

Linear feedback shift registers

Tanja Lange

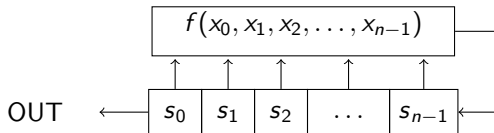
Eindhoven University of Technology

2WF80: Introduction to Cryptology

Linear feedback shift registers

Linear means that there are no products $x_i \cdot x_j$ and no constant term.

$$f(\mathbf{x}) = \sum_{i=0}^{n-1} c_i x_i$$



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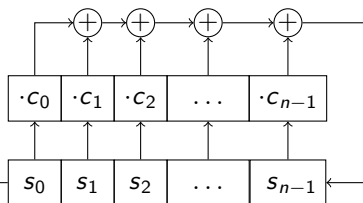
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Each state $S_j \in \mathbb{F}_2^n$, OUT ←

$$S_j = (s_j \ s_{j+1} \ s_{j+2} \ \dots \ s_{j+n-1}).$$

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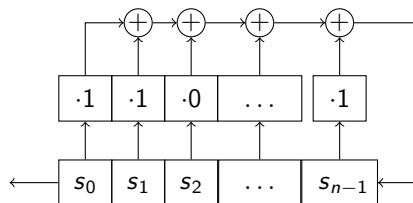
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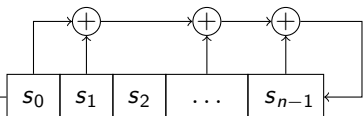
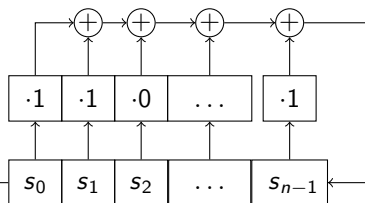
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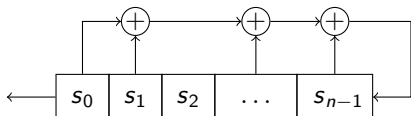
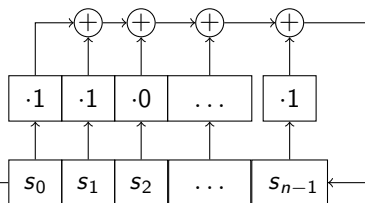
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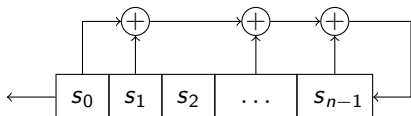
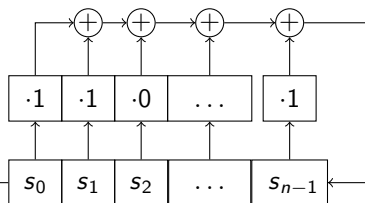
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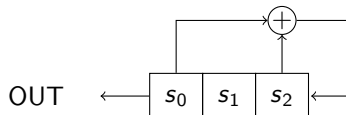
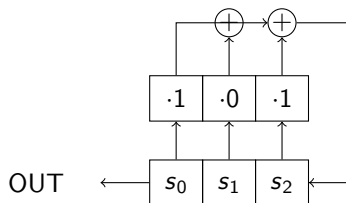
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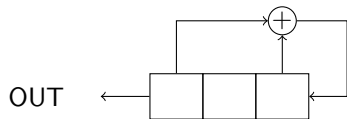
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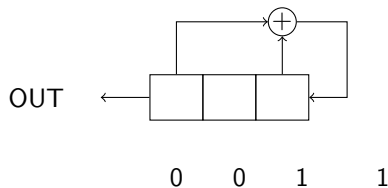
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Starting state $S_0 = (0\ 0\ 1)$



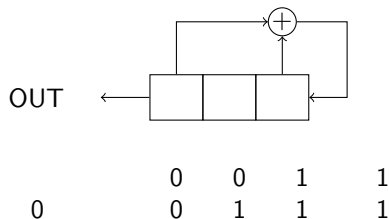
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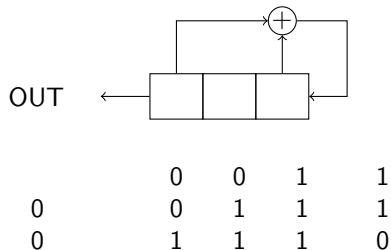
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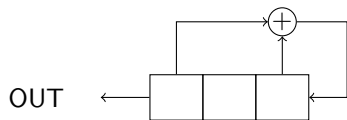
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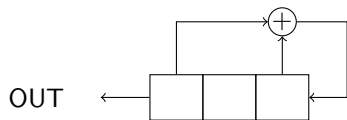
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0	1	1	1	0
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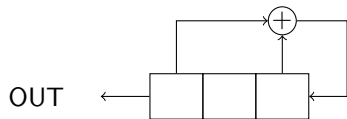
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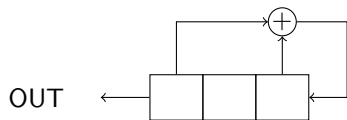
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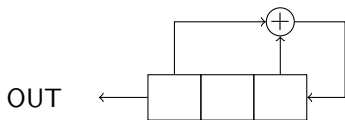
	0	0	1	1
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1	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0
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has period 7 with output
0011101.

