# Generalized word-oriented feedback shift registers 

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#### Abstract

The word-oriented feedback shift registers (WFSRs) possess very attractive properties as they take advantage of modern word-based processors and thus increase the throughput. We provide a generalized form of the feedback function of WFSR along with some special cases. Then, a necessary and sufficient condition for nonsingular WFSR is discussed. We study different word-based cascade systems and the period of sequences produced by these cascade systems is derived. We provide experimental results on avalanche property on states of cascade systems and statistical results of sequences produced by them. Finally, we present a crypt-analytic attack on cascade systems and suggest its countermeasure.


Keywords: Stream cipher, Feedback shift register, Lagged Fibonacci Generator, Multiple-Recursive Matrix Method, Cascade Generator, Linear complexity

MSC Classification: 94A55, 94A60, 15B33, 12E20 and 12E05

## 1 Introduction

Electronic communications have taken a major key role in the post-pandemic situation as this is contact-less. In the future, its applications will definitely take a huge uptrend. Along with the surge in the use of digital technologies, the rise of online frauds, scams, intrusions, and other security breaches is also increasing. One of the effective solutions for these security breaches is the use of cryptography. Pseudo-random numbers are a major component in cryptography [20,25] and feedback shift registers (FSRs) have been valuable and practical methods for generating cryptographically secure pseudorandom sequences for cryptographic applications. Linear feedback shift register (LFSR) [13, 18], nonlinear LFSR (NLFSR), multiple-recursive matrix method (MRMM) [2, 3, 27], lagged fibonacci generators (LFG) [5, 9] are among the popular FSRs used in literature. As FSRs have some memory states (resisters), they can not be used in memoryless cipher-like block ciphers, therefore, are usually used in stream ciphers. If FSR word size is 1 , then it is known as bitoriented FSR like LFSR and NLFSR. Mainly, LFSRs are used for keystream generators for stream cipher applications due to their ease and efficiency in implementation. The maximum-length LFSR sequences have many good randomness properties. However, they are not cryptographically secure due to their linear structure. Several methods have been proposed to destroy the linearity of LFSRs, such as combining the outputs of several LFSRs by a nonlinear function, nonlinearly filtering states of an LFSR, and irregularly clocking an LFSR. However, the algebraic attacks and fast algebraic attacks, introduced in [10] and [11], seem to threaten LFSR-based stream ciphers [8]. As an alternative, NFSRs become popular bit-oriented building blocks for stream ciphers. Many of the candidates in the eSTREAM project [12] and CAESAR competition [6] utilize NFSRs as one of their main building blocks.

However, bit-oriented FSRs do not take advantage of modern word-based processors, unlike MRMM and LFG [2, 23, 26]. LFG is a word-oriented FSR with coefficients of either 0 or 1 and produces bitstreams having many good randomness properties. Similarly, MRMM is a word-oriented LFSR with matrices as coefficients, having all statistical properties inherited by LFSR and significantly improving the throughput of sequence generation. Though MRMM takes advantage of the word-based processor and the bitstreams generated by it have good statistical properties, it is vulnerable due to its linear structure. Like in LFSR, several approaches, including the filter generator, nonlinear combination generator, and clock-controlled generators, have been investigated in MRMM to destroy the linear structure. The cascade connection of FSRs with one nonlinear FSR can be used for this purpose. The hardwareoriented finalists Trivium [7] and Grain [16] of eSTREAM project, one of the CAESAR competition finalists ACORN [17] utilize this cascade connection of bit-oriented FSRs. Stream ciphers such as Lizard [14] and Plantlet [21] also use the cascaded type of FSRs. In this paper, we have introduced several wordbased cascade systems (CSs) and have studied their periodicity and statistical properties including the avalanche effect.

For all FSRs, the execution steps are similar in each iteration or cycle. It first calculates the feedback value using a feedback function, then shifts the states and stores the feedback value in the last state. In this paper, we have introduced a generalized expression for the feedback function of WFSR and have studied a few particular cases. The remainder of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we introduce some basic concepts and related results. In Section 3, we study WFSR and introduce a generalized form for the feedback function of WFSR and explore nonsingular WFSR. In Section 4 we visit some special cases of WFSRs. Several cascade systems consisting of MRMM and LFG are discussed in Section 5. The final section concludes the paper.

## 2 Preliminaries

Denote by $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ and $\mathbb{F}_{2}^{m}$ the finite field with two elements and the $m$-dimensional vector space over $\mathbb{F}_{2}$, respectively. The symbol $\oplus$ denotes the addition in $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ and + represents the addition in the residue class ring $\mathbb{Z} / 2^{m} \mathbb{Z}$. The set of all $m \times m$ matrices with entries in $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ is denoted by $M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$ and $\mathbb{G} \mathbb{L}_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$ represents the set of all $m \times m$ invertible matrices in $M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$. The $m \times m$ identity matrix is denoted by $I_{m}$. For any matrix $C \in M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$, $\operatorname{det}(C)$ denotes its determinant. Since two finite dimensional vector spaces $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ and $\mathbb{F}_{2}^{m}$ are isomorphic [22], the element of $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ may be thought of as a column vector of size $m$ over $\mathbb{F}_{2}$ and hence, for any $\mathbf{s} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ and $C \in M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$ the matrix-vector multiplication $C$ s is a well-defined element of $\mathbb{F}_{2}^{m}$. We use bold letter variable if it belongs to $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ i.e., $\boldsymbol{x} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$, whereas the normal letter $x$ as a bit i.e., $x \in \mathbb{F}_{2}$. Let $W t(\mathbf{x})$ denote the hamming weight of $\mathbf{x}$.

We denote by $\mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_{m}\left[\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right]=M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)\left[\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right] /\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}{ }^{2} \oplus\right.$ $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}^{2} \oplus \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}$ ), the set of all multivariate polynomial $F($.$) in n$ variables $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}$ with coefficients in $M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$ such that $F(\mathbf{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{0})=\mathbf{0}$ and each $\boldsymbol{x}_{i} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$. If $F \in \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_{m}\left[\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right]$, then it can be expressed as follows.

$$
\begin{equation*}
F\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)=\sum_{I \in P(N)} C_{I} \prod_{k \in I} x_{k} \tag{1}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $P(N)$ denotes the power set of $N=\{0, \ldots, n-1\}$ and $C_{I} \in M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$. For example, if $N=\{0,1,2\}$ then the general expression of $F\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{2}\right)=$ $C_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{0}+C_{1} \boldsymbol{x}_{1}+C_{2} \boldsymbol{x}_{2}+C_{01} \boldsymbol{x}_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{1}+C_{02} \boldsymbol{x}_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{2}+C_{12} \boldsymbol{x}_{1} \boldsymbol{x}_{2}+C_{012} \boldsymbol{x}_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{1} \boldsymbol{x}_{2}$. In Eq. (1), $\mathbf{X}=\prod_{k \in I} \boldsymbol{x}_{k}$ is computed first, which returns an $m$-bit number and then $C_{I} \boldsymbol{X}$ is calculated using matrix-vector multiplication. Here the product $\prod$ can be either field multiplication or modular integer multiplication $*$ or bitwise AND operation \&. Similarly, the sum $\sum$ is either modular integer addition + or bitwise XOR operation $\oplus$. As field multiplication is an expensive operation compared to the other two, so we only focus on the other two multiplication operations $*$ and \&. The algebraic degree of $F$ denoted as $\operatorname{deg}(\mathrm{F})$ can be defined as $\max \left\{|I|: C_{I} \neq 0\right\}$, where $|I|$ denotes the size of $I$.

