A Novel Approach for Encryption of Text Messages, Enhancing the Security of Simple Columnar Transposition Cipher with Caesar Cipher and Rail Fence Cipher, Under 15 Parameters

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Abstract: Cryptography is an art and science of converting original message into non-readable form. There are two techniques for converting data into non-readable form. Transposition technique, Substitution technique. In recent years there is drastic progress in Internet world. Sensitive information can be shared through internet but this information sharing is susceptible to certain attacks. Cryptography was introduced to solve this problem. Cryptography is art for achieving security by encoding the plain text message to cipher text. Substitution and transposition are techniques for encoding. When Caesar cipher substitution, Rail fence cipher and Columnar Transposition Cipher techniques are used individually, cipher text obtained is easy to crack. This talk will present a perspective on combination of techniques substitution and transposition. Combining Caesar cipher and rail fence with Columnar Transposition Cipher can eliminate their fundamental weakness and produce a cipher text that is hard to crack. In this paper I am going to compare the performance analysis of already designed new algorithms according to 15 Parameter's with simple columnar transposition cipher.

Keywords: Cryptography, Cipher text, Substitution, Transposition, Caesar Cipher, Columnar Transposition Cipher, cryptanalysis, key.

1. Introduction

This modern era is dominated by paperless offices-mail messages-cash transactions and virtual departmental stores. Due to this there is a great need of interchanging of data through internet. The dramatic rise of internet has opened the possibilities that no one had imagined. We can connect to any person, any organization or any computer, no matters how far we are from them. Internet cannot be used only for browsing purpose. Sensitive information like banking transactions, credit card information and confidential data can be shared through internet. But still we are left with a difficult job of protecting network from variety of attacks. With the lots of efforts, network support staff came up with solution to our problem named “Cryptography”. Cryptography is the art of achieving security by encoding the data into unreadable form. Data that can be read and understood without any difficulty is called plain text or clear text. The method of encoding Plain text in such a way as to hide its content is called encryption. Encrypting plain text results in unreadable gibberish called cipher text. You use Encryption to ensure that information is hidden from anyone for whom it is not intended, even those who can see the encrypted data. The process of reverting cipher text to its original plain text is called decryption.

There are two primary ways in which plaintext can be codified to corresponding Cipher text: Substitution and Transposition. A Substitution technique is one in which the letters of Plain text are replaced by other letters or by numbers (Caesar Cipher, Hill Cipher, Monoalphabetic cipher etc). A Transposition technique is one in which the letters of the message are rearranged or permuted (Rail Fence method, Columnar method etc.). The columnar transposition cipher is a fairly simple, easy to implement cipher. It is a transposition cipher that follows a simple rule for mixing up the characters in the plaintext to form the cipher text. Although weak on its own, it can be combined with other ciphers, such as a substitution cipher, the combination of which can be more difficult to break than either cipher on its own.

2. Columnar Transposition Cipher

The columnar transposition cipher is a fairly simple, easy to implement cipher. It is a transposition cipher that follows a simple rule for mixing up the characters in the plaintext to form the ciphertext. Although weak on its own, it can be combined with other ciphers, such as a substitution cipher, the combination of which can be more difficult to break than either cipher on its own.

A. Example

The key for the columnar transposition cipher is a keyword e.g. INDIAN. The row length that is used is the same as the length of the keyword. To encrypt a piece of text, e.g. defend the east wall of the castle, we write it out in a special way in a number of rows (the keyword here is INDIAN):
In the above example, the plaintext has been padded so that it neatly fits in a rectangle. This is known as a regular columnar transposition. An irregular columnar transposition leaves these characters blank, though this makes decryption slightly more difficult. The columns are now reordered such that the letters in the key word are ordered alphabetically.

In the example, the ciphertext is read off along the columns: dttsfhwttfeahleeleenalcdsoa

3. **Ceasar Cipher**

When Julius Caesar sent messages to his generals, he didn't trust his messengers. So he replaced every A in his messages with a D, every B with an E, and so on through the alphabet. Only someone who knew the “shift by 3” rule could decipher his messages. $C = E(k, p) = (p + k) \mod 26$

Example

"KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA" is encoded as (Key=2)

"MWTWMUJGVTCWPKXGTUKVAMWTWMUJGVTC"

