

# IF AND HOW IMPLEMENTATION ATTACKS SHAPE THE DESIGN OF LATTICE-BASED SIGNATURE SCHEMES



16th IMA International Conference  
on Cryptography and Coding 2017  
12/12/2017

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# WHAT ARE IMPLEMENTATION ATTACKS?

**Mathematical cryptanalysis**



**Implementation attacks**



# PASSIVE AND ACTIVE ATTACKS



## Active Fault attacks

“allow to extract secret information by disturbing the cryptographic computation”

Zeroing, skipping, Randomization faults

## Passive

### Side-channel attacks

“monitor the behavior of the target device while executing”

Timing, power, cache side channels



# IMPLEMENTATION ATTACKS AGAINST LATTICE-BASED SIGNATURES IN THE LITERATURE

| Year | Authors   | IACR eprint | Type       | Schemes                                    |
|------|---|-------------|------------|--|
| 2012 | Kamal and Youssef                                     |             | FA         | NTRUSign                                   |
|      | Espitau, Fouque, Gérard, and Tibouchi                 | 2016/449    | FA         | GLP, BLISS, ring-TESLA, GPV-NTRU, PassSign |
| 2016 | Bindel, Buchmann, and Krämer                          | 2016/415    | FA         | GLP, BLISS, ring-TESLA                     |
|      | Groot Bruinderink, Hülsing, Lange, and Yarom          | 2016/300    | Cache SC   | BLISS                                      |
|      | Saarinen  | 2016/276    | Cache SC   | BLISS                                      |
|      | Pessl   | 2017/033    | Cache SC   | BLISS                                      |
| 2017 | Bindel, Buchmann, Krämer, Mantel, Schickel, and Weber | 2017/951    | Cache SC   | ring-TESLA                                 |
|      | Espitau, Fouque, Gerard, and Tibouchi                 | 2017/505    | (Power) SC | BLISS                                      |
|      | Pessl, Groot Bruinderink, and Yarom                   | 2017/490    | Cache SC   | BLISS                                      |



Aren't implementation attacks only interesting for implementers?

Or are they also interesting for the designers of schemes?

# OUTLINE

How fault attacks shape the design

Known attacks

Probabilistic  
vs.  
deterministic

Concrete examples: **qTESLA**  
<https://tesla.informatik.tu-darmstadt.de/de/tesla>

How (cache-) side channels shape the design

Gaussian sampling

Analysis of cache side  
channels using program  
semantic

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# RANDOMIZATION OF SMALL SECRET AND ERROR

qTESLA

secret key:  $s, e \leftarrow_{\sigma} \mathbb{Z}[x]/\langle x^n + 1 \rangle$

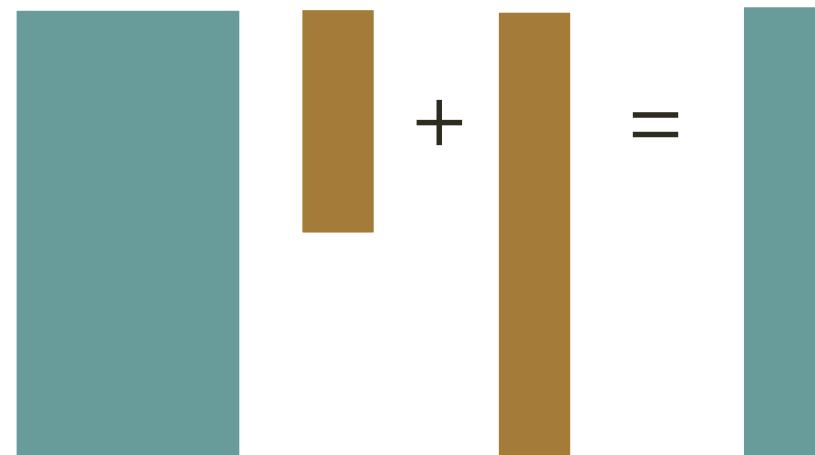
public key:  $a \leftarrow_{\$} \mathbb{Z}_q[x]/\langle x^n + 1 \rangle, b = a \cdot s + e \pmod q$

Possible alternative:

Binary LWE with  $s, e$  small coefficients

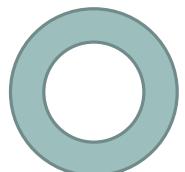
Problem: much easier to run randomization attack during  
signature generation [IACR eprint 2016/415]

LWE



$$A \cdot s + e = b \pmod q$$

# IDEA RANDOMIZATION ATTACK



**1st Insert fault:** change one coeff.  $s_i \in \{-1,0,1\}$  to  $s_i' \in \{-1,0,1\}$

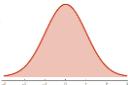


**2nd Software computation:** find index  $i$  and determine value of  $s_i$  by “intelligent brute force”

Smaller interval of secret coeffs.



