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Mind The Portability

A Warriors Guide through Realistic Profiled Side-channel Analysis

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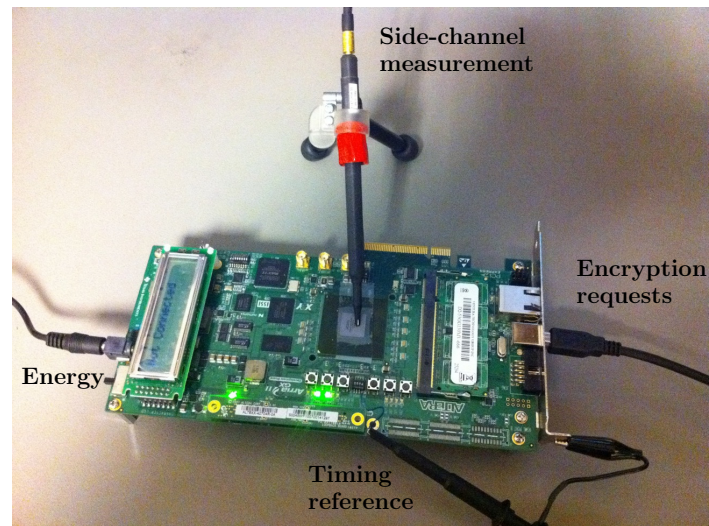
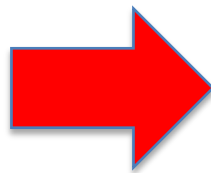
*NDSS 2020, San Diego
23-26 February 2020*



Side-Channel Analysis (SCA)

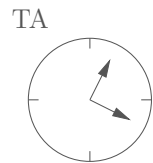


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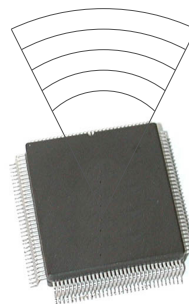


NOW

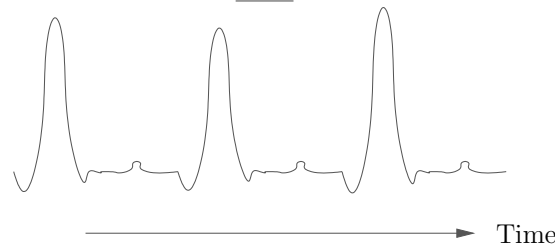
What is SCA?



EMA



SPA, DPA, templates, etc.
⇒ Side-channel trace



Attacked circuit

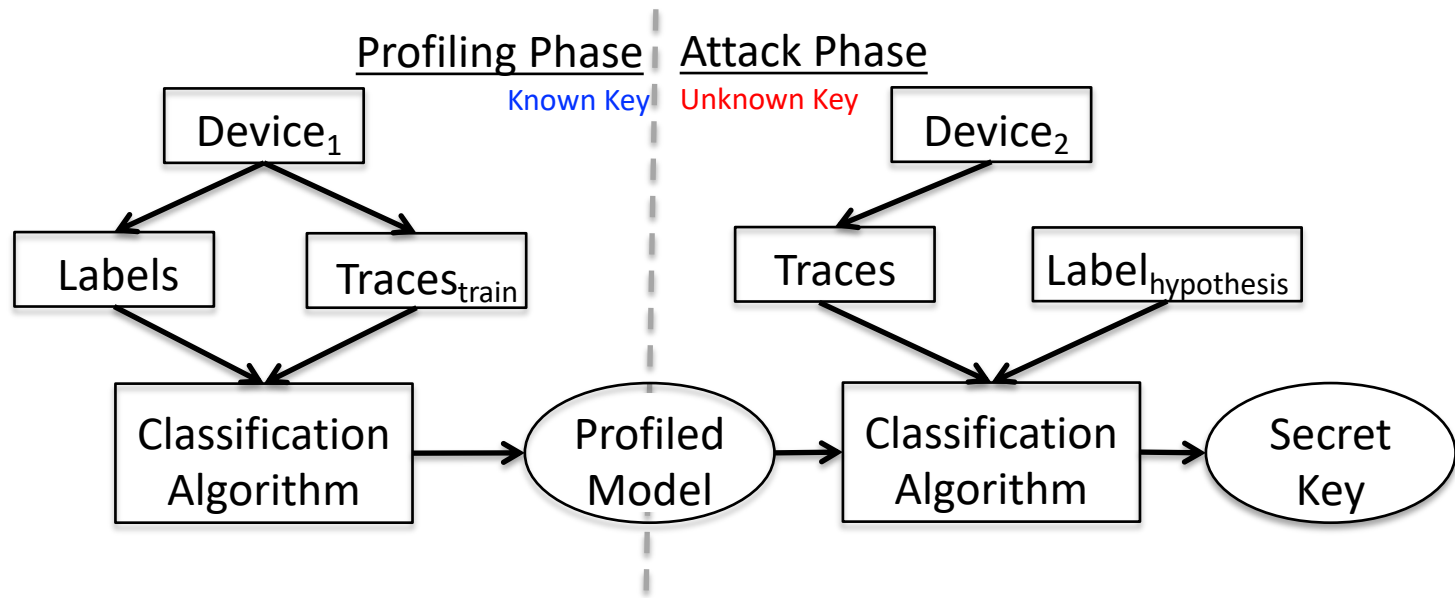
- Non-invasive (power, EM, timing, ...)
- Powerful & practical. Ex:
 - *Keeloq*
 - *FPGA Bitstream encryption*
 - *Bitcoin wallets*
 - ...
- Applications: Secret key recovery and more ...
- Serious threat to embedded systems

