



Cloning 3G/4G SIM Cards with a PC and an Oscilloscope: Lessons Learned in Physical Security

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Some updates from Citizenfour

www.digitaltrends.com/mobile/nsa-gchq-sim-card-hack-snowden-leak-ne

THE NSA HAS HACKED YOUR PHONE: WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW, AND HOW TO PROTECT YOURSELF

By Malarie Gokey — February 25, 2015

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“When the NSA and GCHQ compromised the security of potentially billions of phones (3G/4G encryption relies on the shared secret resident on the SIM), they not only screwed the manufacturer, they screwed all of us, because **the only way to address the security compromise is to recall and replace every SIM.**”

Outline

- Background
 - 1) 2G/3G/4G (U)SIM Security
 - 2) cryptology, 2G/GSM AKA protocol
- Our work
 - 1) 3G/4G AKA protocol and MILENAGE algorithm
 - 2) Side Channel Attack / Differential Power Analysis
 - 3) Strategy, results and demos
- Lessons learned

Cellular networks (1-4G)

- 1G: analogue signal



- 2G: GSM vs. CDMA

digital signal



- 3G/4G: UMTS/LTE



iPhone 5
4.7"



Motorola Moto X
4.7"



LG Optimus Mix
4.2"



Nexus S
3"



LG Optimus
3.2"



HTC One (X)
3"



Samsung Galaxy S5
5.1"

high-speed data transmission

What is a (U)SIM card?

- (U)SIM = (Universal) Subscriber Identity Module
- (U)SIM is a smart card (a mini computer).
- SIM stores

- ICCID (serial number)

- IMSI (E.g. 310 150 123456789)

USA+AT&T +id number

- **Secrets**



- Secret on 2G SIM: master key **K**.
- Secrets on 3G/4G USIM:
 master key **K**, and **OPc**, **r1**, **r2**, ..., **r5**, **c1**, ..., **c5**.
- What if secrets are stolen/compromised?

Part1

Security compromised by revealed/stolen secrets



CLONING



TAPPING

TROJAN


**FRAUDULENT CALLS
OTP AUTHENTICATION**



Any cryptography in (U)SIM?

Cryptology in a nutshell

Cryptology = “Cryptography” + “Cryptanalysis”

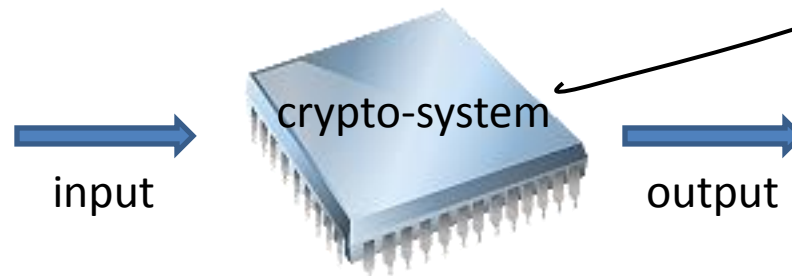
- Cryptography (design of )

The design of crypto-systems that help preserve various aspects of information security such as confidentiality, integrity, authenticity and non-repudiation.

- Cryptanalysis (code-breaking).

1. Mathematical: break a crypto-system mathematically.
2. Physical: break the implementation of a crypto-system.

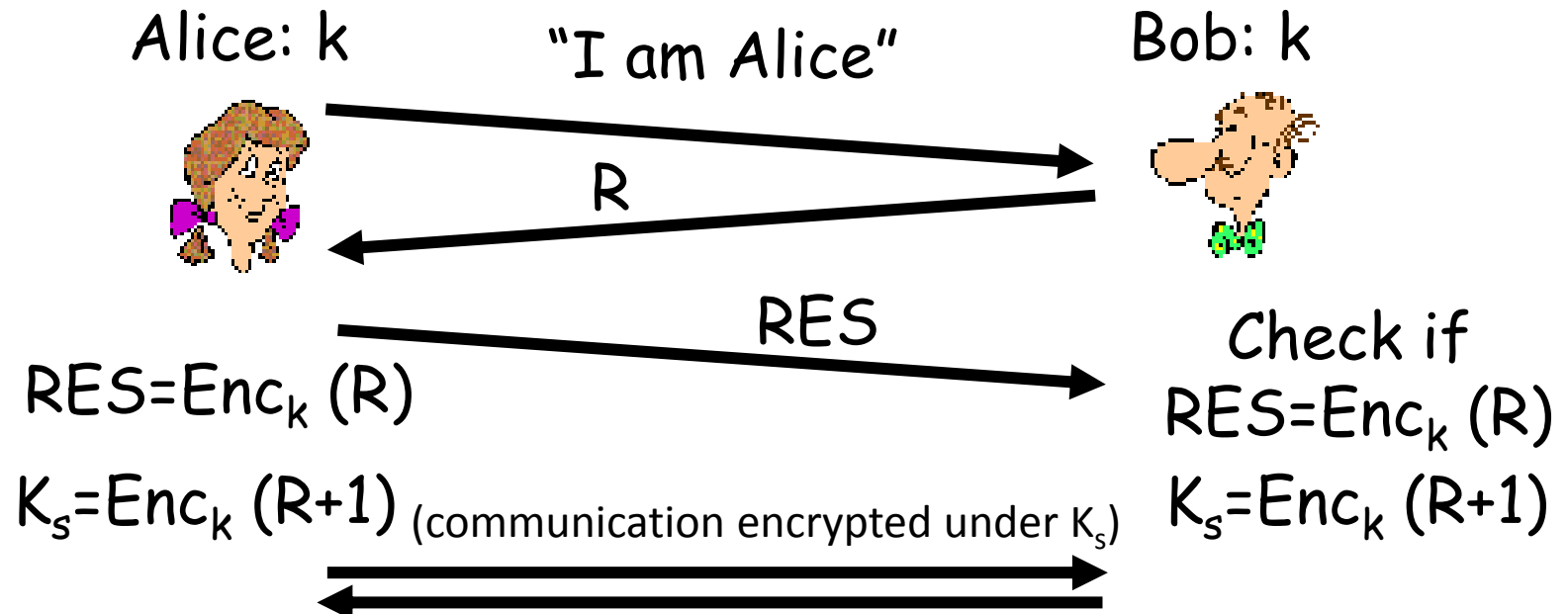
Attacks in real life are often physical.



