ICIGA: Improved Cryptography Inspired by Genetic Algorithms

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Abstract

This work is a contribution to cryptography. We have developed a symmetrical blocks ciphering system, that is an improvement of our cryptosystem inspired from genetic algorithm published in AMSE periodical. His complexity is o(n) because all operations used are simple and they are applied randomly in ciphering. Furthermore, in our system the user can choose the size blocks and the length key.

1. Introduction

The Most of current research in cryptography concerns asymmetrical cryptography, while research in symmetrical cryptography has remained relatively stationary since the discovery of the diagram of Feistel.

Moreover, none of the most used symmetrical ciphering systems like DES, IDEA and AES,[1-3] make use of the most recent developments in information processing technology. In this paper, we will describe a new symmetrical block ciphering system named ICIGA (Improved Cryptography Inspired by Genetic Algorithms) which generates a session key in a random process. The block sizes and the key lengths are variable and can be fixed by the user at the beginning of ciphering.

ICIGA is an enhancement of our first system (GIC) "Genetic algorithms Inspired Cryptography" published in the AMSE periodical of November 2005 [4]. To the original system we added other transformations in order to strengthen its resistance to cryptanalysis. These transformations have no influence either on the size of the key or on the complexity of ICIGA which is o(n). Furthermore, ICIGA uses an entirely new random process for the choice of the blocks allowing for their total modification. The ciphering key is a session key, generated during ciphering, and in this improved

version, the user according to his needs determines its

This paper is composed of three principal parts followed by a conclusion. The first part contains an informal description of ICIGA, followed by a formal definition. In the second part we will first study the complexity of ICIGA and then we will evaluate its effectiveness by showing its resistance to cryptanalysis. The third part is devoted to the results obtained following the implementation of ICIGA in Java. We end this paper by a discussion based on the comparison between ICIGA and the most well known symmetrical cryptosystems such as DES, IDEA and AES.

2. Description of the ICIGA System

To improve on our original GIC (Genetic algorithms Inspired Cryptography) system presented in a previous paper [4], we introduce new ciphering techniques that lead to a new symmetrical ciphering system which we have named ICIGA (Improved Cryptography Inspired by Genetic Algorithms). ICIGA is a block cipher system whose secret key is generated during each session using a random process. The user can fix the size of the blocks as well as the length of the key.

The operation of ICIGA depends on the length of the secret key selected by the user. ICIGA uses this length to divide the plaintext into parts of equal size. During the ciphering, the first part is broken up into blocks of the same size which are used to generate the secret key. This key will then be used to cipher the other parts of the message. If the user did not set the length of the secret key the plaintext is composed of only one part and ICIGA generates a key of maximum length.



The genetic operations of crossover and mutation used for ciphering in GIC are improved by the new system ICIGA as follows:

- A left shift is added to each block that is processed, and
- Another left shift is added to the part being processed after the processing of its last block.

The number of bits to be shifted is determined by the parameters of the genetic operations. The goal of these shifts is to reinforce resistance to cryptanalysis, and in particular to techniques of exhaustive search.

2.1. Informal description

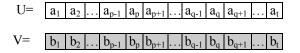
In ICIGA, the principal operations used in ciphering are substitutions and permutations of the bits of the plaintext. The four steps of ciphering are:

- Step 1:
 - Break up the plaintext (encoded into binary) into parts of equal sizes depending on the selected key length.
 - Break up each part into blocks of the same fixed size.
- Step 2:
 - Apply the genetic operations using as arguments randomly selected blocks and positions. The trace of these operations (type of the operation and its arguments) make it possible to generate the secret key K.
 - Mask the positions of each genetic operation by the application of a left shift on the corresponding block(s).
- Step 3:
 - Apply another left shift on the whole part in order to mask the distribution of its blocks.

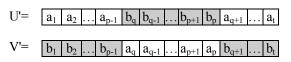
The other parts are treated sequentially using the same operations as above. The arguments of the genetic operations will not be this time randomly drawn, but deduced from the key K.