Types of SCA

- Simple SCA (ex. Visual inspection)
- Non Profiled SCA (ex. DPA, CPA, other on the fly statistical attacks)
- **Profiled SCA (ex. Templates, Machine-Learning based attacks)**

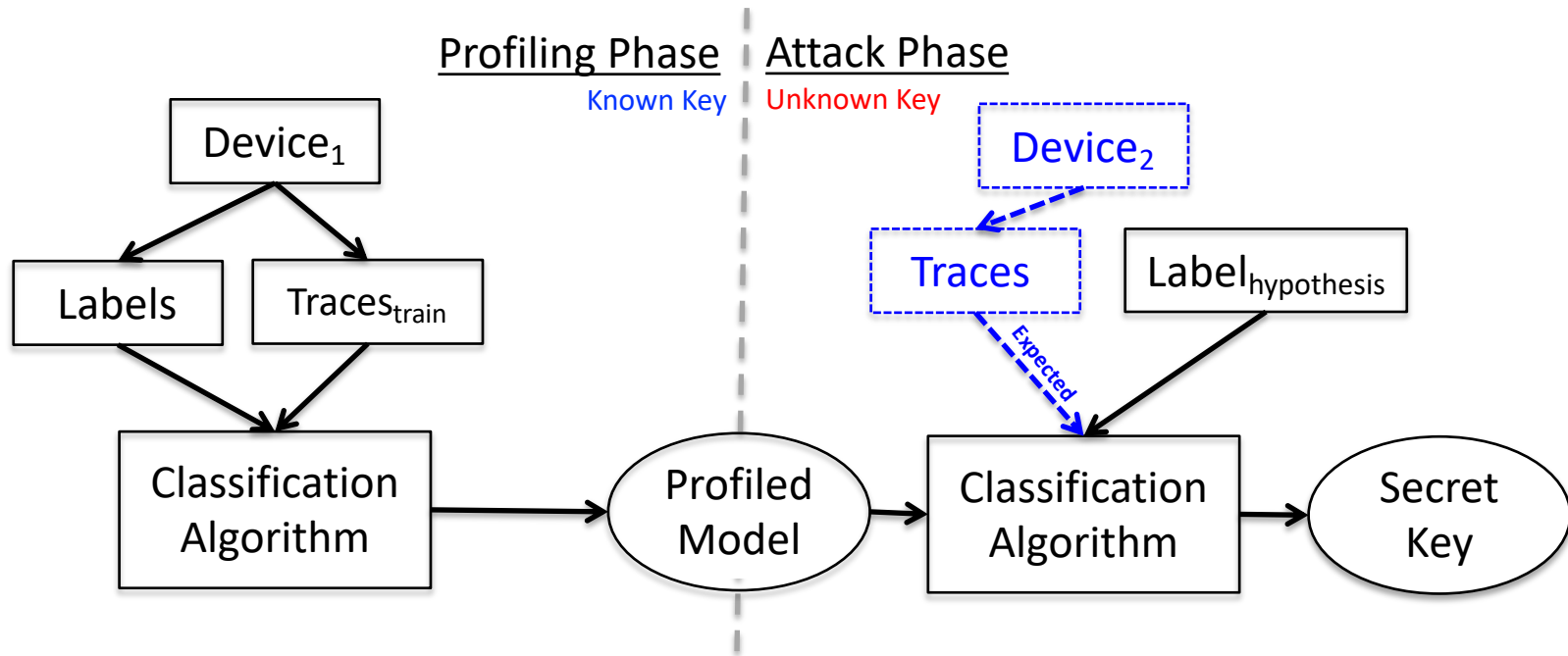
In the following, we focus on profiled power/EM attacks on embedded devices targeting encryption algorithms for secret key recovery

