cadams@entrust.com

Constructing Symmetric Ciphers Using the CAST Design Procedure

CARLISLE M. ADAMS Entrust Technologies, 750 Heron Road, Suite E08, Ottawa, Canada, KIV 1A7

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Abstract. This paper describes the CAST design procedure for constructing a family of DES-like Substitution-Permutation Network (SPN) cryptosystems which appear to have good resistance to differential cryptanalysis, linear cryptanalysis, and related-key cryptanalysis, along with a number of other desirable cryptographic properties. Details of the design choices in the procedure are given, including those regarding the component substitution boxes (s-boxes), the overall framework, the key schedule, and the round function. An example CAST cipher, an output of this design procedure, is presented as an aid to understanding the concepts and to encourage detailed analysis by the cryptologic community.

Keywords: design of encryption algorithms, block ciphers, substitution boxes, key scheduling, differential cryptanalysis, linear cryptanalysis

1. Introduction and Motivation

This paper describes the CAST design procedure for a family of encryption algorithms. The ciphers produced, known as CAST ciphers, appear to have good resistance to differential cryptanalysis [8], linear cryptanalysis [33], and related-key cryptanalysis [9]. Furthermore, they can be shown to possess a number of desirable cryptographic properties such as avalanche [18, 19], Strict Avalanche Criterion (SAC) [54], Bit Independence Criterion (BIC) [54], and an absence of weak and semi-weak keys [25, 12, 40]. CAST ciphers are based on the well-understood and extensively-analyzed framework of the Feistel cipher [18, 19]—the framework used in DES—but with a number of improvements (compared to DES) in both the round function and the key schedule which provide good cryptographic properties in fewer rounds than DES. These ciphers therefore have very good encryption/decryption performance (comparing very favourably with many alternatives of similar cryptographic strength) and can be designed with parameters which make them particularly suitable for software implementations on 32-bit machines.

The search for a general-purpose design procedure for symmetric encryption algorithms is motivated by a number of factors, including the following.

• Despite years of speculation and warning regarding the inevitable limit to the useful lifetime of the Data Encryption Standard (as originally defined in [41]), this algorithm remains firmly entrenched in a number of environments partly because there is no obvious candidate for a DES replacement with acceptable speed and security.

- New and powerful cryptanalytic attacks have forced re-designs of suggested candidates such as FEAL [38, 39, 8], LOKI [10, 8, 11], and IDEA [29, 30]. Thus, such attacks must be accounted for and avoided in the design procedure itself, so that algorithms produced by the procedure are known to be immune to these attacks.
- The continued disparity between "domestic-strength" cryptography and "exportablestrength" cryptography, along with the potential for multiple flavours of exportablestrength cryptography (perhaps depending on "commercial escrow" considerations), means that the paradigm of a single DES replacement algorithm almost certainly has to be abandoned in favour of a design procedure describing a family of algorithms where keysize is at least one parameter defining a specific instance of the family. Recent cipher proposals such as SAFER [32], Blowfish [49], and RC5 [48] have recognized and addressed this requirement.

1.1. Background

Some aspects of the CAST design procedure were discussed in [1, 5-7]. Analysis of CASTlike ciphers containing purely randomly-generated s-boxes with respect to both linear and differential cryptanalysis was presented in [24, 31]. As well, cryptanalysis of a 6-round CAST cipher was described in [47]; this statistical attack requires a work factor of roughly 2^{48} operations and requires 82 known plaintexts.

1.2. Outline of the Paper

The remainder of the paper is organized as follows. Section 2 presents an overview of the CAST design procedure, with subsections covering substitution box design, Feistel-type Substitution-Permutation Network (SPN) considerations, the importance of key scheduling, and possibilities for the round function. Section 3 presents a deeper treatment of the design procedure, giving further details, along with assertions and theorems, regarding these four main aspects of CAST cipher design. The fourth section covers design alternatives available for both the SPN framework and the implementation of the round function. Section 5, along with Appendix A, gives the specification for an example CAST cipher, one produced using the design procedure described in this paper. Finally, Section 6 closes the paper with some concluding comments.

2. Overview of the CAST Design Procedure

This section gives a brief overview of the concepts and considerations relevant to the CAST design procedure. The four main aspects of a CAST cipher (s-boxes, framework, key schedule, and round function) are covered separately.

2.1. S-Box Design Overview

An $m \times n$ substitution box is a $2^m \times n$ lookup table, mapping m input bits to n output bits. It substitutes, or replaces, the input with the output such that any change to the input vector results in a random-looking change to the output vector which is returned. The substitution layer in an SPN cipher is of critical importance to security since it is the primary source of nonlinearity in the algorithm (note that the permutation layer is a linear mapping from input to output).

The dimensions *m* and *n* can be of any size; however, the larger the dimension *m*, the (exponentially) larger the lookup table. For this reason *m* is typically chosen to be less than 10. The CAST design procedure makes use of substitution boxes which have fewer input bits than output bits (e.g., 8×32); this is the opposite of DES and many other ciphers which use s-boxes with more input bits than output bits (e.g., 6×4).¹

Research into cipher design and analysis suggests that s-boxes with specific properties are of great importance in avoiding certain classes of cryptanalytic attacks such as differential and linear cryptanalysis. However, it can be very difficult (and, in some cases, impossible) to satisfy some of these properties using "small" s-boxes. The CAST design procedure therefore incorporates a construction algorithm for "large" (e.g., 8×32) s-boxes which possess several important cryptographic properties.

2.2. Framework Design Overview

Ciphers designed around a new basis for cryptographic security (most notably RC5 [48], based upon the conjectured security of data- dependent rotation operations) may prove to be extremely attractive candidates for DES replacement algorithms, but are not yet mature enough to be recommended for widespread use. The CAST procedure is instead based upon a framework which has been extensively analyzed by the cryptologic community for well over 20 years.

The CAST framework is the "Substitution-Permutation Network" (SPN) concept as originally put forward by Shannon [51]. SPNs are schemes which alternate layers of bit substitutions with layers of bit permutations, where the number of layers has a direct impact on the security of the cipher. Furthermore, CAST uses the Feistel structure [18, 19] to implement the SPN. This is because the Feistel structure is well-studied and appears to be free of basic structural weaknesses, whereas some other forms of the SPN, such as the "tree structure" [22, 23] have some inherent weaknesses [22, 45] unless a significant number of layers are added (which may destroy the one property, "completeness",² which tree structures are provably able to achieve). Note that some other forms of SPN, such as that employed in SAFER [32], also appear currently to be free of basic structural weaknesses, but have not been subject to intense analysis for nearly as long as the Feistel structure.

The following diagram illustrates a general Feistel-structured SPN. Basic operation is as follows. A message block of 2n bits is input and split into a left half L_1 and a right half R_1 . The right half and a subkey K_1 are input to a "round function", f_1 , the output of which is used to modify (through XOR addition) the left half. Swapping the left and right halves completes round one. This process continues for as many rounds as are defined



Figure 1. SPN (Feistel) cipher.

for the cipher. After the final round (which does not contain a swap in order to simplify implementation of the decryption process), the left and right halves are concatenated to form the ciphertext.

The parameters which can be selected for the framework are the blocksizes (the number of bits in both the plaintext and ciphertext data blocks) and the number of rounds. For all cases "higher" typically means greater security but (particularly for the number of rounds) reduced encryption/decryption speed. Except for the use of randomized encryption, the plaintext and ciphertext blocksizes are chosen to be equal so that the encryption process results in no data expansion (an important consideration in many applications).

As is evident in the work by Biham [8] and by Knudsen [27], good s-box design is not sufficient to guarantee good SPN cryptosystems (both results show that finding 6×4 s-boxes resistant to differential cryptanalysis in isolation—that is, with relatively flat Output XOR distributions—and putting them directly in DES makes the "improved" algorithm much more susceptible to differential cryptanalysis than the original). It is therefore of great importance to design the substitution-permutation network such that it takes advantage of the good properties of the s-boxes without introducing any cryptographic weaknesses.

2.3. Key Schedule Design Overview

Keying in the CAST design procedure is done in the manner typical for Feistel networks. That is, an input key (a "primary key") is used to create a number of subkeys according to a specified key scheduling algorithm; the subkey for a given round is input to the round function for use in modifying the input data for that round.

The design of a good key schedule is a crucial aspect of cipher design. A key schedule should possess a number of properties, including some guarantee of key/ciphertext Strict Avalanche Criterion³ and Bit Independence Criterion⁴ in order to avoid certain key clustering⁵ attacks [17, 23, 53]. Furthermore, it should ensure that the primary key bits used in round *i* to create subkey *i* are different from those used in round *i* + 1 to create subkey *i* + 1 (this is due to the work of Grossman and Tuckerman [20], who showed that DES-like cryptosystems without a key that varies through successive rounds can be broken). Finally, all key bits should be used by round N/2 (in an *N*-round cipher) and then reused in the remaining rounds (to ensure good key avalanche for both encryption and decryption).

The critical difference between the key schedule proposed in the CAST design procedure and other schedules described in the open literature is the dependence upon substitution boxes for the creation of the subkeys. Other key schedules (the one in DES, for example) typically use a complex bit-selection algorithm to select bits of the primary key for the subkey for round *i*. As is clear from the work by Knudsen [28] and by Biham [9], any weaknesses in this bit selection algorithm can lead to simple cryptanalysis of the cipher, regardless of the number of rounds. The schedule proposed in CAST instead uses a very simple bit-selection algorithm and a set of "key schedule s-boxes" to create the subkey for each round. These s-boxes must possess specific properties to ensure cryptographically good key schedules (see Section 3.3 below).

2.4. Round Function Design Overview

The round function in CAST, as stated above, makes use of s-boxes which have fewer input bits than output bits. This is accomplished as follows. Within the round function the input data half is modified by the subkey for that round and is split into several pieces. Each piece is input to a separate substitution box; the s-box outputs are combined using XOR or other binary operations; and the result is the output of the round function. Although each $m \times n$ s-box on its own necessarily causes data expansion (since m < n), using the set of s-boxes in this way results in no expansion of the message half, allowing the SPN to have input and output blocksizes which are equal.

2.4.1. Avoiding Certain Attacks

Another aspect of round function design involves a specific proposal to guard against differential and linear attacks. Differential [8] and linear [33] cryptanalysis are generalpurpose attacks which may be applied to a variety of substitution-permutation network (DES-like) ciphers. Both methods work on the principle of finding high-probability attacks on a single round and then building up "characteristics" (sets of consecutive rounds which interact in useful ways); characteristics which include a sufficient number of rounds can lead to cryptanalysis of the cipher. The probability of a characteristic is equal to the product of the probabilities of the included rounds;⁶ this "characteristic probability" determines the work factor⁷ of the attack. If the work factor of the attack is less than the work factor for exhaustive search of the key space, the cipher is theoretically broken.

Resistance to these attacks can be achieved either by adding rounds (which reduces the speed of the cipher) or by improving the properties of the round s-boxes (which may or may not make the round probability low enough to avoid the need to add rounds in a given cipher). The latter approach has been pursued by a number of researchers (see [4, 5, 16, 43, 50, 52], for example).

The approach proposed in the CAST design procedure presented below includes both of the above. More importantly, however, it also includes a slight alteration to the typical DES-like round function which renders it "intrinsically immune" (as opposed to computationally immune) to differential and linear cryptanalysis as described in [8, 33]. Such an alteration is generally applicable to all DES-like ciphers and may, in some ciphers, be added with little degradation in encryption/decryption speed.

3. Detailed Design

This section covers the four main aspects of a CAST cipher (s-boxes, framework, key schedule, and round function) in more detail than the previous section and provides a number of assertions, theorems, and remarks regarding the cryptographic properties relevant to each aspect.