Part1

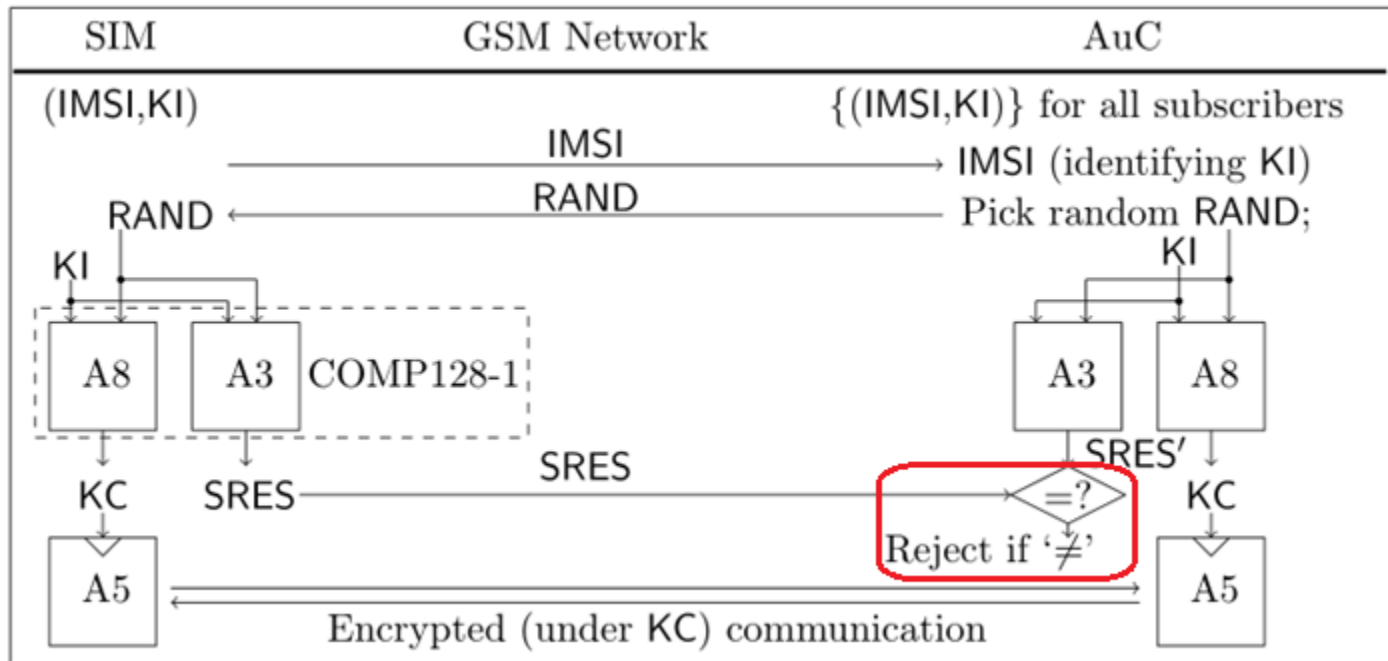
What cryptography is needed for (U)SIM?

- AKA (Authentication & Key Agreement)
- Authentication: a process that ensures and confirms a user's identity.
E.g., Bob authenticates Alice by **Challenge-and-Response**.
- Key Agreement (**wrong term though!**): session key derivation



Part1

The 2G GSM AKA Protocol



AKA algorithm of GSM: COMP128-1 (A3+A8)

Encryption algorithm : A5

Insecurity:

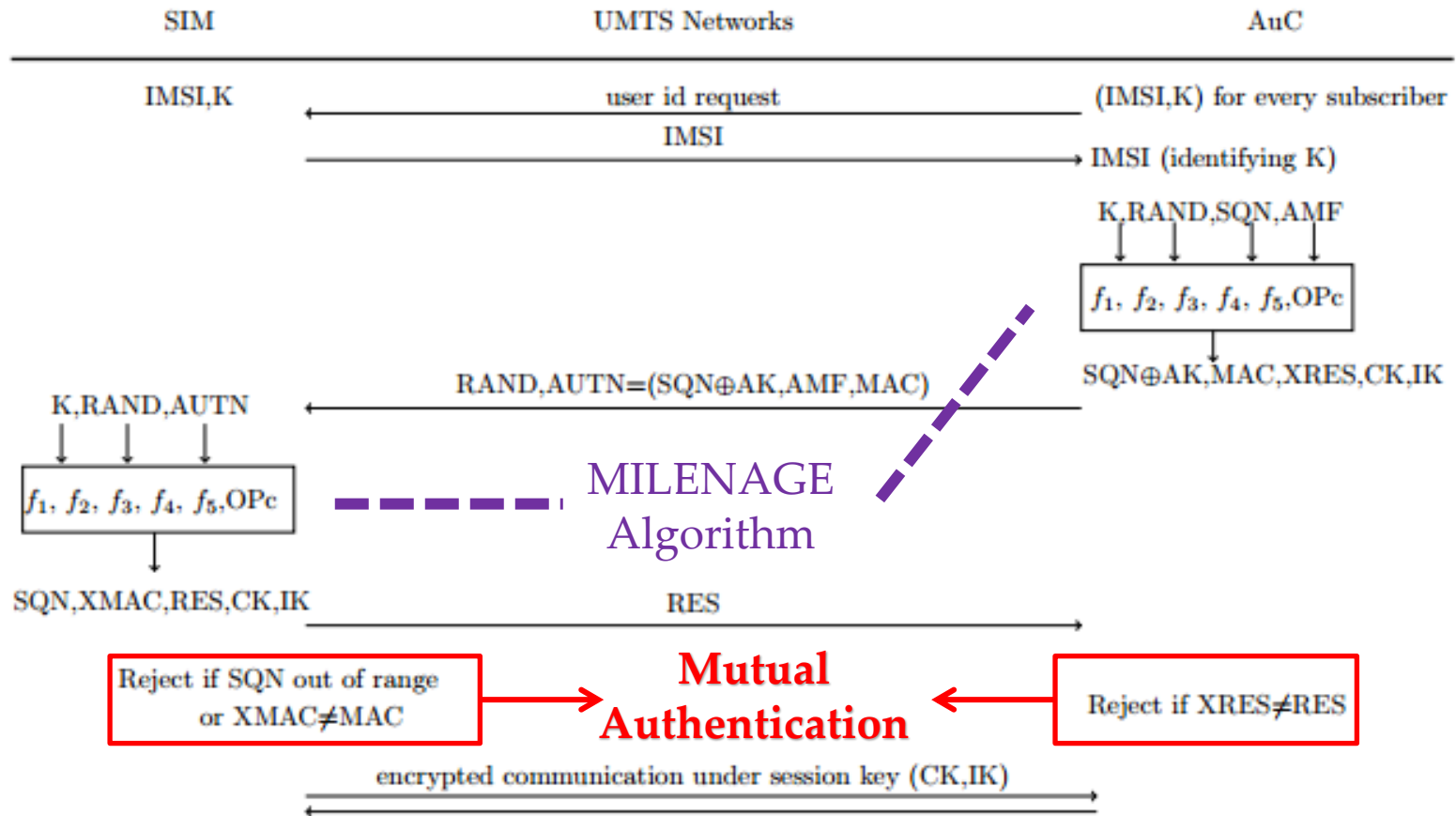
1. COMP128-1 is fatally flawed (narrow pipe attacks [BGW98])
2. Only one-way authentication (spoofing base stations, DEFCON 2010)
3. Subject to side-channel attacks (DPA attacks [RRST02,ZYSQ13])

Security improvement of 3G/4G over 2G

	2G	3G/4G
Authentication Algorithm	flawed COMP128-1	MILENAGE, in turn based on AES-128, which is mathematically secure
Authentication mechanism	One-way (base station authenticates the SIM)	Mutual authentication (preventing spoofed base stations attacks)
Secrets	The master key K	The master key K The tweak value OPc More operator-defined values: r1, ..., r5, c1, ..., c5 (more secrets = better security?)