More efficient computation/attack

- if  $s, e \leftarrow$   → too many possibilities for  $s_i$  → attack is not feasible
- can also be prevented by implementing countermeasure

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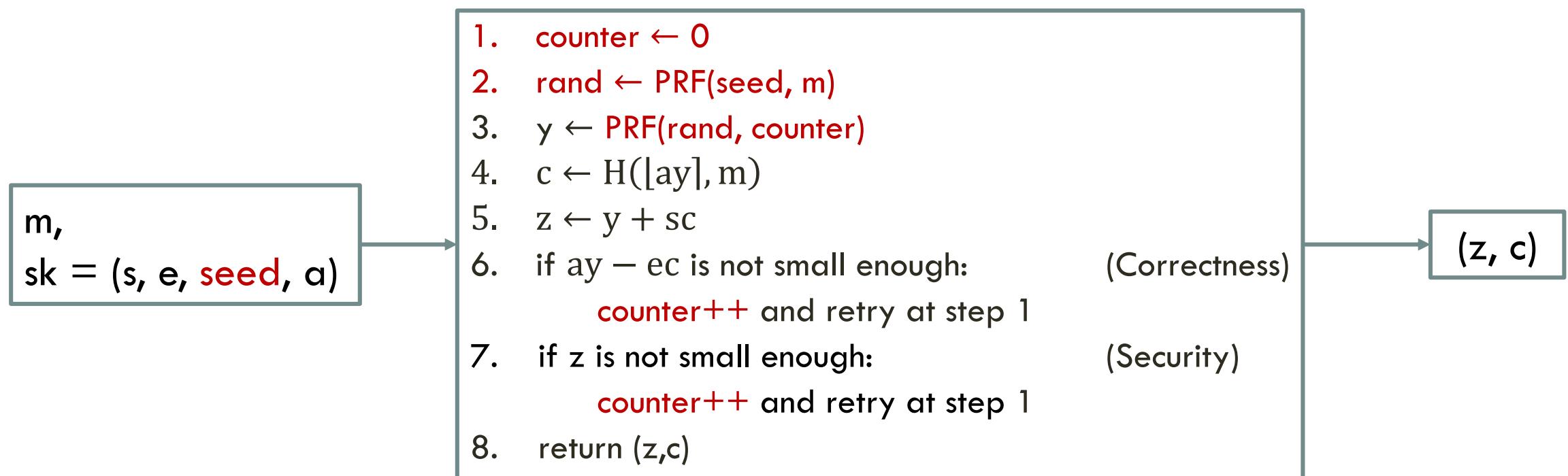
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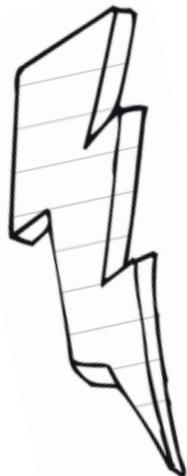
# DETERMINISTIC SIGNATURE QTESLA



# DETERMINISTIC VS PROBABILIST SIGNATURE

## Advantages deterministic signature:

- ✓ Use different randomness for different messages
  - prevent attacks that exploit fixed randomness
- ✓ No need of high-quality randomness
  - easier to be implemented

