

SCHOOL OF COMPUTER SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING

CE/CZ4055 Project Report

Side-Channel Attack Using Correlation Power Analysis

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1.0 Introduction

Side-channel attack is a security exploit that uses indirect effects of the system or its hardware to acquire information from the program execution of a system, rather than directly targeting the program or its code. These attacks typically aimed to exfiltrate sensitive information such as the cryptographic key. There are several types of side-channel attacks namely, cache attack, timing attack, electromagnetic attack and power-monitoring attack. This project will be focusing on performing Correlation Power Analysis (CPA).

CPA attack allows an attacker to obtain the secret encryption key that is stored in the victim's device. Generally, CPA attack consists of 4 steps:

- 1. Modeling the victim's power consumption
- 2. Victims encrypt several different plaintext and record the victim's power consumption traces during each encryption
- 3. Attack the key one byte at a time
- 4. Put together all the subkey to get the full secret key

2.0 Implementation

This project's implementation was separated into two parts:

- 1. Correlation Power Analysis
- 2. Data visualization

Our team has decided to build the Correlation Power Analysis in Java since it is statically typed and compiled, as opposed to Python, which is dynamic and interpreted. To speed up the analysis, the implementation will be multithreaded.

However, because we will be using libraries for plotting and interpreting graphs, the data visualization will be done in Python.

2.1. Correlation Power Analysis

2.1.1 Trace Acquisition

The executable file of the SCA328p ctrl software will be used to create the traces from the Efflux SCA Evaluation Board. The Tektronix TDS2012C scope is linked to the Efflux SCA board for the hardware setup. The scope's Channel 1 probe is connected to Pin 1 of the Efflux SCA Evaluation Board's header J2. The pin is in charge of collecting the 8-bit MCU's power leakage output. On the Efflux SCA Evaluation Board, channel 2 of the probe is connected to pin PB1 of header J1. This pin serves as the scope's trigger.

On the SCA328p_ctrl software, the key used to generate the 100 traces is:

4C494D5348414E474D45493132333435

Figure xx shows the generated ciphertext using the key provided.

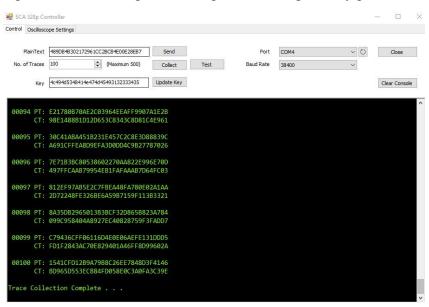


Figure xx

During the operation, we will be able to see a file being generated "waveform.csv" shown in figure xx. that will generate all the power consumption information. The first column will be the plain text while the second column will be the ciphertext and the rest of the values on the right of will be the actual trace values of the trace themselves

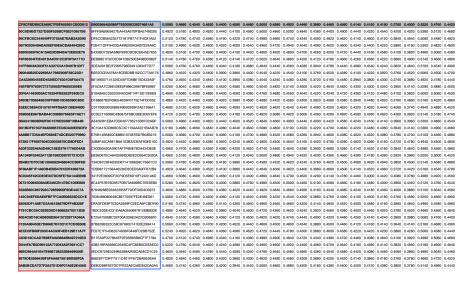


Figure xx

2.1.2 Model Trace Matrix Initialization

A 2D Array with the size of [a][b] was used to create the model trace matrix.

