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#### Abstract

In this paper, we have developed a block cipher by modifying the Feistel cipher. Here we have taken the plaintext in the form of a pair of matrices and we have introduced a set of operations called key based substitution, Shifting of rows, Key based mixing of columns, modular arithmetic addition and shuffling. In this analysis, the key based substitution and the key based mixing of columns play a vital role in strengthening the cipher. The cryptanalysis carried out in this investigation clearly indicates that the cipher is a strong one and it cannot be broken by any conventional attack in cryptography.

**Key words:** encryption, decryption, cryptanalysis, avalanche effect, modular arithmetic addition.

#### **1. Introduction**

The basic ideas under lying in the development of the Feistel cipher laid the foundation for the development of several block ciphers. Some of them are, DES [1] and AES [2].

In a recent investigation [3], we have developed a block cipher called modified Feistel cipher which has included the functions namely, substitute, shifting of rows, mixing of columns, XORing with key and shuffling of elements in the plaintext. From the cryptanalysis carried out in the investigation, it has been found that the cipher is a strong one on account of all the aforementioned functions applied on the plaintext in the encryption process.

In the present analysis, our objective is to arrive at a novel block cipher, by modifying the Feistel cipher. In this we have introduced key based substitution; key based mixing and modular arithmetic addition of the plaintext and the key. In addition to these, features, we have included here, the process of shifting of rows and shuffling the elements of the plaintext. Our interest here is to develop a very strong block cipher which cannot be broken by any cryptanalytic attack. In what follows we present the plan of the paper. In section 2 we introduce the development of the cipher, and present the flowcharts and the algorithms required in this analysis. We illustrate the cipher by giving a suitable example in section 3. In addition to this, here we discuss avalanche effect. Section 4 is devoted to the study of cryptanalysis. In section 5, we deal with computations and draw conclusions.

#### 2. Development of the cipher

Consider a plaintext P having  $2m^2$  characters. On using EBCIDIC code, P can be written in the form of a matrix given by

$$\mathbf{P} = [\mathbf{P}_{ii}]$$
 i= 1 to m and j = 1 to 2m

Now the matrix P can be written in the form of a pair of square matrices, given by

$$P_0 = [P_{ij}]$$
 i = 1 to m and j = 1 to m

and

$$Q_0 = [Q_{ij}]$$
 i = 1 to m and j = 1 to m.

Let us take the key matrix, K in the form

$$K = [K_{ii}]$$
 i = 1 to m and j = 1 to m.

In the process of encryption, we have used some functions, namely, key based substitution, shifting of rows, key based mixing, modular arithmetic addition and shuffling. In this analysis, the functions key based substitution, shifting of rows, key based mixing, and shuffling are denoted by KSub (), Shift (), KMix (), and Shuffle () respectively.

In the development of the cipher, we have used the functions KSub ( ), Shift ( ), and KMix ( ), together with modular arithmetic addition on both  $P_{i\cdot 1}$  and  $Q_{i\cdot 1}$ , and the resulting plaintexts are shuffled in a specific manner. The details of these functions are given a little later. It may be noted here that the aforementioned functions, but for the shuffle, can be used in any order.

describing encryption and The flow charts decryption, in the present modified Feistel cipher, can be depicted as shown below.



## Fig 2. The process of Decryption

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

## **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

 $P_{i-1} = KSub (K, P_{i-1})$ 

$$P_{i-1} = Shift (P_{i-1})$$

$$P_{i-1} = KMix (K, P_{i-1})$$

$$P_{i-1} = (P_{i-1} + K) \mod N$$

 $\mathbf{Q}_{i-1} = \mathbf{KSub} \left( \mathbf{K}, \mathbf{Q}_{i-1} \right)$ 

 $Q_{i-1} = Shift (Q_{i-1})$ 

 $Q_{i-1} = KMix (K, Q_{i-1})$  $Q_{i-1} = (Q_{i-1} + K) \mod N$  $(P_i, Q_i) = Shuffle (P_{i-1}, Q_{i-1})$ end