2.2. Formal description

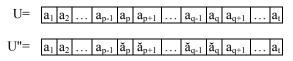
2.2.1. Definition of the genetic operations. U and V are two blocks of bits with size t; p and q are two positive integers such that $1 \le p \le q \le t$.



The crossover of U and V at the positions p and q gives two (sons) blocks U' and V' obtained while permuting in U and V the bits of indices ranging between p and q in opposite order [5], [6].



The mutation of the block U at the positions p and q gives the block U" obtained while replacing the bits of indices ranging between p and q by their logical negations [5], [6].



With $\check{a}_i = 1 - a_i$.

2.2.2. Presentation of ICIGA. Our ciphering system ICIGA is formally the quintuplet (P, C, K, e, D), where:

P is the set of possible plaintexts, $P = \{0,1\}^*$.

C is the set of the possible cipher texts, $C = \{0,1\}^*$.

K is the set of the parts of

(NU $\{-1\}$) x Nx $\{(p, q) \text{ such as } 1 \le p \le q \le t \}$

Thus, a key is a set of quadruplets (i, j, p, q) such that: i = -1 if the block of index j is subject to a change by a mutation in the positions p and q.

 $i \ge 0$ if the blocks of indices i and j are subject to change by a crossover to the positions p and q.

e is the ciphering function defined as follows

$$e: P \rightarrow C \times K$$

 $T \rightarrow e (T) = (T', k)$

It associates a cipher text T' and a key k generated during ciphering to any plaintext T. The generated key serves also for the deciphering.

D is the set of deciphering functions d_k with k in K, the deciphering functions $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{k}}$ satisfy:

 $\mathbf{d}_{\mathbf{k}}(T') = T$ if and only if $\mathbf{e}(T) = (T', \mathbf{k})$.

The algorithms given below define the functions of ciphering and deciphering.

3. Algorithms in details

3.1. Encryption algorithm

3.1.1. Mutation.

Input: A block U of t bits, two integers n and m such that $1 \le n \le m \le t$.

Output: A block U' obtained from U after replacing the bits of indices ranging between n and m by their logical negations

Method:

For i := 1 to n-1 do U'[i] := U[i];

For i := n to m do U'[i] := 1 - U[i];

For i := m+1 to t do U'[i] := U[i];



3.1.2. Crossover.

```
Input: Two blocks U and V of t bits, two integers n
and m such that 1 \le n \le m \le t.
Output: Two blocks U' and V' obtained while
permuting in U and V the bits of indices ranging
between n and m in opposite order.
Method:
For i := 1 to n-1 do
Begin U'[i] := U[i];
          V'[i] := V[i];
End:
For i := n to m do
 Begin
U'[i] := V[n+m-i];
 V'[i] := U[n+m-i];
End:
For i := m+1 to t do
 Begin U'[i] := U[i];
 V'[i] := V[i];
 End;
```