a: the total number of traces in a sample

b: $2^8 = 256$ is the number of potential values for one byte of the key.

```
public static int[] sBox = {0x63, 0x7C, 0x77, 0x7B, 0xF2, 0x6B, 0x6F, 0xC5, 0x30, 0x01, 0x67, 0x2B, 0xFE, 0xD7, 0xAB, 0x76, 0xCA, 0x82, 0xC9, 0x7D, 0xFA, 0x59, 0x47, 0xF0, 0xAD, 0xD4, 0xA2, 0xAF, 0x9C, 0xA4, 0x72, 0xC0,
                                                   0x3F,
                  0xB7, 0xFD, 0x93, 0x26, 0x36,
                                                          0xF7,
                                                                0xCC,
                                                                      0x34,
                                                                             0xA5,
                                                                                    0xE5,
                                                                                           0xF1, 0x71,
                                                                                                        0xD8,
                                                                                                              0x31,
                                                         0x05,
                                                                             0x12,
                                                                                           0xE2,
                                                                                                        0x27,
                                                                                    0x80,
                  0x04,
                        0xC7,
                               0x23,
                                      0xC3,
                                            0x18,
                                                   0x96,
                                                                0x9A,
                                                                       0x07,
                                                                                                 0xEB,
                                                                                                              0xB2.
                                                                                                                     0x75
                  0x09, 0x83, 0x2C,
                                      0x1A, 0x1B,
                                                   0x6E.
                                                         0x5A,
                                                                0xA0.
                                                                       0x52.
                                                                             0x3B, 0xD6.
                                                                                                        0xE3.
                                                                                                              0x2F.
                                                                                                                     0x84.
                                                                                           0xB3.
                                                                                                 0x29.
                                                                                           0x39,
                  0x53, 0xD1,
                               0×00,
                                      0xED, 0x20,
                                                   0xFC,
                                                          0xB1,
                                                                0x5B,
                                                                       0x6A,
                                                                             0xCB,
                                                                                    0xBE,
                                                                                                 0x4A,
                                                                                                        0x4C,
                                                   0x4D,
                                                          0x33,
                                                                0x85,
                                                                             0xF9,
                                                                                           0x7F,
                                                                                                        0x3C,
                  0xD0, 0xEF,
                               0xAA,
                                      0xFB,
                                            0x43.
                                                                       0x45,
                                                                                    0x02,
                                                                                                 0×50.
                                                                                                              0x9F,
                                                         0x38,
                  0x51, 0xA3,
                                      0x8F, 0x92,
                                                                       0xBC,
                                                                             0xB6, 0xDA,
                               0×40.
                                                   0x9D.
                                                                0xF5.
                                                                                           0x21.
                                                                                                 0×10.
                                                                                                        0xFF.
                                                                                                              0xF3.
                                                                                                                     0xD2.
                  0xCD, 0x0C,
                               0x13,
                                      0xEC, 0x5F,
                                                   0×97,
                                                          0×44,
                                                                0×17,
                                                                      0xC4,
                                                                             0xA7, 0x7E,
                                                                                           0x3D,
                                                                                                 0x64,
                                                                                                        0×5D,
                               0x4F,
                                                         0x90,
                                                                0x88,
                  0x60, 0x81,
                                      0xDC, 0x22,
                                                   0x2A,
                                                                       0x46,
                                                                             0xEE, 0xB8,
                                                                                           0x14,
                                                                                                 0xDF.
                                                                                                        0x5E.
                                                                                                              0x0B.
                                                                                                                     0xDB
                  0xE0, 0x32, 0x3A,
                                      0x0A, 0x49, 0x06, 0x24, 0x5C,
                                                                      0xC2,
                                                                             0xD3, 0xAC,
                                                                                                 0x91,
                                                                                                              0xE4,
                                                                                           0x62,
                                                                                                        0x95,
                                                                                                                     0x79,
                  0xE7, 0xC8,
                               0x37,
                                      0x6D, 0x8D,
                                                   0xD5,
                                                          0x4E,
                                                                0xA9, 0x6C,
                                                                             0x56, 0xF4,
                                                                                           0xEA, 0x65,
                                                                                                        0x7A,
                                                                                                               0xAE,
                                                                                                              0x8B.
                  0xBA, 0x78, 0x25,
                                      0x2E.
                                            0x1C.
                                                   0×A6,
                                                         0xB4.
                                                                0xC6.
                                                                      0xE8, 0xDD, 0x74,
                                                                                           0x1F,
                                                                                                 0x4B.
                                                                                                        0xBD,
                                                                                                                     0x8A.
                                            0x48, 0x03, 0xF6, 0x0E, 0x61, 0x35, 0x57, 0xB9, 0x86, 0xC1, 0x1D, 0x9E,
                  0x70, 0x3E, 0xB5,
                                      0x66,
                  0xE1, 0xF8, 0x98,
                                      0x11, 0x69, 0xD9, 0x8E, 0x94, 0x9B, 0x1E, 0x87, 0xE9, 0xCE,
                                                                                                        0x55,
                                                                                                              0x28,
                  0x8C. 0xA1. 0x89.
                                      0x0D, 0xBF, 0xE6, 0x42, 0x68, 0x41, 0x99, 0x2D, 0x0F, 0xB0, 0x54, 0xBB, 0x16 };
```