5.  $C = P_r \| Q_r / * \|$  represents concatenation \*/

6. Write(C)

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

$$(P_{i-1}, Q_{i-1}) = IShuffle (P_i, Q_i)$$

 $P_{i-1} = (P_{i-1} - K) \mod N$ 

 $P_{i-1} = IKMix (K, P_{i-1})$ 

 $P_{i-1} = Shift (P_{i-1})$ 

$$\mathbf{P}_{i-1} = \mathbf{IKSub} \ (\mathbf{K}, \mathbf{P}_{i-1})$$

$$Q_{i-1} = (Q_{i-1} - K) \mod N$$

$$Q_{i-1} = IKMix (K, Q_{i-1})$$

 $Q_{i-1} = Shift (Q_{i-1})$ 

 $Q_{i-1} = IKSub (K, Q_{i-1})$ 

In order to have a clear insight into the basic ideas underlying in the different functions involved in the development of the cipher, for simplicity, let us take the key matrix whose size is 4.

Thus we have

[	33	115	220	18	1	
К-	93	62	13	190	-	(2.1)
<b>N</b> -	_ 142	255	10	82		(2.1)
	96	15	43	73	7	

end

5.  $P = P_0 \| Q_0 / * \|$  represents concatenation \*/

6. Write (P)

We now see the formation of the function KSub (), which is based upon the elements of K. Consider a square matrix of size 16. Let us fill up the first row of this matrix with the elements of the key taken in the row wise order.

Excluding these numbers, which are occurring in the key, let us fill up the rest of the positions of the matrix with the remaining integers occurring in 0 to 255, maintaining the order of the integers. Thus we get the key based substitution table in the form, wherein hexadecimal notation is used in the representation of rows, columns and the numbers occurring in the Table.

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	А	В	С	D	Е	F
0	21	73	DC	12	5D	3E	0D	BE	8E	FF	0A	52	60	0F	2B	49
1	00	01	02	03	04	05	06	07	08	09	0B	0C	0E	10	11	13
2	14	15	16	17	18	19	1A	1B	1C	1D	1E	1F	20	22	23	24
3	25	26	27	28	29	2A	2C	2D	2E	2F	30	31	32	33	34	35
4	36	37	38	39	3A	3B	3C	3D	3F	40	41	42	43	44	45	46
5	47	48	<b>4</b> A	4B	4C	4D	4E	<b>4</b> F	50	51	53	54	55	56	57	58
6	59	5A	5B	5C	5E	5F	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	6A
7	6B	6C	6D	6E	6F	70	71	72	74	75	76	77	78	79	7A	7B
8	7C	7D	7E	7F	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	8A	8B
9	8C	8D	8F	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	9A	9B	9C
A	9D	9E	9F	A0	A1	A2	A3	A4	A5	A6	A7	<b>A8</b>	A9	AA	AB	AC
в	AD	AE	AF	BO	B1	B2	B3	B4	B5	B6	B7	<b>B8</b>	<b>B</b> 9	BA	BB	BC
С	BD	BF	C0	C1	C2	C3	C4	C5	C6	C7	<b>C8</b>	С9	CA	СВ	СС	CD
D	CE	CF	D0	D1	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	DA	DB	DD	DE
E	DF	EO	E1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9	EA	EB	EC	ED	EE
F	EF	FO	F1	F2	F3	F4	F5	F6	F7	F8	F9	FA	FB	FC	FD	FE

# Table 1. Key Based Substitution Box

The inverse substitution table, corresponding to the above substitution table, can be obtained in the form