3.1. Detailed S-Box Design

For the design of $m \times n$ (m < n) s-boxes,⁸ let n be an integer multiple of m (where 2n is the blocksize of the cipher); in particular, let n = rm where r is an integer greater than 1 (note that then $m \le \log_2 C(n, n/2) = \log_2("n \ choose \ n/2"))$. Such s-boxes can be constructed as follows. Choose n distinct binary bent (see, for example, [42, 46, 3]) vectors ϕ_i of length 2^m such that linear combinations of these vectors sum (modulo 2) to highly nonlinear, near-SAC-fulfilling vectors (Nyberg's work [43] shows that these linear combinations cannot all be bent since m < 2n; however, it is important that they be highly nonlinear and close to SAC-fulfilling so as to satisfy the Output Bit Independence Criterion and aid in resistance to linear cryptanalysis). Furthermore, choose half the ϕ_i to be of weight $(2^{m-1} + 2^{(m/2)-1})$ and the other half to be of weight $(2^{m-1} - 2^{(m/2)-1})$; these are the two weights possible for binary bent vectors of length 2^m . Set the n vectors ϕ_i to be the columns of the matrix M representing the s-box. Note that each new s-box should be generated from an independent "pool" of bent vectors to ensure that columns in different s-boxes are distinct and not linearly related.

Check that *M* has 2^m distinct rows and that the Hamming weight of each row and the Hamming distance between pairs of rows is close to n/2 (i.e., that the set of weights and

the set of distances each have a mean of n/2 and some suitably small—but nonzero—variance).⁹ If these conditions are not satisfied, continue choosing suitable bent vectors (i.e., candidate ϕ_i) and checking the resulting matrix until the conditions are satisfied. Note that it is possible to construct 8×32 s-boxes which meet these conditions within a few weeks of running time on common computing platforms.

The following assertions and theorems apply to substitution boxes constructed according to the above procedure.

ASSERTION 1 S-boxes constructed as described above have good confusion, diffusion, and avalanche.

Discussion. It is not difficult to see that the given requirements on the s-box rows and columns lead to good s-box confusion and diffusion properties (as described by Shannon [51]) and also ensure good avalanche (as discussed in [18, 19] and echoed in [26]).

THEOREM 1 Using bent binary vectors as the columns of the $2^m \times n$ matrix which describes an s-box ensures that the s-box will respond "ideally" in the sense of highest-order strict avalanche criterion [2, 4]¹⁰ to arbitrary changes in the input vector.

Proof. Highest-order SAC is guaranteed for each output bit—this is a property of bent Boolean functions which was proven in [34]. By definition [54], an s-box satisfies the highest-order SAC if and only if each of its output bits satisfies the highest-order SAC.

ASSERTION 2 If the columns in the s-box matrix are bent vectors whose linear combinations are highly nonlinearly related and near SAC-fulfilling, then the s-box will show close proximity to highest-order (output) bit independence criterion. That is, small changes in the m input bits will cause each of the n output bits to change virtually independently of all other output bits. Furthermore, such s-boxes aid in immunity to linear cryptanalysis [33].

Discussion. It can be shown that if columns ϕ_j and ϕ_k sum modulo 2 to a linear vector, then s-box output bits j and k will either always change together or never change together when any input bit i is inverted (i.e., they will have a correlation coefficient of ± 1). At the other extreme, if ϕ_j and ϕ_k sum to a bent vector, then j and k will change independently for any input change. Because it is impossible for all column sums to be bent (since m < 2n), the CAST design procedure uses s-boxes in which the column sums are highly nonlinear and near SAC-fulfilling but not necessarily bent. Proximity to BIC is defined in terms of proximity to SAC: if columns ϕ_j and ϕ_k sum to a vector which comes close to satisfying the SAC (i.e., over all single-bit input changes, the output changes with probability γ , where $(0.5 - \omega) \le \gamma \le (0.5 + \omega)$ and ω is "small"), then output bits j and k will act "virtually" independently (i.e., will have a correlation coefficient which is nonzero, but "small", as determined by ω), for all single-bit input changes. In highest-order BIC the sums of all column subsets are considered (not just pairs). Requiring that these sums are near-SAC- fulfilling means (by definition) that the s-box will have close proximity to highest-order BIC.¹¹ Such s-boxes aid in immunity to linear cryptanalysis because there is no linear combination of component functions which has a small Hamming distance to an affine Boolean function (see the discussion in Section 8.1 of [50]).

LEMMA 1 $m \times n$ s-boxes designed according to the above procedure can be made to have a largest value, L, in the difference distribution table such that $2 \le L \le 2^{m/2}$.

Proof. Let a CAST s-box be constructed by beginning with Nyberg's "perfect nonlinear" $m \times m/2$ s-box and adding binary bent vectors as matrix columns until the full $2^m \times n$ matrix M is complete (adhering to the design constraints given above). Without loss of generality, assume that the first m/2 columns of M correspond to a perfect nonlinear s-box (i.e., these columns are bent and all nonzero linear combinations of these columns (modulo 2) are also bent). Consider the $2^{m-1} \times n$ matrix M' of avalanche vectors¹² corresponding to a given change in the s-box input (see [4, 54] for details). In this matrix all columns are of Hamming weight 2^{m-2} (since the columns of M are bent) and all nonzero linear combinations of the first m/2 columns are also of Hamming weight 2^{m-2} . It is not difficult to see that within the first m/2 columns of M', therefore, each m/2-bit "row" will occur *exactly* $T = 2^{m-1}/2^{m/2}$ times, so that regardless of the remaining columns of M', each full n-bit row can occur a maximum of T times. Thus, the largest value in the difference distribution table for this s-box is $L \leq 2T = 2^{m/2}$. Clearly, each additional column in M' (beyond the m/2 initial columns) has the ability to reduce T; in the limit (when n is sufficiently large compared with m), every row of M' is unique, so that T = 1. Therefore $L \geq 2$.

Remark 1. Although starting with a perfect s-box provides a guaranteed upper bound on L, in practice the same result can be achieved without the perfect s-box if n is sufficiently large. For example, it is not difficult to construct 8×32 s-boxes with L = 2 which do not have four component columns which form a perfect s-box. This is why the use of a perfect s-box has not been made a stipulation of the s-box design procedure given above.

3.2. Detailed Framework Design

As was stated previously, the primary parameter options in framework design are blocksize and number of rounds. Aside from the constraint that the blocksize be large enough to preclude birthday-attack-derived analysis of the plaintext data, the only real blocksize consideration is ease of implementation. On current machines and for many typical environments, 64 bits (the blocksize of DES) is an attractive choice because left and right data halves and other variables fit nicely into 32-bit registers. However, in the future a larger choice may be warranted for environments wherein significantly more than 2^{32} data blocks (i.e., 2^{33} or more) may be encrypted using a single key.

The number of rounds in the framework appears to be a much more important and delicate decision. There need to be enough rounds to provide the desired level of security, but not

so many that the cipher is unacceptably slow for its intended applications. In an SPN of the Feistel type it is clear that the left half of the input data is modified by the output of the round function in rounds 1, 3, 5, 7, and so on, and the right half is modified in rounds 2, 4, 6, 8, and so on. Thus, it is clear that for equal treatment of both halves the number of rounds must be even. However, it is less obvious how many rounds is "enough".

Differential and linear cryptanalysis, the two most powerful attacks currently known for DES-like ciphers, have helped to quantify this design parameter. It has long been known, for example, that DES with 5 or 6 rounds can be broken, but not until 1990, with the introduction of differential cryptanalysis [8], was it clear why 16 rounds were actually used in its design—fewer rounds could not withstand a differential attack [13]. With subsequent improvements to the differential attack [8] and with the introduction of linear cryptanalysis, it now appears that 18–20 rounds would be necessary for DES to be theoretically as strong as its keysize.

A prudent design guideline, therefore, is to select a number of rounds which has an acceptably high work factor for both differential and linear cryptanalysis and then either add a few more rounds or modify the round function to make these attacks even more difficult (in order to add a "safety margin"). As will be seen in Section 3.4, the CAST design procedure chooses the second approach for both security and performance reasons.

THEOREM 2 With respect to differential cryptanalysis, N-round ciphers designed according to the CAST procedure can be constructed with N - 2 round characteristics which have probability significantly smaller than the inverse of the size of the keyspace.

Proof. Recall from Lemma 1 that the largest value in the difference distribution table of CAST-designed $m \times n$ s-boxes is L, where $2 \leq L \leq 2^{m/2}$. Select for the round function only s-boxes for which L = 2. Therefore the highest probability in each table is $P = L/2^m \leq 2^{1-m}$. Consider now the f function of this SPN. If a multi-bit change is made to the vector V which is input to f (so that a change is made to the input of each of x of the component s-boxes used for f), then the characteristic [30] of f (that is, the most successful differential cryptanalytic attack for that single round) has probability at most $P_f = 2^{x(1-m)+y}$ (because the s-box outputs are combined (e.g., using XOR) rather than simply concatenated (as in DES)). Note that the y in the exponent accounts for the possibility that there may be as many as 2^y sets of the r component s-box output XORs which combine to produce a desired output XOR of f; randomness arguments suggest that y is expected to be less than 4. Given P_f , the strategy for differential cryptanalysis in this cipher must be to change the inputs of the smallest number of s-boxes possible in f in each round.

Let ΔV be an input XOR for f for which the corresponding output XOR is zero. To ensure that such a ΔV must involve 3 or more s-boxes, the following condition is stipulated: for all pairs of s-boxes in the round function, ensure that $S_i(a) \oplus S_j(b) \neq S_i(c) \oplus S_j(d)$ except when a = c and b = d (in which case, of course, they must be equal). The probability of the characteristic for a single round could therefore be as high as $P_f = 2^{3(1-m)+y}$. Hence, assuming an N - 2 round characteristic (for an N-round cipher), the probability of the characteristic could be as high as $P_f^{(N-2)/2} = 2^{(3(1-m)+y)(N-2)/2}$, since ΔV is only used on every other round and an input XOR of zero is used otherwise.¹³

For parameters m = 8, and N = 12, and with a conservative estimate of y = 5, the characteristic probability is $\leq 2^{-80}$. This value can be decreased dramatically, if desired, by doing extra checking during the s-box construction/selection process to ensure that y < 5, or that ΔV must involve all 4 s-boxes.

Remark 2. It has been shown [30, 44] that immunity against differential attacks can only be proven through the use of differentials, not characteristics. However, since the probability of an *r*-round differential with input difference *A* and output difference *B* is the sum of the probabilities of all *r*-round characteristics with input difference *A* and output difference *B* [44], it would be necessary that there exist significantly more than 2^{16} such maximum-probability characteristics in order for a differential to exist which would threaten a cipher with a 64-bit blocksize. We therefore conjecture immunity to differential cryptanalysis for CAST-designed ciphers with this blocksize.

THEOREM 3 With respect to linear cryptanalysis, N-round ciphers designed according to the CAST procedure can be constructed with linear relations requiring a number of known plaintexts approximately equal to the total number of possible plaintexts.