Figure xx:

2.1.3 Data Preparation

```
//variables
int marg = 60;
public float [][]powerMatrix;
public String[] plainText;
public float[][] hammingPowerMatrix;
public float[][] correlationMatrix;
private int numPowerTracePoint;
private int numPowerTrace;
public String fileName = "waveform.csv";
public String originalkey = "Key.txt";
private String[] key = new String[16];
public String[][] plot1 = new String[16][256];
public String[][] plot2 = new String[160][256];
public String[] keyByteList = new String[160];
```

Figure X shows the variables we created to store the data generated. We created arrays for power matrix, hamming power matrix, correlation matrix and also plot 1 and 2 to store the data for plotting of graph.

2.1.4 Compute Hamming weight

```
public void createHammingPowerMatrix(int num) {
    int sBoxValue;
    hammingPowerMatrix = new float[numPowerTrace][256];

    for(int i=0; i<numPowerTrace; i++)
    {
        int plainTextOneByte = Integer.parseInt(plainText[i].substring(2*(num-1),2*num),16);

        for (int count = 0; count<256; count++)
        {
            sBoxValue = sBox[plainTextOneByte^count];
            hammingPowerMatrix[i][count] = Integer.bitCount(sBoxValue); //to get hamming weight
        }
    }
}</pre>
```

Figure X shows the code snippet to compute the hamming weight. We loop through the number of plain text (100 plain text in this case) and work 1 byte of the plain text at a time. The hex value of will be converted into integer. To compute the hamming weight of each key bye, we find the corresponding sbox value by xor-ing 1 byte of plaintext with every possible key byte from 0x00 to 0xFF (or 0-255 in decimal). After finding out the sbox value, we find the hamming weight by counting the number of 'binary 1' in the sbox value by using the bitCount() function.

2.1.5 Pearson's Correlation Coefficient

To find the correlation between the model trace matrix and the actual trace matrix, Pearson's Correlation Coefficient equation was utilized. The correlation ranges from -1 to 1, where 1 indicates a strong positive correlation while -1 indicates a strong negative correlation and 0 being no correlation at all.

$$\mathbf{r} = \frac{\mathsf{n}(\Sigma \mathsf{x}\mathsf{y}) - (\Sigma \mathsf{x})(\Sigma \mathsf{y})}{\sqrt{[\mathsf{n}\Sigma \mathsf{x}^2 - (\Sigma \mathsf{x})^2] [\mathsf{n}\Sigma \mathsf{y}^2 - (\Sigma \mathsf{y})^2]}}$$

Where,

- r = Pearson Coefficient
- n = size of array
- $\sum x = \text{summation of elements in array } X$
- ∑y = summation of elements in array Y
- $\sum x^2$ = summation of elements squared in array X
- Σy^2 = summation of elements squared in array Y
- $(\sum x)^2$ = summation of elements in array X squared
- $(\sum y)^2$ = summation of elements in array Y squared

