

The Eurocrypt 2009 Evaluation Framework for SCAs, Revisited

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Outline

- ▶ The big picture
- ▶ Motivating worst case evaluation
- ▶ Applying the framework
 - ▶ Information theoretic analysis
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ In practice
 - ▶ Main theorem
 - ▶ Examples of applications
 - ▶ Security analysis
- ▶ Which statistical tools to use?
- ▶ Conclusion

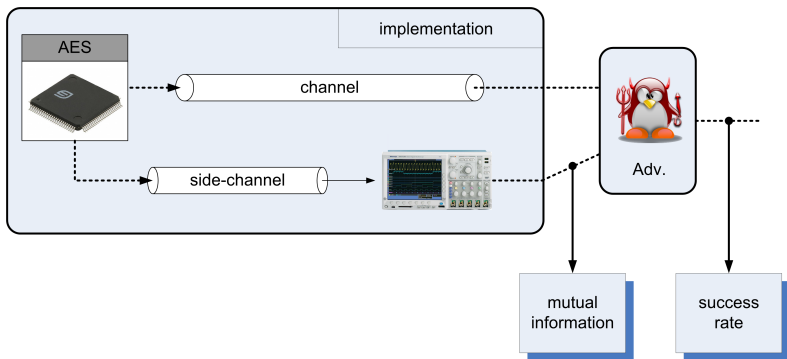


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SCA evaluation framework [1]



Three main ingredients : *design* (e.g. AES in a μ controller), *leakage function* (e.g. power cons. + scope), *adversary*



Definition of the adversary

- ▶ **Adv**(p, d, n, t, m, s)
 - ▶ p : profiled or non-profiled attack
 - ▶ d : data complexity (excludes repetition)
 - ▶ n : number of measurements (includes repetition)
 - ▶ t : time complexity
 - ▶ m : memory complexity
 - ▶ $s \in$ unknown/known/chosen plaintexts/ciphertexts



Definition of the leakage function

- ▶ Formally, $L(\delta, \Sigma, \rho)$
 - ▶ δ : configuration of the target device
 - ▶ Depends on the public input x and secret input k
 - ▶ May depend on a random (non-physical) parameter r
 - ▶ Σ : measurement setup
 - ▶ ρ : physical randomness



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 - ▶ Σ : measurement setup
 - ▶ ρ : physical randomness
- ▶ Additional informal classification :
 - ▶ Independent noise : if $L(x, k, \rho) = f(x, k) + g(\rho)$
 - ▶ Variability : if $L(x, k, \rho)$ is different for “similar” chips
 - ▶ Linear : if $f(x, k)$ is a linear function of x, k
 - ▶ Non-linear : if $f(x, k)$ is a non-linear function of x, k



Specification of the design

- ▶ Cryptographic algorithm
- ▶ Target device and technology
- ▶ Type of countermeasures inserted, e.g.
 - ▶ Noise addition
 - ▶ Masking
 - ▶ Time randomization
 - ▶ Dual-rail logic styles
 - ▶ Re-keying
 - ▶ ...



Message #1

- ▶ SCA depend on many parameters
- ▶ Any comparison should fix all of them but one
- ▶ e.g. impact of a countermeasure
 - ▶ Best analyzed on the same device & with the same setup as the unprotected implementation



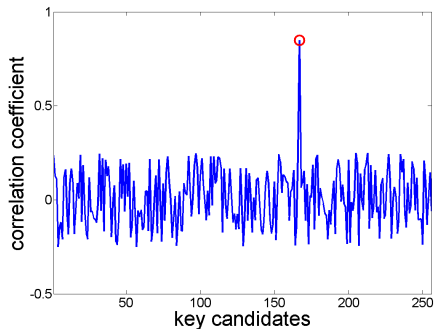
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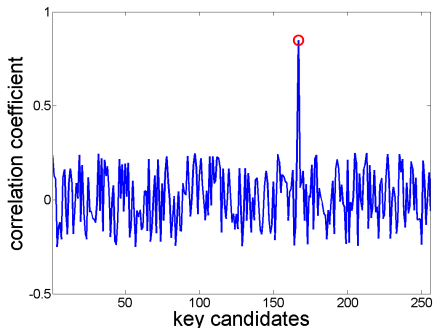
How not to evaluate

