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Description	

# New Pseudo-Random Number Generator for EPC Gen2

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**SUMMARY** RFID enable applications are ubiquitous in our society, especially become more and more important as IoT management rises. Meanwhile, the concern of security and privacy of RFID is also increasing. The pseudorandom number generator is one of the core primitives to implement RFID security. Therefore, it is necessary to design and implement a secure and robust pseudo-random number generator (PRNG) for current RFID tag. In this paper, we study the security of light-weight PRNGs for EPC Gen2 RFID tag which is an EPC Global standard. For this reason, we have analyzed and improved the existing research at IEEE TrustCom 2017 and proposed a model using external random numbers. However, because the previous model uses external random numbers, the speed has a problem depending on the generation speed of external random numbers. In order to solve this problem, we developed a pseudorandom number generator that does not use external random numbers. This model consists of LFSR, NLFSR and SLFSR. Safety is achieved by using nonlinear processing such as multiplication and logical multiplication on the Galois field. The cycle achieves a cycle longer than the key length by effectively combining a plurality of LFSR and the like. We show that our proposal PRNG has good randomness and passed the NIST randomness test. We also shows that it is resistant to identification attacks and GD attacks.

**key words:** NLFS (Non-linear feedback shift register), SLFSR (Skip-Linear feedback shift register), pseudo-random number generator, RFID, EPC Gen2

## 1. Introduction

### 1.1 Background

A smart device having a communication function is one of the main components of IoT. In particular RFID [1] are considered various usages and applications, it is expected that one of the smart device that is responding to various needs. Cryptographic primitives can provide secure communications between the RFID reader and tag by using elaborately generated cryptographic keys. These unpredictable and irreproducible secret keys determine the communication security, which are created by a pseudo-random number generator (PRNG). Under such background, the importance of RFID orientated PRNG is on the rise. The regular PRNG is difficult directly to be applied to RFID tags. Therefore,

it is needed to be developed to pseudo-random number generator with sufficient security can be used as a primitive for possible saving resources mounted on smart device operates in the power saving. In this paper, we focus on the extremely light-weight pseudo-random number generator for EPC Gen2 RFID tags. The following conditions were set for development. The key length is 80 or more [6], [7]. Circuit scale is less than or equal to 2000GE [8], [9]. Two of the above, is the most severe conditions in which we were in the eye.

### 1.2 Our Job

In the present study, it have a key length of the need to use as security of the core primitive, a sufficient security, and propose a pseudo-random number generator that also has excellent statistical evaluation. Our contributions are summarized as follows:

- Based on Wabler construction, we improve the security by extending the key length (at least 80bit), which is more secure with larger key space.
- We consider the implementation on the real-world EPC Gen2 RFID tags. The scale of the circuit is less than or equal to 2000GE which is outperform the existing PRNG scheme for EPC Gen2 tags under the same security level.
- Based on our experimental analysis using the NIST pseudo-randomness test package, we show that our proposed PRNG pass all 16 tests and does not have bias.
- Resistant to existing attacks.
- It should be able to operate independently without using external random numbers.

In this paper, we propose a new model that satisfies the above conditions. This is a development of the model previously announced at TrustCom 2017 of IEEE. This new model consists of LFSR, DLFSR and Skip-control feedback shift register (hereafter, SLFSR), and it has sufficient cycle and safety as a pseudo random number generator for RFID. It is pseudo-random number generator for the existing smart devices based on NLFSR and the SLFSR. We used NIST SP 800-22 for the evaluation of statistical random number characteristics. As an evaluation of existing attacks, we evaluated by applying identification attack and GD attack. This paper shows the structure of the proposed model and that there are no problems as a result of their evaluation.

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**Table 1** A truth table of  $f$ .

		$x_2$	
		0	1
$(x_0, x_1)$	(0, 0)	0	0
	(0, 1)	1	0
	(1, 0)	1	0
	(1, 1)	1	1

If you know the output  $O_{k+1}$  (0 or 1) at the time  $k+1$  round, you can identify the internal state of the NLFSR6 by order  $2^4$ . This is because the outputs in the form of compression of the internal state of NLFSR6. In addition, if the attacker has to guess the NLFSR6 and memory  $t_{K+1, K+2, K+3, K+4}$ , 1 bit is determined to be applied to new in memory  $t_{K+5}$  from the output of the next time  $K+1$ . For this reason, the value associated with the state transition of NLFSR6 is better higher computational security. Next, attention is paid to the NLFSR19, 21, 22. The output of the NLFSR19, 21, 22 obtain an output by enter the following formula to  $f$ .