Figure X shows the formula for Pearson's Correlation Coefficient.

```
public float pearsonCoeff(float[] x, float[] y, int n) {
    float sumX = 0, sumY = 0, sumXY = 0;
    float sqSumX = 0, sqSumY = 0;

    for(int i=0; i<n; i++)
    {
        sumX += x[i];
        sumY += y[i];
        sumXY += x[i]*y[i];
        sqSumY += x[i]*x[i];
        sqSumY += x[i]*x[i];
        sqSumY += y[i]*y[i];
    }

    float correlation = (float) (n*sumXY - sumX*sumY)/ (float)(Math.sqrt((n*sqSumX - sumX*sumX) * (n*sqSumY - sumY*sumY)));
    return correlation;
}</pre>
```

Figure X shows the code for calculating the correlation using the Pearson's Correlation Coefficient equation.

Figure X is the code snippet to calculate the correlation matrix. We compute the correlation matrix by using the Pearson's correlation function above by passing in the actual power matrix for each column, and the hamming weight of the power matrix for each column and number of traces.

2.1.6 Finding correct key

```
public String guessKey(int row) {
    float max = -1;
    int key = 0;
    //here we check one by one and get the highest correlation
    for (int i=0; i<256; i++) {
        float maxRowCor = -1;
        for (int j=0; j<numPowerTracePoint; j++)</pre>
            if(correlationMatrix[i][j]>maxRowCor)
                maxRowCor = correlationMatrix[i][j];
            if(correlationMatrix[i][j]> max)
                max = correlationMatrix[i][j];
                key = i;
        }
        if(numPowerTrace == 100) {
            plot1[(row+1)/10-1][i] = maxRowCor+ "";
        plot2[row][i] = maxRowCor + "";
    }
    keyByteList[row] = max+ "";
    return Integer.toHexString(key);
}
```

In this function, we find the highest correlation for all the traces and store the data in plot1 and plot2. The highest value from the correlation matrix are also stored inside the key byte list.

2.1.7 Number of bytes recovered

```
//Calculate the number of bytes recovered as number of traces increase
int numberOfBytesRecovered[] = new int[16];;
StringBuilder b4 = new StringBuilder();
for(int i=0;i<10;i++) {</pre>
    for(int j=1;j<17;j++) {</pre>
        if(key[j-1].equalsIgnoreCase(Allkey[j][i])) {
             numberOfBytesRecovered[i] = numberOfBytesRecovered[i] + 1;
        }
    b4.append(numberOfBytesRecovered[i]);
    b4.append("\n");
BufferedWriter w4=null;
    w4 = new BufferedWriter(new FileWriter("numberbytesrecovered.csv"));
    w4.write(b4.toString());
    w4.close();
catch (IOException error) {
    error.printStackTrace();
    System.exit(0);
}
```

Figure X depicts the code to get number of correct key bytes recovered as the number of traces increase. We compare the correct key array with all the generated keys array, if there's a match with the key, the number of bytes count increase by 1. Next, we write the array of number of correct bytes recovered into a csv file for plotting later.

2.1.8 Running the Java file

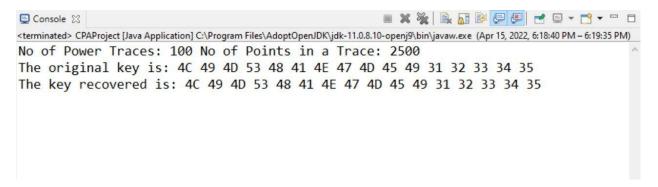


Figure xx: Recovering secret key using Java file

By running the written java programme, we will be able to see from figure xx that the secret key originally generated is able to be recovered.

