A Modified Feistel Cipher Involving Substitution, shifting of rows, mixing of columns, XOR operation with a Key and Shuffling

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Abstract— In this paper, we have developed a modification to the Feistel cipher by taking the plaintext in the form of a pair of matrices and introducing a set of functions namely, substitute, shifting of rows, mixing of columns and XOR operation with a key. Further we have supplemented this process by using another function called shuffling at the end of each round of the iteration process. In this analysis, the cryptanalysis clearly indicates that the strength of the cipher is quite significant and this is achieved by the introduction of the aforementioned functions.

Keywords- encryption; decryption; cryptanalysis; avalanche effect; XOR operation.

I. INTRODUCTION

The study of the Feistel cipher has been a fascinating fundamental area in the development of block ciphers in cryptography. In the recent years, we have offered several modifications [1-4] to the classical Feistel cipher by taking the plaintext in the form of a pair of matrices. In all these investigations, we have made use of the multiplication with a single key matrix or the multiplication with a pair of key matrices as a fundamental tool in the development of the cipher. This is associated with the mod operation. Further, we have introduced some operations such as mixing, permutation, blending or shuffling in order to achieve confusion and diffusion, so that, the strength of the cipher becomes significant.

In the present investigation, our objective is to study a modification of the Feistel cipher, wherein we use the fundamental operations such as substitution, shifting of rows, mixing of columns, XOR operation and Shuffling. It may be noted here that the operations, substitution, shifting of rows and mixing of columns are very well utilized in Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) [5]. Our interest here is to develop a strong block cipher which exceeds, in strength, almost all the other ciphers available in the literature.

In what follows we present the plan of the paper. In section 2, we deal with the development of the cipher and present the flowcharts and algorithms required in this analysis. In section 3, we mention an illustration of the cipher and describe the avalanche effect. We study the cryptanalysis in K. Anup Kumar Associate Professor, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, SNIST, Hyderabad, India

section 4. Finally, in section 5, we discuss the computations and draw conclusions.

II. DEVELOPMENT OF THE CIPHER

Consider a plaintext P containing $2m^2$ characters. On using the EBCIDIC code, the characters occurring in the plaintext can be represented in terms of decimal numbers wherein each number lies in [0 - 255]. Then, these numbers can be written in the form of a pair of square matrices P_0 and Q_0 , wherein each one is of size m.

Let us consider a key matrix K, where K is a square matrix whose size is m.

The flowcharts depicting the encryption and the decryption are given below.



Fig 1. The process of Encryption





Fig 2. The process of Decryption

Now we write the algorithms for the processes encryption and decryption as given below.

A. Algorithm for Encryption

- 1. Read P, K
- 2. P_0 = Left half of P.
- 3. $Q_0 =$ Right half of P.
- 4. for i = 1 to r

begin

$$\begin{split} P_{i-1} &= Sub \ (P_{i-1}) \\ P_{i-1} &= Shift \ (P_{i-1}) \\ P_{i-1} &= Mix \ (P_{i-1}) \\ P_{i-1} &= Mix \ (P_{i-1}) \\ P_{i-1} &= Sub \ (Q_{i-1}) \\ Q_{i-1} &= Shift \ (Q_{i-1}) \\ Q_{i-1} &= Mix \ (P_{i}, Q_{i}) = Shuffle \ (P_{i-1}, Q_{i-1}) \end{split}$$

end

5. $C = P_r ||Q_r|^*$ represents concatenation */ 6. Write(C)

B. Algorithm for Decryption

1. Read C, K

2. P_r = Left half of C. 3. Q_r = Right half of C. 4. for i = r to 1 begin $(P_{i-1}, Q_{i-1}) = IShuffle (P_i, Q_i)$ $P_{i-1} = I \bigoplus_{i}$ Κ $P_{i-1} = IMix (P_{i-1})$ $P_{i-1} = IShift (P_{i-1})$ $P_{i-1} = ISub \ (P_{i-1})$ $Q_{i-1} = \bigoplus_{1}$ Κ $Q_{i-1} = IMix (Q_{i-1})$ $Q_{i-1} = IShift (Q_{i-1})$ $Q_{i-1} = ISub (Q_{i-1})$ end

5. $P = |P_0 Q_0|^{*}$ represents concatenation */ 6. Write (P)

Let us now explain the basic ideas underlying in the functions Sub (), Shift (), Mix (), used for substitution, shifting of rows, mixing of columns respectively.

Firstly, Let us focus our attention on the substitution process involved in the function Sub ().