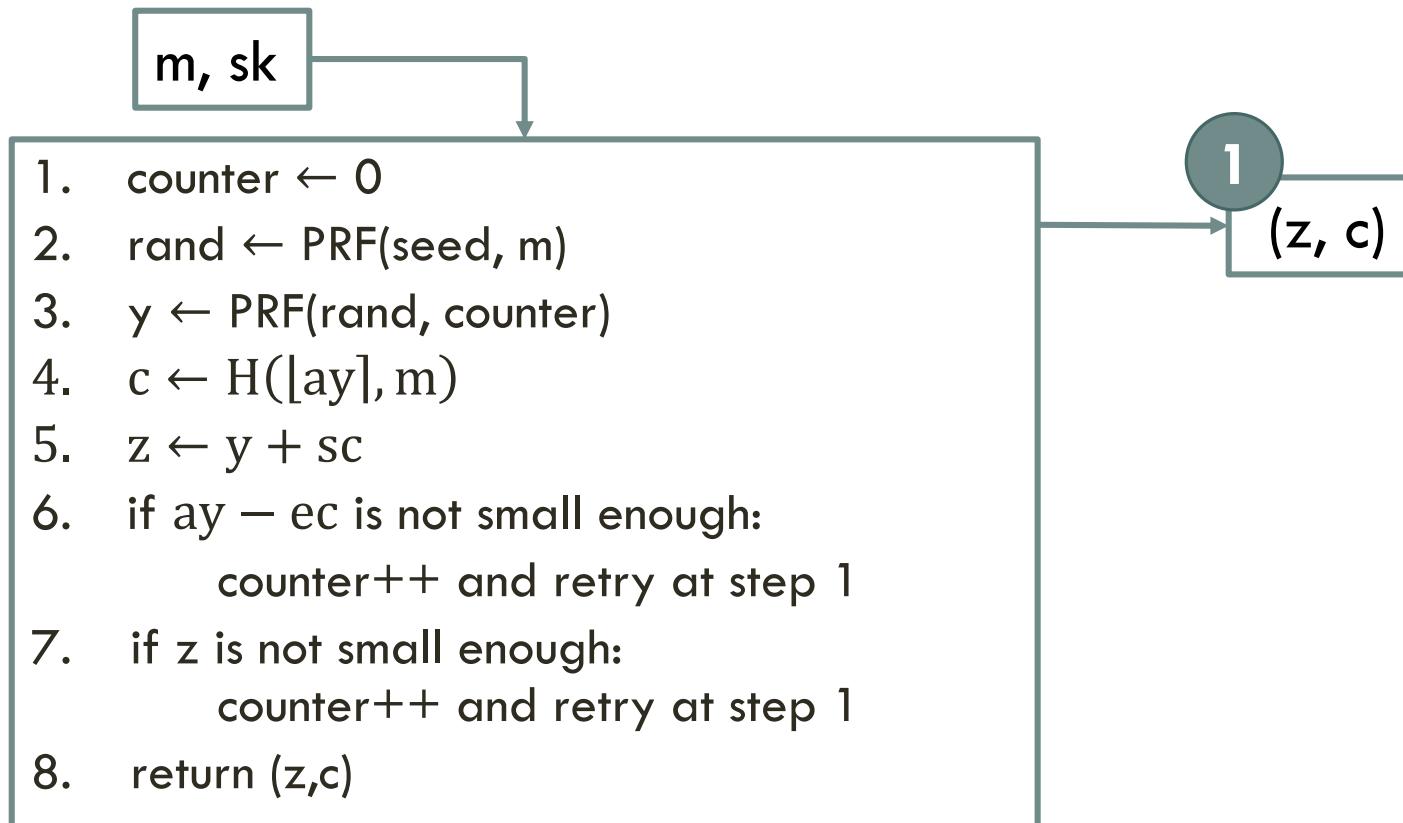


BUT possible vulnerability to fault attack might be introduced....