Proof. The relationship in a CAST cipher between the minimum nonlinearity of the $m \times n$ substitution boxes in the round function (N_{min}) , the number of rounds in the overall cipher (N), and the number of known plaintexts required for the recovery of a single key bit with 97.7% confidence (N_L) has been given by Heys and Tavares [24]:

$$N_L \ge \frac{2^{2-4N}}{\left(\frac{2^{m-1}-N_{\min}}{2^m}\right)^{4N}} = 4 \times \left(\frac{1}{1-N_{\min}/2^{m-1}}\right)^{4N}$$

This relationship was derived by substituting α (the number of s-box linear approximations involved in the overall linear approximation) into the "piling-up lemma" of [33] to get $|p_L - \frac{1}{2}| \leq 2^{\alpha-1} |p - \frac{1}{2}|^{\alpha}$ and noting that $N_L = |p_L - \frac{1}{2}|^{-2}$ for 97.7% confidence in the suggested key. The value α was estimated at 2*N*, assuming 4 s-boxes per CAST round function (thus 4 s-boxes involved in the best 2-round approximation), and *N*/2 iterations of the best 2-round approximation. Finally, $|p - \frac{1}{2}|$ depends on the nonlinearity of the component s-boxes: $|p - \frac{1}{2}| = (\frac{2^{m-1} - N_{min}}{2^m})$. Substituting $N_{min} = 74$ and N = 12 results in N_L being lower-bounded¹⁴ by approx-

Substituting $N_{min} = 74$ and N = 12 results in N_L being lower-bounded¹⁴ by approximately 2^{62} (which appears to be adequate security for a 64-bit blocksize since there are only 2^{64} possible plaintexts and since it is not currently known how tight this lower bound is for CAST-designed ciphers). As another example, for a cipher with a 96-bit blocksize, α may be estimated at 3N (that is, the cipher may be constructed with 6 s-boxes per round); thus, for the same N_{min} and N, $N_L \ge 4 \times (\frac{1}{1-N_{\min}/2^{m-1}})^{6N} \approx 2^{96.6}$.

It should be noted that 8×32 s-boxes with minimum nonlinearity $N_{min} = 74$ have been constructed using the CAST procedure; more rounds, higher nonlinearity s-boxes, or additional operations in the round function (see Section 3.4) should all permit CAST ciphers with longer keys to be used with sufficient resistance to linear cryptanalysis.

Remark 3. Like the situation in differential cryptanalysis with characteristics and differentials, immunity to linear cryptanalysis can only be proved using "total linear relations", not "linear relations" (as used in the theorem above). However, a number of factors suggest that CAST ciphers are immune to this attack. Firstly, the lower bound for linear relations appears to be acceptably high and is not known to be tight. Secondly, the structure of the CAST round function (e.g., the XOR sum of a number of s-boxes) is such that any subset of output bits must involve data bits and key bits from each component s-box (thus, finding "useful" multi-round linear relations appears to be more difficult for CAST than for DES). Finally, the goal of linear cryptanalysis is to derive, with reasonable probability, the XOR sum of a subset of subkey bits. In DES and some other ciphers, these subkey bits not deduced by the attack recovers the entire key. In CAST, however, the subkey bits do not correspond directly to primary key bits (see Section 3.3 below or the example key schedule in Appendix A) and so it is not clear that knowing a subset of these bits will aid in any significant way in recovering the primary key.

3.3. Detailed Key Schedule Design

As indicated in Section 2.3 above, the key schedule used in the CAST design procedure has three main components: a relatively simple bit-selection algorithm mapping primary key bits to "partial key" bits; one or more "key transformation" steps; and a set of "key schedule s-boxes" which are used to create subkeys from partial keys in each round. A simple key schedule for an 8-round algorithm employing a 64-bit key is as follows (this schedule is for illustrative purposes, using a relatively small number of rounds and little complexity in order to show how an absence of *inverse*_{SR} keys can be proven; in practice, a more involved schedule (with more entropy per subkey [47]) would be used—see Appendix A, which provides a schedule for a 16-round algorithm with a 128-bit key).

Let $KEY = k_1k_2k_3k_4k_5k_6k_7k_8$, where k_i is the i^{th} byte of the primary key. The partial keys K'_i are selected from the primary key according to the following bit-selection algorithm: $K'_1 = k_1k_2$, $K'_2 = k_3k_4$, $K'_3 = k_5k_6$, $K'_4 = k_7k_8$, $K'_5 = k'_4k'_3$, $K'_6 = k'_2k'_1$, $K'_7 = k'_8k'_7$, $K'_8 = k'_6k'_5$, where KEY is transformed to $KEY' = k'_1k'_2k'_3k'_4k'_5k'_6k'_7k'_8$ between round 4 and round 5. The key transformation step is defined by:

$$k_1'k_2'k_3'k_4' = k_1k_2k_3k_4 \oplus S_1[k_5] \oplus S_2[k_7];$$

$$k_5'k_6'k_7k_8' = k_5k_6k_7k_8 \oplus S_1[k_3'] \oplus S_2[k_4'].$$

The bytes of *KEY*' are used to construct the final four partial keys, as shown above. The set of partial keys is used to construct the subkeys K_i using key schedule s-boxes S_1 and S_2 :

$$K_i = S_1(K'_{i,1}) \oplus S_2(K'_{i,2})$$

where $K'_{i,j}$ denotes the j^{th} byte of K'_i . Although a similar schedule can be constructed for a more involved 12- or 16-round system or for different block or key sizes, for simplicity of notation and concreteness of explanation, the theorem and remarks below apply to the specific example given here.

3.3.1. Definitions Related to Key Scheduling

In a block cipher, an *inverse key I* for a given encryption key *K* is defined to be a key such that $\text{ENC}_I(p) = \text{ENC}_K^{-1}(p) = \text{DEC}_K(p)$ for any plaintext vector *p*. Furthermore, a *fixed point of a key K* is a plaintext vector *x* such that $\text{ENC}_K(x) = x$ and an *anti-fixed point of a key K* is a plaintext vector *x* such that $\text{ENC}_K(x) = x$ and an *anti-fixed point of a key K* is a plaintext vector *x* such that $\text{ENC}_K(x) = x$.

From work done on cycling properties and key scheduling in DES [12, 14, 25, 40], the following definitions have been introduced. A key is *weak* if it is its own inverse (such keys generate a palindromic set of subkeys¹⁵ and have 2^{32} fixed points in DES). A key is *semi-weak* if it is not weak but its inverse is easily found—there are two subclasses: a key is *semi-weak, anti-palindromic* if its complement is its inverse (such keys generate an anti-palindromic set of subkeys¹⁶ and have 2^{32} anti-fixed points in DES); a key is *semi-weak, non-anti-palindromic* if its inverse is also semi-weak, non-anti-palindromic (such keys generate a set of subkeys with the property that $K_i \oplus K_{N+1-i} = V$, where N is the number of rounds and $V = 000 \dots 0111 \dots 1$ or $111 \dots 1000 \dots 0$ in DES). DES has 4 weak keys, 4 semi-weak anti-palindromic keys, and 8 semi-weak non-anti-palindromic keys.

Let *H* and *K* be keys which generate sets of subkeys H_i and K_i , i = 1, ..., N, respectively, for an *N*-round DES-like (Feistel-type SPN) cipher. We define *H* to be a *subkey* reflection inverse key of *K* (denoted inverse_{SR}) if $K_i = H_{N+1-i}$, i = 1, ..., N. It is clear that a subkey reflection inverse key of *K* is an inverse key of *K*; whether the converse always holds true for DES-like ciphers is an open question. Thus, for a given key K, $\{H\} \subseteq \{I\}$. In DES the semi-weak key pairs are subkey reflection inverses of each other and the weak keys are subkey reflection inverses of themselves.

3.3.2. Key Schedule Theorem and Remarks

THEOREM 4 Ciphers using the key schedule proposed in Section 3.3 can be shown to have no inverse_{SR} key $H \in \{0, 1\}^{64}$ for any key $K \in \{0, 1\}^{64}$.

Proof. There are two steps to this proof. Let $S_1[k'_2] \oplus S_2[k'_4]$ be equal to the 4-byte vector $a_1a_2a_3a_4$ and let $S_1[k_5] \oplus S_2[k_7]$ be equal to the 4-byte vector $b_1b_2b_3b_4$. In the first (general) step, we prove that for the transformation given in the key schedule of Section 3.3, if *inverse*_{SR} keys exist for the cipher then $a_1 = a_2$, $a_3 = a_4$, $b_1 = b_2$, and $b_3 = b_4$ all simultaneously hold. The second step, which is specific to each implementation of the CAST design, is to examine the specific s-boxes chosen in the implementation to verify

that the equalities do not hold simultaneously (note that s-boxes satisfying this condition do exist).

Step 1: THEOREM For the transformation given in the key schedule of Section 3.3, if inverse_{SR} keys exist for the cipher then the subkeys $K_i = H_{N+1-i}$ (by definition) and the partial keys $K'_i = H'_{N+1-i}$ (by construction of the key schedule s-boxes; see Section 3.1). Therefore, $a_1 = a_2$, $a_3 = a_4$, $b_1 = b_2$, and $b_3 = b_4$ all simultaneously hold, where a_i and b_i are defined as above.

Proof. Let *H* and *K* be cipher keys whose respective key schedules are given by Section 3.3. If *H* is the inverse_{SR} of *K* then $h_1 = k'_6$, $h_2 = k'_5$, $h_3 = k'_8$, $h_4 = k'_7$, $h_5 = k'_2$, $h_6 = k'_1$, $h_7 = k'_4$, $h_8 = k'_3$, and $h'_1 = k_6$, $h'_2 = k_5$, $h'_3 = k_8$, $h'_4 = k_7$, $h'_5 = k_2$, $h'_6 = k_1$, $h'_7 = k_4$, $h'_8 = k_3$. Substituting these equalities into the key schedule transformation step gives:

$$h'_{1}h'_{2}h'_{3}h'_{4} = h_{1}h_{2}h_{3}h_{4} \oplus S_{1}[h_{5}] \oplus S_{2}[h_{7}]$$

or $k_{6}k_{5}k_{8}k_{7} = k'_{6}k'_{5}k'_{8}k'_{7} \oplus S_{1}[k'_{2}] \oplus S_{2}[k'_{4}]$
 $= k'_{6}k'_{5}k'_{8}k'_{7} \oplus k_{5}k_{6}k_{7}k_{8} \oplus k'_{5}k'_{6}k'_{7}k'_{8}$

$$h'_{5}h'_{6}h'_{7}h'_{8} = h_{5}h_{6}h_{7}h_{8} \oplus S_{1}[h'_{2}] \oplus S_{2}[h'_{4}]$$

or $k_{2}k_{1}k_{4}k_{3} = k'_{2}k'_{1}k'_{4}k'_{3} \oplus S_{1}[k_{5}] \oplus S_{2}[k_{7}]$
 $= k'_{5}k'_{1}k'_{4}k'_{3} \oplus k_{1}k_{2}k_{3}k_{4} \oplus k'_{1}k'_{2}k'_{3}k'_{4}$

Therefore, $k_6 = k'_6 \oplus k_5 \oplus k'_5 = k'_6 \oplus a_1$, whence $a_1 = a_2$. Similarly, the remaining substitutions yield $a_3 = a_4$, $b_1 = b_2$, and $b_3 = b_4$. Note that these must hold simultaneously since the equalities given for the h_i and k_i necessarily hold simultaneously.

Step 2: For any specific implementation of the CAST design, the key schedule s-boxes $(S_1 \text{ and } S_2)$ can be examined to determine whether $a_1 = a_2$, $a_3 = a_4$, $b_1 = b_2$, and $b_3 = b_4$ hold simultaneously. If these do not hold simultaneously then the cipher has been shown to have no inverse_{SR} key *H* for any given key *K* (otherwise a new S₁ and S₂ can be chosen and Step 2 can be repeated).

Although the proof above applies to an 8-round implementation of a CAST cipher, the result can be extended to higher numbers of rounds. This may be done by modifying the proof itself (using essentially the same format and procedure, but with notation based on the new key schedule), or simply by using the eight subkeys above as the first four and last four subkeys in an *N*-round cipher (N > 8). This latter approach works because if the cipher has inverse_{SR} keys, then certain equalities must hold between the first four and last four subkeys. Verifying that the equalities do not hold for these eight subkeys, then, ensures that the *N*-round cipher has no inverse_{SR} keys.

ASSERTION 3 Ciphers using the key schedule proposed in this paper are immune to relatedkey cryptanalysis as described in [9].

