Chapter 5

Advanced Encryption Standard

Origins

- clear a replacement for DES was needed
  - have theoretical attacks that can break it
  - have demonstrated exhaustive key search attacks
- can use Triple-DES – pretty safe
  - but slow, small blocks
- issued call for ciphers in `97
- 15 candidates accepted in Jun 98
- 5 were short-listed in Aug-99
- AES selected in Oct-2000
- issued as FIPS PUB 197 standard in Nov-2001

AES Requirements

- private key symmetric block cipher
- 128-bit data, 128/192/256-bit keys
- stronger & faster than Triple-DES
- active life of 20-30 years (+ archival use)
- provide full specification & design details
- both C & Java implementations
- NIST have released all submissions & unclassified analyses

AES Evaluation Criteria

- initial criteria (15 to 5):
  - security – effort to practically cryptanalyse
  - cost – computational, high-speed applications
  - algorithm & implementation characteristics
    - Flexibility, simplicity, maintainability
- final criteria
  - general security
  - software & hardware implementation ease
  - implementation attacks
  - flexibility (in changing en/decrypt, keying, #rounds, other factors)

AES Shortlist

- after testing and evaluation, shortlist in Aug-99:
  - MARS (IBM) - complex, fast, high security margin
  - RC6 (USA) - v. simple, v. fast, low security margin
  - Rijndael (Belgium) - clean, fast, good security margin
  - Serpent (Euro) - slow, clean, v. high security margin
  - Twofish (USA) - complex, v. fast, high security margin
- then subject to further analysis & comment
- All were thought to be good – came down to best balance of attributes to meet criteria.
- Note mix of commercial (MARS, RC6, Twofish) verses academic (Rijndael, Serpent) proposals

