

Side-Channel Attacks

Cyber In Occitanie



Who am I?



Agenda



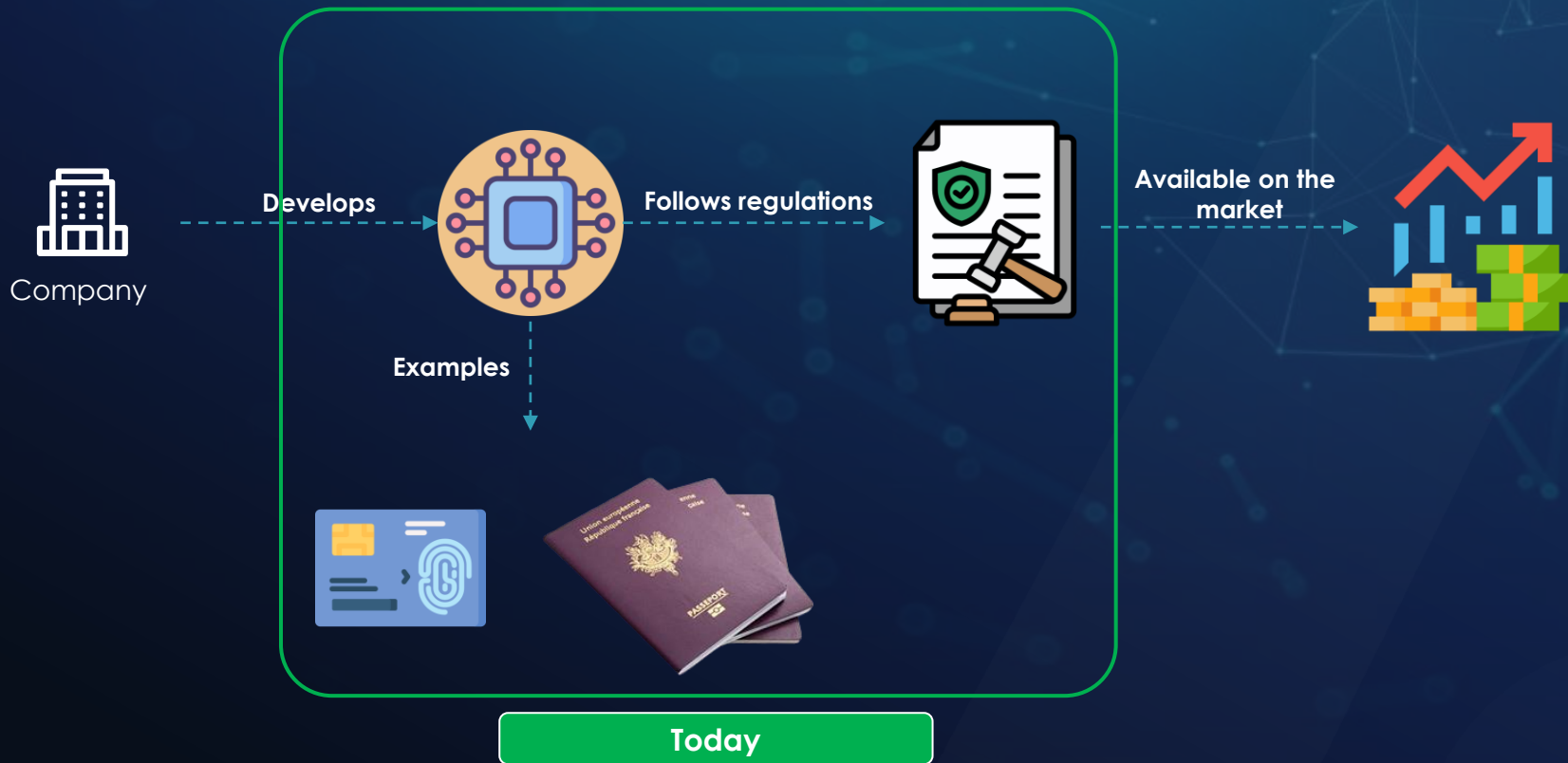


Context

Context



Context



Context

Common Criteria for Information Technology Security Evaluation (or CC*)

- International standard (ISO/IEC 15408) for computer security certification
- Framework which helps developer for defining
 - The Target of Evaluation (**TOE**)
 - The security assets to protect (e.g. secret keys)
 - The secure functions related to the TOE (e.g. secure communication, authentication process)
 - The level of security assurance (EAL, Evaluation Assurance Level)



➤ Different security levels

- **EAL 1:** This is the most basic level, focusing on functional testing to ensure the product performs as specified.
- **EAL 2:** This level involves more in-depth testing, including structural analysis of the product's components.
- **EAL 3:** It adds a methodical approach to testing and checking the product's security features.
- **EAL 4:** This level requires a more rigorous design process, along with thorough testing and review of the product's security.
- **EAL 5:** It introduces semi-formal methods for design and testing, increasing the level of assurance.
- **EAL 6:** This level builds upon EAL5 with more formal verification techniques.
- **EAL 7:** It is the highest level of assurance, requiring formal verification of the product's design and security features.

Functional testing and structural verifications

**+ security testing
(software attacks)
+ physical attacks**

+ formal verifications

Who is responsible for making the evaluation process?

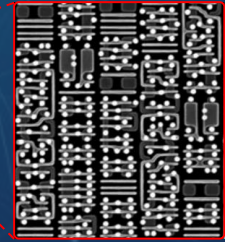
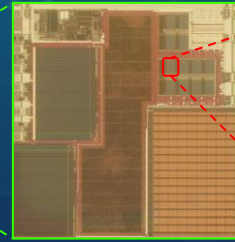
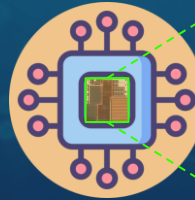
Evaluation process



Physical attacks

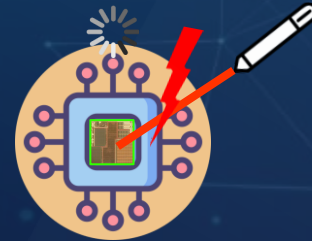
Physical attacks

Reverse engineering /
FIB probing routing



Invasive attacks

Temporarily / Permanently
perturbations
(fault attacks)



Semi-Invasive attacks

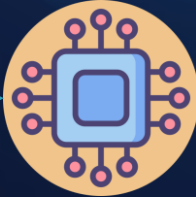
Side-channel attacks



Non-Invasive attacks



Evaluates



Today

Side-channel Attacks

Side-channel attacks

Surveillance and Exploitation of an INVOLUNTARY leak from the system

- Related to the communication protocol
- Related to the implementation
- Related to the underlying hardware and physics

Common channels (not exhaustive)

- Errors returned [SW]
- Computation time (duration, cache access time, etc.) [SW]
- Instantaneous current consumption (transistor switching) [HW]
 - 1 -> 1 or 0 -> 0 consumes less than 1 -> 0 or 0 -> 1
- Electromagnetic radiation [HW]
- Photon emissions, temperature, noise, etc. [HW]



Objective

- Allows attacks on cryptographic algorithms (RSA, ECC, AES, DES, HASH...) to retrieve secret information (key, message)
- Allows attacks on AI embedded systems to retrieve NN architecture, weight value.
- Also helps to understand how the code works (reverse engineering)

Side-channel attacks

Historical example: Hagelin cipher machine

> Context

- In 1956, Egyptian embassy used Hagelin cipher machine to protect communications.

> Weakness

- The Hagelin machine used 7 wheels (or rotors), which were part of its cryptographic mechanism.
- These wheels needed proper positioning to ensure the encryption and decryption were accurate.
- The Hagelin machine required periodic resetting or reinitialization of their settings, including the positions of the wheels.

> Strategy (MI5)

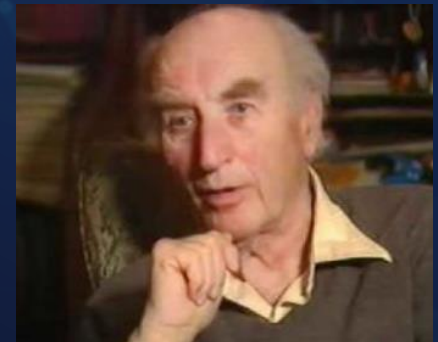
- Peter Wright (MI5, Scientific expert and counterintelligence officer) proposes installing a microphone in the encryption room.

> Acoustic channel

- Acoustic cryptanalysis is a known technique where sounds produced by mechanical operations can reveal information about the machine's state.
- The noise emitted during the initialization allowed MI5 to determine the position of the wheels during encryption process.

> Result

- MI5 was able to decrypt the secure communication of the Egyptian embassy.



Side-channel attacks

Short exercise: 3 switches, 3 light bulbs in another room

- > Only one visit is possible
- > Which switch turns on each light bulb?



Side-channel attacks

Short exercise: 3 switches, 3 light bulbs in another room

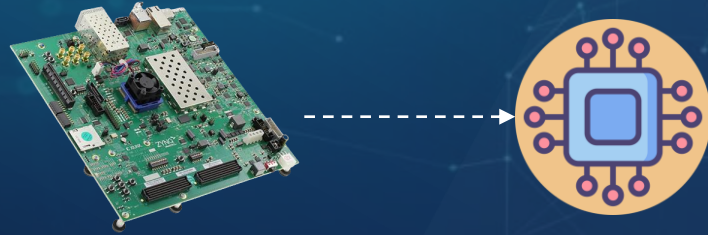
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Side-channel attacks

Scenario of this talk

- **Target of Evaluation:** Embedded system
- **Security function:** Password verification
- **Security asset:** Password
- **Attack:** side-channel attack



Password verification process

Algorithm 1: Password verification (naïve implementation)

Data: $\text{pwd} \in \{0..255\}^N$: password to verify

Result: Is pwd correct?

```
for  $i \leftarrow 0$  to  $N - 1$  do
  if  $\text{PWD}^*[i] \neq \text{pwd}[i]$  then
    return NO;
  end
end
return YES;
```

Side-channel attacks

Hypotheses

- > No limit on the number of attempts
- > PWD* is stored in memory
- > Is brute-force possible?

Password verification process

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Can we use side-channel attacks?

$N = 16$

pwd[0]	pwd[1]	pwd[2]	pwd[3]	...	pwd[13]	pwd[14]	pwd[15]
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= = ≠

PWD*[0]	PWD*[1]	PWD*[2]
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Side-channel attacks

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“Divide-and-conquer” strategy

- > pwd is validated byte per byte
- > Timing difference between the number of correctly verified bytes

In practice

- > Assuming $\text{PWD}^*[i] \neq \text{pwd}[i]$ operation takes ≈ 10 ms
- > Number of requests = $2^8 \times 16 = 2^{12}$ instead of $(2^8)^{16}$ (brute-force)

Side-channel attacks

Countermeasure?

