

Lightweight MDS Generalized Circulant Matrices

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Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Diffusion Matrices

The diffusion layer of a cipher provides the **diffusion property**:

- spread the internal dependencies as much as possible.

The diffusion power of a matrix can be quantified by **branch number**, \mathcal{B} .

- Minimum number of nonzero components of nonzero input and output vector pairs.

Branch Number of the Diffusion Matrices

Proposition

For any permutation matrices P and Q , the branch number of matrices M and PMQ are the same.

Definition

Two matrices M and M' are **branch-equivalent**, denoted by $M \sim_{\mathcal{B}} M'$, if there exist two permutation matrices P and Q such that $M' = PMQ$.

Branch-equivalent matrices have the same branch number.

Maximal Distance Separable (MDS) Matrices

For a $k \times k$ matrix, the **largest** possible branch number is $k + 1$.
Matrices that attain this bound are known as the **MDS matrices**.

Example

The diffusion matrix in AES.

$$\begin{pmatrix} 2 & 3 & 1 & 1 \\ 1 & 2 & 3 & 1 \\ 1 & 1 & 2 & 3 \\ 3 & 1 & 1 & 2 \end{pmatrix}$$

It is MDS and has a branch number of 5.

Circulant Matrices

Definition

A circulant matrix C is a square matrix of order k , where each subsequent row is a **right rotation** of the previous row.

$$\begin{pmatrix} c_0 & c_1 & c_2 & c_3 \\ c_3 & c_0 & c_1 & c_2 \\ c_2 & c_3 & c_0 & c_1 \\ c_1 & c_2 & c_3 & c_0 \end{pmatrix}$$

A circulant matrix can be denoted by its first row $\text{circ}(c_0, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_{k-1})$.

Exhaustive Search for MDS Circulant Matrices

Choose an ordered multi-set of k elements to define the first row of a circulant matrix of order k .

- For each permutation of the multi-set, check if it is MDS. But there are up to $k!$ ways to permute the entries.
- MDS circulant matrices can have repeated entries, there are much more ways to pick a multi-set than a set of k distinct elements.

In this work, we tackle these 2 challenges through the analysis of the circulant matrix structure.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Challenge 1

Challenge:

For each permutation of the multi-set, check if it is MDS. But there are up to $k!$ ways to permute the entries.

Strategy:

We group the circulant matrices into equivalence classes to reduce the search space.

How it works:

An equivalence class of circulant matrices is a set of circulant matrices satisfying the branch-equivalent relation $\sim_{\mathcal{B}}$.

It is sufficient to check one representative from each equivalence classes.

Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices

Lemma

$\text{circ}(c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{k-1}) \sim_B \text{circ}(c_{j_0}, c_{j_1}, \dots, c_{j_{k-1}})$ if and only if
 $\exists a, b \in \mathbb{Z}_k, \gcd(b, k) = 1$ such that $\forall i \in \{0, 1, \dots, k-1\}$,
 $j_i = (bi + a) \bmod k$.

Order of the Matrix	Total no. of Permutations	No. of Compact Equivalence Classes
3	6	1
4	24	3
5	120	6
6	$2^{9.49}$	$2^{5.91}$
7	$2^{12.30}$	$2^{6.91}$
8	$2^{15.30}$	$2^{10.30}$

Note that this is the **most compact equivalence classes of generic circulant matrices.**

Remark on Equivalence Classes of Hadamard Matrices

In [SKOP15], the authors proved that Hadamard matrices satisfying \mathcal{H} -permutations have the same branch number and proposed the equivalence classes of Hadamard matrices.

However, the converse was unclear.

I.e. Are there other permutations which are also branch-equivalent?

We proved that branch-equivalent Hadamard matrices must satisfy \mathcal{H} -permutations. Therefore, they actually found the **most compact equivalence classes of generic Hadamard matrices**.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Challenge 2

Challenge:

MDS circulant matrices can have **repeated entries**, there are much more ways to pick a multi-set than a set of k distinct elements.

Strategy:

We show that only **special multi-set of entries could be MDS** to reduce the search space.

Types of MDS Circulant Matrices

Theorem

For MDS circulant matrices of order $k \leq 8$, its multi-set must be one of the following 5 types.

