



Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

Public Defense

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 **UCLouvain**

Contenu de la présentation

1. Résumé vulgarisé de ma thèse (en français).
2. Contenu technique (en anglais).

Content

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Technical introduction

Evaluations

- Proof-based

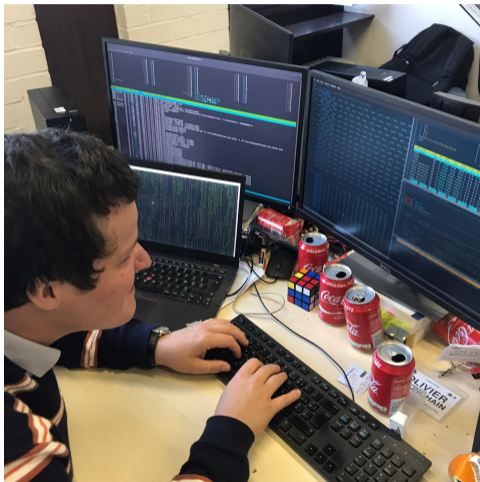
- Attack-based

New designs

Conclusion

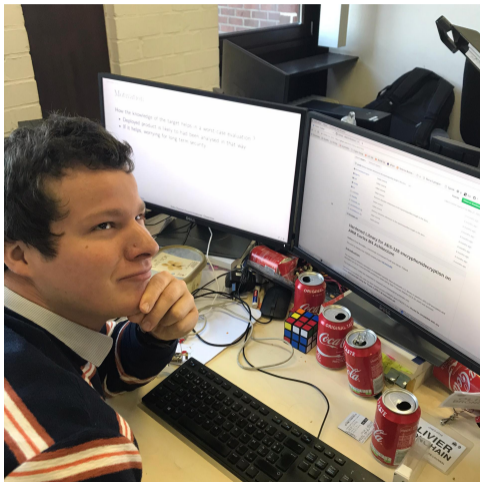
Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?

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"Coder des trucs ?"

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



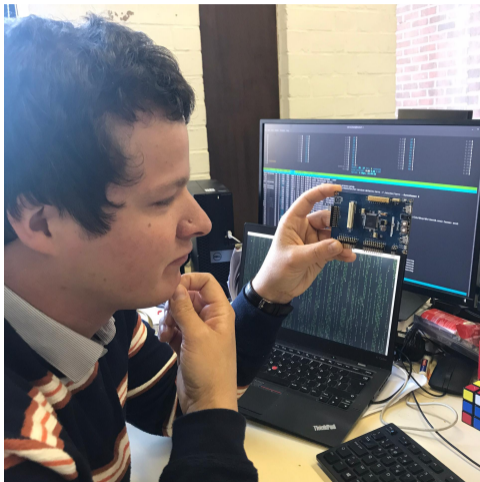
Chercher une bonne idée ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



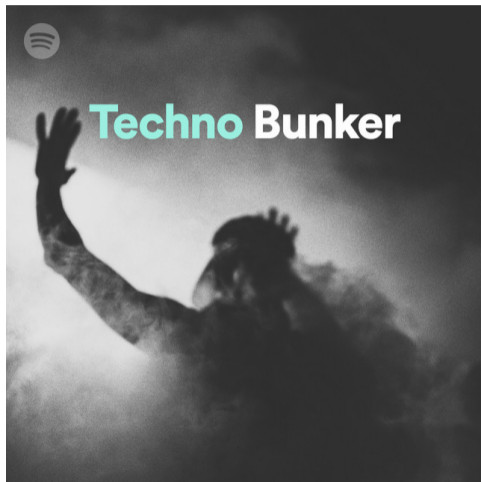
Souder ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



Bidouiller des cartes électroniques ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



Écouter de la musique à fond ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?

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

Olivier Bronchain and François-Xavier Standaert

ICTEAM Institute, UCLouvain, Louvain-la-Neuve, Belgium.
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Abstract. We take advantage of a recently published open source implementation of the AES protected with a mix of countermeasures against side-channel attacks to discuss both the challenges in protecting COTS devices against such attacks and the limitations of closed source security evaluations. The target implementation has been proposed by the French ANSSI (Agence Nationale de la Sécurité des Systèmes d'Information) to stimulate research on the design and evaluation of side-channel secure implementations. It combines additive and multiplicative secret sharings into an affine masking scheme that is additionally mixed with a shuffled execution. Its preliminary leakage assessment did not detect data dependencies with up to 100,000 measurements. We first exhibit the gap between such a preliminary leakage assessment and advanced attacks by demonstrating how a countermeasures' dissection exploiting a mix of dimensionality reduction, multivariate information extraction and key enumeration can recover the full key with less than 2,000 measurements. We then discuss the relevance of open source evaluations to analyze such implementations efficiently, by pointing out that certain steps of the attack are hard to automate without implementation knowledge (even with machine learning tools), while performing them manually is straightforward. Our findings are not due to design flaws but from the general difficulty to prevent side-channel attacks in COTS devices with limited noise. We anticipate that high security on such devices requires significantly more shares.

Keywords: Side-Channel Attacks · Security Evaluations · Certification · Affine Masking · Shuffling · Worst-Case (Multivariate) Analysis · Open Source Design

Ecrire des articles de recherche ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



Voyager pour présenter des travaux ?

Qu'est-ce qu'une thèse ?



Une thèse: c'est un peu tout cela à la fois ...

... et c'est ce que je vais essayer de vous expliquer!

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

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Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

Décryptons le titre mot par mot:

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

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1. Security

Ma thèse en quelques mots

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Ma thèse en quelques mots

Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

Décryptons le titre mot par mot:

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Worst-case side-channel **security**: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs



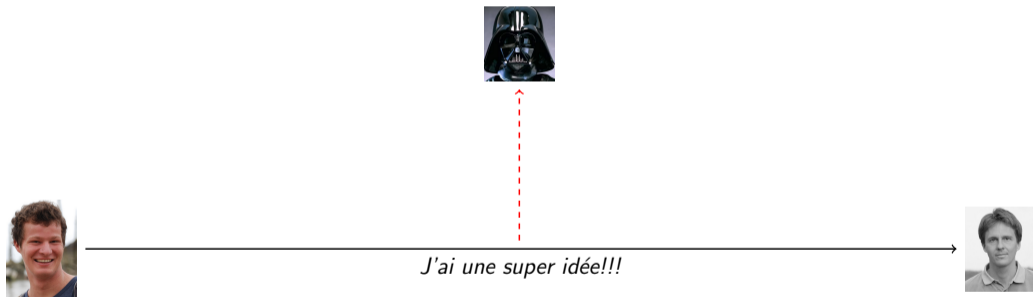
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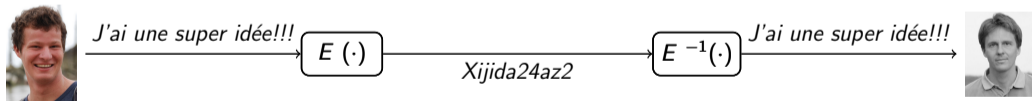
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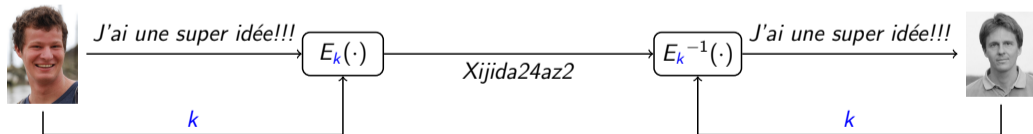
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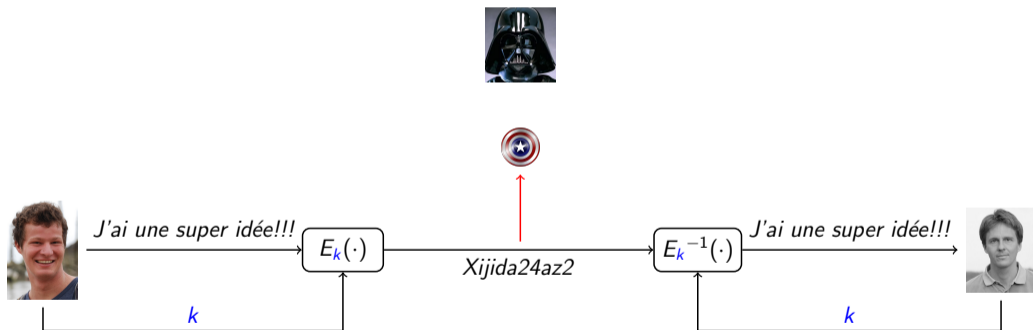
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Essayons une analogie

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- ▶ La sécurité: le digipass.
 - ▶ La clé: un code à 4 chiffres.
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Un adversaire devine la clé:

Essayons une analogie



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- ▶ 2391 ?