- Developing an algorithm which is not time-dependent

Password verification process

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 if $\text{PWD}^*[i] \neq \text{pwd}[i]$ **then**
 return NO;
 end
end
return YES;



Algorithm 2: Password verification (constant time)

Data: $\text{pwd} \in \{0..255\}^N$: password to verify
Result: Is pwd correct?
 $\text{res} \leftarrow 0$;
for $i \leftarrow 0$ **to** $N - 1$ **do**
 $\text{res} \stackrel{\vee}{=} \text{PWD}^*[i] \oplus \text{pwd}[i]$;
end
return $\text{res} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$;

Side-channel attacks

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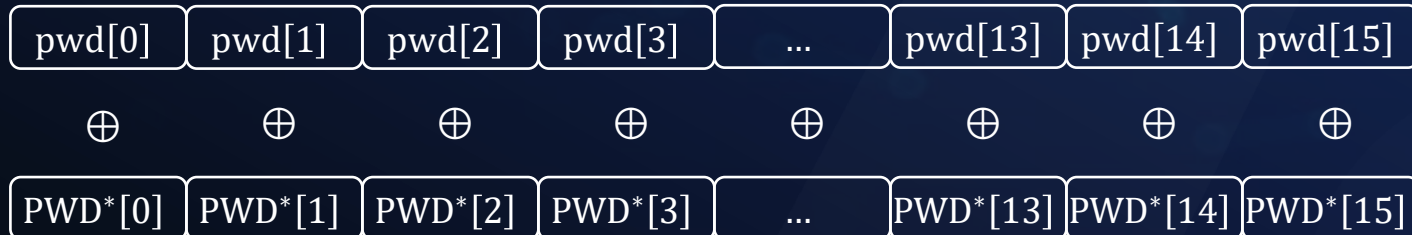
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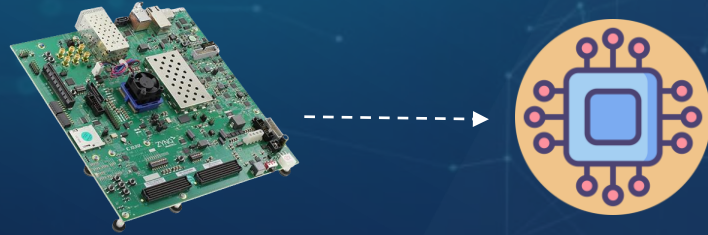
$N = 16$



Side-channel attacks

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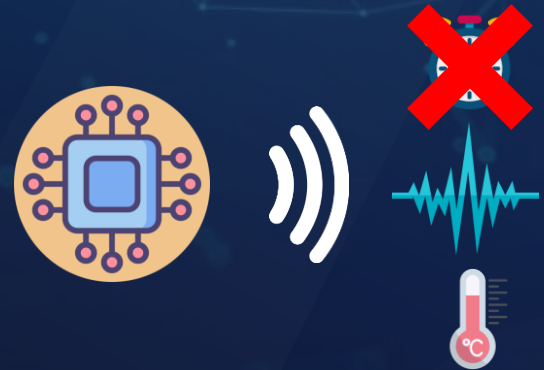
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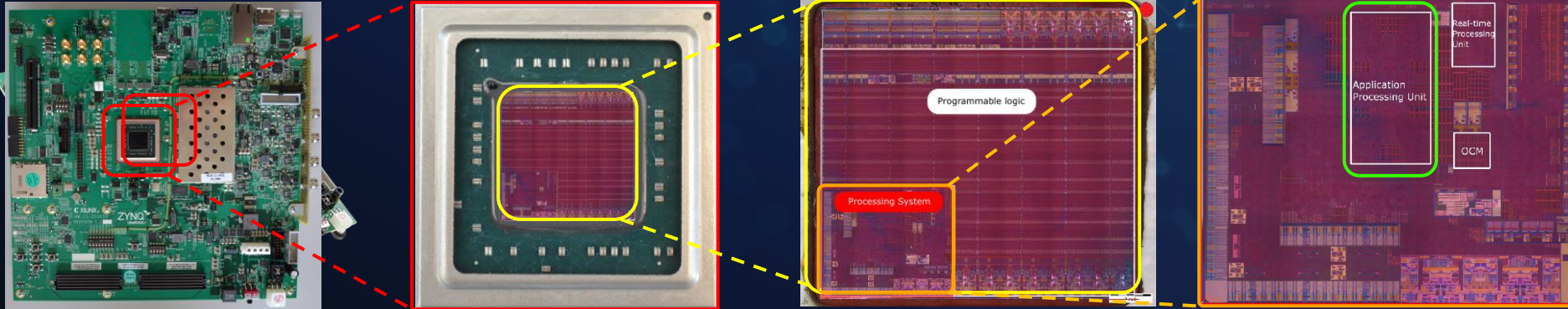
Side-channel attacks

Capture physical emanation

- **Source:** Electromagnetic signal
- **Equipment:** EM probe, oscilloscope, PC

Step 1

- Physical identification



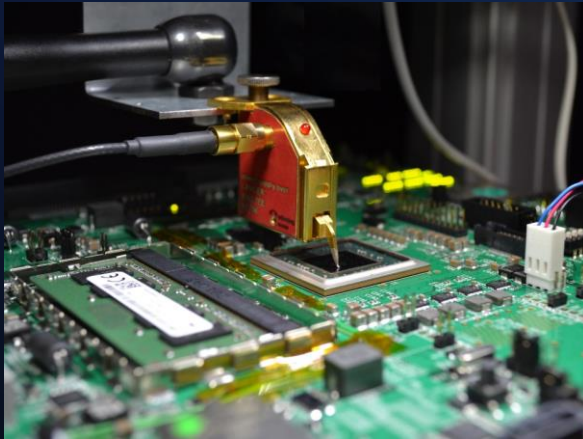
Side-channel attacks

Capture physical emanation

- **Source:** Electromagnetic signal
- **Equipment:** EM probe, oscilloscope, PC

Step 2

- Setup preparation



Side-channel attacks

Capture physical emanation

- > **Source:** Electromagnetic signal
- > **Equipment:** EM probe, oscilloscope, PC

Step 3

- > Signal acquisition

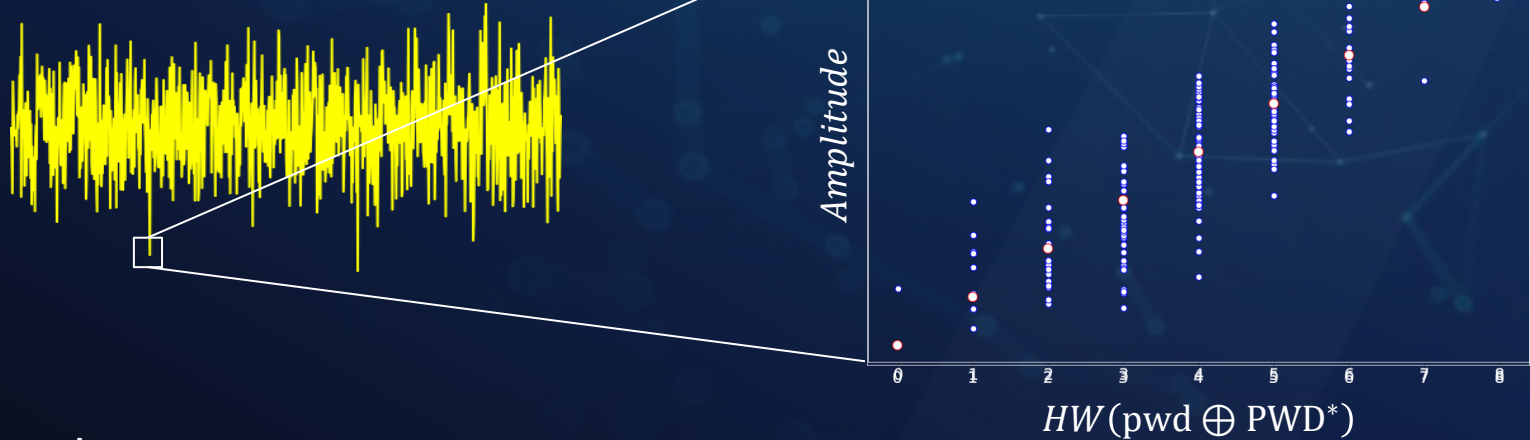


Side-channel attacks

Leakage model ψ

- A leakage model is a function $\psi: \mathbb{F}_2^n \rightarrow \mathbb{R}$ which characterizes a dependency between a pair (pwd, PWD*) and the electromagnetic signal L

$$L[i] = HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z[i]$$



Attacker's goal

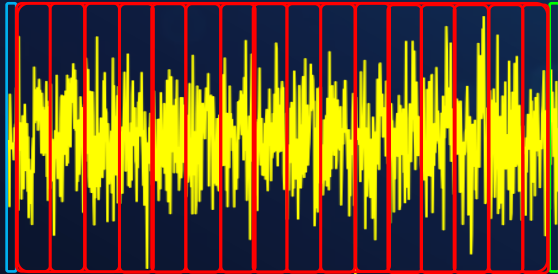
- Retrieving the dependency between pwd and PWD in a minimum amount of physical traces.

How can we identify such dependencies?

Side-channel attacks

Step 4: Signal analysis

- A signal characterizes the process conducted by the password verification



res ← 0 ;
for i ← 0 to N - 1 do
| res $\stackrel{?}{=}$ PWD*[i] \oplus pwd[i] ;
end
return res $\stackrel{?}{=}$ 0;

Algorithm 2: Password verification (constant time)

Data: $\text{pwd} \in \{0..255\}^N$: password to verify

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return res $\stackrel{?}{=}$ 0;

Next step?

- Which part of the signal is interesting for our study?
- Should we consider all the time samples?
- Do we need to restrict ourselves to a sub-portion of the signal?

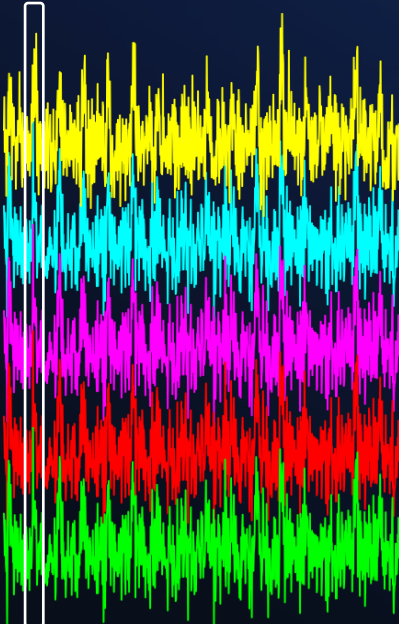
Side-channel attacks

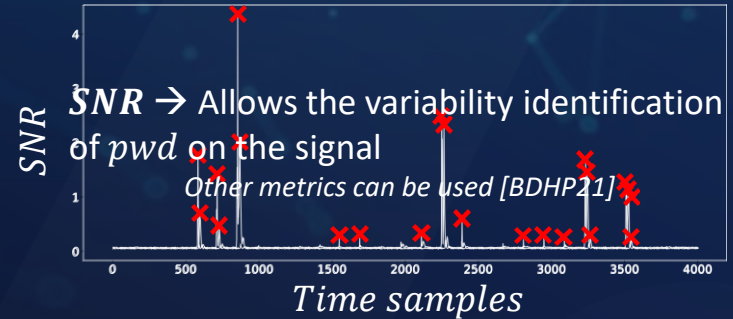
Issues

- Lots of points in a physical signal are not dependent on the sensitive data.
- How can you identify them?

