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Investigation of Some Cryptographic Properties of the 8x8 S-boxes Created by Quasigroups

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Abstract

We investigate several cryptographic properties in 8-bit S-boxes obtained by quasigroups of order 4 and 16 by different methods. The best produced S-boxes so far are regular and have algebraic degree 7, nonlinearity 98 (linearity 60), differential uniformity 8, and autocorrelation 88.

Keywords: Nonlinearity, differential uniformity.

1 Introduction

The main building blocks for obtaining confusion in all modern block ciphers are so called substitution boxes, or S-boxes. Designers of block ciphers very often choose S-boxes with special cryptographic properties, which means high nonlinearity (or low linearity), low differential uniformity, high algebraic degree, low autocorrelation and regularity (balance). The well known fact is that the bijective S-boxes are always regular. The AES S-box is the example of the best found 8x8 S-boxes, which is optimal with respect to most of the cryptographic properties (with algebraic degree 7, nonlinearity 112 (or linearity 32), differential uniformity 4, and autocorrelation 32).

Let \mathbb{F}_2 denote the Galois field with two elements, and let \mathbb{F}_2^n denote the vector space of binary n -tuples over \mathbb{F}_2 with respect to addition \oplus and scalar multiplication. An n -ary Boolean function is a function $f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2$. A Boolean map is a map $S : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_2^m$, ($m \geq 1$). Every Boolean map S can be represented as: $S(x_1, \dots, x_n) =$

$(f_1(x_1, \dots, x_n), f_2(x_1, \dots, x_n), \dots, f_m(x_1, \dots, x_n))$. Each f_i can be represented in ANF as $f_i(x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n) = \bigoplus_{I \subseteq \{1, 2, \dots, n\}} \alpha_I (\prod_{i \in I} x_i)$, where $\alpha_I \in \mathbb{F}_2$.

For all $\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$, the Walsh-Hadamard transform $W_f : \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ of f is $W_f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{f(\mathbf{a}) \oplus \mathbf{a} \cdot \mathbf{x}}$, where $W_f(\mathbf{x}) \in [-2^n, 2^n]$ is known as a spectral Walsh coefficient, while the Autocorrelation transform of f is $ACT_f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{\mathbf{a} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} (-1)^{f(\mathbf{a}) \oplus f(\mathbf{a} \oplus \mathbf{x})}$, where $ACT_f(\mathbf{x}) \in [-2^n, 2^n]$ is known as a spectral autocorrelation coefficient. The *autocorrelation (absolute indicator)* of f is $AC(f) = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n \setminus \mathbf{0}} |ACT_f(\mathbf{x})|$. The *nonlinearity* of a Boolean function f is defined as $NL(f) = 2^{n-1} - \frac{1}{2} \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} |W_f(\mathbf{x})|$, while the *linearity* of f is defined as $L(f) = \max_{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n} |W_f(\mathbf{x})|$. They are related by the equation $L(f) + 2NL(f) = 2^n$.

For Boolean map S we have the following definitions [2, 3]:

- Algebraic degree: $deg(S) = \max_{i \in \{1, 2, \dots, m\}} \{deg(f_i)\}$
- Nonlinearity: $NL(S) = \min_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} NL(\mathbf{v} \cdot S)$
- Linearity: $L(S) = \max_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} L(\mathbf{v} \cdot S)$
- Autocorrelation: $AC(S) = \max_{\mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}} AC(\mathbf{v} \cdot S)$
- Differential uniformity: $\Delta(S) = \max_{\mathbf{u} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m \setminus \{\mathbf{0}\}, \mathbf{v} \in \mathbb{F}_2^m} |\{\mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{F}_2^n | S(\mathbf{x}) \oplus S(\mathbf{x} \oplus \mathbf{u}) = \mathbf{v}\}|$

2 Main Results

Mihajloska and Gligoroski [1] constructed optimal 4x4 S-boxes from quasigroups of order 4, by using four e quasigroup transformations, alternating in normal and reverse mode (in a sense that they apply the string in reverse order – oe). We investigate several cryptographic properties of the 8x8 S-boxes obtained by similar constructions with quasigroups of order 4 and 16. In some of the constructions we combine quasigroup transformations with the addition of 2-, 4-, or 8-bit constants.