- ▶ Launch a single attack with an arbitrary distinguisher



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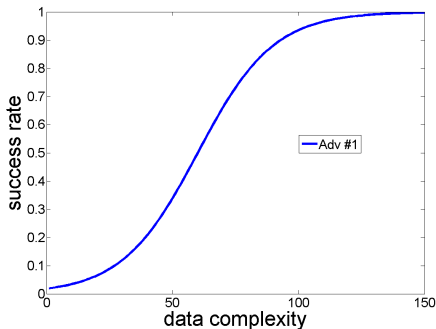


- ▶ First issue : no statistical confidence in the evaluation



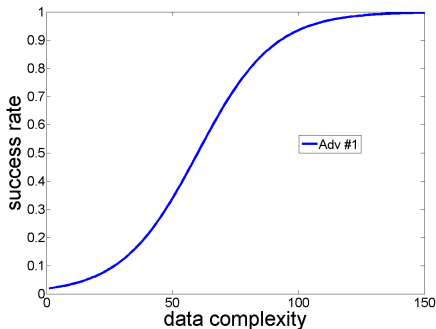
A first improvement

- ▶ Repeat the attack and estimate a success rate



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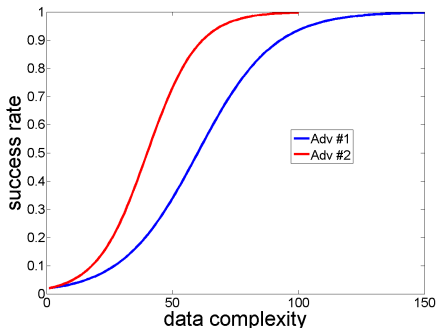


- ▶ Second issue : arbitrary adversary (maybe suboptimal)



A first improvement

- ▶ Repeat the attack and estimate a success rate

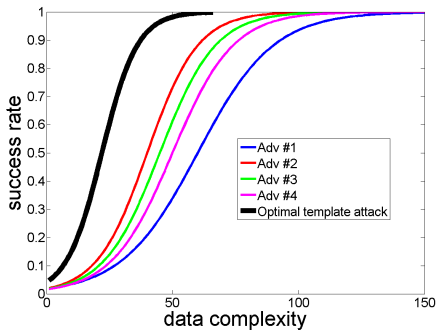


- ▶ A stronger adversary may invalidate the evaluation



A second improvement

- ▶ Apply an “optimal” template attack



Message #2

- ▶ Worst case evaluation
 - ▶ Anticipates “all” side-channel adversaries
 - ▶ Adds security margins to the implementations
 - ▶ Practical adversaries may be suboptimal
 - ▶ Represents the designer’s point of view
- ▶ Profiling is (provably) needed for this purpose [2]



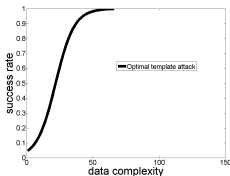
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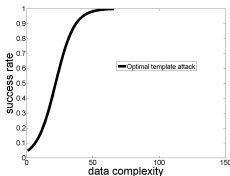
The starting point

- ▶ Why do we need it ?
 - ▶ All the quantified data of a worst case evaluation is contained in security metrics (e.g. success rates)



The starting point

- ▶ Why do we need it ?
 - ▶ All the quantified data of a worst case evaluation is contained in security metrics (e.g. success rates)



- ▶ But evaluating = quantifying + understanding
- ▶ Remaining issue : why is the attack successful ?
 - ▶ Information theoretic analysis helps understanding



Estimation issues

- ▶ Information theoretic analysis = estimating the information leakage \perp of the adversary
- ▶ But estimating the mutual information between arbitrary distributions is notoriously hard
 - ▶ Estimators are biased & distribution-dependent



