

Benchmarking benchmarking, and optimizing optimization

Daniel J. Bernstein

University of Illinois at Chicago &
Technische Universiteit Eindhoven

Bit operations per bit of plaintext
(assuming precomputed subkeys),
as listed in recent Skinny paper:

key	ops/bit	cipher
128	88	Simon: 60 ops broken
	100	NOEKEON
	117	Skinny
256	144	Simon: 106 ops broken
	147.2	PRESENT
	156	Skinny
128	162.75	Piccolo
128	202.5	AES
256	283.5	AES

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key	ops/bit	cipher
256	54	Salsa20/8
256	78	Salsa20/12
128	88	Simon: 60 ops broken
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2

Operation counts
poor model of hardware
worse model of software

Pick a cipher: e.g.

How fast is Salsa20?

First step in analysis

Write simple software

e.g. Bernstein–van

Janssen–Lange–Sche

Smetsers “TweetN

includes essentially
implementation of

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Operation counts are a
poor model of hardware cost
worse model of software cost

Pick a cipher: e.g., Salsa20.

How fast is Salsa20 software?

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4	Salsa20/8
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includes essentially the following
implementation of Salsa20:

3

```
int crypto_box_salsa20(u32 w[16], int i, j)
{
    x[5*i] = ...;
    x[1+i] = ...;
    x[6+i] = ...;
    x[11+i] = ...;
}
```

FOR(i,16)

bit of plaintext
puted subkeys),
in Skinny paper:

er
a20/8
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EKEON

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Smetsers “TweetNaCl”

includes essentially the following
implementation of Salsa20:

3

```
int crypto_core_salsa20(const u8 *in,const u8 *k,u32 w[16],u32 x[16],u32 y[16],int i,j,m);  
  
FOR(i,4) {  
    x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);  
    x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);  
    x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);  
    x[11+i] = ld32(k+4*i+5);  
}  
  
FOR(i,16) y[i] = x[i];
```

intext
keys),
paper:

2 Operation counts are a poor model of hardware cost, worse model of software cost.

Pick a cipher: e.g., Salsa20.
How fast is Salsa20 software?

broken

os broken

First step in analysis:
Write simple software.

e.g. Bernstein–van Gastel–Janssen–Lange–Schwabe–Smetsers “TweetNaCl”
includes essentially the following implementation of Salsa20:

3 int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,
const u8 *in, const u8 *k, const u8
{
u32 w[16], x[16], y[16], t[4];
int i, j, m;

FOR(i, 4) {
x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);
x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);
x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);
x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);
}

FOR(i, 16) y[i] = x[i];

Operation counts are a poor model of hardware cost, worse model of software cost.

Pick a cipher: e.g., Salsa20.
How fast is Salsa20 software?

First step in analysis:

Write simple software.

e.g. Bernstein–van Gastel–Janssen–Lange–Schwabe–Smetsers “TweetNaCl”

includes essentially the following implementation of Salsa20:

```
int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,  
const u8 *in,const u8 *k,const u8 *c)  
{  
    u32 w[16],x[16],y[16],t[4];  
    int i,j,m;  
  
    FOR(i,4) {  
        x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);  
        x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);  
        x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);  
        x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);  
    }  
  
    FOR(i,16) y[i] = x[i];
```

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odel of software cost.

ipher: e.g., Salsa20.
t is Salsa20 software?

p in analysis:

Simple software.

rnstein–van Gastel–
–Lange–Schwabe–
s “TweetNaCl”

essentially the following
entation of Salsa20:

```
3
4
int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,
const u8 *in,const u8 *k,const u8 *c)
{
    u32 w[16],x[16],y[16],t[4];
    int i,j,m;
    FOR(i,4) {
        x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);
        x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);
        x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);
        x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);
    }
    FOR(i,16) y[i] = x[i];
    return 0;
}
```

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0 software?

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/are.

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NaCl"

/ the following

Salsa20:

```
3     int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,
                           const u8 *in, const u8 *k, const u8 *c)
{
    u32 w[16], x[16], y[16], t[4];
    int i, j, m;

    FOR(i, 4) {
        x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);
        x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);
        x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);
        x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);
    }

    FOR(i, 16) y[i] = x[i];

    4     FOR(i, 20) {
        FOR(j, 4) {
            FOR(m, 4) t[m] =
                t[1] ^= L32(t[0]);
            t[2] ^= L32(t[1]);
            t[3] ^= L32(t[2]);
            t[0] ^= L32(t[3]);
        }
        FOR(m, 4) w[4*j+m] =
            x[m];
    }

    FOR(i, 16) st32(out, y[i]);
    return 0;
}
```

```
3 int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,  
const u8 *in,const u8 *k,const u8 *c)  
{  
    u32 w[16],x[16],y[16],t[4];  
    int i,j,m;  
    FOR(i,4) {  
        x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);  
        x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);  
        x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);  
        x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);  
    }  
    FOR(i,16) y[i] = x[i];
```

```
4 FOR(i,20) {  
    FOR(j,4) {  
        FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m);  
        t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);  
        t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);  
        t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);  
        t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);  
        FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] =  
    }  
    FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];  
}  
FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i];  
return 0;
```

```

int crypto_core_salsa20(u8 *out,
const u8 *in,const u8 *k,const u8 *c)
{
    u32 w[16],x[16],y[16],t[4];
    int i,j,m;
    FOR(i,4) {
        x[5*i] = ld32(c+4*i);
        x[1+i] = ld32(k+4*i);
        x[6+i] = ld32(in+4*i);
        x[11+i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);
    }
    FOR(i,16) y[i] = x[i];
}

```

```

FOR(i,20) {
    FOR(j,4) {
        FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];
        t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);
        t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);
        t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);
        t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);
        FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];
    }
    FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];
}
FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);
return 0;
}

