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Confusing Information: How Confusion Improves Side-Channel Analysis for Monobit Leakages

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Motivation

- What is the exact link between side-channel distinguishers and the confusion coefficient for monobit leakages?



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- What is the exact link between side-channel distinguishers and the confusion coefficient for monobit leakages?
- Re-derive it for DoM, CPA, KSA and derive it for MIA;
- Is any sound distinguisher a function of the confusion coefficient (and noise)?

Leakage Model

Definition (Leakage Sample)

Observable leakage X can be written as:

$$X = Y(k^*) + N$$

where

$$Y(k) = f(k, T)$$

is the sensitive variable.

Notations:

- T : a random plain or ciphertext;
- k^* : the secret key;
- N : some additive noise;
- f : a deterministic function.

Assumptions

W.l.o.g. assume

- $Y(k) = \pm 1$ equiprobable:
 - zero mean $\mathbb{E}[Y(k)] = 0$ and unit variance $\mathbb{E}[Y(k)^2] = 1$
 - $\mathbb{P}(Y(k) = -1) = \mathbb{P}(Y(k) = +1) = 1/2$
- Gaussian noise $N \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$.

Definition (Distinguisher)

Practical distinguisher: $\hat{\mathcal{D}}(k)$,

Theoretical distinguisher: $\mathcal{D}(k)$.

$$\hat{k} = \arg \max \hat{\mathcal{D}}(k).$$

The estimated key maximizes $\mathcal{D}(k)$.

If sound, $\arg \max \hat{\mathcal{D}}(k) = k^*$.

Fei et al.'s “Confusion Coefficient”

After [Fei et al., 2012].

Definition (Confusion Coefficient)

$$\kappa(k, k^*) = \kappa(k) = \mathbb{P}(Y(k) \neq Y(k^*))$$

valid only for monobit leakages (DoM).

Confusion and Security

From [Heuser et al., 2014].

Theorem (Differential Uniformity)

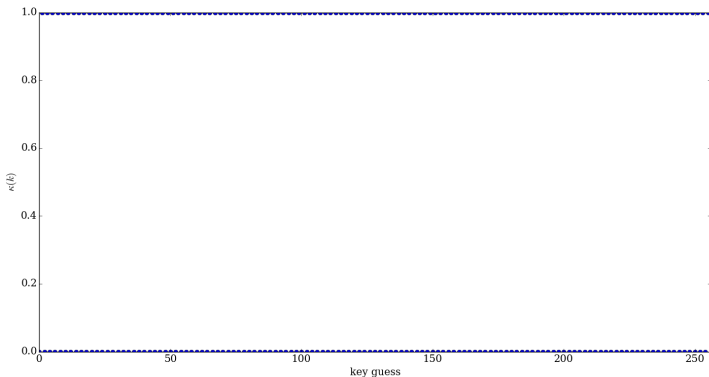
The differential uniformity of an S-box is linked with the confusion coefficient by:

$$2^{-n} \Delta_S - \frac{1}{2} = \max_{k \neq k^*} \left| \frac{1}{2} - \kappa(k) \right|$$

\implies a “good” S-box should have confusion coefficient near $\frac{1}{2}$.

