

Cryptography and Network Security

Third Edition

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Chapter 5 –Advanced Encryption Standard

"It seems very simple."

"It is very simple. But if you don't know what the key is it's virtually indecipherable."

—Talking to Strange Men, Ruth Rendell

Origins

- clear a replacement for DES was needed
 - have theoretical attacks that can break it
 - have demonstrated exhaustive key search attacks
- can use Triple-DES – but slow with small blocks
- US NIST issued call for ciphers in 1997
- 15 candidates accepted in Jun 98
- 5 were shortlisted in Aug-99
- Rijndael was selected as the AES in Oct-2000
- issued as FIPS PUB 197 standard in Nov-2001

AES Requirements

- private key symmetric block cipher
- 128-bit data, 128/192/256-bit keys
- stronger & faster than Triple-DES
- active life of 20-30 years (+ archival use)
- provide full specification & design details
- both C & Java implementations
- NIST have released all submissions & unclassified analyses

AES Evaluation Criteria

- initial criteria:
 - security – effort to practically cryptanalyse
 - cost – computational
 - algorithm & implementation characteristics
- final criteria
 - general security
 - software & hardware implementation ease
 - implementation attacks
 - flexibility (in en/decrypt, keying, other factors)

AES Shortlist

- after testing and evaluation, shortlist in Aug-99:
 - MARS (IBM) - complex, fast, high security margin
 - RC6 (USA) - v. simple, v. fast, low security margin
 - Rijndael (Belgium) - clean, fast, good security margin
 - Serpent (Euro) - slow, clean, v. high security margin
 - Twofish (USA) - complex, v. fast, high security margin
- then subject to further analysis & comment
- saw contrast between algorithms with
 - few complex rounds verses many simple rounds
 - which refined existing ciphers verses new proposals