	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	Α	В	C	D	E	F
0	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	0A	1A	1B	06	1C	0D
1	1D	1E	03	1F	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	2A	2B
2	2C	00	2D	2E	2F	30	31	32	33	34	35	0E	36	37	38	39
3	3A	3B	3C	3D	3E	3F	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	05	4B
4	49	4A	4B	4C	4D	4E	<b>4</b> F	50	51	0F	52	53	54	55	56	57
5	58	59	0B	5A	5B	5C	5D	5E	5F	60	61	62	63	04	64	65
6	00	66	67	68	69	6A	6B	60	ை	6E	6F	70	71	72	73	74
7	75	76	77	01	78	79	74	7R	7C	7D	7E	76 7F	80	81	82	83
8	84	85	86	87	88	89	84	8B	8C	8D	8F	8F	90	01	02	92
0	03	0.0	05	96	07	08	001	0.0	OR	9C	0 <u>D</u>	OF	0F		<u> </u>	<u>^2</u>
	13		<u> </u>	16	17	10								P0	D1	R2
A D	AJ D2	D4	AJ D5	AU D4	A7	A0 D0	A7		DD	AC BC	AD PD	AL DE	DE	CO	07	D2
D	<u>Б</u> З	D4	<b>D</b> 5	DU C5	Б/ С(	D0	D9	DA	DD		<b>BD</b>	DE CD	DF	CU	D0	
			C4	05		C7	<u>C8</u>	<b>C9</b>					CE	CF	DU	
D	D2	D3	D4	D5	D6	D7	D8	D9	DA	DR	DC		02	DE	DF	EU
E	E1 F1	E2	E3	E4	E5	E6	E7	E8	E9 F0	EA FA	EB	EC	ED	EE	EF	FO

#### Table 2. Key Based Inverse Substitution Box

As these tables are having sixteen rows and sixteen columns, we have made use of the hexadecimal notation of the numbers 0 to 15 in row wise manner as well as column wise manner.

The usage of the substitution table can be done as follows.

Let us suppose that, a character occurring in the plaintext is represented by a number  $N_u$ . Let this be written in the form of 8 binary bits. The most significant four binary bits will specify the row in the table, and the least significant four binary bits will specify the column in the table. Thus we get a number corresponding to  $N_u$ . So, substitution can be carried out by replacing  $N_u$  with the number occurring in the specified row and the specified column. The inverse substitution process can be carried out in a similar manner by using the inverse substitution table.

The details of the process involved in the function shift can readily be found in [3].

Let us now consider the development of the function KMix () which includes the mixing process that depends upon the key.

Consider the set of numbers, occurring in the key, by taking them in the row wise order of the key matrix (2.1).

Let us label each one of the elements occurring in the key, by a number lying in [0, 15] (see third row of the Table), assuming that the key numbers are

arranged in	ascending	order.	Thus we	get the	Table	given	b
and ange a m	aseemanig		11000 110	Ber me	14010	Brien	~

x	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
у	33	11 5	22 0	18	93	62	13	190	142	225	10	82	96	15	43	73
Z	4	11	14	3	9	6	1	13	12	15	0	8	10	2	5	7

Table 3. Key Based Mixing

Here x denotes the serial number, y denotes the numbers in the key, and z indicates the order of the key numbers (corresponding to the ascending order numbers in the key).

This table will be used for the purpose of mixing. Let us now see how the mixing is carried out.

Consider the plaintext obtained at some stage of the iteration process. Let it be denoted by

P[ij], i= 1 to 4 and j= 1 to 4.

On writing each element in its binary form, we get the plaintext matrix in the form



This contains four rows and thirty two columns.

In the process of mixing, we interchange the columns indicated by the pair x and z (see Table 3), till we exhaust all the first sixteen columns in the matrix. Then we adopt the same procedure for the remaining sixteen columns by following the numbers corresponding to x and z in Table 3. Thus, we get a new matrix of the plain text of the same size 4x32. Then by taking the binary bits in two adjacent columns in to consideration, we can form a decimal number. Thus, we get sixteen decimal numbers. These numbers are arranged in row wise manner and hence we get a 4x4 matrix. This gives us the resulting matrix after mixing.

The process involved in the function shuffle is given in [4].