```

```
b_core_salsa20(u8 *out,  
*in,const u8 *k,const u8 *c)  
[6],x[16],y[16],t[4];  
,m;  
) {  
] = ld32(c+4*i);  
] = ld32(k+4*i);  
] = ld32(in+4*i);  
i] = ld32(k+16+4*i);  
6) y[i] = x[i];
```

```
4 FOR(i,20) {  
    FOR(j,4) {  
        FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];  
        t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);  
        t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);  
        t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);  
        t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);  
        FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];  
    }  
    FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];  
}  
FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);  
return 0;  
}
```

```
5 static const char  
= "expand";  
int crypto_box(  
const u8 *  
{  
u8 z[16];  
u32 u,i;  
if (!b)  
FOR(i,16) z[i] =  
FOR(i,8) z[i] =  
while (1)  
crypto_box(  
FOR(i,16) out[i] =  
u = 1;
```

```
4    a20(u8 *out,  
      u8 *k,const u8 *c)  
      FOR(i,20) {  
          FOR(j,4) {  
              FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];  
              t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);  
              t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);  
              t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);  
              t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);  
              FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];  
          }  
          FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];  
      }  
      FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);  
      return 0;  
  }
```

```
5 static const u8 sigma  
= "expand 32-byte k";  
  
int crypto_stream_salsa20_64( u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,u8 *c ) {  
    u8 z[16],x[64];  
    u32 u,i;  
    if (!b) return 0;  
    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;  
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];  
    while (b >= 64) {  
        crypto_core_salsa20_64(z,x,u);  
        FOR(i,64) c[i] =  
            u = 1;
```

```
4     FOR(i,20) {
8 *c)
      FOR(j,4) {
          FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];
          t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);
          t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);
          t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);
          t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);
          FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];
      }
      FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];
  }
FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);
return 0;
}
```

```
5     static const u8 sigma[16]
= "expand 32-byte k";
int crypto_stream_salsa20_xor(u8
const u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,co
{
    u8 z[16],x[64];
    u32 u,i;
    if (!b) return 0;
    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];
    while (b >= 64) {
        crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
        FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0)
        u = 1;
    }
}
```

```

FOR(i,20) {
    FOR(j,4) {
        FOR(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];
        t[1] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);
        t[2] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);
        t[3] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);
        t[0] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);
        FOR(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];
    }
    FOR(m,16) x[m] = w[m];
}
FOR(i,16) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);
return 0;
}

```

```

static const u8 sigma[16]
= "expand 32-byte k";

int crypto_stream_salsa20_xor(u8 *c,
const u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,const u8 *k)
{
    u8 z[16],x[64];
    u32 u,i;
    if (!b) return 0;
    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];
    while (b >= 64) {
        crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
        FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
        u = 1;
    }
}

```

```
0) {  
,  
,4) {  
  
(m,4) t[m] = x[(5*j+4*m)%16];  
] ^= L32(t[0]+t[3], 7);  
] ^= L32(t[1]+t[0], 9);  
] ^= L32(t[2]+t[1],13);  
] ^= L32(t[3]+t[2],18);  
  
(m,4) w[4*j+(j+m)%4] = t[m];  
  
,16) x[m] = w[m];  
  
6) st32(out + 4 * i,x[i] + y[i]);  
0;
```

```
5 static const u8 sigma[16]  
= "expand 32-byte k";  
  
int crypto_stream_salsa20_xor(u8 *c,  
const u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,const u8 *k)  
{  
    u8 z[16],x[64];  
    u32 u,i;  
    if (!b) return 0;  
    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;  
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];  
    while (b >= 64) {  
        crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);  
        FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];  
        u = 1;  
    }  
    6 for (:  
        u +=  
        z[i];  
        u >:  
    }  
    b -= 64;  
    c += 64;  
    if (m) {  
        if (b) {  
            crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);  
            FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];  
        }  
        return 0;  
    }  
}
```

```
5 static const u8 sigma[16]
= "expand 32-byte k";
x[(5*j+4*m)%16];
0]+t[3], 7);
_] +t[0], 9);
2]+t[1], 13);
3]+t[2], 18);
-(j+m)%4] = t[m];
w[m];
+ 4 * i, x[i] + y[i]);

```

```
6 for (i = 8; i < 16;
u += (u32) z[i];
z[i] = u;
u >>= 8;
}
b -= 64;
c += 64;
if (m) m += 64;
}
if (b) {
crypto_core_salsa20(x, z, k, sigma);
FOR(i, b) c[i] =
}
return 0;
}
```

```
5 static const u8 sigma[16]
= "expand 32-byte k";
) %16];

int crypto_stream_salsa20_xor(u8 *c,
const u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,const u8 *k)
{
    u8 z[16],x[64];
    u32 u,i;
    if (!b) return 0;
    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];
    while (b >= 64) {
        crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
        FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
        u = 1;
    }
    FOR(i,8) z[i] = u;
    u >>= 8;
    b -= 64;
    c += 64;
    if (m) m += 64;
}
if (b) {
    crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
    FOR(i,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
}
return 0;
}
```

```
static const u8 sigma[16]
= "expand 32-byte k";

int crypto_stream_salsa20_xor(u8 *c,
const u8 *m,u64 b,const u8 *n,const u8 *k)
{
    u8 z[16],x[64];
    u32 u,i;

    if (!b) return 0;

    FOR(i,16) z[i] = 0;

    FOR(i,8) z[i] = n[i];

    while (b >= 64) {

        crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);

        FOR(i,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];

        u = 1;
    }
}
```

```
for (i = 8;i < 16;++i) {
    u += (u32) z[i];
    z[i] = u;
    u >>= 8;
}

b -= 64;
c += 64;
if (m) m += 64;
}

if (b) {
    crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
    FOR(i,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
}

return 0;
}
```

```
hst u8 sigma[16]
32-byte k";
b_stream_salsa20_xor(u8 *c,
*m,u64 b,const u8 *n,const u8 *k)
] ,x[64];
;
return 0;
6) z[i] = 0;
) z[i] = n[i];
o >= 64) {
o_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
,64) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
;
```

6

```
for (i = 8;i < 16;++i) {
    u += (u32) z[i];
    z[i] = u;
    u >>= 8;
}
b -= 64;
c += 64;
if (m) m += 64;
}
if (b) {
    crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);
    FOR(i,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];
}
return 0;
}
```

7

Next step
For each
compile
and see

```

h[16]

    for (i = 8;i < 16;++i) {

        u += (u32) z[i];

        z[i] = u;

        u >>= 8;

    }

    b -= 64;

    c += 64;

    if (m) m += 64;

}

if (b) {

    crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);

    FOR(i,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];

}

return 0;

}

```

Next step in analysis
 For each target CPU
 compile the simple
 and see how fast it is

6

```
    for (i = 8;i < 16;++i) {  
        u += (u32) z[i];  
        z[i] = u;  
        u >>= 8;  
    }  
  
    b -= 64;  
  
    c += 64;  
  
    if (m) m += 64;  
}  
  
if (b) {  
  
    crypto_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);  
  
    FOR(i,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];  
}  
  
gma);  
  
^ x[i];  
}
```

7

Next step in analysis:
For each target CPU,
compile the simple code,
and see how fast it is.

```
for (i = 8;i < 16;++i) {  
    u += (u32) z[i];  
    z[i] = u;  
    u >>= 8;  
}  
  
b -= 64;  
  
c += 64;  
  
if (m) m += 64;  
  
}  
  
if (b) {  
  
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 most architectures that we can't
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 heuristics. We can only try to
 get little niggles here and there
 where the heuristics get
 slightly wrong answers.”**