Profiled SCA

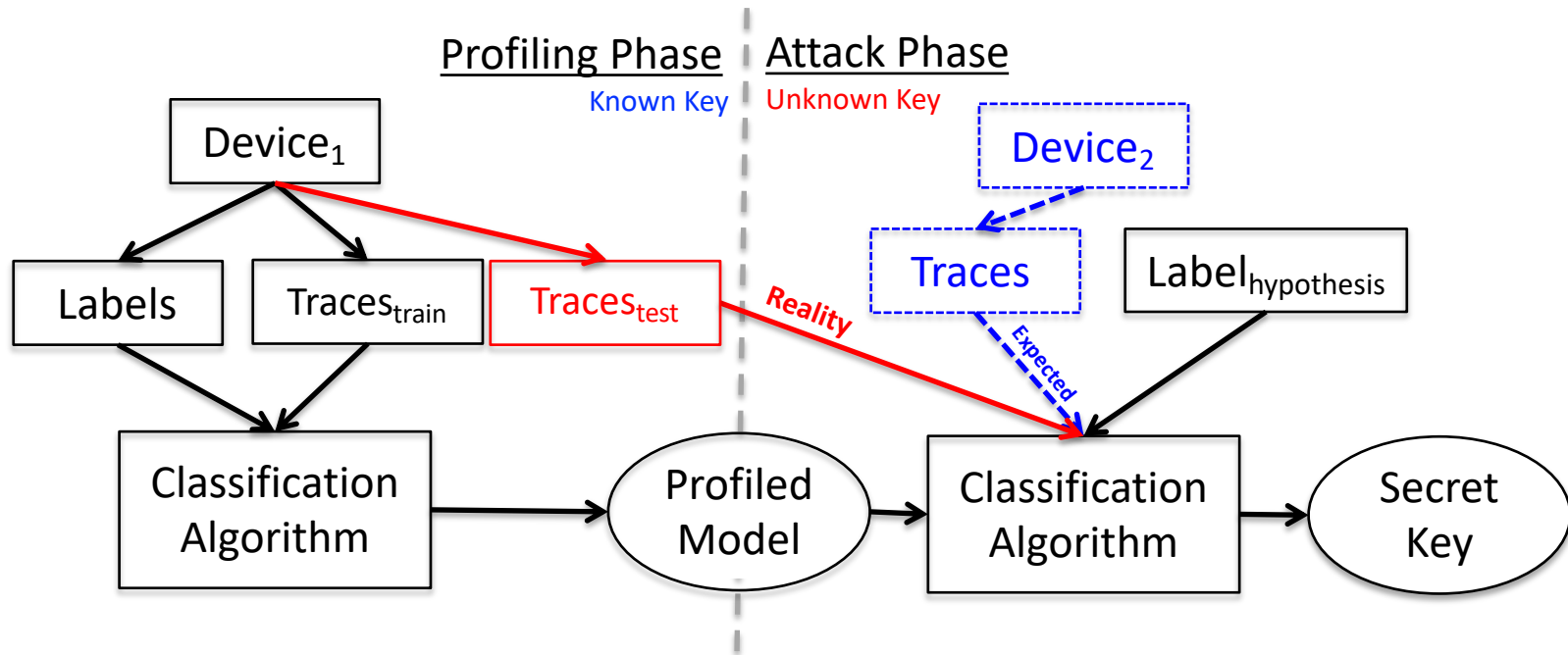


- Target exploitation in few traces, **ideally single trace**
- **Classification Algorithm:** Template Attacks (TA) vs Machine Learning (ML)
- **Deep Learning** has shown great success with protected implementations
- Recent work with deep learning report successful attack in 100X less traces (500 vs 5).

Expectations vs Reality



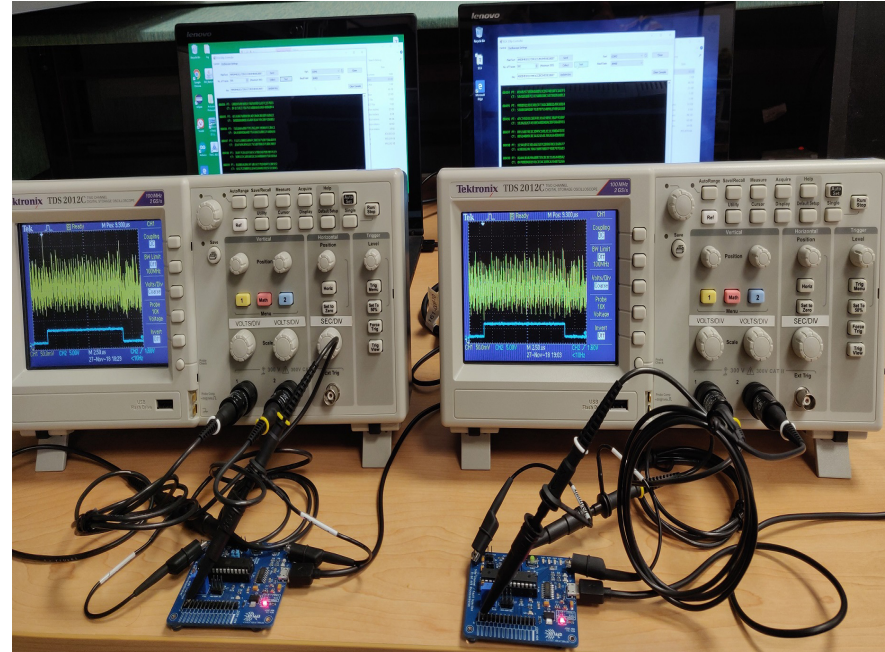
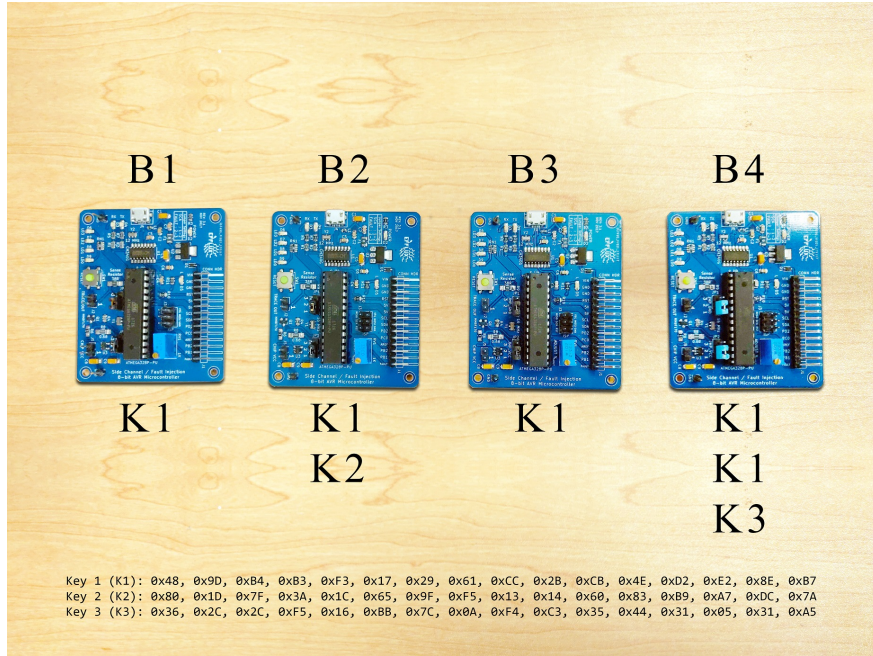
Expectations vs Reality



