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List of Notations

Notations

General notations

$\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$	Natural integers (positive or zero)
$\mathbb{Z} = \{0, \pm 1, \pm 2, \dots\}$	Integers (natural integers and their opposite)
\mathbb{R}	Real numbers
\mathbb{C}	Complex numbers
$\mathbb{F}, \mathbb{F}_{2^\ell}, \mathbb{F}_p$	Finite field of order 2^ℓ or of prime order p
$w_H(x)$	Hamming weight function
$d_H(x, y)$	Hamming distance
$\ \cdot\ $	Vector space norm
$\ \cdot\ _2$	Euclidean norm
$\ \cdot\ _\alpha$	α -norm
$\mathbb{P}(E)$	Probability of an event E
\mathbb{P}_s	Probability of success
\mathbb{P}_e	Probability of error
$\mathbb{E}(X)$	Expectation of a random variable or vector X
$\mathbb{V}(X)$	Variance of random variable X
$\text{Cov}(X, Y)$	Covariance between random variables X and Y
$H(X)$	Shannon entropy of random variable X
$H_\alpha(X)$	Rényi entropy of random variable X of order α , or α -entropy
$h(X), h_\alpha(X)$	Corresponding entropies of a <i>binary</i> random variable X
$I(X; Y)$	Mutual information between random variables X and Y
$I_\alpha(X; Y)$	α -Information between random variables X and Y
$D(P\ Q)$	Divergence between probability distributions P and Q
$D_\alpha(P\ Q)$	Rényi divergence between probability distributions P and Q , or α -divergence
$d(p\ q), d_\alpha(p\ q)$	Corresponding divergences between <i>binary</i> probability distributions p and q

Notations in side-channel analysis context

K	Secret key or subkey (e.g., one key byte)
T	Plaintext or ciphertext
X	Sensitive intermediate variable
Y	Noisy measurements, e.g., power/EM traces measured from the target device
Z	Random noise, e.g., $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ for the AWGN channel
$f(X)$	Leakage function of the target device, e.g., $f(X) = w_H(X)$
$\Delta(k)$	Side-channel distinguisher for some key guess k as input
M	Random mask
\mathbf{X}	Masked variables $\mathbf{X} = (X_1, X_2, \dots, X_n)$
\mathbf{V}	sensitive variable for code-based masking
\mathbf{G}	generator matrix
\mathbf{H}	generator matrix of the masking code
$\mathbf{X} = \mathbf{V}\mathbf{G} + \mathbf{M}\mathbf{H}$	code-based masking encoding
ℓ	Bit-length of variables, e.g., subkey bytes with $\ell = 8$ or nibbles with $\ell = 4$, or single bit with $\ell = 1$
n	Number of shares in masked implementations
m	Number of random masks in secret-sharing schemes
t	Security threshold of masking schemes (masking order)
o	Statistical order of the side-channel attack or of the side-channel leakage
q, Q	Number of queries or measurements (side-channel traces)

Inner operations, useful within (symmetrical or asymmetrical) cryptographic algorithms

+	Addition operator
-	Subtraction operator
×	Multiplication operator
⊕	Addition over fields (= bitwise XOR over binary fields)
⊖	Subtraction over fields (= bitwise XOR over binary fields)
⊗	Multiplication over fields

Chapter 1

Introduction

1.1 Preface

Embedded devices hold secrets that are, unsurprisingly, coveted, and many malicious attackers are preparing to extract them illegitimately. Typical attacks involve measuring the device's power consumption or radiated electromagnetic (EM) field. These measurements are noisy sources of information that are, in one way or another, correlated with secrets. Consequently, analyzing these leaks enables us to recover the secrets.

The aim of this book is to formalize, characterize and quantify the actual threat level to these targets, drawing on the best mathematical tools for quantifying information leakage and characterizing leakage-based attacks. Two approaches are possible: either an optimal attack strategy can be derived (in specific contexts), or generic limits can be derived.

The tone of this book is resolutely mathematical. It aims at establishing formal foundations for techniques that are otherwise used as engineering recipes in industrial laboratories, or empirical intuitions for deriving safety levels from practical implementations. In this respect, this book is a systematization of knowledge and a compilation of relevant tools relating to the practice of side-channel analysis on embedded systems.