This covers all non-zero starting states.



	0	0	1	1
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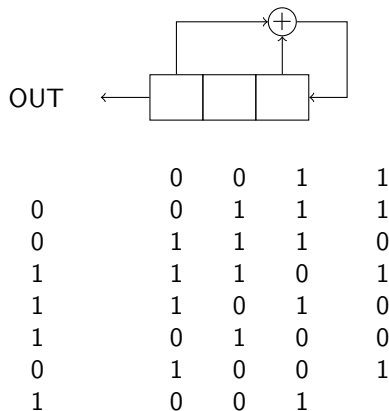
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For any LFSR, the all-zero state

$S = (000 \dots 0)$

leads to output $\bar{0}$, of period 1

because $\sum c_i \cdot 0 = 0$.



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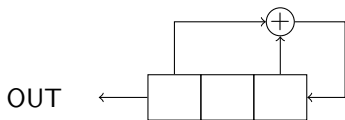
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This means that period 7 is maximal

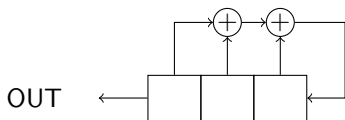
for a register of length 3, as $2^3 - 1 = 7$.



	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	1
0	1	1	1	0
1	1	1	0	1
1	1	0	1	0
1	0	1	0	0
0	1	0	0	1
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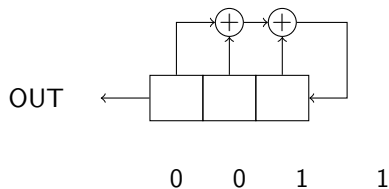
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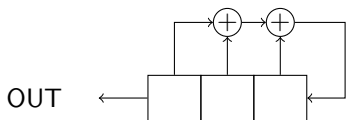
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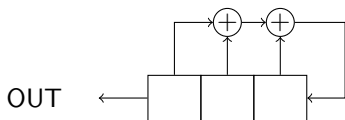
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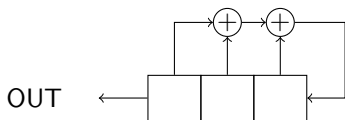
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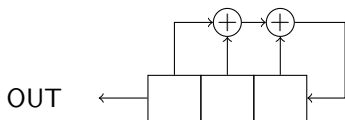


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Starting state $S_0 = (0\ 0\ 1)$
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This misses $2^3 - 4 = 4$ states.

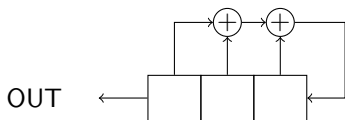


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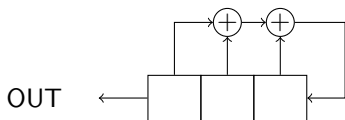
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Starting state 111
 gives period 1 with output $\bar{1}$



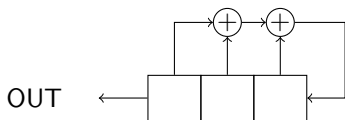
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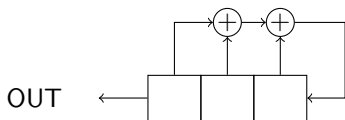
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Starting state 111
 gives period 1 with output $\bar{1}$

Starting state 101
 gives period 2 with output $\overline{10}$



	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	
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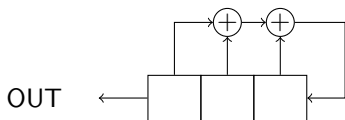
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Starting state $1\ 0\ 1$
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Together with $\bar{0}$
we have now seen all 8 states.

Periods are 4,2,1,1
depending on starting state.



	0	0	1	1
0	0	1	1	0
0	1	1	0	0
1	1	0	0	1
1	0	0	1	
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1	1	1	1	
	1	0	1	0
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Security considerations

- ▶ An attacker knows the size of the register – there are n bits in the IV.
- ▶ The output bits have linear relations

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A good stream cipher produces a stream of numbers that

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A good stream cipher produces a stream of numbers that

- ▶ *is unpredictable given any previous portion of the stream;*
 - ▶ *does not exhibit any non-random statistical properties.*
- ▶ We can analyze LFSRs mathematically.
- ▶ LFSRs are used in combination with non-linear functions in stream cipher design.