

## Design and Construction of Nonlinear Boolean Function in Stream Cipher System

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**Abstract:** Nonlinear stream cipher is a fundamental system in protecting data security in computer networks due to its high level of protection. This type of cipher needs moderate level of calculation to be attacked it by attackers. This research presents an analysis to nonlinear Boolean function and its role in nonlinear generator of sequence keys by using generator algorithm by proposing an algorithm to generate those functions. This algorithm will be simulated to help designers choosing the suitable permutation function.

**Key words:** Permutation function, generator function, nonlinear function, Boolean function, stream cipher, computer networks

### INTRODUCTION

Stream cipher system is vital in protecting data and ensuring security. In stream cipher pseudo-random XORed with plain-text to generate cipher text (Menezes *et al.*, 2005). Stream cipher encrypts bit by bit with the use of encryption function changes over time as shown in Fig. 1.

The stream ciphers are commonly used in protecting digital communications due to its great throughput and require less complexity of hardware circuit design in addition to slight error propagation which makes it attracted much consideration (Kim *et al.*, 2009; Huang *et al.*, 2013). Stream ciphers are under attack using mathematical methods which make it vulnerable and need to be secured (Liu and Lin, 2017).

Boolean functions have received attention due to its simplicity and effective computation (Kim *et al.*, 2009) and play important role in designing stream cipher schemes and strengthen the security of ciphers against attacks (Zhang *et al.*, 2012; Li and Zhang, 2015).

Stream cipher (use one key) similar to one-time cipher. Stream cipher uses finite sequence of generated keys separated from each other (Zhang *et al.*, 2017).

Stream cipher systems classified into two main parts: linear systems that depends on linear secret keys and non-linear that depends on nonlinear secret keys. Nonlinear stream cipher for generating secret encryption keys, depends on building nonlinear generators using two techniques, unifying and filtering. Permutation functions considered as executable state for filtering technique. Using and generating nonlinear Boolean functions is important in designing sequential nonlinear random generators with high complexity.

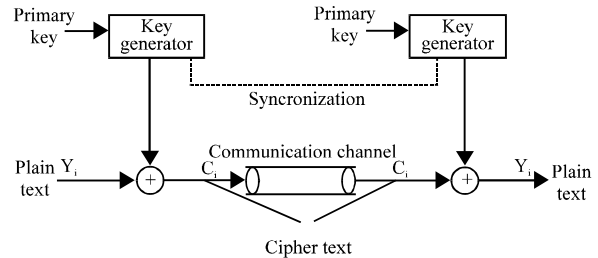


Fig. 1: Stream cipher diagram

The organization of this study is as follows. At the beginning, it presents a mathematical analysis for designing nonlinear function and permutation function by considering Boolean function used in designing stream cipher systems. Two well-known algorithms of (Piperrzik and Finkelstein, 1988) in used in the mathematical analyses proposed in this study.

### MATERIALS AND METHODS

#### Definitions

**Boolean functions:** Boolean function  $f: x^n \rightarrow x$  is a linear function for (n) of Boolean variables if represented as below (Menezes, 2005):

$$f(x) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = a_0 + a_1x_1 + \dots + a_nx_n$$

where,  $a_0, a_i, x_i \in \{0, 1\}$  for the variables  $i = 1, \dots, n$  the definition of Boolean function could be generalized. The Boolean function "f:  $x^n \rightarrow x$ " considered a linear function for (n) of variables if represented as:

$$f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n) f(x) = f(x_1, \dots, x_n) = f_n(x_1, \dots, x_n)$$

where all elements of the function  $f_i(x)$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$  is a linear function links  $(n)$  of bits to one bit.

**Space:** Is a group of Boolean functions for  $(n)$  of variables as below:

$$F_n = \{f: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2\}$$

$$L_n = \{\alpha : \alpha \text{ is linear and } \alpha \in F_n\}$$

The number of Linear Boolean functions within the space  $F_n$  is:

$$L_n = |2^{n+1}|$$

where,  $(n)$  is the degree of space. The following relation can determine the number of linear and nonlinear Boolean functions in space  $F_n$ :

$$F_n = 2^n$$

While the number of nonlinear Boolean function is  $(F_n - L_n)$ .

**Hamming weight:** The weight of Boolean function  $f \in F_n$  is the hamming weight of the function image  $f$  which is equal to the number of units in the truth table of function  $f$ .