The contents of this book results from one decade (2014–2024) of efforts to formalize the field of side-channel analysis. This project has been initiated by Sylvain Guilley and Olivier Rioul in 2014. Along the way, we have associated PhD students, interns and colleagues to this journey. They helped to investigate eclectic aspects, which resulted in several original contributions, some of them discussed already within our community, on the occasion of annual workshops and conferences. In 2018, Wei Cheng¹ joined us to standardize and collate existing materials and new results in one single volume (i.e., the present work).

Obviously, we are indebted to our PhD students (in alphabetical order:

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Julien Béguinot, Nicolas Bruneau, Wei Cheng, Éloi de Chérisey, Annelie Heuser, Yi Liu, Housseem Maghrebi, and Damien Marion), one visiting researcher (Darshana Jayasinghe), and our colleagues (in alphabetical order: Claude Carlet, Jean-Luc Danger, Sihem Mesnager, Pablo Piantanida, Emmanuel Prouff, François-Xavier Standaert, and Ming Tang). Interaction with them has been very fruitful and we wish here to sincerely thank them for their individual contributions.

Some chapters of the present book are based on scientific articles presented at various venues in the 2014–2024 timeframe. Still, they have been properly integrated into a consistent narrative thread, and rewritten in parts to match with the uniformed notations we employed across the book. In addition, most material has been deeply reworked to make it more didactic, and more focused on the important takeaways rather than on the technicalities. We paid great care to cross-reference the different contributions in order to highlight the synergies between the book sections. The outcome is a self-contained monograph that consists in a systematization of knowledge about mathematical theory of practical side-channel analysis. It should make *mathematical foundations for side-channel analysis of cryptographic systems* accessible to:

- students in the field of embedded cybersecurity;
- professionals in secure devices design;
- governmental agencies aiming at defining optimal (normative) defense strategies.

The diversity of this audience reflects the fact that embedded cybersecurity is an issue embraced by an ecosystem. We hope our book will bring clarity to this technical subject, which has implications for the security of our daily lives in our digital society.

Book keywords: Embedded systems; Electronic devices; Cryptographic Software; Cryptographic Hardware; Side-channel analysis; Information leakage; Formalization; Mathematical analysis; Optimal distinguishers; Information theory; Statistics; Coding theory; Security bounds; Security metrics; Security cryptographic implementations; Systematization of Knowledge.

1.2 Cryptography & Cybersecurity

Nowadays, abundant electronic devices are proliferating in our daily life, such as SIM cards, cell-phones, bank cards, edge appliances, etc. Eurosmart’s survey² tells us that there are about 9.54 billion shipped units of secure elements. In particular, the telecommunication market closed 2020 with around 5,1 billion units (smartcards) shipped, including 309 million units shipped for eSIM and a 4,8 billion units for SIM, which saw a significant increase. Those secure

²Eurosmart, <https://www.eurosmart.com/2019-shipments-and-2020-outlook/>

elements are widely deployed in telecom, financial services, device manufacturers, governmental infrastructure, etc. However, such secure elements usually handle some sensitive information, which is highly exposed during computations when loaded, manipulated and stored. This leads to massive scales of vulnerabilities and attacks in practice. Therefore, improving their security has become an absolute priority. In addition, new regulations (such as the European Cyber-Resiliency Act) require security by design before deployment and security management after deployment.

In this respect, modern cryptography is the cornerstone for building the chain of trust and security. It plays a fundamental and pivotal role in establishing secure connectivity in this emerging digital age. In other words, cryptography enables secure communications between different parties, and evolves with computing and communication technologies. Basically, cryptography provides five primary functionalities: confidentiality, integrity, authentication, non-repudiation and key exchange. Those functionalities are well-established on the basis of various mathematical concepts such as information-theoretic security, computational complexity theory, number theory, coding theory, probability theory, etc.

Based on mathematical tools, it is possible to design and build theoretically secure cryptographic algorithms and protocols. In the field of symmetric key cryptography, the Data Encryption Standard (DES) [NIS99] and its successor, the Advanced Encryption Standard (AES) [NIS01], are one of the most important algorithms that have been published two decades ago by the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). In the field of public key cryptography, Rivest-Shamir-Adleman (RSA) [RSA78] and Elliptic Curve Cryptography (ECC) [Mil85, Kob87] are two well-known instances that are based on the intractability of the corresponding mathematical problems.