```
i = 8;i < 16;++i) {  
= (u32) z[i];  
] = u;  
>= 8;  
64;  
64;  
) m += 64;  
{  
o_core_salsa20(x,z,k,sigma);  
,b) c[i] = (m?m[i]:0) ^ x[i];  
0;
```

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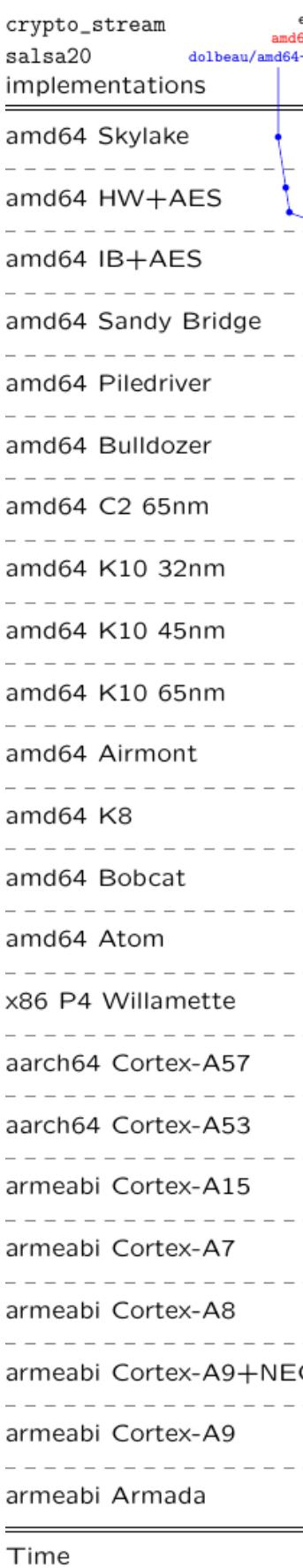
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Reality is