Order k	Possible multi-sets	Type 0 k distinct	Type 1 1 pair	Type 2 2 pairs	Type 3 3 pairs	Type 4 3 repeated
3	3	✓	✓			
4	5	✓	✓			
5	7	✓	✓	✓		
6	11	✓	✓	✓		
7	15	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
8	22	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

Note that this is a **necessary condition**, it does not guarantee the existence of MDS circulant matrices.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Generalized Circulant Matrices

For circulant matrices of order 4, the right rotation can be expressed using cycle notation $\tau = (0 \ 1 \ 2 \ 3)$,
i.e. $0 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 0$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ d & a & b & c \\ c & d & a & b \\ b & c & d & a \end{pmatrix}$$

The key observation is that **same permutation is applied to each subsequent rows.**

Generalized Circulant Matrices

We consider the permutation ρ to be any **cycle of length k** , this is to avoid repeated rows and repeating entries in a column.

For instance, let the cycle be $(0 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3)$, i.e. $0 \rightarrow 2 \rightarrow 1 \rightarrow 3 \rightarrow 0$.

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ d & c & a & b \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & b & a \end{pmatrix}$$

In group theory, using $\rho \in S_k$ as a generator forms a **cyclic group of order k** , where S_k is symmetric group.

Cyclic Matrices

Definition

A cyclic matrix C_ρ of order k is a matrix where **each subsequent row is permutation ρ of the previous row**, where ρ is a cycle of length k . It can be denoted by its first row $\text{cyc}_\rho(c_0, c_1, \dots, c_{k-1})$.

Problem:

There are $(k - 1)!$ cycles of length k , not feasible to analyze every single cyclic matrix structures.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Cyclic and Circulant Matrices

Using group theory, we find branch-equivalent relation between any arbitrary cyclic matrix structure and the circulant matrix structure.

Any **cyclic matrix can always be transformed into a circulant matrix** through some column permutation, and vice versa.

Example

$$\begin{pmatrix} a & b & c & d \\ d & c & a & b \\ b & a & d & c \\ c & d & b & a \end{pmatrix} \xrightarrow{C_1 \leftrightarrow C_2} \begin{pmatrix} a & c & b & d \\ d & a & c & b \\ b & d & a & c \\ c & b & d & a \end{pmatrix}$$

Hence, $\text{cyc}_\rho(a, b, c, d) \sim_{\mathcal{B}} \text{circ}(a, c, b, d)$, where $\rho = (0 \ 2 \ 1 \ 3)$.

Cyclic and Circulant Matrices

Theorem

Given an arbitrary cyclic matrix structure, there exists a bijection between the cyclic matrices and the circulant matrices of the same order k satisfying the relation $\sim_{\mathcal{B}}$.

We can **extend our results of circulant matrices to cyclic matrices.**

So why do we consider cyclic matrices?

Involutory MDS Cyclic Matrices

Cyclic matrices **share the benefits of circulant matrices and can also be involutory MDS (IMDS).**

It has been proven that IMDS circulant matrices do not exist.
[GR14]

Branch-equivalent relation **does not necessarily preserve the involution property.**

In particular, the cyclic matrices where the permutation is a left rotation, so-called **left-circulant matrices**, can be involution and MDS simultaneously.

Table of Contents

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Properties of Circulant Matrices
 - Compact Equivalence Classes of Circulant Matrices
 - Types of MDS Circulant Matrices
- 3 Cyclic Matrices
 - Generalized Circulant Matrices
 - Relations between Cyclic and Circulant Matrices
- 4 Results on Lightweight (Involutory) MDS Matrices

Weight of the Diffusion Matrix

For simplicity, we adopt the simplified metric from [KPPY14].

The **XOR count of a field element** is the number of XOR gates needed to implement the multiplication of that element.

$$\text{XOR counts of one row} = \boxed{\sum_{i=1}^k \gamma_i} + (\ell - 1) \cdot n,$$

where γ_i is the XOR count of the i -th entry, n is the dimension of the field and ℓ is the number of nonzero entries in the row.

In this work, we only consider the **summation of the XOR counts (the boxed term)** in our comparison.

Finding Lightest MDS Matrices

Note that our analysis on cyclic matrices are **generic and independent of the metric**.

