



Side-Channel Countermeasures' Dissection and the Limits of Closed Source Security Evaluations

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- ▶ Exploit "*noise amplification*" based on mathematical analysis

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 - ▶ Signal reduction
- ▶ However it may not be enough to provide high protection
 - ▶ Noise is not a parameter giving exponential security
- ▶ Exploit "*noise amplification*" based on mathematical analysis
 - ▶ Requires additional hypothesis (e.g., independence for masking)

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 - ▶ In contradiction with Kerckhoff's principle

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 - ▶ In contradiction with Kerckhoff's principle
 - ▶ In part encouraged by some certification practices (e.g., CC)

What About Real-World Targets ?



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Once (huge) reverse engineering done, attacks are straightforward.

- ▶ These examples are however not reflective of certified products
- ▶ We lack practically relevant examples of "*sound combinations of countermeasures*"



Useful step in this direction: ANSSI's Implem.

Open-source protected AES:

🔗 **Hardened Library for AES-128 encryption/decryption on ARM Cortex M4 Achitecture**

Authors: Ryad Benadjila, Louiza Khati, Emmanuel Prouff and Adrian Thillard

This work is linked to the H2020 funded project [REASSURE](#).

🔗 **Introduction**

The members of ANSSI's laboratory of embedded security have developed a [©](#) library to perform AES-128 encryption and decryption on 32-bit Cortex-M ARM architecture while taking Side-Channel Attacks (SCA for short) into account.

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3. Impact of open designs for worst-case security evaluations

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Profiled Side-Channel Attacks in



Worst-case analysis in two phases:

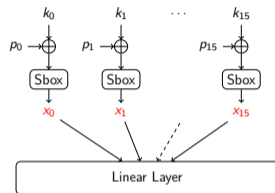
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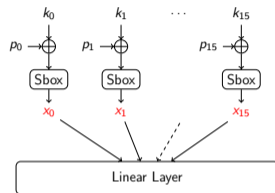
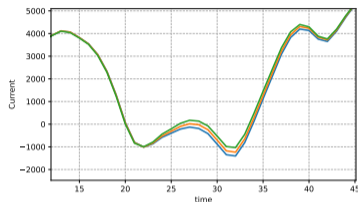
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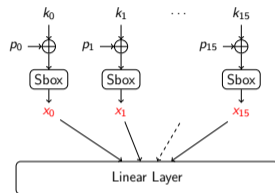
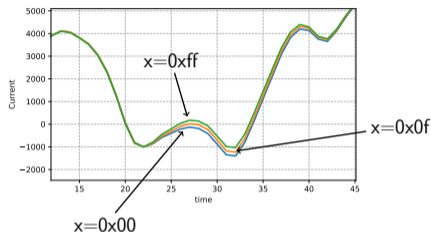


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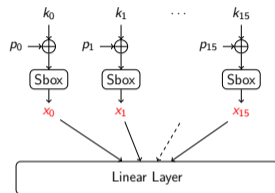
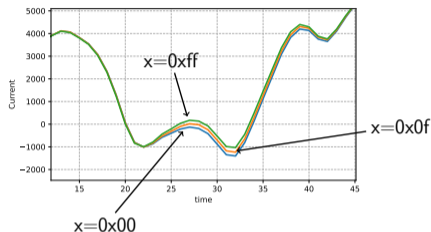


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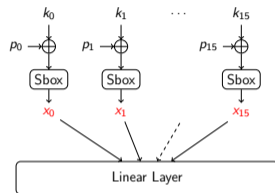
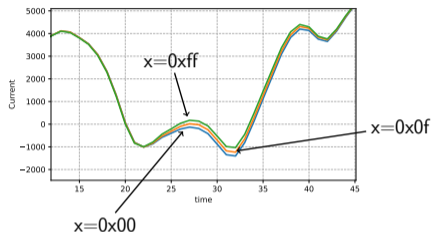
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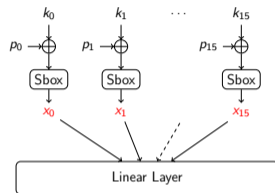
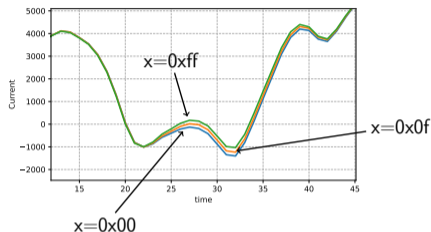
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- ▶ Processing for secret recovery

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At a high level:

Countermeasures



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- ▶ Affine masking on bytes

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 - ▶ One permutation for the 16 Sboxes
 - ▶ Another permutation for the 4 MixColumns
 - ▶ Both are pre-computed

Countermeasures



Inputs

Pre-computation

Encryption

Countermeasures



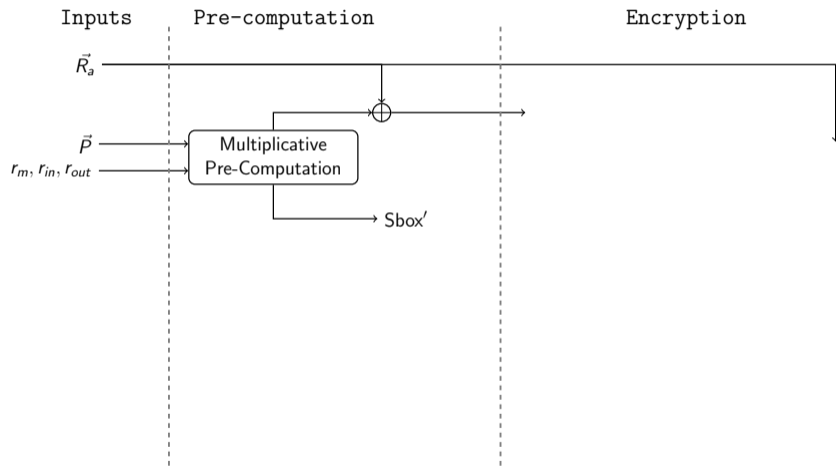
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 \vec{R}_a \vec{P} r_m, r_{in}, r_{out}

