

A Cryptographic Technique Involving Finite Fields and Logical Operators

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Article Type: Article

Article Citation: Ayush Mittal, Ravindra Kumar Gupta. A cryptographic technique involving finite fields and logical operators *Indian Journal of Science and Technology*. 2020; 13(03), 316-328. DOI: 10.17485/ijst/2020/ v013i01/148904

Received date: November 14, 2019

Accepted date: December 10, 2019

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Abstract

Objectives: The aim of this study is to propose a new encryption/ decryption technique which involves logical operators and finite field. Methods/statistical analysis: The study proposes a new method for encrypting/decrypting messages which use logical operator XOR and finite field. The method involves sharing common keys between sender and receiver. Then converting plain text into ASCII values bit-form. XORing this with random matrix and then using finite field GF (2^5) for converting it into polynomial elements. These elements are then used for creating cipher text. Decrypting process is reverse of encrypting process. Findings: The technique uses 6×6 matrix form for encrypting messages which can be very difficult to crack with known plain text attacks. The use of XOR operations displaces bits in matrix which makes it difficult to break by brute force technique. **Application/improvements:** The technique is useful in areas where sensitive information is to be transferred like banking, military services. If the private key has got into third-party hands, the damage can be huge. To overcome this, the proposed algorithm can be used by randomizing the keys used for encrypting the messages which will provide different keys for encrypting different data blocks.

Keywords: Encryption, Decryption, Finite Fields, Logical Operator XOR.

1. Introduction

Rapid increase in wireless communications has led to increasing need for secure exchange of information between sender and receiver. Various places where securing transmitting information is necessary like banks, online currencies and such services needs extra precautions to be taken before transmitting information. Cryptography plays an important part in securing this information. For all aspects of information security, Cryptography is the study of mathematical techniques. Encryption is the process in cryptography which encodes some information in such way that hackers cannot read it. Only with a decryption code, it becomes readable [1–3].

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The oldest art of communication is encryption/decryption process. Various secret or important messages are sent such that any third party cannot be able to read. Since many years military and government is using cryptography to establish secret communication. Due to the emerging use of communicating devices, nowadays cryptography is also being used in civilians systems.

Using an encryption algorithm the message or information is encrypted in an encryption scheme and convert the message into an unreadable form known as cipher text. The original message is not determine by anyone from encrypted message, is the main purpose of encryption. Using the corresponding decryption algorithm, only authorized party will be able to decode this cipher text. For unauthorized people, the stronger cipher text is harder to break.

1.1. Finite Fields

A finite field is a field with finite number of elements. If field 'F' is an abelian group under multiplication and addition then F is called as field. Finite field is also called as Galios field. The order of finite field i.e. number of elements of finite field is always equal to prime number or power of prime number. There exists exactly one finite field for each prime number. A finite field is set with certain rules with multiplication, addition, subtraction, and division operations. Galios field can of any degree [4,5]. For example, GF (2^8). Its elements can be thought of as polynomials of degree 7 or less with binary coefficients (0 or 1). Addition of two field elements is addition of the two polynomials with coefficients being added modulo 2.

1.2. Logical Operators

Logical operators are used to combine two or more conditions or to complement the values under consideration. There are several logical operators like AND, OR, NOT, XOR, and XNOR which are used by various researchers [6]. Most logic gates have two inputs and one output and are based on Boolean algebra. Digital logic gates like XOR and XNOR are used in military cryptography [7] for generating linear feedback shift register. In our article, we will use properties of XNOR in combination of Galios filed GF (2^n) for encryption/ decryption.

2. Literature Survey

For encryption and decryption of message, in the field of cryptographic algorithm, there are huge amount of work done by the various researchers. In this section, some work are explained, which will be useful in the proposed work:

In Ref. [8], Sharma and Rehan proposed two-fold securities to the existing Hill cipher by using the elements of finite fields and logical operator. Author gives an algorithm which increases the security of Hill cipher. The proposed algorithm along with illustration involves the encryption and decryption of plaintext by making the use of elements of finite fields and logical *XNOR* operator.

