree hash mode [[SAKURA](#)]. First, merge  $M$  and the OPTIONAL  $C$  to a single input string  $S$  in a reversible way. `length_encode( |C| )` gives the length in bytes of  $C$  as a byte-string. See [Section 2.3](#).

$$S = M \parallel C \parallel \text{length\_encode}( |C| )$$

Then, split  $S$  into  $n$  chunks of 8192 bytes.

$$\begin{aligned} S &= S_0 \parallel \dots \parallel S_{(n-1)} \\ |S_0| &= \dots = |S_{(n-2)}| = 8192 \text{ bytes} \\ |S_{(n-1)}| &\leq 8192 \text{ bytes} \end{aligned}$$

From  $S_1 \dots S_{(n-1)}$ , compute the 32-byte Chaining Values  $CV_1 \dots CV_{(n-1)}$ . In order to be optimally efficient, this computation SHOULD exploit the parallelism available on the platform such as SIMD instructions.

```
CV_i = F( S_i || `0B`, 32 )
```

Compute the final node: FinalNode.

```
*If |S| <= 8192 bytes, FinalNode = S
```

```
*Otherwise compute FinalNode as follows:
```

```
FinalNode = S_0 || `03 00 00 00 00 00 00 00`  
FinalNode = FinalNode || CV_1  
..  
FinalNode = FinalNode || CV_(n-1)  
FinalNode = FinalNode || length_encode(n-1)  
FinalNode = FinalNode || `FF FF`
```

Finally, KangarooTwelve output is retrieved:

```
*If |S| <= 8192 bytes, from F( FinalNode || `07`, L )
```

```
KangarooTwelve( M, C, L ) = F( FinalNode || `07`, L )
```

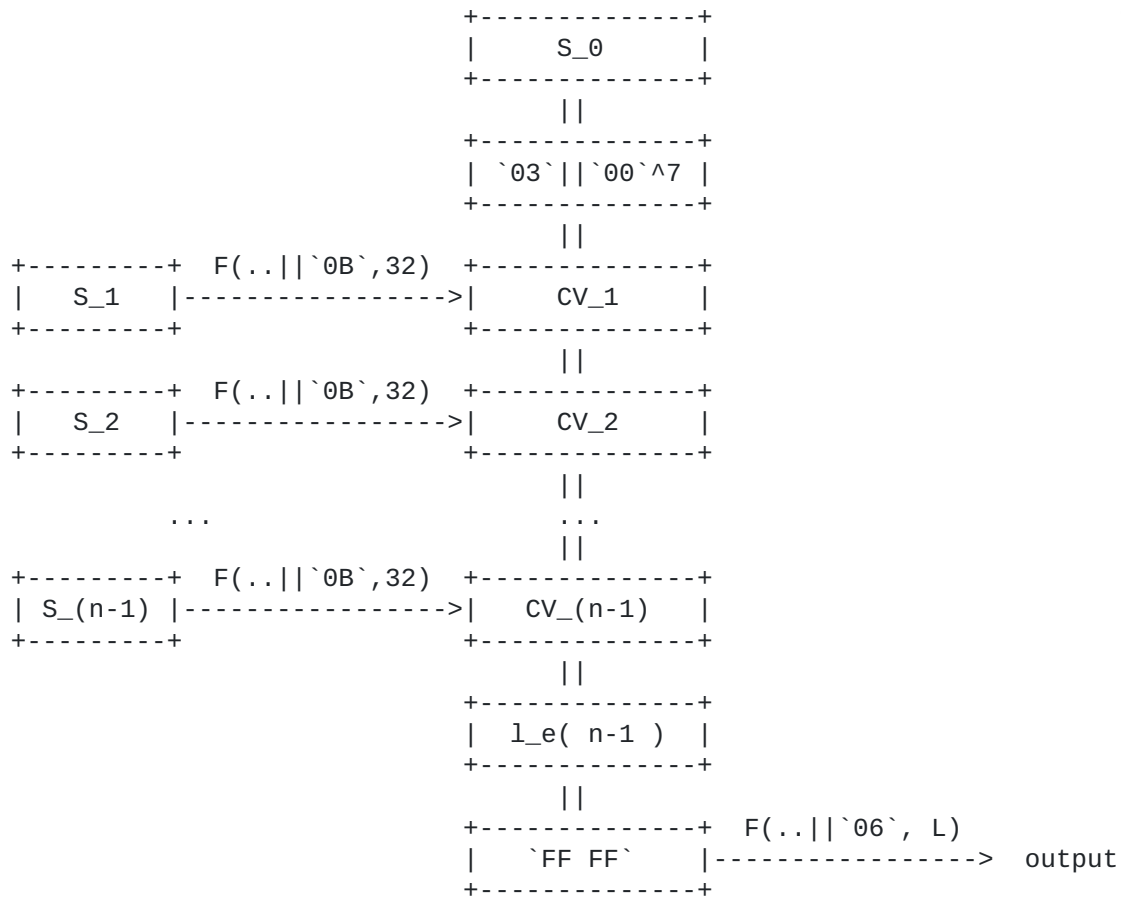
```
*Otherwise from F( FinalNode || `06`, L )
```

```
KangarooTwelve( M, C, L ) = F( FinalNode || `06`, L )
```