1.3 The Root of Security & the Chain of Security

The Kerckhoffs principle, which dates back to the 19th century, is a basic rule and common consensus in modern cryptography. It stipulates that a cryptographic system must be secure, even if all the elements of the system are accessible to adversaries, with the exception of the key [Ker83a, Ker83b]. It was followed and reformulated by Claude E. Shannon in 1949, now known as Shannon's maxim: "*one ought to design (crypto) systems under the assumption that the enemy will immediately gain full familiarity with them*" [Sha49]. The keys present in a cryptosystem form the basis of the root of trust that is essential to the system. Theoretically, the above constructions (e.g., DES, AES, RSA, ECC, etc.) are computationally secure in this regard under the black-box assumption, in which an adversary can only access the inputs and outputs of the cryptosystem.

However, in practical applications, keys are not static, but dynamically manipulated in the digital world. Indeed, each stage of manipulation (computation) exposes these keys, leading to the need for a security chain to guarantee security

in the real world.

In fact, any digital device leaks physically observable information [MR04] about internal states during executions. Although mathematical proofs of security for cryptographic algorithms are fundamental and indispensable, they usually cannot guarantee the practical security of the corresponding cryptographic implementations. In reality, those cryptographic algorithms must be run in some physical devices. Consequently, these physical observations generally violate the black-box setting assumption, according to which an adversary can only access the inputs and outputs of a cryptographic algorithm.

Since knowledge of certain observable information about the algorithms' internal variables is advantageous to the adversary, the black-box model is lifted to a gray-box setting by taking into account any (abstract) form of observable leakages that exists in practice. Accordingly, the attacks exploiting those physically observable leakages are called *physical attacks*.

1.4 Side-Channel Analysis

Side-channel analysis (SCA) is among the most powerful physical attacks against cryptographic implementations. Since the seminal works [Koc96, KJJ99], a very large amount of SCAs have been proposed by exploiting various observable physical leakages. Those physical leakages include (but are not limited to) running time [Koc96, DKL⁺98], power consumption [KJJ99, CCD00], electro-magnetic emanations [GMO01, QS01], acoustic emission [GST14, CPM⁺18], and photonic emission [FH08, KNSS13, CSW17]. More exploitable leakages emerge as technology improves (e.g., static leakage in nanotechnology [Mor14], spying in the context of multi-tenant FPGAs [SGMT18, RPD⁺18]) and in-depth understanding of behaviors of elementary circuits, like micro-architectural data leakages [GYCH18, LSG⁺18, KGG⁺18, MPW22]. Essentially, any measurable secret-dependent information or behaviors of the underlying cryptographic devices can be exploited to launch a successful side-channel attack.

In principle, side-channel analysis consists of extracting the sensitive information from noisy measurements. In many cases, the attacker can additionally purchase a blank device of the same series and learn about their leakage, in particular how it relates to the secrets. Such information can also improve the hardware attacks deployed on another device. Obviously, attacks operated in this context benefit from an advantage; it is qualified by the factor “Open samples/Samples with known secrets” in the Joint Interpretation Library (JIL) interpretation [Joi20] of the Common Evaluation Methodology (CEM).

Therefore, side-channel analysis is commonly divided into two categories, depending on the ability of the adversary and the corresponding setting:

- **Non-profiling attacks** — An adversary attempts to extract the sensitive information by correlating side-channel measurements and hypothetical leakages. Well-known attacks include simple power analysis (SPA, [Koc96]), differential power analysis (DPA, [KJJ99]), correlation power

analysis (CPA, [BCO04]), and mutual information analysis (MIA, [GBTP08, VS09]).

- **Profiling attacks** are two-phrase attacks. An adversary is assumed to possess an identical device to build some exact profiles on the leakage behaviors and then apply these profiles during the attack phrase. Some well-known instances are template attack [CRR02], stochastic attack [SLP05], etc. In particular, the template attack is known as the most powerful side-channel attack if the leakage model is known perfectly.