$$f(x_0, x_1, x_2) = x_0x_1 + x_1x_2 + x_0x_2 + x_0 + x_1 \quad (x_{0,1,2} \in F_2)$$

A truth table of the input-output relationship shown in Table 1. From Table 1, if  $f$  outputs 0,  $x_2 = 1$  is the probability of  $3/4$ , is the probability  $x_2 = 1$  is  $1/4$ . If  $f$  is outputs 1 is  $3/4$   $x_2 = 0$  of probability, is a  $1/4$  probability that  $x_2 = 1$ . There is a bias in this way.  $f$  is considered to be the effect of hiding a portion of the input at that time by ignoring any of the  $x_0, x_1, x_2$ . However, such bias is likely to be used in the attack. Therefore, it considered that it is desirable to replace the another function to keep the deviation without computational security. Next, consider the circuit scale. Compared to the Warbler (32,2,5,6) is a circuit scale 937GE, the circuit scale 1238GE of Warbler (62,3,5,6) that internal state has increased 27. When the future to think, than increasing the simple internal state for key length increase, there is a possibility that more than 2000GE is a restriction of the EPC Gen2. Considering that in the future be required to recommend equivalent to the key length of the common key encryption, it is to increase the simple internal state for key length increase, there is a possibility that more than 2000GE is a restriction of the EPC Gen2.

### 3.4 Security Analysis of Our Previous Proposal Model

The previous proposal model consists of NLFSR group, DLFSR and NLFSR6. We designed to maintain a period longer than a certain period and a key length of 96 bits and achieve a circuit scale of 2000 GE or less. The operation of each part is shown. The NLFSR group consists of three NLFSRs whose internal state has been expanded compared with those of Warbler, and the guarantee period as a whole is about  $2^{80}$ . In addition, the output of which is non-linear reduction by the WG. WG is composed of WGP for multiplying should be definitive in the Galois field and Trace. As of the following formulas, respectively law of Galois field

$$\text{NLFSR28: } f_1 = x^5 + x^3 + x + 1,$$

$$\text{NLFSR27: } f_2 = x^5 + x^4 + x^2 + x + 1,$$

$$\text{NLFSR25: } f_3 = x^5 + x^4 + x^3 + x^2 + 1$$

Next, a description will be given of WGP to be used in the WG. Input is referred to as  $x$  ( $x \in F_2^5$ ). WGP is expressed by the following equation.

$$\text{WGP}(x) = x + (x+1)^5 + (x+1)^{13} + (x+1)^{19} + (x+1)^{21}.$$

Next, a description will be given of Trace. Trace is shown by the following equation.

$$\text{Trace}(x) = x + x^2 + x^{2^2} + x^{2^3} + x^{2^4} \quad (F_2^5 \rightarrow F_2)$$

By WGP and Trace, WG is shown as the following equation.

$$\text{WG}(x) = \text{Trace}(\text{WGP}(x^d)) \quad (x \in F_2^5)$$

Next, a description will be given NLFSR to use the WG. NLFSR25 ( $\mu$ ), 27 ( $\epsilon$ ), 28 ( $\zeta$ ) consists of 25, 27, 28 stages each one bit of the register.

$$\zeta_{k+28} = 1 + \zeta_k + \text{WG}(x^7),$$

$$x = (\zeta_{k+3}, \zeta_{k+4}, \zeta_{k+8}, \zeta_{k+12}, \zeta_{k+20}),$$

$$\epsilon_{k+27} = 1 + \epsilon_k + \text{WG}(y^{11}),$$

$$y = (\epsilon_{k+4}, \epsilon_{k+10}, \epsilon_{k+12}, \epsilon_{k+15}, \epsilon_{k+20}),$$

$$\mu_{k+25} = 1 + \mu_k + \text{WG}(z^7),$$

$$z = (\mu_{k+3}, \mu_{k+6}, \mu_{k+14}, \mu_{k+16}, \mu_{k+18}).$$

Memory ( $t$ ) is a save to keep the 5-bit memory output. The operation of the memory is as follows. (Notation as follows.  $d_i$  indicates the 16  $i$ -th register of DLFSR.  $rm_i$  external random number at the time  $i$ ).