Illustration Without Permutation

Example with $Y(k) = T \oplus k \text{ mod } 2$



$$k^* = 54.$$

Illustration for Random Permutation

Example with $Y(k) = \text{RP}(T \oplus k) \bmod 2$

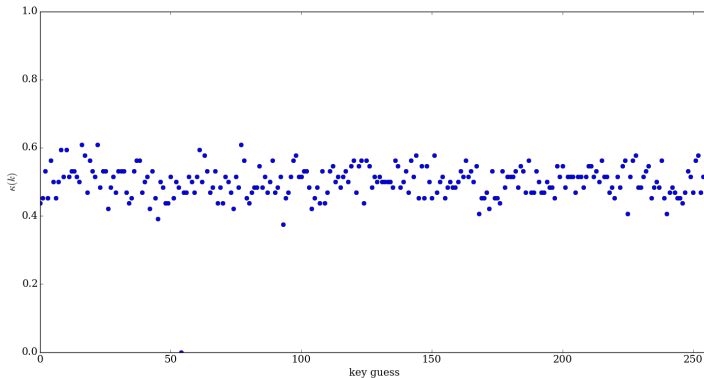
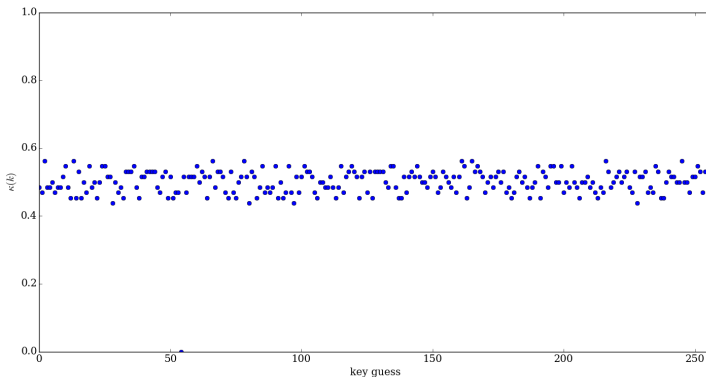


Illustration for AES S-box

Example with $Y(k) = S_{\text{box}}(T \oplus k) \bmod 2$





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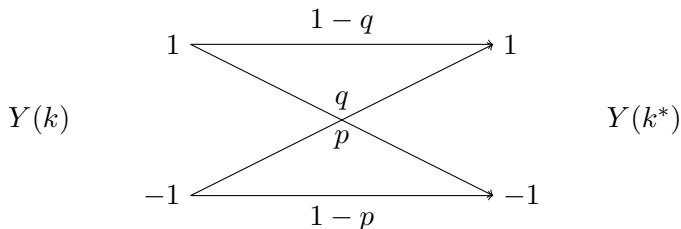
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A Confusion Channel from $Y(k)$ to $Y(k^*)$



Since $\mathbb{P}(Y(k^*) = -1) = (1 - p)\mathbb{P}(Y(k) = -1) + q\mathbb{P}(Y(k) = 1) = P(Y(k^*) = 1) = (1 - q)\mathbb{P}(Y(k) = 1) + p\mathbb{P}(Y(k) = -1)$, we have:

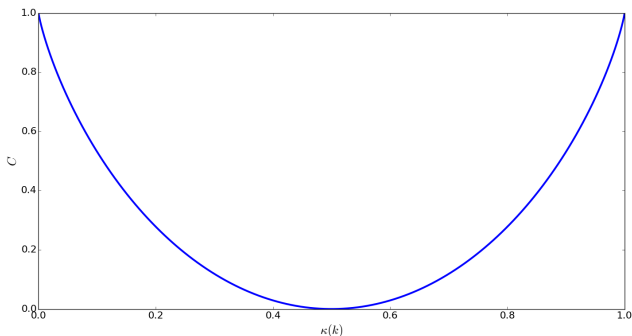
$$p = q = \kappa(k).$$

This is a **binary symmetric channel** (BSC).

Confusion Channel's Capacity

Since $Y(k)$ is equiprobable, the mutual information of the BSC equals its **capacity**:

$$C(k) = I(Y(k^*); Y(k)) = 1 - H_2(\kappa(k))$$



A General Result for any Distinguisher

Theorem (Monobit Leakage Distinguisher)

The theoretical distinguisher of any monobit leakage is a function of $\kappa(k)$ and σ .

Proof.

The theoretical distinguisher depends on the joint distribution of X and $Y(k)$:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathbb{P}(X, Y(k)) &= \mathbb{P}(Y(k^*) + N; Y(k)) = \mathbb{P}(Y(k)) \cdot \mathbb{P}(Y(k^*) + N \mid Y(k)) \\ &= \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{B}_{1/2}) \cdot \mathbb{P}(\mathcal{B}_{\kappa(k)} + N)\end{aligned}$$

where $N \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$. □



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Difference of Means (DoM)

Definition (DoM)

Practical distinguisher:

$$\hat{\mathcal{D}}(k) = \frac{\sum_{q/Y(k)=+1} X_q}{\sum_{q/Y(k)=+1} 1} - \frac{\sum_{q/Y(k)=-1} X_q}{\sum_{q/Y(k)=-1} 1}.$$