4. **Analyzing Caesar Cipher**

Cryptanalysis means breaking codes and ciphers. The decryption algorithm of Caesar cipher is simple. $P= D(C) = (C - k) \mod 26$ If it is known that given cipher text is a Caesar cipher, then a brute-force cryptanalysis can be easily performed. Simply by trying all possible 25 keys a cryptanalyst just has to find the shift that causes the cipher text frequencies to match up closely with the natural English frequencies and then decrypt the text using that shift. This method can be used to easily break Caesar ciphers by hand.
7. Block diagram for Encryption Algorithm

8. Block Diagram for Decryption Algorithm

9. Example

A. Encryption

1. Let the plain text to be Encrypted is "KURUKSHETRA UNIVERSITY KURUKSHETRA".

2. Arrange the plaintext across rows in a rectangular format, using key K1 = 4 3 2 1 (Columnar Transposition), as shown in figure

   Key K1= 4 3 2 1
   K U R U
   K S H E
   T R A U
   N I V E
   R S I T
   Y K U R
   U K S H
   E T R A

3. Now read columns in order, we get cipher text (CT1) = "UEUETRHRHAIUSRUSRISKKTHTNKR YUE".

4. Repeat Step 2 on CT1, as shown we get CT2 = "EAVRITNEUHASRKTUERHUSKSYUTRUIUSRK R".
5. Using Caesar cipher (Substitution Technique), shift the characters of CT3 by \( K_2=2 \) positions, we get New cipher text, let it be labeled as 

\[
\text{CT2} = "GCXTKVPGWJCUTMVMGTJWUMMZWVTKWUMT"
\]

6. Repeat Step5 on CT3, we get

\[
\text{CT4} = "IEZVMXRJYLEWVOXYIVLYWOOBYXVMYWOV"
\]

5. Now perform rail fence technique on CT2, as shown in figure, we get again New cipher text, labeled as CT4

6. Now divide cipher text CT3, into two equal Halves, as Word1 and Word 2, as shown above

\[
\text{IZMYREVXILWOYVYO}
\]

E XV IL WO YV YO B X M W V

CT5= "IZMYREVXILWOYVYO EVXILWOYVYOBYXVMYWV" "IZMYREVXILWOYVYO" "EVXILWOYVYOBYXVMYWV"

7. To add more complexity, put these different words in different stacks, by using PUSH Operations.

8. Now POP elements from both stacks

Stack1: OYVYOWLIXVEYRMZI

Stack2: VWMXBOYVYOWLIXEV, let this be CT6.

9. Final cipher text is Stack1 + Stack2, that is

\[
\text{CT7} = "OYYWOLIXVEYRMZIVWMXBOYVYOWLIXEV"\]

A. Decryption

1. Write cipher text CT7 = "OYYWOLIXVEYRMZIVWMXBOYVYOWLIXEV"

2. Separate it into two halves as

"OYYWOLIXVEYRMZI" and "VWMXBOYVYOWLIXEV"

3. Push these two words on different stacks, as shown in figure

4. POP one element from Stack 1 and Second element from Stack 2, we get pair of two words, example first pair IE, ZV, MX, RI, YL, EW, VO, XY, IV, LY, WO, OB, YY, VM, YW, OV

CT6 = "IEZVMXRJYLEWVOXYIVLYWOOBYXVMYWOV"

5. Using Key \( K_2 = -2 \) decrypt CT6, We get CT5

\[
\text{CT5} = "GCXTKVPGWJCUTMVMGTJWUMMZWVTKWUMT"
\]

6. Repeat step 5, on

\[
\text{CT4} = "EAVRITNEUHASRKTUERHUSKKYUTRIUSKR"
\]

7. Now using Key \( K_1 = 4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1 \), arrange CT4 in rectangular format columns, and read as rows, we get CT3 as

UEUETRHRHAIUSRU/SKSKKTKTTNYUE

8. Repeat Step 7, We get Plain text as shown

Key \( K_1 = 4 \ 3 \ 2 \ 1 \)

K U R U
K S H E
T R A U
N I V E
R S I T
Y K U R
U K S H
E T R A

8. Now Read as row by row we get original plain text.
10. Objectives

1. Overcomes limitations of simple columnar transposition cipher
2. Results cannot be easily reconstructed.
3. To understand the algorithm is not very difficult.
4. It is more difficult to crypt analyze.
5. It provides moderate complexity to encrypted messages
6. Simple to perform double substitution
7. Double transposition method is applied which provides
   much less structured permutation.