$$s_i = \text{WG}(\zeta_i, \epsilon_i + 1, \mu_i + 1, rm_i, d_i), \quad s_j = 0, \quad j = 0, 1, 2, 3,$$

$$t_{i+4} = (s_i, s_{i+1}, s_{i+2}, s_{i+3}, s_{i+4})$$

In our previous proposal model, NLFSR6 operates as follows. NLFSR6 is 5-bit 6-stage NLFSR ( $a$ ). NLFSR6 do multiplication in the enlarged body. Operations are shown below.

$$a_{k+6} = \gamma a_k + a_{k+1} + w_k + t_k, \quad w_k = (0, 0, 0, 0, \text{WG}(a_k^{11}))$$

DLFSR is based J3Gen. Similarly J3Gen, constituted by Polynomial Selector and LFSR. Polynomial Selector has a function to switch the primitive polynomial LFSR is used. It captures the external random number  $r$  ( $r \in \{0, 1\}$ ) for each round ( $l$ ), choosing a primitive polynomial  $fb_i$ . It shows the switch to the following formula.

$$fb_i = \text{Select}(j)$$

$$j = j \oplus r \pmod{8}$$

$$\text{Select} = f_1, f_2, \dots, f_8$$

$$f_j : j = 1, 2, \dots, 8$$

LFSR ( $l_i$ ) is to use a 1-bit 16-stage. The state transition are as the following equation.



**Algorithm 1** Initialization

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 $j = k = l = 0, O_0 = 1$ 
for  $i = 0$  to 55 do
   $\delta_{i+22} = 1 + \delta_i + \text{WG}(x^7) + O_i \quad (x = \delta_{i+3}, \delta_{i+4}, \delta_{k+8}, \delta_{k+12}, \delta_{k+20})$ 
   $\epsilon_{i+21} = 1 + \epsilon_i + \text{WG}(y^{11}) + O_i \quad (y = \epsilon_{i+4}, \epsilon_{i+10}, \epsilon_{i+12}, \epsilon_{i+15}, \epsilon_{i+20})$ 
   $\zeta_{i+19} = 1 + \zeta_i + \text{WG}(x^7) + O_i \quad (x = \zeta_{i+3}, \zeta_{i+6}, \zeta_{i+14}, \zeta_{i+16}, \zeta_{i+18})$ 
   $\eta_{i+37} = \lambda_{i+7} + \lambda_{i+18} + \lambda_{i+30}$ 
   $\mu_{i+25} = 1 + \mu_i + \text{WG}(z^7) + \text{WG}(a_{i+5}^3)$ 
   $s_i = \text{WG}(\zeta_i, \lambda_i + 1, \mu_i + 1, rm_i, d_i), s_j = 0, j = 0, 1, 2, 3$ 
   $t_{i+4} = (s_i, s_{i+1}, s_{i+2}, s_{i+3}, s_{i+4})$ 
   $w_i = (0, 0, 0, 0, \text{WG}(a_i^{11}))$ 
   $a_{i+6} = \gamma a_i + a_{i+1} + w_i + t_i$ 
for  $j$  to  $j + \delta_{19}, \delta_{11}$  do
   $t_{36+j} = t_{35+j} + t_{2+j}$ 
end for
for  $k$  to  $k + \epsilon_{17}, \epsilon_5$  do
   $\kappa_{34+k} = \kappa_{33+k} + \kappa_{22+k} + \kappa_{13+k} + \kappa_{11+k}$ 
end for
for  $l$  to  $l + \zeta_{13}, \zeta_7$  do
   $\lambda_{33+l} = \lambda_{32+l} + \lambda_{22+l} + \lambda_{2+l} + \lambda_{1+l}$ 
end for
   $\mu_i = t_j + \kappa_k + \lambda_l$ 
   $O_i = \text{WG}(a_{i+5}^3) + \mu_i$ 
end for