Is 3G/4G USIM authentication
physically secure?

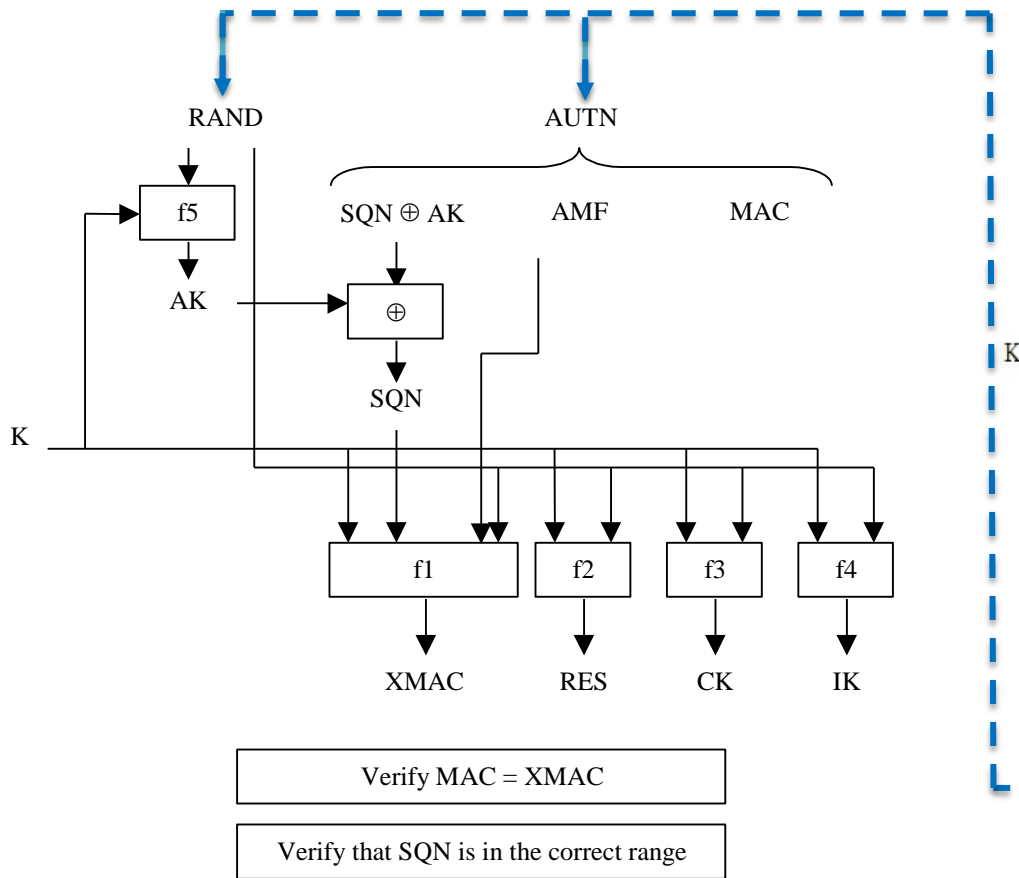
3G/4G AKA Protocol



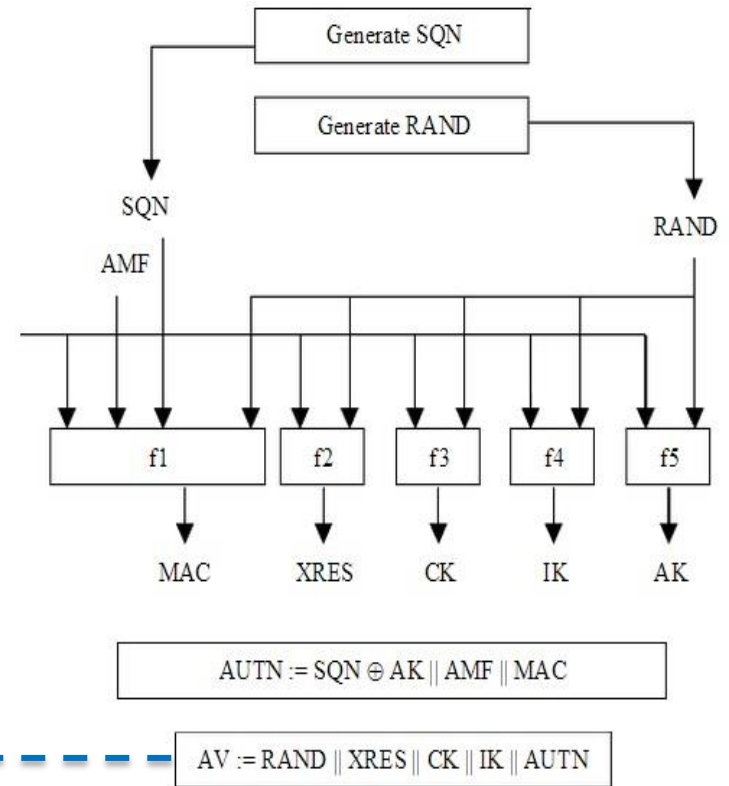
The different between 3G and 4G is not security-relevant