Discussion. There are no related keys [27, 9] in the key schedule described in Section 3.3 (i.e., the derivation algorithm of a subkey from previous subkeys is not the same in all rounds because of the construction procedure and the transformation step), and so ciphers using this key schedule are not vulnerable to the "chosen-key-chosen-plaintext", "chosen-key-known-plaintext", or "chosen-plaintext-unknown-related-keys" attacks as described in [9].

Remark 4. From Theorem 4 above, this key schedule avoids all inverse_{SR} keys. It is therefore guaranteed to avoid the fixed points associated with weak and semi-weak keys in DES (since using this key schedule in DES would guarantee the non-existence of weak and semi-weak keys). From all evidence available thus far in the open literature, fixed points have only been easily¹⁷ found in DES-like ciphers for weak and semi-weak keys; we therefore conjecture that ciphers using the key schedule proposed in Section 3.3 have *no easily-found fixed points for any key*.

Remark 5. The CAST procedure has no known *complementation properties* (unlike DES, for example) and so CAST-designed ciphers appear not to be vulnerable to reduced key searches based on this type of weakness.

Theorem 4 and the above remarks regarding the key schedule are due to the fact that s-boxes are employed in the schedule itself (i.e., in the *generation* of the subkeys), rather than simply in the *use* of the subkeys. To the author's knowledge, this is a novel proposal in key scheduling which appears to have some interesting properties.

3.4. Detailed Round Function Design

The round function given in Section 2.4 for a CAST cipher with a 64-bit blocksize and 8×32 s-boxes can be illustrated as follows. A 32-bit data half is input to the function along with a subkey K_i . These two quantities are combined using operation "a" and the 32-bit result is split into four 8-bit pieces. Each piece is input to a different 8×32 s-box $(S1, \ldots, S4)$. S-boxes S_1 and S_2 are combined using operation "b"; the result is combined with S_3 using operation "c"; this second result is combined with S_4 using operation "d". The final 32-bit result is the output of the round function.

A simple way to complete the definition of the CAST round function is to specify that all operations (a, b, c, and d) are XOR additions of 32-bit quantities, although other—more complex—operations may be used instead (for example, see the discussion in the following subsection regarding the first operation a).

ASSERTION 4 The CAST round function exhibits good confusion, diffusion, and avalanche.



Figure 2. CAST round function.

Discussion. It is not difficult to see that the round function possesses these properties due to the fact that the component s-boxes possess these properties (Assertion 1).

Remark 6. Although confusion, diffusion, and avalanche are somewhat vague terms and cannot be proven formally, they can be argued on an intuitive level for the CAST sboxes and round function. Note that a round function which achieves all three properties simultaneously should lead to a faster buildup of complexity and data/key interdependency in a Feistel network than a round function which does not. This appears to be the case for CAST ciphers, which show very good statistical properties after only 2–3 rounds whereas DES, for example, requires 5–6 rounds to display similar properties.¹⁸

THEOREM 5 For appropriate design choices, the CAST round function is guaranteed to exhibit highest-order SAC for both plaintext and key changes.

Proof. Given that each s-box satisfies the avalanche property and guarantees highestorder SAC¹⁹ (see Section 3.1), any change to the input of s-box S_i causes approximately half its output bits to change. If operations b, c, and d in the round function f are XOR addition (see above), then approximately half the bits in the modified message half will be inverted. Let V be the vector of changes to the output of S_i when its input is changed. Then $V = (v_1, v_2, \dots, v_n)$, where v_i is a random binary variable with $Prob(v_i = 0) = Prob(v_i = 0)$ 1) = 1/2. Similarly, let $W = (w_1, w_2, \dots, w_n)$ be the vector of changes to s-box S_i when its input is changed. Clearly, if $Z = V \oplus W$, then $Prob(z_i = 0) = Prob(v_i = w_i) = 1/2$ if v_i and w_i are independent (that is, have a correlation coefficient of zero over all possible inputs). This is guaranteed for S_i and S_i if columns ϕ_i and ϕ_i in the corresponding s-box matrices sum (modulo 2) to a bent vector. This means that if changes are made to both S_i and S_i , it is still the case that the outputs of f will change with probability 1/2. This argument generalizes to any number of the s-boxes (once the corresponding output bits are independent), which proves that any change to the input of f changes each bit in the output of f with probability 1/2 over all inputs. The limit to the number of $m \times n$ s-boxes with independent corresponding output bits is a direct result of Nyberg's "perfect" s-box theorem: it is m/2. Therefore, if $t \le m/2$ (where t is the number of s-boxes used for the data half in f), the simplest way to achieve the independence is to choose the corresponding columns in the s-box matrices such that they are the columns of an $m \times m/2$ "perfect" s-box. Note that key/ciphertext highest-order SAC imposes no requirement beyond that needed for plaintext/ciphertext highest-order SAC because of the definition of f.

Remark 7. In practice, close proximity to highest-order SAC appears to be readily achieved for the CAST round function without the requirement that operations b, c, and d be XOR addition and even without the requirement that perfect s-boxes be used as the columns for corresponding output bits.

ASSERTION 5 For appropriate design choices, the CAST round function exhibits close proximity to highest-order BIC for both plaintext and key changes.

Discussion. A similar argument to the one above can be used to show that close proximity to highest-order BIC can be achieved for both plaintext and key changes when operations b, c, and d are XOR addition. Again, however, in practice it appears that this property is readily achieved for the CAST round function whether or not XOR addition is used as the binary operation.

Remark 8. Although this seems to be difficult to prove theoretically, the above properties of the round function (confusion, diffusion, avalanche, highest-order SAC, and highest-order BIC) lend evidence to the conjecture that an *N*-round CAST cipher employing such a round function will behave as a random permutation for arbitrary input bit changes.

3.4.1. Operation "a" and Intrinsic Immunity to Attacks

As discussed previously, the number of rounds and the properties of the round function s-boxes can be chosen to provide *computational* immunity to differential and linear cryptanalysis. We now discuss the proposal that extra work in the round function—specifically, some care in the choice of operation "*a*"—can conceivably give *intrinsic* immunity to these attacks (in that the attacks as described in [8, 33] can no longer be mounted); see also Section 4.2.

3.4.1.1. Differential and Linear Cryptanalysis

Differential and linear cryptanalysis (chosen- and known-plaintext attacks, respectively) are similar in flavour in that both rely on s-box properties to formulate an attack on a single sbox. Each then generalizes this to attack the round function and extends the round function attack to create a number of characteristics for the overall cipher. The most successful characteristic (that is, the one with highest probability) theoretically breaks the cipher if its work factor is less than the work factor for exhaustive search of the key space (even if the attack requires an impractical amount of chosen or known plaintext). In terms of notation, for the DES round function let *R* be the data input, *K* be the subkey, $E(\bullet)$ be the expansion step, $S(\bullet)$ be the s-box step, $P(\bullet)$ be the permutation step, and R' be the function output. Furthermore, let $X = E(R) \oplus K$ and Y = S(X), so that R' = P(Y). Finally, let *L* be the left half of the data which is not input to the round function.

In differential cryptanalysis the s-box property which is exploited is its "input XOR" to "output XOR" mapping, where a specific ΔX leads to a specific ΔY with high probability. Due to the linearity in the $E(\bullet)$ and $P(\bullet)$ operations with respect to XOR, $\Delta X = X_1 \oplus X_2 = E(R_1) \oplus K \oplus E(R_2) \oplus K = E(R_1) \oplus E(R_2) = E(\Delta R)$ during two encryptions with the same key, and $\Delta R' = P(Y_1) \oplus P(Y_2) = P(\Delta Y)$. Thus ΔR pairs can be found which result in "useful" $\Delta R'$ pairs, where a $\Delta R'$ pair is "useful" in this context if it can act as a desired ΔR pair in the following round, so that round function attacks can be iterated and concatenated into characteristics with high overall probability.

In linear cryptanalysis the s-box property which is exploited is linearity. Let $\Sigma(\bullet)$ be the XOR sum of a specific subset of the bits in the argument and let $\Sigma_p(\bullet)$ be the XOR sum of the permuted indices of the subset of bits used in $\Sigma(\bullet)$ with respect to the permutation $P(\bullet)$. Then $\Sigma(Y) = \Sigma(X)$ with high probability. Again due to linearity, $\Sigma(Y) = \Sigma(E(R) \oplus K) = \Sigma(E(R)) \oplus \Sigma(K)$, and so $\Sigma(K) = \Sigma(E(R)) \oplus \Sigma(Y)$. Since knowing *R* immediately yields $\Sigma(E(R))$ and knowing *R'* immediately yields $\Sigma_p(R') = \Sigma_p(P(Y)) = \Sigma(Y)$, various *R* can be found which result in "useful" *R'*, where an *R'* is "useful" in this context if it can be XOR'ed with a desired $\Sigma(L)$ from the previous round to yield a desired $\Sigma(R)$ for the following round, so that round function attacks can be iterated and concatenated into characteristics with high overall probability.

3.4.1.2. Modification of Operation "a"

The goal behind modifying the round function is to eliminate the possibility of both differential and linear cryptanalytic attacks (as described in [8, 33]) against the cipher. This is done by inserting a nonlinear, key-dependent operation before the s-box lookup to effectively mask the inputs to the set of s-boxes. If these inputs are well "hidden", then s-box properties (such as the input XOR to output XOR mapping, or linearity) cannot be exploited in a general round function attack because the actual inputs to the s-boxes will not be known.

More specifically, the following modification to the round function f is proposed:

$$f(R, K) = f(R, K_1, K_2) = S(a(R \oplus K1, K2))$$

where $a(\bullet, \bullet)$ is an operation with properties as defined below. For DES, the expansion operation can be placed either around R or around $(R \oplus K_1)$ —that is, $f(R, K) = S(a(E(R) \oplus K_1, K_2))$ or $f(R, K) = S(a(E(R \oplus K_1), K_2))$ —depending on whether K_1 is 32 or 48 bits in length. As well, the permutation operation can be placed around $S(\bullet)$ as is done in the current round definition.

Several properties are required of the function $a(\bullet, \bullet)$. These will be discussed below, but they are enumerated here for reference.

- (1) The subset sum operation must not be distributive over $a(\bullet, \bullet)$.
- (2) $a(\bullet, \bullet)$ must represent a nonlinear mapping from its input to its output, so that any linear change in either input leads to a nonlinear change in the output vector.
- (3) $a(\bullet, \bullet)$ must effectively "hide" its R (or E(R)) input if K_1 and K_2 are unknown (in the sense that there must be no way to cancel the effect of the keys in the round function using an operation on a single R value or a pair of R values).
- (4) a(●, ●) must be relatively simple to implement in software (in terms of code size and complexity).
- (5) $a(\bullet, \bullet)$ must execute efficiently (no more slowly than the remainder of the round function, for example).

A function which appears to encompass all the properties listed above is modular multiplication, for an appropriate choice of modulus. If R, K_1 , and K_2 are 32 bits in length, two candidate moduli²⁰ are $(2^{32} - 1)$ and $(2^{32} + 1)$. Meijer [35] describes a simple algorithm to carry out multiplication modulo $(2^{32} - 1)$ in a high-level language using only 32-bit registers, and has shown that multiplication with this modulus is a "complete" operation (in that every input bit has the potential to modify every output bit [26]), so that this modulus appears to satisfy nonlinearity, simplicity, and data hiding. However, this modulus does not satisfy the third property ideally, since zero always maps to zero, and $(2^{32} - 1)$ always maps to either $(2^{32} - 1)$ or zero (depending on the implementation), regardless of the key in use. (Note, however, that in a practical implementation it is a simple matter to ensure that the computed subkey K_2 is never equal to 0 or to $(2^{32} - 1)$, and masking R with K_1

ensures that it is not easy for the cryptanalyst to choose R such that $(R \oplus K_1)$ is equal to 0 or to $(2^{32} - 1)$.)