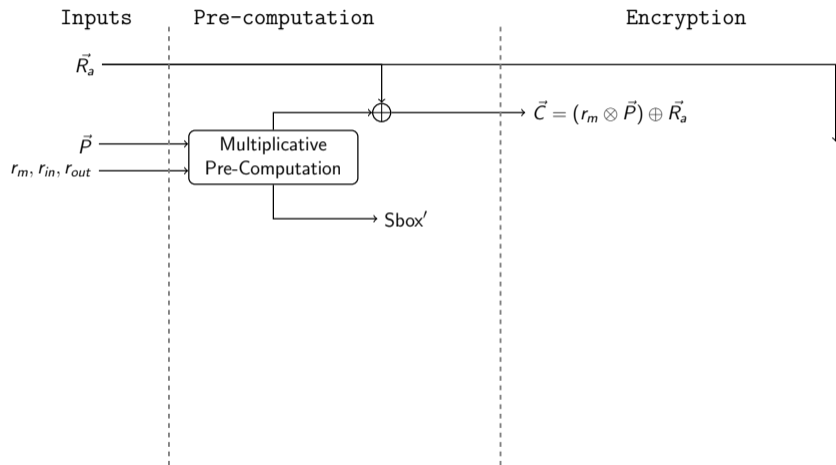
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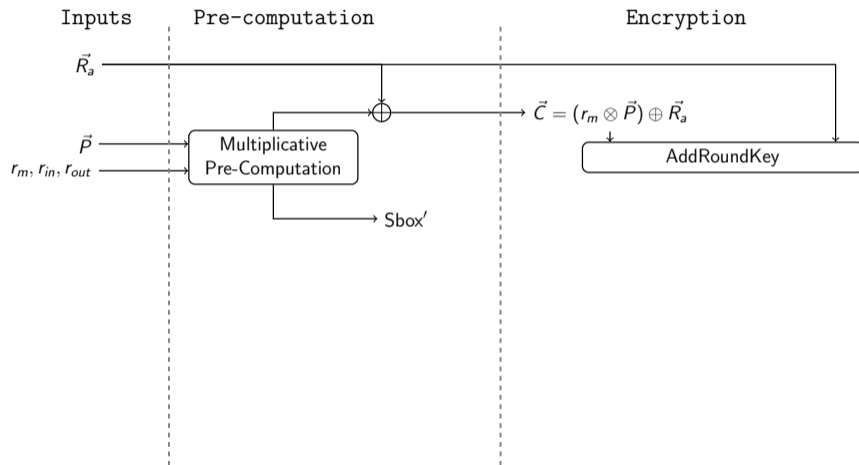
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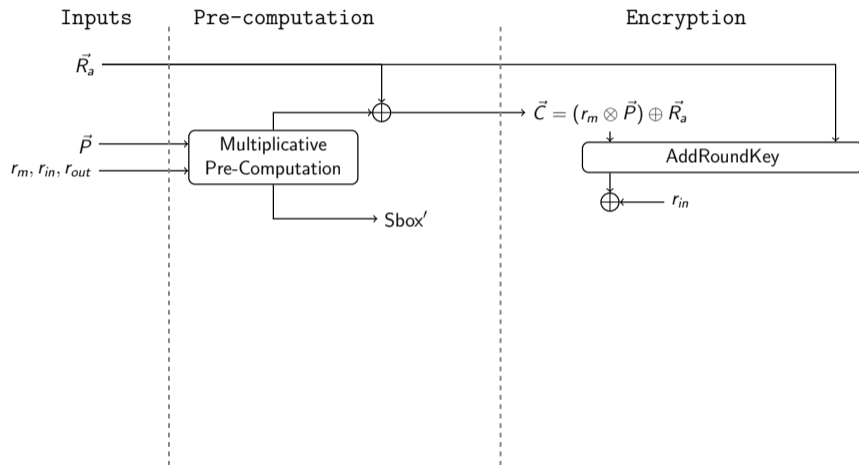
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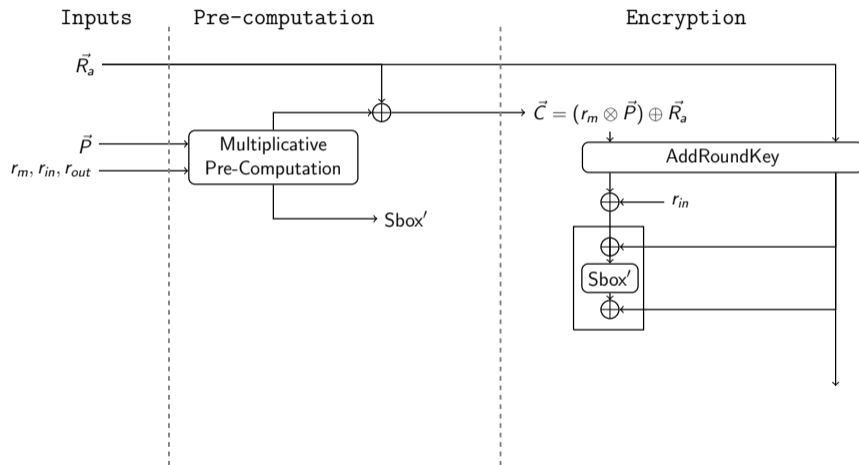
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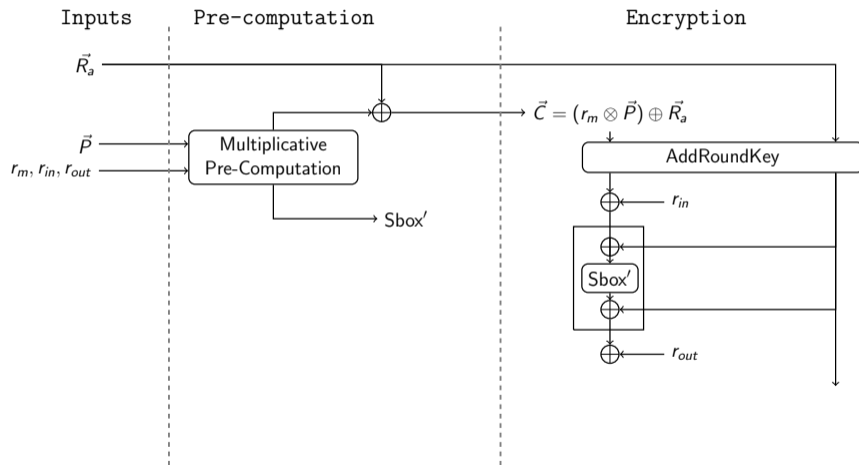
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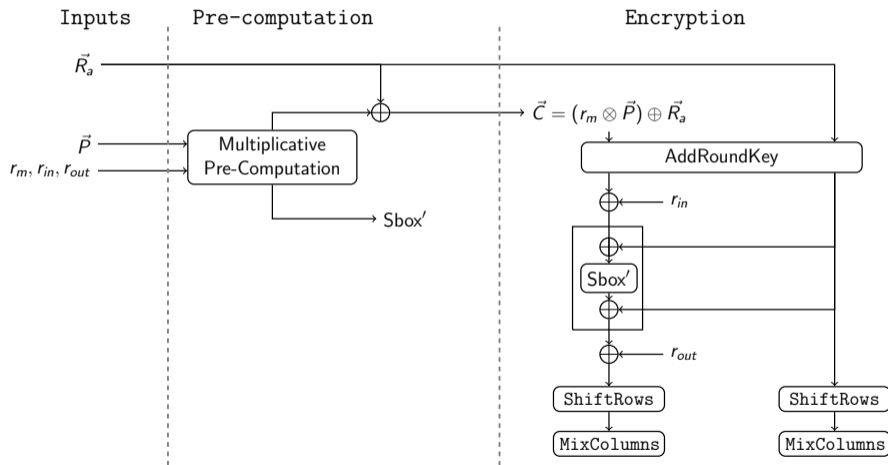
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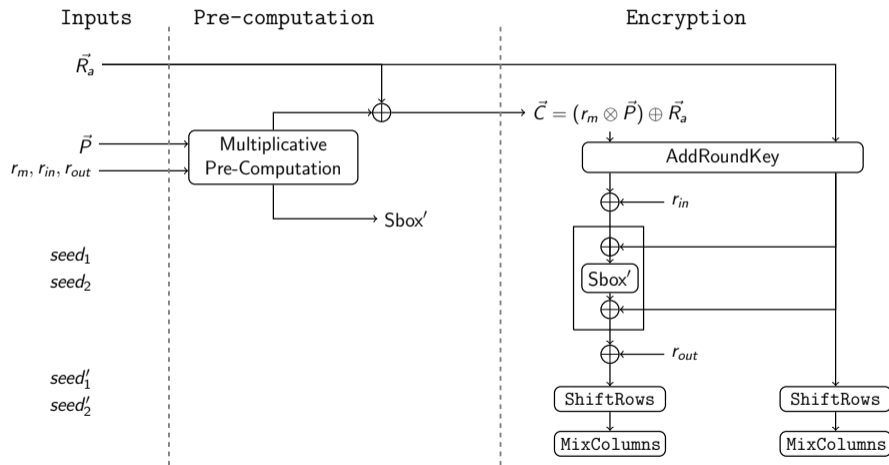
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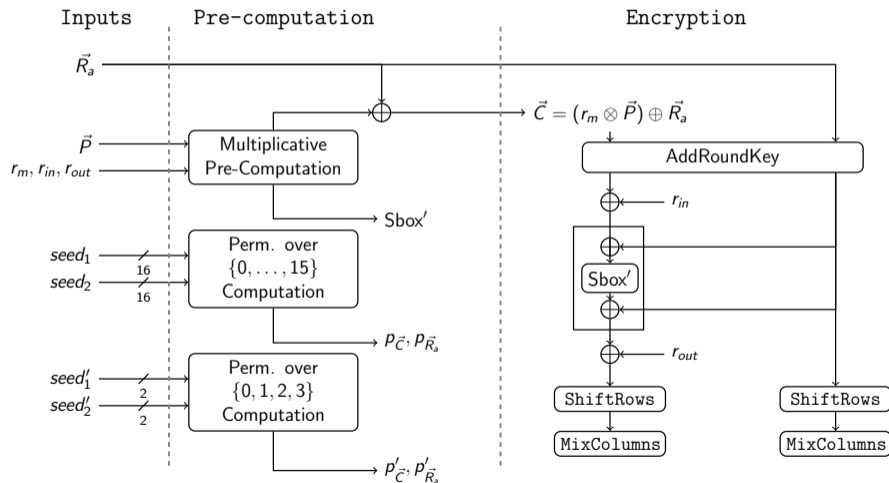
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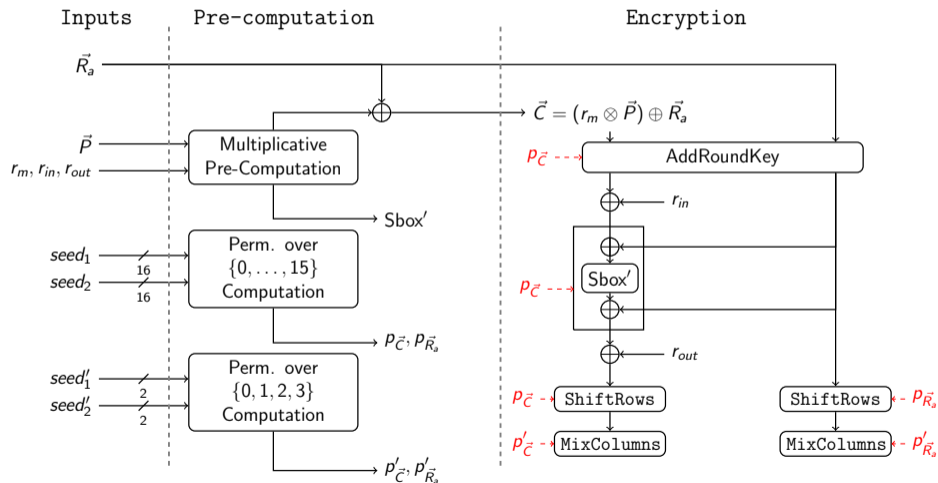
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Optimal Distinguisher