MILENAGE Algorithm

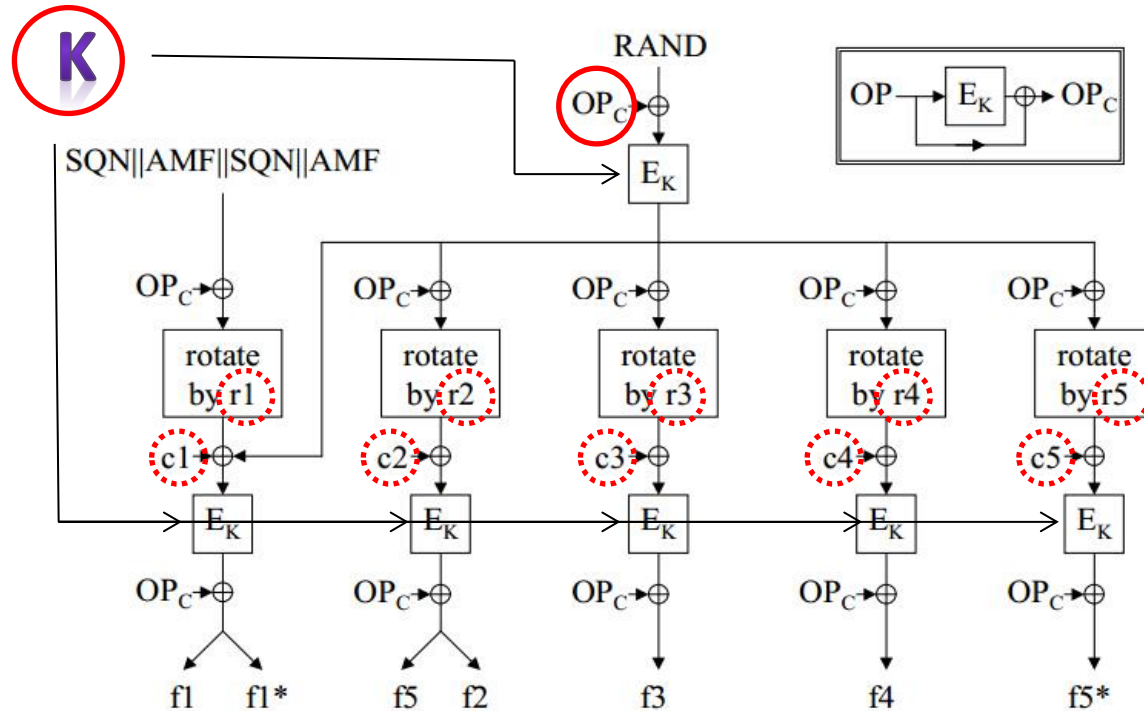
USIM



AuC



Secrets in USIM?



$K + OP_C (+ r1, c1, r2, c2, r3, c3, r4, c4, r5, c5)$

How to recover them?

- The strategy: “Divide et impera”

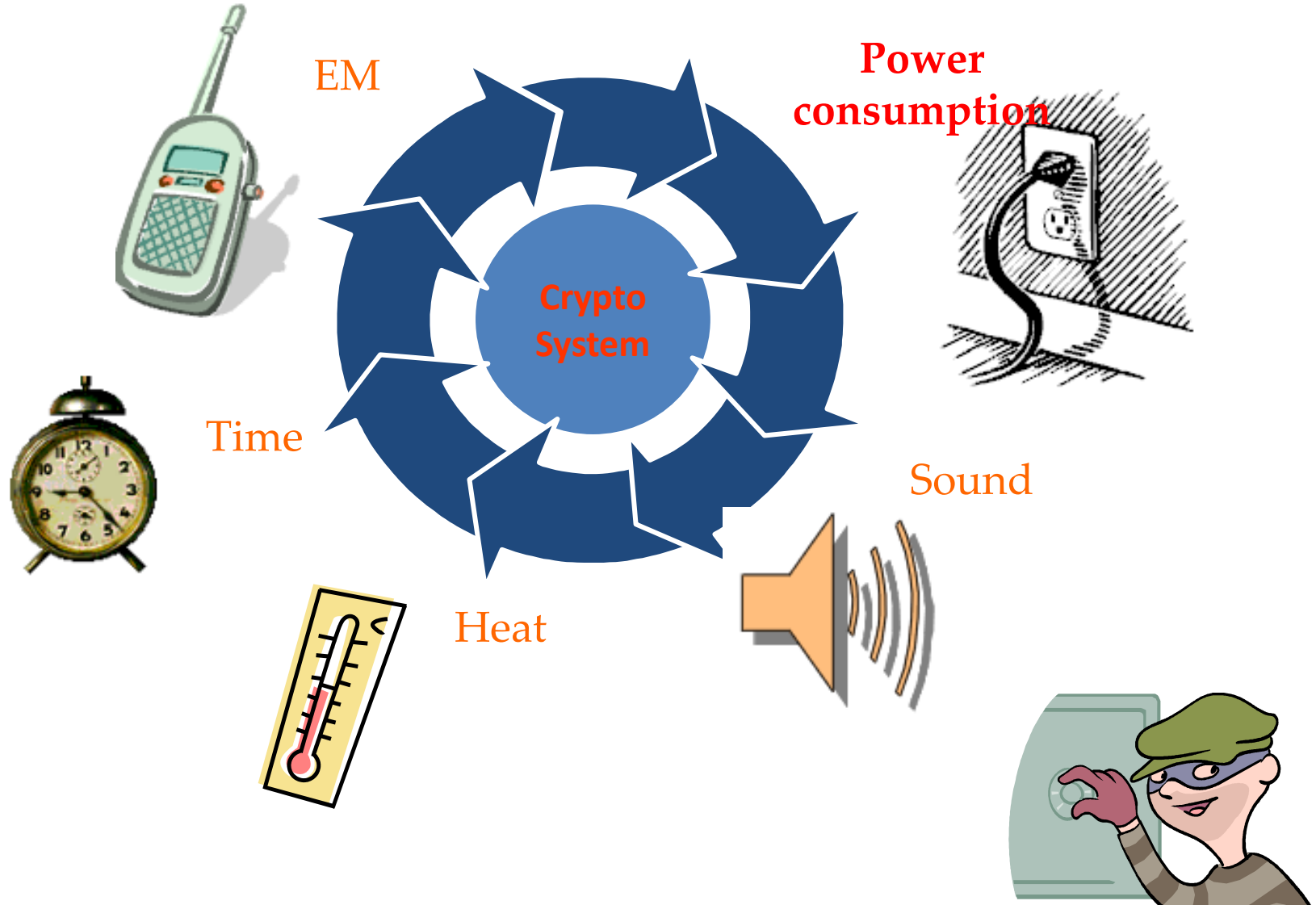


Breaking into a vault is hard.