3.1.3. Left shift

```
Input: A block X of bits, an integer n; 1 \le n \le |X|. Output: A block Y obtained while shifting the n first bits in X to the end. Method: For i := 1 to (|X| - n) do Y[i] := X[i + n]; For i := (|X| - n + 1) to |X| do Y[i] := X[i - |X| + n];
```

```
3.1.4. Algorithm 1. (Encryption)
Input: T the plaintext of size N, t the size blocks
and m the length keys
Output: a cipher text T' and a ciphering key K of
length \approx m:
Method:
If m is not define then use algorithm 2;
Calculate n = (1 + \lfloor 4 \cdot m/3 \rfloor)^* t;
If n≥N then use Algorithm2 to obtain T' and K Else
Begin
 Cut out T into parts:
   P_1P_2...P_{\alpha} that are of equal size n;
 Initialize the key K with an empty list;
Parameter:=ith 0; /*Parameter of final left shift */
/* Treatment of the first part P<sub>1</sub>*/
Cut out T into blocks of size t;
While there is no marked blocks in P<sub>1</sub> do
Begin
 If there is one no marked block then
 Begin
Choose randomly two integers 1 \le p \le q \le t;
Mutation (B, p, q); Left shift (B, q - p);
Mark B; Parameter:= parameter + (q - p);
Add [-1, index of B, p, q] to K;
```

```
Choose randomly the operation to apply;
 Choose randomly two integers 1 \le p \le q \le t:
 If the operation is Mutation then
 Begin
  Choose randomly a no marked block B;
  Mutation (B, p, q); Left shift (B, q - p);
  Mark B; Parameter := parameter + (q - p);
  Add [-1, index of B, p, q] to K;
  End else /* Crossover is chosen */
 Begin
Choose randomly two no marked blocks B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>
Crossover (B_1, B_2, p, q);
  Left shift (B_1, q - p); Left shift (B_2, q - p);
  Mark B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>;
  Parameter := parameter + (q - p);
  Add [index of B_1, index of B_2, p, q] to K;
  End
End
End /* While*/
Left shift (P<sub>1</sub>, Parameter);
The part P'_1 obtained is the ciphering of P_1;
K is the ciphering key;
/* treatment of the part P_2, P_3, ... P_{\alpha} */
For s := 2 to \alpha do
Begin
Cut out P<sub>s</sub> into blocks of size t;
For each quadruplet (i, j, p, q) in K do
 If i = -1 then /* Mutation */
 Begin
  Let B the j<sup>th</sup> block in P<sub>s</sub>;
  Mutation (B, p, q); Left shift (B, q - p);
 End
 Else /* Crossover */
 Begin
 Let B1 the i<sup>th</sup> block and B2 the i<sup>th</sup> block in P<sub>s</sub>
    Crossover (B1, B2, p, q);
    Left shift (B1, q - p); Left shift (B2, q - p);
  End;
 End;
Left shift (P<sub>s</sub>, Parameter);
The part P'_s obtained is the ciphering of P_s;
The concatenation P'_1P'_2...P'_{\alpha} is the ciphertext T'.
```

3.1.5. Algorithm 2. (Encryption)

```
Input: T the plaintext of size N, t the size blocks
Output: a cipher text T' and a ciphering key K
Method:
Begin
Cut out T into blocks of size t;
Initialize the key K with an empty list;
Initialize parameter with 0; /*Parameter of left shift will be applied at the end*/
/* Treatment */
```



Begin

End Else /*more than one no marked block */

```
While there is no marked blocks in T do
Begin
If there is one no marked block then
Choose randomly two integers 1 \le p \le q \le t;
Mutation (B, p, q); Left shift (B, q - p);
Mark B; Parameter:= parameter + (q - p);
Add [-1, index of B, p, q] to K;
End Else /*more than one no marked block */
Begin
 Choose randomly the operation to apply;
 Choose randomly two integers 1 \le p \le q \le t;
 If the operation is Mutation then
 Begin
 Choose randomly a no marked block B;
 Mutation (B, p, q); Left shift (B, q - p);
 Mark B; Parameter := parameter + (q - p);
 Add [-1, index of B, p, q] to K;
 End else /* Crossover is chosen */
 Begin
Choose randomly two no marked blocks B<sub>1</sub> and B<sub>2</sub>
Crossover (B_1, B_2, p, q);
 Left shift (B_1, q - p); Left shift (B_2, q - p);
 Mark B_1 and B_2;
 Parameter := parameter + (q - p);
 Add [index of B_1, index of B_2, p, q] to K;
 End
End
End /* While*/
Left shift (T, Parameter);
The text T' obtained is the ciphering of T;
K is the ciphering key with maximal length;
End;
```

3.2. Decryption algorithm

The process of deciphering in ICIGA is simple. It is composed of right shifts and genetic operations. In fact, the inverse of a left shift is a right shift and the reciprocal operations of mutation and crossover are equal to themselves. The latter operations are involutive. We note that the order of the deciphering operations is the reverse of the ciphering order. Indeed, the last coded operation should be deciphered firstly and the deciphering process continues in a LIFO manner.