Estimation issues

- ▶ Information theoretic analysis = estimating the information leakage \perp of the adversary
- ▶ But estimating the mutual information between arbitrary distributions is notoriously hard
 - ▶ Estimators are biased & distribution-dependent
- ▶ Good news : side-channel attacks need a model
 - ▶ i.e. an estimation of the leakage distribution
- ▶ Main idea : estimate the mutual information from the “best available” profiled model (i.e. the worst case)



Definition

- ▶ Information leakage on the secret key

$$H[K] - \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \Pr[k] \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{\text{chip}}[l|k] \cdot \log_2 \hat{\Pr}_{\text{model}}[k|l],$$



Definition

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- ▶ where $\hat{\Pr}_{\text{model}}[k|l]$ is obtained by profiling the target device
- ▶ where $\Pr_{\text{chip}}[k|l]$ is obtained by sampling the target device

⇒ Two cases can happen



Case #1 : ideal evaluation

Perfect profiling phase



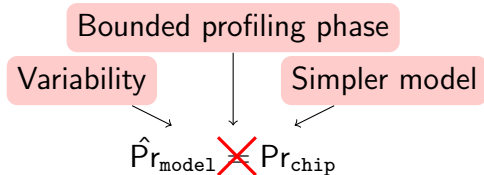
$$\hat{P}_{\text{model}} = \text{Pr}_{\text{chip}}$$

$$\hat{M}I(K; L) = H[K] - \sum_{k \in \mathcal{K}} \text{Pr}[k] \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \text{Pr}_{\text{chip}}[l|k] \log_2 \hat{P}_{\text{model}}[k|l]$$

⇒ mutual information properly estimated



Case #2 : “biased” evaluation



$$\hat{MI}(K; L) = H[K] - \sum_{k \in \mathcal{X}} \Pr[k] \sum_{l \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{\text{chip}}[l|k] \log_2 \hat{Pr}_{\text{model}}[k|l]$$

perceived information = estimator for the mutual information biased by the adversary's model



Message #3

- ▶ In general, $MI(K; L)$ cannot be exactly computed
- ▶ But we can sometime be sufficiently close
 - ▶ (see the “tools” section)
- ▶ Goal of an evaluator : be as close as possible
 - ▶ Again motivates the use of profiling



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Two-step process

- ▶ Step 1 : estimate the leakage model $\hat{P}_{\text{model}}[k|l]$
 - ▶ e.g. with Gaussian templates, linear regression [3] (or Gaussian Mixtures, SVMs, ...)
- ▶ Step 2 : estimate $\hat{P}(K; L)$ by sampling $\hat{P}_{\text{chip}}[k|l]$
 - ▶ i.e. by generating actual measurements



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- ▶ Step 2 : estimate $\hat{P}(K; L)$ by sampling $\hat{P}_{\text{chip}}[k|l]$
 - ▶ i.e. by generating actual measurements
- ▶ Note : measurements to estimate the leakage model and to estimate $\hat{P}(K; L)$ must be different



Example

- ▶ 4 key candidates with correct key $k = 1$
- ▶ $\sum_{I \in \mathcal{L}} \Pr_{\text{chip}}[I|k = 1] \log_2 \hat{\Pr}_{\text{model}}[k = 1|I]$ estimation



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	$k = 0$	$k = 1$	$k = 2$	$k = 3$
I_1	\hat{p}_0^1	\hat{p}_1^1	\hat{p}_2^1	\hat{p}_3^1



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I_2	\hat{p}_0^2	\hat{p}_1^2	\hat{p}_2^2	\hat{p}_3^2



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l_3	\hat{p}_0^3	\hat{p}_1^3	\hat{p}_2^3	\hat{p}_3^3
...
l_N	\hat{p}_0^N	\hat{p}_1^N	\hat{p}_2^N	\hat{p}_3^N

$$\Rightarrow \frac{1}{N} \sum_{i=1}^N \log_2 \hat{p}_1^i$$



Note

- ▶ MI/PI metrics \neq Gierlichs et al.'s MIA [4]