#### **Illustration of the cipher**

Consider the plaintext given below

My dear young man, you are very much correct. But you did not realize the gap. Our families are having the same status financially, politically and socially. I agree we both belong to the same cast. I tell you when my sister was to marry a Brahmin some years back, the cast became a problem for them. Of course they could win over the difficulty by taking a firm decision. They got married and they are happy. Today our problem is a different one. We both are well qualified, we can go anywhere, the trouble is with my father and your father. You know my father belongs to congress and your father belongs to BJP. They are not accepting our marriage. I tell you firmly we have to take our own decision and act in an appropriate manner. Yours Y. (3.1)

Let us focus our attention on the first 32 characters of the plaintext. This is given by My dear young man, you are very (3.2)

On using EBCIDIC code, we get

	_								
	77 1	121	32	100	101	97	114	32	_
<b>P</b> =	121 1	111	117	110	103	32	109	97	
	110 4	44	32	121	111	117	32	97	
	114 1	101	32	118	101	114	121	32	_
							(3.3)		

This can be written in the form

$$P_{0} = \begin{bmatrix} 77 & 121 & 32 & 100 \\ 121 & 111 & 117 & 110 \\ 110 & 44 & 32 & 121 \\ 114 & 101 & 32 & 118 \end{bmatrix} (3.4)$$

and

$$Q_0 = \begin{bmatrix} 101 & 97 & 114 & 32\\ 103 & 32 & 109 & 97\\ 111 & 117 & 32 & 97\\ 101 & 114 & 121 & 32 \end{bmatrix} (3.5)$$

Let us take the key matrix K, in the form

$$\mathbf{K} = \begin{bmatrix} 33 & 115 & 220 & 18 \\ 93 & 62 & 13 & 190 \\ 142 & 255 & 10 & 82 \\ 96 & 15 & 43 & 73 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.6)

On using the encryption process, mentioned in section 2, in which we use the plaintext portions  $P_0$  and  $Q_0$ , the key K and the functions whose details are spelt out in section 2, we get the cipher text C in the form

$$C = \begin{bmatrix} 102 & 129 & 191 & 61 & 81 & 38 & 253 & 244 \\ 201 & 16 & 126 & 233 & 182 & 100 & 254 & 134 \\ 37 & 157 & 190 & 117 & 41 & 110 & 76 & 146 \\ 115 & 203 & 219 & 147 & 36 & 153 & 150 & 119 \end{bmatrix}$$
(3.7)

On adopting the decryption process, given in section 2, we get back the original plaintext (3.2). This enabled us to checkup the correctness of the encryption process.

Let us now study the avalanche effect which throws some light on the efficacy of the cipher. In order to carry out this one, firstly, let us consider a one bit change in the plaintext. To achieve this one, we change the second row, second column element of P, from 111 to 110. We notice that these two numbers differ by one binary bit. On applying the encryption algorithm on the modified plaintext, keeping the key as it is, we get the cipher text in the form

	190	153	62	72	91	187	124	220	
	153	212	165	136	29	188	147	160	
C=	121	207	47	217	150	119	68	30	
	233	182	100	177	47	110	168	147	
						C	3 8)		

On comparing (3.7) and (3.0), after writing them in their binary form, we find that, these two cipher texts differ by 121 bits (out of 256 bits).

Let us now explore the effect of one bit change in the key. In order to have this one, let us change the second row, second column element of K, given by (3.6), from 62 to 63. On using the original plaintext and the modified key, we now make use of the encryption algorithm and obtain the cipher text given by

	64	237	228	157	62	129	231	60
C=	164	148	253	153	103	116	65	238
	155	102	75	18	246	234	137	58
	217	189	244	201	121	51	180	220
					(3.9)			

Now on comparing the ciphertexts (3.7) and (3.9), on converting them into their binary form, we find that they differ by 133 bits out of 256 bits.

This also shows that this cipher is expected to be a potential one.

#### 1. Cryptanalysis

The cryptanalytic attacks that are well known in the literature of cryptography are

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

Generally, every algorithm is to be designed so that it withstands atleast the first two attacks, i.e., cipher text only attack and the known plaintext attack [5].

Let us now consider the brute force attack.

When the key is taken in the form of a square matrix of size m, then the size of the key space

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 $(8m^2)$ 2.