## 3 Word-oriented FSR

An $n$-stage word-oriented FSR (WFSR) is an FSR where each stage stores a word of size $m$-bits. A state of a WFSR is a vector $\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$, where $\boldsymbol{x}_{i}$ indicates the content of stage $i$. Let $\mathbf{S}_{0}=\left(\mathbf{s}_{0}, \mathbf{s}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n-1}\right)$ be the initial state of WFSR and suppose $F \in \mathcal{M} \mathcal{P}_{m}\left[\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right]$ is the feedback function for WFSR. At every clock pulse, there is a transition from the state $\mathbf{S}_{t}=$ $\left(\mathbf{s}_{t}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{t+n-1}\right)$ to the state $\mathbf{S}_{t+1}=\left(\mathbf{s}_{t+1}, \mathbf{s}_{t+2}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{t+n}\right)$ for some integer $t \geq 0$, where $\mathbf{s}_{n+t}=F\left(\mathbf{s}_{t}, \mathbf{s}_{t+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{t+n-1}\right)$. After consecutive clock pulses, the WFSR outputs a word sequence $[\mathbf{s}]=\left\{\mathbf{s}_{0}, \mathbf{s}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n}, \ldots\right\}$. The sequence [ $\mathbf{s}$ ] is ultimately periodic if there are integers $r, n_{0}$ with $r \geq 1$ and $n_{0} \geq 0$ such that $\mathbf{s}_{j+r}=\mathbf{s}_{j}$ for all $j \geq n_{0}$. If $n_{0}=0$, then $[\mathbf{s}]$ is said to be periodic and in such case, the least positive integer $r$ is called the period of the sequence [s]. A WFSR is called a linear WFSR if its feedback function $F$ is linear and a nonlinear WFSR otherwise.

Before discussing WFSR further, we present three WFSRs in the following example.

Example 1 Consider a three-stage WFSR with word size 2 called $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$. The feedback functions of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ is considered as $F_{1}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{2}\right)=C_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{0}+C_{12} \boldsymbol{x}_{1} \boldsymbol{x}_{2}$ where $C_{0}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1\end{array}\right)$ and $C_{12}=\left(\begin{array}{ll}1 & 0 \\ 0 & 1\end{array}\right)$. Here modular integer addition and modular integer multiplication are used in the feedback value computation. Using the feedback function, one can compute the next state of a given state. The number of all possible states for a WFSR of length 3 with word size 2 is $4^{3}$. Fig. 1 shows a part of the state diagram of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ with an initial state ( $1,2,3$ ). For abuse of notation, we use 123 for the state $(1,2,3)$. Here each number is converted to a vector and vice-versa during the feedback value calculation. For this example, $0=[0,0]^{t}, 1=[0,1]^{t}, 2=[1,0]^{t}$ and $3=[1,1]^{t}$ are used. It is easy to verify that the next state of 123 is 231 as $F(1,2,3)=1$. In this case, the state 231 is called the successor of 123 , and 123 is called the predecessor of 231 .

Consider $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$, another three-stage WFSR with word size 2 with feedback function $F_{2}\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, x_{2}\right)=C_{0} x_{0}+C_{12} x_{0} x_{1} x_{2}$ where the matrix coefficients $C_{0}$ and $C_{12}$ are same as in $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$. Fig. 2 shows a part of the state diagram of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ with the same initial state 123 . Suppose $\mathrm{WFSR}_{3}$ is another three-stage WFSR with word size 2 having feedback function $F_{3}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{2}\right)=C_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{0}+C_{12}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1} \& \boldsymbol{x}_{2}\right)$. The feedback function is the same as in $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ except the operation \& is used in place of $*$. Fig. 3 shows a part of the state diagram of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{3}$ with the same initial state 123.


Fig. 1 The part of state diagrams of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ with initial state 123

Unlike $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{WFSR}_{3}$, distinct vectors do not have distinct successors in $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$. The states 233 and 330 of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ have common successors 301 i.e.,


Fig. 2 The part of state diagrams of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ with initial state 123


Fig. 3 The part of state diagrams of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{3}$ with initial state 123

301 does not have unique predecessors. A WFSR (or its feedback function) is called nonsingular if each state has a unique predecessor i.e., its state diagram consists of disjoint cycles. In the case of bit-oriented FSR, it is shown in [13] that the FSR is nonsingular if and only if its feedback function is of the form

$$
\begin{equation*}
f\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)=x_{0} \oplus g\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right) \tag{2}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the function $g($.$) does not depend on the variable x_{0}$. Now the natural question arises, is there any necessary and sufficient condition for WFSR to be nonsingular? It is easy to show that the WFSR is nonsingular if its feedback function is of the form as in Eq. (2). There are other WFSRs whose feedback functions are in different form as $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$. In the following, we provide a necessary and sufficient condition for which WFSR is nonsingular.

Theorem 1 An n-stage WFSR is nonsingular if and only if its feedback function $F \in \mathcal{M P}{ }_{m}\left[x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right]$ can be represented as

$$
\begin{equation*}
F\left(x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)=f_{0}\left(x_{0}\right) \odot f_{1}\left(x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right) \tag{3}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $f_{0}$ is a bijective function and $f_{1}$ is an arbitrary function $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}^{n-1} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$. The operation $\odot$ is either + or $\oplus$.