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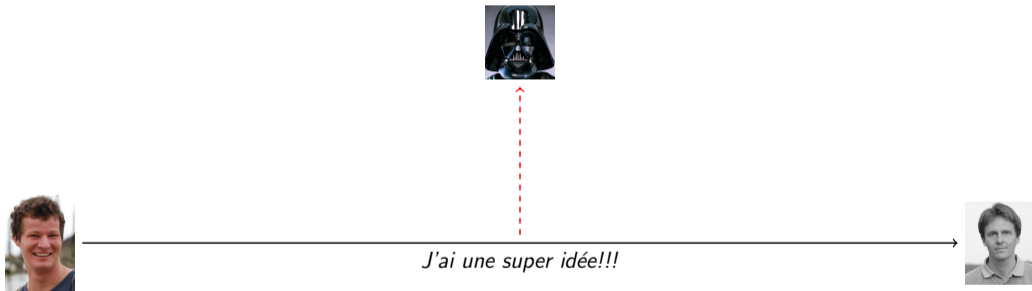
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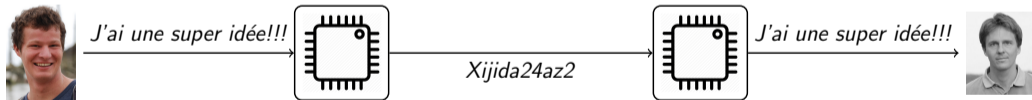
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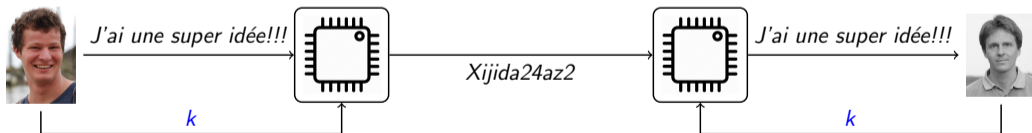
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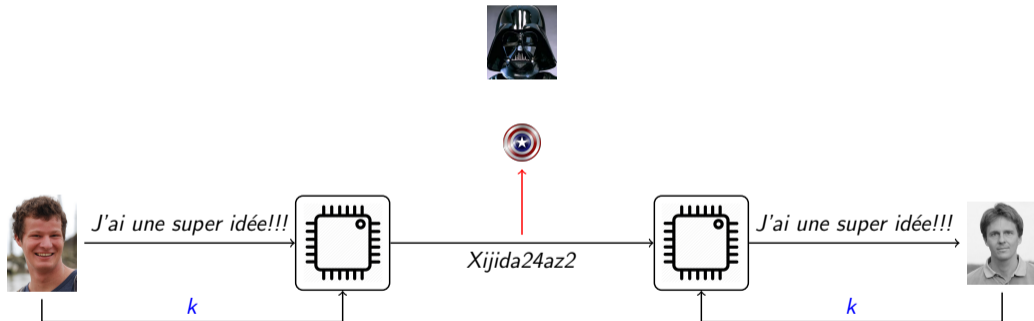
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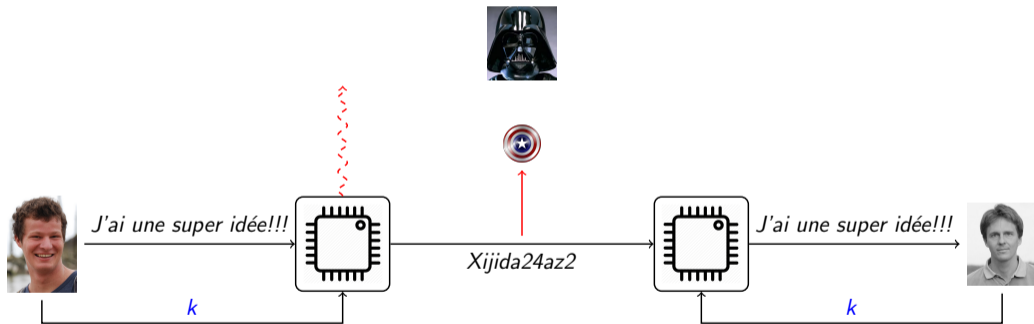
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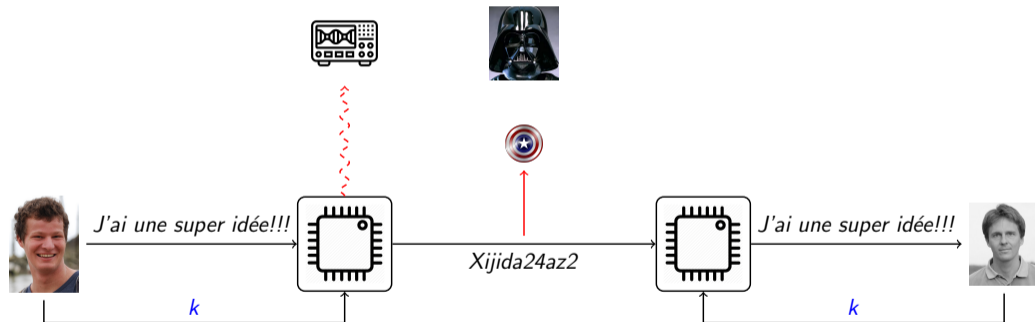
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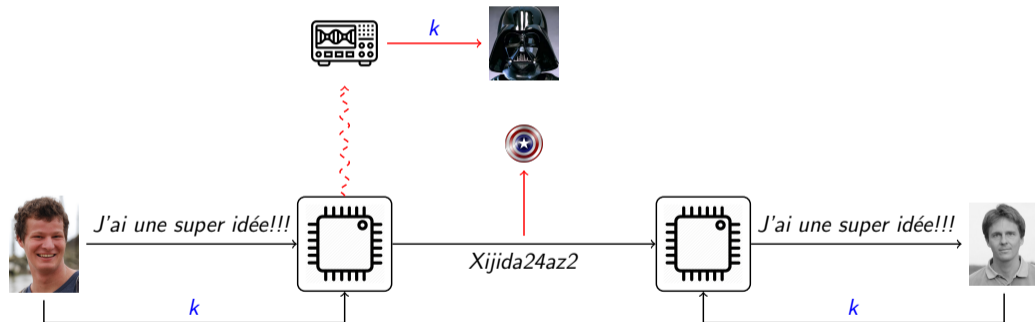
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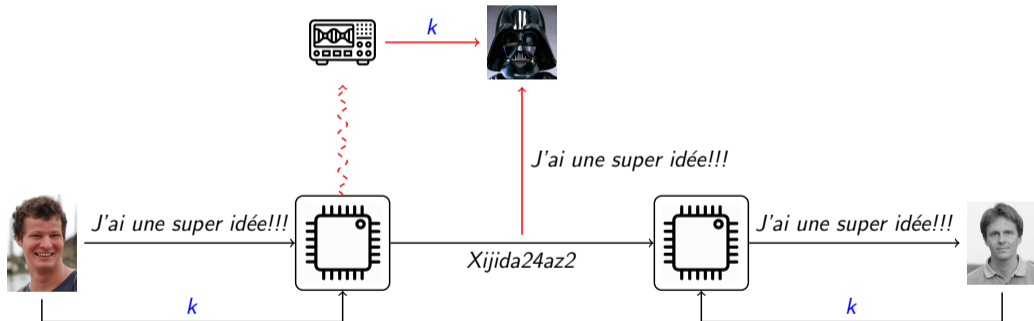
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Un adversaire devine la clé:

- ▶ 2268 ?
- ▶ 6628 ?