3.2.1. Right shift.

```
Input: a block X of bits, an integer n; 1 \le n \le |X|.
Output: a block Y obtained after shifting the n end bits in X to the beginning.
Method:
For i := 1 to n do Y[i] :=X[|X|-n+i]
```

```
For i := n+1 to |X| do Y[i] := X[i-n];
```

3.2.2. Algorithm of deciphering.

```
Input: a ciphertext T' of size N and a key K.
Output: The plaintext T correspond to T'.
Method:
Let K = [(i_1, j_1, p_1, q_1); (i_2, j_2, p_2, q_2); ...; (i_m, j_m, p_m, q_m)]
Browse K for calculate:
  the size blocks t, chosen during the ciphering;
  the size of the first part P'<sub>1</sub> and
 the number of bits to right shift P'1.
val := (q_1-p_1)+(q_2-p_2)+...+(q_k-p_k)
Divide T' into parts P'_1P'_2...P'_{\alpha} which have same
For s := 1 to \alpha do
Begin
Right shift (P's, val);
Divide P's into blocks of size t;
For each quadruplet (i, j, p, q) in K do
  If i = -1 then /*it correspond to a mutation*/
    Let B the i<sup>th</sup> block in P's;
    Right shift (B, q - p);
    Mutation (B, p, q);
    Else /*it correspond to a crossover */
    Let B<sub>1</sub> The i<sup>th</sup> block and B<sub>2</sub> the i<sup>th</sup> block P's:
    Right shift (B1, q - p);
    Right shift (B2, q - p);
    Crossover (B1, B2, p, q);
 End:
End;
Thus we obtain the part in clear P<sub>s</sub>;
Concatenate the resultant parts P_1 P_2 \dots P_{\alpha};
The text T obtained is the plaintext;
```

4. Evaluations of our system ICIGA

4.1 The complexity of ICIGA

We note that the principal operations used in ciphering are just substitutions and permutations of the bits of the plaintext.

Furthermore, we can show that the complexity of our system ICIGA is o(n) by modeling the basic operations of ciphering by finite and pushdown automata [7].

Indeed, the mutation is modeling by deterministic finite automata, the crossover by double pushdown automata and the shift by pushdown automata, all are without loop.



4.1.1. Modeling of Mutation operator by deterministic finite automata (DFA). Let t be the size block, p and q the positions of Mutation.

Formally, a DFA with output is the quintuplet $(Q, \Sigma, \Delta, \delta, e_0, F)$ where Q is the set of states, Σ is the input alphabet , Δ is the output alphabet , e_0 is the start state, E is the set of final state, it can be empty and E0 is the transition function defined by :

$$\begin{array}{l} Q \ x \ \Sigma ------> \ Q \ x \ \Delta \\ (e \ , a) \ -------> \ (e' \ , c \) \\ Q = \{ \ e_0, \ e_1, \ e_2, \ ..., \ e_{n-1}, \ e_t \} \\ \Sigma = \Delta = \{ 0, \ 1 \}, \ F = \varnothing \ \ \text{and} \ \delta \ \text{defined by} : \\ \delta \ (e_i, a) = (e_{i+1}, a) \ \ \text{for} \ i = 0, \ ..., \ p - 1 \\ \delta \ (e_i, a) = (e_{i+1}, 1 - a) \ \ \text{for} \ i = p, \ ..., \ q \\ \delta \ (e_i, a) = (e_{i+1}, a) \ \ \text{for} \ i = q + 1, \ ..., \ t - 1. \\ \text{For example:} \ \ \text{for} \ t = 8, \ p = 3 \ \text{and} \ q = 6, \ \text{we have} \end{array}$$

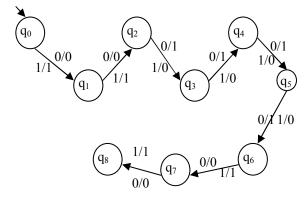


Figure 1. Diagram of DFA with output

If the input is the block B=10110001 then Mutation (B,3,6)=10001101 is the output