If the time required for the computation of the cipher with one value of the key in the key space is  $10^{-7}$  seconds, then the time required for the execution of the cipher with all the possible keys in the key space is

$$(8m^2)$$
  
2 x 10<sup>-7</sup> years

#### 365x24x60x60

This is approximately equal to

 $(2.4m^2) - 7$ <u>10</u> years <u>365x24x60x60</u>

$$= 3.12 \times 10$$
 year

When m=4, the time required for the entire computation

S

=

In the light of the above discussion, we conclude that, this cipher cannot be broken by anyone of the attacks available in the literature.

As this is a very large quantity, this cipher cannot be broken by the brute force attack.

Now let us examine the known plaintext attack.

In this case, we know as many pairs of plaintext and cipher text as we require for attempting to break the cipher. Thus, in this analysis, we know the corresponding pairs  $P_0$ ,  $Q_0$  and  $P_r$ ,  $Q_r$ , as many as we require, for breaking the cipher.

If we confine our attention only to one round of the iteration process, that is, if we take r=1, we have

$$P_0 = KSub(K, P_0)$$
(4.1)

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \mathbf{P}_0 & = & \mathbf{Shift} & (\mathbf{P}_0) \\ (4.2) & & \end{array}$$

P<sub>0</sub>=KMix(K,P<sub>0</sub>) (4.3)'

 $P_0=(P_0+K) \mod N.$  (4.4)

$$Q_0 = KSub(K, Q_0),$$
(4.5)

$$Q_0 = Shift (Q_0)$$
(4.6)

$$Q_0 = KMix(K, Q_0),$$
(4.7)

(4.

(4)

$$Q_0 = (Q_0 + K) \mod N$$
  
8)  
 $(P_1, Q_1) = \text{Shuffle} (P_0, Q_0$   
9)

 $\begin{array}{c|c} C & \parallel = & P_1 & Q_1 \\ (4.10) & & \end{array}$ 

)

From (4.10), we can readily obtain  $P_1$  and  $Q_1$  as C is known to us. Now on using IShuffle (), the reverse process of Shuffle (), we get  $P_0$  and  $Q_0$ , occurring in the left hand side of (4.4) and (4.8) respectively.

We know the  $P_0$  and  $Q_0$  occurring on the right hand side of (4.1) and (4.5), as the plaintext at the beginning of the iteration is known to us. But we cannot determine  $P_0$  and  $Q_0$ , occurring on the left hand side of (4.1) and (4.5), as the key K is unknown to us, and hence the reverse process of the key dependent substitution, IKSub (), cannot carried out.

In the light of the aforementioned discussion, we conclude that the key K cannot be found even in the first round of the iteration process. Thus, this cipher cannot be broken by the known plaintext attack.

Intuitively, choosing either the plaintext or the ciphertext and proceeding for breaking the cipher, either by the third attack or by the fourth attack is effectively ruled out as we are having several functions, such as KSub(), Shift(), KMix(), modular arithmetic addition and shuffle () for modifying the plaintext in each round of the iteration process.

#### 5. Computations and Conclusions

In this paper, we have developed a block cipher, by modifying the Feistel cipher, in which we have included several functions, namely, KSub (), Shift (), KMix (), modular arithmetic addition and shuffle (), for creating confusion and diffusion in an effective manner. The cryptanalysis that we have carried out in this investigation clearly shows that the cipher is a very strong one, even if

we confine our attention only to one round of the iteration process.

The programs required for carrying out the computations in encryption and decryption are written in C language.

The entire plaintext given in (3.1) is divided into 24 blocks, wherein each one is having 32 characters. In the last block, as we have only seven characters, we have appended 25 blank characters to make it a complete block of 32 characters. On carrying out the encryption process on these blocks, the ciphertext corresponding to this plaintext (excluding the cipher text of the first block which is already given in (3.7)) is obtained as follows.

The avalanche effect and the cryptanalysis discussed in this investigation are supporting very thoroughly the strength of the cipher, and this suggests that this cipher can be utilized in any context for the security of information.

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