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- ▶ MIA is a *non-profiled* distinguisher
- ▶ MI/PI metrics are *profiled* (worst case) eval. criteria



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- ▶ MIA is a *non-profiled* distinguisher
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- ▶ MIA requires to define a *target operation*
- ▶ MI/PI metrics are best estimated when capturing the key leakage from *all intermediate computations* [5]



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- ▶ MIA requires to define a *target operation*
- ▶ MI/PI metrics are best estimated when capturing the key leakage from *all intermediate computations* [5]
- ▶ The MIA distinguisher provides a lower bound of the actual information leakage given by the MI/PI metrics



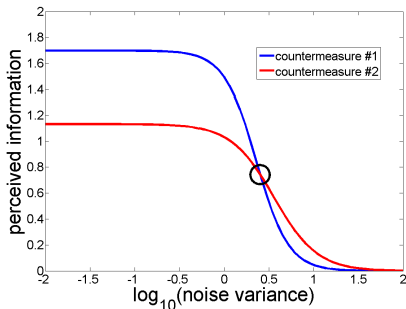
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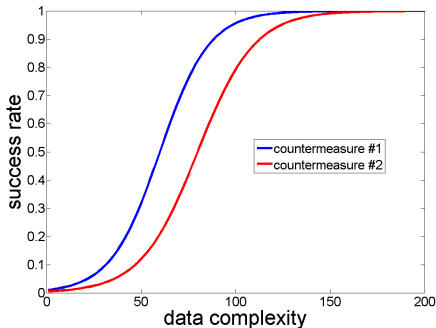
Main theorem (informal)

- ▶ $PI(K; L)$ is directly proportional to the success rate of an adversary using $\hat{P}_{r_{\text{model}}}[k|l]$ as template
- ▶ e.g. $PI(K; L)$ in function of the noise variance