4.1.2. Modeling of Crossover operator by Pushdown automata. Let t be the size block, p and q the positions of Crossover.

A Two-Pushdown automata with output "2PDA-O" is a pushdown automata with two input tapes, two output tapes and two stacks. Formally, it is a system $(Q, \Sigma, \Delta, \Gamma, \delta, e_0, Z_1, Z_2, F)$ Where:

- Q is a finite set of states;
- Σ is an alphabet called the input alphabet;
- Δ is an alphabet called the output alphabet;
- Γ is an alphabet, called the stack alphabet;
- e₀ in Q is the initial state;
- Z₁ and Z₂ in Γ are particular stack symbols called the start symbols, Z₁ correspond to first stack and Z₂ correspond to second stack;

- F a subset of Q is the set of final states;
- δ is a mapping from $Qx(\Sigma U\{\epsilon\}x(\Sigma U\{\epsilon\}) \times (\Gamma x\Gamma) \text{ to set}$ $Qx (\Delta U\{\epsilon\}x(\Delta U\{\epsilon\} \times (\Gamma x\Gamma)$

The interpretation of

 δ (e; (a,b); (X₁,X₂)) = (e'; (c,d); (α₁,α₂)) where e and e' are states, a, b, c and d are in Σ, X₁ and X₂ are stack symbols and α₁,α₂ are in Γ*, is that the 2PDA-O in state e, with input symbols α₁ in first tape input and α₂ in second tape input; X₁ and X₂ are respectively the top symbols on the first stack and the second stack, can enter state e', replace X₁ by string α₁, X₂ by string α₂, put c in the first output tape and d in the second output tape (See fig. 2).

In our case, we take $Q=\{e_0, e_1, \ldots, e_t\},\$

$$\begin{split} \Sigma &= \Delta = \{\ 0,1\},\ \Gamma = \{Z_1,Z_2,X,Y\ \},\ F = \varnothing \ \text{and} \\ \delta \ \text{defined by:} \\ \delta \ (ei\ ; (a,b)\ ; (Z1,Z2)) = (ei+1\ ; (a,b)\ ; (Z1,Z2)) \\ \text{For } i = 0,\ \dots,\ p-1\ \text{and all symbols a, b} \\ \delta \ (e_i\ ; (0,0)\ ; (A,B)) = (e_{i+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (AX,BX)) \\ \delta (e_i\ ; (0,1)\ ; (A,B)) = (e_{i+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (AX,BY)) \\ \delta (e_i\ ; (1,0)\ ; (A,B)) = (e_{i+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (AY,BX)) \\ \delta \ (e_i\ ; (1,1)\ ; (A,B)) = (e_{i+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (AY,BY)) \\ \text{For } i = p,\ p+1,\ \dots\ q\ \text{And all}\ A,\ B\ \text{in}\ \Gamma \\ \delta \ (e_{q+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (X,X)) = (e_{q+1}\ ; (0,0)\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)) \\ \delta \ (e_{q+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (Y,X)) = (e_{q+1}\ ; (0,1)\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)) \\ \delta \ (e_{q+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (Y,X)) = (e_{q+1}\ ; (0,1)\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)) \\ \delta \ (e_{q+1}\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)\ ; (Y,Y)) = (e_{q+1}\ ; (0,1)\ ; (\epsilon,\epsilon)) \end{split}$$

We can easily deduce that for two blocks B_1 and B_2 of size t, the Crossover (B_1 , B_2 , p, q) is the two output of the mentioned 2PDA-O.



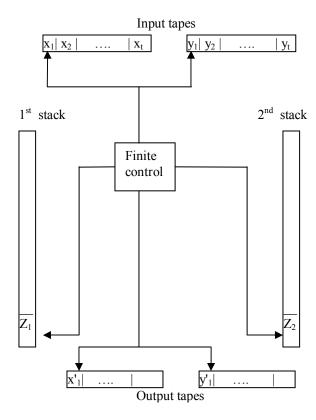


Figure 2 . A 2PDA with output

4.2 Comparison with some cryptosystem

In this section, we compare our algorithm with DES, TDES, IDEA and AES, the most well known symmetrical algorithms. The DES has a key of 64 bits but only 56 bits are used. This short key encourages attackers to decode a message by an exhaustive search using powerful computers. In our algorithm, the size of key depends of the number of genetic operations mapped during the ciphering; this reinforces the resistance against such attacks. Furthermore, our key is a session key generated by the algorithm, while the DES, IDEA and AES keys are not. This allows again our system to be more resistant.