Additionally, machine learning (including deep learning) techniques have been adapted into side-channel analysis in both non-profiling [Tim18, RAD20, PCBP21] and profiling settings [CDP17, ZBHV20, BPS⁺20, MDP20, WAGP20]. In essence, side-channel classifies different key hypotheses relying on observations, in which learning-based techniques shall amplify those attacks dramatically. However, those learning-based attacks tolerate a loss of interpretability on results, even in some restricted scenarios.

1.5 Side-Channel Protections

In order to protect cryptographic chips (implementations) against SCA, numerous countermeasures have been proposed, the three main ones being masking, shuffling and hiding. Masking schemes [CJRR99, ISW03, CPR07, MOP06, RP10] randomize the dependency between sensitive data and leakages by dividing each sensitive variable into several random shares to thwart SCA. Shuffling schemes [HOM06, RPD09, CS21a] randomize the order of operations during the executions. Quite differently, hiding-based countermeasures [CCD00, MOP06, RGN13] attempt to make the leakages uniformly independent to the data processed by circuit-level alteration, yet it is difficult to have any guarantee [ISU17]. Of course, these three types of protection can be constructively combined. Nevertheless, of these three categories of protection, masking is the most attractive and frequently used technique against SCA, as it offers formally provable security and can be implemented at algorithmic level without any hardware alteration. (Some simplifications must be disabled during compilation, however, otherwise the masking countermeasure can be modified or even removed).

1.5.1 Masking Schemes

Characterized by favorable provable security, masking has triggered a series of fruitful works, ranging from the theoretical construction of secure components (usually called gadgets) to the practical evaluation of resilience through side-channel attacks. Typically, the key parameter of a masking scheme is the security order t under the probing model [ISW03], which indicates the minimum order ($t + 1$) that a successful attack must have. In a t -th order secure masking, each sensitive variable is split into at least $t + 1$ shares. The rationale is that the complexity of the attack increases exponentially with the number of

shares [CJRR99, PR13] given a sufficient amount of noise, while the implementation cost increases only polynomially (quadratically or cubically in higher-order glitch-free implementations [GSF13]).

Various masking schemes have been proposed since 1999, and an overview of representative schemes is shown in Fig. 1.1. Typically instances include Boolean masking [CJRR99], inner product masking (IPM) [BFG15, BFG⁺17], leakage squeezing (LS) [CDG⁺14, CG18] and direct sum masking (DSM) [BCC⁺14a, PGS⁺17]. The proposals marked in blue are the first proposals of the corresponding schemes³. To the best of our knowledge, the generalized code-based masking (GCBM) [WMCS20, CGC⁺21a] is the most generic scheme in this respect⁴. In particular, polynomial masking [GM11, PR11] is also a special case of GCBM, which is built upon Shamir’s secret sharing (SSS) scheme [Sha79].

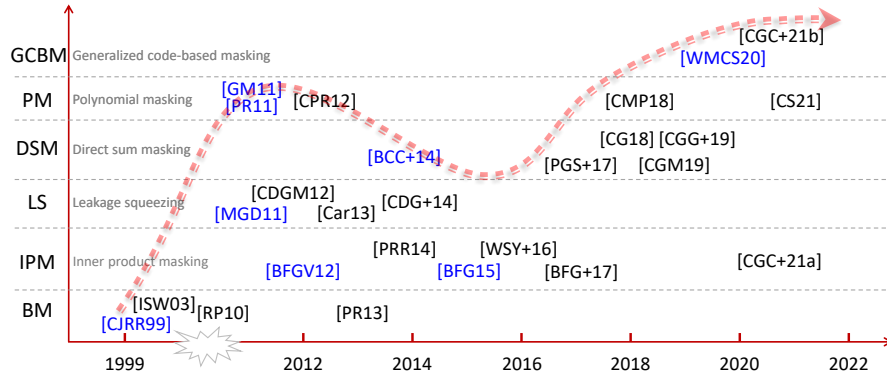


Figure 1.1: Various proposals of masking schemes with corresponding constructions, security assessment, and some variants.

Two questions arise naturally: (1) *how to measure information leakage in different schemes?* and (2) *how to choose optimal codes (or parameters) for each scheme?*

1.5.2 Generalizing to Code-based Masking

Code-based masking follows the generalization trend and unifies many schemes by focusing on the shared encodings. Two linear codes are involved, namely C and D . The only requirement is that there is no nonzero codeword in their intersections [WMCS20, CGC⁺21a]. Consequently, the resistance of code-based masking to side-channel analysis is highly dependent on the two linear codes,

³Notice that the original publication on IPM [BFGV12] is not included in this figure, because it features some first-order information leakages. Those are later fixed in the improved proposal [BFG15], that we show in the figure instead.