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$$\begin{aligned}
IV_{0,\dots,10} &= \delta_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 10), \\
K_{11,\dots,21} &= \epsilon_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 10), \\
IV_{11,\dots,20} &= \epsilon_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 9), \\
K_{22,\dots,30} &= \zeta_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 8), \\
IV_{21,\dots,30} &= \zeta_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 9), \\
K_{31,\dots,47} &= \eta_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 16), \\
IV_{31,\dots,46} &= \eta_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 15), \\
K_{48,\dots,62} &= \theta_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 14), \\
IV_{47,\dots,62} &= \theta_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 15), \\
K_{63,\dots,80} &= \iota_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 17), \\
IV_{63,\dots,79} &= \iota_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 16), \\
K_{81,\dots,96} &= \kappa_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 15), \\
IV_{80,\dots,96} &= \kappa_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 16), \\
K_{97,\dots,112} &= \lambda_{2j+1} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 15), \\
IV_{97,\dots,112} &= \lambda_{2j} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 15), \\
K_{113,\dots,127} &= \alpha_{2j\%5, j \pmod{5}} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 14), \\
IV_{113,\dots,127} &= \alpha_{2j\%5+1, j \pmod{5}} \quad (j = 0, \dots, 14), \\
0 &= \eta_j \quad (j = 32, \dots, 36), \quad 0 = t_j \quad (j = 0, \dots, 4),
\end{aligned}$$

**6. Evaluation**

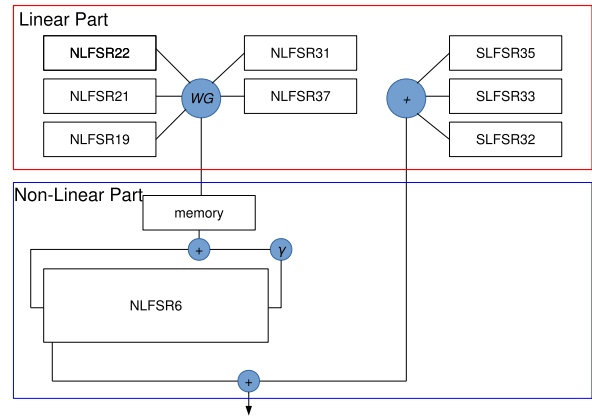
For security evaluation, we evaluate in order of random number characteristics, period, distinguishing attack, GD attack.

**6.1 Random Number Characteristic**

The evaluation of the random number characteristics, using the NIST SP800-22. A key and IV were generated by a round function of C programming language, 100 samples of

**Table 2** Result of NIST SP800-22 test.

Test name	P-VALUE	PROPORTION
Frequency	0719747	99/100
BlockFrequency	0.289667	99/100
CumulativeSums	0.275709	100/100
Runs	0.224821	99/100
LongestRun	0.759756	100/100
Rank	0.129620	100/100
FFT	0.554420	100/100
NonOverlappingTemplate	0.834308	98/100
OverlappingTemplate	0.437274	100/100
ApproximateEntropy	0.867692	99/100
RandomExcursions	0.689019	59/61
RandomExcursionsVariant	0.585209	60/61
Serial	0.699313	99/100
LinearComplexity	0.153763	98/100

**Fig. 4** Simplified model for distinguishing attack.

random number series were prepared and tested by NIST SP 800-22. The results are shown in Table 2. It should be noted that, for some multiple of the same item in the test described the first one of those is output.

**6.2 Period**

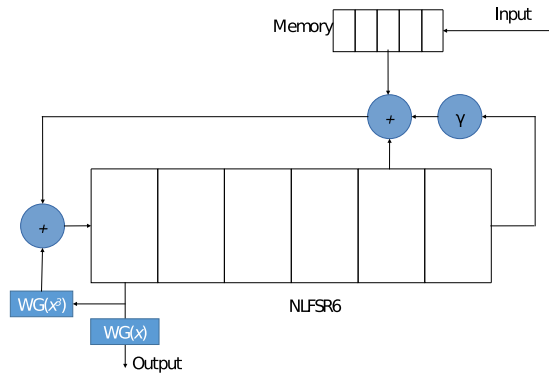
NLFSR and LFSR each have a maximum period. At this time, the cycle when these are combined is the least common multiple. Therefore, it has a cycle of  $2^{130}$ , which exceeds  $2^{128}$ , so it has a sufficient cycle.

**6.3 Distinguishing Attack**

In order to evaluate the security against distinguishing attacks, in this paper we divided the linear part and the non-linear part like Fig. 4 and examined the attack.

As shown in Fig. 4, NLFSR group and SLFSR are set to linear part, memory and NLFSR 6 are made nonlinear part. This is based on attacks on SNOW. In fact, NLFSR and SLFSR have nonlinearity, but this time we also add NLFSR and SLFSR to the linear part to simplify the evaluation. In order for an identification attack to be successful, the output must be biased. In the pseudo-random number generator composed of the linear part and the nonlinear part as in this model, one of the following is required for a discrimination





**Fig. 5** Search for linear approximation.

attack to be established.