Step 5: Points of interest detection

$$SNR[i] = \frac{\mathbb{V}_{\text{pwd}}[\mathbb{E}[L[i] | HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*)]]}{\mathbb{E}_{\text{pwd}}[\mathbb{V}[L[i] | HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*)]]} = \frac{\mathbb{V}_{\text{pwd}}[HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*)]}{\mathbb{V}[Z[i]]}$$


$$\begin{aligned} L &= HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z \\ L &= HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z \\ L &= HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z \sim \mathcal{N}_D(0, \Sigma_D) \\ L &= HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z \\ L &= HW(\text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^*) + Z \end{aligned}$$



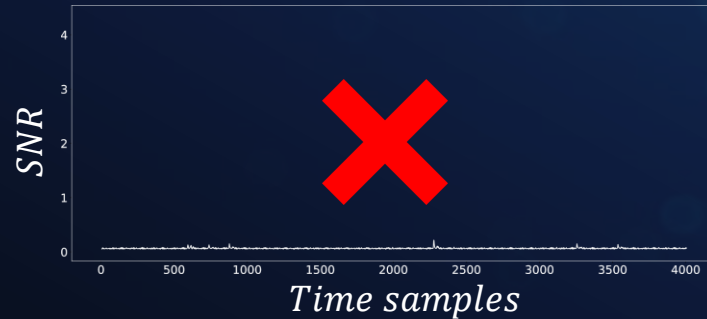
Side-channel attacks

Issues

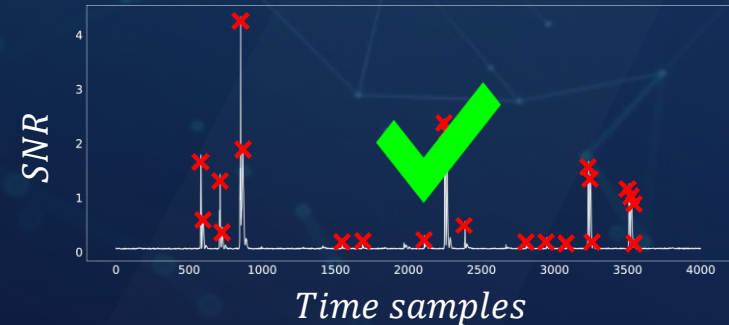
- Lots of points in a physical signal are not dependent on the sensitive data.
- How can you identify them?

Step 5: Points of interest detection

No dependency with pwd



Dependencies with pwd



Next step?

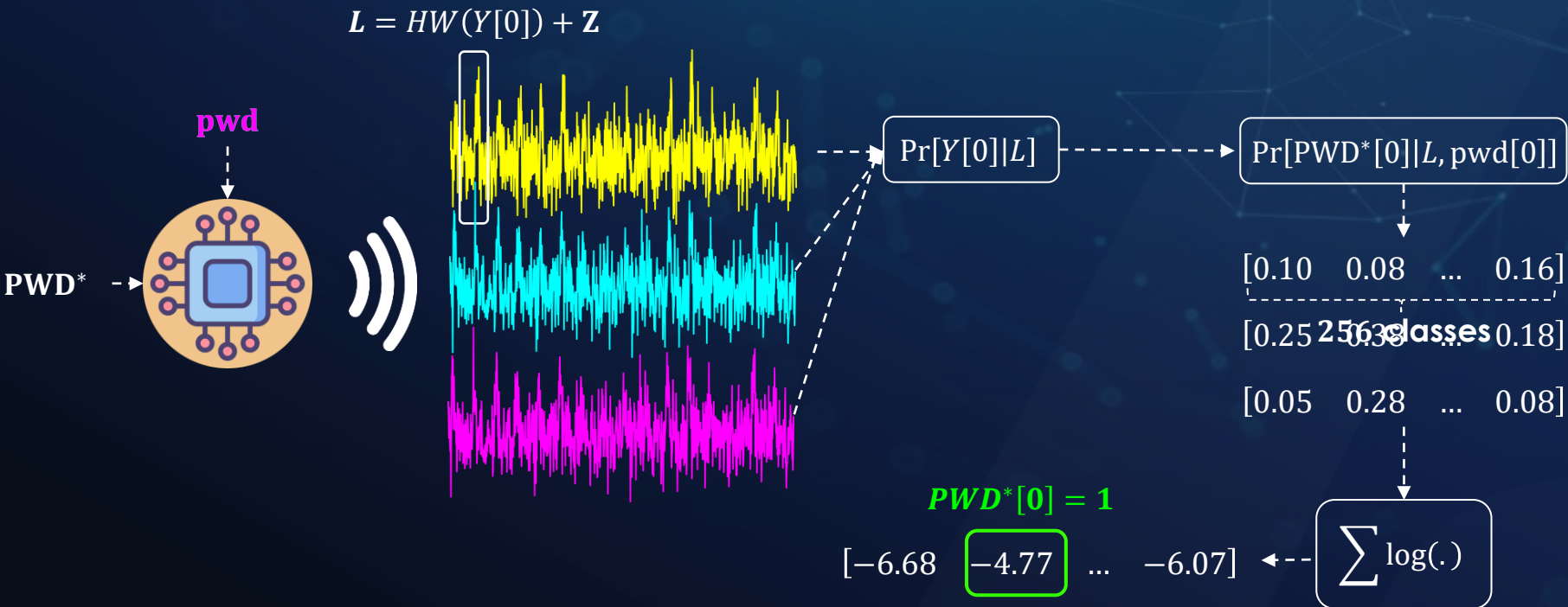
- How can we exploit these points of interest (POIs)?

Statistical distinguishers

Statistical distinguishers

Optimal attack: Maximum likelihood [HRG14]

- Goal: retrieving information on PWD^*
- Let denote $Y[i] = pwd[i] \oplus PWD^*[i]$

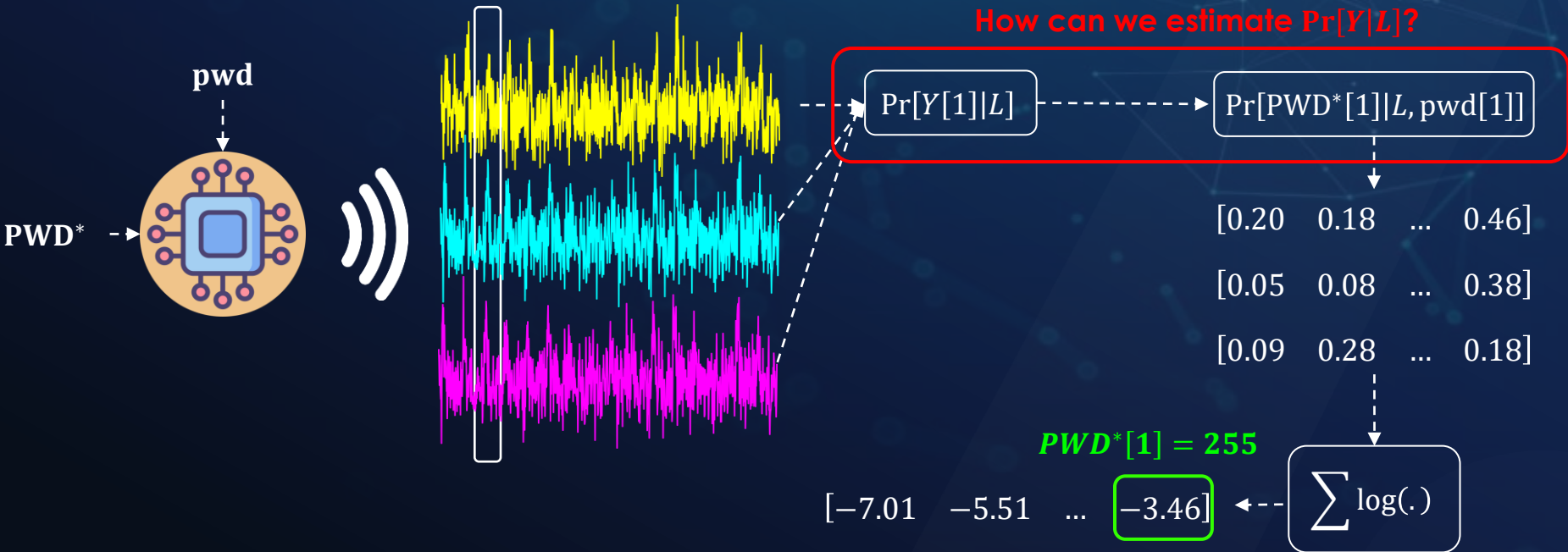


Statistical distinguishers

Optimal attack: Maximum likelihood [HRG14]

- Goal: retrieving information on PWD^*
- Let denotes $Y[i] = pwd[i] \oplus PWD^*[i]$

$$L = HW(Y[1]) + Z$$



- **Success Rate:** Probability to succeed an attack within N_a attack traces

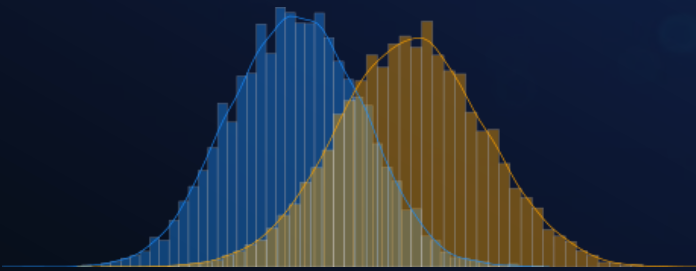
Statistical distinguishers

■ Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

- Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

Existing solutions

Generative model



Discriminative model



Statistical distinguishers

Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

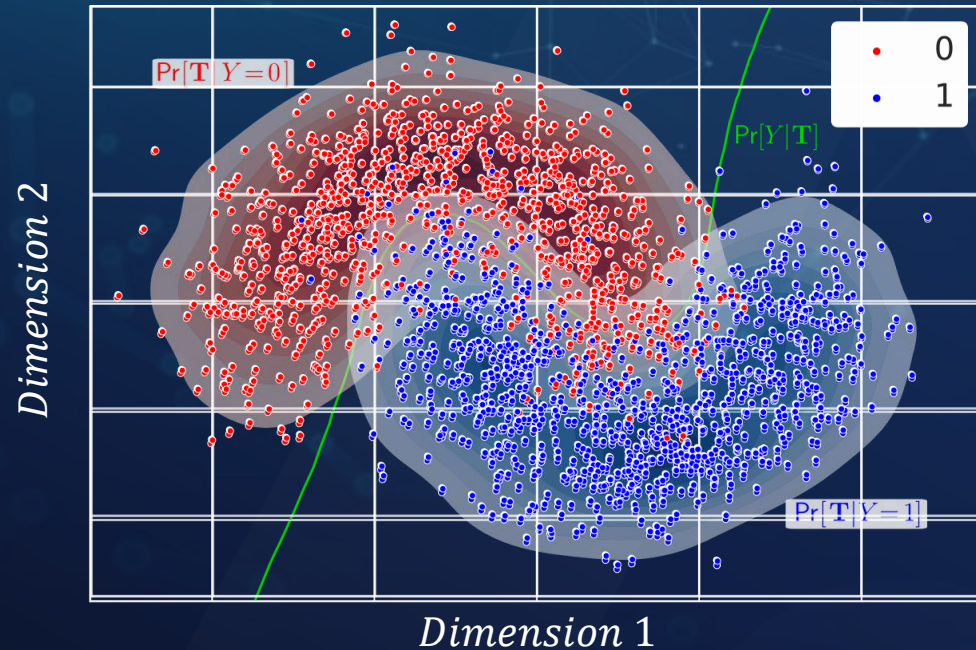
- Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

Generative approach

- Estimation of $\Pr[L|Y]$ to then deduce $\Pr[Y|L]$ (Bayes' theorem)
- Historical side-channel attacks [CRR03, SLP05]

Discriminative approach

- Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$ via the approximation of a decision boundary
- Approach using AI [MPP16, CDP17, MDP20]



[CRR03] Template attacks. Chari, S. et al. *CHES 2003*.