Essayons une analogie



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Un adversaire devine la clé:

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- ▶ 6628 ?
- ▶ 8826 ?

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→ Il teste une à une chacune des possibilités, avec uniquement des 2, des 6 ou des 8.

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→ Moins de sécurité.

Essayons une analogie



- ▶ La sécurité: le digipass.
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 - ▶ Side-Channel: le chocolat.
-

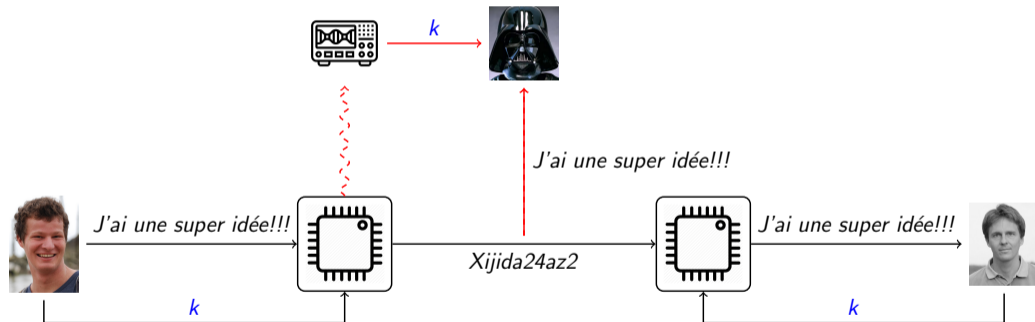
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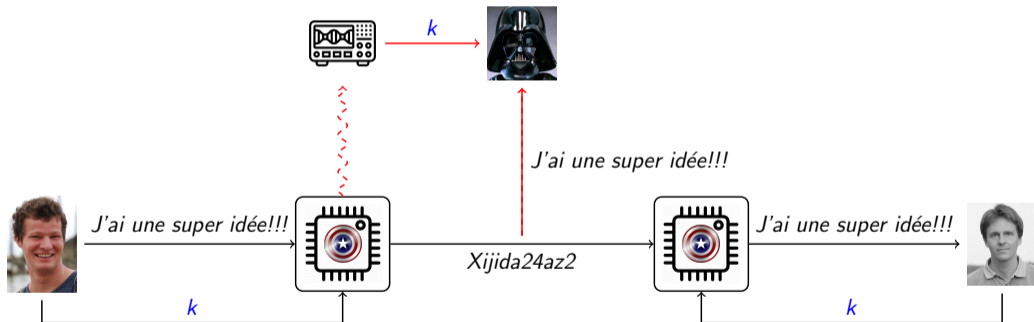
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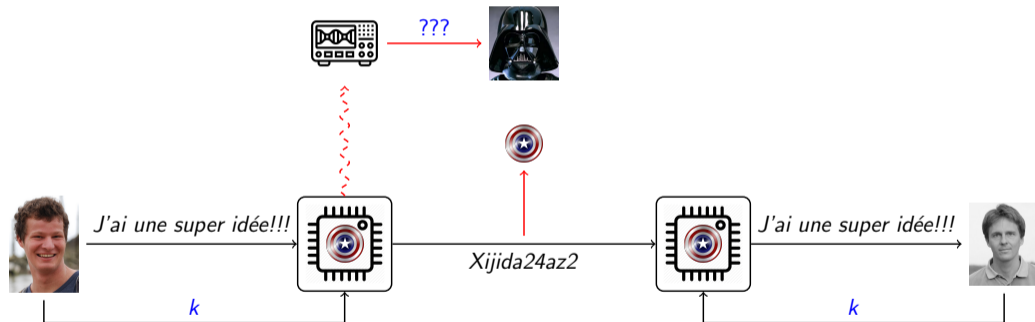
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Essayons une analogie



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- ▶ 0743 ?



Essayons une analogie



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→ Pas d'autre solution que de tester une à une chacune des combinaisons.

Essayons une analogie



+

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→ Retour de la sécurité!

Worst-case side-channel security: from **evaluation** of countermeasures to new designs



Vador va attaquer la contre-mesure (🇺🇸)!



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Vador va attaquer la contre-mesure (🛡️)!



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Vador va attaquer la contre-mesure (🇺🇸)!

Mon travail:

- ▶ Évaluer la résistance de 🇺🇸 avant une éventuelle attaque.



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Vador va attaquer la contre-mesure (🛡️)!

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Une possibilité:

- ▶ Reproduire l'attaque dans mon laboratoire.

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Se mettre à la place de l'adversaire: quelle stratégie pourrait-il adopter ?

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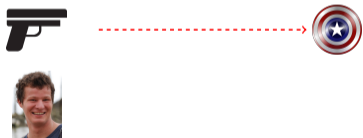
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Se mettre à la place de l'adversaire: quelle stratégie pourrait-il adopter ?

- ▶ Utiliser une loupe pour détecter des traces de chocolat ?
- ▶ Fermer le robinet pour empêcher le lavage des mains ?

Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs

Challenge:



Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs



Challenge: Quid si Vador a une attaque que je ne sais pas reproduire dans mon laboratoire ?




Worst-case side-channel security: from evaluation of countermeasures to new designs



Challenge: Quid si Vador a une attaque que je ne sais pas reproduire dans mon laboratoire ?



J'ai travaillé là dessus ! Comment faire ?

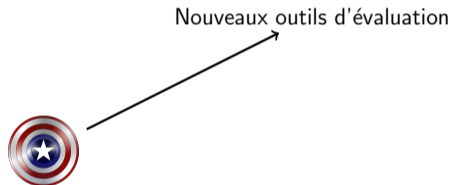
1. Faire une analyse sur une petite , et extrapoler pour des plus grosses.
2. Se baser sur des preuves mathématiques, et vérifier leurs hypothèses.

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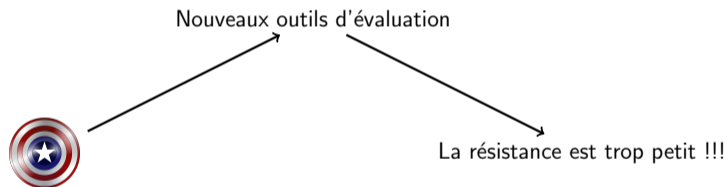
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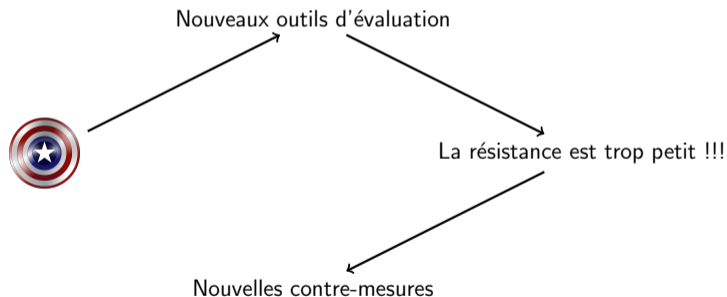
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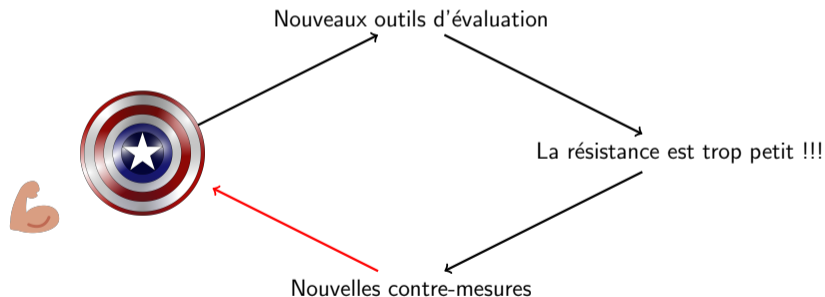
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How to get SCA security with masking ?