Consider the EBCIDIC code which can be written in the form a matrix given by

E (i, j) = $16^{(i-1)} + (j-1)$, i = 1 to 16 and j = 1 to 16 (2.1)

All these numbers can be placed in the form of a table.

Let us arrange these numbers, which are lying in the interval [0-255], in a random manner.

We represent these numbers in the hexadecimal notation. All these numbers can be written in the form of a table given below (table 2).

In the encryption process, when we come across a number lying in [0-255], we will replace it by the corresponding number in the substitution table. For example, if we come across the number 70, in the process of encryption, this will be converted into hexadecimal number as 46. Then, 70 will be replaced by the number which is occurring in the 4th row, 6th column of the substitution table, i.e by 5A (= 90 in decimal notation). This is the process of substitution. Keeping the EBCIDIC code matrix and the substitution table in view, we form the inverse substitution table which is given in Table 2.

The inverse substitution table will be utilized while carrying out the decryption process and it is denoted by function ISub().

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	А	В	С	D	Е	F
0	63	7C	77	7B	F2	6B	6F	C5	30	01	67	2B	FE	D7	AB	76
1	CA	82	С9	7D	FA	59	47	FO	AD	D4	A2	AF	9C	A4	72	C0
2	B7	FD	93	26	36	3F	F7	сс	34	A5	E5	F1	71	D8	31	15
3	04	C7	23	C3	18	96	05	9A	07	12	80	E2	EB	27	B2	75
4	09	83	2C	1A	1B	6E	5A	A0	52	3B	D6	B3	29	E3	2F	84
5	53	D1	00	ED	20	FC	B1	5B	6A	СВ	BE	39	4A	4C	58	CF
6	D0	EF	AA	FB	43	4D	33	85	45	F9	02	7F	50	3C	9F	A8
7	51	A3	40	AF	92	9D	38	F5	BC	B6	DA	21	10	FF	F3	D2
8	CD	0C	13	EC	5F	97	44	17	C4	A7	7E	3D	64	5D	19	73
9	60	81	4F	DC	22	2A	90	88	46	EE	B8	14	DE	5E	0B	DB
A	E0	32	3A	0A	49	06	24	5C	C2	D3	AC	62	91	95	E4	79
в	E7	C8	37	6D	8D	D5	4E	A9	6C	56	F4	6A	65	7A	AE	08
с	BA	78	25	2E	1C	A6	B4	C6	E8	DD	74	1F	4B	BD	8B	8A
D	70	3E	B5	66	48	03	F6	0E	61	35	57	B9	86	C1	1D	9E
Е	E1	F8	98	11	69	D9	8E	94	9B	1E	87	Е9	CE	55	28	DF
F	8C	A1	89	0D	BF	E6	42	68	41	99	2D	0F	BO	54	вв	16

Table 1. Substitution Table

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Α	в	С	D	Е	F
0	52	09	6A	D5	30	36	A5	38	BF	40	A3	9E	81	F3	D7	FB
1	7C	E3	39	82	9B	2F	FF	87	34	8E	43	44	C4	DE	F9	СВ
2	54	7B	94	32	A6	C2	23	3D	EE	4C	95	0B	42	FA	С3	4E
3	08	2E	A1	66	28	D9	24	B2	76	5B	A2	49	6D	8B	D1	25
4	72	F8	F6	64	86	68	98	16	D4	A4	5C	сс	5D	65	B6	92
5	6C	70	48	50	FD	ED	B9	DA	5E	15	46	57	A7	8D	9D	84
6	90	D8	AB	00	8C	BC	D3	0A	F7	E4	58	05	B8	В3	45	06
7	D0	2C	1E	8F	СА	3F	0F	02	C1	AF	BD	03	01	13	8A	6B
8	3A	91	11	41	4F	67	DC	EA	97	F2	CF	CE	FO	B4	E6	73
9	96	AC	74	22	E7	AD	35	85	E2	F9	37	E8	1C	75	DF	6E
А	47	F1	1A	71	1D	29	E5	89	6F	B7	62	0E	AA	18	BE	1B
в	FC	56	3E	4B	C6	D2	79	20	9A	DB	C0	FE	78	CD	5A	F4
С	1F	DD	A8	33	88	07	C7	31	B1	12	10	59	27	80	EC	5F
D	60	51	F7	A9	19	B5	4A	0D	2D	E5	7A	9F	93	С9	9C	EF
Е	AO	E0	3B	4D	AE	2A	F5	BO	C8	EB	BB	3C	83	53	99	61
F	17	2B	04	7E	BA	77	D6	26	E1	69	14	63	55	21	0C	7D