Proof Suppose WFSR is nonsingular, then distinct vectors have distinct successors. If the feedback function $F$ does not contain any $x_{0}$ term, then it is easy to get two distinct vectors having a common successor. Thus, the expression of $F$ must contains $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}$ term and so $F\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ can be expressed as $f_{0}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}\right) \odot \boldsymbol{x}_{0} f_{2}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right) \odot$ $f_{1}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ where $f_{0}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}\right)$ contains all terms of single variable $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}$ and both the functions $f_{1}$ and $f_{2}$ are independent of $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}$. Also $f_{2}$ does not have any constant term as all $x_{0}$ terms are in $f_{0}$ and so $f_{2}(0, \ldots, 0)=0$. If $f_{0}$ is not bijective, then there exists $\boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime} \neq \boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime \prime}$ such that $f_{0}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime}\right)=f_{0}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime \prime}\right)_{, \prime}$. This implies that $F\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime}, 0, \ldots, 0\right)=$ $F\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}^{\prime \prime}, 0, \ldots, 0\right)$ and thus $\left(x_{0}^{\prime}, 0, \ldots, 0\right)$ and $\left(x_{0}^{\prime \prime}, 0, \ldots, 0\right)$ have common successor. This is a contradiction and so $f_{0}$ is bijective. Next to prove that $f_{2}=0$. Suppose $f_{2}$ has some nonzero terms, then $f_{2}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ must contain a term of $\boldsymbol{x}_{k}$ for $k \neq 0$. In this case, $F(0,2, \ldots, 2)=F\left(2^{m-1}, 2, \ldots, 2\right)$. This is not possible as WFSR is nonsingular and so $f_{2}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)=0$. This proves the necessary part.

To prove WFSR is nonsingular, we need to show distinct vectors have distinct successors. If the two vectors $\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ and ( $\left.\boldsymbol{y}_{0}, \boldsymbol{y}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{y}_{n-1}\right)$ differ in any component other than the first, then their successors $\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \boldsymbol{x}_{2}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n}\right)$ and $\left(\boldsymbol{y}_{1}, \boldsymbol{y}_{2}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{y}_{n}\right)$ are still distinct. Thus, WFSR is nonsingular if and only if
$\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ and $\left(\boldsymbol{y}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)$ have distinct successors for $\boldsymbol{x}_{0} \neq \boldsymbol{y}_{0}$. Suppose WFSR is singular, then there exists $\boldsymbol{x}_{0} \neq \boldsymbol{y}_{0}$ such that $f\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}\right)=$ $f\left(\boldsymbol{y}_{0}, \boldsymbol{y}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{y}_{n-1}\right)$. This implies that $f_{0}\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}\right)=f_{0}\left(\mathbf{y}_{0}\right)$ for $\boldsymbol{x}_{0} \neq \boldsymbol{y}_{0}$. This is a contradiction as $f_{0}$ is bijective. This completes the proof.

Corollary 2 Bit-oriented FSRs are nonsingular if and only if the feedback function $f\left(x_{0}, x_{1}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)=x_{0} \oplus g\left(x_{1}, x_{2}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)$.

Proof In the case of bit-oriented FSR, $m=1$. Thus, there are two bijective functions from $\mathbb{F}_{2} \longrightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2}$. In both cases, the feedback function $f$ is expressed in the desired form.

Note that if $\operatorname{deg}(F)=1$, then the feedback function $F$ in Eq. (1) satisfies the criteria of Theorem 1 and so the feedback function is always nonsingular.

## 4 Some special cases of WFSR

### 4.1 Bit-oriented FSRs

The WFSR becomes a bit-oriented FSR when $m=1$. In this case, the $m \times m$ matrix coefficient $C_{k}$ of Eq. (1) becomes a scalar $c_{k} \in \mathbb{F}_{2}$. If $\operatorname{deg}(F)=1$, then $F\left(x_{0}, \ldots, x_{n-1}\right)=\bigoplus_{k=0}^{n-1} c_{k} x_{k}$. This expression is the feedback function of well known FSR called LFSR [13] and the theory of LFSRs is well-developed. If the feedback polynomial of LFSR is primitive, then it generates maximal periodic bitstreams for any nonzero initialization of LFSR states and these bitstreams have most of the statistical properties.

If $\operatorname{deg}(F)>1$ then bit-oriented FSR becomes NLFSR. There is no efficient way to find a feedback function such that its corresponding NFSR can generate bitstream with guaranteed long periods. On the other hand, given a feedback function, it is hard to predict the periods of NFSR sequences. However, Golomb proved that all sequences generated by an NFSR are periodic if and only if its feedback function is nonsingular. The maximum period that can achieve by an $n$-stage NFSR is $2^{n}$ and in this case it is known as de Bruijn sequences. Unlike the well-developed theory of LFSRs, the theory of NFSRs is not wellunderstood due to its complexity.

### 4.2 MRMM

If $\operatorname{deg}(F)=1$, word size $m>1$ and $\oplus$ is used in place of $\odot$, then the feedback function as expressed in Eq. (1) becomes $F\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n-1}\right)=\bigoplus_{k=0}^{n-1} C_{k} \boldsymbol{x}_{k}$ where $C_{0}, C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n-1} \in M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$. This is the general expression for the feedback
function of MRMM [22]. For a periodic word sequence [s], it is always possible to have a relation called linear recurring relation (LRR) among the elements as

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{s}_{i+n}=\sum_{k=0}^{n-1} C_{k} \mathbf{s}_{i+k} \quad i \geq 0 \tag{4}
\end{equation*}
$$

where $C_{0}, C_{1}, \ldots, C_{n-1} \in M_{m}\left(\mathbb{F}_{2}\right)$ [22]. The Eq. (4) for [s] can be mapped to an MRMM of order $n$ over $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ which we denote as $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$. The sequence $[\mathbf{s}]$ is referred as the sequence generated by the $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$ and the polynomial associated with Eq. (4) denoted as $M(x)=I_{m} x^{n}-C_{n-1} x^{n-1}-$ $\cdots-C_{1} x-C_{0}$ with matrix coefficients is called the matrix polynomial of the $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$. The following proposition from [15] tells some basic facts about MRMMs.

Proposition 3 For the sequence $[\mathbf{s}]$ generated by the $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$, we have
(i) [s] is ultimately periodic and its period is no more than $2^{m n}-1$.
(ii) if $C_{0}$ is invertible, then $[\mathbf{s}]$ is periodic. Conversely, if $[\mathbf{s}]$ is periodic whenever the initial state is of the form $(\mathbf{b}, 0, \ldots, 0)$, where $\mathbf{b} \in \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ with $\mathbf{b} \neq 0$, then $C_{0}$ is invertible.

An $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$ is called primitive if, for any choice of the nonzero initial state, the sequence generated by that MRMM is periodic with period $2^{m n}-1$. It is shown in [2] that the $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$ is primitive if and only if the determinant of the matrix polynomial $M(x)$ of $\operatorname{MRMM}(m, n)$ is a primitive polynomial of degree $m n$ over $\mathbb{F}_{2}$.