```
6;++i) {  
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}
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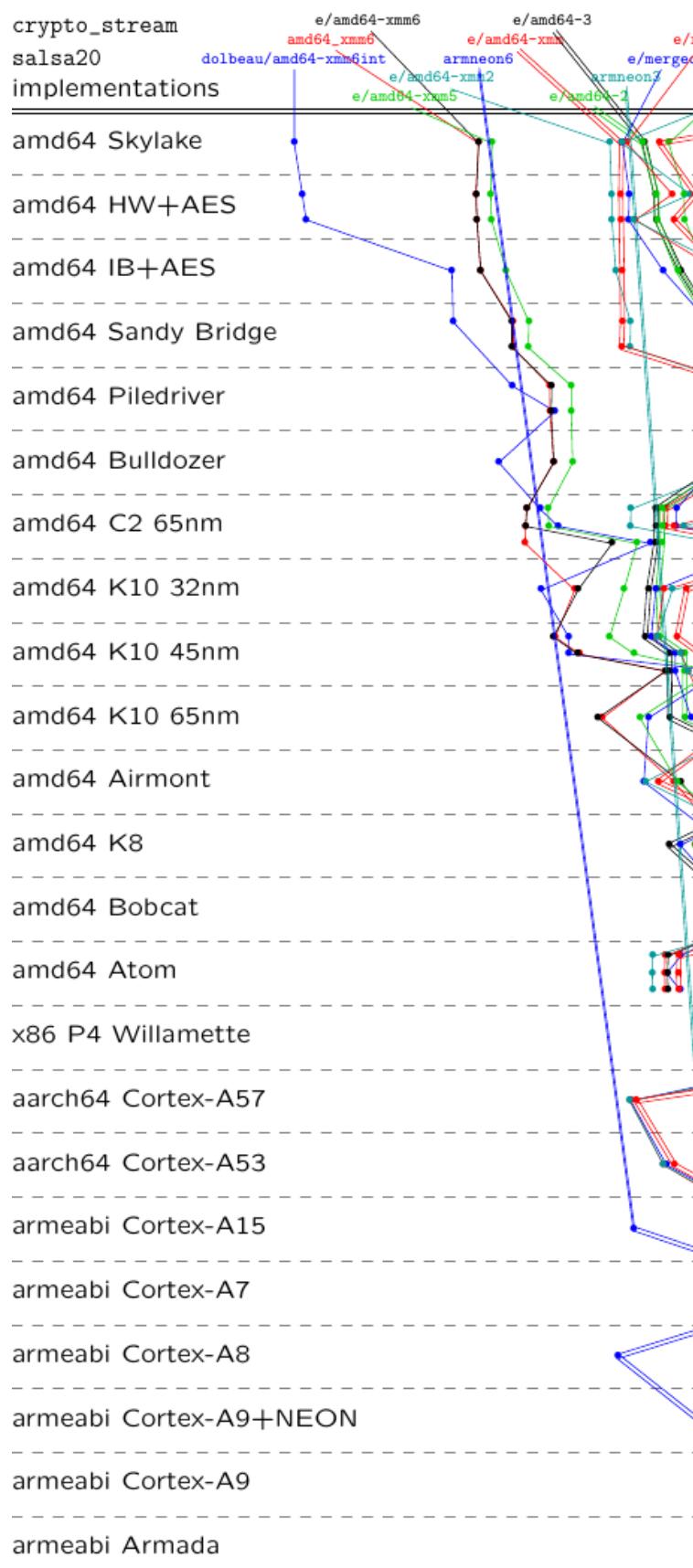
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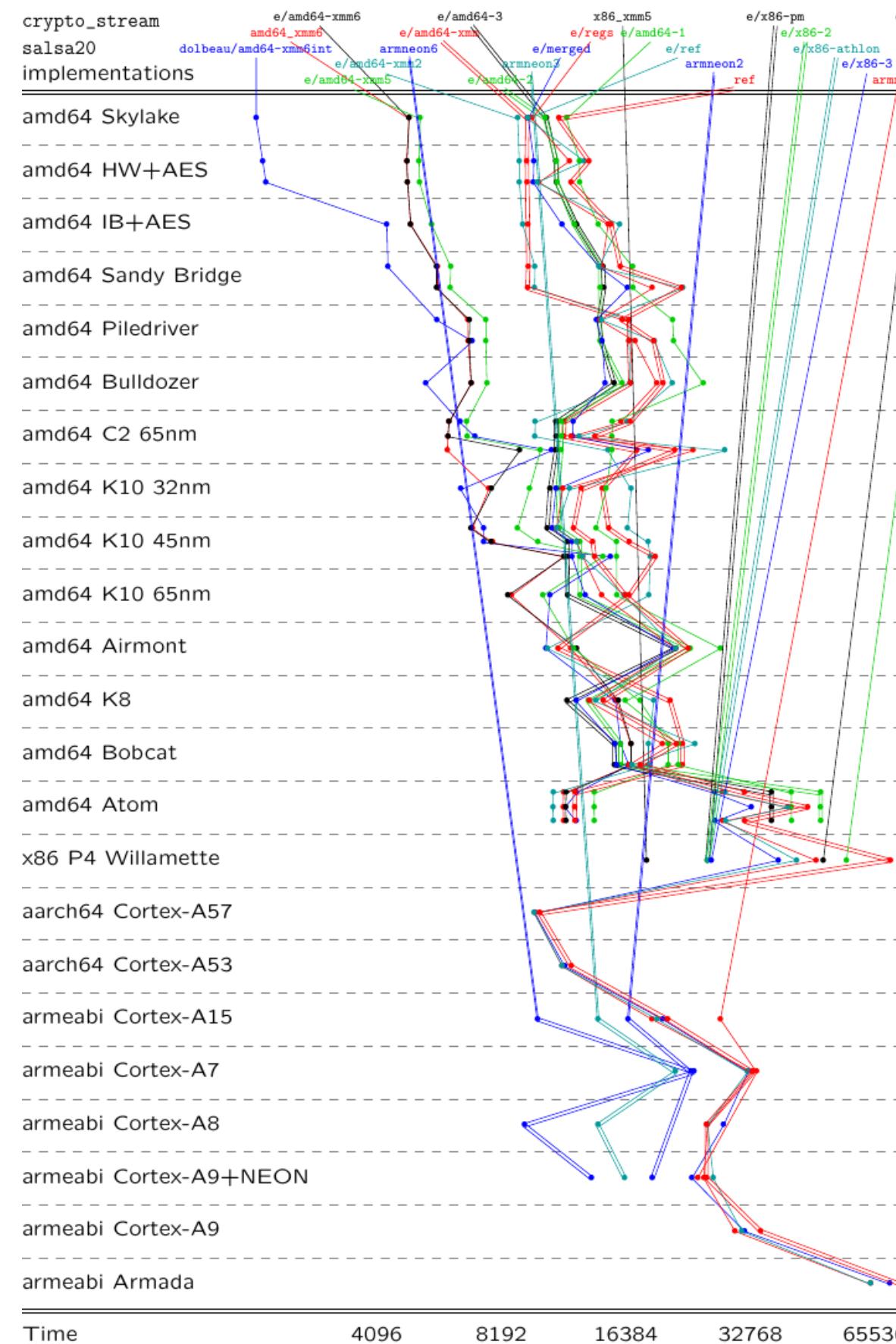
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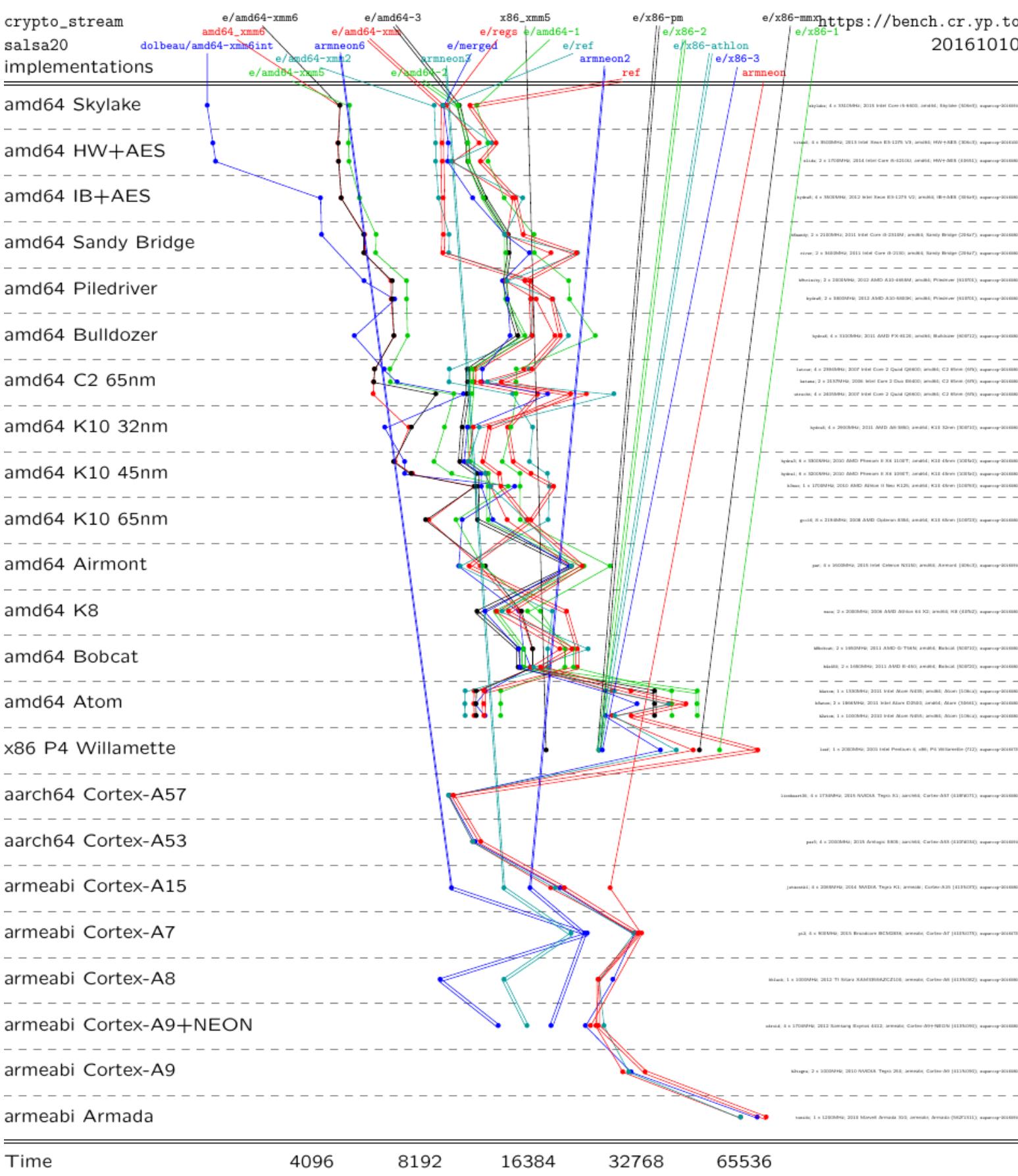