1. There is a bias in the linear part that is input to the nonlinear part.
2. A linear approximation formula must be established in the nonlinear part.

First, let's talk about parts that are handled as linear parts. The linear part consists of LFSR, NLFSR, and SLFSR. Since LFSR and NLFSR have the maximum period, their outputs are not biased. Since SLFSR is for skip control of LFSR, the output is estimated to be unbiased. Consider the memory which is a nonlinear part and NLFSR 6. NLFSR 6 is regarded as a memory with shift function, multiplication of extension field is added when performing state transition. This is the same as the  $S$  function of SNOW, as the output is one to one correspondence to the input. For this reason, NLFSR 6 can be regarded as an  $S$  function and a shifted memory, so it is a nonlinear part. Next, a linear approximation formula of the nonlinear part is obtained. As shown in Fig. 5, the input to the linear part to the nonlinear part was 1 bit added to every round memory, and the output was 1 bit after passing through WG of NLFSR 6. Do not use the exclusive OR of the output 1 bit (compressed 5 bit) of register 0 of NLFSR 6, which is the original output, and SLFSR in order to facilitate the evaluation. Since input and output are both 1 bit,  $\Gamma = 1$ , we did a full search. As a result, we measured 2, 3, 4 null, but neither bias was detected. From the above, it was found that the linear part is not biased and the nonlinear part is not biased, and the linear approximation formula is not valid. Therefore, our proposed method was shown to be resistant to distinguishing attack.

## 6.4 GD Attack

To simplify the evaluation, simplify the operation of the proposed scheme. Evaluate from SLFSR as an evaluation of resistance to GD attack. From the output of the scheme, the result of exclusive OR from the three SLFSRs (assumed to be output 1) can not be obtained directly but it is assumed that it can be done. Fix the operation of SLFSR as follows. Every SLFSR depends on NLFSR clock, but evaluates it as having only one clock. The SLFSRs remaining from infer-

ence and output 1 of the registers of the two SLFSRs are determined. In this case, it is better to have a smaller number of registers inferred, so SLFSR 32 and SLFSR 31 are estimated. The calculation amount for this is  $2^{32+31} = 2^{63}$ . In this case, by setting the SLFSR 35 to 35 clocks, the internal state is determined. Similarly, a GD attack is applied to NLFSR 22, 21, 19 and LFSR 37, 31. At this time, similarly to the evaluation of SLFSR, it is assumed that an input to the NLFSR 6, that is, an output of the WG function (assumed to be output 2) is obtained in order to simplify the evaluation. As with SLFSR, when applying attacks to NLFSR and LFSR, it is better for smaller guess inside registers, so LFSR 37 is decided and others are guessed. The computational complexity at this time is  $2^{93}$ , so it is necessary to make 37 clock. The amount of calculation for inferring the internal state so far is  $A \cdot 2^{93+63} = 2^{156}$ . In fact, the output from our proposed scheme consists of the outputs of NLFSR 6 and SLFSR. In order to attack each register, it is necessary to separate the output of NLFSR 6 and SLFSR. For this purpose, it is necessary to estimate in the same way. Also, there are some simplified parts such as the SLFSR clock and WG output being known to the attacker for easy evaluation. Therefore, the actual calculation amount becomes larger than  $2^{156}$ . Therefore, we believe that the proposed scheme has resistance to GD attacks.

## 7. Conclusion

In this paper, we proposed a pseudorandom number generator for resource saving such as EPC Gen 2 Class 2. The first reason is that existing block ciphers and stream ciphers do not work with less resources because the circuit scale becomes large. The second use is because the existing pseudo-random number generator for resource saving does not meet the required safety. In the development, we aimed for a 128-bit key length equivalent to the security set by a pseudo-random number generator for computers with relatively resources. In addition, it was also required to work with resource-saving devices such as EPC Gen2 for Class2. In addition, it was designed to work with resource-saving devices by choosing lightweight parts. The model proposed in this paper is a further development of the model proposed in TrustCom 2017. The first is not to rely on external random numbers. Second, the proposed model has 128 bits of safety including the period and can prove its resistance to existing attacks. The long period necessary to expand the key length was achieved by combining NLFSR and LFSR and the measure against existing attack was solved by combining NLFSR and SLFSR. In evaluating this scheme, we explained the period, the statistical random number characteristics, the identification attack, the speculation decision attack and showed that there is no problem in performance. In the future, we going to implement it in the device and measure power consumption, speed and circuit scale.

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