[SLP05] A stochastic model for differential side channel cryptanalysis. Schindler, W. et al. *CHES 2005*.

[MPP16] Breaking cryptographic implementations using deep learning techniques. Maghrebi, H. et al. *SPACE 2016*.

[CDP17] Convolutional neural networks with data augmentation against jitter-based countermeasures - profiling attacks without pre-processing. Cagli, E. et al. *CHES 2017*.

[MDP20] A comprehensive study of deep learning for side-channel analysis. Masure, L. et al. *TCHES 2020*.

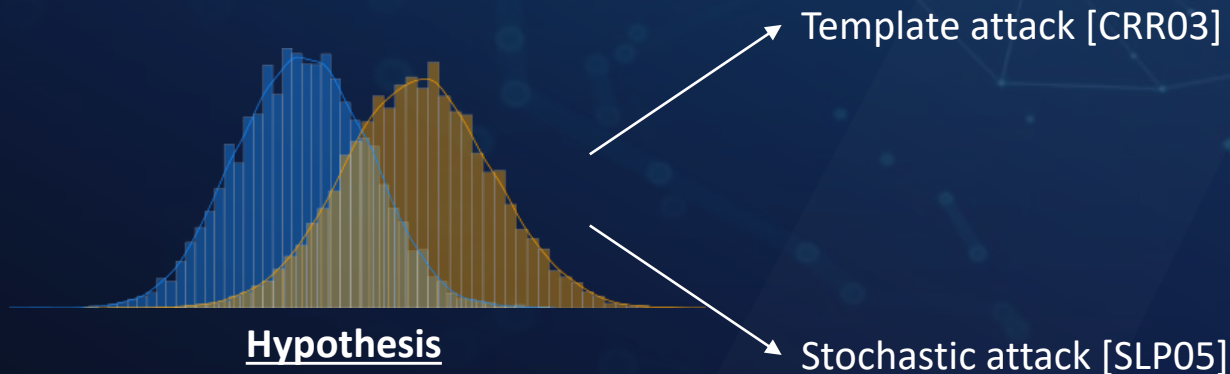
Statistical distinguishers

■ Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

- Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

■ Generative approach

- Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the generative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[L|Y]$



Statistical distinguishers

Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

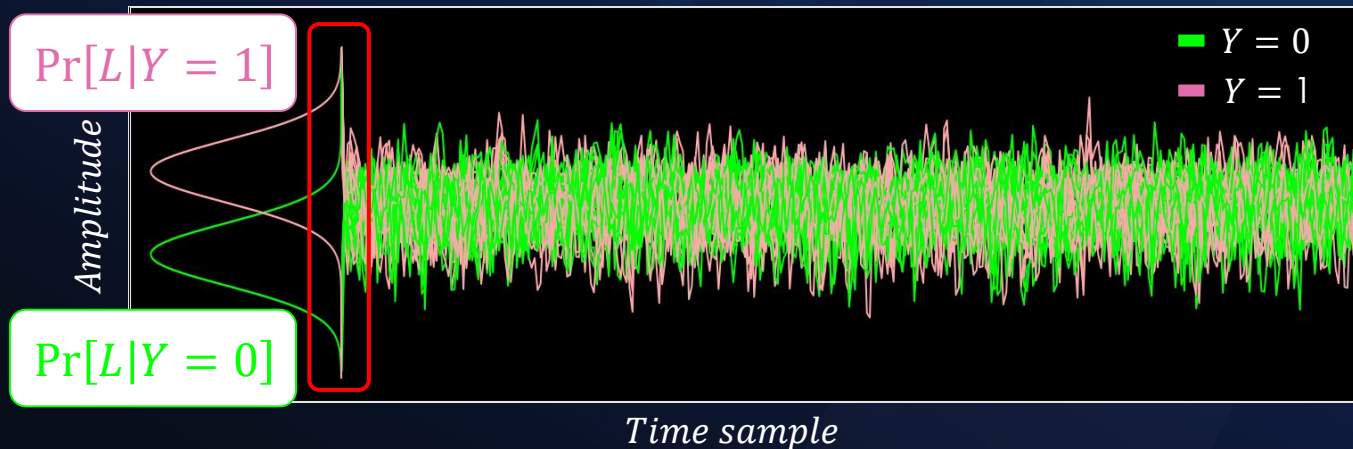
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Generative approach

- Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the generative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[L|Y]$

Toy example

- Goal: Approximating $\Pr[L|Y]$
- Hypothesis: $Y \in \{0,1\}$



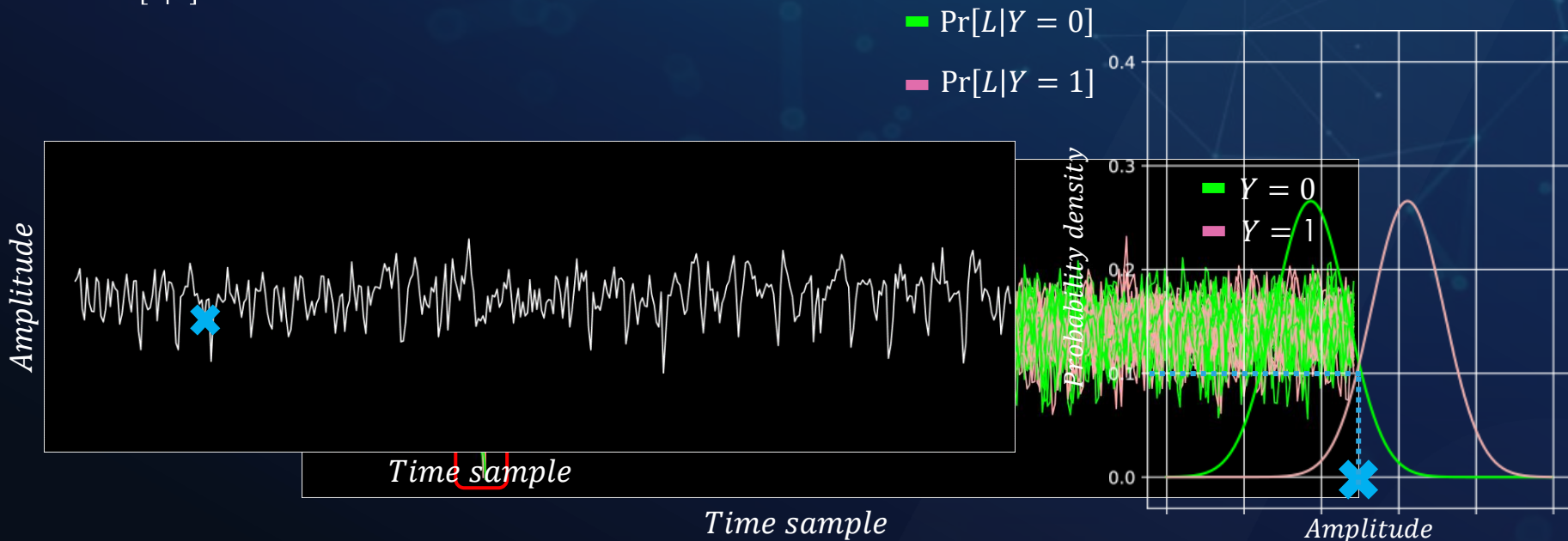
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Statistical distinguishers

Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

➤ Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

Generative approach

➤ Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the generative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[L|Y]$

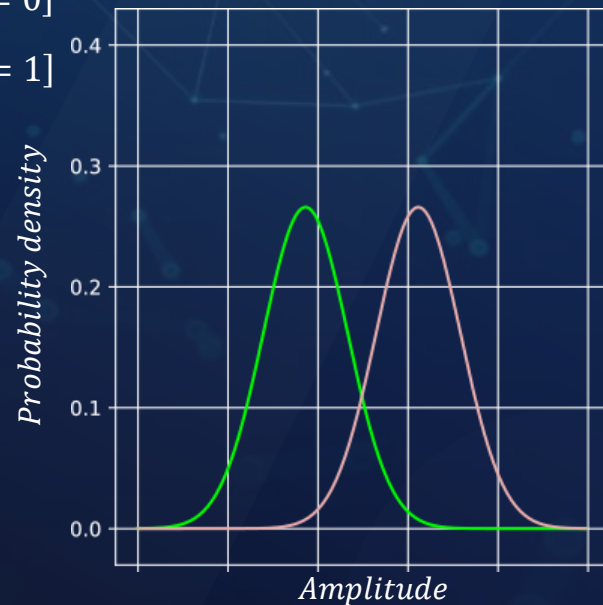
Steps

- 1) Acquire a set of N traces such that Y is unknown
- 2) For each trace l_i , we calculate $\Pr[l_i|Y = 0]$ and $\Pr[l_i|Y = 1]$
- 3) We compute the Maximum likelihood:

$$\hat{Y} = \underset{k \in \{0,1\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \log(\Pr[l_i|Y = k]) \right)$$

— $\Pr[L|Y = 0]$

— $\Pr[L|Y = 1]$



Statistical distinguishers

■ Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

- Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

■ Generative approach

- Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the generative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[L|Y]$

Benefits

- ✓ Information on the exploited POIs
- ✓ Confident in the modeling of $\Pr[L|Y]$
- ✓ Multiple POIs can be exploited simultaneously

Limitations

- ✗ Strong hypothesis on the leakage model (Gaussian hypothesis)
- ✗ The success of attack performances depends on the POIs selection

How can we automate the process?