The modulus $(2^{32} + 1)$ may be a better choice with respect to property three than $(2^{32} - 1)$ if either of two simple manipulations are performed. Firstly, each input can be incremented by one, so that the computation is actually done with (R + 1) and (K + 1). Thus the arguments belong to the set $[1, 2^{32}]$ rather than $[0, 2^{32} - 1]$, avoiding both the zero and the $(2^{32} + 1)$ "fixed point" inputs. Alternatively, the inputs can be left as is (so that the computation is done with R and K), with the zero input mapped to the value 2^{32} (and the 2^{32} output mapped back to zero). Implementation of multiplication using this modulus is thus only slightly more difficult using a high- level language with 32-bit registers than for the modulus $(2^{32} - 1)$, and on platforms where the assembly language instructions give access to the full 64-bit result of a 32-bit multiply operation, the modular reduction can be accomplished quite simply and efficiently. Furthermore, as for $(2^{32} - 1)$, multiplication with this modulus represents a nonlinear mapping from input to output.

In order to ensure that the modular multiplication does not perform badly with respect to property three, it is necessary that the subkey K_2 be relatively prime to the modulus. Thus, when the subkeys are being generated, the K_2 used in each round must not have 3, 5, 17, 257, or 65537 as factors if the modulus $n = (2^{32} - 1)$, and must not have 641 or 6700417 as factors if $n = (2^{32} + 1)$.

Finally, it appears that either modulus can be used to satisfy property one, since the subset sum operation is not distributive over modular multiplication.

3.4.1.3. Making the Round Function Intrinsically Immune to Differential Cryptanalysis

Property three listed above prevents a differential attack as described by Biham and Shamir, and property two prevents a simple modification to their description. Recall the equation given in Section 3.4.1.1:

$$\Delta X = X_1 \oplus X_2 = E(R_1) \oplus K \oplus E(R_2) \oplus K = E(R_1) \oplus E(R_2) = E(\Delta R)$$

during two encryptions with the same key. This is the critical component of the differential attack because it shows that the XOR sum of two data inputs (R_1 and R_2) completely determines the input XOR for the round s-boxes. This is why this attack would ideally be mounted using chosen plaintext (so that the cryptanalyst can select the input XORs which will construct the highest-probability characteristic). Property three prevents such an attack with the requirement that no operation on a pair of R values can cancel the effect of the key. Modular multiplication appears to achieve property three in the modified equation

$$\Delta X = X_1 \oplus X_2$$

= $a(R_1 \oplus K_1, K_2) \oplus a(R_2 \oplus K_1, K_2)$
= $(((R_1 \oplus K_1) * K_2) \mod n) \oplus (((R_2 \oplus K_1) * K_2) \mod n)$

since knowledge of R_1 and R_2 does not seem to reveal ΔX if K_1 and K_2 are not known. Thus, the input XOR to output XOR mapping of the round s-boxes cannot be exploited through knowledge/choice of R_1 and R_2 . Modular multiplication also appears to satisfy property two because it is not obvious that any simple modification to the differential attack will cause knowledge of R_1 and R_2 to reveal information about ΔX if K_1 and K_2 are not known. This is not true of arbitrary operations which may be proposed for $a(\bullet, \bullet)$. For example, if $a(\bullet, \bullet)$ is real addition (modulo *n*), then re-defining ΔX to be subtraction (modulo *n*) yields

$$\Delta X = (X_1 - X_2) \mod n$$

= $(a(R_1 \oplus K_1, K_2) - a(R_2 \oplus K_1, K_2)) \mod n$
= $((((R_1 \oplus K_1) + K_2) \mod n) - (((R_2 \oplus K_1) + K_2) \mod n)) \mod n$
= $((R_1 \oplus K_1) - (R_2 \oplus K_1)) \mod n$

In such a situation the difference between R_1 and R_2 (XOR or real subtraction) reveals a significant amount of information about ΔX which may be used in subsequent rounds to construct a characteristic.

3.4.1.4. Making the Round Function Intrinsically Immune to Linear Cryptanalysis

Property one given above prevents a linear attack as described by Matsui. Recall the equation given in Section 3.4.1.1:

$$\Sigma(Y) = \Sigma(X) = \Sigma(E(R) \oplus K) = \Sigma(E(R)) \oplus \Sigma(K)$$

Therefore, $\Sigma(K) = \Sigma(E(R)) \oplus \Sigma(Y)$

This is the critical component of the linear attack because the distributive nature of the subset sum operation $\Sigma(\bullet)$ over the XOR operation may allow the equivalent of one key bit to be computed²¹ using only knowledge of $\Sigma(E(R))$ and $\Sigma(Y)$. This is why this attack would typically be mounted using known plaintext (so that the cryptanalyst can use knowledge of $\Sigma(plaintext)$ and $\Sigma(ciphertext)$ to work through intermediate rounds to solve for various key bits). Property one prevents such an attack by the requirement that $\Sigma(\bullet)$ not be distributive over $a(\bullet, \bullet)$. Modular multiplication appears to achieve this requirement,²² as seen in the modified equation

$$\Sigma(Y) = \Sigma(X) = \Sigma(((R \oplus K_1) * K_2) \mod n)$$

since it appears that this equation cannot be rearranged in any way to solve for subset sums of K_1 and K_2 given only subset sums of R and Y. (Note that either E(R) or $E(R \oplus K_1)$ may be substituted in the above equation, if required.)

3.4.1.5. Implementing Operation "a" in a CAST Cipher

A CAST cipher implemented with a blocksize and keysize of 64 bits, four 8×32 s-boxes $S1, \ldots, S4$ in the round function, and 32-bit subkeys in each round, appears to require more chosen/known plaintexts for differential and linear attacks than exist for that blocksize if 12 or more rounds are used. If operations *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* are all XOR addition, the round

function f may be computed simply as:

$$f(R, K) = S_1(B^{(1)}) \oplus \cdots \oplus S_4(B^{(4)})$$

where $B = R \oplus K$ and $B^{(j)}$ is the j^{th} byte of B. Application of the technique described in this section yields the modified computation of operation "a", where f remains identical but B is now computed as

$$B = ((R \oplus K_1) * K_2) \mod n$$

Examination of the assembly language instructions required for the modular multiplication step alone (using either $(2^{32} - 1)$ or $(2^{32} + 1)$ as the modulus) shows that multiplication takes approximately the same amount of time as the remainder of the round on a Pentium-class PC, so that there is a performance impact of about a factor of two, compared with a version of CAST where operation "a" is simple XOR addition.

4. Alternative Operations and Design Choices

A number of options are available both for the round function operations and for the framework design which do not appear to compromise security and do not degrade encryption/decryption performance of the resulting cipher. In fact, for some choices it appears that security or performance may be enhanced, thus motivating the use of these alternatives in practice and encouraging further research into a proof of security for each alternative. If such proofs become available, the corresponding options will be formally incorporated into the CAST design procedure. Note that all alternatives have been included in the example cipher given in Section 5, primarily to stimulate analysis of these options in the context of a real cipher, but also because the author believes these to be good design choices.

4.1. Binary Operations in the Round Function

Throughout this paper the operations *b*, *c*, and *d* in the round function (as well as at least part of operation *a*) have been specified as the XOR of two binary quantities. It should be clear, however, that other binary operations may be used instead. Particularly attractive are addition and subtraction modulo 2^{32} , since these operations take no more time than XOR and so will not degrade encryption/decryption performance in any way. Experimental evidence suggests that using such alternative operations may significantly increase security against linear cryptanalysis [56], but this is yet to be proven formally.

4.2. Extension to Operation "a"

Discussed in Section 3.4.1 was the proposal to add extra computation (using extra key bits) to the operation "a" in the round function. The specific computation suggested was multiplication with another 32-bit subkey using a modulus of either $(2^{32} - 1)$ or $(2^{32} + 1)$.

However, it was noted that this suggestion can degrade performance by as much as a factor of two. An alternative operation which appears to be quite attractive is rotation (i.e., circular shifting) by a given number of bits. This operation is similar to the central operation of the cipher RC5 [48], except that here we suggest a key-dependent rotation (controlled by a 5-bit subkey) rather than a data-dependent rotation, since data-dependent rotation appears to be less appropriate for a Feistel-type structure.

The extended "a" operation for a CAST cipher with a 64-bit blocksize is then

 $a(R, K) = a(R, K_1, K_2) = ((R \bullet K_1) < < K_2),$

where "•" is any binary operation (such as XOR or addition modulo 2^{32}), "<<<" is the circular left shift operator, K_1 is a 32-bit subkey, and K_2 is a 5-bit subkey. The primary advantage of the rotation operation over modular multiplication is speed: on typical computing platforms the *n*-bit rotation ($0 \le n \le 31$) specified by K_2 can be accomplished in a small number of clock cycles, thus causing very minor performance degradation in the overall cipher. Rotation satisfies property (1) from Section 3.4.1.2 because it prevents a linear attack as described by Matsui for all cases except the extreme case where the input subset considered consists of the full set of input bits. It is highly unlikely that this extreme case applied in every round of an *N*-round cipher will describe a successful linear characteristic for the cipher.

4.3. Non-Uniformity within the Round Function

The discussion thus far implies that the binary operation in *b*, *c*, and *d* (and at least part of *a*) must be the same in all four instances (e.g., XOR). However, there is no reason that this needs to be the case. For example, it would be perfectly acceptable for *b* and *d* to use addition modulo 2^{32} while *c* uses XOR (this is precisely the combination used in the Blowfish cipher [49]). Certainly many variations are possible, and while it is not clear that any one variation is significantly better than any other, it does appear to be the case that the use of different operations within *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* can add to the security of the overall cipher (note that the IDEA cipher has long advanced the conviction that operations over different groups contribute to cipher security [29, 30]).

4.4. Non-Uniformity from Round to Round

Another design option is to vary the definition of the round function itself from round to round. Thus, in an N-round cipher there may be as many as N distinct rounds, or there may be a smaller number of distinct rounds with each type of round being used a certain number of times. The variations in the round definitions may be due to the kinds of options mentioned in the previous subsection or may be more complex in nature.

Whether the idea of a number of distinct rounds [55] in a cipher adds in any significant way to its cryptographic security is an open question. However, there is no evidence thus far that variations resulting from mixed operations (as suggested in Section 4.3) can in any way weaken the cipher and lead to its cryptanalysis.

5. An Example CAST Cipher

In order to facilitate detailed analysis of the CAST design procedure, and as an aid to understanding the procedure itself, an example CAST cipher (an output of the design procedure described in this paper) is provided in this section (with further details given in Appendices A, B, and C). This 16-round cipher has a blocksize of 64 bits and a keysize of 128 bits; it uses rotation in operation *a* to provide intrinsic immunity to linear and differential attacks; it uses a mixture of XOR, addition and subtraction (modulo 2^{32}) in the operations *a*, *b*, *c*, and *d* in the round function; and it uses three variations of the round function itself throughout the cipher. Finally, the 8 × 32 s-boxes used in the round function each have a minimum nonlinearity of 74 and a maximum entry of 2 in the difference distribution table.

This example cipher appears to have cryptographic strength in accordance with its keysize (128 bits) and has very good encryption/decryption performance: 3.3 MBytes/sec on a 150 MHz Pentium processor.

In order to simplify future reference (i.e., to disambiguate this example from any other CAST-designed cipher discussed elsewhere), this example cipher will be referred to as CAST-128.

5.1. Pairs of Round Keys

CAST-128 uses a pair of subkeys per round; a 32-bit quantity K_m is used as a "masking" key and a 5-bit quantity K_r is used as a "rotation" key.