### 4.3 LFG

If $\operatorname{deg}(F)=1$, word size $m>1$ and + is used in place of $\odot$, then $F\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n-1}\right)=C_{0} \boldsymbol{x}_{0}+C_{1} \boldsymbol{x}_{1}+\ldots+C_{n-1} \boldsymbol{x}_{n-1}$. If all $C_{k} \in\left\{I_{m}, 0\right\}$, then $F\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n-1}\right)$ is the general expression of the feedback function of an additive LFG. If $f(x)=x^{n}-c_{n-1} x^{n-1}-\ldots-c_{1} x-c_{0}$ is the corresponding characteristic primitive polynomial of LFG, then it is proved by R. P. Brent [5] that the period of the recurrence relation is $2^{m-1}\left(2^{n}-1\right)$ for all $m \geq 1$ if and only if $f(x)^{2}+f(-x)^{2} \neq 2 f\left(x^{2}\right)$ (modulo 8) and $f(x)^{2}+f(-x)^{2} \neq 2(-1)^{n} f\left(-x^{2}\right)$ (modulo 8). Using matrix theory, George Marsaglia et al. [19] also showed in their paper that the recurrence relation has the maximal period $\left(2^{n}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$ for all $m \geq 1$ and for every initial state with at least one odd number if and only if the transition matrix $A$ corresponding to the characteristic primitive polynomial has the following three properties:

- order $j=2^{n}-1$ in the group of nonsingular matrices for $\bmod 2$,
- order $2 j$ for $\bmod 2^{2}$,
- order $4 j$ for $\bmod 2^{3}$.

When an LFG has a maximal period, it is known as a primitive LFG.

## 5 Cascade connection of WFSRs

The word-oriented cascade connection of FSRs was discussed in [4], where the cascade connection of MRMMs was analyzed. For the sake of completeness, we revisit the word-oriented cascade connection again. In this paper, we focus on a cascade system (CS) comprises of two WFSRs only. Suppose WFSR ${ }_{1}$ and $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ are those two WFSRs where $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ is cascaded into $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ as depicted in Fig. 4.


Fig. 4 The cascade connection of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ into $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$.

Consider the orders of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ be $n_{1}$ and $n_{2}$, respectively. Let $\mathbf{S}_{0}=\left\{\mathbf{s}_{0}, \mathbf{s}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n_{1}-1}\right\}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{0}=\left\{\mathbf{t}_{0}, \mathbf{t}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{n_{2}-1}\right\}$ be the initial states of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$. Suppose $F_{1}\left(\boldsymbol{x}_{0}, \boldsymbol{x}_{1}, \ldots, \boldsymbol{x}_{n_{1}-1}\right)$ is the feedback function for $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$, mapping from $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}^{n_{1}}$ to $\mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$. Similarly, let $F_{2}: \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}^{n_{2}} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ be the feedback function for $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$. Let $g: \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}} \rightarrow \mathbb{F}_{2^{m}}$ be a bijective function. Consider the word sequence $[\mathbf{s}]$ is generated by $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ in free running mode and $[\mathbf{t}]$ is generated by the cascade connection of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{1}$ into $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$. We say $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ is running in scrambler mode and the feedback value of $\mathrm{WFSR}_{2}$ is modified as follows

$$
\begin{equation*}
\mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}}=g\left(\mathbf{s}_{i}\right) \odot F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{i}, \mathbf{t}_{i+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}-1}\right), \text { for } i \geq 0 \tag{5}
\end{equation*}
$$

where the operation $\odot$ can be either $\oplus$ or modular addition. Let $P_{s}$ and $P_{t}$ be the period of the sequences $[\mathbf{s}]$ and $[\mathbf{t}]$, respectively. Then we have the following relation between $P_{s}$ and $P_{t}$.

Theorem 4 If $W F S R_{1}$ is periodic and $W F S R_{2}$ is nonsingular, then $[t]$ is periodic and $P_{s}$ divides $P_{t}$.

Proof It is obvious that the sequence [ $\mathbf{t}$ ] will be ultimately periodic and let $Q_{t}$ be the preperiod of $[\mathbf{t}]$. Then, $\mathbf{t}_{i}=\mathbf{t}_{i+P_{t}}$ for any $i \geq Q_{t}$ and so $\mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}}=$ $\mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}+P_{t}}$ for any $i \geq Q_{t}$. So by Eq. (5), $g\left(\mathbf{s}_{i}\right)+F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{i}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}-1}\right)=g\left(\mathbf{s}_{i+P_{t}}\right)+$ $F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{i+P_{t}}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{i+P_{t}+n_{2}-1}\right)$. But $P_{t}$ is the period of $[\mathbf{t}]$ and thus, $g\left(\mathbf{s}_{i}\right)=g\left(\mathbf{s}_{i+P_{t}}\right)$ for all $i \geq Q_{t}$. As $g$ is bijective, $\mathbf{s}_{i}=\mathbf{s}_{i+P_{t}}$ for $i \geq Q_{t}$. This implies that $\mathbf{s}_{i}=\mathbf{s}_{i+P_{t}}$ for any $i \geq 0$ as $[\mathrm{s}]$ is periodic. But, the period of $[\mathbf{s}]$ is $P_{s}$ and so $P_{s}$ divides $P_{t}$.

Suppose, $[\mathbf{t}]$ is not periodic i.e., $Q_{t}>0$. Then, $\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-1}=\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-1+P_{t}}$ as $P_{t}$ is the period of $[\mathbf{t}]$ and $Q_{t}+n_{2}-1 \geq Q_{t}$. This implies, $g\left(\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1}\right) \odot$ $F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-2}\right)=g\left(\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}\right) \odot F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-2+P_{t}}\right)$. Since $P_{s}$ divides $P_{t}$, it implies $\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1}=\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}$ and so $g\left(\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1}\right)=g\left(\mathbf{s}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}\right)$. Thus, $F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-2}\right)=F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}+n_{2}-2+P_{t}}\right)$. Again FSR2 is nonsingular and so by Theorem 1, $F_{2}$ can be expressed as $F_{2}\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n-1}\right)=f_{20}\left(\mathbf{x}_{0}\right) \odot$ $f_{21}\left(\mathbf{x}_{1}, \ldots, \mathbf{x}_{n-1}\right)$ with $f_{20}$ is one-one. This results $f_{20}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1}\right)=f_{20}\left(\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}\right)$ and so $\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1}=\mathbf{t}_{Q_{t}-1+P_{t}}$. Thus, $\mathbf{t}_{i}=\mathbf{t}_{i+P_{t}}$ for any $i \geq Q_{t}-1$. This is a contradiction to the fact that $Q_{t}$ is the preperiod of $[\mathbf{t}]$. Hence $Q_{t}=0$ and this completes the proof.