**Distance:** Distance between Boolean functions  $f$  and  $g$  which fall in the field  $F_n$ ,  $[(f, g) \in F_n]$  denoted with the relation:

$$d(f, g) = wt(fi \oplus gi)$$

Where:

$$f(x) = [f(x_1, \dots, x_n)]$$

$$g(x) = [g(x_1, \dots, x_n)]$$

**Degree of nonlinear Boolean function (f):** Is the shortest distance between function  $f$  and all linear functions in the same space which could be denoted in the following relation:

$$n-3: Nf = \sum_{i=1/2(n-2)} 2i \quad n = 2, 4, 6, \dots,$$

$$n-3: 2 \sum_{i=1/2(n-3)} 2^i \quad n = 3, 5, 7, \dots,$$

Permutating functions within the space  $F_n^n$  is a collection of  $(n)$  of Boolean functions in the space  $F_n$  and these functions share  $[f_1, \dots, f_n]$  the same weight with value  $wt(f_i) = 2^{n-1}$

**Example:** Calculate the weight of the two linear functions  $f_2 = x_1 \oplus x_2$  and  $f_1 = x_1$  within the space  $F_n$ . Is it possible to generate permutation for these two functions within the space  $F_2$ ?

Table 1: Truth table of the Boolean functions

$f_2$	$f_1$	$x_2$	$x_1$
0	1	0	0
1	0	0	1
1	1	1	0
0	0	1	1

**Solution:** Table 1 represents truth table of the two functions which helps in solving the example. Noticed in Table 1 within first and second order columns which helps in producing permutation of these two functions.

**Generating Boolean functions and nonlinear permutation functions:** Nonlinear Boolean permutation function is build in a space based on a nonlinear Boolean function from a smallest space which is the second space  $F_2$ . With the condition that weight of this functions should be 1. Then, it expands to other spaces as in Piperrzik algorithm in 1988.

**First algorithm of Piperrzik:** This algorithm presents a suitable way for generating nonlinear Boolean function within a specified space based on a nonlinear functions within space  $F_2$ . This function is known as it has a high nonlinearity. Below steps describe the algorithm:

**Algorithm 1; Piperrzik algorithm:**

- 1: Randomly choosing a nonlinear function in the space  $F_2$  and let  $f_1$  with weight equals 1.
- 2: Expanding the function  $f^2 \in F_1$  if  $(i)$  is an even number, the following relation is used:

$$f_{i+1} = [f_1, f_1]_{i+1} \quad f_{i+1} = f_1 \in F_1 \tag{1}$$

- 3: Calculating the new function  $[f_{i+1} + x_{i+1} \in F_1]$
- 4: Creating function  $f_{i+2}$  in space  $F_{i+2}$  considering the following relation:

$$f_{i+2} = [f_{i+1}, f_{i+1} + x_{i+1}]_{i+2} = [f_{i+1} + x_{i+2}]_{F_{i+2}} \tag{2}$$

- 5: Expanding the function if  $(i)$  was an odd number, the function  $f_{i+1}$  created by the following relation:

$$f_{i+1} = [f_1, f_{i+1} + x_1]_{i+1} \quad F_{i+1} = f_1, x_{i+1} + F_{i+1} \tag{3}$$

The algorithm continues until required space is obtained and nonlinear function want to be designed.

**Design of nonlinear permutation boolean function:** Not all the nonlinear Boolean functions generated by Piperrzik algorithm are nonlinear Boolean functions in the space  $F_n$  with weight of  $2^{n-1}$ , therefore, this algorithm not suitable for generating nonlinear permutation functions. Where the weight of elements of functions  $wt(f_i) = 2^{n-1}$ .

Piperrzik proposed second algorithm based on designing nonlinear functions generating nonlinear permutation functions with weight of  $2^{n-1}$  in the space  $F_n^n$ .

**Second algorithm of Piperrzik:** This algorithm aims to generate nonlinear permutation Boolean with weight  $2^{n-1}$  based on designing nonlinear functions. Following steps describe the algorithm.

**Algorithm 2; Piperrzik algorithm:**

- 1: Choosing a nonlinear functions in the space  $F_2$  and let it be  $f_i$  with weight equals to 1.
- 2: If (i) is an even number, the function  $f_{i+1}$  is created in the space  $F_i$  with the relation:

$$f_{i+1} = [f_i, f_i]_{i+1} = f_i + x_{i+1} \tag{4}$$

And the Boolean functions created by:

$$P_1(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1}, P_2(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_1, P_3(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_2 \tag{5}$$

- 3: If (i) is an odd number, the Boolean function  $f_{i+1}$  expands in the space  $F_{i+1}$  with the relation:

$$f_{i+1} = [f_i, f_i]_{i+1} = f_i \quad F_{i+1} \tag{6}$$

And the nonlinear permutation Boolean function created by:

$$P_1(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1}, P_2(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_1, P_3(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_2, P_4(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_3, P_5(f_{i+1}) = f_{i+1} + x_4 \tag{7}$$

The new nonlinear permutation function defined as:

$$f_{i+1} = [f_i, f_i]_{i+1} = f_i + x_{i+1} \quad F_{i+1} \tag{8}$$

The algorithm continues until required space is obtained and nonlinear permutation function want to be designed.