Profiled attacks are based on secret conditional distribution which depends on the countermeasures.

Full expression is written as

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \sum_{r_a} \sum_{o_1} \sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}|r_m, r_a, c, o_1, o_2]$$

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Diagram illustrating the full expression for the optimal distinguisher:

- The expression is $f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \sum_{r_a} \sum_{o_1} \sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}|r_m, r_a, c, o_1, o_2]$.
- An arrow labeled "Add. mask" points to the \sum_{r_m} term.
- An arrow labeled "Mult. mask" points to the $f[\vec{l}|x]$ term.
- Two arrows labeled "Perm. on shares" point to the \sum_{o_1} and \sum_{o_2} terms.

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Diagram illustrating the full expression for the optimal distinguisher function $f[\vec{l}|x]$. The expression is annotated with labels and arrows:

- Add. mask**: Points to the \sum_{r_m} term.
- Template**: Points to the $f[\vec{l}|r_m, r_a, c, o_1, o_2]$ term.
- Mult. mask**: Points to the \sum_{r_a} term.
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Optimal but rapidly out of reach:

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Diagram illustrating the components of the full expression:

- Add. mask**: Points to the r_m summation.
- Template**: Points to the $f[\vec{l}|r_m, r_a, c, o_1, o_2]$ function.
- Mult. mask**: Points to the x in the left-hand side $f[\vec{l}|x]$.
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Diagram illustrating the full expression for the optimal distinguisher:

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Optimal but rapidly out of reach:

- One template per randomness combination

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Diagram annotations:

- "Add. mask" points to the r_m summation.
- "Template" points to the c parameter.
- "Mult. mask" points to the x parameter.
- "Perm. on shares" points to the o_1 and o_2 summations.

Optimal but rapidly out of reach:

- ▶ One template per randomness combination
- ▶ Sum over all the possible randomness

Optimal Distinguisher



Profiled attacks are based on secret conditional distribution which depends on the countermeasures.

Full expression is written as

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \sum_{r_a} \sum_{o_1} \sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}|r_m, r_a, c, o_1, o_2]$$

Diagram illustrating the full expression for the optimal distinguisher:

- Add. mask**: Points to the summation over r_m .
- Template**: Points to the summation over r_a .
- Mult. mask**: Points to the summation over o_1 .
- Perm. on shares**: Points to the summation over o_2 .

Optimal but rapidly out of reach:

- ▶ One template per randomness combination
- ▶ Sum over all the possible randomness

⇒ Hypotheses needed

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)$$

Countermeasures Dissection



Mult. mask

Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)$$

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \text{Pr}[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \text{Pr}[r_a|\vec{l}_{r_a}] \cdot \sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \cdot \sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}]$$

Mult. mask \swarrow Add. mask + Perm \swarrow
 $\cdot \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right)$
 $\cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)$

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$\begin{aligned}
 f[\vec{l}|x] &\propto \sum_{r_m} \Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \text{Add. mask + Perm} \\
 &\quad \cdot \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right) \\
 &\quad \cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right) \text{Enc. + Perm}
 \end{aligned}$$

Diagram annotations: "Mult. mask" points to the first summation term; "Add. mask + Perm" points to the second summation term; "Enc. + Perm" points to the third summation term.

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \text{Pr}[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \text{Pr}[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \cdot \sum_{c, o_2} \text{Pr}[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \cdot f[\vec{l}_a|r_a, o_1] \cdot f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2]$$

Mult. mask
Add. mask + Perm

Enc. + Perm

Countermeasures' Dissection:

- What: From combined countermeasures, expected multiplicative effect

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \text{Pr}[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \text{Pr}[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \cdot \sum_{c, o_2} \text{Pr}[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \cdot f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2]$$

Mult. mask
Add. mask + Perm

Enc. + Perm

Countermeasures' Dissection:

- ▶ What: From combined countermeasures, expected multiplicative effect
- ▶ Reduce it to a small factor, ideally of 1.

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \text{Pr}[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \text{Pr}[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)$$

Mult. mask
Add. mask + Perm

Enc. + Perm

Countermeasures' Dissection:

- ▶ What: From combined countermeasures, expected multiplicative effect
 - ▶ Reduce it to a small factor, ideally of 1.
- ▶ How: Bias the sums by independent partial attacks on secrets (i.e. shares)

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \overset{\text{Mult. mask}}{\Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}]} \cdot \sum_{r_a} \overset{\text{Add. mask + Perm}}{\left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right)} \cdot \overset{\text{Enc. + Perm}}{\left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)}$$

Countermeasures' Dissection:

- ▶ What: From combined countermeasures, expected multiplicative effect
 - ▶ Reduce it to a small factor, ideally of 1.
- ▶ How: Bias the sums by independent partial attacks on secrets (i.e. shares)
 - ▶ ↘ attack time complexity because terms are removed

Countermeasures Dissection



Assuming \perp leakages on secret:

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \overset{\text{Mult. mask}}{\Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}]} \cdot \sum_{r_a} \overset{\text{Add. mask + Perm}}{\left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right)} \cdot \overset{\text{Enc. + Perm}}{\left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)}$$

Countermeasures' Dissection:

- ▶ What: From combined countermeasures, expected multiplicative effect
 - ▶ Reduce it to a small factor, ideally of 1.
- ▶ How: Bias the sums by independent partial attacks on secrets (i.e. shares)
 - ▶ ↘ attack time complexity because terms are removed
 - ▶ ↘ number of templates because not joint on all randomness

Content

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Conclusion

Measurement Setup

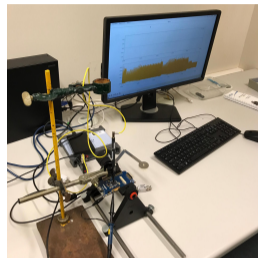
Composed of

- ▶ Cortex-M4 Atmel
- ▶ High end EM Probe
- ▶ PicoScope 5000 series sampling at 1GHz

Measurement Setup

Composed of

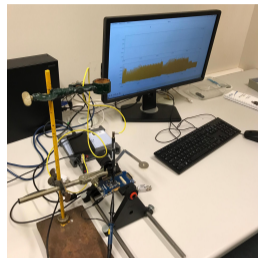
- ▶ Cortex-M4 Atmel
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Measurement Setup

Composed of

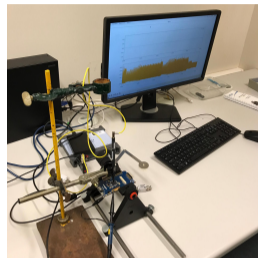
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Measurement Setup

Composed of

- ▶ Cortex-M4 Atmel
- ▶ High end EM Probe
- ▶ PicoScope 5000 series sampling at 1GHz

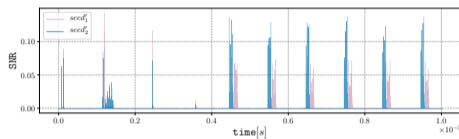


How to extract information in



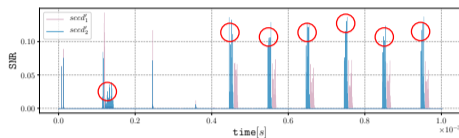
?

Profiling (e.g., permutation)



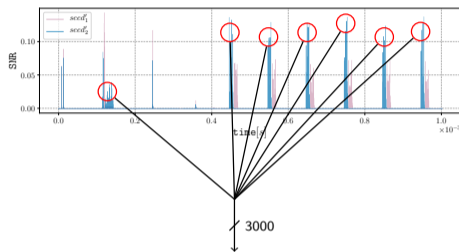
1. Compute SNR

Profiling (e.g., permutation)



1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest

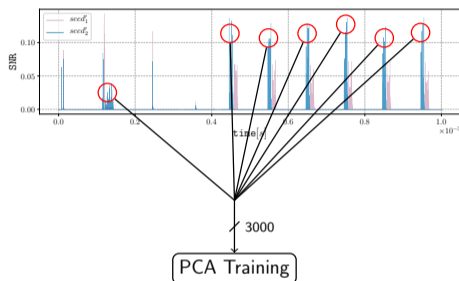
Profiling (e.g., permutation)



1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest

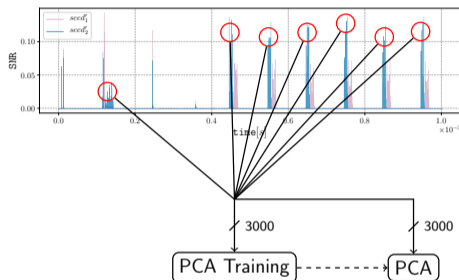


Profiling (e.g., permutation)



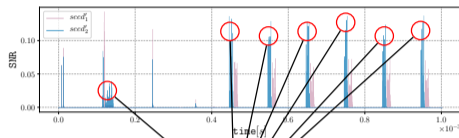
1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest
3. Train projection

Profiling (e.g., permutation)

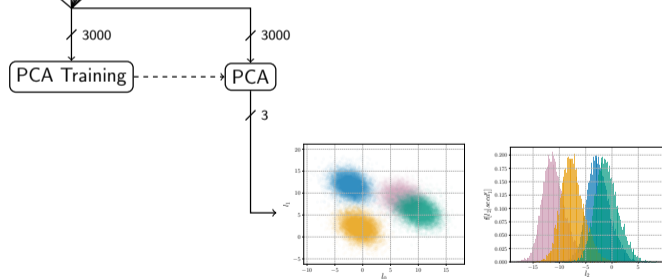


1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest
3. Train projection

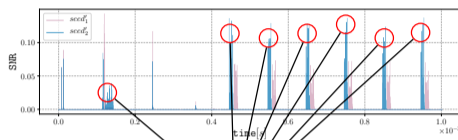
Profiling (e.g., permutation)



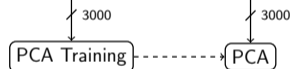
1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest
3. Train projection
4. Project to subspace



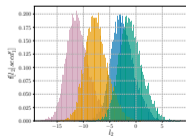
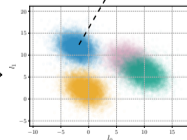
Profiling (e.g., permutation)



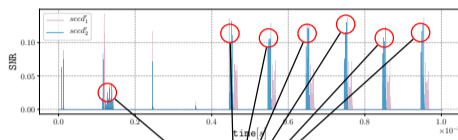
1. Compute SNR
2. Select points of interest
3. Train projection
4. Project to subspace
5. Fit pdf estimation (i.e. gauss.)



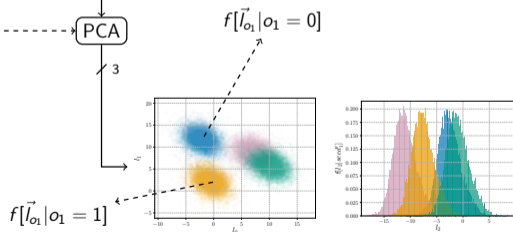
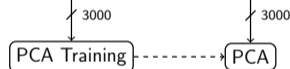
$$f[\vec{l}_{o_1} | o_1 = 0]$$



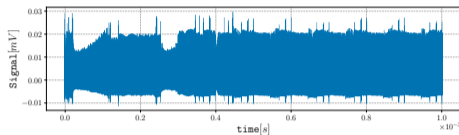
Profiling (e.g., permutation)



1. Compute SNR
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4. Project to subspace
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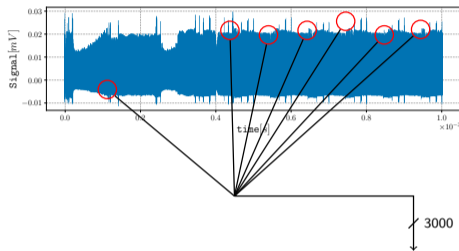


Partial Attacks



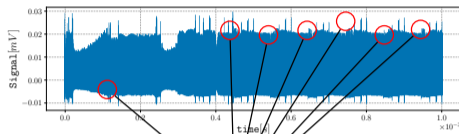
1. Measure a trace

Partial Attacks



1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest

Partial Attacks

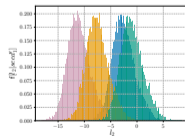
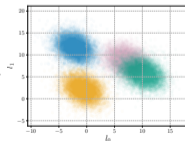


1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace

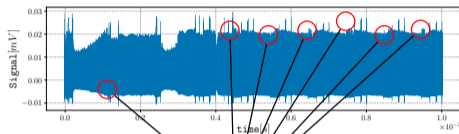
3000

PCA

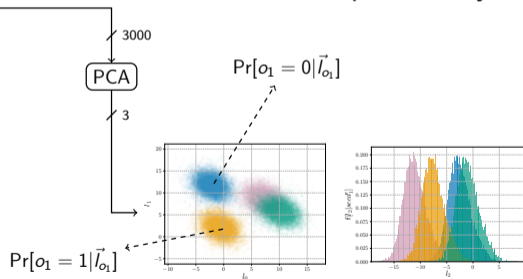
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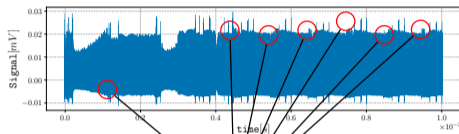
Partial Attacks