As a result

- ▶ Left of the intersection

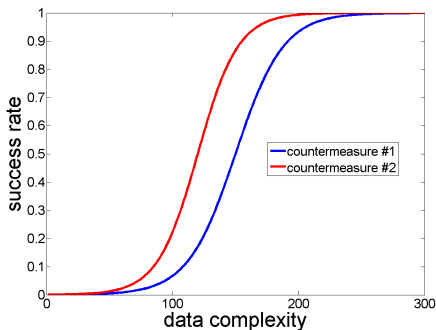


- ▶ Countermeasure #2 more secure than first one



As a result

- ▶ Right of the intersection

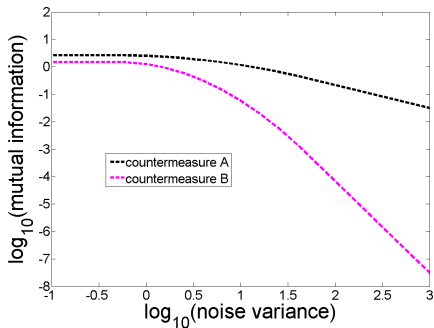


- ▶ Countermeasure #1 more secure than first one



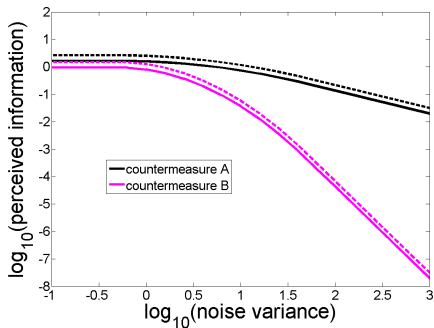
In other words

- ▶ $MI(K; L)$ measures the worst case data complexity

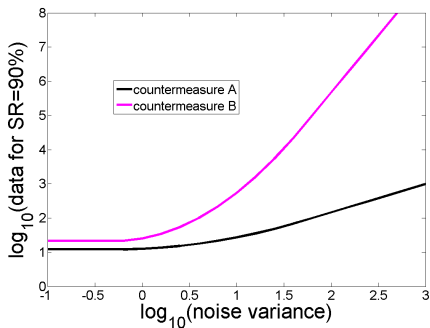


In other words

- ▶ $PI(K; L)$ is the evaluator's best estimate



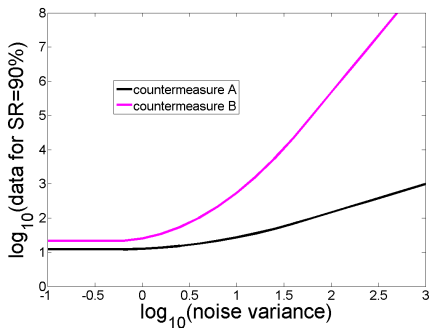
Relation with data complexity



- ▶ Theorem only proven in very specific cases



Relation with data complexity



- ▶ Theorem only proven in very specific cases
- ▶ But holds surprisingly well in all real-world settings



Message #4

- ▶ A single success rate curve does not reveal a trend nor an explanation about a leaking device
- ▶ Most intuition regarding the data complexity of a side-channel attack can be extracted by plotting $PI(K; L)$ in function of a noise variable
- ▶ $PI(K; L)$ curves are easier to sample than the average data complexity to reach a given success rate



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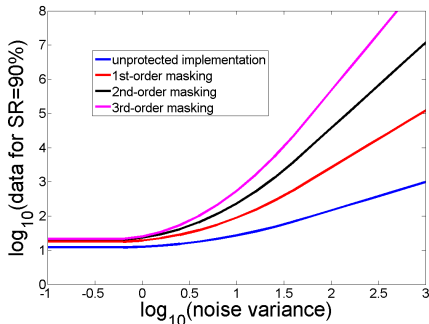


Example #1 : masking

- ▶ Main idea : split the sensitive data in r shares
- ▶ If “perfect” implementation, the data complexity to break masking is proportional to $(\sigma_n^2)^r$
 - ▶ Perfect \approx if the smallest-order key-dependent moment in the leakage distribution is r
 - ▶ Essentially depends on the hardware (e.g. glitches or early propagation make implementations imperfect)



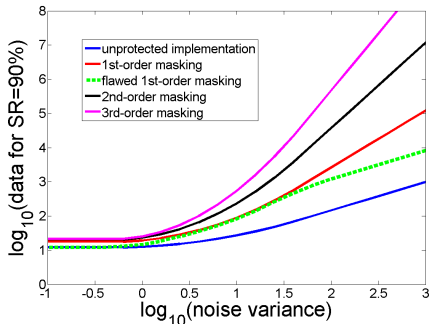
Information theoretic intuition [6]



- ▶ Smallest-order key-dept. moment = slope of the curve



Information theoretic intuition [6]



- ▶ Flaws due to physical defaults can be detected

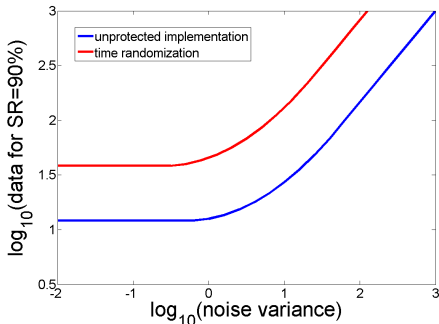


Example #2 : time randomization

- ▶ Random delays, unstable clock, shuffling, . . .
- ▶ Essentially adds noise to the implementation



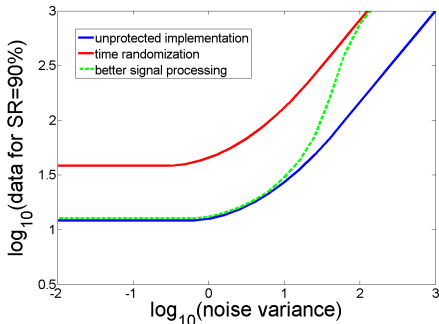
Information theoretic intuition [7]