In Ref. [9], Sharma and Sharma proposed to modify the Hill Cipher by multiplying K and K^{-1} , one on the left side and another on right side of the plain text matrix in encryption as well as decryption and use the permutation on the binary bits. In addition, author use the elements of finite field for the purpose of more security.

In Ref. [10], Savas and Koc worked on to provide a concise perspective on designing architectures for efficient finite field arithmetic for usage in cryptography. Author present different architectures, methods and techniques for fast execution of cryptographic operations as well as high utilization of resources in the realization of cryptographic algorithms.

3. Methodology

Following [8–10] and others we will establish some new encryption and decryption algorithm of a message involving finite field and logical operations. Here we propose an algorithm which is based on the elements of finite fields, logical XOR operation, and bitwise complement operator. It will provide security in two levels. Therefore, there will be least possibilities of Brute force attack.

4. Algorithm

4.1. Encryption Algorithm

- 1. Sender and receiver shared a Secret key, where Secret key is the $(n 1) \times (n 1)$ nonsingular matrix and n is a positive integer.
- 2. Sender converts the Plaintext into pre-assigned numerical values (here we choose ASCII-7 code).
- 3. These numerical values are converted into 7-bit string using ASCII table, we get a matrix M_1 (say).
- 4. Consider a random matrix A of order $(n 1) \times (n 1)$.
- 5. To perform XOR operation with each column of matrix M₁, randomly select columns/ rows of A₁. Obtain a matrix M_{XOR}.
- 6. Applying bitwise complement operator on M_{XOR} , which gives the matrix M'_{XOR} .
- 7. Entries of M'_{XOR} converted into the elements of GF (2ⁿ). Multiply each entry of produced matrix by α^n , which gives a matrix K. If α has the power less than $2^n - 1$ in matrix M_3 (say) then entries in K are 0 otherwise 1 send this matrix K to the receiver.
- 8. Applying mod $(2^n 1)$ on the entries of matrix M_3 for reducing the powers, we get another matrix M_4 (say).
- 9. Each entries of matrix M₄ are converted into 7-bit binary string. To obtain cipher text converts these binary strings into their corresponding text character using the ASCII code.

4.2. Decryption Algorithm

- 1. Convert the encrypted message into corresponding binary form (here we choose ASCII-7 code) of n-bits and arrange them in a matrix of order $(n 1) \times (n 1)$, then change into elements of GF (2ⁿ), we get a matrix D₁ (say).
- 2. Those entries of D_1 are multiplied by $\alpha^{2^{n-1}}$ which represents 1 in the corresponding key matrix K (say) and get a matrix D_2 (say).
- 3. Each entries of D_2 are multiplied by α^{-n} and convert them into corresponding binary elements of n-bits using finite field GF (2ⁿ), we get a matrix D_4 (say).
- 4. Applying bitwise complement operator, we get the matrix M_{XOR} ,
- 5. Recognizes the rows/columns of matrix A₁ randomly preferred by the sender to perform XOR operation with each column of matrix M_{XOR} (say D₅).
- 6. Each entries of resulting matrix (find in step 5) are converted into their corresponding numerical values (here we choose ASCII-7 code). We get the matrix M.
- 7. Each entries of M converted into their corresponding alphabet, we get Plaintext.

4.3. Example

4.3.1. Encryption Steps

1. Consider a non-singular matrix of order 6×6 randomly as follows:

4	5	3	13	2	14	37
	6	4	9	10	7	36
	8	11	12	15	16	35
A =	17	18	19	20	21	34
	22	23	24	25	26	33
	29	28	27	32	31	30

2. Consider a message

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3. Now, plain text message will be transformed into its ASCII code and writing each ASCII value in 6×6 matrix:

	69	78	67	82	89	80
	84	73	79	78	32	65
М.—	78	68	32	68	69	67
<i>IVI</i> =	82	89	80	84	73	79
	78	32	65	76	71	79
	82	73	84	72	77	32

4. Writing down ASCII number into its 7-bit string in form of matrix of order 6×6 say M_1 :

	1000101	1001110	1000011	1010010	1011001	1010000
	1010100	1001001	1001111	1001110	0100000	1000001
м	1001110	1000100	0100000	1000100	1000101	1000011
<i>M</i> ₁ =	1010010	1011001	1010000	1010100	1001001	1001111
	1001110	0100000	1000001	1001100	1000111	1001111
	1010010	1001001	1010100	1001000	1001101	0100000