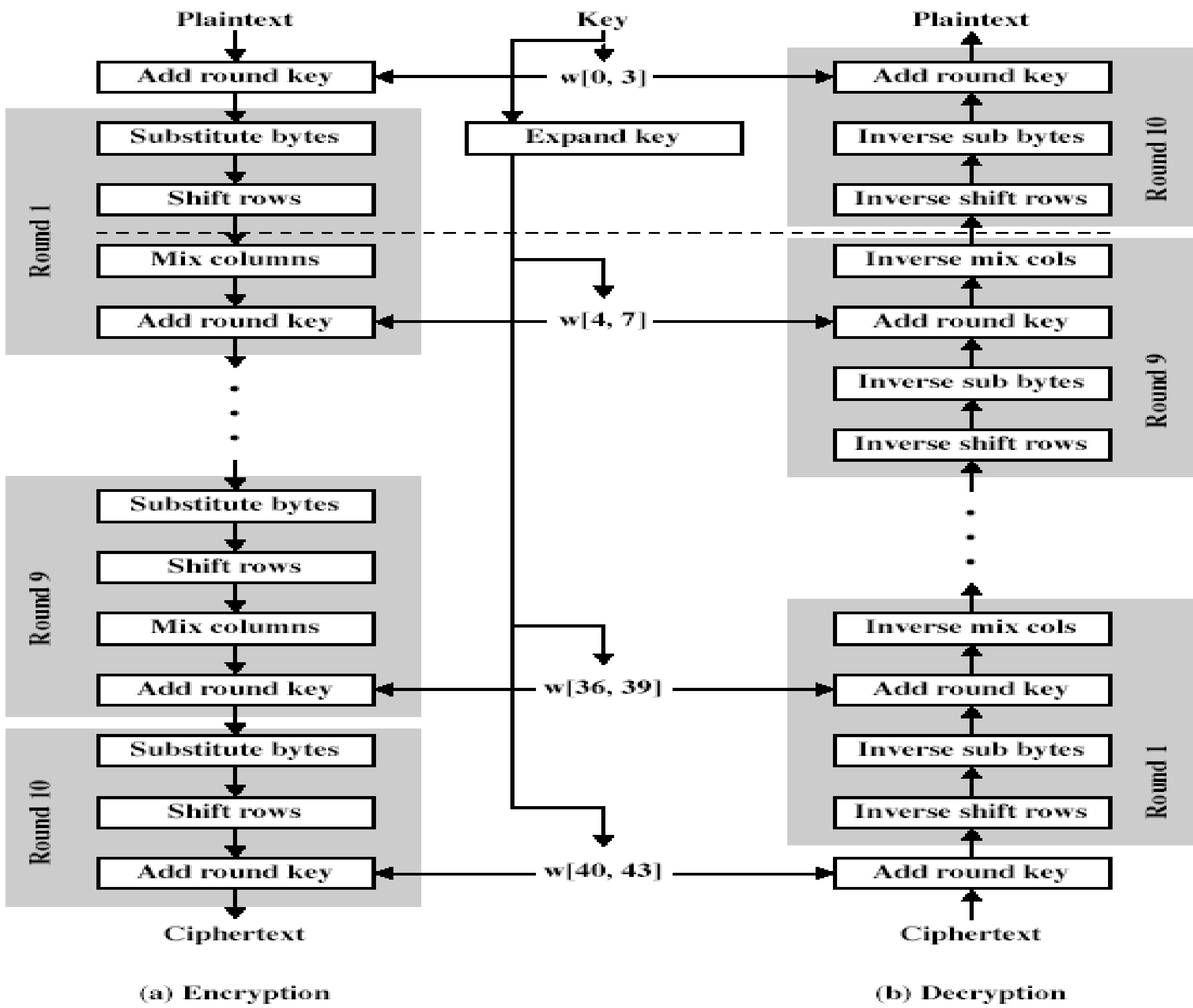
The AES Cipher

- designed by Rijmen-Daemen in Belgium
- has 128/192/256 bit keys, 128 bit data
- an **iterative** rather than **feistel** cipher
  - treats data in 4 groups of 4 bytes
  - operates an entire block in every round
  - rather than feistel (operate on halves at a time)
- designed to be:
  - resistant against known attacks
  - speed and code compactness on many CPUs
  - design simplicity

AES

- processes data as 4 groups of 4 bytes (state)
- has 9/11/13 rounds in which state undergoes:
  - byte substitution (1 S-box used on every byte)
  - shift rows (permute bytes between groups/columns)
  - mix columns (subs using matrix multiply of groups)
  - add round key (XOR state with key material)
- initial XOR key material & incomplete last round
- all operations can be combined into XOR and table lookups - hence very fast & efficient

Rijndael


Plaintext
Key
Plaintext
Add round key
w[0, 3]
Add round key
Substitute bytes
Expand key
Inverse sub bytes
Round 10
Shift rows
Inverse shift rows
Round 1
Mix columns
Inverse mix cols
Add round key
w[4, 7]
Add round key
Inverse sub bytes
Round 9
Inverse shift rows
Substitute bytes
Shift rows
Round 9
Mix columns
Inverse mix cols
Add round key
w[36, 39]
Add round key
Substitute bytes
Inverse sub bytes
Round 1
Round 10
Shift rows
Inverse shift rows
Add round key
w[40, 43]
Add round key
Ciphertext
Ciphertext
(a) Encryption
(b) Decryption

Byte Substitution

- a simple substitution of each byte
- uses one table of 16x16 bytes containing a permutation of all 256 8-bit values
- each byte of state is replaced by byte in row (left 4-bits) & column (right 4-bits)
  - eg. byte {95} is replaced by row 9 col 5 byte
  - which is the value {2A}
- S-box is constructed using a defined transformation of the values in GF(2^8)
- designed to be resistant to all known attacks

Shift Rows

- a circular byte shift in each row
  - 1st row is unchanged
  - 2nd row does 1 byte circular shift to left
  - 3rd row does 2 byte circular shift to left
  - 4th row does 3 byte circular shift to left
- decrypt does shifts to right
- since state is processed by columns, this step permutes bytes between the columns

Mix Columns

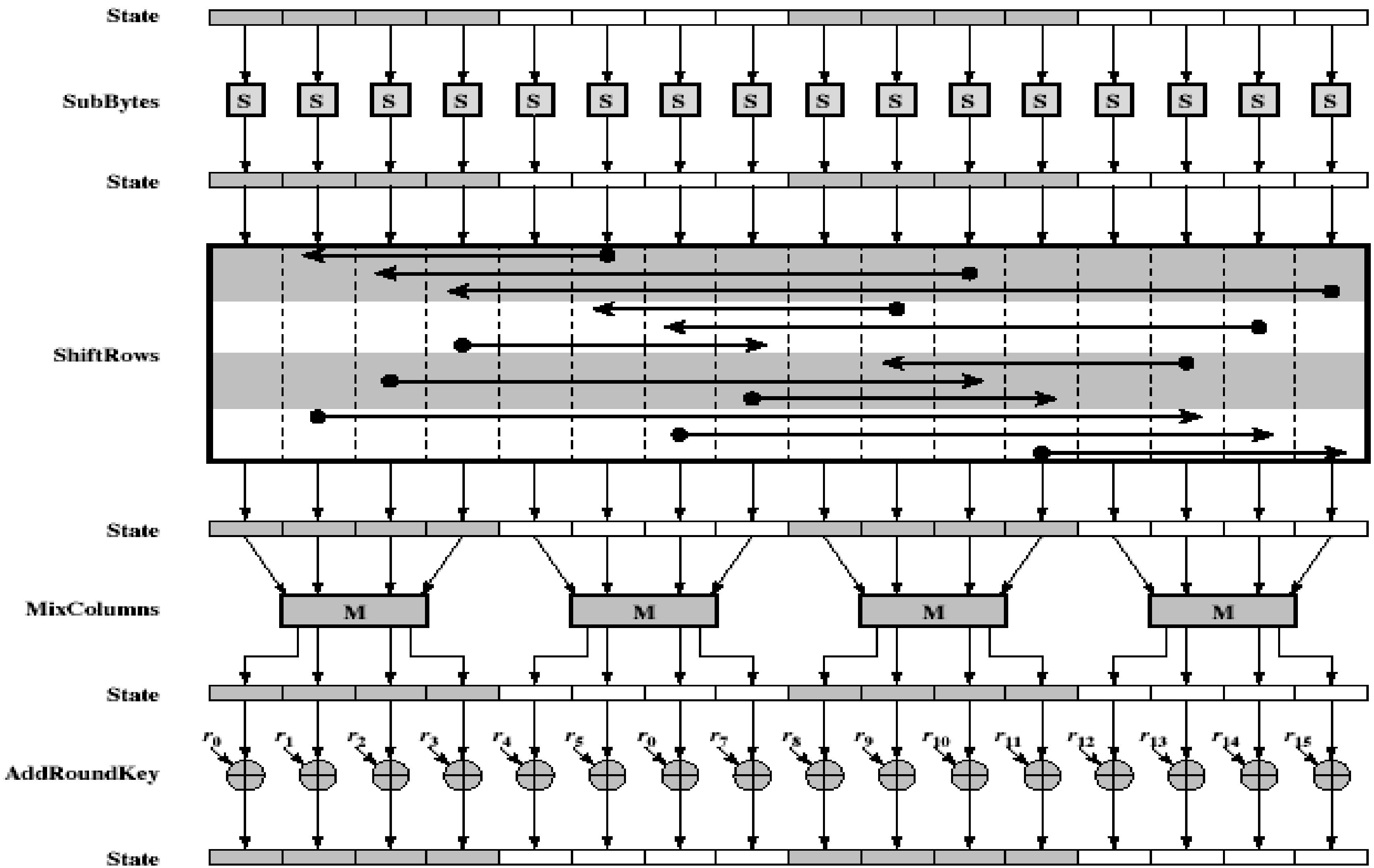
- each column is processed separately
- each byte is replaced by a value dependent on all 4 bytes in the column
- effectively a matrix multiplication in GF(2^8) using prime poly m(x) =$x^8+x^4+x^3+x+1$

