

LPV dynamical systems and Self-Synchronizing Stream Ciphers: Stanislas and further

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Abstract

Self-Synchronizing Stream Ciphers (SSSCs) were patented in 1946. The basic principle of such ciphers is to encrypt every plaintext symbol with a transformation that only involves a fixed number of previous ciphertext symbols. Therefore, every ciphertext symbol is correctly deciphered provided that previous symbols have been properly received. This self-synchronization property has many advantages and is especially relevant to group communications. In this respect, since 1960, specific SSSCs have been designed and are still used to provide bulk encryption (for Hertzian line, RNIS link, etc.) in military applications or governmental radio mobile networks [Mau91], [Rue12]. The canonical form of the SSSC combines a shift register, which acts as a state register with the ciphertext as input, together with a filtering function that provides the running key stream. The cryptographic complexity of the canonical form of the SSSC lies in the filtering function. In the early 90s, studies have been performed [Mau91], [DGV92] to propose secure designs of SSSCs. These works have been followed by effective constructions ([PHM04], [Sar03], [DK08]). Following Maurer's work, some constructions have been proposed ([JM03], [JM05], [JM06], [KRB⁺08]) but have all been broken by cryptanalysis work in ([Kli05], [Dwo01], [VY02], [ABMP11], [DGM17]). However, there is a common point to all these constructions, it is that they involve automata using triangular state transition functions "T-function" [KS04].

In [FBH⁺20], a methodology borrowed from graph and control theory has been proposed to construct a family of SSSC admitting non-triangular state transition functions. This family involves so-called Linear Parameter Varying (LPV) automata described by matrix equations and having the property of flatness. An instantiation, called Stanislas, is proposed with a proof of security. Flatness is a specific property of dynamical systems that guarantees in this context the construction of automata with finite input memory and thus self-synchronization.

Then, an improvement has been proposed in [BMM21] to enhance the diffusion property regarding the security. To this end, a hybrid architecture with two modes of operations is introduced, each one governed by an LPV model that switches one another. The architecture is motivated to take advantage of both properties namely self-synchronization and good diffusion. It is shown that the resulting cipher is a statistical SSSC.

Finally, as an extension, a hybrid architecture for Multiple Input Multiple Output (MIMO) LPV systems is under investigation to accelerate the encryption process. Indeed, instead of constructing Single Input Single Output (SISO) LPV systems that are used to perform symbol-by-symbol encryption, MIMO LPV systems are sought to allow encrypting several symbols at a time.

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