Table 2. Inverse Substitution Table

Now let us see the process of shifting involved in the function Shift (), during the encryption process we come across plaintext P_{i-1} and Q_{i-1} in the process of iteration. As P_{i-1} is a square matrix of size m, it can be written in the form

$$\begin{bmatrix} p_{11} & p_{12} & p_{13} & \dots & p_{1m} \\ p_{21} & p_{22} & p_{23} & \dots & p_{2m} \\ p_{31} & p_{32} & p_{33} & \dots & p_{3m} \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & & \vdots \\ p_{m1} & p_{m2} & p_{m3} & \dots & p_{mm} \end{bmatrix}$$
(2.4)

On converting each decimal number in (2.4) into its binary form, we get

p ₁₁₁ p ₁₁₂ p ₁₁₈	$p_{121}p_{122}$ p_{128}	•••••	$p_{1m1}p_{1m2}p_{1m8}$	
p ₁₁₁ p ₁₁₂ p ₁₁₈	p ₁₂₁ p ₁₂₂ p ₁₂₈	•••••	$p_{1m1}p_{1m2}p_{1m8}$	
$p_{111}p_{112}p_{118}$	$p_{121}p_{122}$ p_{128}	•••••	$p_{1m1}p_{1m2}p_{1m8}$	(2.5)
:	:		:	
:	:		:	
:	:		:	
:	:		:	

Here each row contains 8m binary bits. In the process of shifting, we offer a right shift of 4 bits in the first row, 12 bits in the second row, 20 bits in the third row and in general,

4 + 8 * (i-1) bits right shift in the ith row.

This process is carried out till we exhaust all the rows. It may be noted here that IShift () denotes the reverse process of Shift ().

In this, the binary bits are obviously given a left shift in an appropriate manner.

To have a clear insight into the mixing process denoted by the function Mix (), let us consider again the matrix P_{i-1} , which is represented in the form (2.5).

Let us restrict our attention only to a plaintext matrix, wherein, m=4. This can be written in the form given below

This has 4 rows and 32 columns. On concatenating the binary bits of the 1^{st} column and the 17^{th} column we get a

string of binary bits, which can be converted into a decimal number. This can be considered as new p_{11} .

On considering the binary bits of the 2^{nd} column and the 18^{th} column and concatenating them, we get another decimal number which will be called as p_{12} .

On adopting the same process till we exhaust all the columns taken in pairs, we get the decimal numbers which correspond to the other elements of the matrix written in the row wise order. Thus we have, the new plaintext matrix, which is obtained after the completion of mixing. Imix () is the reverse process of Mix ().

For a detailed discussion of the function shuffle (), wherein we are shuffling the columns of two matrices, we refer to [4].

III. ILLUSTRATION OF THE CIPHER

Consider the plaintext given below

My dear young lady! We both are well qualified. You have done your B.Tech and I have completed my M.S, where is the problem! We can fly anywhere. Why your father and mother are not accepting our marriage. We both belong to the same cast, we both are farmers. What is the objection of your father and your mother, are they having any thinking regarding my financial status? We are having as much landed property as your father is having. My father and your father both are well trained seasonal politicians. I wonder why your father is not accepting and why your mother is not accepting. Our marriage must happen soon. Yours loving Mr.X (3.1)

Let us focus our attention on the first 32 characters of the plaintext. This is given by

My dear young lady! We both are

On using EBCIDIC code, we get the plaintext matrix P in the form

	77	121	32	100	101	97	114	32	
	121	111	117	110	103	32	108	97	(3.2)
P =	100	121	33	32	87	101	32	98	(3.2)
	111	116	104	32	97	114	101	32	

This can be written in the form of a pair of matrices given by

$$P_{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 77 & 121 & 32 & 100 \\ 121 & 111 & 117 & 110 \\ 100 & 121 & 33 & 32 \\ 111 & 116 & 104 & 32 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.3)

and

$$Q_{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 101 & 97 & 114 & 32 \\ 103 & 32 & 108 & 97 \\ 87 & 101 & 32 & 98 \\ 97 & 114 & 101 & 32 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.4)

Let us take the key matrix K in the form

	45	128	192	53	
K =	133	200	150	16	(3.5)
	100	150	33	120	
	13	189	164	55	

On applying the encryption algorithm, given in section 2, we get the ciphertext C in the form

	51	145	164	146	108	237	147	173	
C =	155	18	82	72	85	155	19	71	(3.6)
	182	102	90	237	150	142	218	60	
	11	150	219	226	237	177	36	100	

On using the decryption algorithm on (3.6), we get back the original plaintext P given by (3.2).