Statistical distinguishers

Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

➤ Problem: $\Pr[Y|L]$ is unknown and device-dependent

Generative

Discriminative

$\Pr[L|Y]$

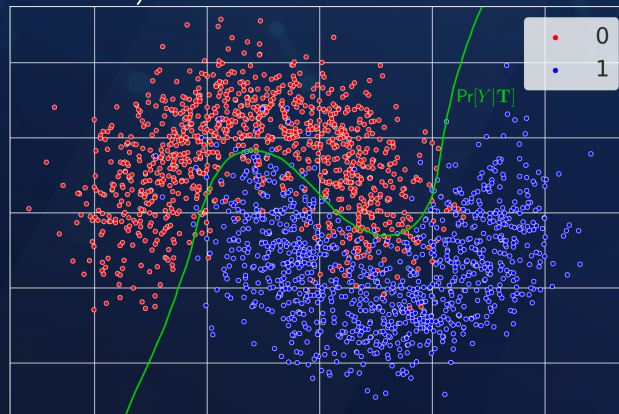
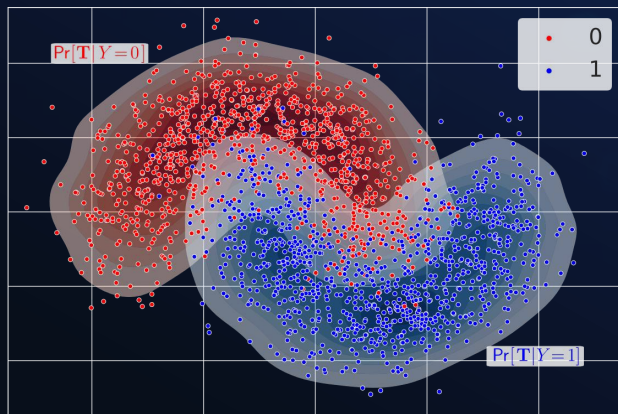
Bayes' theorem

$$\Pr[Y|L] = \frac{\Pr[Y] \Pr[L|Y]}{\Pr[L]}$$

Maximum likelihood

$$\hat{Y} = \underset{k \in \{0,1\}}{\operatorname{argmax}} \left(\sum_{i=0}^{N-1} \log(\Pr[l_i|Y = k]) \right)$$

Uniformly distributed



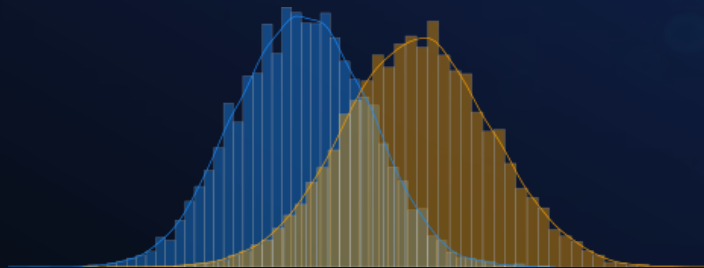
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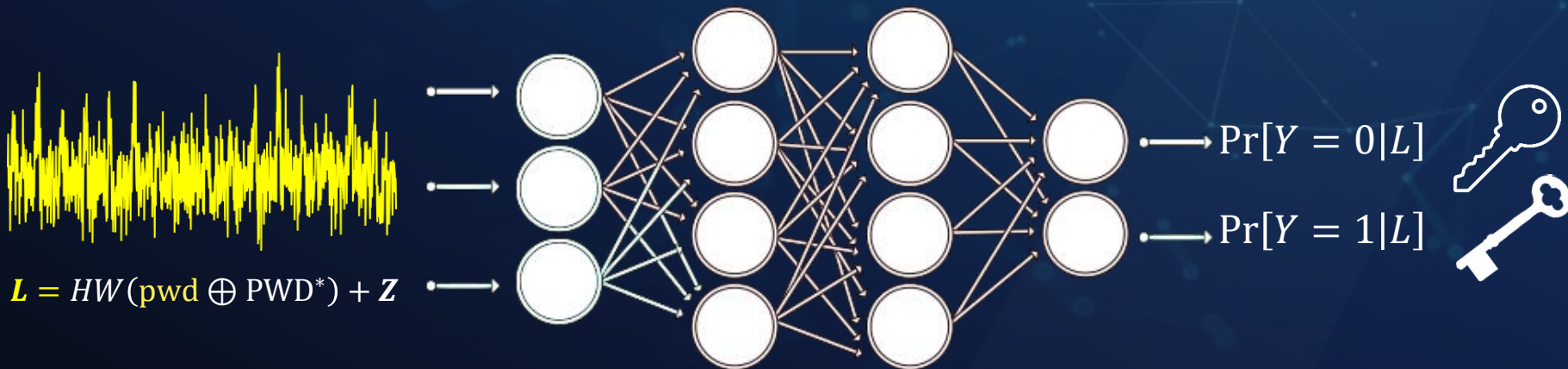
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Discriminative approach

- Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the discriminative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[Y|L]$



Training process

- Use of loss function to minimize with gradient descent (e.g. Negative Log-Likelihood)
- Not detailed in this talk (see [MDP20])

Statistical distinguishers

■ Estimation of $\Pr[Y|L]$

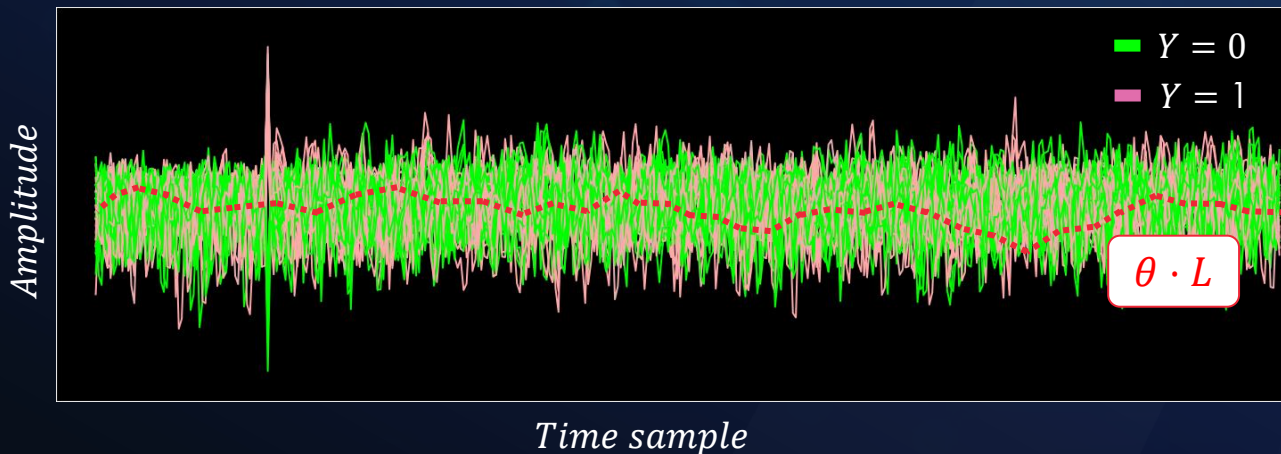
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■ Discriminative approach

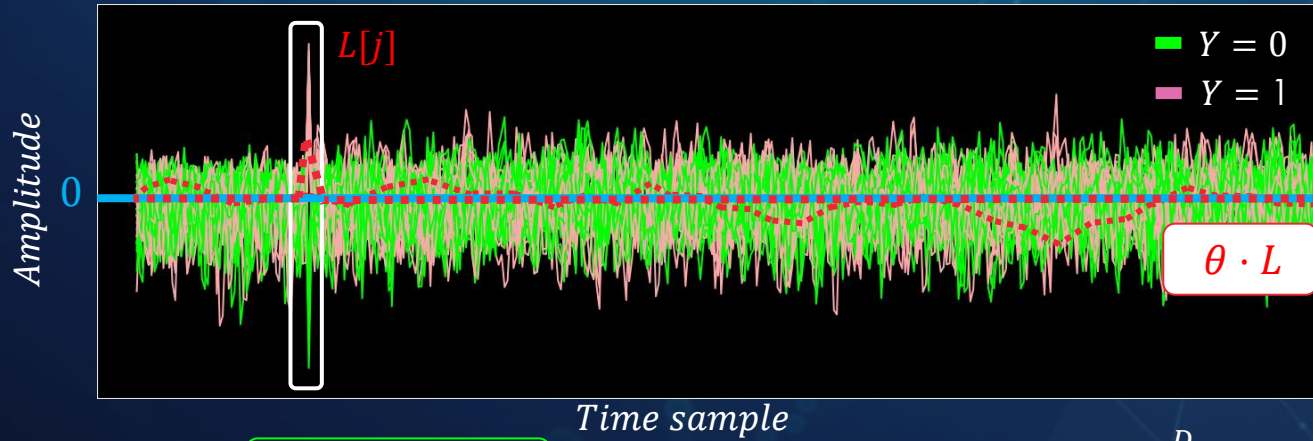
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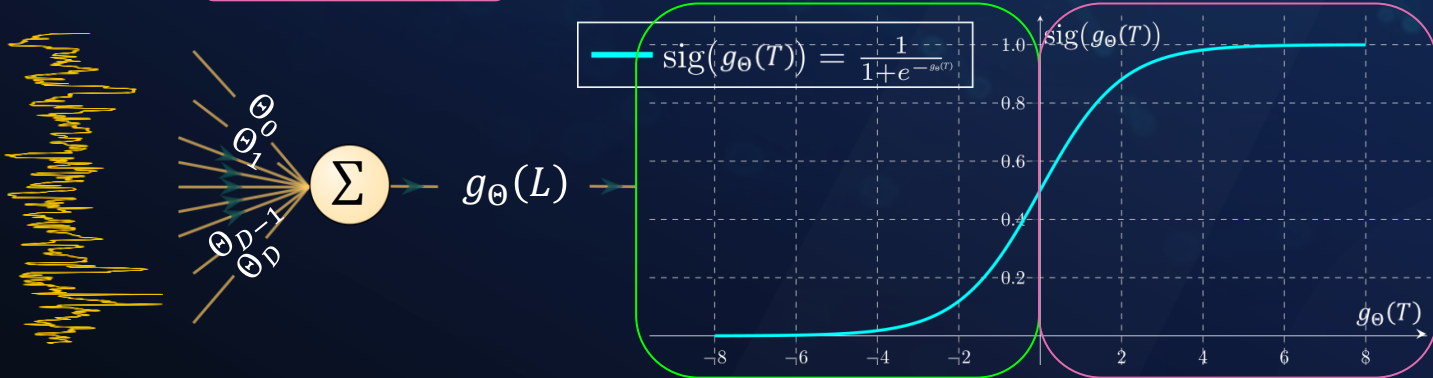
Statistical distinguishers



$$f_{\Theta}(L) = \begin{cases} 0 & \text{si } g_{\Theta}(L) < 0 \\ 1 & \text{si } g_{\Theta}(L) \geq 0 \end{cases}$$