Portability

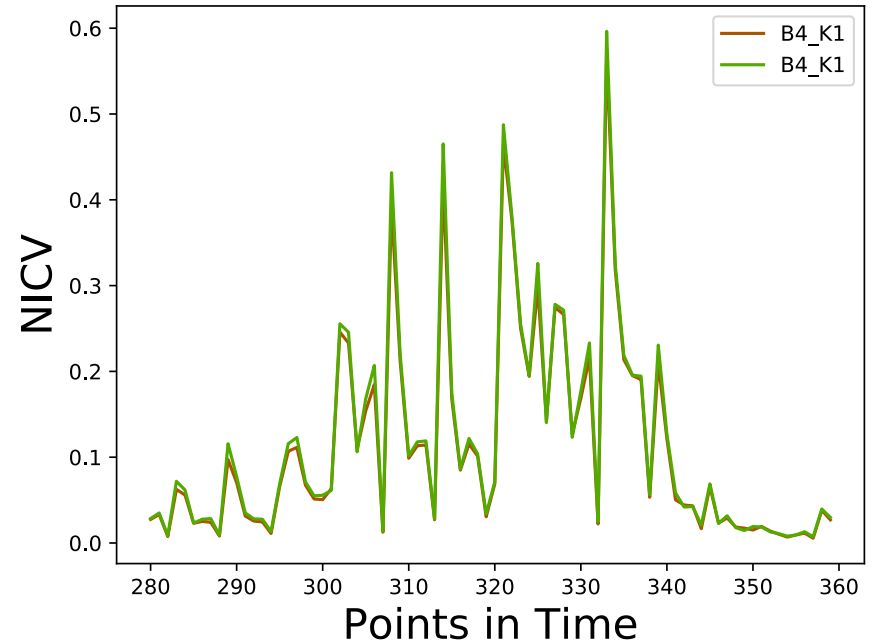
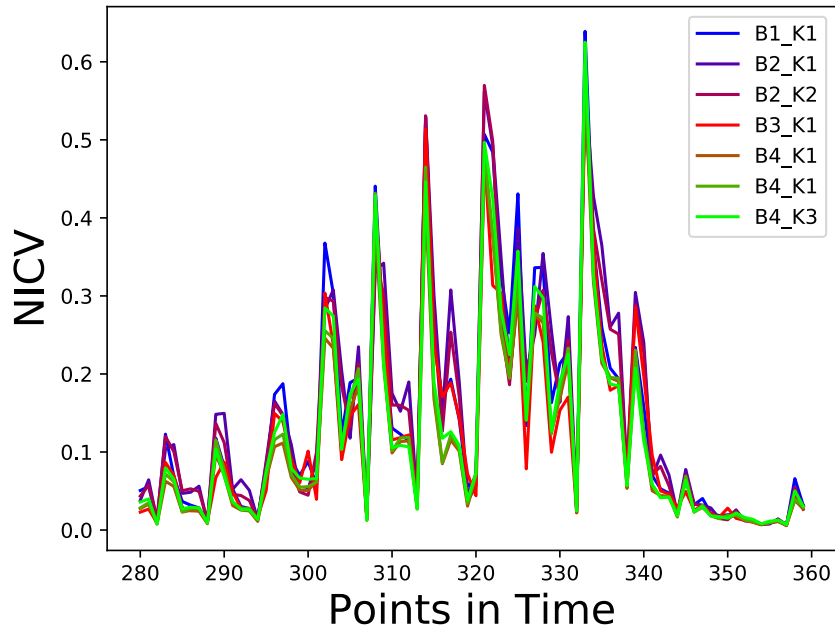
- B and B' are **two copies of same device**
- Differences between B and B' are due to **uncontrolled variations** in process, measurement setup, or other stochastic factors
- *Portability* denotes all settings in which an attacker can conduct the **training on** the measurement data obtained from **a clone device B'** and **import the learned knowledge $L_{B'}$ to model the actual device B**, under similar parameter setup