The following figure illustrates the computation flow of KangarooTwelve for  $|S| \leq 8192$  bytes:

```
+-----+ F(.. || `07`, L)  
|      S      |-----> output  
+-----+
```

The following figure illustrates the computation flow of KangarooTwelve for  $|S| > 8192$  bytes and where `length_encode( x )` is abbreviated as `l_e( x )`:



A pseudocode version is provided in [Appendix A.2](#).

The table below gathers the values of the domain separation bytes used by the tree hash mode:

Type	Byte
SingleNode	`07`
IntermediateNode	`0B`
FinalNode	`06`

### 2.3. length\_encode( x )

The function `length_encode` takes as inputs a non negative integer  $x < 256^{*}255$  and outputs a string of bytes  $x_{(n-1)} || .. || x_0 || n$  where

$$x = \text{sum from } i=0..n-1 \text{ of } 256^{*}i * x_i$$

and where  $n$  is the smallest non-negative integer such that  $x < 256^{*}n$ .  $n$  is also the length of  $x_{(n-1)} || .. || x_0$ .

As example, `length_encode(0) = `00``, `length_encode(12) = `0C 01`` and `length_encode(65538) = `01 00 02 03``

A pseudocode version is as follows.

```
length_encode(x):
  S = ``00`^0

  while x > 0
    S = x mod 256 || S
    x = x / 256

  S = S || length(S)

  return S
end
```

### 3. Test vectors

Test vectors are based on the repetition of the pattern ``00 01 .. FA` with a specific length. ptn(n) defines a string by repeating the pattern ``00 01 .. FA` as many times as necessary and truncated to n bytes e.g.

Pattern for a length of 17 bytes:

```
ptn(17) =
`00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F 10`
```

Pattern for a length of 17\*\*2 bytes:

```
ptn(17**2) =
`00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F
20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 2A 2B 2C 2D 2E 2F
30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 3A 3B 3C 3D 3E 3F
40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 4A 4B 4C 4D 4E 4F
50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 5A 5B 5C 5D 5E 5F
60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 6A 6B 6C 6D 6E 6F
70 71 72 73 74 75 76 77 78 79 7A 7B 7C 7D 7E 7F
80 81 82 83 84 85 86 87 88 89 8A 8B 8C 8D 8E 8F
90 91 92 93 94 95 96 97 98 99 9A 9B 9C 9D 9E 9F
A0 A1 A2 A3 A4 A5 A6 A7 A8 A9 AA AB AC AD AE AF
B0 B1 B2 B3 B4 B5 B6 B7 B8 B9 BA BB BC BD BE BF
C0 C1 C2 C3 C4 C5 C6 C7 C8 C9 CA CB CC CD CE CF
D0 D1 D2 D3 D4 D5 D6 D7 D8 D9 DA DB DC DD DE DF
E0 E1 E2 E3 E4 E5 E6 E7 E8 E9 EA EB EC ED EE EF
F0 F1 F2 F3 F4 F5 F6 F7 F8 F9 FA
00 01 02 03 04 05 06 07 08 09 0A 0B 0C 0D 0E 0F
10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 1A 1B 1C 1D 1E 1F
20 21 22 23 24 25`
```



KangarooTwelve(M=`00`^0, C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`1A C2 D4 50 FC 3B 42 05 D1 9D A7 BF CA 1B 37 51
 3C 08 03 57 7A C7 16 7F 06 FE 2C E1 F0 EF 39 E5`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`00`^0, C=`00`^0, 64):

```
`1A C2 D4 50 FC 3B 42 05 D1 9D A7 BF CA 1B 37 51
 3C 08 03 57 7A C7 16 7F 06 FE 2C E1 F0 EF 39 E5
 42 69 C0 56 B8 C8 2E 48 27 60 38 B6 D2 92 96 6C
 C0 7A 3D 46 45 27 2E 31 FF 38 50 81 39 EB 0A 71`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`00`^0, C=`00`^0, 10032), last 32 bytes:

