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Cryptanalysis of Shi's White-box Encryption Scheme

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ABSTRACT Structural analysis is the study of finding component functions for a given function. In this paper, we proceed with structural analysis of structures consisting of the S (nonlinear Substitution) layer and the A (Affine or linear) layer. Our main interest is the $S^{(2)} \circ A \circ S^{(1)}$ structure with different substitution layers and large input/output sizes. The purpose of our structural analysis is to find the functionally equivalent oracle F^* and its component functions for a given encryption oracle $F = S^{(2)} \circ A \circ S^{(1)}$. As a result, we can construct the decryption oracle F^{*-1} explicitly and break the one-wayness of the building blocks used in a White-box implementation. Our attack consists of two steps: S layer recovery using multiset properties and A layer recovery using differential properties. We present the attack algorithm for each step and estimate the time complexity. Finally, we discuss the applicability of $S^{(2)} \circ A \circ S^{(1)}$ structural analysis in a White-box Cryptography environment.

INDEX TERMS Cryptanalysis, Structural analysis, White-box cryptography, White-box Implementation

I. INTRODUCTION

CRYPTOGRAPHIC technology is widely used in information and communication services for data protection and authentication. In encryption technology, encryption keys are essential for data and information and communication services authentication.

- Intro. to WBC
- Shi's model
- Structural analysis
- Our contribution

The security of the cryptosystem can be guaranteed only when the encryption key is safely protected from various attackers. The attacker models that threaten the security of cryptosystems include black-box attacks, gray-box attacks, and white-box attacks. The black-box attack is carried out through input and output values in unknown assumptions inside the cryptosystem. The gray-box attack is a technique that acquires and attacks side-channel information such as a cryptographic module's power and electromagnetic waves. Among them, the white-box attack assumes the most potent attacker. The white-box attack is a model in which an attacker takes control of the cryptosystem and neutralizes the cryptography. For example, there are dump and change of memory or register, monitoring the execution process, and the like. This has attracted attention to protect encryption keys used for copyright protection from exposure in media players and set-top boxes. Currently, the scope of use is expanding due to the safe execution of financial applications in a mobile environment and the prevention of firmware forgery in embedded devices [1]. In 2002, Chow et al [2, 3]. suggested the possibility of white-box cryptography of AES (Advanced Encryption Standard) and DES (Data Encryption Standard) along with the concept of white-box attackers, and various white-box cryptography technologies were proposed after that. The security of white-box cryptography generally aims at all or part of preventing exposure to encryption keys, one-wayness of encryption or decryption, and preventing the reproduction of cryptosystems [4]. It was analyzed that most of the white-box cryptography designed in a table reference method, including white-box cryptography such as Chow, does not satisfy any security goals. In general, one-wayness, the security of the white-box, cannot be maintained based on the analysis results of the SASAS structure consisting of the non-linear function S-box and the affine function proposed by Biruykov et al. [6, 7]. The analysis results of structures other than the SASAS structure are also the same. However, various attempts are still underway, and white-box cryptographic products that adopt undisclosed techniques are

also actively spreading [5]. This paper proposes an attack method on the light-weight white-box encryption scheme for securing distributed embedded devices presented by Shi et al. to IEEE Transaction on Computers in 2019 [8]. The LW-WBC (Light-Weight White-Box Cryptography) proposed by Shi et al. has a Feistel structure and protects the input and output value of the XOR (exclusive or) operation by using a table reference method in each round. In addition, it was argued that it was safe against the existing white-box attack method. The LW-WBC, a 60-bit $S^{(1)}AS^{(2)}$ structure with different nonlinear S-box sizes, increases attack complexity and enhances security by not exposing the linear functions used. However, as a result of applying Biruykov's SASAS structural analysis, it was confirmed that the inverse functions of each round could be efficiently obtained [8]. This cannot guarantee one-wayness, which is the security of the white-box cryptography. This paper presents the existing white-box cryptographic model and structural analysis studies. First, we implement LW-WBC based on C language and analyze the security evidence claimed by Shi. After that, we present the structural analysis algorithm of the $S^{(1)}AS^{(2)}$ structure and calculate the attack complexity based on it. Finally, the attack is carried out by applying structural analysis to the LW-WBC using Python language. The results of this study can be used in commercialized white-box cryptographic models with $S^{(1)}AS^{(2)}$ structures.