Practical Study of Portability

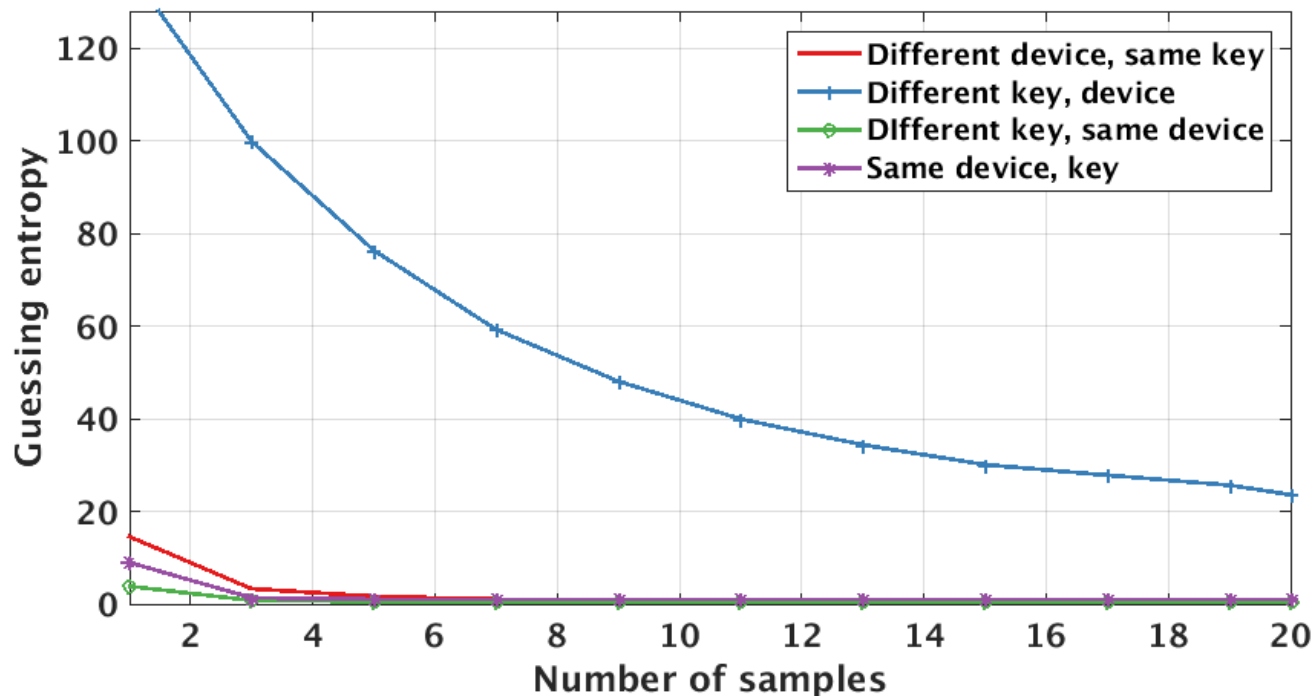


Different Sources Of Portability: Process variation (chip, wires, PCB components, connectors), environmental factors, ...

Comparing Signal Quality



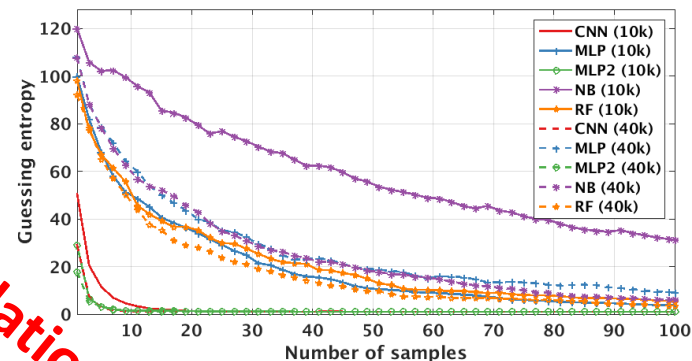
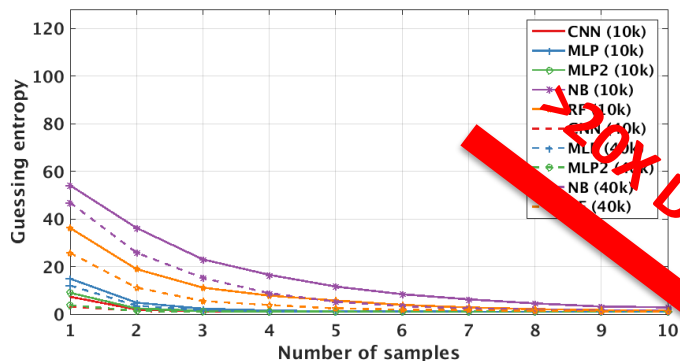
Comparing SCA Vulnerability



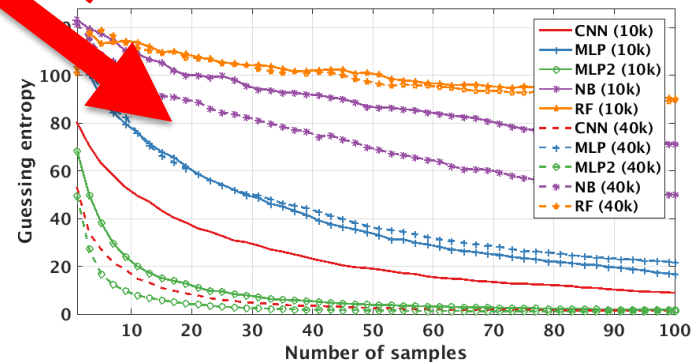
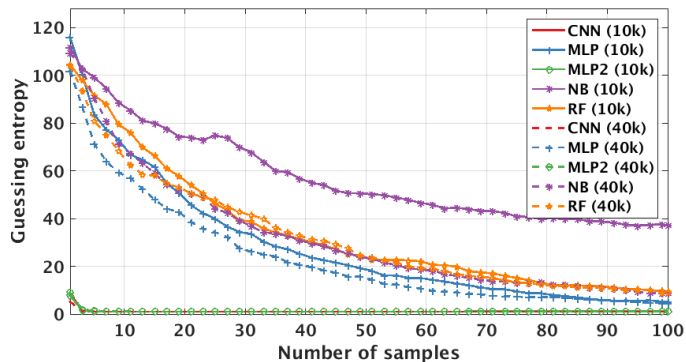
Same Device