Things are different if it can be divided into independent sub problems

- Our job: recover the secrets K , OPc , $r_1, c_1, \dots, r_5, c_5$ one at a time using power analysis.
 - for secret $\in \{K, OPc, c_1, c_2, \dots, c_5\}$
do a Differential Power Analysis (DPA)
 - for secret $\in \{r_1, r_2, \dots, r_5\}$
do a (non-standard) Correlation Power Analysis (CPA)

SCA (Side Channel Attack)



Measurement Setup

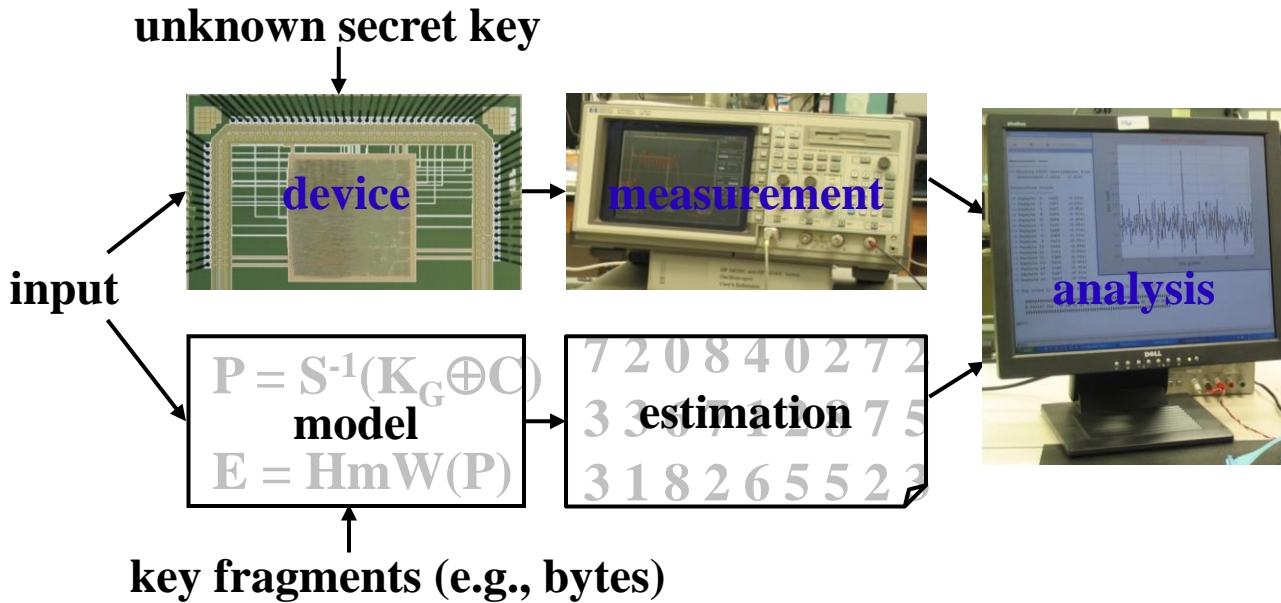
PC
+
Software
SCAnalyzer



Oscilloscope

Power
Recorder

Differential Power Analysis (DPA)

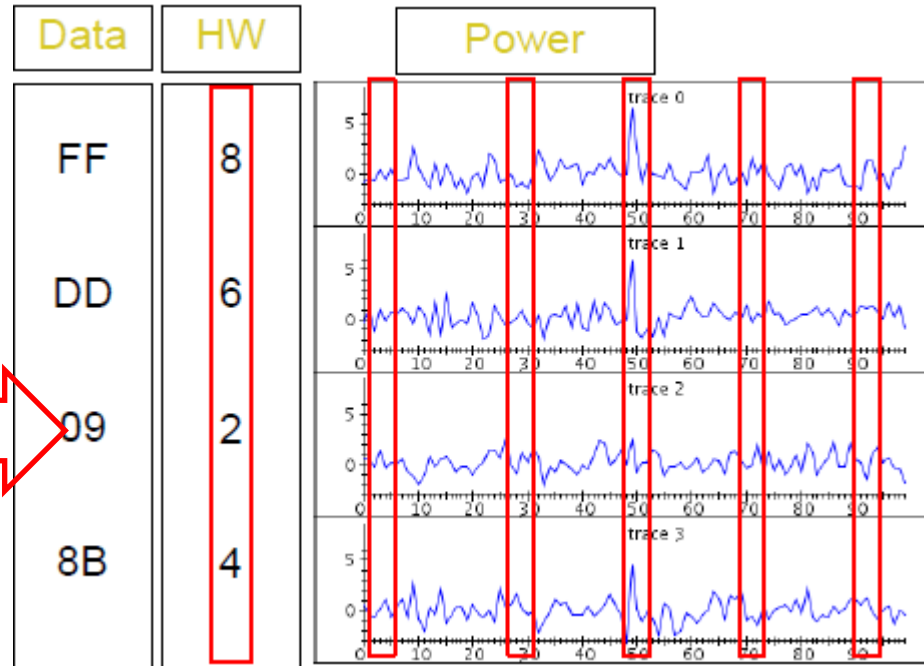


- AES: 128-bit secret key brute force infeasible
- Exhaustive search for a key byte easy
- 256 candidates (correct one highly correlates to traces)
- Do the above for every key byte independently

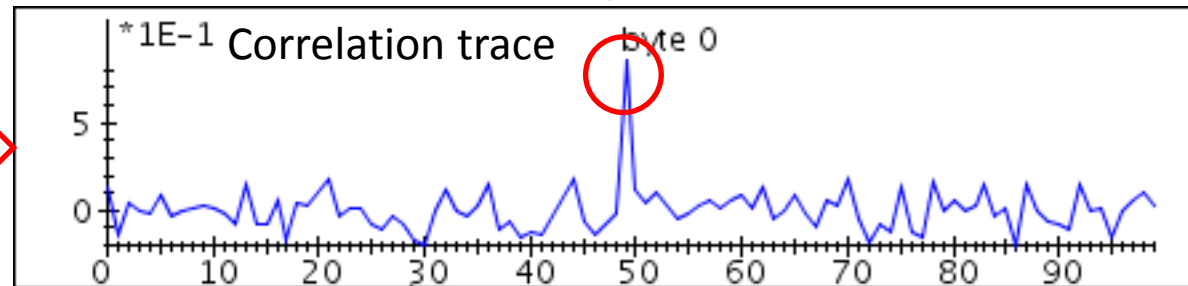
Differential Power Analysis cont'd

--- how to test if a key (byte) guess is correct or not?