Let us now study the avalanche effect which throws some light on the strength of the cipher.

On changing the first row, first column element of P_0 , from 77 to 76, we get a 1 bit change in the plaintext. On applying the encryption algorithm on the modified plaintext, keeping up the key as it is, we get the ciphertext C in the form

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 218 & 88 & 129 & 219 & 201 & 58 & 54 & 101 \\ 157 & 209 & 7 & 186 & 109 & 153 & 44 & 75 \\ 219 & 120 & 243 & 158 & 95 & 55 & 38 & 117 \\ 43 & 233 & 147 & 229 & 81 & 38 & 133 & 187 \end{bmatrix} .(3.7)$$

On comparing (3.6) and (3.7), after converting them into their binary form, we notice that they differ by 128 bits out of 256 bits. This indicates that the cipher is quite good from the view point of its strength.

Let us now consider a one bit change in the key. This is achieved by changing first row, first column element of the key K, given by (3.5), from 45 to 44. Now on using the modified key and applying the encryption algorithm, keeping the plaintext as it is, we get the cipher text C in the form

	79	149	68	154	22	239	105	98	
C =	232	131	221	63	57	229	243	114	(3.8)
	103	82	190	152	14	222	73	209	
	179	44	237	153	44	75	219	120	

Now on comparing (3.6) and (3.8), after converting both into their binary form, we find that these two ciphertexts differ by 134 bits out of 256 bits.

This also shows that, the strength of the cipher is expected to be significant.

IV. CRYPTANALYSIS

In cryptography, determination of the strength of the cipher is a very important aspect. In the literature of cryptography, it is well known that the cryptanalysis can be carried out by the following approaches.

- 1. Ciphertext only attack (Brute force attack)
- 2. Known plaintext attack
- 3. Chosen plaintext attack
- 4. Chosen ciphertext attack

As William Stallings [6] has pointed out that every cipher must be designed so that it withstands the first two attacks at least.

Let us now consider the brute force attack.

Here the key is containing m² decimal numbers. Thus the size of the key space

$$8m^2$$

2 .

Let us suppose that, the time required for the computation of the cipher with one value of the key is 10^{-7} seconds. Then the time required for processing the cipher with all the possible values of the key in the key space is

 $\frac{8m^2}{(2) x 10^{-7}} = \frac{(2.4) m^2 - 7}{365x24x60x60} = \frac{10}{365x24x60x60} = 3.12 x 10$ years

This time is very large when m is greater than or equal to 3.

In our example as we have taken m=4, the attack on this cipher, by the brute force approach, is totally ruled out.

Let us now investigate the known plaintext attack. In this case, we know as many plaintext and ciphertext pairs as we require, making an attempt for breaking the cipher. In the light of the above information, we have as many pairs of P and C as we require.

If we take r=1, that is, if we confine our attention to a single round of the iteration process, then we have the relations connecting C and P as follows:

$$P_0 = \operatorname{Sub}(P_0) \tag{4.1}$$

$$P_0 = \text{Shift} (P_0) \tag{4.2}$$

$$P_0 = Mix (P_0) \tag{4.3}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_0 = \mathbf{P}_0 \bigoplus \mathbf{K} \tag{4.4}$$

$$Q_0 = \operatorname{Sub}(Q_0) \tag{4.5}$$

$$Q_0 = \text{Sint}(Q_0)$$
 (4.0)
 $Q_0 = \text{Mix}(Q_0)$ (4.7)

$$\mathbf{Q}_0 = \mathbf{Q}_0 \quad \bigoplus \quad \mathbf{K} \tag{4.8}$$

$$(P_1, Q_1) =$$
Shuffle (P_0, Q_0) (4.9)

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{P}_1 \parallel \mathbf{Q}_1 \tag{4.10}$$

In the known plaintext attack, we know P_0 and Q_0 corresponding to the initial stage. We also know the C obtained at the end.

As C is known to us, we can determine P_1 and Q_1 from (4.10)

On using the IShuffle (), on (4.9), we get the current P_0 and Q_0 which are occurring on the left hand side of (4.4) and (4.8). On using initial the P_0 and the Sub (), we get P_0 on the left hand side of (4.1). After that, on using shift () on the available P_0 , we get P_0 occurring on the Left hand side of (4.2). Then on using the function Mix() on the current P_0 , we have the P_0 occurring on the left side of (4.3). Thus, we can readily determine the key K from (4.4). Hence this cipher can be broken by the known plaintext attack if we confine only to one step in the iteration process.