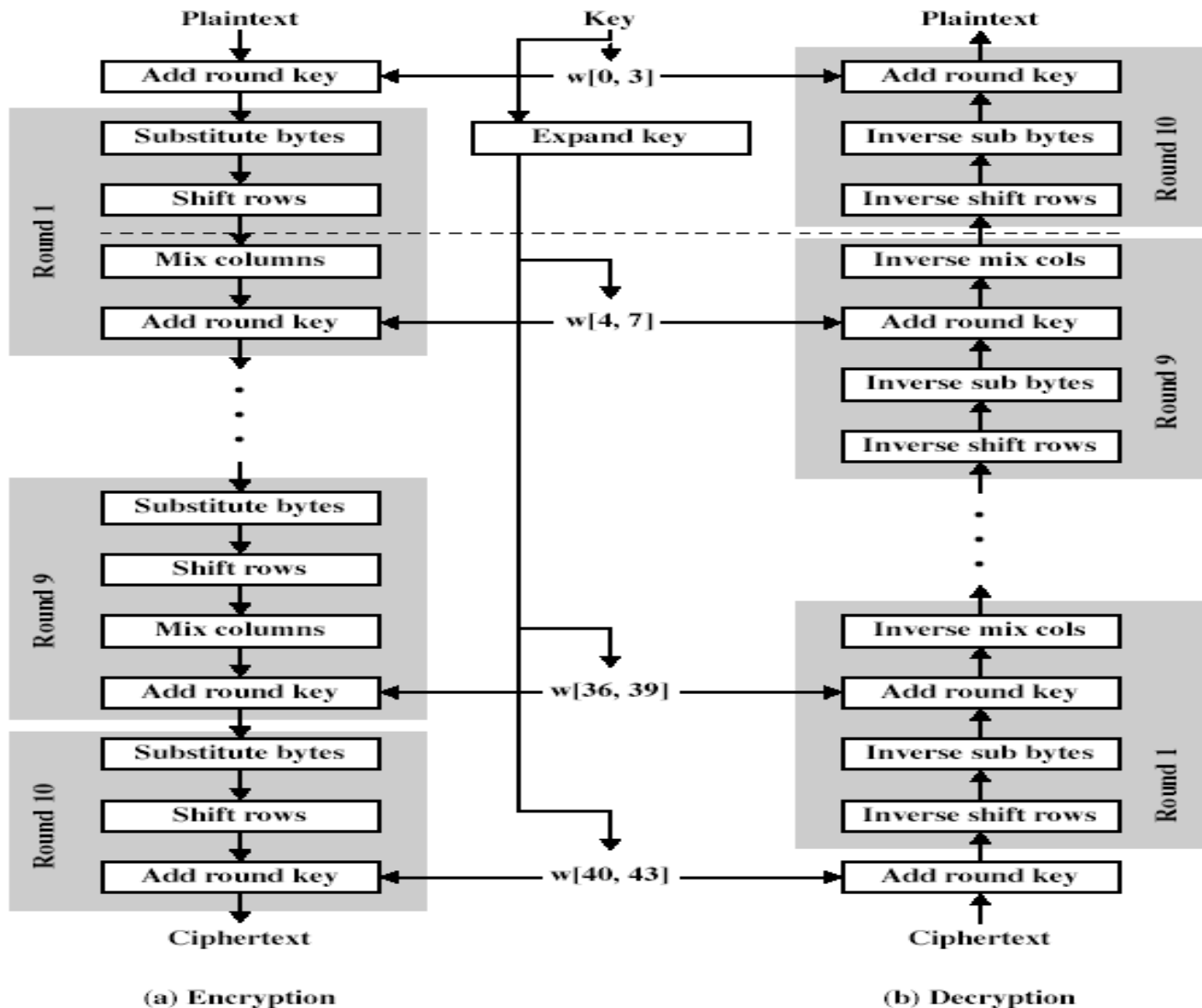
The AES Cipher - Rijndael

- designed by Rijmen-Daemen in Belgium
- has 128/192/256 bit keys, 128 bit data
- an **iterative** rather than **feistel** cipher
 - treats data in 4 groups of 4 bytes
 - operates an entire block in every round
- designed to be:
 - resistant against known attacks
 - speed and code compactness on many CPUs
 - design simplicity

Rijndael

- processes data as 4 groups of 4 bytes (state)
- has 9/11/13 rounds in which state undergoes:
 - byte substitution (1 S-box used on every byte)
 - shift rows (permute bytes between groups/columns)
 - mix columns (subs using matrix multiply of groups)
 - add round key (XOR state with key material)
- initial XOR key material & incomplete last round
- all operations can be combined into XOR and table lookups - hence very fast & efficient

Rijndael



Byte Substitution

- a simple substitution of each byte
- uses one table of 16x16 bytes containing a permutation of all 256 8-bit values
- each byte of state is replaced by byte in row (left 4-bits) & column (right 4-bits)
 - eg. byte {95} is replaced by row 9 col 5 byte
 - which is the value {2A}
- S-box is constructed using a defined transformation of the values
- designed to be resistant to all known attacks

Shift Rows

- a circular byte shift in each row
 - 1st row is unchanged
 - 2nd row does 1 byte circular shift to left
 - 3rd row does 2 byte circular shift to left
 - 4th row does 3 byte circular shift to left
- decrypt does shifts to right
- since state is processed by columns, this step permutes bytes between the columns