With $\odot$ as $\oplus$ and the function $g($.$) as the identity function, the above result$ is proved in [4, Theorem 9]. In the following section, we study the statistical properties of the bitstream generated by different CSs using different values of $\odot$ and later analyze the avalanche effect on states of CSs.

### 5.1 Cascade connection of two MRMMs

In this section, we analyze the randomness properties of the bitstreams generated by three MRMM-based CSs. We call CS as $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ (or $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ ) when $\oplus$ (or + ) is used for $\odot$ in Eq.(5). The $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ are depicted in Fig. 5 and Fig. 6. In both cases, $g$ is taken as an identity map. The third cascade system $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ is the same as $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ with $g($.$) as a nonlinear bijection function \mathrm{S}$ box. The S box is given in Appendix A. For experimental study in each CS, both FSRs are taken primitive MRMMs defined over $\mathbb{F}_{2^{16}}$ i.e., $m=16$. The order of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ is 10 and 7 , respectively. The matrix polynomial of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ are $x^{10}+R_{6} x^{8}+L C S_{8} x^{7}+R_{8} x^{6}+62924 x^{5}+R_{9} x^{4}+R_{4} x^{1}+L C S_{1}$ and $x^{7}+R_{11} x^{4}+L C S_{8} x^{3}+L_{9} x^{2}+R_{5} x^{1}+L C S_{14}$, respectively i.e., $n_{1}=10$ and $n_{2}=7$. Here $R_{a}$ is the right shift operator defined as $R_{a}(X)=X \gg a$ whereas $L_{b}$ is the left shift operator defined as $L_{b}(X)=X \ll b$ and the left circular shift of $X$ by $c$-bit is denoted as $L C S_{c}(X)$. As $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ runs in free running mode, we avoid all zero-state initialization situations in $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$. It is observed that the results of the statistical test suite are similar for several random initializations of the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ including all zero initialization states. This occurs as the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ are injected into the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ through its feedback calculation. Thus, the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ can be initialized with any random values, but for our experimental set up we always initialize with zero values.


Fig. $5 \mathrm{CS}_{1}$


Fig. $6 \quad \mathrm{CS}_{2}$

### 5.1.1 Comparison of statistical properties of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}, \mathrm{CS}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$

Many statistical test suites have been developed to study and analyze the randomness properties of a bitstream. In our experiment, we use NIST statistical test suite SP 800-22 Rev.1a [1]. To see the randomness properties of the word sequences generated by $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$, we first convert word sequence [ $\mathbf{t}]$ to bit sequence. By Theorem $4,\left(2^{160}-1\right)$ is a factor of the period of the word sequence, so the period of the corresponding bit sequence will be at least $16\left(2^{160}-1\right)$ as each word is 16 -bit wide. We investigate the randomness properties of the bitstream of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ as follows:

1. Initialize of states $\mathbf{S}_{0}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{0}$ : Initialize all the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ to $\mathbf{0}$ except $\mathbf{s}_{0}=1$ i.e., $\mathbf{s}_{k}=\mathbf{0}$ for $0<k \leq n_{1}-1$ and $\mathbf{t}_{k}=\mathbf{0}$ for $0 \leq k \leq n_{2}-1$. Run for 48 iterations without collecting any bitstream. The reason for the selection of 48 rounds is explained in Section 5.1.2.
2. Then for each iteration end, collect 16 -bit keystream as $\mathbf{t}_{0}$. In this experiment, it generates 100 bitstream files and each file consists of a bitstream of length 1000000 . For this, $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ runs 6250048 times to generate these 100 files.
3. Then, NIST statistical test suite is performed on all those 100 bitstream files. For this experiment, the significant value $\alpha$ is taken 0.05 .

Similar to $\mathrm{CS}_{1}, 100$ bitstream files are generated for $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$, then NIST statistical test suite is performed. Note that both $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ are the same except for different operations $\odot$ used in Eq.(5). The comparative statistical results are provided in Table 1. The first column tells the name of each statistical test of the NIST test suite. The second, third, and fourth columns show the number of passed files out of 100 in the case of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}, \mathrm{CS}_{2}$, and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$, respectively.

As [s] is generated by a primitive MRMM, it has good randomness properties. But it has low linear complexity due to linear structure. These randomness properties will be inherited by $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ as $[\mathbf{s}]$ is xored in the generation of $[\mathbf{t}]$. This fact is reflected in the second column of Table 1. It is checked that the linear complexity of all files of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ is $4352=m^{2}\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)$ as expected. Thus, none of the bitstreams of length 1000000 passes the linear complexity test as the expected linear complexity is 500000 . Table 1 shows that statistical results on the bitstream of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ are very close except for the linear complexity. In the case of the bitstream of $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$, it is tested that linear complexity is around 500000 for all 100 bitstreams of length 1000000 . This is due to use of one modular addition ${ }^{1}$. Due to the presence of a nonlinear S box in $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$, the bitstreams of $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ have also good statistical properties like $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$. Therefore, both $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ have an advantage over $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ with respect to randomness property. The S

[^0]| Name of the test | No. of <br> passed files <br> CS $_{1}$ | No. of <br> passed test <br> CS $_{2}$ | No. of <br> passed test <br> CS $_{3}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Frequency | 95 | 95 | 97 |
| BlockFrequency | 96 | 99 | 99 |
| Runs | 98 | 94 | 97 |
| LongestRunOfOnes | 98 | 97 | 94 |
| Rank | 93 | 94 | 92 |
| DiscreteFourierTransform | 92 | 90 | 94 |
| NonOverlappingTemplateMatchings | 100 | 100 | 100 |
| OverlappingTemplateMatchings | 93 | 95 | 94 |
| Universal | 94 | 97 | 94 |
| LinearComplexity | 0 | 100 | 100 |
| Serial | 98 | 94 | 97 |
| ApproximateEntropy | 97 | 93 | 95 |
| CumulativeSums | 95 | 96 | 96 |
| RandomExcursions | 60 | 59 | 64 |
| RandomExcursionsVariant | 60 | 58 | 62 |

Table 1 Comparative statistical results of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$
box used in $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ is generated by the S box construction method applied in the AES block cipher.

### 5.1.2 Avalanche analysis on state registers of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}, \mathrm{CS}_{2}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$

In this section, we analyze the avalanche effect on the states of three CSs. For the avalanche analysis study, we kept the same MRMMs used in the previous section for statistical analysis. After initialization of $\mathbf{S}_{0}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{0}$, we compute experimentally the number of iterations needed to achieve avalanche property, i.e., $50 \%$ bit changes in the states of each of three CSs separately. It is observed that number of iterations to achieve $50 \%$ avalanche in the case of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ is very close for any random initialization of $\mathbf{S}_{0}$ and $\mathbf{T}_{0}$. However, depending upon the total weight of the initial states of CS, the number of iterations varies to achieve $50 \%$ avalanche effect as shown in Table 2 and Table 3. The layout of the experiment to generate Table 2 is as follows.