5.2. Non-Identical Rounds

Three different round functions are used in CAST-128. The rounds are as follows (where "D" is the data input to the *f* function and "I_a"—"I_d" are the most significant byte through least significant byte of I, respectively). Note that "+" and "-" are addition and subtraction modulo 2^{32} , "^" is bitwise XOR, and "<<<" is the circular left-shift operation.

Type 1: $I = ((K_{mi} + D) < < K_{ri})$ $f = ((S1[I_a] ^ S2[I_b]) - S3[I_c]) + S4[I_d]$ Type 2: $I = ((K_{mi} ^ D) < < K_{ri})$ $f = ((S1[I_a] - S2[I_b]) + S3[I_c]) ^ S4[I_d]$ Type 3: $I = ((K_{mi} - D) < < K_{ri})$ $f = ((S1[I_a] + S2[I_b]) ^ S3[I_c]) - S4[I_d]$

Rounds 1, 4, 7, 10, 13, and 16 use f function Type 1. Rounds 2, 5, 8, 11, and 14 use f function Type 2. Rounds 3, 6, 9, 12, and 15 use f function Type 3.

5.3. Key Schedule

Let the 128-bit key be x0x1x2x3x4x5x6x7x8x9xAxBxCxDxExF, where x0 represents the most significant byte and xF represents the least significant byte.

See Appendix A for a detailed description of how to generate K_{mi} and K_{ri} from this key.

5.4. Substitution Boxes

CAST-128 uses eight substitution boxes: s-boxes S1, S2, S3, and S4 are round function s-boxes; S5, S6, S7, and S8 are key schedule s-boxes. Although 8 s-boxes require a total of 8 KBytes of storage, note that only 4 KBytes are required during actual encryption/decryption since subkey generation is typically done prior to any data input. See Appendix B for the contents of s-boxes S1–S8.

6. Conclusions

The CAST design procedure can be used to produce a family of encryption algorithms which appear to have good resistance to differential cryptanalysis, linear cryptanalysis, and related-key cryptanalysis, as described in the literature. CAST ciphers also possess a number of other desirable cryptographic properties and have good encryption / decryption speed on common computing platforms.

Analysis of the procedure described in this paper by members of the cryptologic community is strongly encouraged so as to increase confidence in the various aspects of the design presented.

Acknowledgments

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Appendix A

This appendix provides full details of the CAST-128 key schedule (see Section 5).

A.1. Key Schedule

Let the 128-bit key be x0x1x2x3x4x5x6x7x8x9xAxBxCxDxExF, where x0 represents the most significant byte and xF represents the least significant byte.

Let $\kappa_{m1}, \ldots, \kappa_{m16}$ be sixteen 32-bit masking subkeys (one per round). Let $\kappa_{r1}, \ldots, \kappa_{r16}$ be sixteen 32-bit rotate subkeys (one per round); only the least significant 5 bits are used in each round.

Let z0,..., zF be intermediate (temporary) bytes. Let Si[] represent s-box i and let "^" represent XOR addition.

The subkeys are formed from the key x0x1x2x3x4x5x6x7x8x9xAxBxCxDxExF as follows.

$z0z1z2z3 = x0x1x2x3$ ^	S5[xD] ^	S6[xF] ^	S7[xC] ^	S8[xE]	^	S7[x8]
z4z5z6z7 = x8x9xAxB ^	S5[z0] ^	S6[z2] ^	S7[z1] ^	S8[z3]	^	S8[xA]
z8z9zAzB = xCxDxExF ^	S5[z7] ^	S6[z6] ^	S7[z5] ^	S8[z4]	^	S5[x9]
$zCzDzEzF = x4x5x6x7$ ^	S5[zA] ^	S6[z9] ^	S7[zB] ^	S8[z8]	^	S6[xB]
K1 = S5[z8] ^ S6[z9]	^ S7[z7]	^ S8[z6]	^ S5[z2]			
K2 = S5[zA] ^ S6[zB]	^ S7[z5]	^ S8[z4]	^ S6[z6]			
K3 = S5[zC] ^ S6[zD]	^ S7[z3]	^ S8[z2]	^ S7[z9]			
K4 = S5[zE] ^ S6[zF]	^ S7[z1]	^ S8[z0]	^ S8[zC]			
$x0x1x2x3 = z8z9zAzB$ ^	S5[z5] ^	S6[z7] ^	S7[z4] ^	S8[z6]	^	S7[z0]
x4x5x6x7 = z0z1z2z3 ^	S5[x0] ^	S6[x2] ^	S7[x1] ^	S8[x3]	^	S8[z2]
$x8x9xAxB = z4z5z6z7$ ^	S5[x7] ^	S6[x6] ^	S7[x5] ^	S8[x4]	^	S5[z1]
xCxDxExF = zCzDzEzF ^	S5[xA] ^	S6[x9] ^	S7[xB] ^	S8[x8]	^	S6[z3]
K5 = S5[x3] S6[x2]	^ S7[xC]	^ S8[xD]	^ S5[x8]			
K6 = S5[x1] ^ S6[x0]	^ S7[xE]	^ S8[xF]	^ S6[xD]			
K7 = S5[x7] S6[x6]	^ S7[x8]	^ S8[x9]	^ S7[x3]			
K8 = S5[x5] S6[x4]	^ S7[xA]	^ S8[xB]	^ S8[x7]			
z0z1z2z3 = x0x1x2x3 ^	S5[xD] ^	S6[xF] ^	S7[xC] ^	S8[xE]	^	S7[x8]
z4z5z6z7 = x8x9xAxB ^	S5[z0] ^	S6[z2] ^	S7[z1] ^	S8[z3]	^	S8[xA]
z8z9zAzB = xCxDxExF ^	S5[z7] ^	S6[z6] ^	S7[z5] ^	S8[z4]	^	S5[x9]
$zCzDzEzF = x4x5x6x7$ ^	S5[zA] ^	S6[z9] ^	S7[zB] ^	S8[z8]	^	S6[xB]
K9 = S5[z3] S6[z2]	^ S7[zC]	^ S8[zD]	^ S5[z9]			
K10 = S5[z1] ^ S6[z0]	^ S7[zE]	^	^ S6[zC]			
$K11 = S5[z7]$ ^ $S6[z6]$	^ S7[z8]	^ S8[z9]	^ S7[z2]			
$K12 = S5[z5]$ ^ $S6[z4]$	^ S7[zA]	^	^ S8[z6]			
$x0x1x2x3 = z8z9zAzB$ ^	S5[z5] ^	S6[z7] ^	S7[z4] ^	S8[z6]	^	S7[z0]
x4x5x6x7 = z0z1z2z3 ^	S5[x0] ^	S6[x2] ^	S7[x1] ^	S8[x3]	^	S8[z2]
$x8x9xAxB = z4z5z6z7$ ^	S5[x7] ^	S6[x6] ^	S7[x5] ^	S8[x4]	^	S5[z1]
xCxDxExF = zCzDzEzF ^	S5[xA] ^	S6[x9] ^	S7[xB] ^	S8[x8]	^	S6[z3]
$K13 = S5[x8]$ ^ $S6[x9]$	^ S7[x7]	^ S8[x6]	^ S5[x3]			
K14 = S5[xA] ^ S6[xB]	^ S7[x5]	^ S8[x4]	^ S6[x7]			
$K15 = S5[xC]$ ^ $S6[xD]$	^ S7[x3]	^ S8[x2]	^ S7[x8]			
$K16 = S5[xE]$ ^ $S6[xF]$	^ S7[x1]	^ S8[x0]	^ S8[xD]			

[The remaining half is identical to what is given above, carrying on from the last created x0...xF to generate keys $\kappa_{17} - \kappa_{32}$.]

ADAMS

```
z0z1z2z3 = x0x1x2x3 ^ S5[xD] ^ S6[xF] ^ S7[xC] ^ S8[xE] ^ S7[x8]
z4z5z6z7 = x8x9xAxB ^ S5[z0] ^ S6[z2] ^ S7[z1] ^ S8[z3] ^ S8[xA]
z8z9zAzB = xCxDxExF ^ S5[z7] ^ S6[z6] ^ S7[z5] ^ S8[z4] ^ S5[x9]
zCzDzEzF = x4x5x6x7 ^ S5[zA] ^ S6[z9] ^ S7[zB] ^ S8[z8] ^ S6[xB]
K17 = S5[z8] ^{S6[z9]} ^{S7[z7]} ^{S8[z6]} ^{S5[z2]}
K18 = S5[zA]^{\circ} S6[zB]^{\circ} S7[z5]^{\circ} S8[z4]^{\circ} S6[z6]
K19 = S5[zC] ^ S6[zD] ^ S7[z3] ^ S8[z2] ^ S7[z9]
K20 = S5[zE] ^ S6[zF] ^ S7[z1] ^ S8[z0] ^ S8[zC]
x0x1x2x3 = z8z9zAzB ^ S5[z5] ^ S6[z7] ^ S7[z4] ^ S8[z6] ^ S7[z0]
x4x5x6x7 = z0z1z2z3 ^ S5[x0] ^ S6[x2] ^ S7[x1] ^ S8[x3] ^ S8[z2]
x8x9xAxB = z4z5z6z7 ^ S5[x7] ^ S6[x6] ^ S7[x5] ^ S8[x4] ^ S5[z1]
xCxDxExF = zCzDzEzF ^ S5[xA] ^ S6[x9] ^ S7[xB] ^ S8[x8] ^ S6[z3]
K21 = S5[x3] ^ S6[x2] ^ S7[xC] ^ S8[xD] ^ S5[x8]
K22 = S5[x1] ^ S6[x0] ^ S7[xE] ^ S8[xF] ^ S6[xD]
K23 = S5[x7] ^ S6[x6] ^ S7[x8] ^ S8[x9] ^ S7[x3]
K24 = S5[x5] ^ S6[x4] ^ S7[xA] ^ S8[xB] ^ S8[x7]
z0z1z2z3 = x0x1x2x3 ^ S5[xD] ^ S6[xF] ^ S7[xC] ^ S8[xE] ^ S7[x8]
z4z5z6z7 = x8x9xAxB ^ S5[z0] ^ S6[z2] ^ S7[z1] ^ S8[z3] ^ S8[xA]
z8z9zAzB = xCxDxExF ^ S5[z7] ^ S6[z6] ^ S7[z5] ^ S8[z4] ^ S5[x9]
zCzDzEzF = x4x5x6x7 ^ S5[zA] ^ S6[z9] ^ S7[zB] ^ S8[z8] ^ S6[xB]
K25 = S5[z3] ^ S6[z2] ^ S7[zC] ^ S8[zD] ^ S5[z9]
K26 = S5[z1]^{S6[z0]}^{S7[zE]}^{S8[zF]}^{S6[zC]}
K27 = S5[z7] S6[z6] S7[z8] S8[z9] S7[z2]
K28 = S5[z5] ^ S6[z4] ^ S7[zA] ^ S8[zB] ^ S8[z6]
x0x1x2x3 = z8z9zAzB ^ S5[z5] ^ S6[z7] ^ S7[z4] ^ S8[z6] ^ S7[z0]
x4x5x6x7 = z0z1z2z3 ^ S5[x0] ^ S6[x2] ^ S7[x1] ^ S8[x3] ^ S8[z2]
x8x9xAxB = z4z5z6z7 ^ S5[x7] ^ S6[x6] ^ S7[x5] ^ S8[x4] ^ S5[z1]
xCxDxExF = zCzDzEzF ^ S5[xA] ^ S6[x9] ^ S7[xB] ^ S8[x8] ^ S6[z3]
K29 = S5[x8]^{S6[x9]}^{S7[x7]}^{S8[x6]}^{S5[x3]}
K30 = S5[xA]^{S6[xB]}^{S7[x5]}^{S8[x4]}^{S6[x7]}
K31 = S5[xC] ^ S6[xD] ^ S7[x3] ^ S8[x2] ^ S7[x8]
K32 = S5[xE] ^ S6[xF] ^ S7[x1] ^ S8[x0] ^ S8[xD]
```

A.2. Masking Subkeys and Rotate Subkeys

Let $\kappa_{m1}, \ldots, \kappa_{m16}$ be 32-bit masking subkeys (one per round). Let $\kappa_{r1}, \ldots, \kappa_{r16}$ be 32-bit rotate subkeys (one per round); only the least significant 5 bits are used in each round.

for $(i = 1; i \le 16; i + +)$ {K_{mi} = K_i; K_{ri} = K_{16+i}; }

Appendix B

This appendix provides the contents of the CAST-128 s-boxes (see Section 5).