II. WHITE-BOX CRYPTOGRAPHY AND STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

White-box cryptographic model uses obfuscation techniques by applying encoding to plaintext, ciphertext, and intermediate values. Various white-box cryptographic model design studies are underway, starting with the symmetric key cryptography AES white-box cryptographic model proposed in 2002 [2]. This white-box cryptographic model is very closely related to cryptographic logic, structural analysis. Structural analysis is a study that started with a different motive than white-box cryptography. This section examines the research trend of the white-box cryptographic model. In addition, we look at the structural analysis research trend closely related to the security of white-box cryptography.

A. RESEARCH TRENDS IN WHITE-BOX CRYPTOGRAPHY

Chow et al. proposed AES' white-box cryptographic model in 2002 and presented a design idea that binds fixed encryption keys into tables, including XOR (exclusive-or) operations. Chow's design ideas are the basis for designing the white-box cryptographic model to date. However, it is not safe with a BGE attack [9], and encryption keys can be extracted by analyzing the table reference method regardless of whether encoding and obfuscation are applied. This is enough to obtain an encryption key from a given table in a few seconds in a PC environment. After that, there have been various studies to supplement Chow's white-box design, but most attack methods have been proposed within a few years. Xiao, Lai [10] presented 16-bit, 32-bit linear function encoding to improve the weakness of 4-bit unit nonlinear encoding in the table reference method. Still, a linear equivalence transformation attack method was discovered by Mulder et al. [11]. In addition, in 2020, vulnerabilities were found in the method of obfuscating the round boundary and adding dummy rounds proposed by Xu et al. [12]. As shown in TABLE I, research on white-box cryptography, which has been steadily improved in table reference methods, has continued until recently [13].

TABLE 1. Designs and Attacks in Whitebox cryptography

Whitebox Cryptography	Design	Attack
Whitebox AES	Chow (2002)	Billet (2004)
Whitebox DES	Chow (2002)	(2007)
Perturbated White-box AES	(2006)	(2010)
White-box AES with large linear encoding	(2009)	(2013)

To overcome the limitations of white-box cryptography for standard cryptography, research is also underway to propose white-box cryptography and a suitable cryptographic algorithm. This started in earnest with introducing the space-hard concept by Bogdanov et al. [14] in 2015. WEM (standing for white-box Even-Mansuor) of Chow et al. [26] proposed a new security concept and operation mode of white-box cryptography. Kwon et al. [27] announced FPL (Feistel cipher using Parallel table Look-ups) block ciphers that combine provable security using parallel table reference methods. Along with developing algorithms suitable for this white-box, the security concept was also discussed from various perspectives. Wyseur [4], Saxena [28] in 2009, and Delerablee et al. [29] in 2013 summarized the security concept that white-box cryptography should satisfy, but most of them are difficult to achieve. In 2020, Bock et al. [30, 31] proposed a security concept considering a practical environment and summarized the security of white-box cryptography based on HW-binding and SW-binding. There are various viewpoints on the security concept and goal of white-box cryptography, and commercial products mainly use private white-box cryptography technology that combines solid obfuscation [5, 32, 33]. The white-box cryptography design is also utilized in SM4, a Chinese standard block cipher algorithm. Various designs and analyses of white-box cryptography are in progress in China. Xioa, Lai [18] and Shang [24] and Yao, Chen [25] designed a white-box cryptography model based on SM4 in 2009, 2016, and 2020, but based on a collision attack, the results were announced that it is difficult to maintain security through the analysis method [19]. As a similar research case, an SM4-based light-weight white-box cryptography model suitable for WSNs (Wireless Sensor Networks) environment was proposed by Shi, Yang et al. in 2015. In 2019, a light-weight white-box cryptographic model suitable for distributed resource systems and combining nonlinear and affine functions was proposed [22, 8]. However, a vulnerability in the white-box cryptographic model was

TABLE 2. Structural analysis of Substitution-Affine Iterations

Year	Topic	Authors
2001	Structural cryptanalysis of SASAS	A Biryukov et al.
2003	Affine Equivalance Algorithm	A Biryukov et al.
2015	Structural cryptanalysis of ASASA	I Dinur et al.
2015	Analytic Tools for White-box Cryptography	C.H. Baek et al.
2018	An improved Affine Equivalence Algorithm	I Dinur

discovered in WSNs through collision-based attacks in 2021 [23]. The white-box cryptographic model proposed in 2019 can confirm its applicability to structural analysis attack [7].