⁴For simplicity in the sequel, we consider the code-based masking in the most general scenario.

whose coding-theoretical properties are related to algebraic complexity from the point of view of a (pseudo) Boolean function.

The first representative scheme is IPM, in which the encoding is similar to the simplest Boolean masking except that each share is equipped with a linear function (multiplied over a finite field by a public constant). It consumes n parameters in an n -share setting and enjoys the simple structure that can be implemented quite efficiently [BFG⁺17]. As a special instance of non-redundant code-based masking, the two linear codes in IPM are complementary, resulting in a great simplification when evaluating its side-channel resistance. In fact, we show that the side-channel security of IPM only depends on the properties of the code \mathcal{D} [CGC⁺21b]. More generally, only code \mathcal{D} matters in any non-redundant code-based masking like DSM.

Another typical example is the polynomial masking that is based on the SSS scheme. It also employs n public parameters in an n -share setting, but forms an entirely different encoding. Essentially, the encoding in SSS-based masking can be reformulated and connected to the Reed-Solomon (RS) codes [MS77, CMP18]. Considering an (n, t) -SSS based sharing as depicted in Fig. 1.2, it forms n shares while provides a t -th order privacy (side-channel resistance) rather than $n \cdot t$ parameters in a random setting. From a coding-theoretic perspective, the RS code is optimal in a given finite field in the sense that it achieves the Singleton bound [Sin64]. However, as shown in [CMP18], distinct public points play a role in the resilience and the efficiency of the protection. Therefore, the questions above still remain.

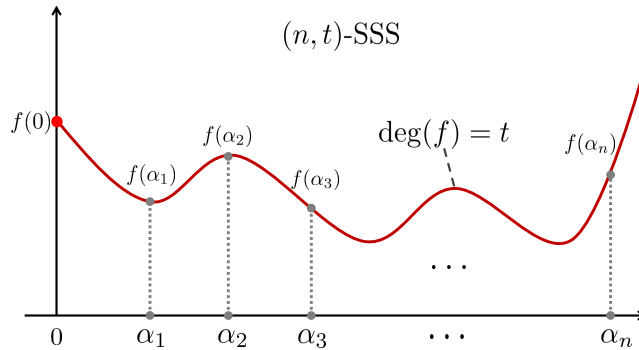


Figure 1.2: Illustration of an instance of redundant masking. In an (n, t) -SSS based polynomial masking, the sensitive variable $X = f(0)$ is encoded into n shares with a security order t .

In this book, we detail the general case of “code-based masking” which encompass most of previously proposed masking schemes. In particular, we show how to quantify the information leakage under various models on the one hand, and present evaluations of the exploitation of the information leakage on the other hand by providing attack-based results.

1.6 Getting Acquainted with the Topics

Side-channel analysis has gotten maturity over time. Table 1.1 retraces the history of key milestones. The infancy of the field was all about practical attacks.

Table 1.1: Maturity in Side-Channel Analysis

<i>Realm</i>	<i>Year</i>	<i>Data-driven</i>	<i>Theoretical</i>	<i>Comment</i>
Attack	1999		✓	Paul C. Kocher et al., <i>Differential Power Analysis</i> , CRYPTO 1999 [KJJ99]
	2016	✓		Houssein Maghrebi et al., <i>Breaking Cryptographic Implementations Using Deep Learning Techniques</i> , SPACE 2016 [MPP16]
Distinguisher	2000	✓		Jean-Sébastien Coron et al., <i>Statistics and Secret Leakage</i> , FC 2000 [CKN00]
	2004		✓	Éric Brier et al., <i>Correlation Power Analysis with a Leakage Model</i> , CHES 2004 [BCO04]
Detection	2011	✓		Gilbert Goodwill et al., <i>A testing methodology for side-channel resistance validation</i> , NIST NIAT Workshop, 2011 [GJJR11]
Prediction	2014		✓	Victor Lomné et al., <i>How to Estimate the Success Rate of Higher-Order Side-Channel Attacks</i> , CHES 2014 [LPR ⁺ 14]
Bounds	2015		✓	Alexandre Duc et al., <i>Making Masking Security Proofs Concrete</i> , EUROCRYPT 2015 [DFS15]
Information contents	2018	✓		Ishmael Belghazi et al., <i>Mutual Information Neural Estimation</i> , ICML 2018 [BER ⁺ 18].