S-Box S1

30fb40d4	9fa0ff0b	6beccd2f	3f258c7a	le213f2f	9c004dd3	6003e540	cf9fc949	bfd4af27	88bbbdb5
e2034090	98d09675	6e63a0e0	15c361d2	c2e7661d	22d4ff8e	28683b6f	c07fd059	ff2379c8	775f50e2
43c340d3	df2f8656	887ca41a	a2d2bd2d	alc9e0d6	346c4819	61b76d87	22540f2f	2abe32e1	aa54166b
22568e3a	a2d341d0	66db40c8	a784392f	004dff2f	2db9d2de	97943fac	4a97c1d8	527644b7	b5f437a7
b82cbaef	d751d159	6ff7f0ed	5a097a1f	827b68d0	90ecf52e	22b0c054	bc8e5935	4b6d2f7f	50bb64a2
d2664910	bee5812d	b7332290	e93b159f	b48ee411	4bff345d	fd45c240	ad31973f	c4f6d02e	55fc8165
d5b1caad	alac2dae	a2d4b76d	c19b0c50	882240f2	0c6e4f38	a4e4bfd7	4f5ba272	564c1d2f	c59c5319
b949e354	b04669fe	b1b6ab8a	c71358dd	6385c545	110f935d	57538ad5	6a390493	e63d37e0	2a54f6b3
3a787d5f	6276a0b5	19a6fcdf	7a42206a	29f9d4d5	f61b1891	bb72275e	aa508167	38901091	c6b505eb
84c7cb8c	2ad75a0f	874a1427	a2d1936b	2ad286af	aa56d291	d7894360	425c750d	93b39e26	187184c9
6c00b32d	73e2bb14	a0bebc3c	54623779	64459eab	3f328b82	7718cf82	59a2cea6	04ee002e	89fe78e6
3fab0950	325ff6c2	81383f05	6963c5c8	76cb5ad6	d49974c9	cal80dcf	380782d5	c7fa5cf6	8ac31511
35e79e13	47da91d0	f40f9086	a7e2419e	31366241	051ef495	aa573b04	4a805d8d	548300d0	00322a3c
bf64cddf	ba57a68e	75c6372b	50afd341	a7c13275	915a0bf5	6b54bfab	2b0b1426	ab4cc9d7	449ccd82
f7fbf265	ab85c5f3	1b55db94	aad4e324	cfa4bd3f	2deaa3e2	9e204d02	c8bd25ac	eadf55b3	d5bd9e98
e31231b2	2ad5ad6c	954329de	adbe4528	d8710f69	aa51c90f	aa786bf6	22513fle	aa51a79b	2ad344cc
7b5a41f0	d37cfbad	1b069505	41ece491	b4c332e6	032268d4	c9600acc	ce387e6d	bf6bb16c	6a70fb78
0d03d9c9	d4df39de	e01063da	4736£464	5ad328d8	b347cc96	75bb0fc3	98511bfb	4ffbcc35	b58bcf6a
ellf0abc	bfc5fe4a	a70aec10	ac39570a	3f04442f	6188b153	e0397a2e	5727cb79	9ceb418f	lcacd68d
2ad37c96	0175cb9d	c69dff09	c75b65f0	d9db40d8	ec0e7779	4744ead4	b11c3274	dd24cb9e	7elc54bd
f01144f9	d2240eb1	9675b3fd	a3ac3755	d47c27af	51c85f4d	56907596	a5bb15e6	580304f0	ca042cf1
011a37ea	8dbfaadb	35ba3e4a	3526ffa0	c37b4d09	bc306ed9	98a52666	5648f725	ff5e569d	0ced63d0
7c63b2cf	700b45e1	d5ea50f1	85a92872	af1fbda7	d4234870	a7870bf3	2d3b4d79	42e04198	0cd0ede7
26470db8	f881814c	474d6ad7	7c0c5e5c	d1231959	381b7298	f5d2f4db	ab838653	6e2f1e23	83719c9e
bd91e046	9a56456e	dc39200c	20c8c571	962bdalc	ele696ff	b141ab08	7cca89b9	1a69e783	02cc4843
a2f7c579	429ef47d	427b169c	5ac9f049	dd8f0f00	5c8165bf				

S-Box S2

1f201094	ef0ba75b	69e3cf7e	393£4380	fe61cf7a	eec5207a	55889c94	72fc0651	ada7ef79	4e1d7235
d55a63ce	de0436ba	99c430ef	5f0c0794	18dcdb7d	ald6eff3	a0b52f7b	59e83605	ee15b094	e9ffd909
dc440086	ef944459	ba83ccb3	e0c3cdfb	d1da4181	3b092ab1	f997f1c1	a5e6cf7b	01420ddb	e4e7ef5b
25a1ff41	e180f806	1fc41080	179bee7a	d37ac6a9	fe5830a4	98de8b7f	77e83f4e	79929269	24fa9f7b
e113c85b	acc40083	d7503525	f7ea615f	62143154	0d554b63	5d681121	c866c359	3d63cf73	cee234c0
d4d87e87	5c672b21	071£6181	39£7627£	361e3084	e4eb573b	602f64a4	d63acd9c	1bbc4635	9e81032d
2701f50c	99847ab4	a0e3df79	ba6cf38c	10843094	2537a95e	f46f6ffe	alff3b1f	208cfb6a	8f458c74
d9e0a227	4ec73a34	fc884f69	3e4de8df	ef0e0088	3559648d	8a45388c	1d804366	721d9bfd	a58684bb
e8256333	844e8212	128d8098	fed33fb4	ce280ae1	27e19ba5	d5a6c252	e49754bd	c5d655dd	eb667064
77840b4d	a1b6a801	84db26a9	e0b56714	21f043b7	e5d05860	54£03084	066ff472	a31aa153	dadc4755
b5625dbf	68561be6	83ca6b94	2d6ed23b	eccf01db	a6d3d0ba	b6803d5c	af77a709	33b4a34c	397bc8d6
5ee22b95	5f0e5304	81ed6f61	20e74364	b45e1378	de18639b	881ca122	b96726d1	8049a7e8	22b7da7b
5e552d25	5272d237	79d2951c	c60d894c	488cb402	1ba4fe5b	a4b09f6b	lca815cf	a20c3005	8871df63
b9de2fcb	0cc6c9e9	0beeff53	e3214517	b4542835	9f63293c	ee41e729	6eld2d7c	50045286	le6685f3
£33401c6	30a22c95	31a70850	60930f13	73£98417	a1269859	ec645c44	52c877a9	cdff33a6	a02b1741
7cbad9a2	2180036f	50d99c08	cb3f4861	c26bd765	64a3f6ab	80342676	25a75e7b	e4e6dlfc	20c710e6
cdf0b680	17844d3b	31eef84d	7e0824e4	2ccb49eb	846a3bae	8ff77888	ee5d60f6	7af75673	2fdd5cdb
al1631c1	30f66f43	b3faec54	157fd7fa	ef8579cc	d152de58	db2ffd5e	8f32ce19	306af97a	02f03ef8
99319ad5	c242fa0f	a7e3ebb0	c68e4906	b8da230c	80823028	dcdef3c8	d35fb171	088albc8	bec0c560
61a3c9e8	bca8f54d	c72feffa	22822e99	82c570b4	d8d94e89	8b1c34bc	301e16e6	273be979	b0ffeaa6
61d9b8c6	00b24869	b7ffce3f	08dc283b	43daf65a	f7e19798	7619b72f	8f1c9ba4	dc8637a0	16a7d3b1
9fc393b7	a7136eeb	c6bcc63e	1a513742	ef6828bc	520365d6	2d6a77ab	3527ed4b	821fd216	095c6e2e
db92f2fb	5eea29cb	145892f5	91584f7f	5483697b	2667a8cc	85196048	8c4bacea	833860d4	0d23e0f9
6c387e8a	0ae6d249	b284600c	d835731d	dcb1c647	ac4c56ea	3ebd81b3	230eabb0	6438bc87	f0b5b1fa
8f5ea2b3	fc184642	0a036b7a	4fb089bd	649da589	a345415e	5c038323	3e5d3bb9	43d79572	7e6dd07c
06dfdfle	6c6cc4ef	7160a539	73bfbe70	83877605	4523ecf1				

ADAMS

S-Box S3									
8defc240	25fa5d9f	eb903dbf	e810c907	47607fff	369fe44b	8clfc644	aececa90	beb1f9bf	eefbcaea
e8cf1950	51df07ae	920e8806	f0ad0548	e13c8d83	927010d5	11107d9f	07647db9	b2e3e4d4	3d4f285e
b9afa820	fade82e0	a067268b	8272792e	553fb2c0	489ae22b	d4ef9794	125e3fbc	21fffcee	825b1bfd
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S-Box S4

S-Box S5									
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S-Box S6									
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38b5f331	7128a454	48392905	a65b1db8	851c97bd	d675cf2f				