B. RESEARCH TRENDS IN STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS

White-box cryptography is closely related to cryptographic logic, structural analysis. In 1997, Paratin et al. [34] attempted to create the function of public-key cryptography by combining S-box, which is the secret key cryptography logic, and higher-order polynomials. However, although it did not yield successful results, it led to a systematic structural analysis study in the future. As shown in TABLE II, security analysis is conducted on functions of various structures in which nonlinear and affine layers (or linear) with multiple S-boxes alternately appear.

Structural analysis is a study of a method of determining each component under conditions in which the structure of a function is known, but the specific function of each component is unknown. In other words, it is a technique of creating an equivalent function having the same function using only the input/output value of a given oracle function. In 2001, Biryukov et al. [6] considered a function of the SASAS structure as an oracle and discovered a way to find an oracle of the same structure with equal functionality. Using this method, you can discover the encryption key hidden inside the SASAS structure. Most of the white-box cryptography using the table reference method can be attacked by this analysis method. The BGE attack [9] can also be interpreted as this analysis method. Baek et al. proposed a toolbox that generalized structural analysis and presented systematic and quantitative attacks on various structures. This structural analysis has expanded its research to various structures such as ASASA and SASASASAS. Typical attacks on white-box cryptography include obtaining encryption keys and attacking one-wayness properties by constructing a decryption algorithm for a given encryption system. White-box cryptography, which combines non-linear and affine functions into tables, is difficult to maintain security through structural analysis. However, various studies are still in progress to design a white-box encryption model based on one-wayness.

III. SHI'S WHITE-BOX ENCRYPTION SCHEME: LW-WBES

In 2019, Shi et al. proposed a white-box encryption scheme for light-weight embedded devices including mobile phones and navigating systems. We denote their scheme by LW-WBES, which means a Light-Weight White-Box Encryption Scheme. LW-WBES has the following features:

- The block size (input/output size) is 120 bits.
- The number of rounds depends on the security level such as 16(default), 10(aggressive), or 32(conservative).
- The encryption process is designed as a variant of Feistel network.
- Two types of keys (black-box key and white-box key) are used for providing black-box security and white-box security simutaneously. Hence, the key size of LW-WBES is extremely large.

A. DESIGN RATIONALE

In order to overcome the difficulties of white-box implementations of standard ciphers, Shi et al. propose a new cipher which seems to be secure against white-box attack context. Their design stretergies can be summarized as:

- The scheme has the secret components based on the Feistel network, which protect the secret keys from white-box attacks including DCA and DFA.
- Since components of three different size (4, 5, 6-bit) are integrated, it is hard to mount the structural analysis.
- The secret components can be reused in each round for saving memory usage in light-weight devices.
- The scheme does not require external encodings and obfuscation techniques.

We will show that the goal of design ratinals cannot be satisfied and weak against structural cryptanalysis in particular.

B. SPECIFICATION

LW-WBES is a 120-bit block cipher and the number of round can be chosen based on the level of security and the constraints of resources. Here, we describe the encryption process of16 round version. 120-bit plaintext PT is input (L, R) for the Feistel network divided into 5-bit variables as:

$$PT = (L, R) = (L_0, L_1, \ldots, L_{11}, R_0, R_1, \ldots, R_{11}),$$

where $L_i, R_i \in GF(2)^5$ for $i = 0, 1, \ldots, 11$. In each round, the round function $F : GF(2)^{60} \rightarrow GF(2)^{72}$ consumes 72-bit black-box round key rk.

C. SECURITY CLAIM

- Design rationale
- specification of WB encrytion scheme
- Security claim

IV. STRUCTURAL ANALYSIS OF $S^{(1)}AS^{(2)}$

- Intro. to structural analysis
- brief history
- Our result

V. CRYPTANALYSIS OF SHI'S ALGORITHM

- round inversion
- Attack algorithm of plaintext recovery attack
- Experimental results
- Possible countermeasures

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Define abbreviations and acronyms the first time they are used in the text, even after they have already been defined in the abstract. Abbreviations such as IEEE, SI, ac, and dc do not have to be defined. Abbreviations that incorporate periods should not have spaces: write "C.N.R.S.," not "C. N. R. S." Do not use abbreviations in the title unless they are unavoidable (for example, "IEEE" in the title of this article).

B. OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

Use one space after periods and colons. Hyphenate complex modifiers: "zero-field-cooled magnetization." Avoid dangling participles, such as, "Using (1), the potential was calculated." [It is not clear who or what used (1).] Write instead, "The potential was calculated by using (1)," or "Using (1), we calculated the potential."

Use a zero before decimal points: "0.25," not ".25." Use "cm^3," not "cc." Indicate sample dimensions as "0.1 cm $\times$ 0.2 cm," not "0.1 $\times$ 0.2 cm^2." The abbreviation for "seconds" is "s," not "sec." Use "Wb/m^2" or "webers per square meter," not "webers/m^2." When expressing a range of values, write "7 to 9" or "7–9," not "7$\sim$9."

A parenthetical statement at the end of a sentence is punctuated outside of the closing parenthesis (like this). (A parenthetical sentence is punctuated within the parentheses.) In American English, periods and commas are within quotation marks, like "this period." Other punctuation is "outside"! Avoid contractions; for example, write "do not" instead of "don't." The serial comma is preferred: "A, B, and C" instead of "A, B and C."

If you wish, you may write in the first person singular or plural and use the active voice ("I observed that ..." or "We observed that ..." instead of "It was observed that ..."). Remember to check spelling. If your native language is not English, please get a native English-speaking colleague to carefully proofread your paper.

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Number equations consecutively with equation numbers in parentheses flush with the right margin, as in (1). To make your equations more compact, you may use the solidus (/), the exp function, or appropriate exponents. Use parentheses to avoid ambiguities in denominators. Punctuate equations when they are part of a sentence, as in

$$E = mc^2. \tag{1}$$

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Please use "soft" (e.g., `\eqref{Eq}`) cross references instead of "hard" references (e.g., `(1)`). That will make it possible to combine sections, add equations, or change the order of figures or citations without having to go through the file line by line.

Please don't use the `{eqnarray}` equation environment. Use `{align}` or `{IEEEeqnarray}` instead. The `{eqnarray}` environment leaves unsightly spaces around relation symbols.

Please note that the `{subequations}` environment in LaTeX will increment the main equation counter even when there are no equation numbers displayed. If you forget that, you might write an article in which the equation numbers skip from (17) to (20), causing the copy editors to wonder if you've discovered a new method of counting.

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Do not use `\nonumber` inside the `{array}` environment. It will not stop equation numbers inside `{array}` (there won't be any anyway) and it might stop a wanted equation number in the surrounding equation.

VI. UNITS

Use either SI (MKS) or CGS as primary units. (SI units are strongly encouraged.) English units may be used as secondary units (in parentheses). This applies to papers in data storage. For example, write "15 Gb/cm^2 (100 Gb/in^2)." An exception is when English units are used as identifiers in trade, such as "3½-in disk drive." Avoid combining SI and CGS units, such as current in amperes and magnetic field in oersteds. This often leads to confusion because equations do not balance dimensionally. If you must use mixed units, clearly state the units for each quantity in an equation.

The SI unit for magnetic field strength H is A/m. However, if you wish to use units of T, either refer to magnetic flux density B or magnetic field strength symbolized as $\mu_0 H$. Use the center dot to separate compound units, e.g., "A·m^2."

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The word "data" is plural, not singular. The subscript for the permeability of vacuum μ_0 is zero, not a lowercase letter "o." The term for residual magnetization is "remanence"; the adjective is "remanent"; do not write "remnance" or "remnant." Use the word "micrometer" instead of "micron." A graph within a graph is an "inset," not an "insert." The word "alternatively" is preferred to the word "alternately" (unless you really mean something that alternates). Use the word "whereas" instead of "while" (unless you are referring to simultaneous events). Do not use the word "essentially" to mean "approximately" or "effectively." Do not use the word "issue" as a euphemism for "problem." When compositions are not specified, separate chemical symbols by en-dashes; for example, "NiMn" indicates the intermetallic compound $Ni_{0.5}Mn_{0.5}$ whereas "Ni–Mn" indicates an alloy of some composition Ni_xMn_{1-x}.

Be aware of the different meanings of the homophones "affect" (usually a verb) and "effect" (usually a noun), "complement" and "compliment," "discreet" and "discrete," "principal" (e.g., "principal investigator") and "principle" (e.g., "principle of measurement"). Do not confuse "imply" and "infer."