Design goes in two steps:

1. Proofs in abstract models.
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With masking:

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$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity
Information per share
Number of shares

The diagram illustrates the equation $N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$. An arrow points from 'Data complexity' to N . Another arrow points from N to the inequality symbol \geq . A third arrow points from the denominator $\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d$ to the inequality symbol. Two arrows point from the denominator to 'Information per share' and 'Number of shares' respectively.

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Two physical conditions:

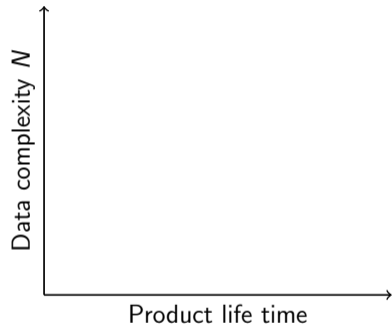
1. **Independence**: ensures d .
2. **Noise**: small enough MI.

$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity
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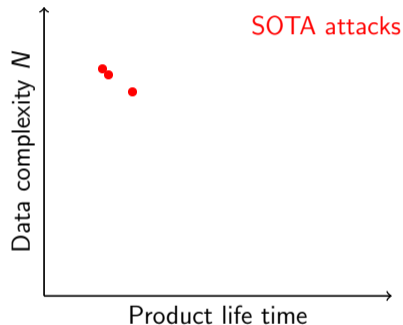
The diagram illustrates the physical conditions for SCA security with masking. It shows the inequality $N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$. An arrow points from 'Data complexity' to N . Another arrow points from $\text{MI}(X_i; L)$ to 'Information per share'. A third arrow points from d to 'Number of shares'.

Part I & II: goal of security evaluations



Timeline for secure implementations:

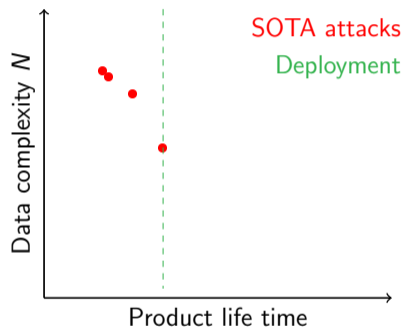
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Timeline for secure implementations:

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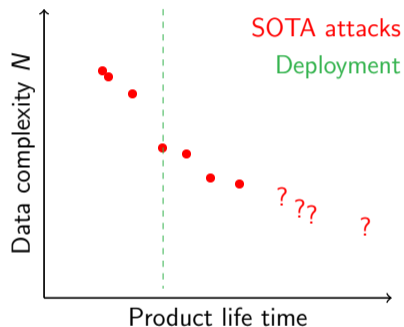
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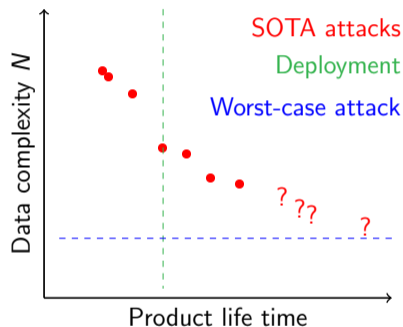
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Timeline for secure implementations:

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Part I & II: goal of security evaluations



Timeline for secure implementations:

- ▶ Apply current SOTA attacks.
- ▶ SOTA improvements with time.
- ▶ Deploy the implementation.
- ▶ Attack still improves.

How to anticipate future SOTA with **worst-case** attacks ?

Ingredients for (close-to) worst-case evaluations

Evaluator benefits from open-source (during profiling/learning):

- ▶ Knowledge of the source code.
- ▶ Knowledge of the randomness \mathcal{R} .
- ▶ Measurement setup optimization.
- ▶ Exploit as much as possible the information from leakages.

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Why profiling with \mathcal{R} ?

- ▶ Simpler profiling and easier interpretation.
- ▶ Provide design guidelines.

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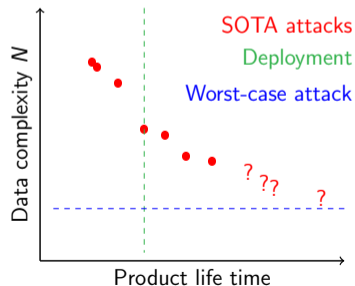
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- ▶ Exploit as much as possible the information from leakages.

Why profiling with \mathcal{R} ?

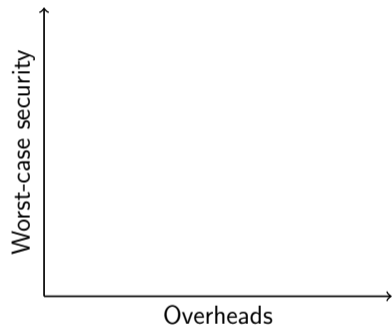
- ▶ Simpler profiling and easier interpretation.
- ▶ Provide design guidelines.

Why worst considering ?

- ▶ Short term: gap vs profiling w/o \mathcal{R} .
- ▶ Long term: gap expected to vanish.



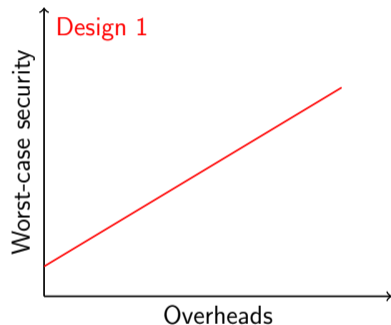
Part III: goal of designer



How to compare (secure) implementations?

- ▶ Security vs. performance curves.

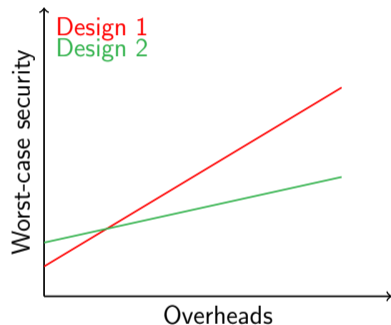
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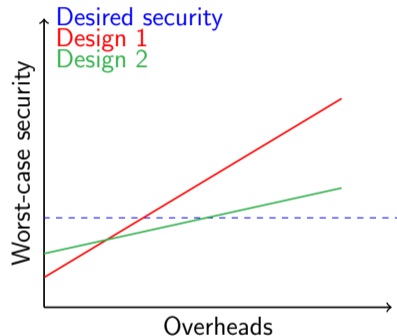
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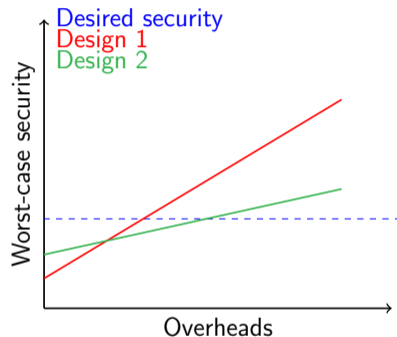
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How to compare (secure) implementations?

- ▶ Security vs. performance curves.
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Part III: goal of designer



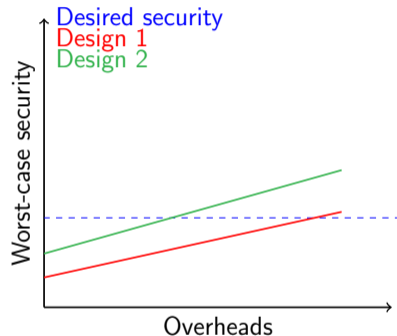
How to compare (secure) implementations?

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Challenges:

- ▶ What performance metric ?
- ▶ What platform / context ?

Part III: goal of designer



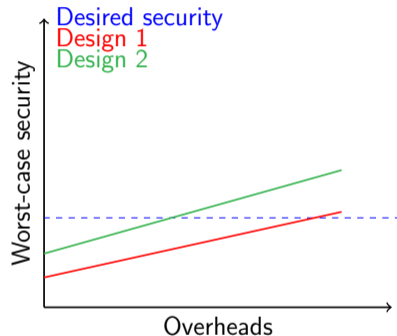
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How & When to combine countermeasures ?