Correlate the hypothetical intermediate values to the power traces

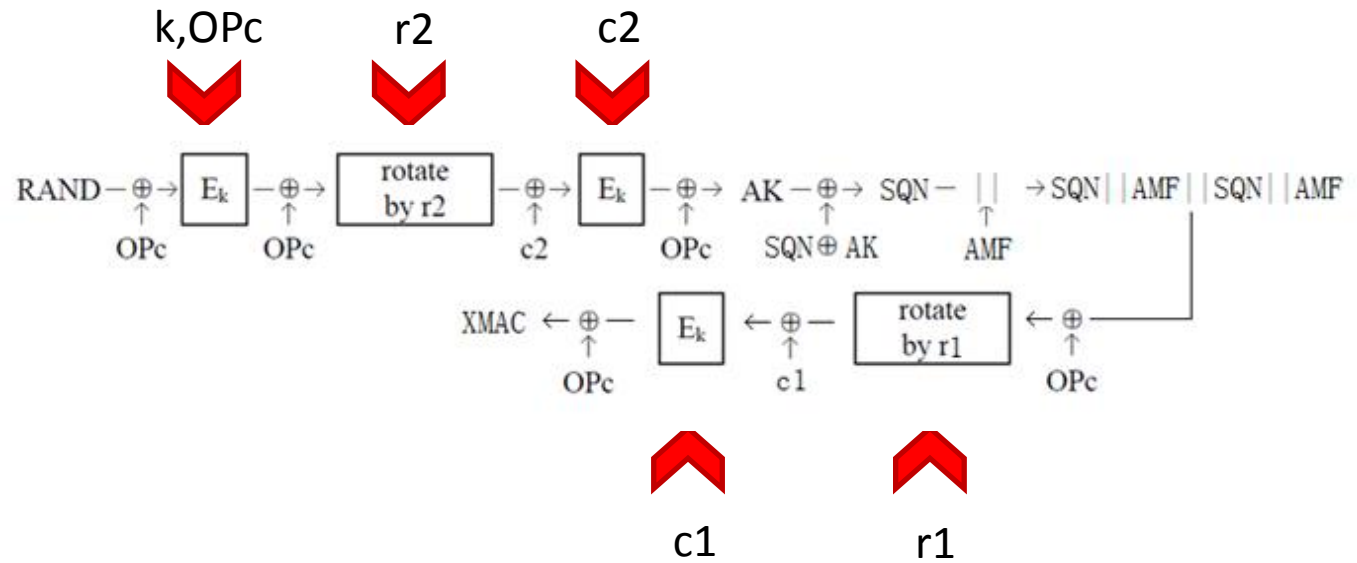


Only the right key guess exhibits high peaks



Where to Attack

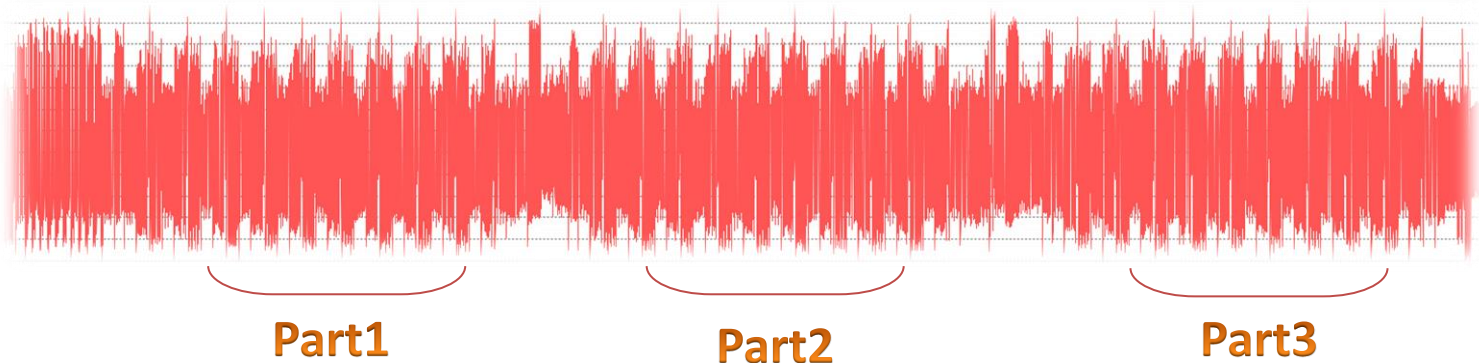
Secrets: $k, OPc, r1 \sim r5, c1 \sim c5$



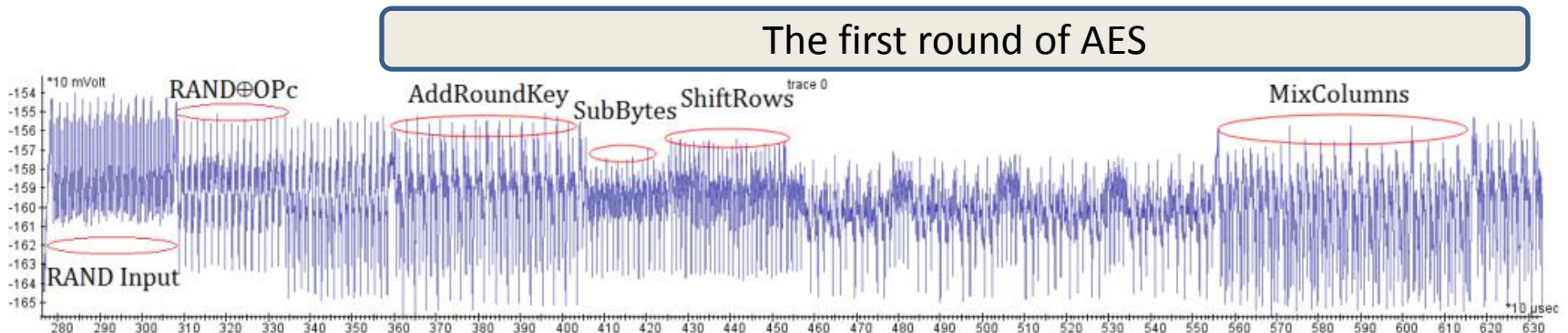
flow of $f5+f1$

Analysis Process

Step1: Collect Power Trace



Identify the segment of interest (simple power analysis) and zoom-in for further analysis.



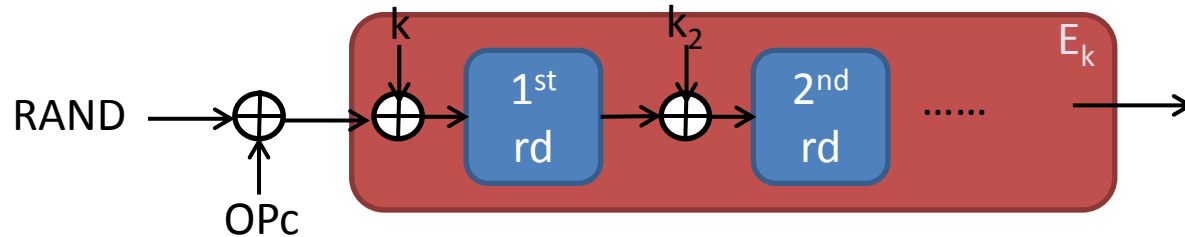
Analysis Process

Step2: Recover K and OPc

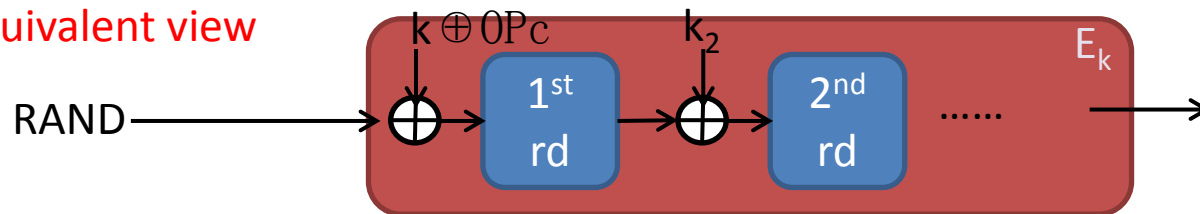
DPA recovers k from $\text{RAND} \rightarrow \boxed{E_k} \rightarrow$

How to adapt the attack to $\text{RAND} \xrightarrow{\oplus} \boxed{E_k}$ with secrets k and OPc ?