such that

$$g_{\Theta}(L) = b + \sum_{i=0}^D \Theta[i] \cdot L[i]$$



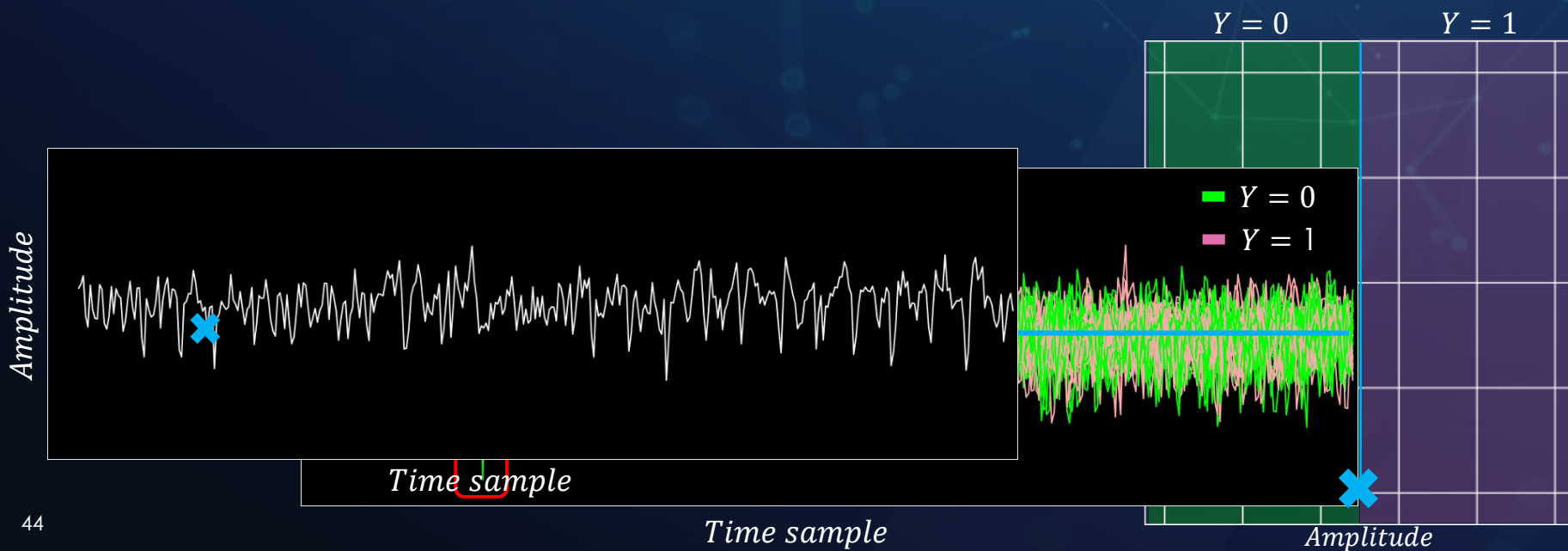
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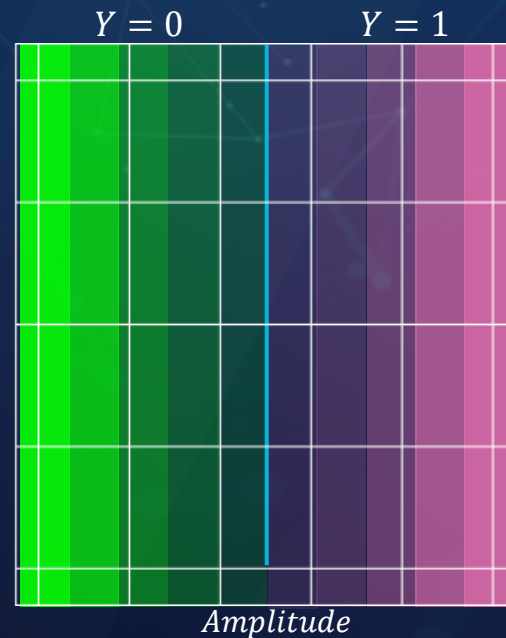
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Statistical distinguishers

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■ Discriminative approach

- Given a trace L to which it must associate a sensitive variable Y , the generative methods approximate the conditional probability $\Pr[L|Y]$

Benefits

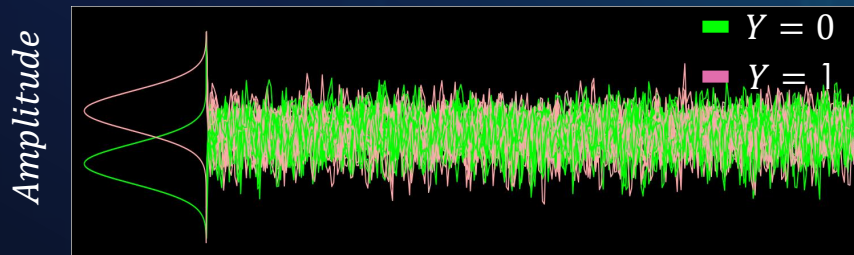
- ✓ No hypothesis on the leakage model
- ✓ All the tasks (e.g. POIs selection) are automatized
- ✓ Multiple POIs can be exploited simultaneously

Limitations

- ✗ Neural networks can be seen as black-box tools
- ✗ Construction of adequate statistical model

Statistical distinguishers

Generative



Time sample

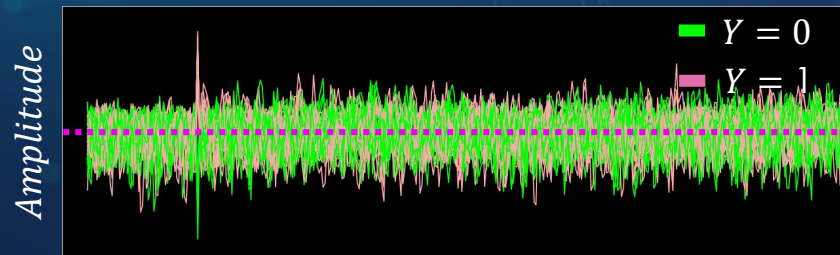
✗ Strong hypothesis on the leakage model (Gaussian hypothesis)

✗ The success of attack performances depends on the POIs selection

✓ Interpretability & Explainability

✓ Confident in the modeling of $\Pr[L|Y]$

Discriminative



Time sample

✓ Performance

✓ All the tasks (e.g. POIs selection) are automatized

✗ Neural networks can be seen as black-box tools

✗ Construction of adequate statistical model



Countermeasures

Countermeasures

Desynchronization

Algorithm 3: Password verification (constant time & shuffling). Function $\text{GenRandomPerm}(x)$ generates a random permutation table from $\{0, \dots, x-1\}$.

Data: $\text{pwd} \in \{0..255\}^N$: password to verify

Result: Is pwd correct?

$\text{res} \leftarrow 0$;

$\text{TabPerm} \leftarrow \text{GenRandomPerm}(N)$;

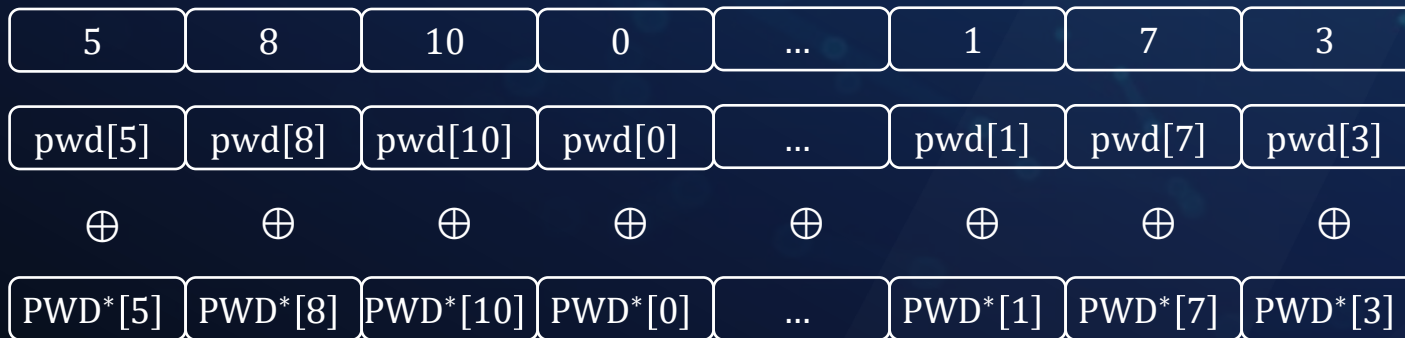
for $i \leftarrow 0$ **to** $N-1$ **do**

$\text{res} \stackrel{?}{=} \text{PWD}^*[\text{TabPerm}[i]] \oplus \text{pwd}[\text{TabPerm}[i]]$;

end

return $\text{res} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$;

$N = 16$



Countermeasures

Desynchronization

Algorithm 3: Password verification (constant time & shuffling). Function $\text{GenRandomPerm}(x)$ generates a random permutation table from $\{0, \dots, x-1\}$.

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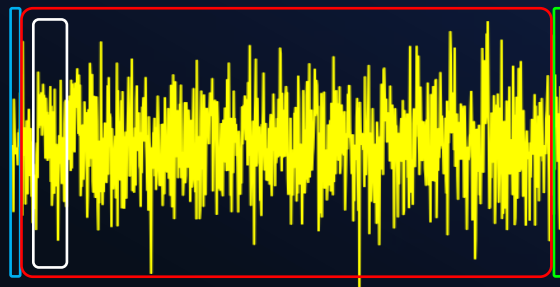
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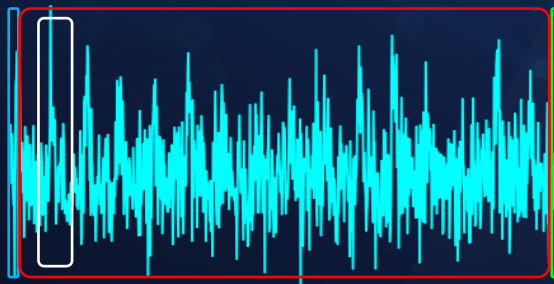
return $\text{res} \stackrel{?}{=} 0$;

Query 1



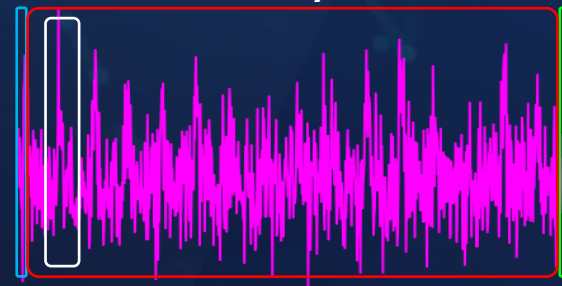
$$HW(\text{pwd}[5] \oplus \text{PWD}^*[5]) + \mathbf{Z}$$

Query 2



$$HW(\text{pwd}[2] \oplus \text{PWD}^*[2]) + \mathbf{Z}$$

Query 3



$$HW(\text{pwd}[14] \oplus \text{PWD}^*[14]) + \mathbf{Z}$$

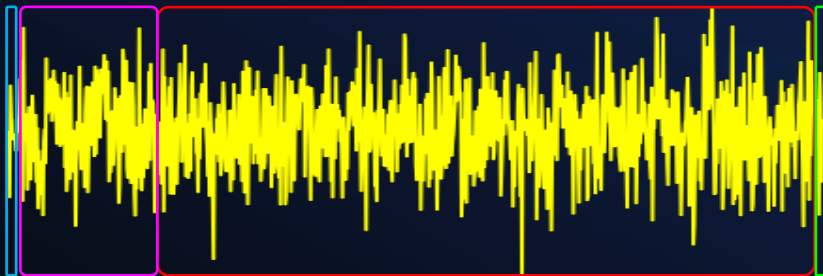
Countermeasures

Masking

- Decomposition of a sensitive variable y into (y_1, y_2, \dots, y_n) such that $y_1, y_2, \dots, y_{n-1} \leftarrow (\mathcal{U}(2^8))^n$ and $y_n \leftarrow y - (y_1 + y_2 + \dots + y_{n-1})$

Example

- m is a N -byte random vector such that $y_1 = m$ and $y_2 = y \oplus m = \text{pwd} \oplus \text{PWD}^* \oplus m$
- m is refresh for each query



Algorithm 4: Password verification (constant time & masking). Function $\mathcal{U}(x)$ generates a random number in $[0, x[$.