Theoretical distinguisher:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y(k)]$$

DoM Computation

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}(k) &= \mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y(k)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[(Y(k^*) + N) \cdot Y(k)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[Y(k) \cdot Y(k^*)] \\ &= \mathbb{E}[2_{Y(k)=Y(k^*)} - 1] \\ &= 2(1 - \kappa(k)) - 1 \\ &= 1 - 2\kappa(k).\end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = 2\left(\frac{1}{2} - \kappa(k)\right).$$

Correlation Power Analysis (CPA)

Definition (CPA)

Practical distinguisher: Pearson coefficient

$$\hat{\mathcal{D}}(k) = \frac{|\hat{\mathbb{E}}[X \cdot Y(k)] - \hat{\mathbb{E}}[X] \cdot \hat{\mathbb{E}}[Y(k)]|}{\hat{\sigma}_X \cdot \hat{\sigma}_{Y(k)}},$$

Theoretical distinguisher:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \frac{|\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y(k)] - \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y(k)]|}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_{Y(k)}},$$

which is the correlation coefficient between X and $Y(k)$.

CPA Computation

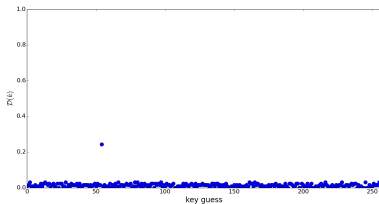
Since $\mathbb{E}[Y(k)] = 0$ and $\sigma_{Y(k)} = 1$, we have:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \frac{\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y(k)] - \mathbb{E}[X] \cdot \mathbb{E}[Y(k)]}{\sigma_X \cdot \sigma_{Y(k)}} = \frac{|\mathbb{E}[X \cdot Y(k)]|}{\sigma_X}.$$

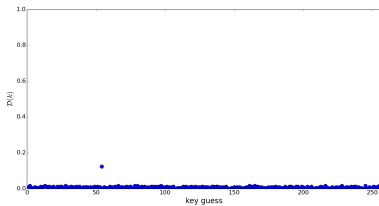
From the DoM computation and since $\sigma_X^2 = 1 + \sigma^2$, we have:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \frac{2|1/2 - \kappa(k)|}{\sqrt{1 + \sigma^2}}.$$

Illustration for AES SubBytes w.r.t. Noise

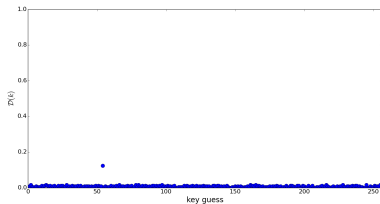


$$\sigma = 4$$

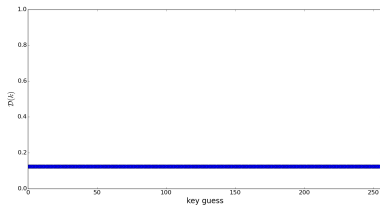


$$\sigma = 8$$

Illustration for $\sigma = 8$ w.r.t. SubBytes



AES SubBytes



no SubBytes

Kolmogorov-Smirnov Analysis (KSA)

Definition (KSA)

Practical Distinguisher:

$$\hat{\mathcal{D}}(k) = \mathbb{E}_{Y(k)} \|\hat{F}(x|Y(k)) - \hat{F}(x)\|_{\infty}$$

Theoretical Distinguisher:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \mathbb{E}_{Y(k)} \|F(x|Y(k)) - F(x)\|_{\infty}$$

where:

- $F(x)$ and $F(x | Y(k))$ the cumulative distribution functions of X and $X | Y(k)$.
- $\|f(x)\|_{\infty} = \sup_{x \in \mathbb{R}} |f(x)|$.

KSA Computation

Theorem (KSA and Confusion [Heuser et al., 2014])

With our assumptions, we have:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = \operatorname{erf}\left(\sqrt{\frac{\text{SNR}}{2}}\right) \left|\frac{1}{2} - \kappa(k)\right|$$

where $\operatorname{erf}(x) = \frac{2}{\sqrt{\pi}} \int_{-\infty}^x e^{-t^2} dt$.