Their theorization as distinguishers came next, where various distinguishers have different merits. Consequently, the “leakage detection” approach has been proposed to provide a security evaluation methodology, which is irrespective of distinguishers (this approach is the one followed in the International Standard ISO/IEC 17825). However, leakage detection does not allow to relate easily to a quantitative effort regarding the number of traces to exploit side-channel traces. Some works have been trying to predict the number of traces for given distinguishers, but again, such approach is specific to the given distinguishers. Therefore, the modern approach is to rely on bounds, which is an ongoing effort: We follow this approach in this book. The evaluation of bounds relies on the estimation of leakage metrics.

1.6.1 The Practice of Side-Channel Analysis

Side-channel analysis provides confidential information when being used, since it occurs during the use of a secret. Natural targets are therefore cryptographic in nature:

- operations on secret or private keys, such as key generation or diversification;
- encryption or decryption and message authentication codes, leveraging a secret key used in conjunction with a block cipher or a hash function;
- asymmetric encryption, key decapsulation mechanisms, digital signature generation, leveraging a private key, as part of a public/private key pair.

Side-channel analysis is, therefore, a real threat that can compromise the security of embedded systems. This threat can be viewed from two angles:

Offensive: devices which actually get hacked by side-channel analysis. Those can be tracked, for instance, leveraging some common vulnerabilities and exposures (CVEs), such as TPM-fail [MSEH20] (CVE-2019-11090), Minerva [JSSS20] (including CVE-2019-15809, CVE-2019-13627, CVE-2019-13627, CVE-2019-13629, CVE-2019-14318), CacheOut [vSMK+21] (CVE-2020-0549), Platypus [LKO+21] (CVE-2020-8694, CVE-2020-8695), or so-called Hertzbleed [WPH+22] (CVE-2022-23823). Note that these CVEs concern mostly attacks which require little or no laboratory equipments. Indeed, attacks which assume too much on the execution environment are not considered as eligible under CVE collection rules; thus the list of CVEs above concern only attacks that can be perpetrated from the remote or leveraging measurement apparati already embedded in computers (such as timers, voltage/power control equipment, etc.)

Defensive: inclusion of side-channel analysis within security referentials. This includes common weakness enumerations (CWEs) (e.g., CWE-1300 [MIT21]) and common criteria [Con13] for instance, where the threat is listed in a generic manner as T.Leakage_Inherent (line 82 page 25 of BSI-CC-PP-0084-2014 [Eur14]) and then further refined in some application documents, such as JIL [Joi20, §5.5].

Attackers may have multiple objectives:

- use of a device without paying for the subscription normally required to operate it;
- modify a device to implement more or different functionalities – or worse, to conceal stealthy backdoors;
- performing a step towards obtaining illegitimate access to debarked data (e.g. user lists, biometric data, credit card numbers, etc.).

From the defender’s perspective, the goal is to rate as precisely as possible the threat. This allows, from the security prescriber standpoint, to decide the amount of efforts that will be required from the implementor. This entails some security verification schemes, such as:

- private methods, that are aimed at confidentially (pen)testing the devices security;
- public methods, such as certification approach. In such case, standard evaluation methods are defined and applied. One emblematic example is the so-called “Common Criteria” (CC [Con13]), which are based on an international standard (namely ISO/IEC 15408:2022). The goal of a CC evaluation is to determine the assurance level of the security of a given product. This book aims at providing sound metrics that yield practical measurement of a product security.

1.6.2 Security Evaluations

From the attacker’s perspective, the goal is to devise the best attack, that optimizes the success rate or the guessing entropy (metrics defined in [SMY09]). There are different contexts, namely *supervised* and *unsupervised*. The attacks also depend on the scale of measurement, and of the apriori knowledge on the Target Of Evaluation (TOE).