**Basic functions and permutation functions in space:**

Number of linear functions can be determined in the space  $F_n$  with the relation:

$$L_n = |2^{n+1}|$$

And determining the number of linear and nonlinear functions with the relation:

$$F_n = 2^{2^n}$$

The number of nonlinear Boolean functions is  $(F_n - L_n)$ , therefore, the number of linear and nonlinear Boolean functions in the space is as follows.

**RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

**Second space  $F_2$ :** Number of linear and nonlinear Boolean functions in this space is function as shown in Table 2 there are 8 linear Boolean functions and 8 nonlinear Boolean functions.

After executing all the linear functions in space  $F_2$  on a computer we get (10) permutation cases out of (28) possible case as shown in Table 3.

The generated permutation cases do not have the same security level when use in generating sequence of pseudorandom key generation. Where the number of permutations can be calculated as:

$$\text{Number of permutations} = 2 = 8!/2!(8-2)! = 28$$

Table 2: Number of Boolean functions

Nonlinear functions	Linear functions
$x_1x_2$	0
$x_1x_2$	1
$x_1x_2$	$x_1$
$\setminus$	
$x_1x_2$	-
$x_1$	
$x_1+x_2$	$x_2$
$\bar{x}_1+x_2$	$\bar{x}_2$
$\bar{x}_1+x_2$	$x_1x_2$
$\bar{x}_1+\bar{x}_2$	$x_1x_2$

Table 3: Permutation cases

$f_1$	$f_2$	Order after permutation
$x_1$	$x_2$	(1, 0, 3, 2)
$x_1$	$x_1+x_2$	(0, 1, 3, 2)
$x_1$	$x_1+x_2$	(1, 3, 2, 0)
$x_2$	$x_1+x_2$	(3, 0, 2, 1)

Table 4: Number of linear and nonlinear functions in third space

Nonlinear functions	Linear functions
$x_1x_2x_3, x_1x_2x_3$	0, 1, $x_1, x_2, x_3$
$x_1x_2x_3, x_1x_2x_3$	$x_1, x_2, x_3$
$x_1x_2, x_2x_3, x_1x_3$	$x_1+x_2, x_1+x_3$
$x_1+x_2+x_3$	$x_2+x_3$
$x_1+x_2+x_3$	$x_1+x_2, x_1+x_3$
$x_1+x_2+x_3$	$x_2+x_3$
.	$x_1+x_2+x_3$
.	$x_1+x_2+x_3$

Table 5: Generating permutations from linear functions

$f_1$	$f_2$	$f_3$	Order after permutation
$x_1$	$x_3$	$x_1+x_2$	(0, 2, 4, 6, 5, 7, 1, 3)
$x_1+x_2$	$x_3$	$x_1$	(5, 7, 1, 3, 0, 2, 4, 6)
$x_2$	$x_1$	$x_3$	(5, 4, 1, 0, 7, 6, 3, 2)
$x_3$	$x_2$	$x_1$	(0, 4, 2, 6, 1, 5, 3, 7)

**Third space  $F_3$ :** The number of linear and nonlinear in third space  $F_3$  is 256 function. The number of linear functions is 16 while nonlinear functions is 240 as in Table 4.

The number of permutation cases is 560 case. All these cases have been selected which generated 82 linear function that can generates permutation case as shown in Table 5. These permutations don have the same security level and so other spaces.

**CONCLUSION**

This research covered generating linear functions and nonlinear permutation functions based on Piperrzik algorithms. An analytical study also done in this research to determine the basics in the space  $F_2$  that is used in generating permutation functions in any other space. Main points that summarize this research.

Executing Piperrzik algorithms generates functions with high nonlinearity degree using nonlinear Boolean functions within the space  $F_2$  of (n) of variable.

It is possible to use the well-known equation to calculate the degree of nonlinearity for the Boolean function within the spaces  $F_2$ - $F_4$ . However, when the

$n = 5$  finding nonlinear functions with high nonlinearity becomes inefficient because the number of functions will be  $(2^{32}-2^6)$  which considered big number and difficult to deal with it due to limitations in memory capacity at university computers. In addition to time required to run those nonlinear Boolean functions.

It is possible to generate secure permutation using linear functions in any space specially functions with XOR operation. On the other hand, nonlinear functions don't have permutation unless the two algorithms of Piperrzik applied due to its support for nonlinear permutation functions with high nonlinearity.

It is recommended to choose a function with weight equal to one from the space  $F_2$  (because nonlinearity of the function becomes at its highest level) instead of choosing a function with weight of three from the same space because its linearity degree equals zero.

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