ADAMS

S-Box S7 85e04019 332bf567 662dbfff cfc65693 2a8d7f6f ab9bc912 de6008a1 2028da1f 0227bce7 4d642916 18fac300 50f18b82 2cb2cb11 b232e75c 4b3695f2 b28707de a05fbcf6 cd418le9 e150210c e24ef1bd b168c381 fde4e789 5c79b0d8 le8bfd43 4d495001 38be4341 913ceeld 92a79c3f 089766be baeeadf4 1286becf b6eacb19 2660c200 7565bde4 64241f7a 8248dca9 c3b3ad66 28136086 0bd8dfa8 356dlcf2 107789be b3b2e9ce 0502aa8f 0bc0351e 166bf52a eb12ff82 e3486911 d34d7516 4e7b3aff 5f43671b 9cf6e037 4981ac83 334266ce 8c9341b7 d0d854c0 cb3a6c88 47bc2829 4725ba37 a66ad22b 7ad61f1e Oc5cbafa 4437f107 b6e79962 42d2d816 0a961288 ela5c06e 13749e67 72fc08la bld139f7 f9583745 cf19df58 bec3f756 c06eba30 07211b24 45c28829 c95e317f bc8ec511 38bc46e9 c6e6fa14 bae8584a ad4ebc46 468f508b 7829435f f124183b 821dba9f aff60ff4 ea2c4e6d 16e39264 92544a8b 009b4fc3 aba68ced 9ac96f78 06a5b79a b2856e6e 1aec3ca9 be838688 0e0804e9 55f1be56 e7e5363b b3a1f25d f7debb85 61fe033c 16746233 3c034c28 da6d0c74 79aac56c 3ce4e1ad 51f0c802 98f8f35a 1626a49f eed82b29 1d382fe3 0c4fb99a bb325778 3ec6d97b 6e77a6a9 cb658b5c d45230c7 2bd1408b 60c03eb7 b9068d78 a33754f4 f430c87d c8a71302 b96d8c32 ebd4e7be be8b9d2d 7979fb06 e7225308 8b75cf77 11ef8da4 e083c858 8d6b786f 5a6317a6 fa5cf7a0 5dda0033 f28ebfb0 f5b9c310 a0eac280 08b9767a a3d9d2b0 79d34217 021a718d 9ac6336a 2711fd60 438050e3 069908a8 3d7fedc4 826d2bef 4eeb8476 488dcf25 36c9d566 28e74e41 c2610aca 3d49a9cf bae3b9df b65f8de6 92aeaf64 3ac7d5e6 9ea80509 f22b017d a4173f70 ddle16c3 15e0d7f9 50b1b887 2b9f4fd5 625aba82 6a017962 2ec01b9c 15488aa9 d716e740 40055a2c 93d29a22 e32dbf9a 058745b9 3453dcle d699296e 496cff6f 1c9f4986 dfe2ed07 b87242d1 19de7eae 053e561a 15ad6f8c 66626c1c 7154c24c ea082b2a 93eb2939 17dcb0f0 58d4f2ae 9ea294fb 52cf564c 9883fe66 2ec40581 763953c3 01d6692e d3a0c108 ale7160e e4f2dfa6 693ed285 74904698 4c2b0edd 4f757656 5d393378 a132234f 3d321c5d c3f5e194 4b269301 c79f022f 3c997e7e 5e4f9504 3ffafbbd 76f7ad0e 296693f4 3d1fce6f c61e45be d3b5ab34 f72bf9b7 1b0434c0 4e72b567 5592a33d b5229301 cfd2a87f 60aeb767 1814386b 30bcc33d 38a0c07d fd1606f2 c363519b 589dd390 5479f8e6 lcb8d647 97fd6la9 ea7759f4 2d57539d 569a58cf e84e63ad 462elb78 6580f87e f3817914 91da55f4 40a230f3 d1988f35 b6e318d2 3ffa50bc 3d40f021 c3c0bdae 4958c24c 518f36b2 84b1d370 0fedce83 878ddada f2a279c7 94e01be8 90716f4b 954b8aa3 S-Box S8 e216300d bbddfffc a7ebdabd 35648095 7789f8b7 e6c1121b 0e241600 052ce8b5 11a9cfb0 e5952f11 ece7990a 9386d174 2a42931c 76e38111 b12def3a 37ddddfc de9adeb1 0a0cc32c be197029 84a00940 bb243a0f b4d137cf b44e79f0 049eedfd 0b15a15d 480d3168 8bbbde5a 669ded42 c7ece831 3f8f95e7 72df191b 7580330d 94074251 5c7dcdfa abbe6d63 aa402164 b301d40a 02e7d1ca 53571dae 7a3182a2 12a8ddec fdaa335d 176f43e8 71fb46d4 38129022 ce949ad4 b84769ad 965bd862 82f3d055 66fb9767 15b80b4e 1d5b47a0 4cfde06f c28ec4b8 57e8726e 647a78fc 99865d44 608bd593 6c200e03 39dc5ff6 5d0b00a3 ae63aff2 7e8bd632 70108c0c bbd35049 2998df04 980cf42a 9b6df491 9e7edd53 06918548 58cb7e07 3b74ef2e 522fffb1 d24708cc 1c7e27cd a4eb215b 3cf1d2e2 19b47a38 424f7618 35856039 9d17dee7 27eb35e6 c9aff67b 36baf5b8 09c467cd c18910b1 e11dbf7b 06cdlaf8 7170c608 2d5e3354 d4de495a 64c6d006 bcc0c62c 3dd00db3 708f8f34 77d51b42 264f620f 24b8d2bf 15c1b79e 46a52564 f8d7e54e 3e378160 7895cda5 859c15a5 e6459788 c37bc75f db07ba0c 0676a3ab 7f229ble 31842e7b 24259fd7 f8bef472 835ffcb8 6df4c1f2 96f5b195 fd0af0fc b0fe134c e2506d3d 4f9b12ea f215f225 a223736f 9fb4c428 25d04979 34c713f8 c4618187 ea7a6e98 7cd16efc 1436876c f1544107 bedeee14 56e9af27 a04aa441 3cf7c899 92ecbae6 dd67016d 151682eb a842eedf fdba60b4 f1907b75 20e3030f 24d8c29e e139673b efa63fb8 71873054 b6f2cf3b 9f326442 cb15a4cc b01a4504 f1e47d8d 844a1be5 bae7dfdc 42cbda70 cd7dae0a 57e85b7a d53f5af6 20cf4d8c cea4d428 79d130a4 3486ebfb 33d3cddc 77853b53 37effcb5 c5068778 e580b3e6 4e68b8f4 c5c8b37e 0d809ea2 398feb7c 132a4f94 43b7950e 2fee7d1c 223613bd dd06caa2 37df932b c4248289 acf3ebc3 5715f6b7 ef3478dd f267616f c148cbe4 9052815e 5e410fab b48a2465 2eda7fa4 e87b40e4 e98ea084 5889e9e1 efd390fc dd07d35b db485694 38d7e5b2 57720101 730edebc 5b643113 94917e4f 503c2fba 646f1282 7523d24a e0779695 f9c17a8f 7a5b2121 d187b896 29263a4d ba510cdf 81f47c9f ad1163ed ea7b5965 1a00726e 11403092 00da6d77 4a0cdd61 ad1f4603 605bdfb0 9eedc364 22ebe6a8 cee7d28a a0e736a0 5564a6b9 10853209 c7eb8f37 2de705ca 8951570f df09822b bd691a6c aa12e4f2 87451c0f e0f6a27a 3ada4819 4cf1764f 0d771c2b 67cdb156 350d8384 5938fa0f 42399ef3 36997b07 0e84093d 4aa93e61 8360d87b 1fa98b0c 1149382c e97625a5 0614d1b7 0e25244b 0c768347 589e8d82 0d2059d1 a466bb1e f8da0a82 04f19130 ba6e4ec0 99265164 lee7230d 50b2ad80 eaee6801 8db2a283 ea8bf59e

Appendix C

This appendix provides test vectors for the CAST-128 cipher described in Section 5 and in Appendices A and B.

C.1. Single Key-Plaintext-Ciphertext Set

```
128-bit key = 01 23 45 67 12 34 56 78 23 45 67 89 34 56 78 9A (hex)
64-bit plaintext = 01 23 45 67 89 AB CD EF (hex)
64-bit ciphertext = 23 8B 4F E5 84 7E 44 B2 (hex)
```

C.2. Full Maintenance Test

A maintenance test for CAST-128 has been defined to verify the correctness of implementations. It is defined in pseudo-code as follows, where *a* and *b* are 128-bit vectors, *aL* and *aR* are the leftmost and rightmost halves of *a*, *bL* and *bR* are the leftmost and rightmost halves of *b*, and encrypt(*d*, *k*) is the encryption in ECB mode of block *d* under key *k*.

```
01 23 45 67 12 34 56 78 23 45 67 89 34 56 78 9A (hex)
Initial a
             =
Initial b
             =
                 01 23 45 67 12 34 56 78 23 45 67 89 34 56 78 9A (hex)
do 1,000,000 times
   aL = \text{encrypt}(aL, b)
   aR = \text{encrypt}(aR, b)
   bL = \text{encrypt}(bL, a)
   bR = \text{encrypt}(bR, a)
            == EE A9 D0 A2 49 FD 3B A6 B3 43 6F B8 9D 6D CA 92 (hex)
Verify a
                B2 C9 5E B0 0C 31 AD 71 80 AC 05 B8 E8 3D 69 6E (hex)
Verify b
            ==
```

Notes

- 1. Note that the use of 8×32 s-boxes was first suggested by Ralph Merkle for the hash function Snefru [36] and for the block ciphers Khufu and Khafre [37].
- 2. Completeness states that output bit *j* can be changed by inverting only input bit *i* in some input vector, for all *i*, *j* [26].
- 3. The Strict Avalanche Criterion (SAC) states that s-box output bit j should change with probability 1/2 when any single input bit i is inverted, for all i, j (note that for a given i and j the probability is computed over the set of all pairs of input vectors which differ only in bit i) [53, 54].
- 4. The (output) Bit Independence Criterion (BIC) states that s-box output bits *j* and *k* should change independently when any single input bit *i* is inverted, for all *i*, *j*, *k* (note that for a given *i*, *j*, and *k* the independence is computed over the set of all pairs of input vectors which differ only in bit *i*) [53, 54].
- 5. If keys which are close to each other in Hamming distance result in ciphertexts which are likely also to be close in Hamming distance, then it may be possible to find a key faster than exhaustive search in a known plaintext attack by searching for the correct key cluster and then searching for the correct key within that cluster.
- 6. Assuming independent round keys (a reasonable assumption (i.e., a good approximation) for most known ciphers).
- 7. The number of operations required for the attack, which may or may not be directly related to the number of chosen plaintexts required.
- 8. An $m \times n$ s-box is represented as a $2^m \times n$ binary matrix M where each of the n columns is a vector which corresponds to a Boolean function of the m input variables and which defines the response of a single output bit to any given input. Row i of M, $1 \le i \le 2^m$, is therefore the n-bit output vector which results from the i^{th} input vector.
- 9. Note that this is impossible if $m \ge n$ but is quite feasible if n = rm, since then $2^m \le C(n, n/2)$.

- 10. This has independently been called the Propagation Criterion of degree n in [46].
- 11. Note that highest-order BIC itself (i.e., total independence of output bits over the full set of input changes) cannot be achieved except in Nyberg's "perfect nonlinear" $2n \times n$ s-boxes [43], where all column sums are bent.
- 12. Let $c = c_1c_2 \dots c_m$ be a fixed *m*-bit vector of nonzero Hamming weight and let $f(x) = f(x_1x_2 \dots x_m)$ be a Boolean function of *m* input variables. Divide the 2^m possible inputs of *f* into 2^{m-1} pairs *x* and $(x \oplus c)$ and sort the pairs into increasing values of *x*. Label the i^{th} pair $[x, (x \oplus c)]_i$. Then the 2^{m-1} -bit vector *v* is called the "avalanche vector" of *f* with respect to *c* if the i^{th} bit of $v = g([x, (x \oplus c)]_i) = f(x) \oplus f(x \oplus c)$ for $i = 0, \dots, 2^{m-1} 1$.
- 13. Although it is recognized that multiplying the P_f values in an iterated cipher with additive keys (with respect to differential attacks where the difference is addition) is only strictly correct if the round keys are independent and uniformly random, this product appears to be a good approximation of the characteristic probability for most known ciphers.
- 14. Like differential cryptanalysis, formal results in this area require round keys which are independent and uniformly random. However, most equations derived using this assumption appear to be good approximations for most known ciphers.
- 15. A palindromic set of subkeys is one with the property that $K_i \oplus K_{N+1-i} = \mathbf{0}$, where N is the number of rounds in the cipher and $\mathbf{0}$ is the all-zero vector.
- 16. An anti-palindromic set of subkeys is one with the property that $K_i \oplus K_{N+1-i} = 1$, where N is the number of rounds in the cipher and 1 is the all-one vector.
- 17. Requiring a level of effort for an *n*-bit block cipher of roughly $2^{n/2}$ operations rather than 2^n operations.
- 18. Note that in the DES round function a single bit change in the input can change a maximum of 8 of the 32 output bits. It therefore does not satisfy the avalanche property.
- 19. Note that the avalanche property relates to any specific input change; the SAC, on the other hand, is an average calculated over the full input space.
- 20. Note that multiplication modulo $2^{32} 1$ was first used in a cryptographic setting by Donald Davies in MAA [15] and that multiplication modulo $2^{16} + 1$ was first used in IDEA [29].
- 21. Note that if two linear approximations exist involving the same bits and with the same bias, but with opposite sign, no information can be found on the single key bit. The reason this attack works on DES is that one approximation has a higher probability than the others in the DES round function. This situation may or may not exist in other round functions, including the one proposed for CAST ciphers.
- 22. Note that Harpes, et al, have found that ciphers using modular addition or multiplication (with large moduli) to insert the key into the round function tend to be immune not only to Matsui's linear cryptanalysis, but also to their generalization of linear cryptanalysis using I/O sums [21].

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