5. Writing down ASCII number into its 7-bit string in form of matrix of order 6×6 say A_1 :

	0000101	0000011	0001101	0000010	0001110	0100101
	0000110	0000100	0001001	0001010	0000111	0100100
4	0001000	0001011	0001100	0001111	0010000	0100011
$A_1 =$	0010001	0010010	0010011	0010100	0010101	0100010
	0010110	0010111	0011000	0011001	0011010	0100001
	0011101	0011100	0011011	0100000	0011111	0011110

- 6. Choose the rows/columns C₁, R₂, C₃, R₄, C₅, R₆ from the matrix A₁ at random to perform the logical XOR Operation with each column of matrix M₁.
 - (a) Select elements of C₁ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with first column of matrix M₁, we get

0000101000011000010000010010101100011101

we get

which is the first column of matrix M_{XOR} in 7-bit form.

(b) Select elements of R_2 of A_1 and performs logical operator XOR with second column of matrix M_1 , we get

0000110000010000010010000101000001110100100

XOR

we get

100100010011011001101101001101001111101101

which is the second column of matrix $M_{\rm XOR}\, in$ 7-bit form.

(c) Select elements of C₃ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with third column of matrix M₁, we get

000110100010010001100001001100110000011011

XOR

we get

which is the third column of matrix M_{XOR} in 7-bit form.

(d) Select elements of R₄ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with fourth column of matrix M₁, we get

00100010010010010011001010000101010100010

XOR

we get

which is the fourth column of matrix M_{XOR} in 7-bit form.

(e) Select elements of C₅ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with fifth column of matrix M₁, we get

XOR

101100101000001000101100100110001111001101

we get

101011101001111010101101110010111011010010

which is the fifth column of matrix M_{XOR} in 7-bit form.

(f) Select elements of R₆ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with sixth column of matrix M₁, we get

XOR

we get

which is the sixth column of matrix $\rm M_{\rm XOR}$ in 7-bit form. Therefore, $\rm M_{\rm XOR}$ is:

	1000000	1001000	1001110	1000011	1010111	1001101
	1010010	1001101	1000110	1011100	0100111	1011101
14	1000110	1001101	0101100	1010111	1010101	1011000
$M_{XOR} =$	1000011	1010011	1000011	1000000	1011100	1101111
	1011000	0100111	1011001	1011001	1011101	1010000
	1001111	1101101	1001111	1101010	1010010	0111110

 Applying bitwise complement operator on M_{XOR}, which gives the matrix M'_{XOR}, as follows: Therefore, M'_{XOR} is:

 $M'_{XOR} \begin{bmatrix} 0111111 & 0110111 & 0110001 & 0111100 & 0101000 & 0110010^{-1} \\ 0101101 & 0110010 & 0111001 & 0100011 & 1011000 & 0100010 \\ 0111001 & 0110010 & 1010011 & 0101000 & 0101010 & 0100111 \\ 0111100 & 0101100 & 0111100 & 0111111 & 0100011 & 0010000 \\ 0100111 & 1011000 & 0100110 & 0100110 & 0100100 & 0101111 \\ 0110000 & 0010010 & 0110000 & 0010101 & 0101101 & 1000001 \\ \end{bmatrix}$

8. Converts the above entries to the elements of GF (2^7) , we get

$$M_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{79} & \alpha^{87} & \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{17} & \alpha^{109} \\ \alpha^{77} & \alpha^{109} & \alpha^{104} & \alpha^{19} & \alpha^{34} & \alpha^{29} \\ \alpha^{104} & \alpha^{109} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{17} & \alpha^{113} & \alpha^{45} \\ \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{33} & \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{19} & \alpha^{4} \\ \alpha^{45} & \alpha^{34} & \alpha^{68} & \alpha^{68} & \alpha^{29} & \alpha^{117} \\ \alpha^{11} & \alpha^{64} & \alpha^{11} & \alpha^{112} & \alpha^{77} & \alpha^{126} \end{bmatrix}$$

