
Crypthology - Handin 4

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1 STINSON 3.3

Let $DES(x, K)$ represent the encryption of plaintext x with key K using the DES cryptosystem. Suppose $y = DES(x, K)$ and $y' = DES(c(x), c(K))$ where $c(\cdot)$ denotes the bitwise complement of its argument. Prove that $y' = c(y)$.

The DES encryption makes use of the *Feistel cipher*, described in section 3.5.1 as

$$\begin{aligned} L^i &= R^{i-1} \\ R^i &= L^{i-1} \oplus f(R^{i-1}, K^i) \end{aligned}$$

To ease the notation from the exercise, let $x = L_0 R_0$ and $c(x) = L'_0 R'_0$ and $DES(L_0 R_0, K) = y$ and $DES(L'_0 R'_0, K') = y'$. To prove $y' = c(y)$ we have to show $L'_i = c(L_i)$ and $R'_i = c(R_i)$ for any step in the process. We will prove by induction

Proof.

For basecase $i = 1$

For $DES(L_0 R_0, K)$, by definition

$$\begin{aligned} L_1 &= R_0 \\ R_1 &= L_0 \oplus f(R_0, K_0) \end{aligned}$$

For $DES(L'_0 R'_0, K')$

$$\begin{aligned}
L'_1 &= R'_0 \\
&= c(R_0) \\
&= c(L_1) \\
R'_1 &= L'_0 \oplus f(R'_0, K'_0) \\
&= c(L_0) \oplus f(c(R_0), c(K_0))
\end{aligned}$$

Pr step 2 on p. 96 Stinson, we know that f uses bitwise \oplus on $c(R_0)$ (after its expansion) and K_i before permutation in the S-boxes, and by \oplus being commutativ and associative, we get

$$\begin{aligned}
&= c(L_0) \oplus f(R_0, K_0) \\
&= c(L_0 \oplus f(R_0, K_0)) \\
&= c(R_1)
\end{aligned}$$

Which proves the basecase.

INDUCTION HYPOTHESIS: Assume the claims holds for all $i < n$. We will consider the case where $i = n$

For $DES(L_0 R_0, K)$, by definition

$$\begin{aligned}
L_n &= R_{n-1} \\
R_n &= L_{n-1} \oplus f(R_{n-1}, K_{n-1})
\end{aligned}$$

For $DES(L'_0 R'_0, K')$

$$\begin{aligned}
L'_n &= R'_{n-1} \\
&= c(R_{n-1}) \\
&= c(L_n) \\
R'_n &= L'_{n-1} \oplus f(R'_{n-1}, K'_{n-1}) \\
&= c(L_{n-1}) \oplus f(c(R_{n-1}), c(K_{n-1})) \\
&= c(L_{n-1}) \oplus f(R_{n-1}, K_{n-1}) \\
&= c(L_{n-1} \oplus f(R_{n-1}, K_{n-1})) \\
&= c(R_n)
\end{aligned}$$

□

By Sting 3.5.1, we know DES uses 16 rounds of Feistel cipher, and there for, by the results above

$$y' = L'_{16} R'_{16} = c(L'_{16} R'_{16}) = c(y)$$

which is the wanted answer.

2 EXTRA QUESTION

Given a chosen plaintext attack, show that you can use the complementation property to do exhaustive key search in about half the time it would normally take.

Since $y = DES(x, K) = DES(x', K') = y'$, we basically check two for ones price, which is both K and K' . So the amount of Keys we have to go through is halved, which implies we will spend half the time on an exhaustive key search.