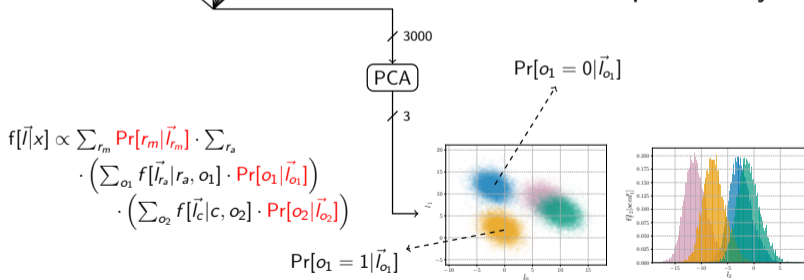
1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace
4. Estimate probability from pdf



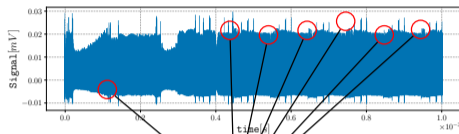
Partial Attacks



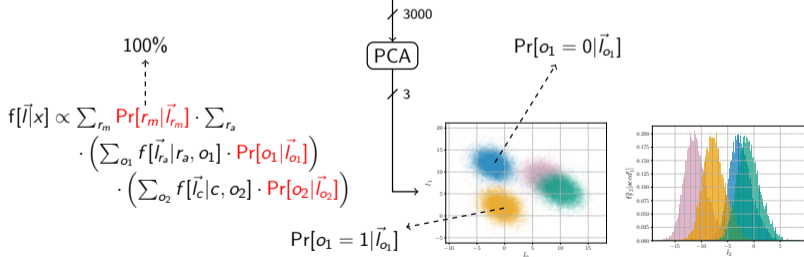
1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace
4. Estimate probability from pdf



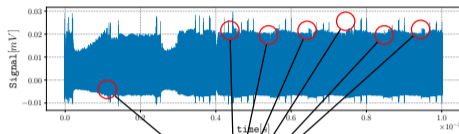
Partial Attacks



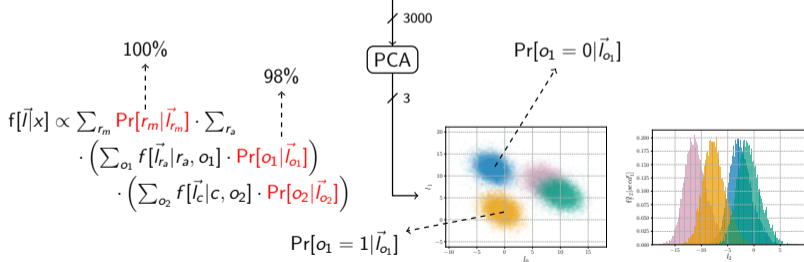
1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace
4. Estimate probability from pdf



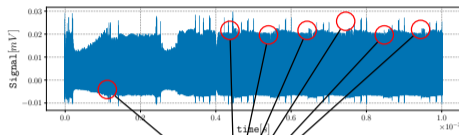
Partial Attacks



1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace
4. Estimate probability from pdf



Partial Attacks



(Almost) Perfect Dissection

Ineffective permutations and r_m

$$f[\vec{l}|x] \propto \sum_{r_m} \Pr[r_m|\vec{l}_{r_m}] \cdot \sum_{r_a} \left(\sum_{o_1} f[\vec{l}_{r_a}|r_a, o_1] \cdot \Pr[o_1|\vec{l}_{o_1}] \right) \cdot \left(\sum_{o_2} f[\vec{l}_c|c, o_2] \cdot \Pr[o_2|\vec{l}_{o_2}] \right)$$

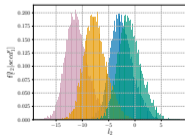
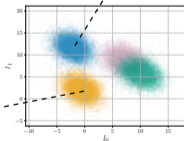
100%

98%

3000
PCA
3

$\Pr[o_1 = 0|\vec{l}_{o_1}]$

$\Pr[o_1 = 1|\vec{l}_{o_1}]$



1. Measure a trace
2. Keep only points of interest
3. Project to subspace
4. Estimate probability from pdf

Content

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Countermeasures' Dissection

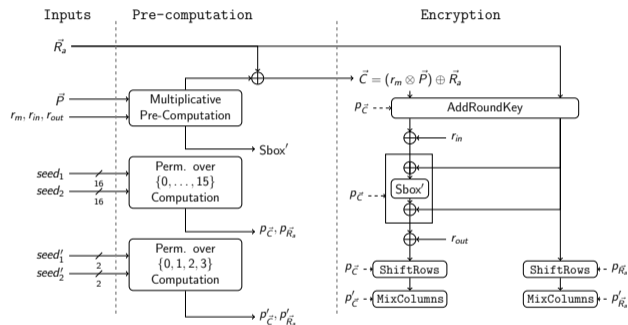
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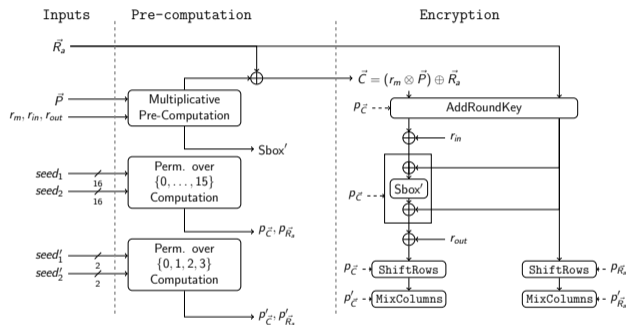
Attack Path's



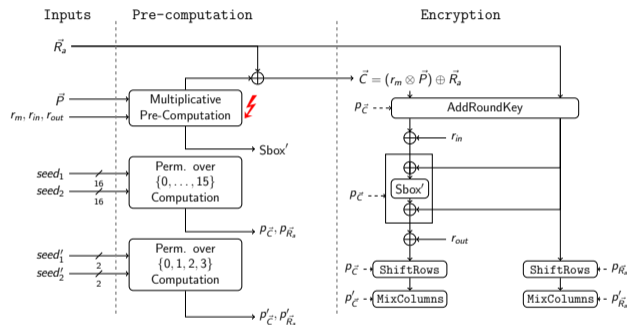
Attack Path's



Attacker should at least:



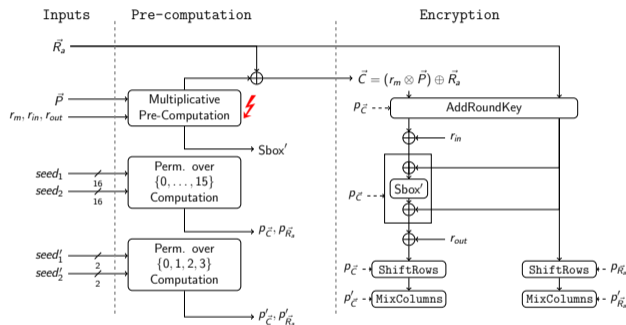
Attack Path's



Attacker should at least:

- Get information r_m

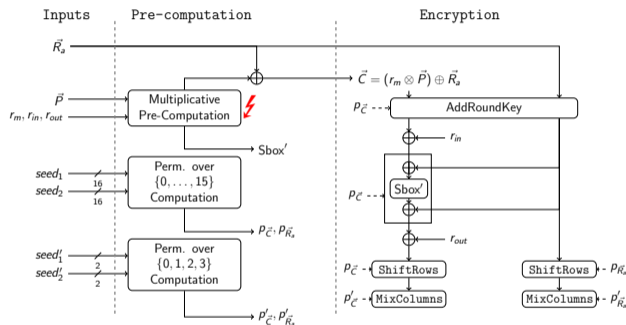
Attack Path's



Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Attack Path's

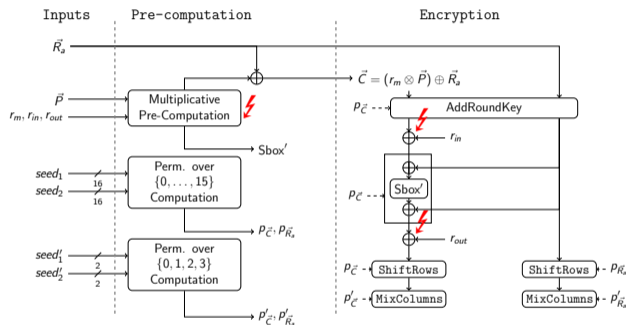


Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

Attack Path's



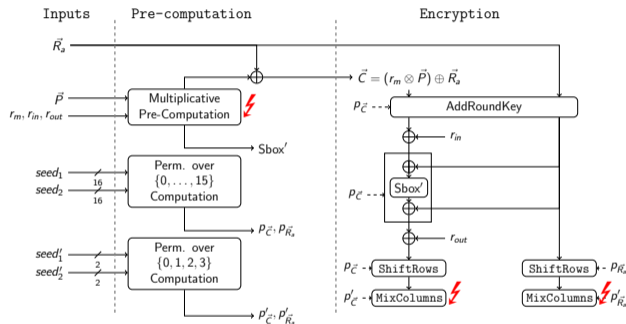
Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

- ▶ No permutation

Attack Path's



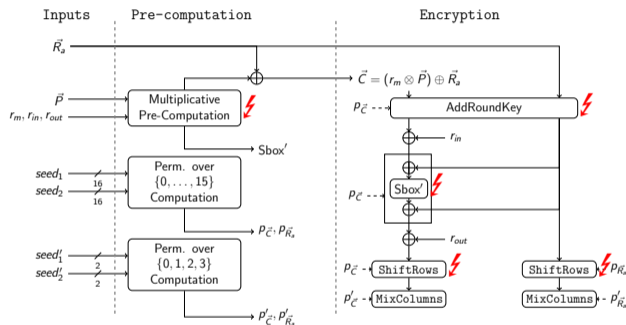
Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

- ▶ No permutation
- ▶ 2-bit seeded permutations

Attack Path's



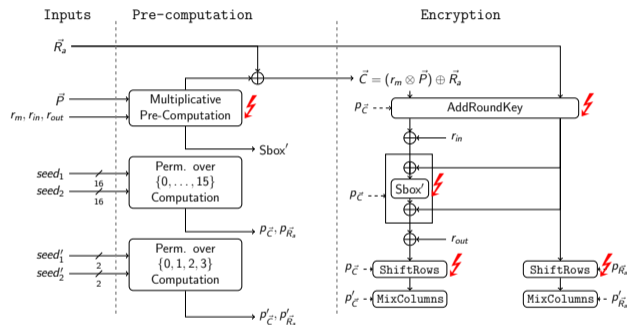
Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

- ▶ No permutation
- ▶ 2-bit seeded permutations
- ▶ 16-bit seeded permutations

Attack Path's



Attacker should at least:

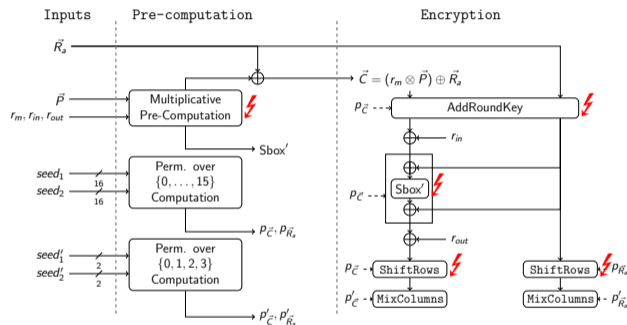
- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

- ▶ No permutation
- ▶ 2-bit seeded permutations
- ▶ 16-bit seeded permutations

- ▶ All permutations can be enumerated

Attack Path's



Attacker should at least:

- ▶ Get information r_m
- ▶ Get information r_a and c

Uneven shuffling:

- ▶ No permutation
- ▶ 2-bit seeded permutations
- ▶ 16-bit seeded permutations

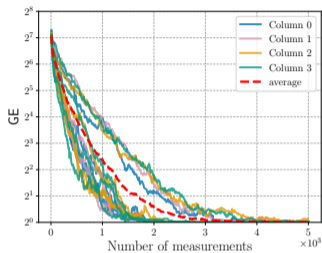
- ▶ All permutations can be enumerated
- ▶ We focus on the 2-bit seeded permutation

Attack Results



Divide & Conquer:

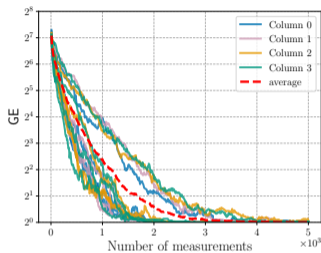
Attack Results



Divide & Conquer:

1. On each 16 bytes:

Attack Results

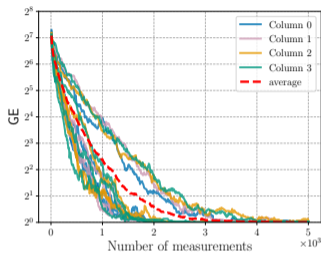


Divide & Conquer:

1. On each 16 bytes:

- Entropy ↘ with measurements

Attack Results

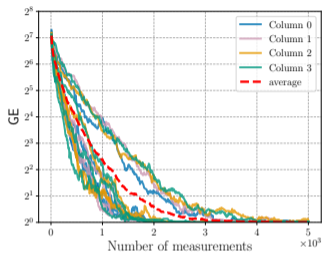


Divide & Conquer:

1. On each 16 bytes:

- ▶ Entropy ↘ with measurements
- ▶ Less than a bit with 3,000 traces

Attack Results

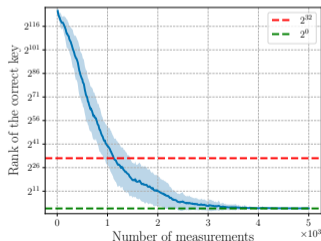
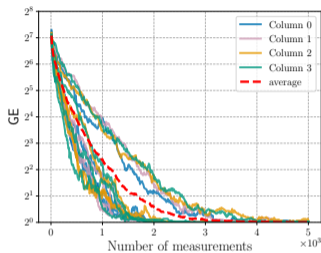


Divide & Conquer:

1. On each 16 bytes:

- ▶ Entropy ↘ with measurements
- ▶ Less than a bit with 3,000 traces
- ▶ One "harder" byte per column

Attack Results



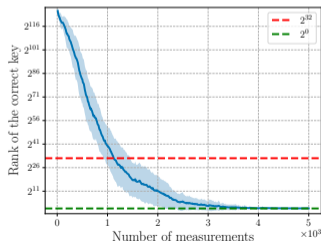
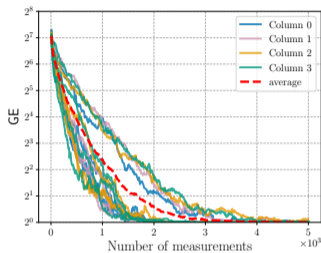
Divide & Conquer:

1. On each 16 bytes:

- ▶ Entropy ↘ with measurements
- ▶ Less than a bit with 3,000 traces
- ▶ One "harder" byte per column