Method 1 – alternate use of e and oe transformations generated by quasigroups of order 4, like in [1]. Part of the results are given in Table 1, where $neoe$ type means that there are total of n quasigroup transformations.

Table 1. Method 1 – part of the results

Type	NL(S)	L(S)	$\Delta(S)$	AC(S)	deg(S)	No. of S
4eoe	64	128	24	256	7	192
8eoe	98	60	10	88,96,64	7	3360
10eoe	98	60	10	88	7	27392
12eoe	98	60	8	96	7	≥ 714
			10	88		≥ 84281

Method 2 – combination of e and oe transformations, with addition of 2-bit, 4-bit or 8-bit constants (some results in Table 2).

Table 2. Method 2 – part of the results

Type	NL(S)	L(S)	$\Delta(S)$	AC(S)	deg(S)	No. of S
1e_add2	0	256	256	256	4	4608
1e_add4	0	256	128	256	4	2816
1e_add8	4	248	132	256	7	6144
	32	192	164			1536
1oe_add8	0	256	132	256	7	6144
2e_add2_oe_add2	0	256	128	256	6	98304
2e_add4_oe_add4	64	128	96	256	6	3072
4eoe_add2	64	128	24	256	7	768
4eoe_add8	88	80	24	160	7	16

Method 3 – as Method 1 and 2, but with one randomly generated shapeless quasigroup of order 16 (Fig. 1).

The best produced 8x8 S-box is obtained by 6 e quasigroup transformations, alternating in normal and reverse mode, from the quasigroup of order 16, with consecutive leaders (0, 3, 5, 3, 0, 0).

References

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8 1 14 4 9 12 10 5 7 6 15 2 13 11 0 3
14 8 4 9 1 13 2 6 5 0 12 3 15 7 10 11
6 11 7 3 13 10 14 2 0 12 8 15 4 9 5 1
10 4 15 8 2 9 13 12 11 7 5 1 6 0 3 14
0 15 13 10 5 4 1 14 9 2 7 8 3 12 11 6
15 10 2 11 6 8 5 4 12 3 14 9 0 1 13 7
9 12 5 1 7 11 4 0 14 8 2 6 10 3 15 13
2 6 12 0 10 15 7 9 1 14 3 13 11 5 4 8
3 14 8 15 0 6 12 11 13 1 9 5 7 10 2 4
13 3 6 5 14 7 8 1 10 11 4 0 12 2 9 15
1 9 11 7 12 2 6 13 3 4 0 10 8 15 14 5
4 13 9 6 3 14 15 10 2 5 11 12 1 8 7 0
12 0 10 13 15 5 3 7 6 9 1 11 14 4 8 2
5 7 0 12 11 1 9 3 8 15 13 4 2 14 6 10
11 2 1 14 8 3 0 15 4 13 10 7 5 6 12 9
7 5 3 2 4 0 11 8 15 10 6 14 9 13 1 12

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Figure 1. Shapeless quasigroup of order 16.

Table 3. Method 3 – part of the results

Type	NL(S)	L(S)	$\Delta(S)$	AC(S)	deg(S)	No. of S
1e_add2	32	192	34	256	6	64
1e_add4	32	192	34	256	6	64
	64	128	44			8
1e_add8	64	128	26	232-248	7	20
2e_add4_oe_add4	96	64	10	88	7	100
	98	60	12,14	96-104		65536
2e_add8_oe	98	60	10	88	7	11
4eoe	98	60	10-12	88	7	15
	94-90	68-76	8	96-112		5
6eoe	98	60	8	88	7	1
				104		2

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