```
`E8 DC 56 36 42 F7 22 8C 84 68 4C 89 84 05 D3 A8
 34 79 91 58 C0 79 B1 28 80 27 7A 1D 28 E2 FF 6D`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(1 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`2B DA 92 45 0E 8B 14 7F 8A 7C B6 29 E7 84 A0 58
 EF CA 7C F7 D8 21 8E 02 D3 45 DF AA 65 24 4A 1F`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`6B F7 5F A2 23 91 98 DB 47 72 E3 64 78 F8 E1 9B
 0F 37 12 05 F6 A9 A9 3A 27 3F 51 DF 37 12 28 88`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17\*\*2 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`0C 31 5E BC DE DB F6 14 26 DE 7D CF 8F B7 25 D1
 E7 46 75 D7 F5 32 7A 50 67 F3 67 B1 08 EC B6 7C`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17\*\*3 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`CB 55 2E 2E C7 7D 99 10 70 1D 57 8B 45 7D DF 77
 2C 12 E3 22 E4 EE 7F E4 17 F9 2C 75 8F 0D 59 D0`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17\*\*4 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`87 01 04 5E 22 20 53 45 FF 4D DA 05 55 5C BB 5C
 3A F1 A7 71 C2 B8 9B AE F3 7D B4 3D 99 98 B9 FE`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17\*\*5 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`84 4D 61 09 33 B1 B9 96 3C BD EB 5A E3 B6 B0 5C
 C7 CB D6 7C EE DF 88 3E B6 78 A0 A8 E0 37 16 82`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=ptn(17\*\*6 bytes), C=`00`^0, 32):

```
`3C 39 07 82 A8 A4 E8 9F A6 36 7F 72 FE AA F1 32
 55 C8 D9 58 78 48 1D 3C D8 CE 85 F5 8E 88 0A F8`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`00`^0, C=ptn(1 bytes), 32):

```
`FA B6 58 DB 63 E9 4A 24 61 88 BF 7A F6 9A 13 30
 45 F4 6E E9 84 C5 6E 3C 33 28 CA AF 1A A1 A5 83`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`FF`, C=ptn(41 bytes), 32):

```
`D8 48 C5 06 8C ED 73 6F 44 62 15 9B 98 67 FD 4C
 20 B8 08 AC C3 D5 BC 48 E0 B0 6B A0 A3 76 2E C4`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`FF FF FF`, C=ptn(41\*\*2), 32):

```
`C3 89 E5 00 9A E5 71 20 85 4C 2E 8C 64 67 0A C0
 13 58 CF 4C 1B AF 89 44 7A 72 42 34 DC 7C ED 74`
```

KangarooTwelve(M=`FF FF FF FF FF FF FF`, C=ptn(41\*\*3 bytes), 32):