2. On full key:

Attack Results



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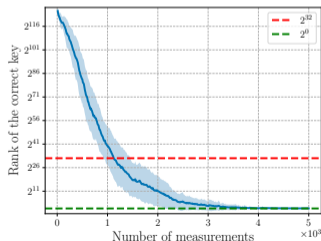
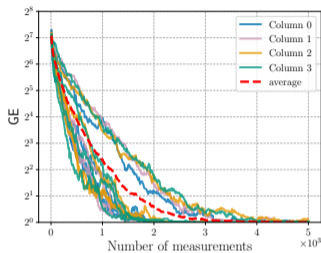
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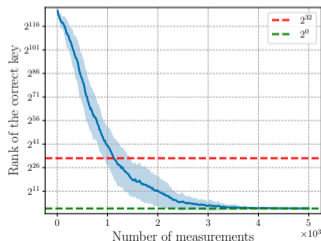
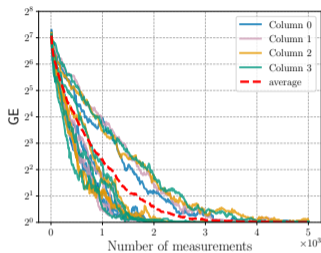
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Attack Results



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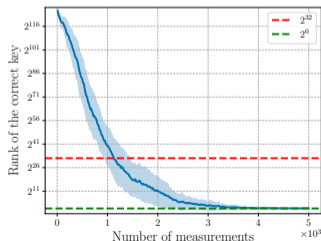
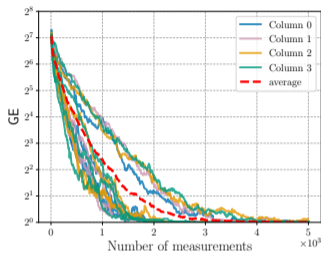
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Full key in 1 minute of measurement

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Can this be automated in



?

How the knowledge of the target helps in a worst-case evaluation ?

Can this be automated in



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- ▶ Evaluators do not always have full control on the target

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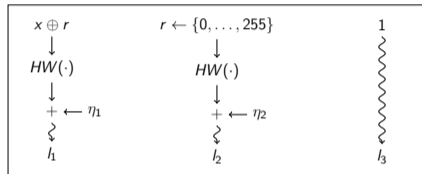
Experiments with machine learning:

- ▶ Representative of closed approach since able to deal with unknown countermeasures
- ▶ We instantiate MLP classifiers in simulated settings

Simulated Experimental Setting



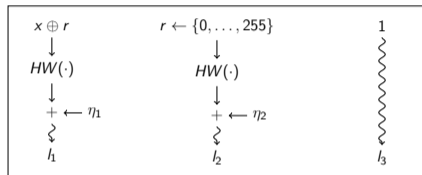
Simulated Experimental Setting



Boolean Masking with leakage on:



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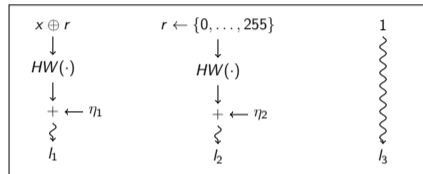


Boolean Masking with leakage on:

- ▶ Two shares



Simulated Experimental Setting

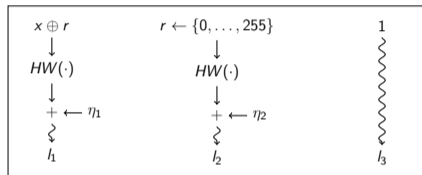


Boolean Masking with leakage on:

- ▶ Two shares
- ▶ Hamming weight + Gaussian noise



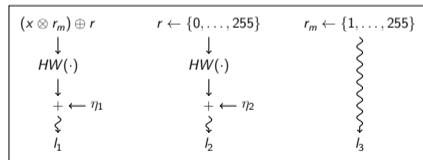
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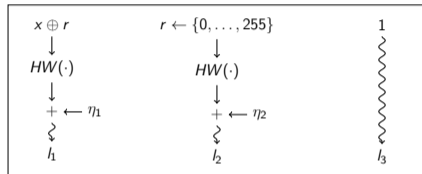
Boolean Masking with leakage on:

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Affine Masking with leakage on:



Simulated Experimental Setting

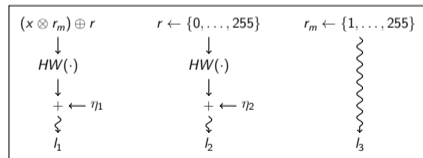


Boolean Masking with leakage on:

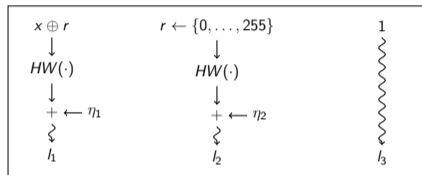
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Affine Masking with leakage on:

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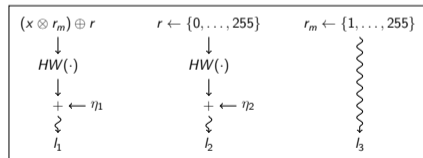


Boolean Masking with leakage on:

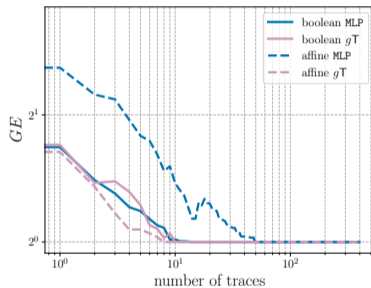
- ▶ Two shares
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Affine Masking with leakage on:

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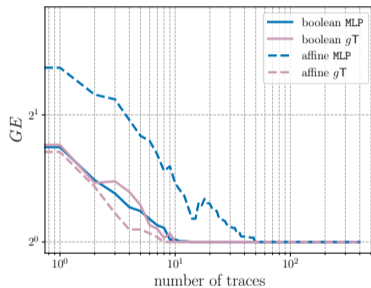


Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



3-bit

Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches

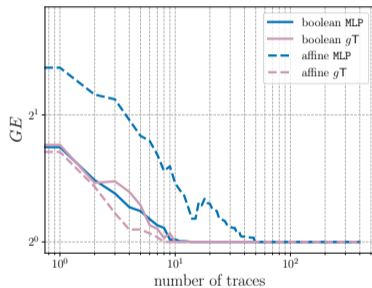


3-bit

For  :

For  :

Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



3-bit

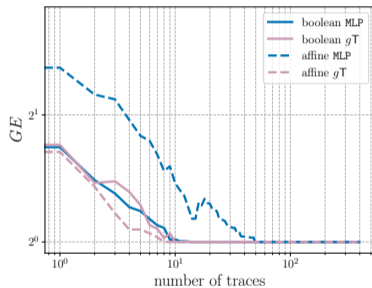
For :

► Schemes are equivalent

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Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



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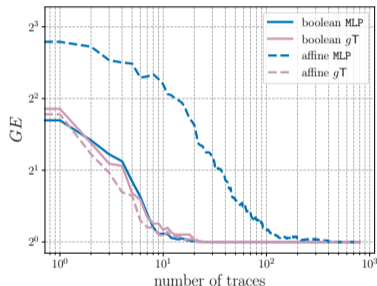
For :

- ▶ Schemes are equivalent
- ▶ No need to learn multiplications

For :

- ▶ Schemes are not equivalent
- ▶ Need to learn multiplications based on leakage

Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



4-bit

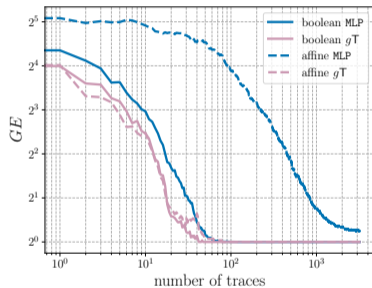
For :

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Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