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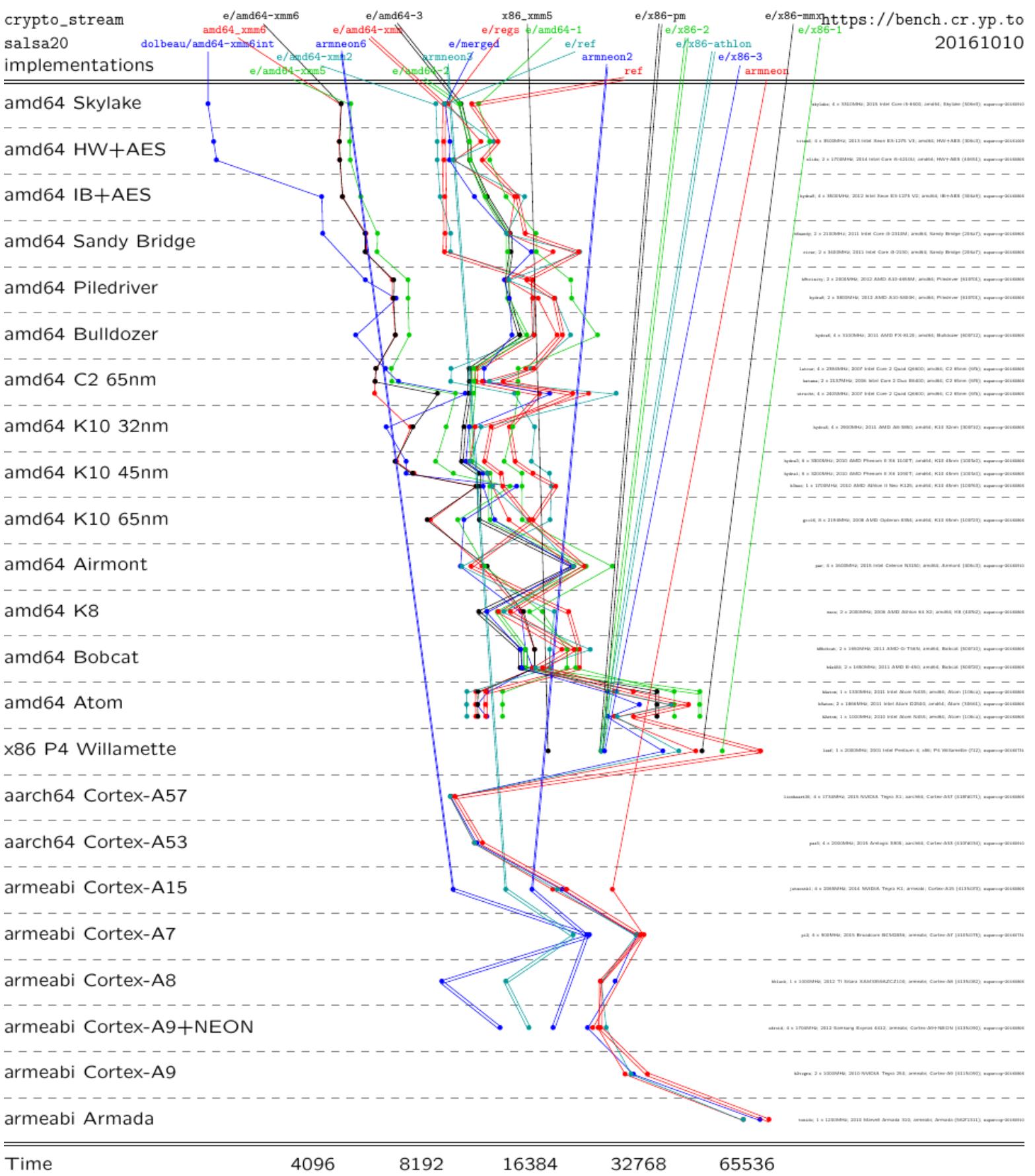