3.0 Results

3.1 Plot 1

The code snippet in Figure xx will be used to generate the correlation plot for plot 1.

```
for i in range(0, 16, 1): #byte 0 to 15
    plot.figure()
    plot.plot(plot1[i]) # plot1 correlation values for key from 0x00 to 0xFF for current byte
    plot.xlabel("Possible Key Bytes")
    plot.ylabel("Correlation Values")
    #plot.savefig(f'correlation_plot1_for_byte_{index//2}')
```

Figure xx: Code snippet for generating plot 1

Assuming you get a paste in order of the figure generated, each graph represents 1 byte of the key. The correlation plots for all 16 key bytes are shown in Figures XX reading vertically down. The key is 4C494D5348414E474D45493132333435,

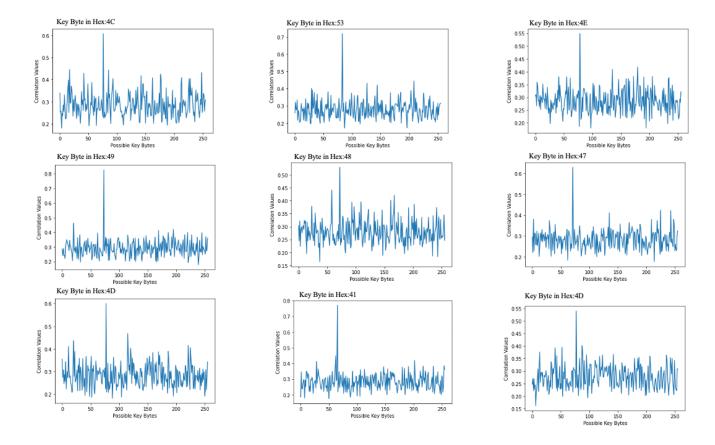


Figure xx: First 9 Key Bytes

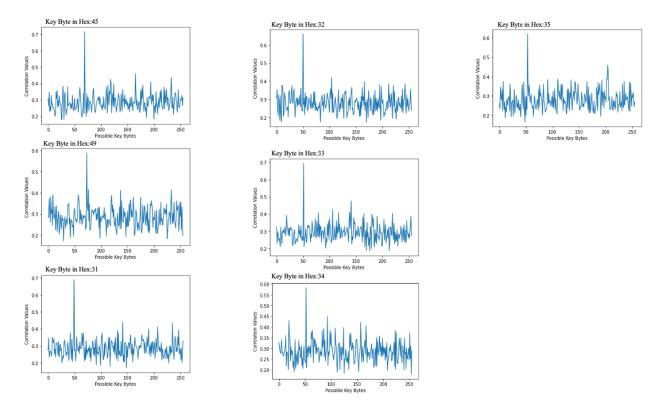


Figure xx: Last 7 Key Bytes

Figure XX and XX shows the correlation coefficient vs hypothesis for 100 traces.

3.2 Plot 2

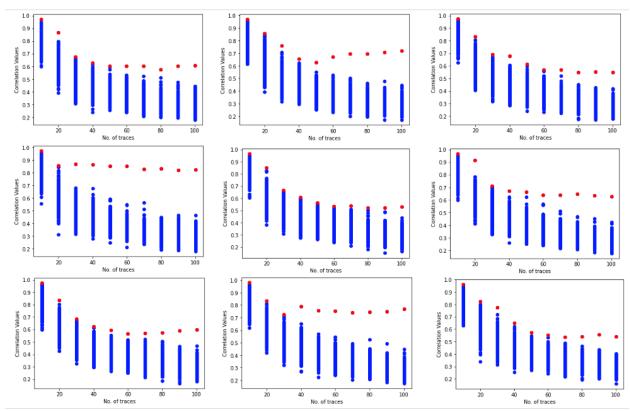
The steps for making correlation plot 2 are similar to those for making plot 1.

```
step_list = [i for i in range(10, 110, 10)]

l = 0
for j in range(0, 160, 10):
    plot2list = []
    for k in range(0,10,1):
        plot2list.append(plot2[j+k])
        # print(plot2list)

plot.figure()
    plot.plot(step_list, plot2list, 'o', color='blue') # plot.plot(step_list, keyByteList[l], 'o', color='red') # plot.xlabel("No. of traces")
    plot.ylabel("Correlation Values")
    l+=1
```