1. Set count $=0$.
2. Initialize the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}: \mathbf{s}_{k}=\mathbf{i n i}-\mathbf{s}_{k}=\mathbf{0}$ for $0<k \leq$ $n_{1}-1$ and $\mathbf{s}_{0}=\operatorname{ini}-\mathbf{s}_{0}=1$. Here ini-s $\mathbf{s}_{k}$ is the initial state of $\mathbf{s}_{k}$. Initialize $\mathbf{t}_{k}=\mathbf{i n i}-\mathbf{s}_{k}=\mathbf{0}$ for $0 \leq k \leq n_{2}-1$
3. Run $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ for one iteration. Here one iteration means it calculates the feedback value $f b_{1}$ of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$, then shift the states i.e., $\mathbf{s}_{k}=\mathbf{s}_{k+1}$ for $0 \leq k<n_{1}-1$ and $\mathbf{s}_{n_{1}-1}=f b_{1}$.
4. Run $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ for one iteration i.e., it calculates the feedback value $f b_{2}$ of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$, then shift the states i.e., $\mathbf{t}_{k}=\mathbf{t}_{k+1}$ for $0 \leq k<n_{2}-1$ and $\mathbf{t}_{n_{2}-1}=f b_{2} \odot \mathbf{s}_{0}$.
5. Calculate weight $=\sum_{k=0}^{n_{1}-1} W t\left(\mathbf{s}_{k} \oplus \mathbf{i n i}-\mathbf{s}_{k}\right)+\sum_{k=0}^{n_{2}-1} W t\left(\mathbf{t}_{k} \oplus\right.$ ini- $\left._{k}\right)$.
6. If $\mid$ weight $\left.-\frac{m\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)}{2} \right\rvert\, \geq 3$, increase count by 1 and go to step- 3 . Otherwise, return count. Here 3 is the approximation value of $1 \%$ of the total size of memory states i.e., $m\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)$.

Table 2 Avalanche effects Vs iteration numbers when all states except $\mathbf{s}_{0}$ are $\mathbf{0}$

|  | CS $_{1}$ |  | CS $_{2}$ |  | $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Iter. | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% |
| 0 | 3 | 1.10 | 3 | 1.10 | 9 | 3.31 |
| 1 | 3 | 1.10 | 3 | 1.10 | 17 | 6.25 |
| 5 | 7 | 2.57 | 7 | 2.57 | 47 | 17.28 |
| 10 | 18 | 6.62 | 18 | 6.62 | 66 | 24.26 |
| 15 | 35 | 12.87 | 36 | 13.24 | 71 | 26.10 |
| 20 | 62 | 22.79 | 62 | 22.79 | 94 | 34.56 |
| 30 | 119 | 43.75 | 120 | 44.12 | 123 | 45.22 |
| 40 | 124 | 45.59 | 120 | 44.12 | 124 | 45.59 |

Table 3 Avalanche effects Vs iteration numbers when all states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ are $0 \times \mathrm{xFFFF}$ and all states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ are $\mathbf{0}$

|  | $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ |  | $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ |  | $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$ |  |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| Iter. <br> No. | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% | Wt. of <br> states | avalanche <br> effect \% |
| 0 | 23 | 8.46 | 23 | 8.46 | 17 | 6.25 |
| 1 | 46 | 16.91 | 46 | 16.91 | 34 | 12.50 |
| 2 | 68 | 25.00 | 68 | 25.00 | 50 | 18.38 |
| 3 | 90 | 33.09 | 83 | 30.51 | 68 | 25.00 |
| 4 | 104 | 38.24 | 107 | 39.34 | 80 | 29.41 |
| 5 | 125 | 45.96 | 124 | 45.59 | 97 | 35.66 |
| 6 | 144 | 52.94 | 144 | 52.94 | 115 | 42.28 |

Table 2 shows the total weight of the states and the percentage of total states size of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}, \mathrm{CS}_{2}$, and $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$, respectively with respect to the iteration number. Here the percentage of avalanche effect is calculated as (total weight of the states of CS) $/($ total size of CS in bits) $\times 100$. In this case, the total size of CS in bits is 272 . It is observed experimentally that both $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ take almost the same number of iterations to achieve $50 \%$ avalanche effect for the same nonzero random initialization of states.

Table 3 tells that around 6 iterations are needed to achieve the desired effect. In this case, data are generated after all states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ are initialized with $0 x F F F F$ i.e., all bits of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ are 1 , and all states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ are kept 0 . It is also noticed that if the states of $\mathrm{MRMM}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{MRMM}_{2}$ are balanced, then CS takes around 9 iterations to achieve $50 \%$ avalanche effect. Except $\mathbf{s}_{0}$, if all states of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ are in zero states, both $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ achieve the avalanche property after 48 iterations. Therefore, during the study of statistical properties of $\mathrm{CS}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{CS}_{2}$ in Section 5.1 .1 we have collected bitstream after 48 iterations.

### 5.2 Cascade connection of MRMM and LFG

In the previous section, we studied cascade systems comprised of MRMMs only. In this section, we focus on two more cascade systems. One is $\mathrm{CS}_{4}$ consists of two LFGs and the other is CS5 where one FSR is MRMM and the other is LFG. Consider both the LFGs used in $\mathrm{CS}_{4}$ are two primitive additive LFGs where $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$ is cascaded into $\mathrm{LFG}_{2}$. If $[\mathbf{t}]$ is a nonzero sequence generated by this cascade system, then we have the following result.

Theorem 5 Let the order of $L F G_{1}$ and $L F G_{2}$ be $n_{1}$ and $n_{2}$, respectively having common word size $m$. If $\operatorname{gcd}\left(n_{1}, n_{2}\right)=1$, then $\operatorname{Per}[t]=\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$.

Proof Suppose [ $\mathbf{s}$ ] is the word sequence generated by $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$. Then $[\mathbf{s}]$ is periodic as $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$ is primitive and $\operatorname{Per}[\mathbf{s}]=\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$. Again the feedback function $f_{2}($.$) of$ $\mathrm{LFG}_{2}$ is nonsingular and so $\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$ divides $\operatorname{Per}[\mathbf{t}]$ by Theorem (4). Let $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ be the bit sequence consisting of the first least significant bit (LSB) of each word of $[\mathbf{t}]$. Then, it can be visualized that $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ is generated by the cascade connection of two primitive LFSRs. Thus $\operatorname{Per}\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]=\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right)$ by [4, Corollary 14]. This implies $\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$ divides $\operatorname{Per}[\mathbf{t}]$ as $\operatorname{Per}\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ divides $\operatorname{Per}[\mathbf{t}]$.