$$\begin{bmatrix} 02 & 03 & 01 & 01 \\ 01 & 02 & 03 & 01 \\ 01 & 01 & 02 & 03 \\ 03 & 01 & 01 & 02 \end{bmatrix} \begin{bmatrix} s_{0,0} & s_{0,1} & s_{0,2} & s_{0,3} \\ s_{1,0} & s_{1,1} & s_{1,2} & s_{1,3} \\ s_{2,0} & s_{2,1} & s_{2,2} & s_{2,3} \\ s_{3,0} & s_{3,1} & s_{3,2} & s_{3,3} \end{bmatrix} = \begin{bmatrix} s'_{0,0} & s'_{0,1} & s'_{0,2} & s'_{0,3} \\ s'_{1,0} & s'_{1,1} & s'_{1,2} & s'_{1,3} \\ s'_{2,0} & s'_{2,1} & s'_{2,2} & s'_{2,3} \\ s'_{3,0} & s'_{3,1} & s'_{3,2} & s'_{3,3} \end{bmatrix}$$

Add Round Key

- XOR state with 128-bits of the round key
- again processed by column (though effectively a series of byte operations)
- inverse for decryption is identical since XOR is own inverse, just with correct round key
- designed to be as simple as possible

AES Round



State
SubBytes
S
State
ShiftRows
State
MixColumns
M
State
AddRoundKey
r_0 r_1 r_2 r_3 r_4 r_5 r_0 r_7 r_8 r_9 r_{10} r_{11} r_{12} r_{13} r_{14} r_{15}
State

AES Key Expansion

- takes 128-bit (16-byte) key and expands into array of 44/52/60 32-bit words
- start by copying key into first 4 words
- then loop creating words that depend on values in previous & 4 places back
  - in 3 of 4 cases just XOR these together
  - every 4th has S-box + rotate + XOR constant of previous before XOR together
- designed to resist known attacks

AES Decryption

- AES decryption is not identical to encryption since steps done in reverse
- but can define an equivalent inverse cipher with steps as for encryption
  - but using inverses of each step
  - with a different key schedule
- works since result is unchanged when
  - swap byte substitution & shift rows
  - swap mix columns & add (tweaked) round key

Implementation Aspects

- can efficiently implement on 8-bit CPU
  - byte substitution works on bytes using a table of 256 entries
  - shift rows is simple byte shifting
  - add round key works on byte XORs
  - mix columns requires matrix multiply in $GF(2^8)$ which works on byte values, can be simplified to use a table lookup

Implementation Aspects

- can efficiently implement on 32-bit CPU
  - redefine steps to use 32-bit words
  - can pre-compute 4 tables of 256-words
  - then each column in each round can be computed using 4 table lookups + 4 XORs
  - at a cost of 16Kb to store tables
- designers believe this very efficient implementation was a key factor in its selection as the AES cipher

Summary

- have considered:
  - the AES selection process
  - the details of Rijndael – the AES cipher
  - looked at the steps in each round
  - the key expansion
  - implementation aspects