- ▶ e.g. shuffling can give rise to a Y-axis shift



Information theoretic intuition [7]



- ▶ Main issue : highly dependent on signal processing

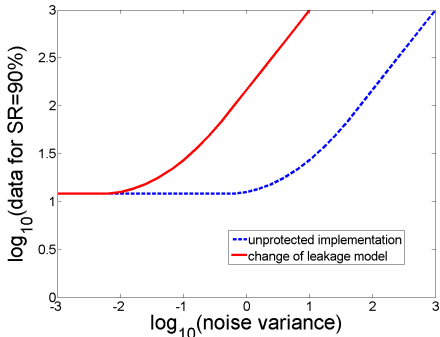


Example #3 : dual rail logic styles

- ▶ Main idea : have constant activity within the implementation in order to
 1. Modify the leakage models (i.e. avoid simple models such as Hamming weight/distance)
 2. Reduce the data dependencies in the leakages
- ▶ Practical limitation : usually implies strong hardware constraints (i.e. need to “balance” the wires)



Information theoretic intuition [8]



- ▶ Reduced data dependencies \Rightarrow X-axis shift

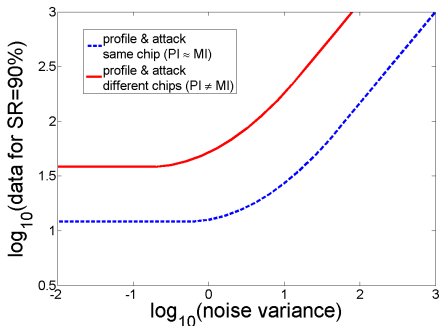


Example #4 : variability

- ▶ Leakage function can be \neq for \neq “similar” chips
 - ▶ e.g. because of manufacturing process
- ▶ Raises new questions regarding profiled attacks
 - ▶ e.g. profile n chips, attack another chip
 - ▶ How large should n be?
- ▶ Variability may create a gap between MI and PI



Information theoretic intuition [9]



- ▶ Worst case may be harder to exploit by adversaries...
- ▶ ... but remains the most reliable evaluation metric!



Message #5

- ▶ $PI(K; I)$ provides a unifying view of countermeasures
- ▶ Only masking can lead to exponential security increase
- ▶ Again, beware of “false sense of security”
 - ▶ $PI(K; L) \neq MI(K; L)$
 - ▶ Significant differences may be due to signal processing, bad assumptions on the leakage, ...
 - ▶ Measurement setup also matters (a lot)



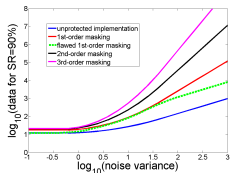
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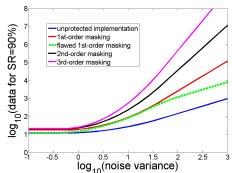
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 - ▶ Information theoretic curves capture most intuition about the data complexity of worst-case attacks



- ▶ But side-channel attacks also depend on time
- ▶ And evaluating multiple (not only worst-case) adversaries may be revealing as well [10]

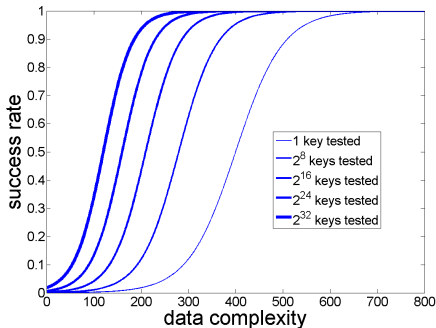


Example #1 : masking

- ▶ If the r shares are manipulated in different clock cycles (i.e. in software, typically), finding these cycles requires testing N^r r -uples of time samples