Again, it is obvious that $\operatorname{Per}[\mathbf{t}]$ divides $\operatorname{lcm}\left(\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right) 2^{m-1},\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}\right)$ as both the LFGs are primitive. As $\operatorname{gcd}\left(n_{1}, n_{2}\right)=1, \operatorname{lcm}\left(\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right) 2^{m-1},\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}\right)=$ $\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$. This proves the desired result.

Since the period of $\mathrm{CS}_{4}$ is $\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$, the lower bound for linear complexity of any nonzero bitstream of $\mathrm{CS}_{4}$ is $n_{1} n_{2} 2^{m-2}$. In CS5 LFG cascades into MRMM. Then using similar arguments, the following theorem can be proved.

Theorem 6 Let the order of $L F G$ and $M R M M$ be $n_{1}$ and $n_{2}$, respectively having common word size $m$. If $\operatorname{gcd}\left(n_{1}, m n_{2}\right)=1$, then $\operatorname{Per}[t]=\left(2^{n_{1}}-1\right)\left(2^{m n_{2}}-1\right) 2^{m-1}$.

### 5.3 Cryptanalysis of word-based CSs

In the previous section, we studied cascade systems comprise of MRMMs and LFGs, then some of their statistical properties. In this section, we discuss a cryptanalytic attack and its complexity. We start with a general method for reconstructing the original sequence from a known portion of the output word sequence. Assume that $[\mathbf{t}]$ is the known output word sequence of the cascade system of Eq. (5) where the function $g($.$) is the Identity function. Thus,$ $\mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}}=\mathbf{s}_{i} \odot F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{i}, \mathbf{t}_{i+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{i+n_{2}-1}\right)$, for $i \geq 0$. Our aim is to reconstruct the initial states of both the FSRs (i.e., $\mathbf{s}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n_{1}-1}$ and $\mathbf{t}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{n_{2}-1}$ ). Since the procedure of cryptanalytic attack is similar for all discussed cascade systems comprised of MRMMs and LFGs except $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$, we only focus on CSs of LFGs i.e., $\mathrm{CS}_{4}$. Consider $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$ is cascaded into $\mathrm{LFG}_{2}$ in the CS and both LFGs are primitive. Let $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ be the bit sequence consisting of the first LSB of each
word of $[\mathbf{t}]$. Then, $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ is a bit sequence generated by a cascade system of two primitive LFSRs. If $n_{1}$ and $n_{2}$ are the order of $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$ and $\mathrm{LFG}_{2}$, then from any $2\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)$ consecutive bits of $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$, it is possible by Berlekamp-Massey algorithm, to get the feedback polynomials of both LFSRs and so for LFGs. Now from Eq. (5), $\mathbf{s}_{i}=\left(\mathbf{t}_{n_{2}+i}-F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{i}, \mathbf{t}_{i+1}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{n_{2}-1+i}\right)\right) \bmod 2^{m}$, for $i \geq 0$ and so the initial states $\mathbf{s}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n_{1}-1}$ can be computed, once $[\mathbf{t}]$ is known.

Since $\mathbf{t}_{0}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{n_{2}-1}$ are assumed to be part of the secret key, they should not be used as keystream words. Let us assume the keystream words $\left\{\mathbf{t}_{n_{2}+i}\right\}_{i \geq 0}$ are known. Then using the Berlekamp-Massey algorithm on $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$, it is again possible to find the feedback polynomial of both the LFGs. Now $\mathbf{s}_{n_{2}+i}$ can be computed as $\mathbf{s}_{n_{2}+i}=\left(\mathbf{t}_{2 n_{2}+i}-F_{2}\left(\mathbf{t}_{n_{2}+i}, \ldots, \mathbf{t}_{2 n_{2}-1+i}\right)\right) \bmod 2^{m}$, for $i \geq 0$. Again $\mathbf{s}_{n_{2}+n_{1}-1}=F_{1}\left(\mathbf{s}_{n_{2}-1}, \mathbf{s}_{n_{2}}, \ldots, \mathbf{s}_{n_{2}+n_{1}-2}\right)$ and $F_{1}($.$) is linear, thus \mathbf{s}_{n_{2}-1}$ can be calculated from it. Using the same procedure, it is possible to retrieve all initial states of $\mathrm{LFG}_{1}$. Here also same $2\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)$ consecutive words of [ $\left.\mathbf{t}\right]$ is sufficient to mount this attack. This attack is summarized as follows.

```
Algorithm 1 Attack on LFG-based cascade systems
Input: The output word sequence [t]
Output: Recover the initial states of LFGs
if \([t] \neq 0\) then
        Collect \(\left[\boldsymbol{t}^{(1)}\right]\), the first LSB of each word of \([\boldsymbol{t}]\) Apply the Berlekamp-Massy
        algorithm on \([\boldsymbol{t}]\) and get the feedback polynomial of LFGs.
        Using Eq. (5), calculate initial states of LFGs
else
    All states of LFGs are \(\boldsymbol{O}\)
```

This attack is applicable as long as the bits of $\left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ satisfy the linear recurring relation of order $\left(n_{1}+n_{2}\right)$ or less. One easy solution is to use a nonlinear bijective function $g($.$) to destroy the linear structure of \left[\mathbf{t}^{(1)}\right]$ such as the use of an S box. Thus, this cryptanalytic attack is not applicable to $\mathrm{CS}_{3}$. In the case of an LFG-based cascade system, simply rotation by a nonzero value will also destroy linear relation in the 1st LSB of $[\mathbf{t}]$.