```
`75 D2 F8 6A 2E 64 45 66 72 6B 4F BC FC 56 57 B9
 DB CF 07 0C 7B 0D CA 06 45 0A B2 91 D7 44 3B CF`
```

#### 4. IANA Considerations

None.

#### 5. Security Considerations

This document is meant to serve as a stable reference and an implementation guide for the KangarooTwelve eXtendable Output Function. It relies on the cryptanalysis of Keccak and provides with the same security strength as SHAKE128, i.e., 128 bits of security against all attacks.

To be more precise, KangarooTwelve is made of two layers:

\*The inner function F. This layer relies on cryptanalysis. KangarooTwelve's F function is exactly Keccak[r=1344, c=256] (as in SHAKE128) reduced to 12 rounds. Any reduced-round cryptanalysis on Keccak is also a reduced-round cryptanalysis of KangarooTwelve's F (provided the number of rounds attacked is not higher than 12).

\*The tree hashing over F. This layer is a mode on top of F that does not introduce any vulnerability thanks to the use of Sakura coding proven secure in [[SAKURA](#)].

This reasoning is detailed and formalized in [[K12](#)].

To achieve 128-bit security strength, the output L must be chosen long enough so that there are no generic attacks that violate 128-bit security. So for 128-bit (second) preimage security the output should be at least 128 bits, for 128-bit of security against multi-target preimage attacks with T targets the output should be at least  $128 + \log_2(T)$  bits and for 128-bit collision security the output should be at least 256 bits.

Furthermore, when the output length is at least 256 bits, KangarooTwelve achieves NIST's post-quantum security level 2 [[NISTPQ](#)].

Implementing a MAC with KangarooTwelve SHOULD use a HASH-then-MAC construction. This document recommends a method called HopMAC, defined as follows:

$$\text{HopMAC}(\text{Key}, M, C, L) = \text{K12}(\text{Key}, \text{K12}(M, C, 32), L)$$

Similarly to HMAC, HopMAC consists of two calls: an inner call compressing the message M and the optional customization string C to a digest, and an outer call computing the tag from the key and the digest.

Unlike HMAC, the inner call to KangarooTwelve in HopMAC is keyless and does not require additional protection against side channel attacks (SCA). Consequently, in an implementation that has to protect the HopMAC key against SCA only the outer call does need protection, and this amounts to a single execution of the underlying permutation.

In any case, KangarooTwelve MAY be used to compute a MAC with the key reversibly prepended or appended to the input. For instance, one MAY compute a MAC on short messages simply calling KangarooTwelve with the key as the customization string, i.e.,  $MAC = K12(M, Key, L)$ .

## 6. References

### 6.1. Normative References

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## **Appendix A. Pseudocode**

The sub-sections of this appendix contain pseudocode definitions of KangarooTwelve. A standalone Python version is also available in the Keccak Code Package [[XKCP](#)] and in [[K12](#)]

A.1. Keccak-p[1600,n\_r=12]

```

KP(state):
  RC[0] = `8B 80 00 80 00 00 00 00`
  RC[1] = `8B 00 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[2] = `89 80 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[3] = `03 80 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[4] = `02 80 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[5] = `80 00 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[6] = `0A 80 00 00 00 00 00 00`
  RC[7] = `0A 00 00 80 00 00 00 80`
  RC[8] = `81 80 00 80 00 00 00 80`
  RC[9] = `80 80 00 00 00 00 00 80`
  RC[10] = `01 00 00 80 00 00 00 00`
  RC[11] = `08 80 00 80 00 00 00 80`

  for x from 0 to 4
    for y from 0 to 4
      lanes[x][y] = state[8*(x+5*y):8*(x+5*y)+8]

  for round from 0 to 11
    # theta
    for x from 0 to 4
      C[x] = lanes[x][0]
      C[x] ^= lanes[x][1]
      C[x] ^= lanes[x][2]
      C[x] ^= lanes[x][3]
      C[x] ^= lanes[x][4]
    for x from 0 to 4
      D[x] = C[(x+4) mod 5] ^ ROL64(C[(x+1) mod 5], 1)
    for y from 0 to 4
      for x from 0 to 4
        lanes[x][y] = lanes[x][y]^D[x]

    # rho and pi
    (x, y) = (1, 0)
    current = lanes[x][y]
    for t from 0 to 23
      (x, y) = (y, (2*x+3*y) mod 5)
      (current, lanes[x][y]) =
        (lanes[x][y], ROL64(current, (t+1)*(t+2)/2))

    # chi
    for y from 0 to 4
      for x from 0 to 4
        T[x] = lanes[x][y]
      for x from 0 to 4
        lanes[x][y] = T[x] ^((not T[(x+1) mod 5]) & T[(x+2) mod 5])

    # iota
    lanes[0][0] ^= RC[round]

  state = `00`^0
  for x from 0 to 4
    for y from 0 to 4
      state = state || lanes[x][y]

  return state
end

```

where `ROL64(x, y)` is a rotation of the 'x' 64-bit word toward the bits with higher indexes by 'y' positions. The 8-bytes byte-string `x` is interpreted as a 64-bit word in little-endian format.

## A.2. KangarooTwelve

```
KangarooTwelve(inputMessage, customString, outputByteLen):
  S = inputMessage || customString
  S = S || length_encode( |customString| )

  if |S| <= 8192
    return F(S || `07`, outputByteLen)
  else
    # === Kangaroo hopping ===
    FinalNode = S[0:8192] || `03` || `00`^7
    offset = 8192
    numBlock = 0
    while offset < |S|
      blockSize = min( |S| - offset, 8192)
      CV = F(S[offset : offset + blockSize] || `0B`, 32)
      FinalNode = FinalNode || CV
      numBlock += 1
      offset += blockSize

    FinalNode = FinalNode || length_encode( numBlock ) || `FF FF`

    return F(FinalNode || `06`, outputByteLen)
  end
```

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