Let us now study the cipher when r = 2. Then the equations governing the cipher are (4.1) to (4.10) and the following

$$P_1 = \operatorname{Sub}(P_1) \tag{4.11}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{Shift} \left(\mathbf{P}_1 \right) \tag{4.12}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_1 = \operatorname{Mix}\left(\mathbf{P}_1\right) \tag{4.13}$$

$$\mathbf{P}_1 = \mathbf{P}_1 \bigoplus \mathbf{K} \tag{4.14}$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_1 = \mathbf{Sub} \; (\mathbf{Q}_1) \tag{4.15}$$

$$\mathbf{Q}_{1} = \mathbf{Shift} \left(\mathbf{Q}_{1} \right) \tag{4.16}$$

$$Q_1 = MiX (Q_1)$$

$$Q_1 = Q_1 \bigoplus K$$

$$(4.17)$$

$$(4.18)$$

$$(P_2, O_2) =$$
Shuffle (P_1, O_1) (4.19)

$$(\mathbf{1}_2, \mathbf{2}_2)$$
 shuffle $(\mathbf{1}_1, \mathbf{2}_1)$

$$\mathbf{C} = \mathbf{P}_2 \parallel \mathbf{Q}_2 \tag{4.20}$$

In the known plaintext attack, we know C, obtained at the end of the iteration process, and the corresponding P_0 and Q_0 , which are available at the very beginning of the iteration process.

As we know C, we can determine P_2 and Q_2 from (4.20). On using IShuffle on (4.19), we get P_1 and Q_1 which are occurring on the left side of (4.14) and (4.18). We cannot determine K as we do not know the P1 and Q1 occurring in the right hand side of (4.14) and (4.18). Here, we notice that, though P_0 and Q_0 are known to us, we cannot determine the P_1 and Q_1 which are occurring on the right hand side of (4.14) and (4.18), by starting at the beginning as the key K is occurring in (4.4) and (4.8). In the light of these facts, this cipher cannot be broken by the known plaintext attack, when we have confined to r=2. This shows that it is impossible to break the cipher by the known plaintext attack when we carry out all the sixteen rounds in the iteration.

Intuitively choosing a plaintext or ciphertext and determining the key or a function of the key is a formidable task in the case of this cipher.

From the above discussion we conclude that this cipher is not breakable by all the possible attacks that are available in cryptography.

V. COMPUTATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

In this investigation, we have offered a through modification in the Feistel cipher by taking the plaintext in the form of a pair of matrices, and by applying several procedures, namely, substitution, shifting, mixing, XORing with the key and shuffle operation. Each one of these procedures modifies the plaintext in a through manner and creates confusion and diffusion in the development of the cipher. The iteration process, which is the basic one in this cipher, supports all the above procedures in a strong way.

Here it may be noted that the substitution table generated in a random manner by using the numbers [0-255] is to be sent to the receiver by the sender.

The programs for encryption and decryption are written in C language.

The plaintext given in (3.1) is divided into 20 blocks, wherein each block is containing 32 characters. We have appended in the last block by adding 13 blank characters, so that it becomes a complete block. On applying the encryption algorithm given in section 2 we get the cipher text corresponding to the entire plaintext (excluding the first block for which the cipher text is already given in (3.6)), in the form

101	157	190	115	209	147	82	144	231	25	67	53	206	76	146	163
219	148	253	54	204	179	183	206	120	239	36	71	232	232	201	169
73	147	82	150	228	201	39	61	166	76	146	115	203	210	111	223
77	51	44	239	36	86	233	233	150	212	111	166	213	179	183	206
203	206	113	148	51	92	167	233	182	101	157	190	115	209	147	82
147	38	165	45	198	228	201	42	61	185	50	74	139	44	239	36
218	182	118	250	198	104	253	26	93	211	211	14	113	148	51	92
228	201	42	61	185	79	211	108	203	59	124	231	142	242	68	126

The cryptanalysis, carried out in this investigation, clearly shows that this cipher is a strong one. This has become a very good cipher as we have taken the length of the plaintext as large as possible (2048 bits), and supported the encryption process with a good number of functions so that the plaintext undergoes a through transformation (in each round of the iteration process) before it becomes the ciphertext. In this analysis, the substitution table generated in the random manner plays a very important role.

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