Different Device

Same Key

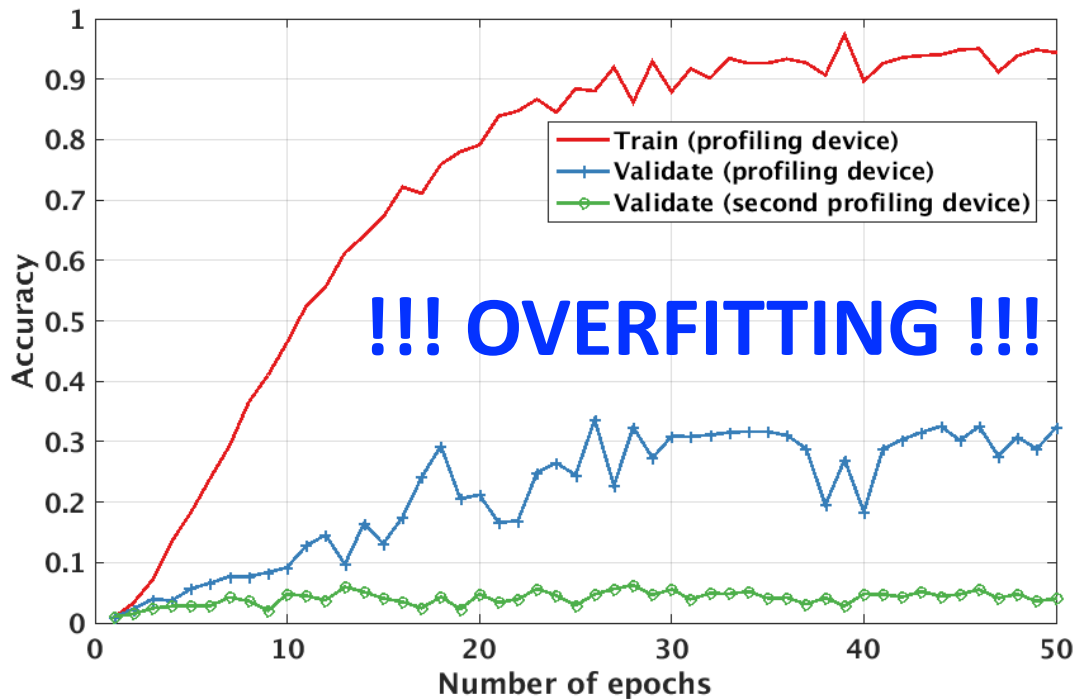


Different Key

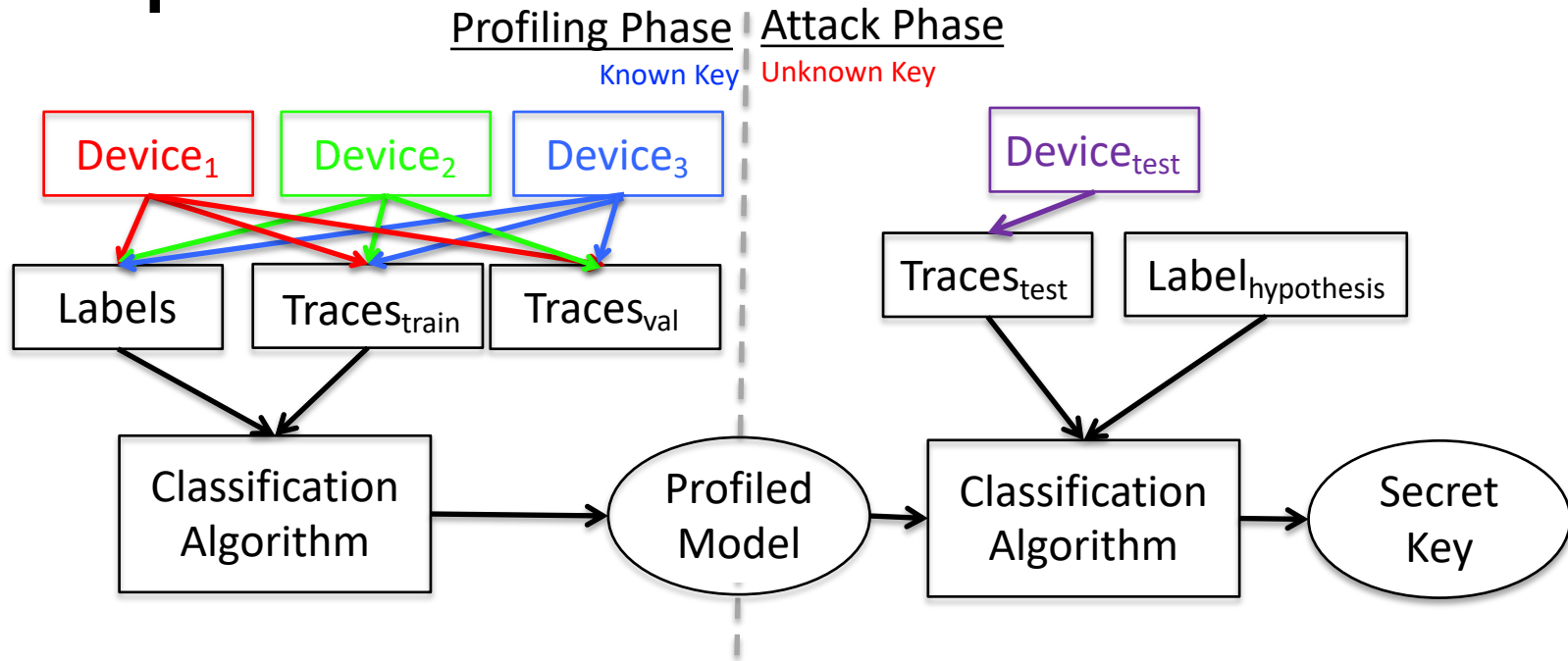


↓ **Security Degradation**

Why Does It Happen?