To find the lightest MDS left-circulant matrices of order $k \leq 8$, for all possible types of MDS cyclic matrices:

- choose a multi-set of k elements that **has the lowest possible total XOR counts**
- generate one representative for each equivalence class and check for MDS

If no representative matrix is MDS, pick the next lightest multi-set and repeat the process.

Lightest MDS Left-circulant Matrices

k	Type	Left-circulant matrices	XOR count
$\text{GF}(2^8)$			
3	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0x2)	3
4	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0x2, 0x91)	8
5	2	(0x1, 0x1, 0x2, 0x91, 0x2)	11
6	1	(0x1, 0x2, 0xe1, 0x91, 0x1, 0x8)	18
7	3	(0x1, 0x1, 0x91, 0x2, 0x4, 0x2, 0x91)	21
8	4	(0x1, 0x1, 0x2, 0xe1, 0x8, 0xe0, 0x1, 0xa9)	30
$\text{GF}(2^4)$			
3	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0x2)	1
4	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0x9, 0x4)	3
5	2	(0x2, 0x2, 0x9, 0x1, 0x9)	4
6	2	(0x1, 0x1, 0x9, 0xc, 0x9, 0x3)	12

Comparison of Lightweight MDS Matrices

k	Type	Matrices	Matrix form	XOR count
$\text{GF}(2^8)$				
4	1	[KPPY14]	serial/circulant	9
4	1	our paper	left-circulant	8
6	—	PHOTON P_{288}	serial	23
6	1	our paper	left-circulant	18
8	4	WHIRLPOOL	circulant	49
8	4	our paper	left-circulant	30
$\text{GF}(2^4)$				
4	—	LED	serial	4
4	1	[KPPY14]	serial/circulant	3
4	1	our paper	left-circulant	3
5	—	PHOTON P_{100}	serial	4
5	2	our paper	left-circulant	4
6	—	PHOTON P_{144}	serial	14
6	2	our paper	left-circulant	12

Finding Lightest Involutory MDS Matrices

We prove that **IMDS left-circulant matrices of order 2^s do not exist**, for integer s .

To find the lightest IMDS left-circulant matrices of order $k \leq 7$, we precompute the equations necessary and sufficient for involution.

Similar strategy as before, in addition we require the multi-sets to **satisfy the equations for involution**.

Lightest IMDS Left-circulant Matrices

k	Type	Matrices	XOR count
$GF(2^8)$			
3	0	(0x5a, 0xa, 0x51)	30
4		-	
5	0	(0x1, 0x2, 0xb3, 0xbb, 0xa)	46
6	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0xb3, 0x2c, 0x4, 0x9a)	46
7	1	(0x1, 0x1, 0x8, 0x96, 0x21, 0x98, 0x26)	68
$GF(2^4)$			
3	0	(0x2, 0xf, 0xc)	12
4		-	
5	0	(0x1, 0x2, 0x5, 0x4, 0x3)	14
6		-	

Lightweight IMDS Matrices of Order $k \leq 8$

In this work, we found lightweight IMDS left-circulant matrices of order 3,5,6 and 7.

In [SKOP15], the authors presented lightweight IMDS Hadamard matrices of order 4 and 8.

Together, we have a complete set of lightweight IMDS matrices of order $k \leq 8$.

Summary

- Propose the concept of **compact equivalence classes for generic circulant matrices** to reduce the search space.
- Present the **necessary condition on the multi-set for MDS circulant matrices** to reduce the search space.
- **Introduce cyclic matrices** which benefit from the circulant structure and can be IMDS.
- **Complete the search on generic (left-)circulant matrices of order 8** which was previously believed to be infeasible.
- Provide the **lightest possible (involutory) MDS left-circulant matrices** of order $k \in \{3, \dots, 8\}$.

Reference

[GR14]—Kishan Chand Gupta and Indranil Ghosh Ray. On Constructions of Involutory MDS Matrices for Lightweight Cryptography. In ISPEC 2014.

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[SKOP15]—Siang Meng Sim, Khoongming Khoo, Frédérique Oggier and Thomas Peyrin. Lightweight MDS Involution Matrices. In FSE 2015.

Thank you. :)