Mutual Information Analysis (MIA)

Definition (MIA)

Practical Distinguisher: $\hat{\mathcal{D}}(k) = \hat{I}(X; Y(k))$

Theoretical Distinguisher: $\mathcal{D}(k) = I(X; Y(k)) = h(X) - h(X|Y(k))$

Theorem (MIA Computation (Main result))

For a monobit leakage:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = 2(\log_2 e) \left(\frac{1}{2} - \kappa(k) \right)^2 f(\sigma).$$

where f is such that $f(\sigma) \rightarrow 1$ when $\sigma \rightarrow 0$ and $f(\sigma) \sim 1/\sigma^2$ as $\sigma \rightarrow \infty$.

Main Result: Sketch of the Proof

$$\begin{aligned} I(X; Y(k)) &= h(X) - h(X | Y(k)) \\ &= h(\mathcal{B}'_{1/2} + N) - H(\mathcal{B}'_{\kappa(k)} + N) \end{aligned}$$

Case 1: Very high SNR ($\sigma \rightarrow 0$)

$$\begin{aligned} h(\mathcal{B}'_{1/2} + N) &\approx H(\mathcal{B}'_{1/2}) + h(N) \\ H(\mathcal{B}'_{\kappa(k)} + N) &\approx H(\mathcal{B}'_{\kappa(k)}) + h(N) \end{aligned}$$

$$\mathcal{D}(k) \approx 1 - H(\mathcal{B}'_{\kappa(k)}) = 1 - H_2(\kappa(k))$$

Second order Taylor expansion about 1/2:

$$\mathcal{D}(k) \approx 2(\log_2 e)(1/2 - \kappa(k))^2$$

Main Result: Sketch of the Proof (Cont'd)

Case 2: Very low SNR ($\sigma \rightarrow +\infty$)

All signals behaves like Gaussian.

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{D}(k) &= h(\mathcal{B}'_{1/2} + N) - h(\mathcal{B}'_{\kappa(k)} + N) \\ &\approx \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2\pi e(\sigma^2 + 1)) - \frac{1}{2} \log_2(2\pi e(\sigma^2 + 4\kappa(k)(1 - \kappa(k)))) \\ &= \frac{1}{2} \log_2 \frac{\sigma^2 + 1}{\sigma^2 + 4\kappa(k)(1 - \kappa(k))} \\ &= -\frac{1}{2} \log_2 \frac{\sigma^2 + 1 + 4\kappa(k)(1 - \kappa(k)) - 1}{\sigma^2 + 1} \\ &\approx \frac{(\log_2 e) 4\kappa(k)(1 - \kappa(k)) - 1}{2} = \boxed{2(\log_2 e) \frac{(1/2 - \kappa(k))^2}{\sigma^2}}\end{aligned}$$

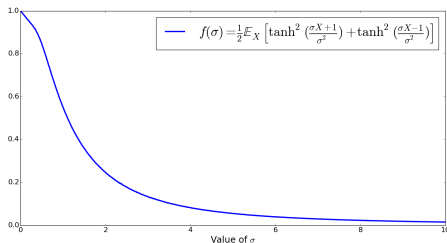
Main Result: Sketch of the Proof (Cont'd)

General Case: any SNR, first order in $1/2 - \kappa$

Theorem

$$\mathcal{D}(k) = 2(\log_2 e) \left(\frac{1}{2} - \kappa(k) \right)^2 \frac{1}{2} \mathbb{E}_X \left[\tanh^2 \left(\frac{\sigma X + 1}{\sigma^2} \right) + \tanh^2 \left(\frac{\sigma X - 1}{\sigma^2} \right) \right]$$

where $X \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$ is standard normal.





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A unified view of side-channel distinguishers on monobit leakages:

- DoM: $\frac{1}{2}(1/2 - \kappa(k))$;
- CPA: $\frac{|1/2 - \kappa(k)|}{1 + \sigma^2}$;
- KSA: $|1/2 - \kappa(k)| \operatorname{erf} \left(\sqrt{\frac{\text{SNR}}{2}} \right)$;
- MIA: $2(\log_2 e)(1/2 - \kappa(k))^2 f(\sigma)$.



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