With respect to IDEA, the time complexity of the main operations: XOR, addition modulo 2^{16} and multiplication modulo $2^{16}+1$ is very high, while our operations: crossover, mutation and shift are not expensive as proved in 4.1, thus our system is more powerful.

Our system further allows the user to define the length key that according to the degree of security that he prefers. ICIGA uses a combination of the two modes of ciphering by blocks: the Electronic Code Book mode (ECB) and the Cipher Block Chaining mode (CBC); indeed the ECB corresponds to the

mutation operations while the CBC corresponds at the crossover operations.

The table below is a comparative summary of the algorithms.

Table 1. Comparison of keys and size blocks

	block	key	y Type of key	
DES	64	56	Fixed at Beginning	
TDES	64	112 /168	Fixed at Beginning	
IDEA	64	128	Fixed at Beginning	
AES	128	128/192/256	Fixed at Beginning	
GIC	Multiple of 8	Variable	Generated randomly during Ciphering	
ICIGA	An integer > 1	Defined by user	Generated randomly during ciphering	

Table 2. Comparison of stages and operations

	stages for a block	Operations used			
DES	16	Substitution and permutation using boxes			
TDES	48	Substitution and permutation using boxes			
IDEA	8	Exclusive Or, Add mod 2 ¹⁶ & multiply mod 2 ¹⁶ + 1			
AES	10/12/14	Substitution, Shift & addition			
GIC	One stage	Crossover & mutation (genetic operators)			
ICIGA	One stage	Crossover, mutation, left shift & right shift.			

4.3. Experimental results

After the implementation of our system ICIGA in Java, we have obtained following results.

For the plaintext:



CRYPTOGRAPHY BASED ON RANDOM NUMBERS
Jason R. Kauffman, a sophomore at the University of Dayton
majoring in mechanical engineering, has developed a new
encryption technology based on random-number generation.
Kauffman first thought of the idea while working on a sciencefair project to improve computer animation. He extended a
mathematical technique used in Disney's "The Hunchback of
Notre Dame," which assigned pseudo-random numbers to
body movements for a crowd scene in the film. While studying
number generators, he found references to theories that the
technique could be used in encryption technology, but no
details. He then thought of a unique way to use random
numbers in a math equation to encrypt data. He and his father,
Robert Kauffman, formed a partnership with the University of
Dayton to patent the idea.

Chronicle of Higher Education, 3 July 2002

The application of ICIGA with 53bits as size blocks and 5 as length of key, gives the ciphertext:

And the key: [-1 0 13 31] [5 4 40 43] [-1 3 41 41] [-1 1 1 2] [-1 2 39 42]

A second session with same size blocks and length key gives another ciphertext and the following key:

[2 5 12 17] [4 1 32 46] [-1 3 37 42] [-1 0 19 40], since the key changes in each session.

On the other hand, the figure1 allows us to place our system among the others symmetrical cryptosystems.

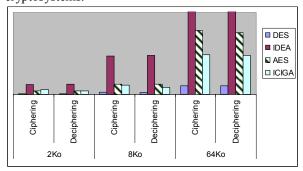


Figure 3. Graphical representation of execution time

The figure above is obtained from the following results:

Table 3. Time of ciphering and deciphering (second)

Size of plaintext		DES	IDEA	AES	ICIGA
2Ko	Cipher	0.045	O.721	0.268	0.343
ZKU	Decipher	0.038	0.735	0.268	0.270
8Ko	Cipher	O.148	2.809	0.752	0.661
oKu	Decipher	0.118	2.864	0752	0.501
64Ko	Cipher	0.621	22.142	4.68	2.907
UTKU	Decipher	0.619	22.823	4.59	2.844

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