However, from the defender’s perspective, the natural question is about normative “vulnerability assessment”. Security quotations can be expressed in terms of various factors:

- elapsed time;
- expertise;
- knowledge of target of evaluation (TOE);
- window of opportunity (which include the use of open devices or devices with known secrets);
- equipment.

1.6.3 Notations and Terminologies

Throughout this book, we use the following notations.

Calligraphic letters such as \mathcal{X} denote sets or linear codes; uppercase letters such as X denote random variables taking values in the corresponding set; lowercase letters such as x denote realizations of the random variable. If necessary, vectors or matrices are written in bold characters while in plain if there is no ambiguity from the context.

We write $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_{p^\ell}$ as the finite field of order p^ℓ for prime number p and positive integer ℓ . The case $p = 2$ is for bit-oriented symmetrical algorithms,

while $p > 2$ is more amenable to asymmetric cryptography, which leverages prime fields as underlying structures. In the rest of this book, we shall, without loss of generality, focus on binary fields where $p = 2$. Then ℓ represents the bit-length of the corresponding variable in the field \mathbb{F}_{2^ℓ} .

In the context of side-channel analysis, we let $X \in \mathbb{K}$ be the sensitive variable that depends on a certain secret key chunk (a.k.a. subkey) $K \in \mathbb{K}$ and let $T \in \mathbb{K}$ be the corresponding known text chunk (either plaintext or ciphertext). For instance, $X = \psi_f(T + K)$ can be the output of some cryptographic operation ψ_f in a block cipher where $+$ denote bitwise exclusive or (XOR) or modulo 2 addition. In the case of the AES, we may put $\psi_f = S$ where S denotes a substitution box (Sbox).

We let $Y \in \mathbb{R}$ denote the noisy leakage under a leakage function $\phi_f(\cdot)$ and with certain noise⁵ $Z \in \mathbb{R}$. Taking the commonly assumed additive white Gaussian noise (AWGN) as an example, one has $Y = f(K + T) + Z$ where $f = \phi_f \circ \psi_f$ and where $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ is Gaussian with standard deviation σ .

The adversary employs a side-channel distinguisher Δ to guess the subkey used in the cryptographic implementation by exploiting the noisy leakage Y and the known-text T . The “best” key guess, denoted as $\hat{K} \in \mathbb{K}$, is the candidate with the maximum distinguishing score. The above setting can be viewed as a communication channel as shown in Fig. 1.3, which is adapted from [HRG14b]. For multiple side-channel measures (a.k.a. traces) are acquired, the above no-

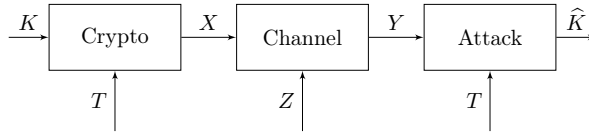


Figure 1.3: Side-channel analysis seen as a communication channel.

tations are updated accordingly in bold face.

The above communication channel view of side-channel analysis can be extended in the presence of side-channel countermeasures like masking schemes. Masking splits the sensitive variable into multiple shares, and then perform operations share by share. We let $\mathbf{M} \in \mathbb{K}^m$ denote the random masks and $\mathbf{X} \in \mathbb{K}^n$ denote the masked sharing with n shares. The essential parameter of a masking scheme is its security order t , which means that an adversary cannot obtain any information about the sensitive variable with side-channel leaks from at most t shares. Considering additive masking as an example, the sensitive variable X is split into n shares X_i such that $X = X_1 \star X_2 \star \dots \star X_n$, where the group (field) operator \star can be initialized as the exclusive OR (a.k.a. XOR) or the modular addition. In this case, the security order is $t \leq m = n - 1$. In this situation, we usually let X_2, \dots, X_n denote random masks that are generated uniformly over \mathbb{K} , and let X_1 be the masked variable computed from the formula $X_1 = X \star X_2 \star \dots \star X_n$. The extended communication channel viewpoint

⁵In this book, we use the letter Z (which looks like a transposed N) to denote noise.

is depicted in Fig. 1.4 (adapted from [CLGR22a]).

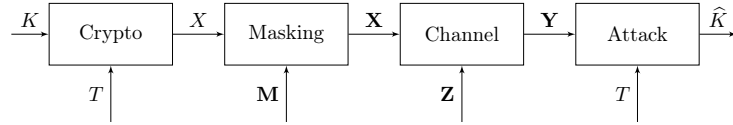


Figure 1.4: Side-channel analysis seen as a communication channel in the presence of masking countermeasure.