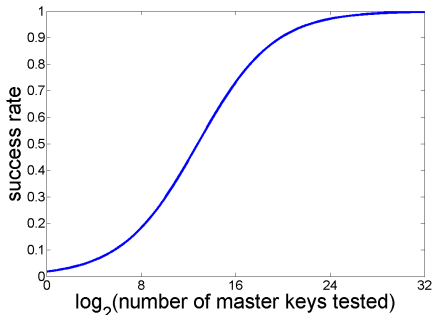
Example #2 : key enumeration [11]



- ▶ Significant impact on the success rates



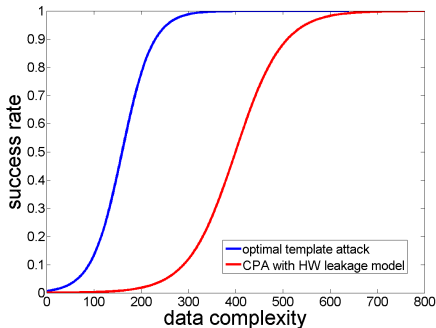
Example #2 : key enumeration [11]



- ▶ Missing data can always be traded for computations



Example #3 : other attacks



- ▶ Non-profiled attacks can be significantly less efficient



Message #6

- ▶ Security analysis : necessary complement to IT analysis
- ▶ It allows highlighting the gap between profiled and (usually more realistic) non-profiled attacks
- ▶ It incorporates time complexity in the evaluations
 - ▶ Adversaries can enumerate up to 2^{50} - 2^{60} keys
 - ▶ Evaluate success rates of high orders !



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How to evaluate the metrics ?

- ▶ Implies to determine good statistical tools
 - ▶ Critical point : pdf estimation problem
- ▶ Tools are highly dependent on the contexts
- ▶ A few examples next...



Examples

	profiled attacks	non-profiled attacks
unprotected device, univariate leakage		
unprotected device, multivariate leakage		
dual-rail pre-charged implementation		
time randomizations		
masking		
combination of countermeasures		

- ▶ Different types of implementations & countermeasures
- ▶ Which cases are “easy to evaluate?”



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- ▶ Most distinguishers are asymptotically equivalent
- ▶ ... if provided with the same leakage model [12]



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- ▶ PCA, LDA, . . . useful in the profiled case
- ▶ Dimensionality reduction uneasy in non-profiled case



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- ▶ Same tools as for an unprotected device
- ▶ Non-linear leakage functions require profiling



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dual-rail pre-charged implementation		
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- ▶ Uneasy to evaluate for both types of attacks
- ▶ Signal proc. completely removes some countermeasures



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masking		
combination of countermeasures		

- ▶ Becomes measurement intensive as r increases
- ▶ No solution is always optimal in the non-profiled case



Examples

	profiled attacks	non-profiled attacks
unprotected device, univariate leakage		
unprotected device, multivariate leakage		
dual-rail pre-charged implementation		
time randomizations		
masking		
combination of countermeasures		

- ▶ Specially hard if the design is unknown
- ▶ Large distance btw. profiled & non-profiled cases



Outline

- ▶ The big picture
- ▶ Motivating worst case evaluation
- ▶ Applying the framework
 - ▶ Information theoretic analysis
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ In practice
 - ▶ Main theorem
 - ▶ Examples of applications
 - ▶ Security analysis
- ▶ Which statistical tools to use?
- ▶ Conclusion



Conclusions (I)

- ▶ Evaluation of DPA quite well understood in theory
 - ▶ Which metrics to use and why
 - ▶ Perceived information quantifies implementations
 - ▶ Success rates quantify adversaries
- ▶ But \exists many open question related to the best statistical tools needed to estimate the metrics



Conclusions (II)

- ▶ Evaluators should always try to understand from where a “false sense of security” could come from
 - ▶ Perceived information can also be used to compare different laboratories (i.e. how good are they in extracting information from an implementation?)



Conclusions (III)

- ▶ Side-channel attacks are more than divide-and-conquer
- ▶ Next challenge : combinations with cryptanalysis
 - ▶ Collision attacks
 - ▶ Algebraic attacks
 - ▶ ...



THANKS

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