Mix Columns

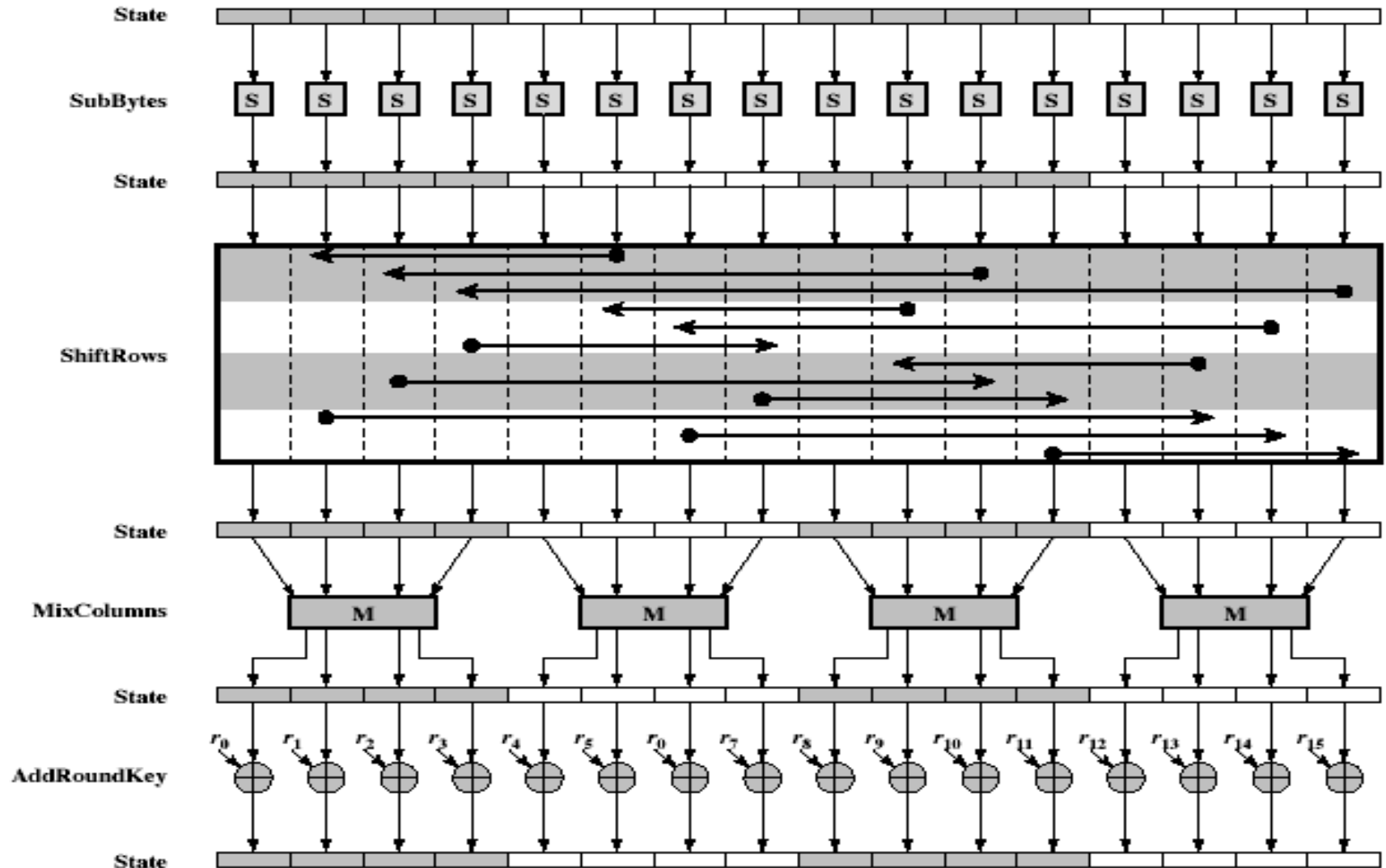
- each column is processed separately
- each byte is replaced by a value dependent on all 4 bytes in the column
- effectively a matrix multiplication in $GF(2^8)$ using prime poly $m(x) = x^8 + x^4 + x^3 + x + 1$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 02 & 03 & 01 & 01 \\ 01 & 02 & 03 & 01 \\ 01 & 01 & 02 & 03 \\ 03 & 01 & 01 & 02 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s_{0,0} & s_{0,1} & s_{0,2} & s_{0,3} \\ s_{1,0} & s_{1,1} & s_{1,2} & s_{1,3} \\ s_{2,0} & s_{2,1} & s_{2,2} & s_{2,3} \\ s_{3,0} & s_{3,1} & s_{3,2} & s_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s'_{0,0} & s'_{0,1} & s'_{0,2} & s'_{0,3} \\ s'_{1,0} & s'_{1,1} & s'_{1,2} & s'_{1,3} \\ s'_{2,0} & s'_{2,1} & s'_{2,2} & s'_{2,3} \\ s'_{3,0} & s'_{3,1} & s'_{3,2} & s'_{3,3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Add Round Key

- XOR state with 128-bits of the round key
- again processed by column (though effectively a series of byte operations)
- inverse for decryption is identical since XOR is own inverse, just with correct round key
- designed to be as simple as possible

AES Round



AES Key Expansion

- takes 128-bit (16-byte) key and expands into array of 44/52/60 32-bit words
- start by copying key into first 4 words
- then loop creating words that depend on values in previous & 4 places back
 - in 3 of 4 cases just XOR these together
 - every 4th has S-box + rotate + XOR constant of previous before XOR together
- designed to resist known attacks

AES Decryption

- AES decryption is not identical to encryption since steps done in reverse
- but can define an equivalent inverse cipher with steps as for encryption
 - but using inverses of each step
 - with a different key schedule
- works since result is unchanged when
 - swap byte substitution & shift rows
 - swap mix columns & add (tweaked) round key

Implementation Aspects

- can efficiently implement on 8-bit CPU
 - byte substitution works on bytes using a table of 256 entries
 - shift rows is simple byte shifting
 - add round key works on byte XORs
 - mix columns requires matrix multiply in $GF(2^8)$ which works on byte values, can be simplified to use a table lookup

Implementation Aspects

- can efficiently implement on 32-bit CPU
 - redefine steps to use 32-bit words
 - can precompute 4 tables of 256-words
 - then each column in each round can be computed using 4 table lookups + 4 XORs
 - at a cost of 16Kb to store tables
- designers believe this very efficient implementation was a key factor in its selection as the AES cipher

Summary

- have considered:
 - the AES selection process
 - the details of Rijndael – the AES cipher
 - looked at the steps in each round
 - the key expansion
 - implementation aspects