↑
OPc



Equivalent view



Attack 1st round: (viewing E_k with $k' = k \oplus \text{OPc}$) recover $k \oplus \text{OPc}$

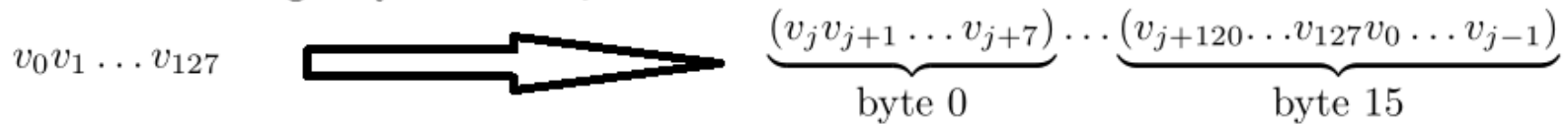
Attack 2nd round: recover k_2 (and thus k)

Analysis Process

Step3: Recover r_1, \dots, r_5

- Consider r_2 and write $r_2 = 8i + j$

right cyclic shift by r_2 bits



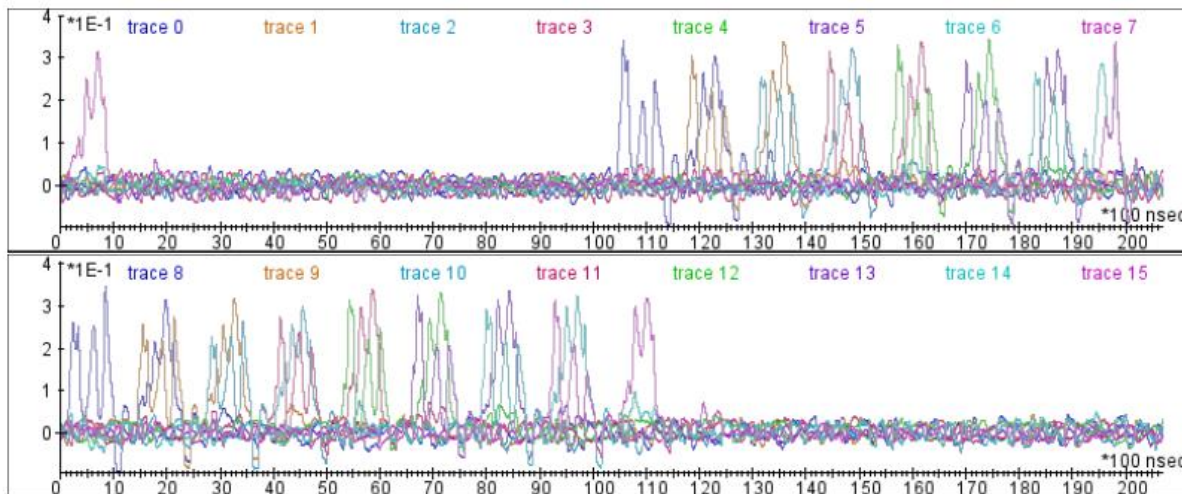
1. Recover j (assume WLOG $i = 0$)

make a guess about j and do a hypothesis testing (8 possibilities)

(correlate byte 0 to the power traces to test if which guess is correct)

2. Recover i . Correlate bytes 0 ~15 to the power traces, then

i is number of bytes shifted in the time axis (of the correlation trace).



Results

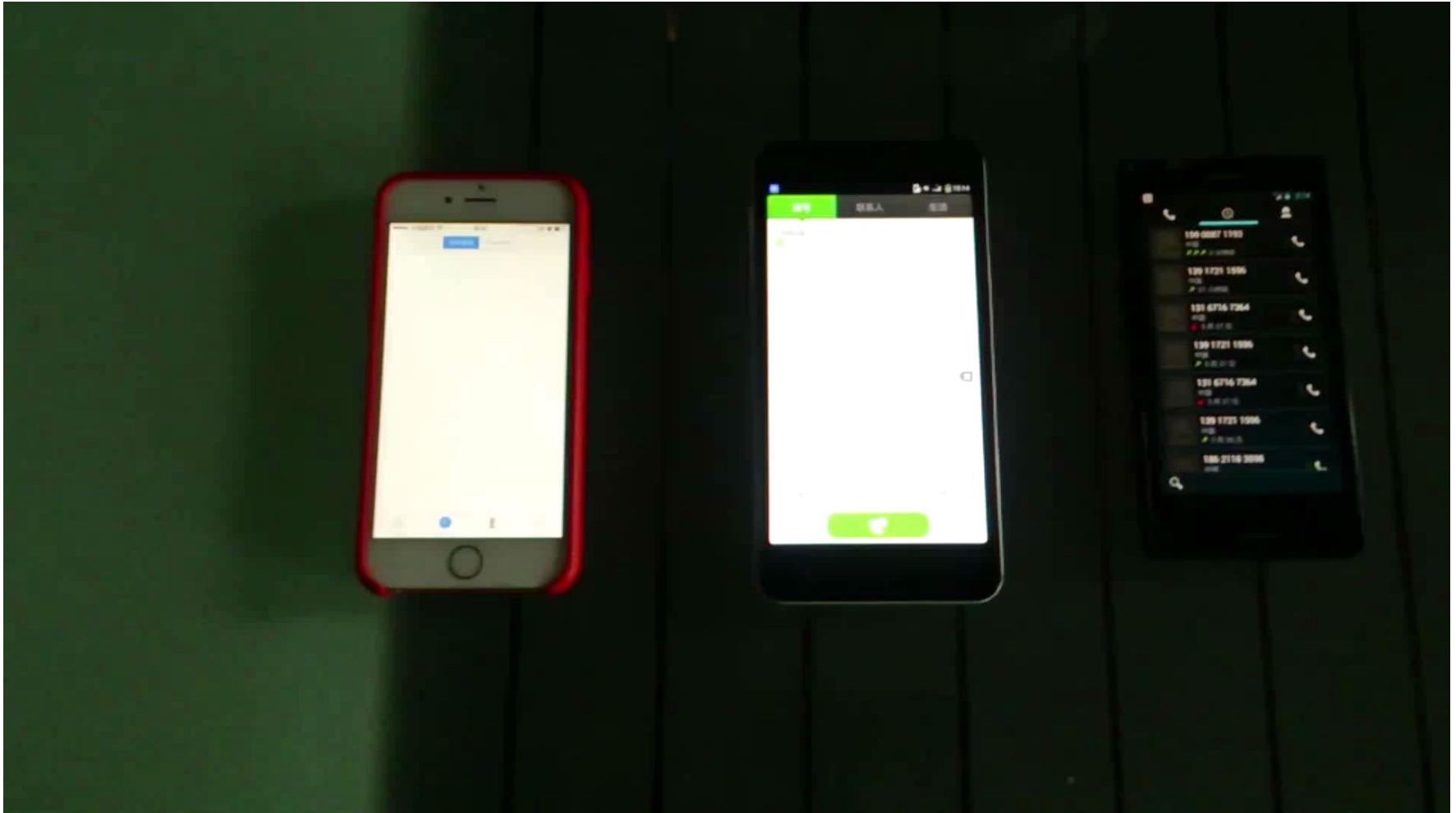
Target USIM	operator	manufacturer	technology	secrets
#1	C1-1	C1-I	3G UMTS	K, OPc
#2	C1-1	C2-II	3G UMTS	K, OPc
#3	C1-1	C1-III	3G UMTS	K, OPc
#4	C1-2	C3-I	3G UMTS	K, OPc, r1,c1,...,r5,c5
#5	C2-1	C2-I	3G UMTS	K, OPc, r1,c1,...,r5,c5
#6	C1-3	C1-IV	4G LTE	K, OPc, r1,c1,...,r5,c5
#7	C1-3	C1-II	4G LTE	K, OPc, r1,c1,...,r5,c5
#8	C2-2	C2-II	4G LTE	K, OPc, r1,c1,...,r5,c5