## 6 Conclusion

WFSRs are useful as pseudorandom sequence generation. In this paper, we have given a general expression for WFSRs. In Table 4, some well-known FSRs are shown as the special case of WFSR by putting different restrictions. Column 1 of Table 4 tells the name of the FSR. Columns 2 and 3 give the value of the degree of feedback function $F$ and the word size $m$, respectively. Column 4 tells which operation is used for $\odot$ in Eq. (5) and column 5 says, the multiplication operation used when $\operatorname{deg}(F)>1$.

| FSR | $\operatorname{deg}(F)$ | $m$ | $\odot$ | $\prod$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| LFSR | 1 | 1 | $\oplus$ |  |
| NLFSR | $>1$ | 1 | $\oplus$ | $\&$ |
| LFG | 1 | $>1$ | + |  |
| MRMM | 1 | $>1$ | $\oplus$ |  |

Table 4 Special cases of different WFSRs

## Appendix A

$\mathrm{S}[256]=[0 x 9 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{x} 85,0 \mathrm{xAF}, 0 \mathrm{xBC}, 0 \mathrm{x} 00,0 \mathrm{xAB}, 0 \mathrm{x} 89,0 \mathrm{xC1}, 0 \mathrm{x} 6 \mathrm{D}, 0 \mathrm{x} 7 \mathrm{~F}$, $0 \mathrm{xB} 8,0 \mathrm{x} 1 \mathrm{C}, 0 \mathrm{x} 13,0 \mathrm{x} 30,0 \mathrm{x} 37,0 \mathrm{xA} 6,0 \mathrm{xDB}, 0 \mathrm{x} 71,0 \mathrm{xD} 2,0 \mathrm{x} 54,0 \mathrm{x} 31,0 \mathrm{x} 32$, 0xD9, 0xFC, 0xE4, 0x99, 0xCF, 0x15, 0xF6, 0x34, 0x84, 0xBF, 0x3A, 0xAA, 0x6F, 0xB3, 0xBE, 0xEE, 0xFD, 0xD3, 0x4F, 0x23, 0xCE, 0x9B, 0x3B, 0xCC, $0 x A 9,0 x 04,0 x A 5,0 x F 2,0 x 1 B, 0 x C 3,0 x 8 A, 0 x F 3,0 x 5 D, 0 x 16,0 x A C, 0 x 47$, $0 x 77$, 0x11, 0x2F, 0x1E, 0x08, 0x2E, 0xCA, 0x09, 0x38, 0x40, 0xDA, 0xE7, 0xB4, 0xE6, 0x88, 0xED, 0xA0, 0xD1, 0x29, 0xE3, 0x3E, 0xC5, 0x70, 0x58, $0 x 46,0 x 91,0 x 0 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{xAD}, 0 \mathrm{x} 1 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{xA} 1,0 \mathrm{x} 4 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{xCD}, 0 \mathrm{x} 0 \mathrm{~B}, 0 \mathrm{x} 9 \mathrm{~F}, 0 \mathrm{xB} 9,0 \mathrm{x} 20$, $0 \mathrm{xD} 5,0 \mathrm{x} 42$, 0x05, 0xF1, 0x14, 0x75, 0xE0, 0xAE, 0x36, 0xC6, 0x92, 0x8E, 0x94, 0x26, 0x79, 0xB5, 0xDC, 0xB6, 0x81, 0x3C, 0x74, 0xC4, 0xD6, 0x19, $0 x E 5,0 x A 8,0 x F A, 0 x 12,0 x D 8,0 x D E, 0 x 69,0 x 49,0 x 7 A, 0 x 44,0 x B 2,0 x D 0$, $0 \mathrm{xE} 9,0 \mathrm{xF} 0,0 \mathrm{xCB}, 0 \mathrm{x} 56,0 \mathrm{x} 4 \mathrm{D}, 0 \mathrm{x} 07,0 \mathrm{xBA}, 0 \mathrm{x} 97,0 \mathrm{x} 24,0 \mathrm{xE} 2,0 \mathrm{x} 8 \mathrm{D}, 0 \mathrm{x} 59$, 0xA4, 0xA3, 0x93, 0x86, 0x21, 0xF8, 0x3D, 0x83, 0x3F, 0x28, 0x43, 0xA7, 0x9C, 0x98, 0x72, 0x7D, 0x8F, 0xC8, 0xEF, 0x2B, 0x41, 0x90, 0xF4, 0xEC, $0 \mathrm{x} 1 \mathrm{~F}, 0 \mathrm{xF} 9$, 0x68, 0x51, 0x01, 0x0C, 0x60, 0x62, 0xBD, 0x5A, 0x48, 0x52, 0x8B, 0x67, 0xE8, 0xFE, 0xA2, 0x53, 0xB1, 0xC2, 0xC7, 0x96, 0x87, 0x22, $0 \mathrm{x} 4 \mathrm{C}, 0 \mathrm{x} 45,0 x 55,0 \mathrm{x} 4 \mathrm{~B}, 0 \mathrm{x} 95,0 \mathrm{xEB}, 0 \mathrm{xDD}, 0 \mathrm{xFF}, 0 \mathrm{xD} 7,0 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{E}, 0 \mathrm{x} 1 \mathrm{D}, 0 x 9 \mathrm{D}$, $0 \mathrm{x} 80,0 \mathrm{x} 6 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{x} 76,0 \mathrm{xD} 4,0 \mathrm{x} 0 \mathrm{E}, 0 \mathrm{x} 4 \mathrm{E}, 0 \mathrm{x} 9 \mathrm{E}, 0 \mathrm{x} 50,0 \mathrm{x} 2 \mathrm{~A}, 0 \mathrm{x} 82,0 \times 27,0 \times 7 \mathrm{C}$, $0 \times 7 \mathrm{E}, 0 \times 61,0 x 6 \mathrm{~B}, 0 \mathrm{x} 6 \mathrm{E}, 0 \mathrm{x} 0 \mathrm{D}, 0 \mathrm{xB} 7,0 \mathrm{x} 03,0 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{C}, 0 \mathrm{x} 8 \mathrm{C}, 0 \mathrm{xFB}, 0 \times 17,0 \times 2 \mathrm{D}$, 0x73, 0xC0, 0x57, 0x18, 0x0F, 0xDF, 0x06, 0x33, 0xE1, 0x7B, 0x25, 0x66, $0 \times 39,0 x 78,0 \times 10,0 x 6 \mathrm{C}, 0 \times 64,0 x F 7,0 x B B, 0 x B 0,0 x 02,0 x 35,0 x 63,0 x 5 \mathrm{~F}$, $0 \mathrm{xC} 9,0 \mathrm{x} 2 \mathrm{C}, 0 \mathrm{xEA}, 0 \mathrm{x} 65,0 \mathrm{xF} 5,0 \mathrm{x} 5 \mathrm{~B}]$

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[^0]:    ${ }^{1}$ It is known that if $a=\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_{i} 2^{i}, b=\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} b_{i} 2^{i}$ and $c=a+b=\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} c_{i} 2^{i}$, with $a_{i}, b_{i}, c_{i} \in\{0,1\}$, then $c_{0}=a_{0} \oplus b_{0}$, and for $1 \leq k<m, c_{k}=a_{k} \oplus b_{k} \oplus \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} a_{i} b_{i} \prod_{j=i+1}^{k-1}\left(a_{j} \oplus b_{j}\right)$. As the value of word size $m$ is 16 , the nonlinear degree of the expression of $c_{15}$ will be 16 .