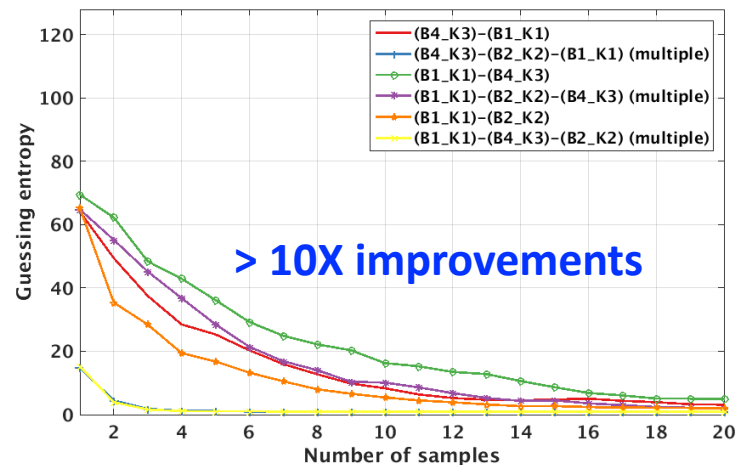


Proposed Multi-Device Model



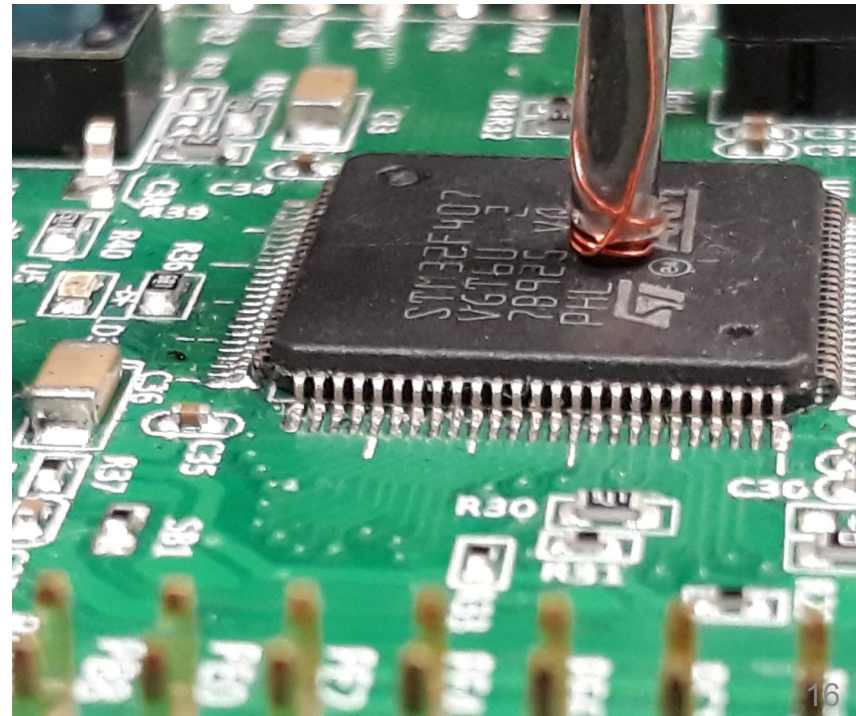
Proposed Multi-Device Model

- Multiple Device Model (MDM) denotes all settings where attacker can conduct the training on measurement data from a number of similar devices (≥ 2), $B' = \{B_0', \dots, B_{n-1}'\}$ and import the learned knowledge $L_{B'}$ to model the actual device B , under similar but uncontrolled parameter setup



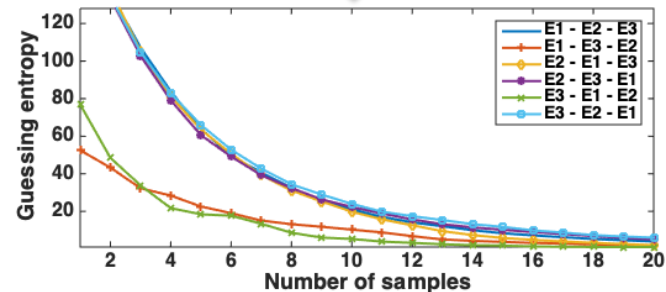
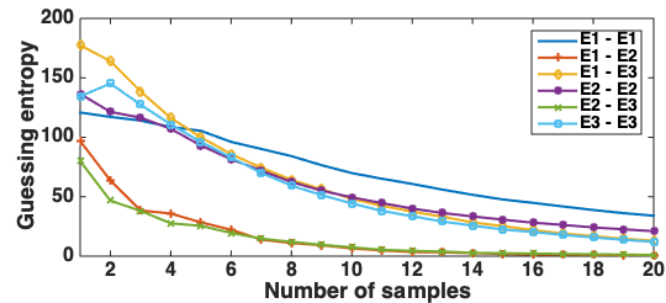
Overcoming Human Error

- Electromagnetic measurements often preferred over power measurements
 - Easy access
 - High SNR
 - Localized Leakage capture
 - ...
- Extremely sensitive to probe position (*position, distance, and orientation*)
- Error comes naturally when measuring on multiple devices
- We call this human error of placement
- **A classical case of Portability**