9. Multiply M_2 by α^7 , we get

$$M_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{86} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{116} \\ \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{36} \\ \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{101} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{120} & \alpha^{52} \\ \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{40} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{11} \\ \alpha^{52} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{36} & \alpha^{124} \\ \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{71} & \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{133} \end{bmatrix}$$

10. Applying mod 127 to M_3 , we get

$$M_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{86} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{116} \\ \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{36} \\ \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{101} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{120} & \alpha^{52} \\ \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{40} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{11} \\ \alpha^{52} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{36} & \alpha^{124} \\ \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{71} & \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

and choose the key matrix K such that if power of α in is greater than 127, then entry in the key matrix is taken 1 otherwise 0. Therefore, K is

11. The cipher matrix is

$$M_{4} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{86} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{116} \end{bmatrix} \\ \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{36} \\ \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{101} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{120} & \alpha^{52} \\ \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{40} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{11} \\ \alpha^{52} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{36} & \alpha^{124} \\ \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{71} & \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

12. Convert the element of matrix M₄ into 7-bit binary string, we get cipher matrix C (say)

	1000001	1011001	1010011	1000100	1111000	1010110
	1110111	1010110	1001011	1100101	1101011	1100110
C_{-}	1001011	1010110	1110110	1111000	1111110	1101001
C =	1000100	1110100	1000100	1000001	1100101	0110000
	1101001	1101011	1101010	1101010	1100110	1110001
	1010000	0110110	1010000	0111111	1110111	1000000

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13. Using the ASCII code, all binary elements of the matrix C are coded to the corresponding text characters. Sequence of these characters (collect row-wise) gives the Cipher text as follows:

AYSDxVwVKekfKVvx~iDtDAe0ikjjfqP6P?w@ Via public channel this cipher text is sent to the receiver.

4.3.2 Decryption Steps

1. Converts the cipher text AYSDxVwVKekfKVvx~iDtDAe0ikjjfqP6P?w@ into 7-bit string using ASCII code. Put these 36 binary numbers in the form of a 6 × 6 matrix as follows:

	1000001	1011001	1010011	1000100	1111000	1010110
	1110111	1010110	1001011	1100101	1101011	1100110
	1001011	1010110	1110110	1111000	1111110	1101001
D =	1000100	1110100	1000100	1000001	1100101	0110000
	1101001	1101011	1101010	1101010	1100110	1110001
	1010000	0110110	1010000	0111111	1110111	1000000

2. Above 7-bit binary number converted into the elements of $GF(2^7)$ as follows:

$$D_{1} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{86} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{116} \\ \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{36} \\ \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{101} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{120} & \alpha^{52} \\ \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{40} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{11} \\ \alpha^{52} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{36} & \alpha^{124} \\ \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{71} & \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

3. Multiply α^{127} into those entries of D_1 which represents 1 in the corresponding key matrix K, we get:

$$D_{2} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{86} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{116} \\ \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{36} \\ \alpha^{111} & \alpha^{116} & \alpha^{101} & \alpha^{24} & \alpha^{120} & \alpha^{52} \\ \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{40} & \alpha^{30} & \alpha^{126} & \alpha^{26} & \alpha^{11} \\ \alpha^{52} & \alpha^{41} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{75} & \alpha^{36} & \alpha^{124} \\ \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{71} & \alpha^{18} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{84} & \alpha^{6} \end{bmatrix}$$

4. Multiply D_2 by α^{-7} , we get

$$D_{3} = \begin{bmatrix} \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{79} & \alpha^{87} & \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{17} & \alpha^{109} \\ \alpha^{77} & \alpha^{109} & \alpha^{104} & \alpha^{19} & \alpha^{34} & \alpha^{29} \\ \alpha^{104} & \alpha^{109} & \alpha^{94} & \alpha^{17} & \alpha^{113} & \alpha^{45} \\ \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{33} & \alpha^{23} & \alpha^{119} & \alpha^{19} & \alpha^{4} \\ \alpha^{45} & \alpha^{34} & \alpha^{68} & \alpha^{68} & \alpha^{29} & \alpha^{117} \\ \alpha^{11} & \alpha^{64} & \alpha^{11} & \alpha^{112} & \alpha^{77} & \alpha^{126} \end{bmatrix}$$