Content

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Technical introduction

Evaluations

Proof-based

Attack-based

New designs

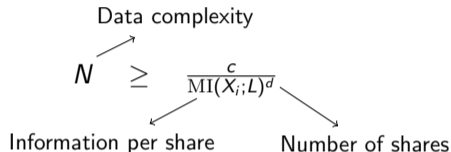
Conclusion

Proof-based: general principle

(Part I)

Masking countermeasure requires:

1. **Independence**: ensures d .
2. **Noise**: small enough MI.

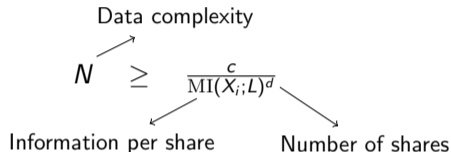


Proof-based: general principle

(Part I)

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Proof-based evaluation:

Proof-based: general principle

(Part I)

Masking countermeasure requires:

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$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity

Information per share Number of shares

Proof-based evaluation:

1. **Leakage detection**: convinces that independence holds.

Proof-based: general principle

(Part I)

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Proof-based evaluation:

1. **Leakage detection**: convinces that independence holds.
2. **Information estimation**: ensures small MI.
3. Estimation of attack complexity N .

Proof-based: independence

(Chap. 3)

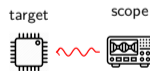
Leakage detection:

- ▶ Test for independence between statistical order of the leakage and secret data.

$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Diagram illustrating the relationship between variables in the equation:

- N is labeled "Data complexity" with an arrow pointing to it.
- \geq is labeled "Information per share" with an arrow pointing to it.
- $\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d$ is labeled "Number of shares" with a red arrow pointing to it.



Proof-based: independence

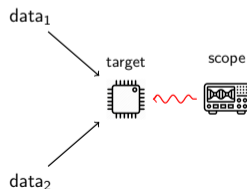
(Chap. 3)

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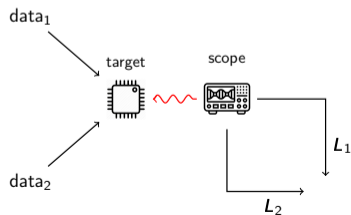
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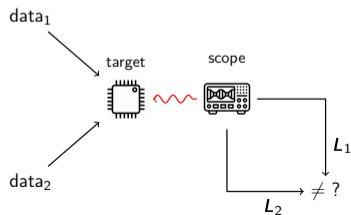
(Chap. 3)

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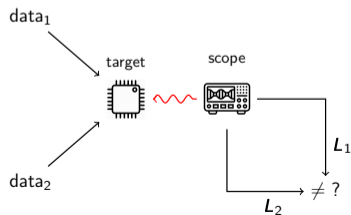
(Chap. 3)

Leakage detection:

- ▶ Test for independence between statistical order of the leakage and secret data.
- ▶ **cons:** qualitative, false positive/negative, badly scales with d .

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Data complexity
Information per share
Number of shares



Proof-based: independence

(Chap. 3)

Leakage detection:

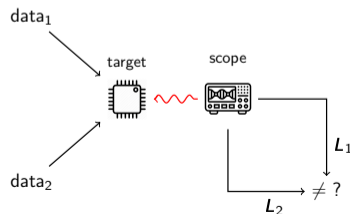
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$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity
Information per share
Number of shares

Contribution:

- ▶ Multivariate statistical tests:
 - + Faster detection.
 - + Better control of false negative.



Proof-based: independence

(Chap. 3)

Leakage detection:

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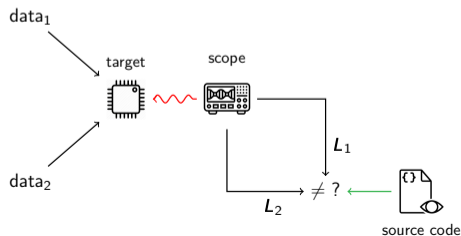
Data complexity

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Contribution:

- ▶ Multivariate statistical tests:
 - + Faster detection.
 - + Better control of false negative.
- ▶ Knowledge of source useful.



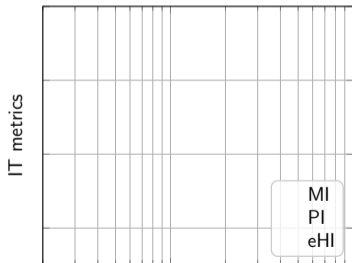
Proof-based: noise quantification

(Chap. 4)

$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity \nearrow
 N \geq $\frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$ \searrow
 Information per share \nwarrow Number of shares \swarrow

THEOREM

 \geq \geq 

Proof-based: noise quantification

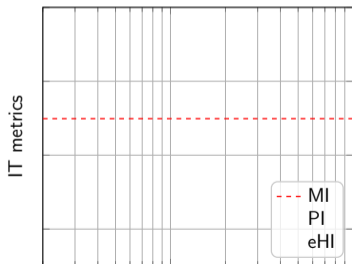
(Chap. 4)

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Data complexity \nearrow
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THEOREM

$$\geq \text{MI}(X_i; L) \geq$$



Proof-based: noise quantification

(Chap. 4)

$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

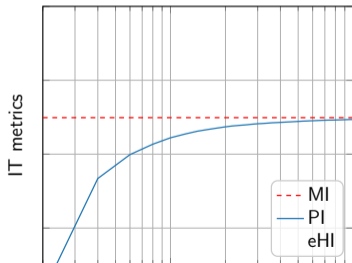
Data complexity

Information per share

Number of shares

THEOREM

$$\geq \text{MI}(X_i; L) \geq \text{PI}(X_i; L)$$



Proof-based: noise quantification

(Chap. 4)

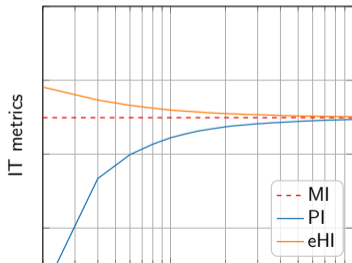
$$N \geq \frac{c}{\text{MI}(X_i; L)^d}$$

Data complexity N is greater than or equal to the constant c divided by the Mutual Information $\text{MI}(X_i; L)$ raised to the power of d .

Information per share $\text{MI}(X_i; L)$ and Number of shares d are indicated by arrows pointing to the terms in the denominator.

THEOREM

$$e\text{HI}(X_i; L) \geq \text{MI}(X_i; L) \geq \text{PI}(X_i; L)$$



Proof-based: noise quantification

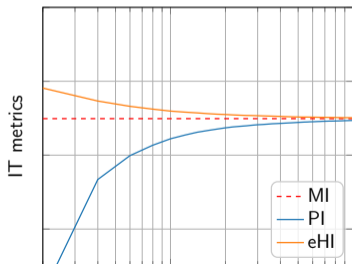
(Chap. 4)

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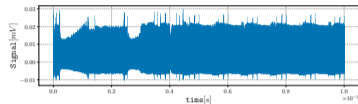
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Attack-based: General profiling methodology (Part II)

Goal:

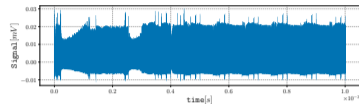
- ▶ Learn leakage distribution for secret x .



Attack-based: General profiling methodology (Part II)

Goal:

- ▶ Learn leakage distribution for secret x .



How ?

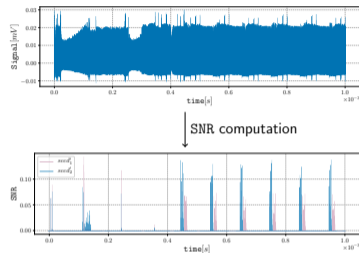
Attack-based: General profiling methodology (Part II)

Goal:

- Learn leakage distribution for secret x .

How ?