6-bit

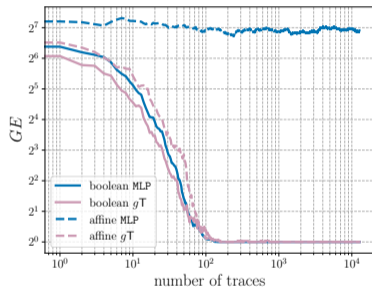
For :

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Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



8-bit

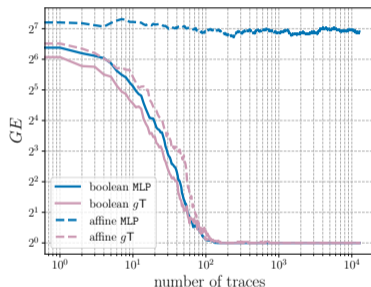
For :

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- ▶ Harder with ↗ field size

Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



8-bit

For :

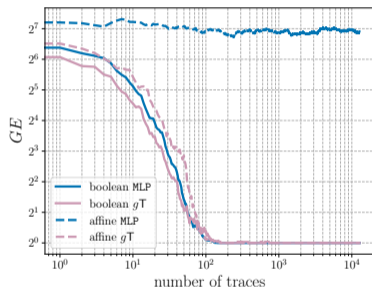
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- ▶ Profiling cost of such a closed evaluation will be prohibitive

Comparison Open vs. Closed Approaches



8-bit

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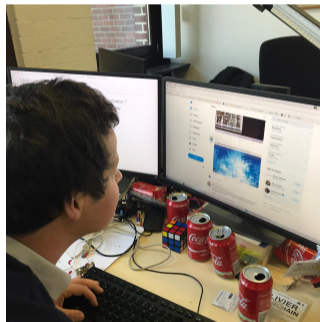
- ▶ Source code and randomness knowledge during profiling
- ▶ Sufficient understanding of countermeasures
- ▶ Not so much time !

Time Line



Time Line

●
● **Day 0: Code is Online**
●
●
●
●
●
●
●
●
↓

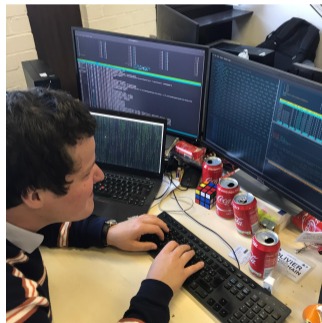


Scrolling Twitter

Time Line

•
• **Day 0:** Code is Online

• **Day 1:** Start looking at it

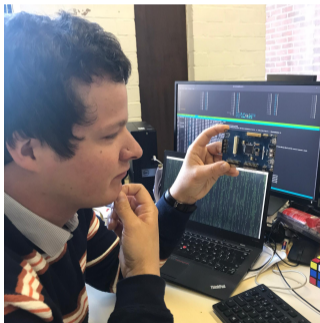


Entering Hacker Mode

Time Line

Day 0: Code is Online

Day 1: Start looking at it



Finding MCU

Time Line

●
● **Day 0:** Code is Online

● **Day 1:** Start looking at it

●
●
●
●
●
●
●
●
↓



Removing Capacitors

Time Line



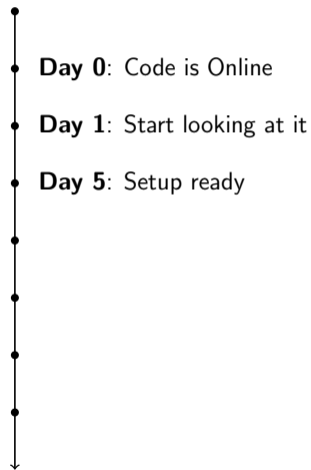
Day 0: Code is Online

Day 1: Start looking at it



Engraving EM Probe

Time Line



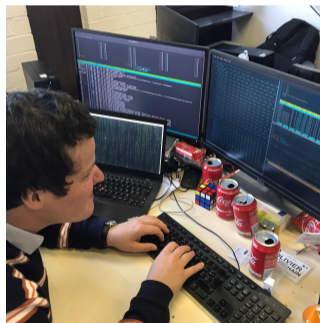
Time Line



Day 0: Code is Online

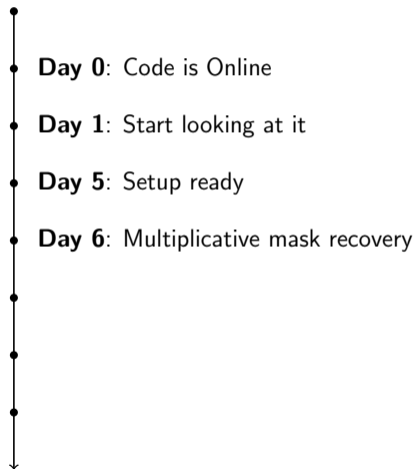
Day 1: Start looking at it

Day 5: Setup ready



Entering Hacker Mode

Time Line



Time Line

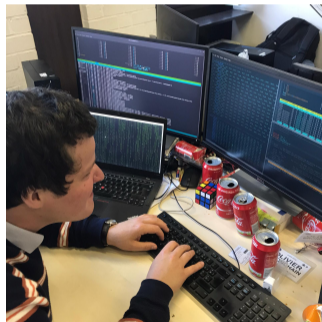
- **Day 0:** Code is Online
- **Day 1:** Start looking at it
- **Day 5:** Setup ready
- **Day 6:** Multiplicative mask recovery
-
-
-
-
-



Really Happy

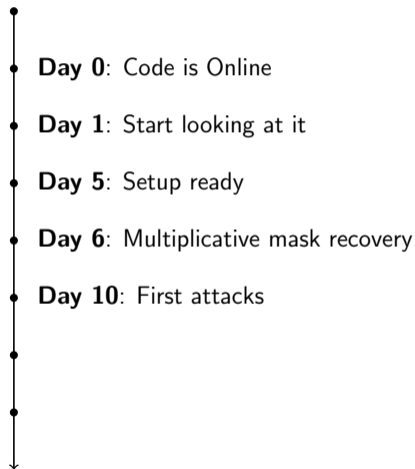
Time Line

- **Day 0:** Code is Online
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- **Day 6:** Multiplicative mask recovery

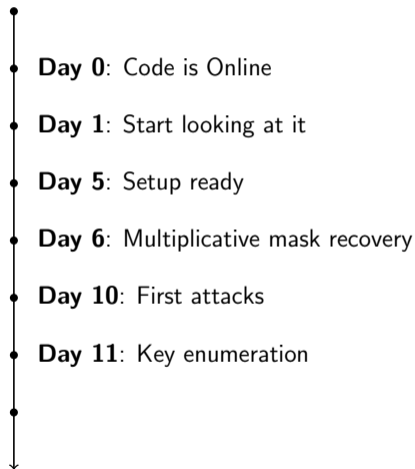


Entering Hacker Mode

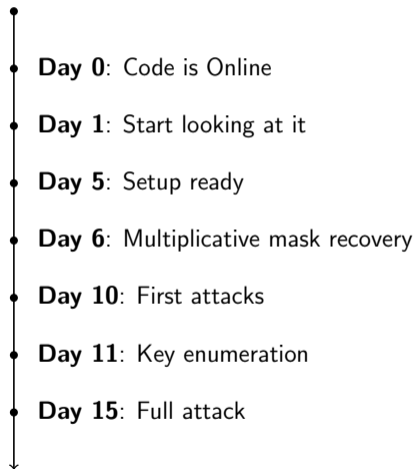
Time Line



Time Line



Time Line



Time Line

-
- **Day 0:** Code is Online
- **Day 1:** Start looking at it
- **Day 5:** Setup ready
- **Day 6:** Multiplicative mask recovery
- **Day 10:** First attacks
- **Day 11:** Key enumeration
- **Day 15:** Full attack
-



Really Happy

Take Home Message

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Thanks !

Twitter: @BronchainO
email: olivier.bronchain@uclouvain.be