Figure xx: Code snippet for generating plot 2



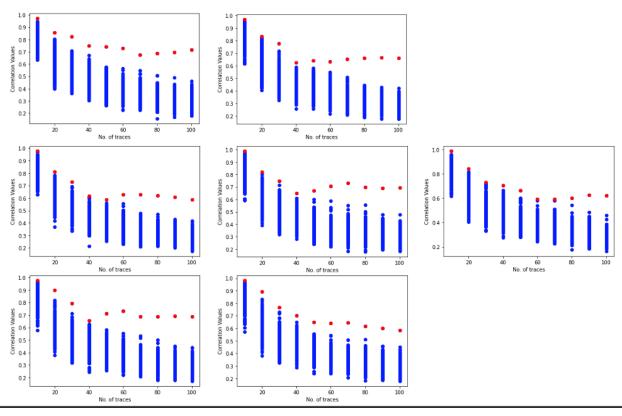


Figure xx: Correlation Plot with Variable Trace

Figure XX shows the correlation of correct key byte vs number of traces for all of the individual byte of the key. From the observation of the plots, the correlation coefficient eventually converge and the correct key byte starts to emerge as the number of traces increase.

3.3 Plot for Correct bytes recovered

```
with open("numberbytesrecovered.csv") as file_name:
    recoveredlist = np.loadtxt(file_name)

#Recovered bytes
step = [i for i in range(10, 110, 10)]
plot.figure()
plot.plot(step, recoveredlist)
plot.xlabel("Number of traces")
plot.ylabel("Number of correct bytes")
```

Figure X shows the code to plot the graph for the number of correct bytes against the number of traces. Firstly, we open the csv file generated earlier by running the java program. Next we plot

the number of traces on the x-axis and the list of number of recovered correct bytes on the y-axis.

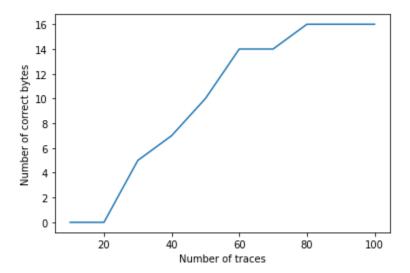


Figure X shows the plot for number of correct key bytes recovered against the number of traces. From the plot, we can see that as the number of traces increase, the number of correct bytes increase as well.

4.0 Countermeasures against Power Analysis Attack

The countermeasures against power analysis attacks are a series of strategies designed to make the power consumption of cryptographic devices independent of the data they process. Both hardware and software can be modified or improved to counter power analysis attacks. Hardware provides more variety of solutions to avoid leakage of information as compared to software countermeasures.

The following countermeasures can be split into 2 parts:

- 1. Hiding
- 2. Masking

Hiding Scheme

The hiding schemes randomly change the execution times of the operation to be attacked or the vertical height of the side-channel signals of the operation to be attacked. The goal of this

scheme is to make the power consumption of cryptographic devices independent of the performed operations and the processed values.

Some techniques that the hiding scheme uses are random insertion of dummy operations and shuffling of instructions to ensure that in different executions the same operation does not happen at the same moment in time.

Masking Scheme

The masking schemes modify the intermediate value randomly by adding random values as masks so that the attacker cannot guess intermediate values. Masking prevents power analysis attacks because the randomly masked intermediate values cause a power consumption that is not predictable by the attacker. The goal of this scheme is to make the intermediate values that are processed by the device independent of the intermediate values of the algorithm.

5.0 Conclusion

Power analysis attacks are frequently undetectable by the affected device. Because the attack is non-invasive and the power consumption monitoring is passive. As a result, cryptosystem engineers are continually improving countermeasures to ensure that power analysis attacks can be prevented by making an attack difficult enough that the reward for breaking the system is less than the cost of doing so.