Data: $\text{pwd} \in \{0..255\}^N$: password to verify

Result: Is pwd correct?

```
res ← 0 ;
Mpwd ← 0 ;
for i ← 0 to N - 1 do
    m[i] ←  $\mathcal{U}(2^8)$  ;
end
for i ← 0 to N - 1 do
    Mpwd =  $\text{PWD}^*[i] \oplus m[i]$  ;
    Mpwd =  $\text{Mpwd}[i] \oplus \text{pwd}[i]$  ;
    res  $\stackrel{?}{=}$   $\text{Mpwd} \oplus m[i]$  ;
end
return res  $\stackrel{?}{=}$  0;
```

2 side-channel attacks are required

Estimation of $\Pr[y_1|L]$

Estimation of $\Pr[y_2|L, y_1]$

Personal recommendations

Machine-Learning

Online courses

- > Andrew NG's course (Coursera): Machine Learning by Stanford University | Coursera, Deep Learning by deeplearning.ai | Coursera

Books

- > Shai Shalev-Shwartz and Shai Ben-David. Understanding Machine Learning: From Theory to Algorithms.
- > Christopher M. Bishop and Hugh Bishop. Deep Learning: Foundations and Concepts.

Open source Libraries:

- > Tensorflow, PyTorch

International conferences

- > NeurIPS, ICML, ECML-PKDD, CVPR, ...

Side-channel attacks

Online courses

- > Amir Moradi's course:
https://www.youtube.com/@AmirMoradi_impsec/playlists

Books

- > [Embedded Cryptography 1 | Wiley](#)
- > [Embedded Cryptography 2 | Wiley](#)
- > [Embedded Cryptography 3 | Wiley](#)

Public datasets:

- > ASCAD, AES_HD, AES_RD, DPA contest, ...

Open source Libraries:

- > **For side-channel attacks:** SCALib – the Side-Channel Analysis Library: <https://scalib.readthedocs.io/>
- > **For deep learning:** AISyLab's framework - GitHub - AISY_Framework: Deep Learning-based Framework for Side-Channel Analysis

International conferences

- > CHES, Cascade, Crypto, Eurocrypt, Asiacrypt, ...

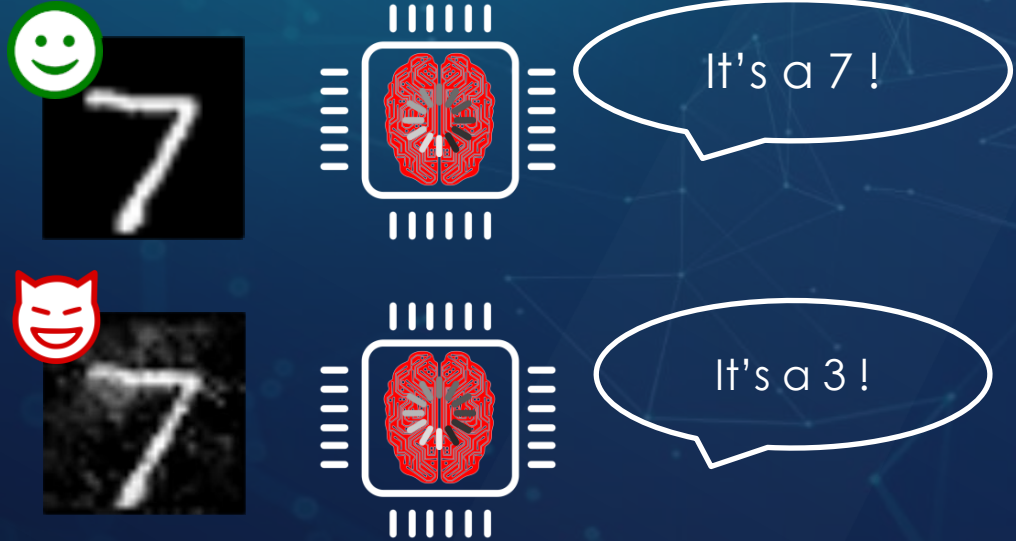
Demonstration

Physical Attacks against Neural Networks

Benefits from an adversary's viewpoint



Evasion attack



Adversarial examples, KESAKO ?

- ❑ Could be difficult to consider in practice
 - ❑ **White-box scenario**: knowledge of the IA architecture, weights, activation functions, etc...
 - ❑ **Black-box scenario**: partial knowledge on the AI system (e.g., logits)

Practical issue: How can we generate adversarial examples without any knowledge on the device?

Evasion attack

Practical issue: How can we generate adversarial examples without any knowledge on the device?

Our idea :

- 1) Extraction of the logits through the use of **side-channel attacks**
- 2) Use the state-of-the-art adversarial attacks (e.g. ZOO*)



* "ZOO: Zeroth Order Optimization Based Black-box Attacks to Deep Neural Networks without Training Substitute Models", Chen *et al.*, AISec '17

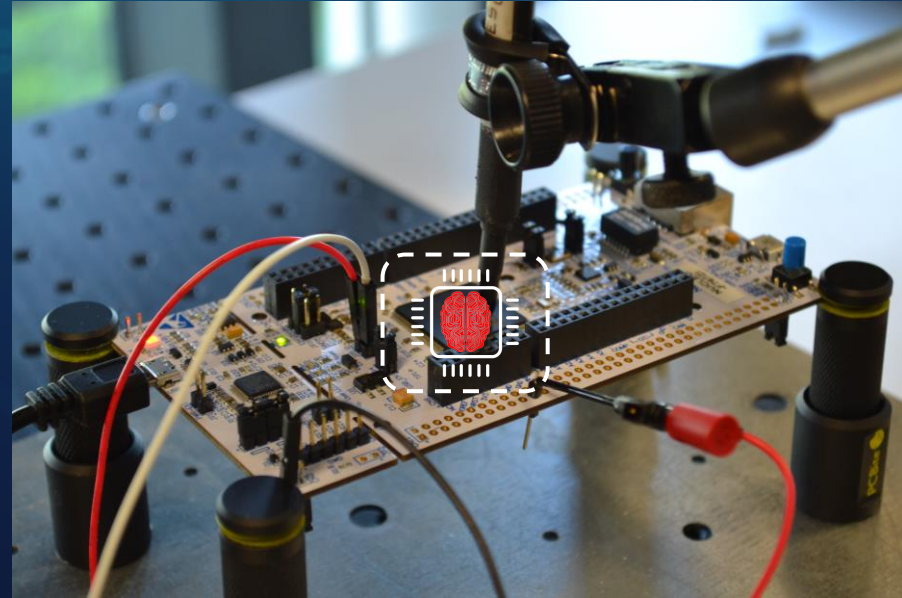
Evasion attack

Device: ARM Cortex-M7 MCU on a STM32F767 board (216 MHz)

Embedded AI: a 8-bit quantized denseNET (weights, activations, inputs) with NNOM* tool

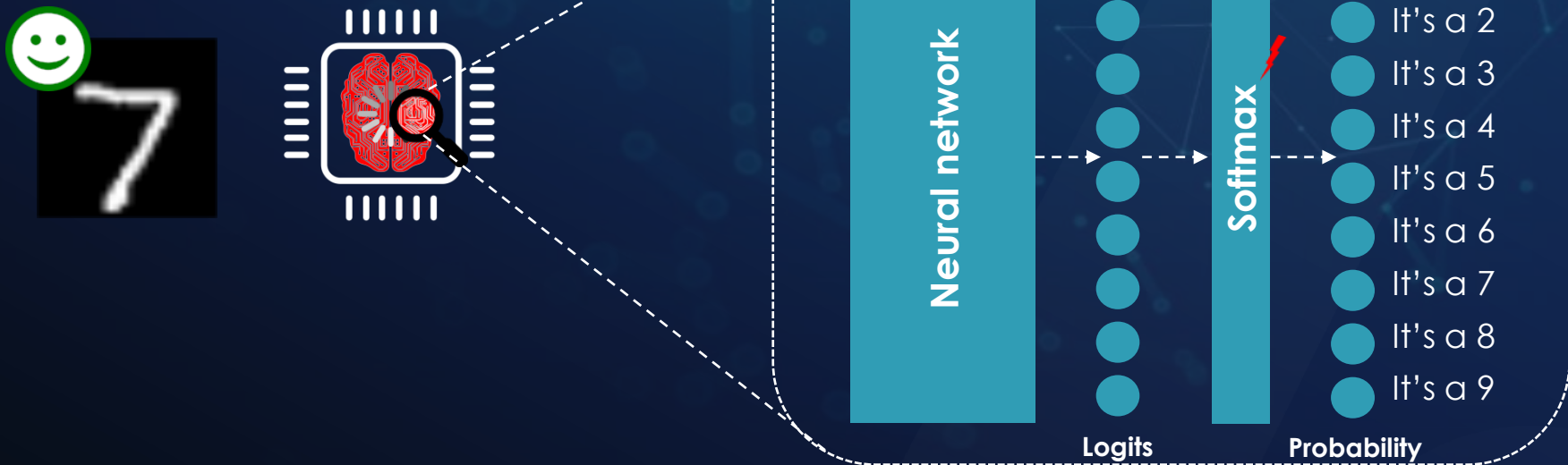
Classification problem: 10 classes (MNIST)

Channel: Electromagnetic signal (EMV-Technik RF-U 2,5 probe)



* GitHub - majianjia/nnom: A higher-level Neural Network library for microcontrollers.