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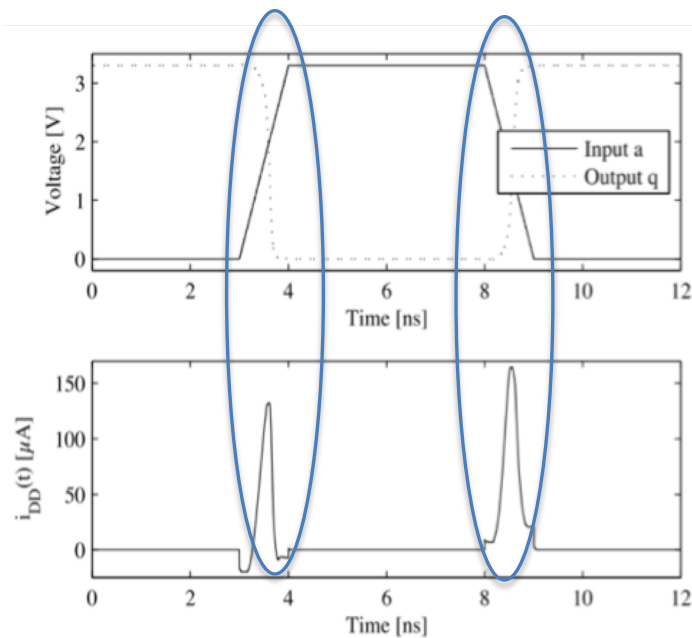
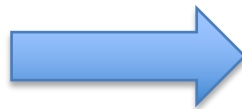
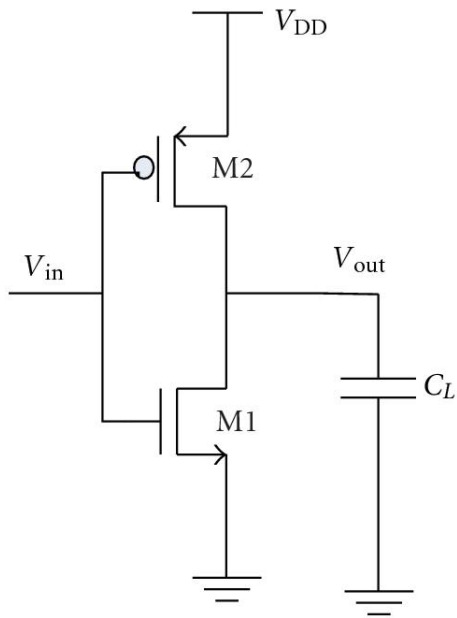
Conclusions

- One must consider portability issues in machine learning based SCA
- We proposed Multiple Device Model (MDM) to overcome portability
- Direct application to EM measurement
- Future Directions:
 - Application to heterogenous devices
 - MDM with one device noise, process-variation models

Thank You !!!



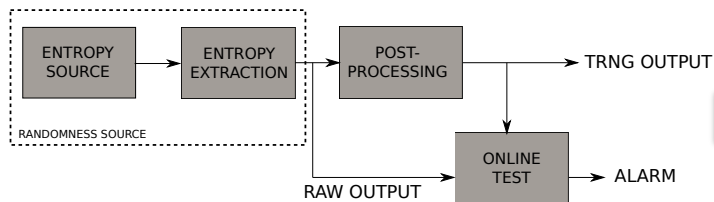
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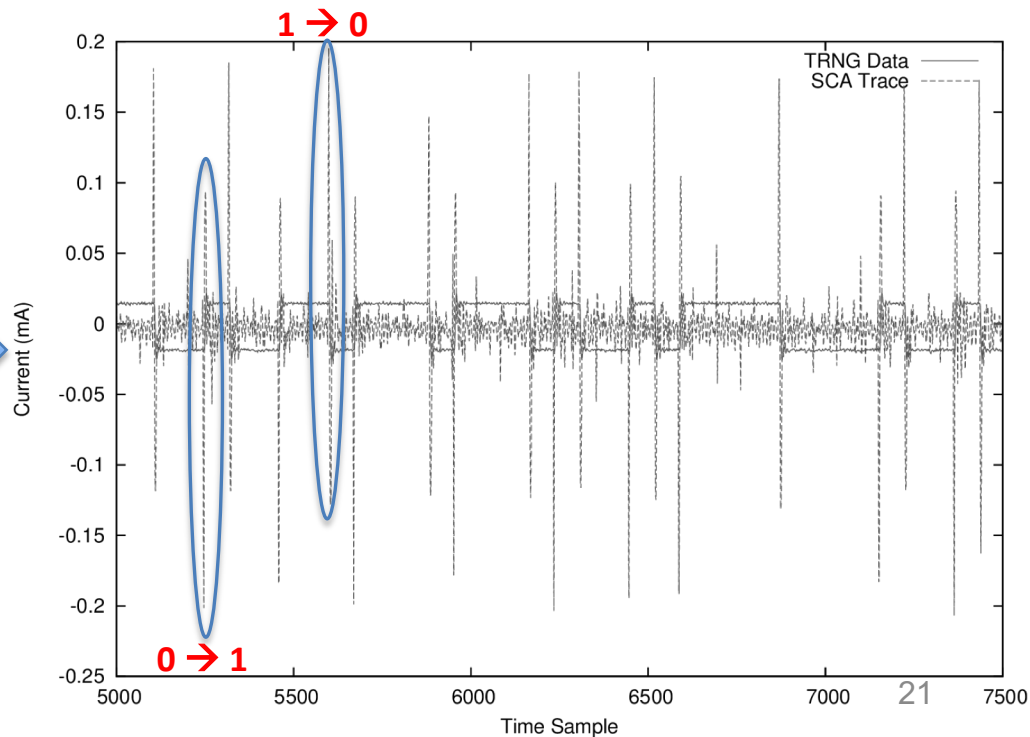
Lets look at a basic CMOS cell

Side-Channel Analysis (SCA)

Random Number Generator



Extending from one cell to a full circuit
Measure by Electromagnetic Probe



Expectations vs Reality

- Profiling and Testing device **MUST** be distinct
- An aspect often **overlooked** in profiled SCA research
- Leads to **pessimistic security evaluations**
- A common issue for certification labs evaluating security-critical products
- Known as **Portability**