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Figures that are meant to appear in color, or shades of black/gray. Such figures may include photographs, illustrations, multicolor graphs, and flowcharts.

2) Line Art figures

Figures that are composed of only black lines and shapes. These figures should have no shades or half-tones of gray, only black and white.

3) Author photos

Head and shoulders shots of authors that appear at the end of our papers.

TABLE 3. Units for Magnetic Properties

Symbol	Quantity	Conversion from Gaussian and CGS EMU to SI [a]
Φ	magnetic flux	1 Mx $\rightarrow 10^{-8}$ Wb $= 10^{-8}$ V·s
B	magnetic flux density, magnetic induction	1 G $\rightarrow 10^{-4}$ T $= 10^{-4}$ Wb/m^2
H	magnetic field strength	1 Oe $\rightarrow 10^3/(4\pi)$ A/m
m	magnetic moment	1 erg/G $=$ 1 emu $\rightarrow 10^{-3}$ A·m^2 $= 10^{-3}$ J/T
M	magnetization	1 erg/(G·cm^3) $=$ 1 emu/cm^3 $\rightarrow 10^3$ A/m
$4\pi M$	magnetization	1 G $\rightarrow 10^3/(4\pi)$ A/m
σ	specific magnetization	1 erg/(G·g) $=$ 1 emu/g $\rightarrow$ 1 A·m^2/kg
j	magnetic dipole moment	1 erg/G $=$ 1 emu $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-10}$ Wb·m
J	magnetic polarization	1 erg/(G·cm^3) $=$ 1 emu/cm^3 $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-4}$ T
χ, κ	susceptibility	1 $\rightarrow 4\pi$
χ_ρ	mass susceptibility	1 cm^3/g $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-3}$ m^3/kg
μ	permeability	1 $\rightarrow 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ H/m $= 4\pi \times 10^{-7}$ Wb/(A·m)
μ_r	relative permeability	$\mu \rightarrow \mu_r$
w, W	energy density	1 erg/cm^3 $\rightarrow 10^{-1}$ J/m^3
N, D	demagnetizing factor	1 $\rightarrow 1/(4\pi)$

Vertical lines are optional in tables. Statements that serve as captions for the entire table do not need footnote letters.

[a]Gaussian units are the same as cg emu for magnetostatics; Mx = maxwell, G = gauss, Oe = oersted; Wb = weber, V = volt, s = second, T = tesla, m = meter, A = ampere, J = joule, kg = kilogram, H = henry.

4) Tables

Data charts which are typically black and white, but sometimes include color.

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Figures compiled of more than one sub-figure presented side-by-side, or stacked. If a multipart figure is made up of multiple figure types (one part is lineart, and another is grayscale or color) the figure should meet the stricter guidelines.

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Most charts, graphs, and tables are one column wide (3.5 inches/88 millimeters/21 picas) or page wide (7.16 inches/181 millimeters/43 picas). The maximum depth a graphic can be is 8.5 inches (216 millimeters/54 picas). When choosing the depth of a graphic, please allow space for a caption. Figures can be sized between column and page widths if the author chooses, however it is recommended

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There is currently one publication with column measurements that do not coincide with those listed above. Proceedings of the IEEE has a column measurement of 3.25 inches (82.5 millimeters/19.5 picas).

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All color figures should be generated in RGB or CMYK color space. Grayscale images should be submitted in Grayscale color space. Line art may be provided in grayscale OR bitmap colorspace. Note that "bitmap colorspace" and "bitmap file format" are not the same thing. When bitmap color space is selected, .TIF/.TIFF/.PNG are the recommended file formats.

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Figure axis labels are often a source of confusion. Use words rather than symbols. As an example, write the quantity "Magnetization," or "Magnetization M," not just "M." Put units in parentheses. Do not label axes only with units. As in Fig. 1, for example, write "Magnetization (A/m)" or "Magnetization ($A{\cdot}m^{-1}$)," not just "A/m." Do not label axes with a ratio of quantities and units. For example, write "Temperature (K)," not "Temperature/K."

Multipliers can be especially confusing. Write "Magnetization (kA/m)" or "Magnetization (10^3 A/m)." Do not write "Magnetization (A/m) $\times$ 1000" because the reader would not know whether the top axis label in Fig. 1 meant 16000 A/m or 0.016 A/m. Figure labels should be legible, approximately 8 to 10 point type.

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