Evasion attack

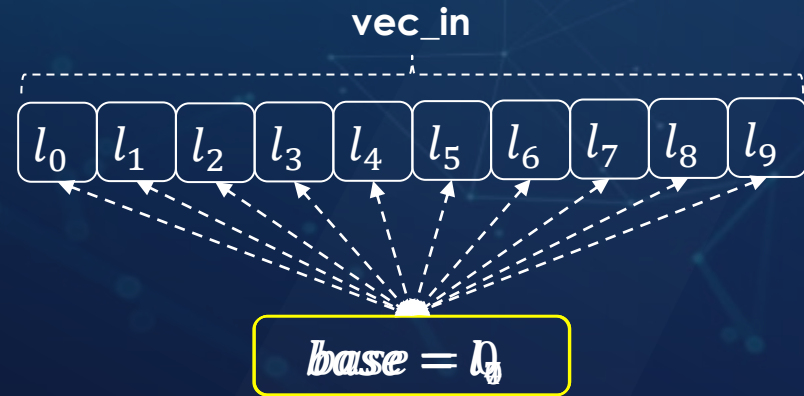


Evasion attack

Targeted function: Softmax function

C code related to the softmax function

```
1  /* Base is initialized to (int16_t)-257 */
2  /* We first search for the maximum */
3  for (i = 0; i < dim_vec; i++)
4  {
5      if (vec_in[i] > base)
6      {
7          base = vec_in[i];
8      }
9  }
```



Evasion attack

Targeted function: Softmax function

C code related to the softmax function

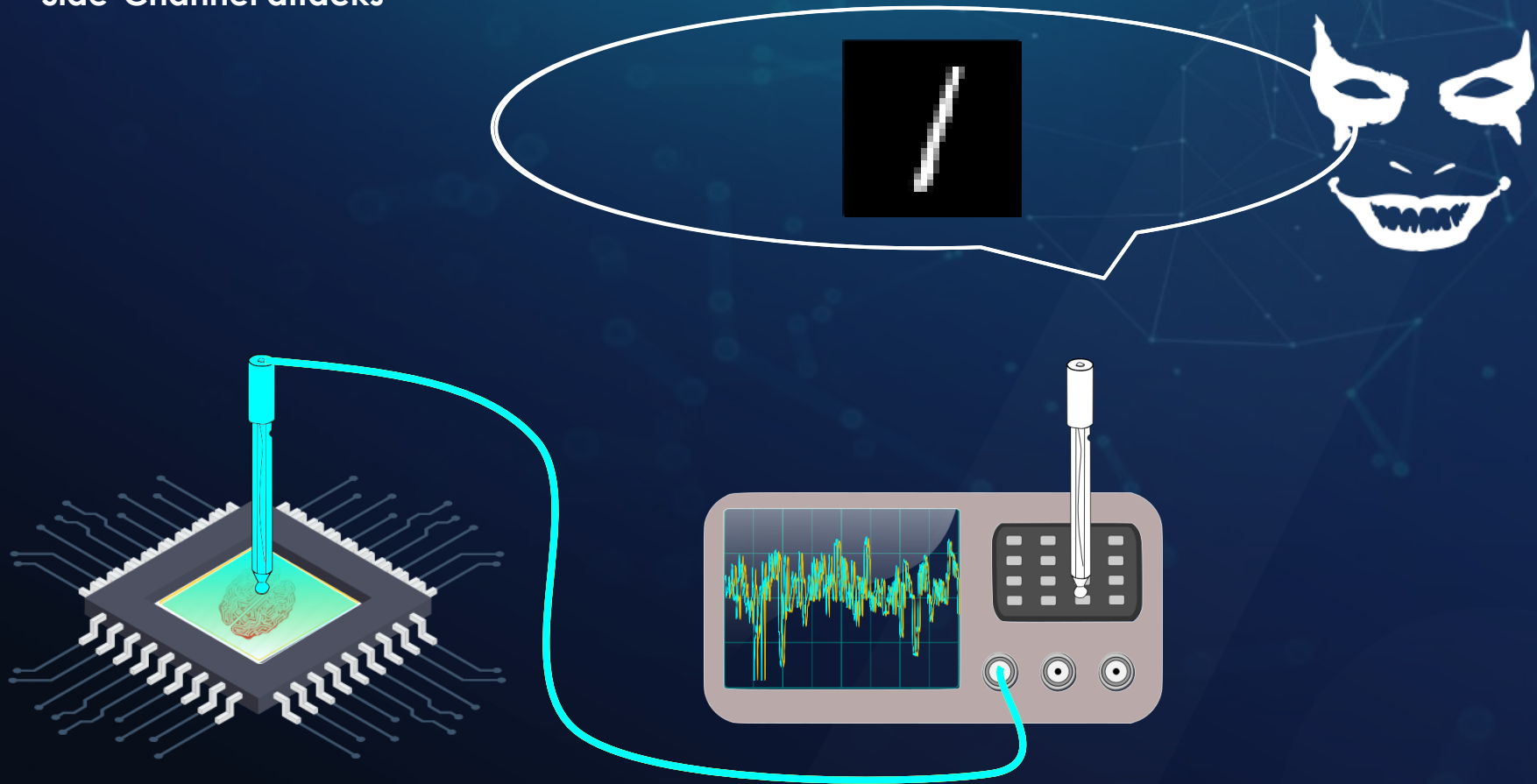
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4  {
5      if (vec_in[i] > base)
6      {
7          base = vec_in[i];
8      }
9  }
```

Assembly code

```
1 ; if (vec_in[i] > base)
2 ldr r3, [r7, #32] ; Loading the address of the
   index "i"
3 ldr r2, [r7, #12] ; Loading the address of z
4 add r3, r2        ; Set the pointer to the i-th
   element of confidence score z
5 ldrsb.w r3, [r3]  ; Loading of the i-th element
   of z
6 sxtb r3, r3       ; Extension the i-th element of
   z to a 32-bit
7 ldrsh.w r2, [r7, #30] ; Base value loading
8 cmp r2, r3        ; Comparison between base and
   the i-th element of z
```


Evasion attack

Side-Channel attacks



Evasion attack

Experimental results

- Profiled attack
- Black-box scenario (the attacker has no knowledge on the targeted AI)



We successfully extract all the logits within 5 traces

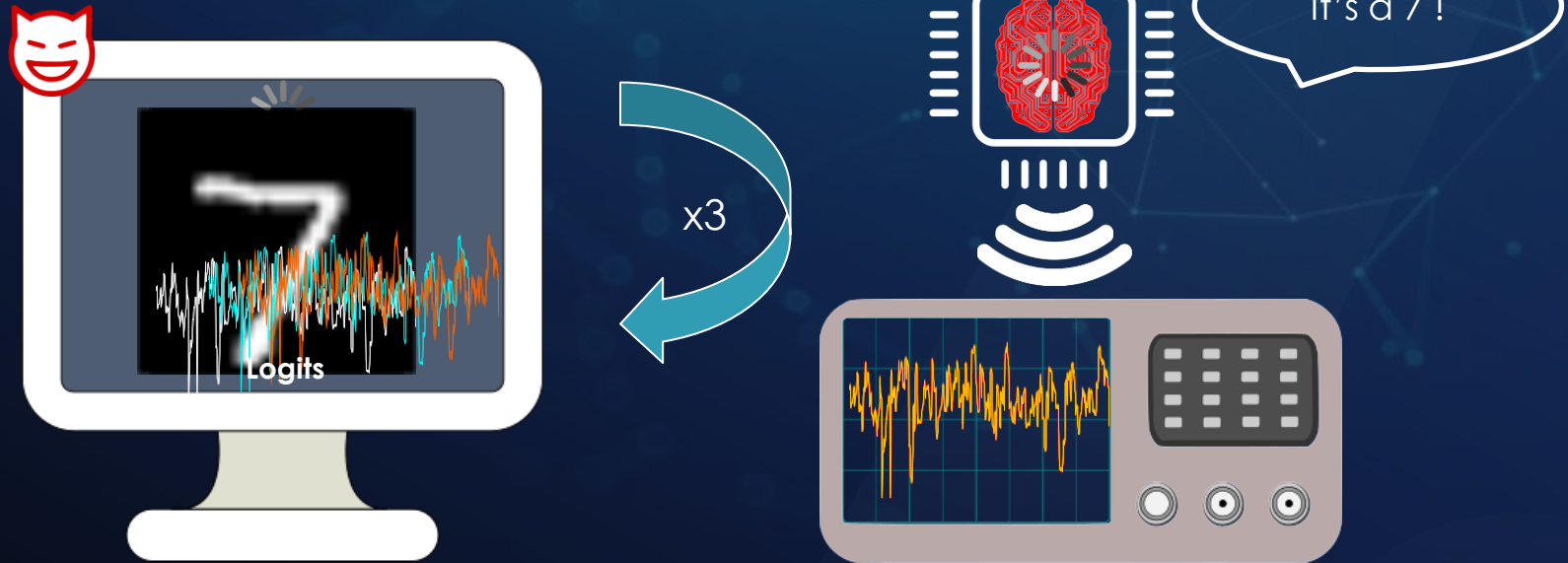
Logits

Evasion attack

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Evasion attack

Generate an adversarial example

- Application of the *Zeroth Order Optimization** (ZOO) method

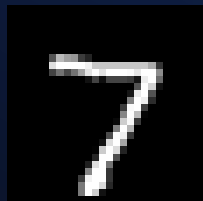
Recap (ZOO)

Let $X \in \mathbb{R}^n$ be an image and a wrong targeted class that an attacker wants to predict $y^* \in \mathcal{Y}$, she looks for an adversarial example $X^* \in \mathbb{R}^n$ such that the following relation is satisfied:

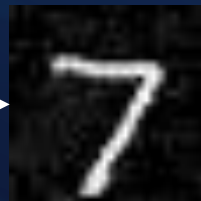
$$\|X^* - X\|_2^2 + c \times g_{obj}(X^*, y^*)$$

with $g_{obj}(X^*, y^*) = \max\left(\max_{y \neq y^*}(\log(F(X^*))) [i] - \log(F(X^*)) [y^*], 0\right)$

Original image



$y^* = 7$



Adversarial example

$y^* = 3$

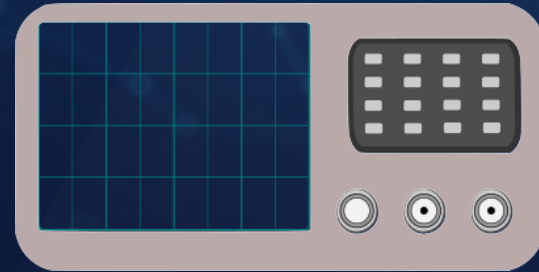
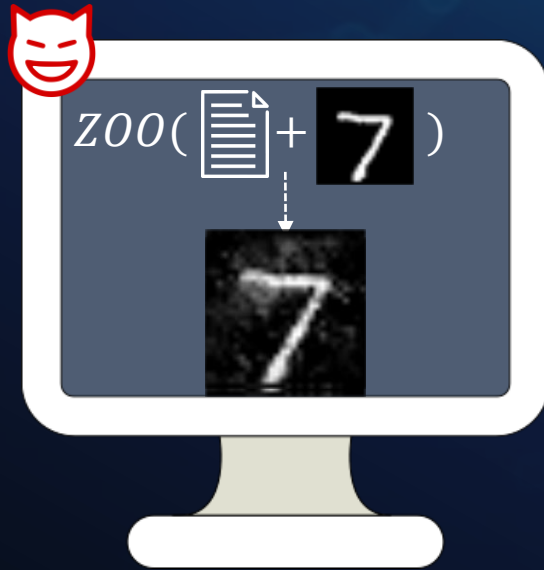
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Evasion attack

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Thank you

Contact: gabriel.zaid@thalesgroup.com