Avalanche Effect

A desirable property of any encryption algorithm is that a small change in either the plaintext or the key should produce a significant change in the ciphertext. In particular, a change in one bit of the plaintext or one bit of the key should produce a change in many bits of the ciphertext. If the change were small, this might provide a way to reduce the size of the plaintext or key space to be searched. DES exhibits a strong avalanche effect.

Suppose the original plain text is `02468aceeca86420` and the original key is `0f1571c947d9e859` and the altered plaintext is `12468aceeca86420` and the altered key is `1f1571c947d9e859`.

Round		δ	Round		δ
	02468aceeca86420 12468aceeca86420	1	9	c11bfc09887fbc6c 99f911532eed7d94	32
1	3cf03c0fbad22845 3cf03c0fbad32845	1	10	887fbc6c600f7e8b 2eed7d94d0f23094	34
2	bad2284599e9b723 bad3284539a9b7a3	5	11	600f7e8bf596506e d0f23094455da9c4	37
3	99e9b7230bae3b9e 39a9b7a3171cb8b3	18	12	f596506e738538b8 455da9c47f6e3cf3	31
4	0bae3b9e42415649 171cb8b3ccaca55e	34	13	738538b8c6a62c4e 7f6e3cf34bc1a8d9	29
5	4241564918b3fa41 ccaca55ed16c3653	37	14	c6a62c4e56b0bd75 4bc1a8d91e07d409	33
6	18b3fa419616fe23 d16c3653cf402c68	33	15	56b0bd7575e8fd8f 1e07d4091ce2e6dc	31
7	9616fe2367117cf2 cf402c682b2cefbc	32	16	75e8fd8f25896490 1ce2e6dc365e5f59	32
8	67117cf2c11bfc09 2b2cefbc99f91153	33	IP^{-1}	da02ce3a89ecac3b 057cde97d7683f2a	32

Avalanche Effect in DES due to Change in Plaintext

The table above shows that, after just three rounds, 18 bits differ between the two blocks. On completion, the two ciphertexts differ in 32-bit positions.

Round		δ	Round		δ
	02468aceeca86420 02468aceeca86420	0	9	c11bfc09887fbc6c 548f1de471f64dfd	34
1	3cf03c0fbad22845 3cf03c0f9ad628c5	3	10	887fbc6c600f7e8b 71f64dfd4279876c	36
2	bad2284599e9b723 9ad628c59939136b	11	11	600f7e8bf596506e 4279876c399fdc0d	32
3	99e9b7230bae3b9e 9939136b768067b7	25	12	f596506e738538b8 399fdc0d6d208dbb	28
4	0bae3b9e42415649 768067b75a8807c5	29	13	738538b8c6a62c4e 6d208dbbb9bdeeaa	33
5	4241564918b3fa41 5a8807c5488dbe94	26	14	c6a62c4e56b0bd75 b9bdeeaad2c3a56f	30
6	18b3fa419616fe23 488dbe94aba7fe53	26	15	56b0bd7575e8fd8f d2c3a56f2765c1fb	33
7	9616fe2367117cf2 aba7fe53177d21e4	27	16	75e8fd8f25896490 2765c1fb01263dc4	30
8	67117cf2c11bfc09 177d21e4548f1de4	32	IP⁻¹	da02ce3a89ecac3b ee92b50606b62b0b	30

Avalanche Effect in DES due to Change in Key

The results show that about half of the bits in the ciphertext differ and that the avalanche effect is pronounced after just a few rounds due to change in key.