1. Compute SNR for variable x .



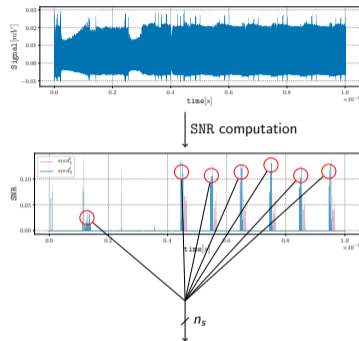
Attack-based: General profiling methodology (Part II)

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- Learn leakage distribution for secret x .

How ?

1. Compute SNR for variable x .
2. Extract Point-of-Interests (POIs).



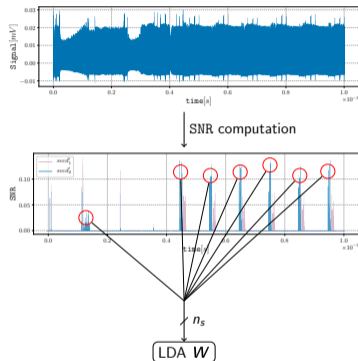
Attack-based: General profiling methodology (Part II)

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How ?

1. Compute SNR for variable x .
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3. Project to linear subspace \mathbf{W} .



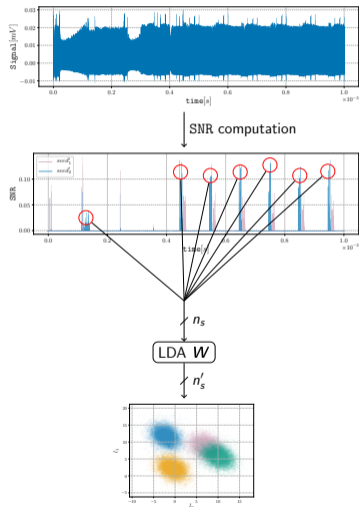
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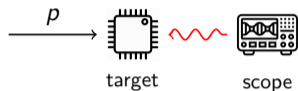
How ?

1. Compute SNR for variable x .
2. Extract Point-of-Interests (POIs).
3. Project to linear subspace W .
4. Approximate distributions with Gaussian assumption.



Attack-based: General attack methodology

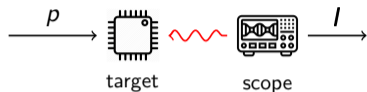
(Part II)



How ?

Attack-based: General attack methodology

(Part II)



How ?

1. Record traces I .

Attack-based: General attack methodology

(Part II)

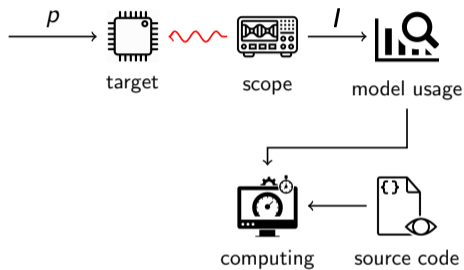


How ?

1. Record traces I .
2. Gain information about x 's with model.

Attack-based: General attack methodology

(Part II)

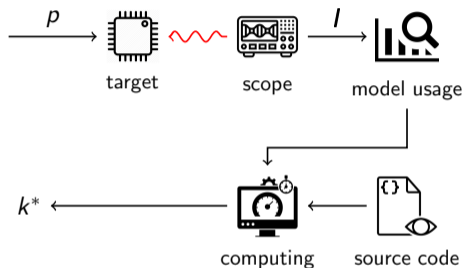


How ?

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Attack-based: General attack methodology

(Part II)

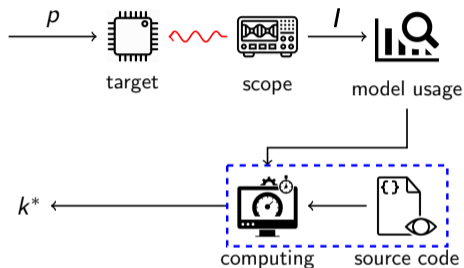


How ?

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Attack-based: General attack methodology

(Part II)



How ?

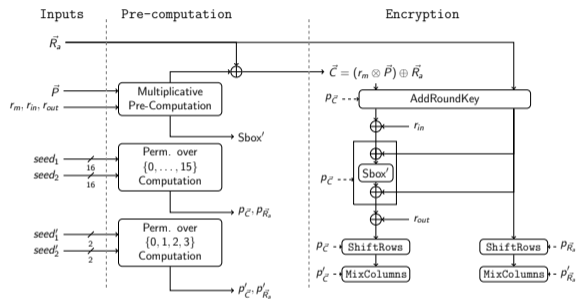
1. Record traces I .
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3. Process information.
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Efficient processing requires:

- ▶ Trade-off between information exploitation and computational cost.
- ▶ Careful case-specific analysis.

Attack-based: ANSSI's AES (32-bit MCU)

(Chap. 6)

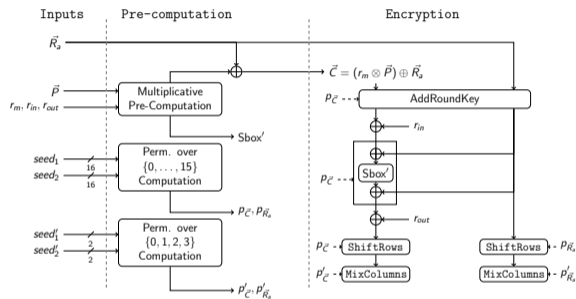


Implementation has:

- ▶ Multiplicative masking.
- ▶ Boolean masking.
- ▶ Shuffling.

Attack-based: ANSSI's AES (32-bit MCU)

(Chap. 6)



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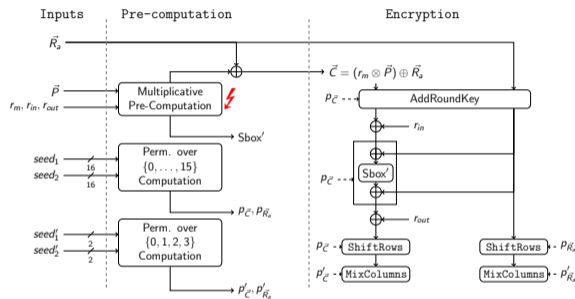
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Tricks:

- ▶ Attack countermeasures independently.

Attack-based: ANSSI's AES (32-bit MCU)

(Chap. 6)



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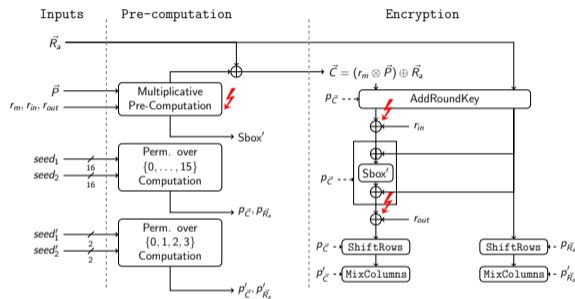
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Attack-based: ANSSI's AES (32-bit MCU)

(Chap. 6)



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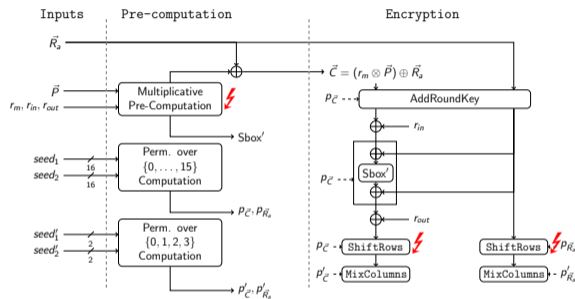
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(Chap. 6)



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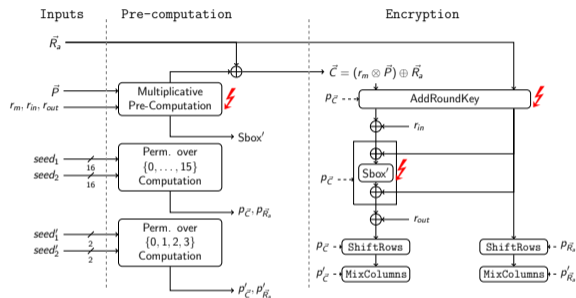
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(Chap. 6)