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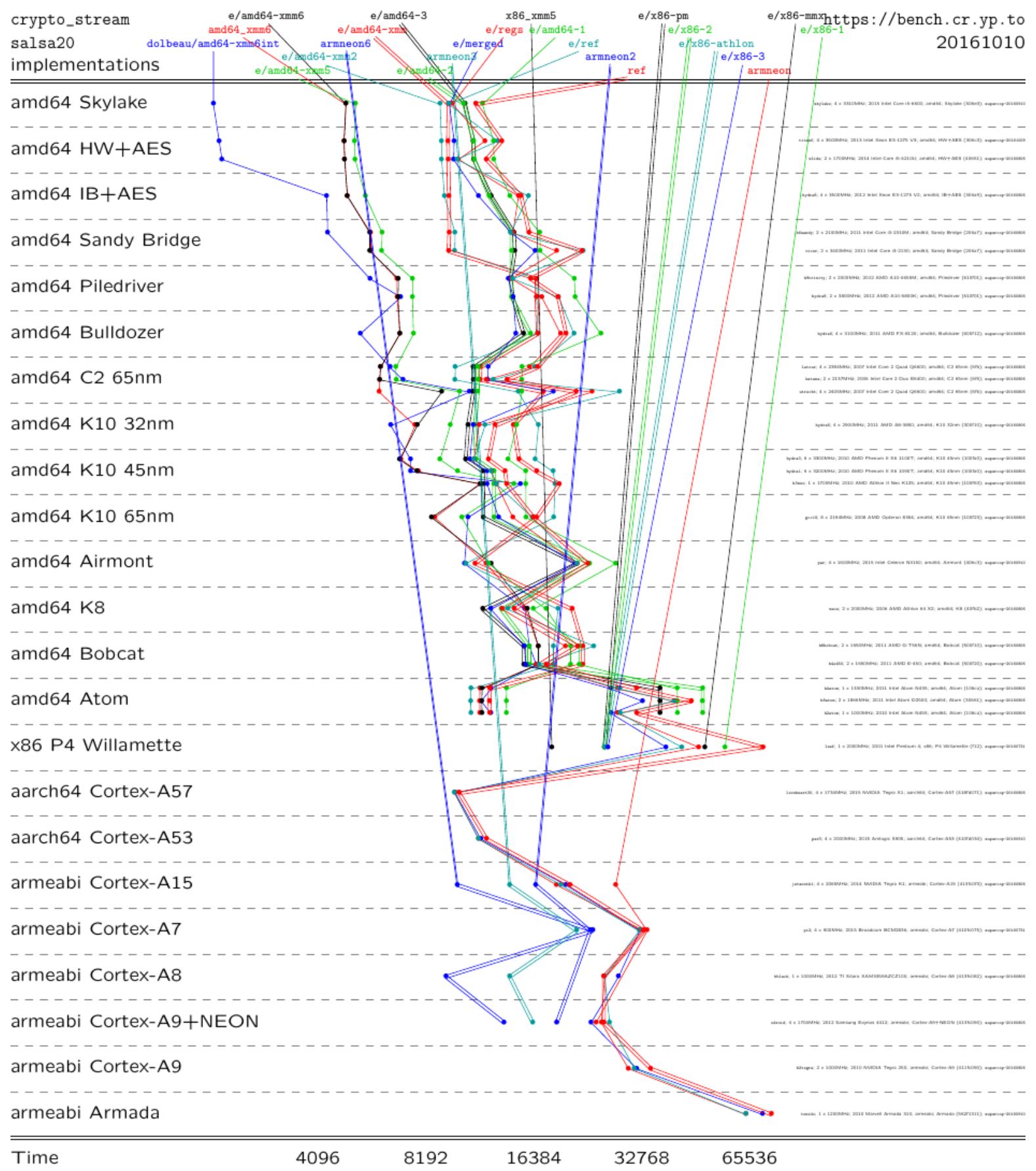
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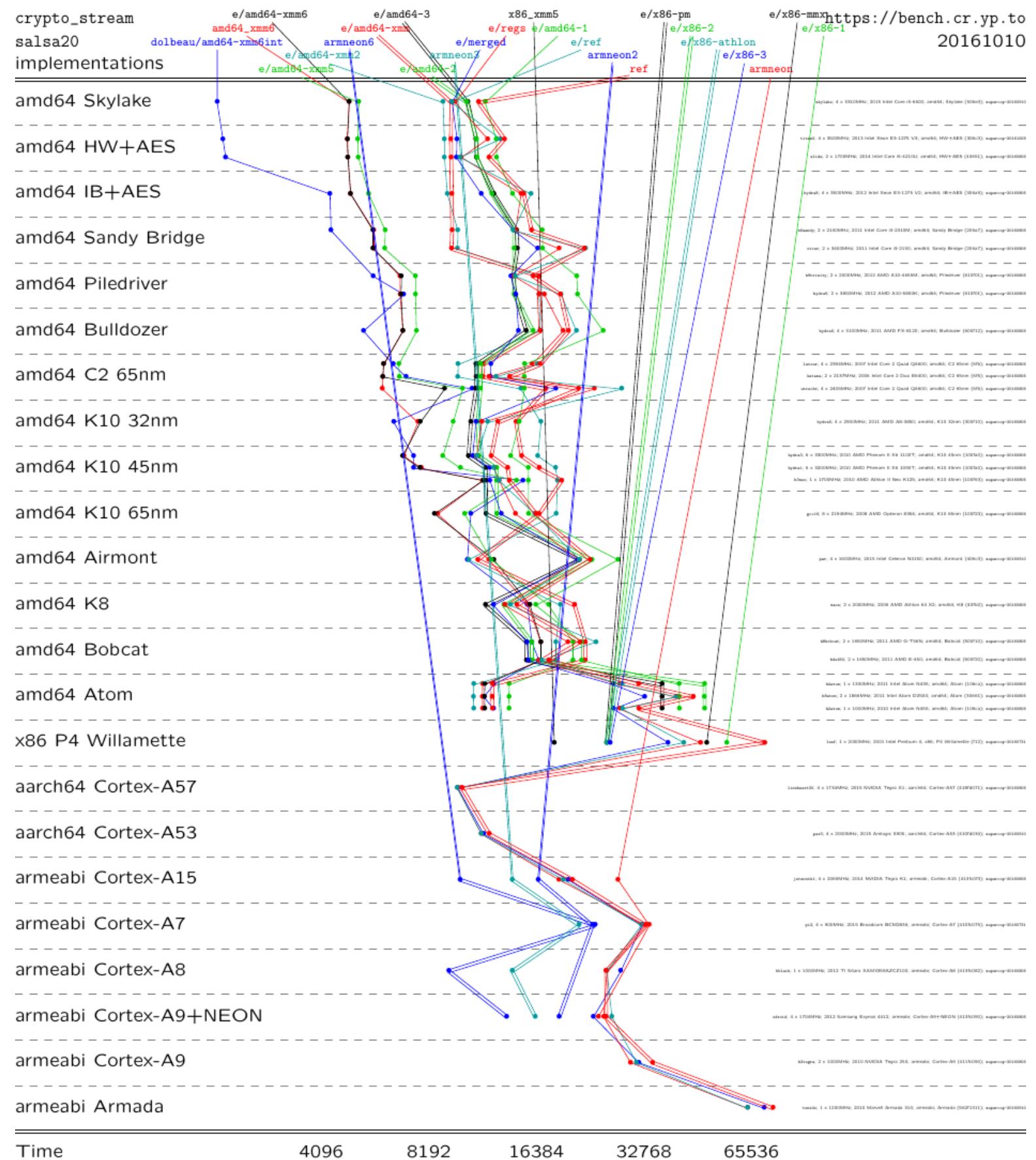


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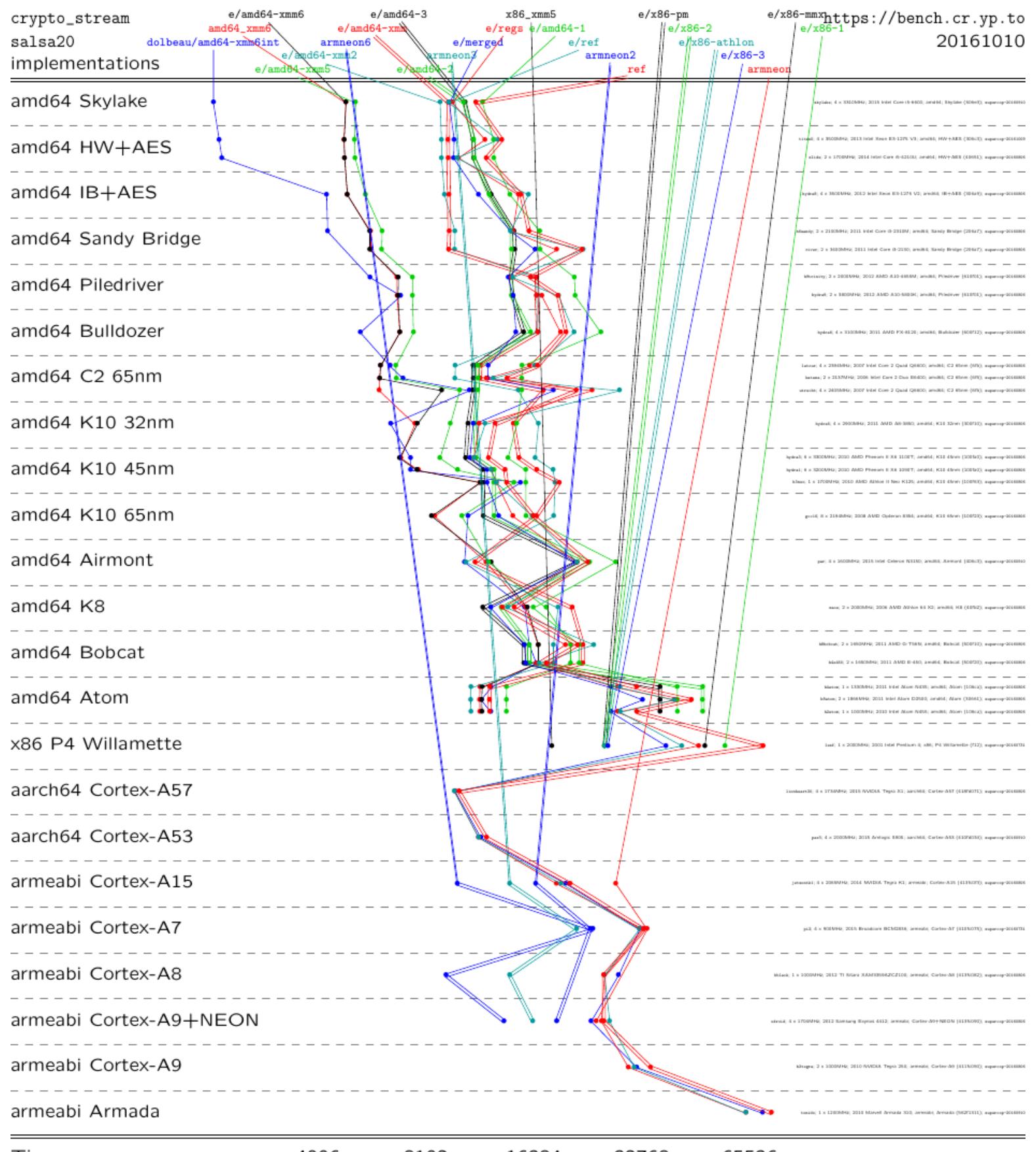