Time needed for recovering the secrets ranges from 10 to 80 minutes,
using 200 to 1000 power traces.

Note: the operators and manufacturers are anonymized.

Demo 1

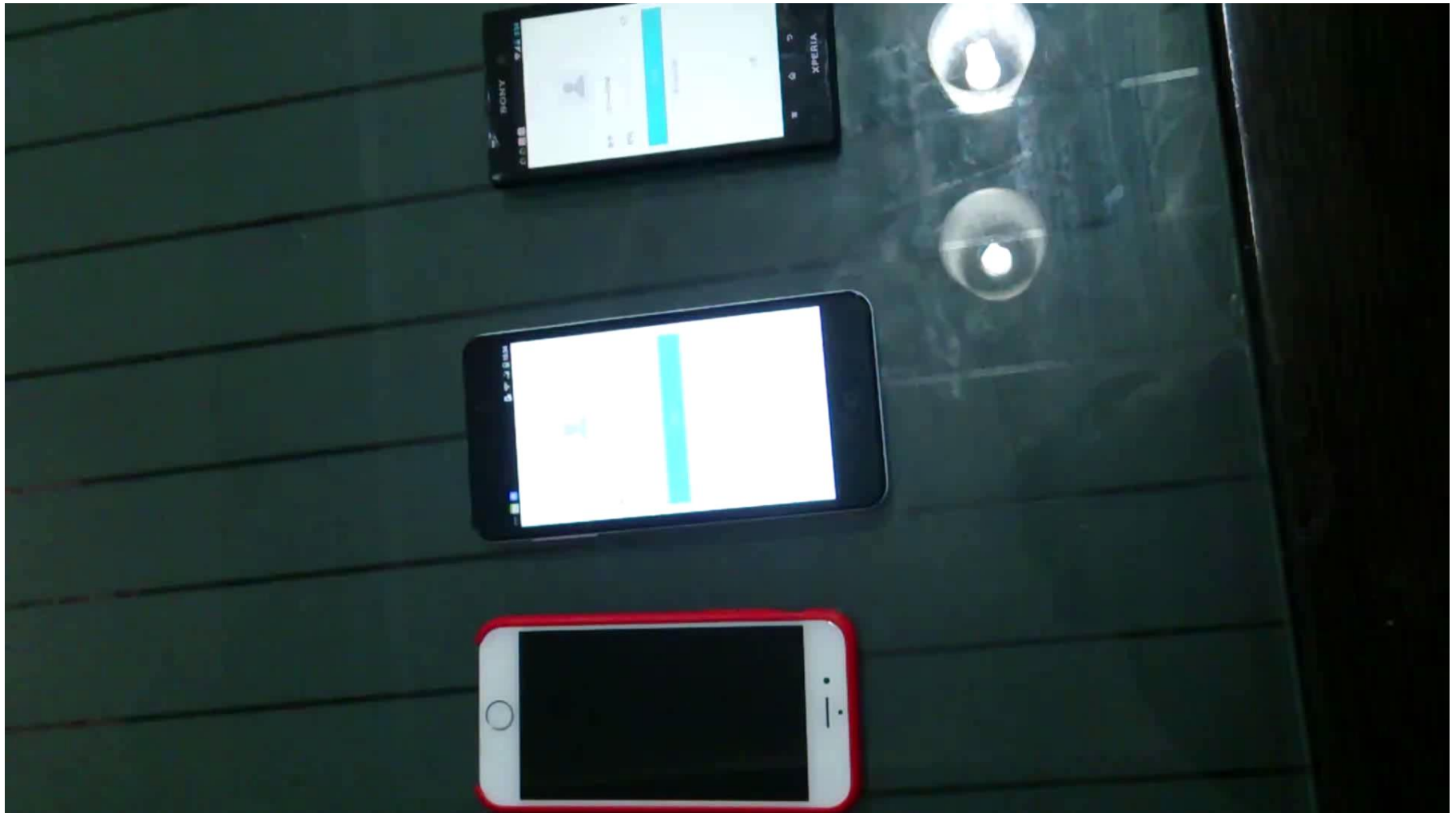
Making phone calls from a USIM and its duplicate to another phone.



Demo 2



Resetting the password of Alipay app from a clone USIM.



Lessons Learned

1. **Cryptography.** Adding tweaks (secrets) to a block cipher in addition to the encryption key does not necessarily add more security.
2. **The dilemma:**
 - Low cost devices \approx limited budget for CC/EMVCo/FIPS security evaluations.
 - Low-cost \times huge volume = great impact / loss
3. **Awareness of physical security** for small embedded devices.
Practical security requires **BOTH**:
 - A mathematically secure (and publicly reviewed) algorithm.
 - Sufficient countermeasures in place against physical attacks.

Thank you!

For more technical details, check out our ESORICS 2015 paper: *Small Tweaks do Not Help: Differential Power Analysis of MILENAGE Implementations in 3G/4G USIM Cards*