5. Convert the above elements into the 7-bit binary form by finite field $GF(2^7)$, we get

	0111111	0110111	0110001	0111100	0101000	0110010
	0101101	0110010	0111001	0100011	1011000	0100010
	0111001	0110010	1010011	0101000	0101010	0100111
$D_4 =$	0111100	0101100	0111100	0111111	0100011	0010000
	0100111	1011000	0100110	0100110	0100010	0101111
	0110000	0010010	0110000	0010101	0101101	1000001

6. Now applying bitwise complement operator, which gives the matrix M_{XOR} (say D₅) as follows:

	1000000	1001000	1001110	1000011	1010111	1001101
	1010010	1001101	1000110	1011100	0100111	1011101
	1000110	1001101	0101100	1010111	1010101	1011000
$D_{5} =$	1000011	1010011	1000011	1000000	1011100	1101111
	1011000	0100111	1011001	1011001	1011101	1010000
	1001111	1101101	1001111	1101010	1010010	0111110

- Choose the rows/columns C₁, R₂, C₃, R₄, C₅, R₆ (selected by sender to perform the logical XOR operation with the column of the matrix D₅ and send by a separate communication) from the matrix A₁ at random to perform the logical XOR Operation with each column of matrix D₅.
 - (a) Select elements of C₁ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with first column of matrix D₅, we get

0000101000011000010000010010101100011101

XOR

100010110101001001110101001010011101010010

which is the first column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

(b) Select elements of R₂ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with second column of matrix M₁, we get

000011000001000001001000001110100100

XOR

100100010011011001101101001101001111101101

we get

which is the second column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

(c) Select elements of C₃ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with third column of matrix M₁, we get

00011010001001000110001001100110000011011 XOR

we get

which is the third column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

(d) Select elements of R_4 of A_1 and performs logical operator XOR with fourth column of matrix M_1 , we get

00100010010010010011001010000101010100010

XOR

we get

which is the fourth column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

(e) Select elements of C₅ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with fifth column of matrix M₁, we get

XOR

101100101000001000101100100110001111001101

which is the fifth column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

(f) Select elements of R₆ of A₁ and performs logical operator XOR with sixth column of matrix M₁, we get

XOR

we get

which is the sixth column of matrix M_1 in 7-bit form.

Hence matrix M_1 is

M	1000101	1001110	1000011	1010010	1011001	1010000
	1010100	1001001	1001111	1001110	0100000	1000001
	1001110	1000100	0100000	1000100	1000101	1000011
$M_1 =$	1010010	1011001	1010000	1010100	1001001	1001111
	1001110	0100000	1000001	1001100	1000111	1001111
	1010010	1001001	1010100	1001000	1001101	0100000

8. Convert these binary entries of M₁ into corresponding numerical values from ASCII-7 table, we get

M =		69	78	67	82	89	80
		84	73	79	78	32	65
		78	68	32	68	69	67
	=	82	89	80	84	73	79
		78	32	65	76	71	79
		82	73	84	72	77	32

9. The matrix M is ASCII code of characters. Converting ASCII codes to characters we will get our plain text. Reading Row-wise each character we will get final plain text message as follows:

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5. Result and Discussion

The technique discussed in this article to encrypt/decrypt messages cannot be broken by brute force attack. The matrix 6×6 makes it more difficult. Due to absence of direct relation between plain text and cipher text, cracking encrypted messages is very difficult even if key matrix information is known. Several iterations of logical operations of XOR displace all the bits which increase strength of these methods by many folds.

6. Conclusion

This study proposes a strong algorithm for encrypting/decrypting messages for private key cryptography. For increasing security level, the technique uses finite fields with logical operator XOR. As private key is used for encrypting/decrypting messages it is very hard to crack the message without the key by known plain text attacks. Randomization is also possible which may include encrypting different data block with different key, which are produced from the secret key and shared between communicating parties. Hence the proposed algorithm had strength.

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