SUPERCOP benchmarking tool includes 2064 implementations of 563 cryptographic primitives >20 implementations of Salsa20

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Merged implementation with “machine-independent” optimizations and best of 12 compiler options: 4.52× slow

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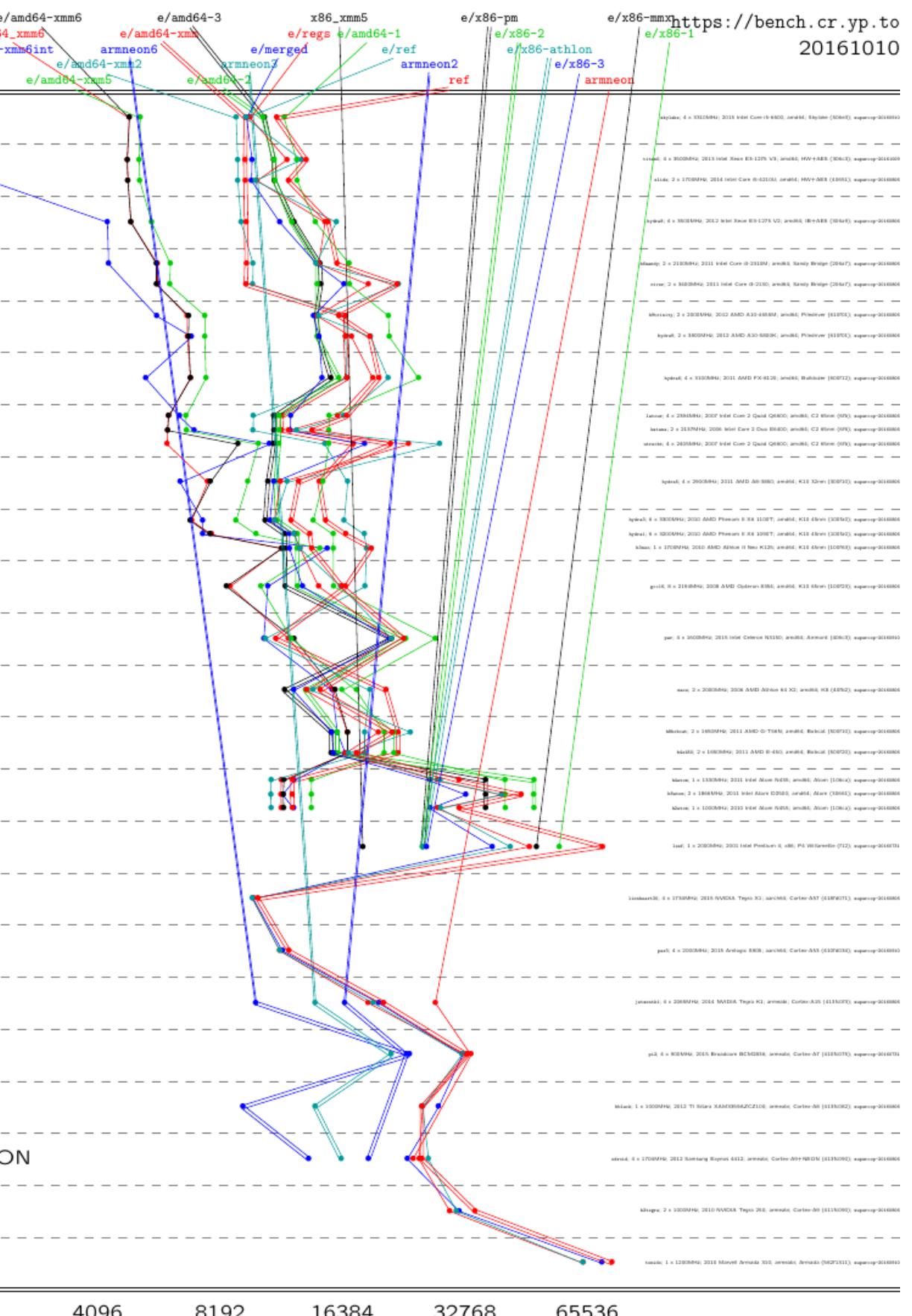