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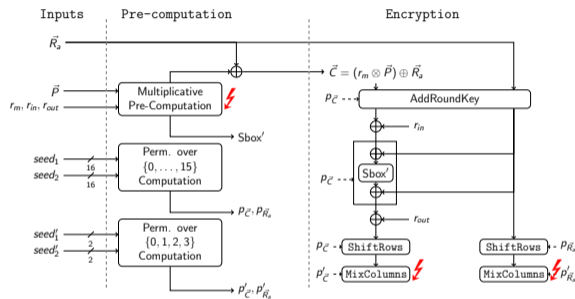
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(Chap. 6)



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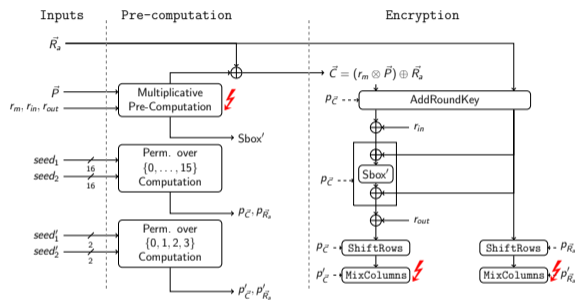
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Attack-based: ANSSI's AES (32-bit MCU)

(Chap. 6)



Implementation has:

- ▶ ~~Multiplicative masking.~~
- ▶ Boolean masking.
- ▶ ~~Shuffling.~~

Tricks:

- ▶ Attack countermeasures independently.
- ▶ Identify easier attack paths.

Summary of the results:

- ▶ (Close-to) worst-case attacks succeed in less than 1,000 traces.
- ▶ No known attacks in black-box settings.
- ▶ Low noise on 32-bit software.

Attack-based: Bitslice masking (32-bit MCU) (Chap. 7)

Implementation has:

- ▶ Bitslice boolean masking with large d .

Attack-based: Bitslice masking (32-bit MCU) (Chap. 7)

Implementation has:

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Contributions:

- ▶ Using SASCA.
- ▶ With dedicated factor graphs.
- ▶ Reducing computational complexity.

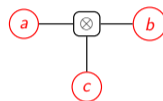
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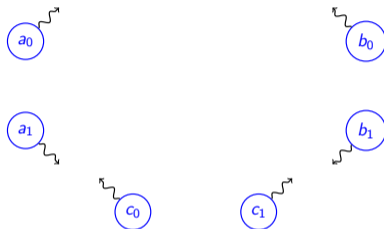
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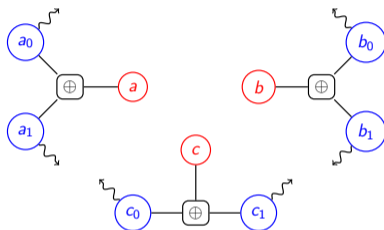
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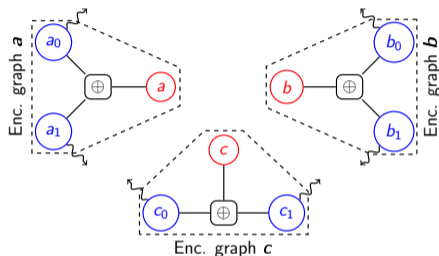
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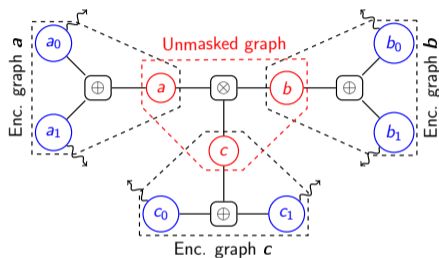
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Attack-based: Bitslice masking (32-bit MCU) (Chap. 7)

Implementation has:

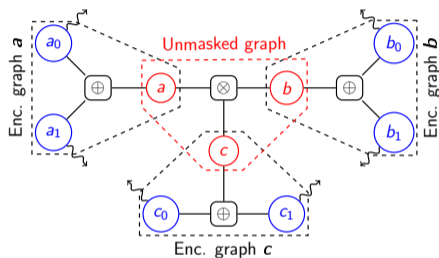
- ▶ Bitslice boolean masking with large d .

Contributions:

- ▶ Using SASCA.
- ▶ With dedicated factor graphs.
- ▶ Reducing computational complexity.

Summary of the results:

- ▶ Able to break 8 shares versions of lightweight ciphers.
- ▶ Low noise on 32-bit software.



Attack-based: ASCAD (8-bit MCU)

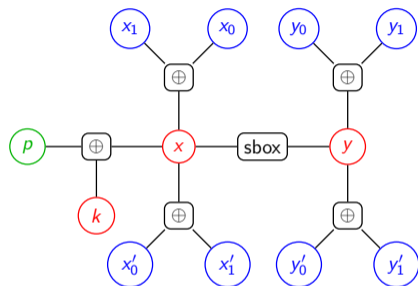
(Chap. 5)

Implementation has:

- ▶ 2-shares table-based boolean masking.
- ▶ 8-bit MCU.

Attack-based: ASCAD (8-bit MCU)

(Chap. 5)



Implementation has:

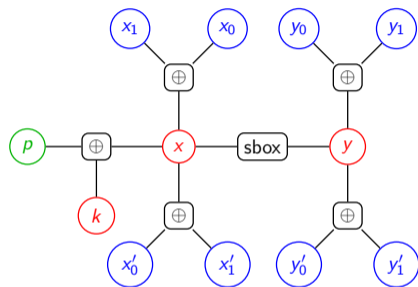
- ▶ 2-shares table-based boolean masking.
- ▶ 8-bit MCU.

Tricks:

- ▶ Same as for bitslice masked software.
- ▶ Exploiting full leakage traces.

Attack-based: ASCAD (8-bit MCU)

(Chap. 5)



Implementation has:

- ▶ 2-shares table-based boolean masking.
- ▶ 8-bit MCU.

Tricks:

- ▶ Same as for bitslice masked software.
- ▶ Exploiting full leakage traces.

Results summary:

- ▶ Recover full key with a single (raw) trace.
- ▶ Thanks to \mathcal{R} : Better offline & online attack performances.

SCALib: an open-source library ¹

(Part II)

Welcome to SCALib

`pypi package` `0.3.3` `docs` `passing`

The Side-Channel Analysis Library (SCALib) is a Python package that contains state-of-the-art tools for side-channel evaluation. It focuses on providing efficient implementations of analysis methods widely used by the side-channel community and maintaining a flexible and simple interface.

¹Developped with Gaëtan Cassiers

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(Part II)

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pypi package 0.3.3 docs passing

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What is SCALib?

- ▶ Python: `pip install scalib`.
- ▶ Multiple tools for SCA.
- ▶ Optimized for single / multiple thread(s) (Rust back-end).

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pypi package 0.3.3 docs passing

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- ▶ Python: `pip install scalib`.
- ▶ Multiple tools for SCA.
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Developed for this thesis to:

- ▶ Signal-to-Noise Ratio (SNR).
- ▶ Build LDA + Gaussian templates.
- ▶ SASCA.
- ▶ Key rank estimation.

¹Developed with Gaëtan Cassiers

Content

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Technical introduction

Evaluations

Proof-based

Attack-based

New designs

Conclusion

How to masking + shuffling ? ($d = 2, \eta = 3$) (Part III)

 $\widehat{a^0} \quad \widehat{b^0} \quad \widehat{c^0}$ $\underbrace{a^1} \quad \underbrace{b^1} \quad \underbrace{c^1}$

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$\widehat{a^0}$ \frown \frown # random perm:0

\smile \smile \smile $\theta : [0 \ 1 \ 2]$

No shuffling:

▶ Access shares sequentially.