11. Comparison

Comparative study between New Proposed Algorithm and Simple columnar Transposition Cipher.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Parameters</th>
<th>Simple columnar Transposition</th>
<th>Simple columnar Transposition with 2 rounds</th>
<th>New Algorithm</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Security</strong></td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>More</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keys</strong></td>
<td>One</td>
<td>One Or Two</td>
<td>Two</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diversified Cipher Text</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Complexity</strong></td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>Less</td>
<td>Less</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Cryptography</strong></td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Difficult</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Brute Force Attack</strong></td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Possible</td>
<td>Not Possible</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Double Substitution</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Rounds</strong></td>
<td>One</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Implementation</strong></td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Easy</td>
<td>Easy</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Can Result Be Easily Reconstruct-Ed</strong></td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>YES</td>
<td>NO</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Time To Break Cipher Text</strong></td>
<td>Time Required By Simple Coloumnar</td>
<td>Time Required By Simple Columnar* Number Of Rounds</td>
<td>2<em>Simple Columnar+2</em>Substitution+Railfence+Stack Operation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Double Transposition</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Use Of Stack</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Confusion</strong></td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Diffusion</strong></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Yes</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

2) Time Required to break the simple columnar transposition cipher with multiple rounds can be analyzed as if key length is 2, then we need 2 permutation multiplied by number of rounds, if key length is 3, then we need 6 permutation multiplied by number of rounds and so on.
3) Time Required to break the New Algorithm can be analyzed as, New Algorithm is a combination of simple columnar transposition, substitution, followed by rail fence and time require for performing stack operation. Therefore time required can be calculated as

\[2\times\text{simple columnar} + 2\times\text{substitution rail fence} + \text{stack operation} \]

Let \( x \) be the time required to break the cipher text of simple columnar transposition cipher, \( y \) be the time required to break cipher text in Caesar cipher and \( z \) be the time required to break cipher text of rail fence cipher. Then

1. For simple Columnar Transposition \( T=x \).
2. For simple Columnar Transposition with multiple rounds \( T=n\times x \).
3. For Proposed New Algorithm \( T=2\times x + 2\times y + z + s \).

\( S \) = Time Required for Performing Stack Operation

For a particular Example if \( x=1, y=1, z=1 \) (\( x,y,z \) can be in sec, Min, Hours etc)

1. Then for simple columnar Transposition \( T=1 \).
2. For simple Columnar Transposition with multiple rounds \( T=2 \times 1=2 \) for 2 rounds
3. For Proposed New Algorithm \( T=2\times x + 2\times y + z + s=2 * 1 + 2 * 1 + 1=5+ \)

if \( x=2, y=2, z=2 \) (\( x,y,z \) can be in sec, Min, Hours etc)

1. Then for simple Columnar Transposition \( T=2 \).
2. For simple Columnar Transposition with multiple rounds \( T=2 \times 2=4 \), for 2 rounds
3. For Proposed New Algorithm \( T=2\times x + 2\times y + z + s=2 * 2 + 2 = 10+ \).

13. Advantages of Proposed Algorithm

1) If we scrutinize at the Algorithm we can notice at every Stage we are getting diverse cipher text, thus more trouble to cryptanalyst.
2) It is more difficult to crypt-analyze.
3) Brute force attack is not possible.
4) It is simple to perform substitution.

14. Disadvantages of Proposed Algorithm

1. It makes use of two keys.
2. Also difficult to implement.

15. Graphical Analysis
achieving secure communication than Simple One. Simple columnar transposition cipher is the simplest Transposition method. It is also the weak cipher. It’s only advantage lies in the fact that it is not complex and can be understood easily. This advantage leads to the problem of easy detection. For overcoming this problem Caesar cipher and rail fence cipher is combined with transposition techniques. Transposition technique used here is simple columnar cipher. For adding further complexity stacks are used which makes the detection of both the techniques (Caesar cipher and rail fencing) difficult.

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References


Author Profile

Jawad Ahmad Dar is currently in final year M TECH Computer science and Engineering from Kurukshetra University, Kurukshetra. He did B.TECH in Computer Science and Engineering from Islamic University of Science and Technology Kashmir in 2013 (2009 BATCH). He has already published more than 5 papers at international and national journals. His interested areas of research are Neural Networks, Mobile computing, Network security, and Algorithms.

16. Conclusion

In this paper I have presented how to improve security of Simple columnar Cipher to make it more secure and strong, and compare its performance according to 15 parameters. Moreover the proposed algorithm has lot of advantages in