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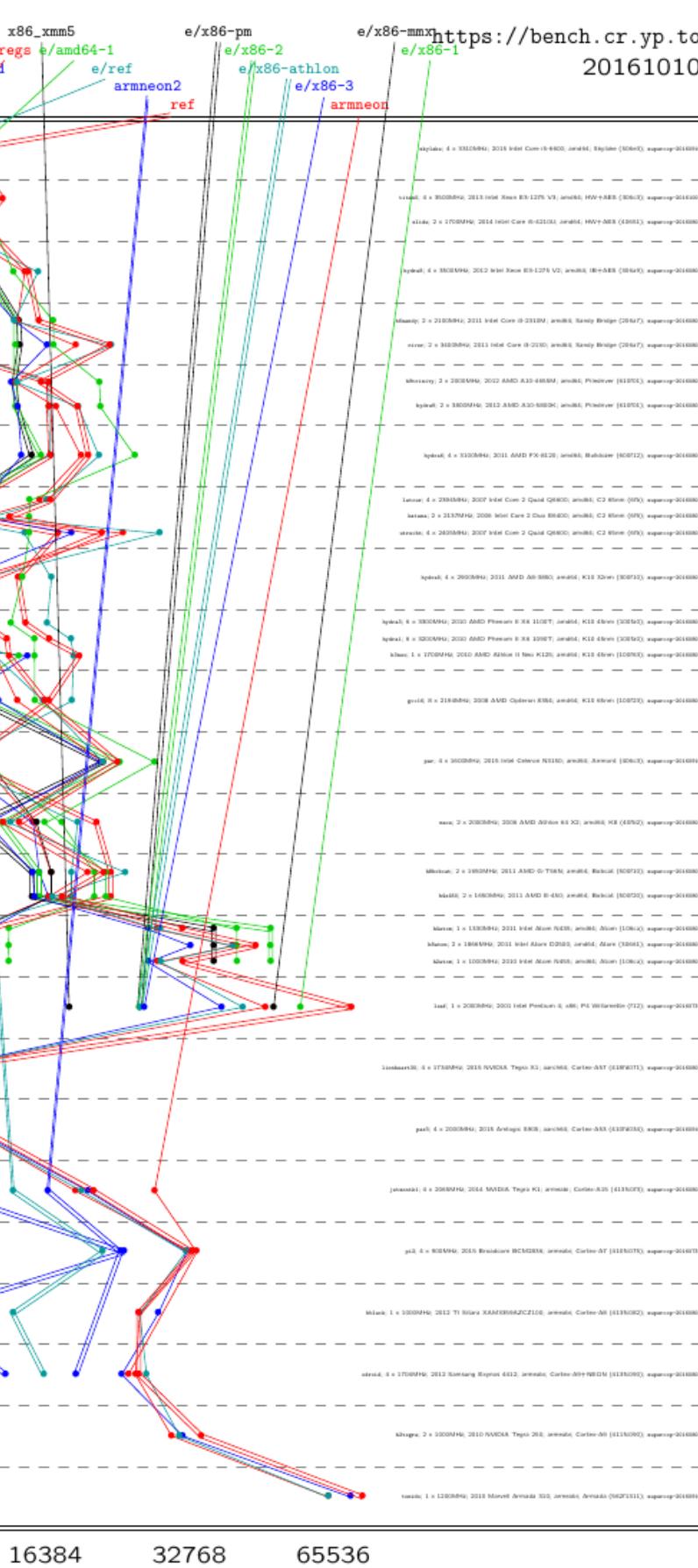
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Only simple ref
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This is expensive at high end, time-consuming at low end.

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Poor coverage of CPUs.

Solution #3: Compile farms,
such as GCC Compile Farm.
Coverage of CPUs is better
but not good enough for crypto.
Usual goals are OS coverage
and architecture coverage.

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copy code to that machine
(assuming it's on the Internet),
collect measurements there.

But, for security reasons,
most machines on the Internet
disallow access by default,
except access by the owner.

Solution #1: Each software
engineer buys each CPU.

This is expensive at high end,
time-consuming at low end.

Solution #2: Amazon.
Poor coverage of CPUs.

Solution #3: Compile farms,
such as GCC Compile Farm.
Coverage of CPUs is better
but not good enough for crypto.
Usual goals are OS coverage
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Solution #4: Figure out who
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The eBACS data flow

Software engineer has implemented something to benchmark.

Software engineer submits implementation, sends package by email or (via a centralized account) git push.

eBACS manager audits implementation, integrates into SUPERCOP.

eBACS manager builds new SUPERCOP package: currently 26-megabyte xz.

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On a typical high-end CPU:
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For each new impl:
SUPERCOP compiles

SUPERCOP measures
working compiled
saves results on disk

Typically at least a

SUPERCOP collects
from this machine

700-megabyte data

Machine operator
data.gz, announces

eBACS manager uploads and announces package.

Each machine operator waits until the machine is sufficiently idle.

Each machine operator downloads SUPERCOP, runs it.

SUPERCOP scans data stored on disk from previous runs.

On a typical high-end CPU:
millions of files, several GB.

For each new impl-compiler SUPERCOP compiles+tests

SUPERCOP measures each working compiled impl,
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Typically at least an hour.

SUPERCOP collects all data from this machine, typically
700-megabyte data.gz.

Machine operator uploads data.gz, announces it.

eBACS manager uploads
and announces package.

Each machine operator
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19	For each new impl-compiler pair, SUPERCOP compiles+tests impl. SUPERCOP measures each working compiled impl, saves results on disk. Typically at least an hour. SUPERCOP collects all data from this machine, typically 700-megabyte data.gz. Machine operator uploads data.gz, announces it.	20
	eBACS ... data.gz Database 53% cur... 47% arc...	For each ... (or for c... scripts p... Typically Web pag... Under a...

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eBACS manager c
data.gz into cent

Database currently
53% current uncon
47% archives of su

For each new data
(or for cross-cutting
scripts process all
Typically an hour
Web pages are reg
Under an hour.

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Machine operator uploads
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eBACS manager copies
data.gz into central database

Database currently uses 500
53% current uncompressed data
47% archives of superseded data

For each new data.gz
(or for cross-cutting updates)
scripts process all results.

Typically an hour per machine

Web pages are regenerated.
Under an hour.

For each new impl-compiler pair,
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	20	<p>In new impl-compiler pair, COP compiles+tests impl. COP measures each compiled impl, results on disk. at least an hour.</p> <p>COP collects all data on machine, typically a gigabyte data.gz.</p> <p>operator uploads it, announces it.</p>	
	21	<p>eBACS manager copies data.gz into central database. Database currently uses 500GB: 53% current uncompressed data, 47% archives of superseded data. For each new data.gz (or for cross-cutting updates): scripts process all results. Typically an hour per machine. Web pages are regenerated. Under an hour.</p>	<p><u>In progress</u></p> <p>New data</p> <p>All impls</p> <p>Some m</p> <p>measure</p> <p>“publish</p> <p>does for</p> <p>All comp</p> <p>All check</p> <p>All meas</p> <p>All table</p>

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impl.

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New database stored central
All impls ever submitted.
Some metadata not affecting
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22

When new impl is pushed to checksum machine
Each compiled implementation is pushed to checksum machine
Each working compiler is pushed to benchmarking machine
(when they are sufficient)
Each measurement is pushed immediately to submission system
If impl says “publish results”
Measurements are published after comparisons

21

In progress: SUPERCOP 2

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Impl is pushed to compile servers.

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Process: SUPERCOP 2

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Wait, what?

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Critical issue.
Can a rogue
take over?
Or corruption
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Wait, what about security?

No more central auditing: there's no time for it.

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Can a rogue code submitter take over the machine?
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e.g., Bitcoin mining.

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Measurement is available
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Says “publish results”:
Results are put online
and comparisons are done.

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cannot fork any pr

SUPERCOP 2 ma
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SUPERCOP 1 sets some
OS-level resource limits:
impl cannot open any files,
cannot fork any processes.

SUPERCOP 2 manages
pool of uids and chroot jails
each compile server, checksums
machine, benchmark machine

Enforces reasonable policy
for files legitimately used
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More difficult to enforce:
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