We mention that other side-channel countermeasures like *shuffling* [CS21a] can be encompassed straightforwardly in Fig. 1.4. Furthermore, the scope of analyses captured in Fig. 1.3 and 1.4 can be extended beyond physical side-channel analyses (e.g., web search engine [SSH⁺14] or timing attacks [dCGRJ16]).

We shall specify the other notations needed in the course of this book, to avoid tedious enumeration in this section.

1.7 Side-Channel Analyses Performance Criteria

The side-channels can be exploited by leveraging different key extraction strategies. For instance, the key can be recovered bit by bit, or by chunks (say ℓ bits by ℓ bits). The global key is eventually restored by divide-and-conquer.

The performances of the key ranking carried out by the adversary can be measured via three classical figures of merits:

1. the *success rate* (SR) or success probability \mathbb{P}_s ,
2. the *success rate of order o* (SR_o , success rate in o -trials) $\mathbb{P}_{s,o}$ [SMY09], and
3. the *guessing entropy* (GE) [Mas94].

We follow the framework set up in [SMY09] and [IUH22, § 2.3] and express these metrics in terms of the a posteriori rank of the key hypothesis given the side-information.

1.8 Overview of the Content

At a high level, the contents of this book are divided into two parts: attacks and evaluations, with the exception of a few preliminaries summarized in Chap. 2. In Part I, we detail various attacks in Chap. 3 and 4 against unprotected and protected cryptographic implementations, respectively. In Part II, we start with the information-theoretic evaluations in Chap. 5, then move to the combination with coding theory to provide a full spectrum analysis on code-based masking in Chap. 6, and at last, we bridge the evaluations with attacks by presenting bounds on the probability to success in the worst-case scenarios in Chap. 7.

The main content of each chapter are summarized as follows.

In Chap. 3, we present attacks with various side-channel distinguishers against unprotected devices. The representative attacks are the optimal distinguisher based on the maximum-likelihood (ML) principle, correlation power analysis (CPA), mutual information analysis (MIA), and Kolmogorov-Smirnov analysis (KSA). In particular, we exemplify the scenarios in which CPA or MIA can be optimal under different noise assumptions. Moreover, we also present how to apply ML-based attacks with high dimension measurements, or in the multivariate context.

In Chap. 4, we continue the investigation of attacks against protected cryptographic implementations, especially in the presence of masking. The first one is the expectation-maximization (EM) based attack in the context of non-profiling attacks, especially in comparison with the second-order CPA (2O-CPA). Next, we present formally the higher-order optimal distinguisher (HOOD), which is again an ML-based approach. At last, we provide a Taylor expansion of ML attacks in order to deal with many masks in cryptographic implementations with higher-order masking.

In Chap. 5, we focus on the information-theoretic evaluations by presenting the interclass information analysis (IIA) in comparison with MIA. Next, we aim to bridge the distribution-based analyses and statistical moments-based analyses, the main idea lies in the cumulant expansion of mutual information (MI) at higher orders. We also apply this theoretical link in the analysis of higher-order maskings. At last, we introduce the α -information theory and show how it can be applied for upper bounding the success rate of any side-channel attacks.

In Chap. 6, we present a coding-theoretic formalization of various masking schemes, and essentially unifies the representation of these schemes under the so-called code-based masking (CBM) paradigm. On the basis of this unified formalization, we then propose a framework for quantifying the information leakage of CBM by using mutual information and signal-to-noise (SNR) as the leakage metrics. Interestingly, we build a formal connection between these two metrics with coding-theoretic properties of the underlying linear codes in CBM. As an important output, we define the optimal linear code for CBM and demonstrate the positive impacts on enhancing inner product masking and SSS-based polynomial masking schemes.

In Chap. 7, we aim to build a formal connection between various attacks and information-theoretic metrics. The main output is to provide some generic information-theoretic bounds that apply to any side-channel attacks. In particular, we present generic bounds based on mutual information and α -information for both unprotected and protected cryptographic devices. At last, we complete the information leakage quantification of CBM by providing attack-based evaluation results.

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