▶ Security: $\mathcal{O}(\frac{1}{\text{MI}^d})$

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Shuffling tuples:

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Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

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Explored parameters:

- ▶ MI: per share.
- ▶ $\#AND$: Number of bits to protect.
- ▶ b_s : bitslicing size.
- ▶ r : randomness cost.

Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

Explored parameters:

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Cycles vs. security comparison:

- ▶ For r , $\#AND$ and MI.
- ▶ : masking is faster.
- ▶ : masking + shuffling is faster.

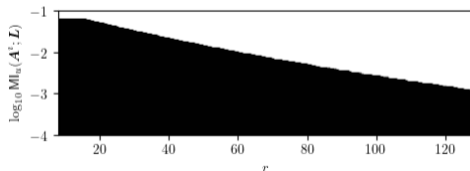


Figure: $\#AND=128$

Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

Explored parameters:

- ▶ MI: per share.
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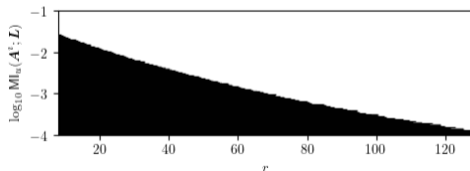


Figure: $\#AND=256$

Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

Explored parameters:

- ▶ MI: per share.
- ▶ $\#AND$: Number of bits to protect.
- ▶ b_s : bitslicing size.
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Cycles vs. security comparison:

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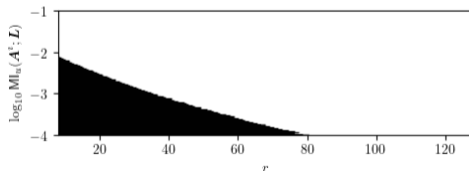


Figure: $\#AND=512$

Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

Explored parameters:

- ▶ MI: per share.
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Cycles vs. security comparison:

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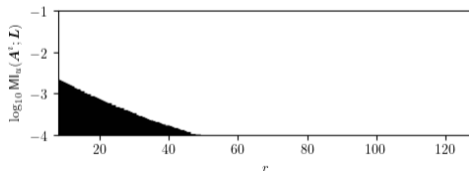


Figure: $\#AND=1024$

Exploring design space: when to mask+shuffle ? (Part III)

Explored parameters:

- ▶ MI: per share.
- ▶ $\#AND$: Number of bits to protect.
- ▶ b_s : bitslicing size.
- ▶ r : randomness cost.

Trends for shuffling + masking:

- + large $\#AND$.
- + expensive randomness r .
- large noise.

Cycles vs. security comparison:

- ▶ For r , $\#AND$ and MI.
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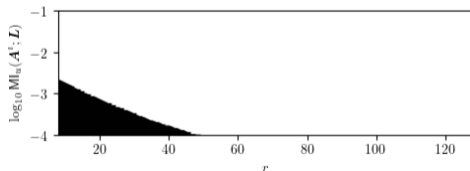


Figure: $\#AND=1024$

Content

Ma thèse en quelques mots

Technical introduction

Evaluations

Proof-based

Attack-based

New designs

Conclusion

Content of the thesis

Three parts answering different questions:

Content of the thesis

Three parts answering different questions:

▶ **Part I:** *Proof-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to improve leakage detection in open-source ?
- ▶ How to estimate noise / information ?

Evaluation

Content of the thesis

Three parts answering different questions:

▶ **Part I:** *Proof-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to improve leakage detection in open-source ?
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▶ **Part II:** *Attack-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to ease evaluation software implementations ?
- ▶ What is the security of current implementations ?

Evaluation

Content of the thesis

Three parts answering different questions:

▶ **Part I:** *Proof-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to improve leakage detection in open-source ?
- ▶ How to estimate noise / information ?

▶ **Part II:** *Attack-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to ease evaluation software implementations ?
- ▶ What is the security of current implementations ?

▶ **Part III:** *New designs*

- ▶ How to combine countermeasures ?
- ▶ Is it effective / useful ? In what context ?

Design

Content of the thesis

Three parts answering different questions:

▶ **Part I:** *Proof-based evaluations*

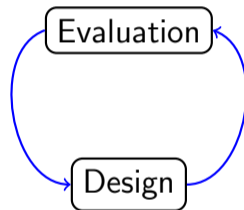
- ▶ How to improve leakage detection in open-source ?
- ▶ How to estimate noise / information ?

▶ **Part II:** *Attack-based evaluations*

- ▶ How to ease evaluation software implementations ?
- ▶ What is the security of current implementations ?

▶ **Part III:** *New designs*

- ▶ How to combine countermeasures ?
- ▶ Is it effective / useful ? In what context ?



Both **evaluation** & **design** are linked.

Conclusion

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Thanks!

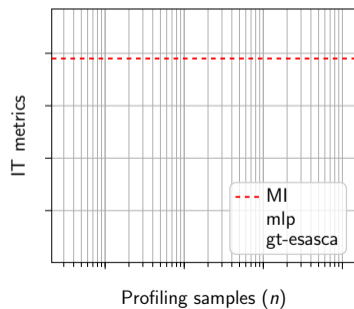
SCALib sources: <https://github.com/simple-crypto/SCALib>

SCALib documentation: <https://scalib.readthedocs.io/en/latest/>

CTF2020 Attacks: https://github.com/obronchain/BS21_ches2020CTF

Backup slides

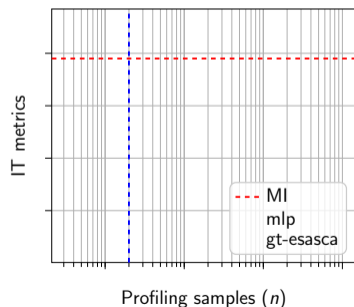
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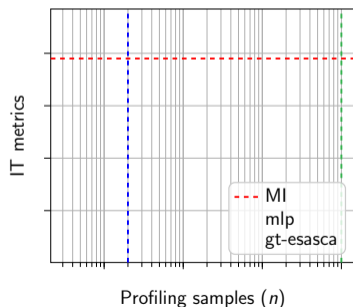
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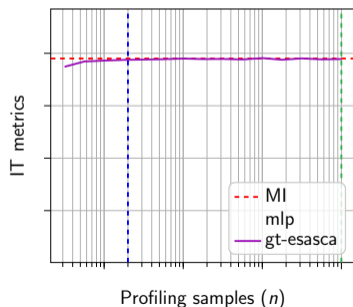
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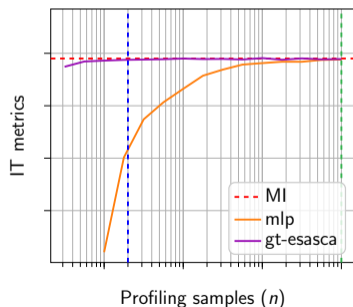
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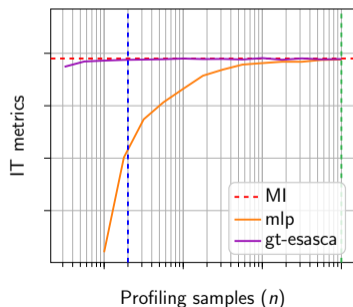
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Close-to worst-case attacks:

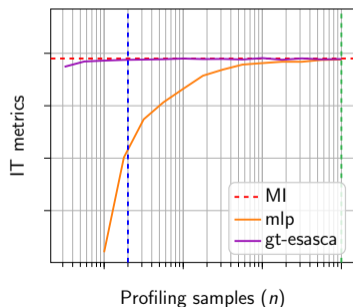
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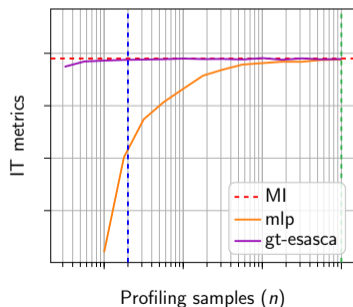
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Close-to worst-case attacks:

- ▶ $PI_n^{mlp} \leq PI_n^{gt-esasca}$.
- ▶ $PI_\infty^{mlp} \stackrel{?}{=} PI_\infty^{gt-esasca}$.