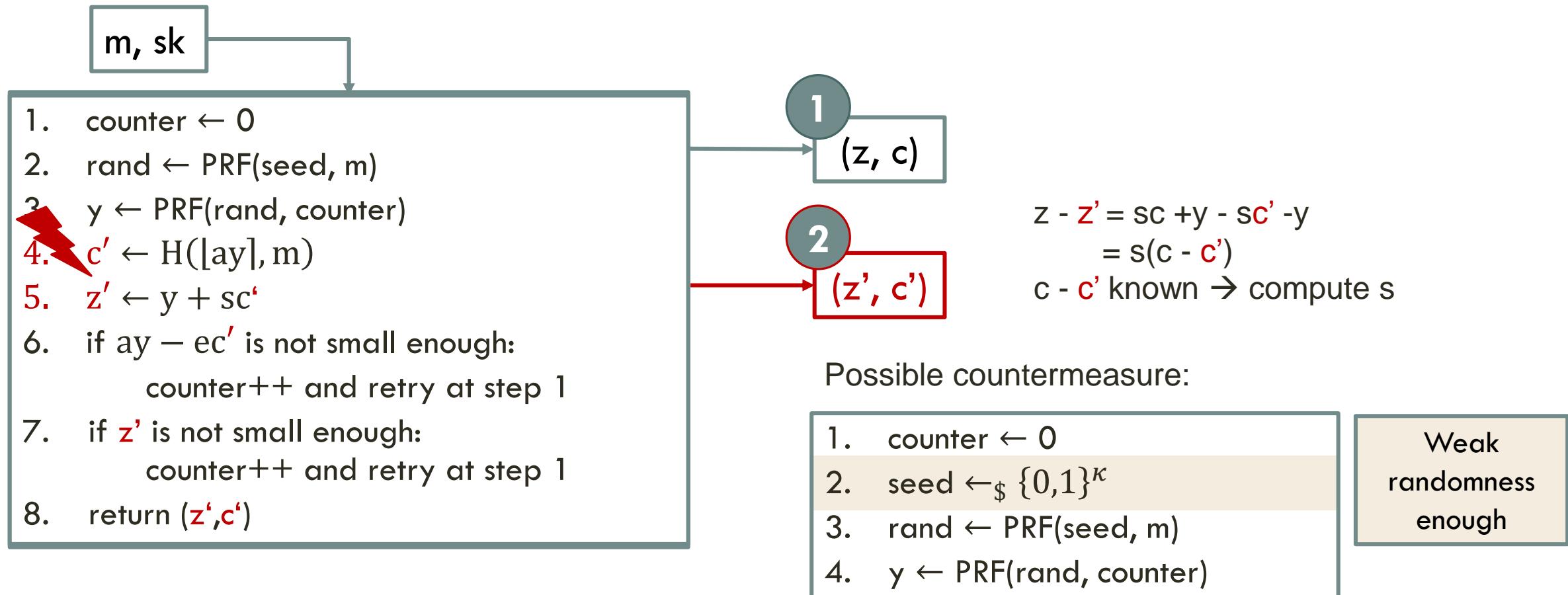
# FAULT ATTACK ON DETERMINISTIC SIGNATURE

by Poddebniak, Somorovsky, Schinzel, Lochter, and Rösler [eprint 2017/1014]



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# GAUSSIAN VS UNIFORM SAMPLING DURING SIGN

Signature  $z = y + sc$

## Gaussian sampling of randomness



Small signatures



Complicated implementation of  
rejection sampling



Hard to implement without side channels

## Uniform sampling of randomness



Large signatures



Easy rejection sampling

used in  
qTESLA

Easy to implement without side channels

Attack on rejection sampling of BLISS  
[eprint 2017/505]

Key recovery attack on BLISS and mitigations:  
[eprint 2016/300, 2016/276, 2017/033, 2017/490]

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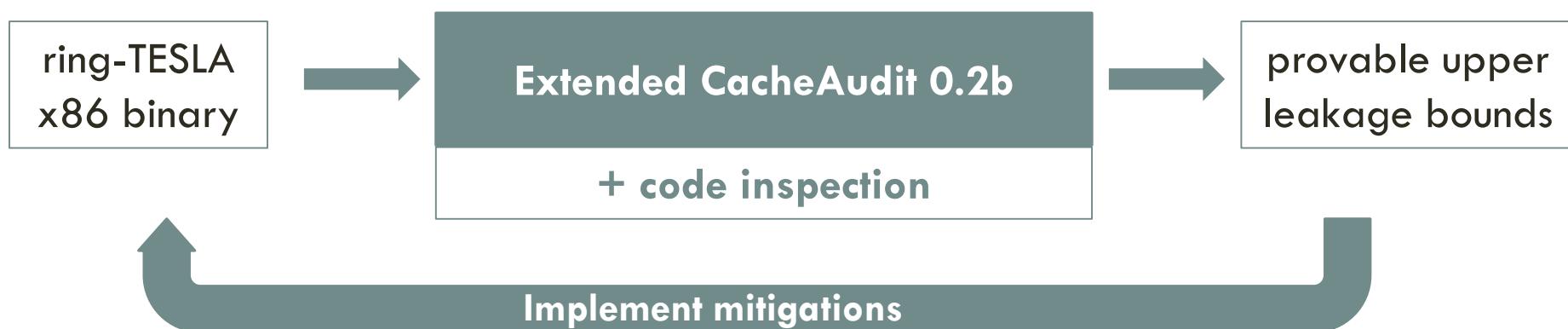
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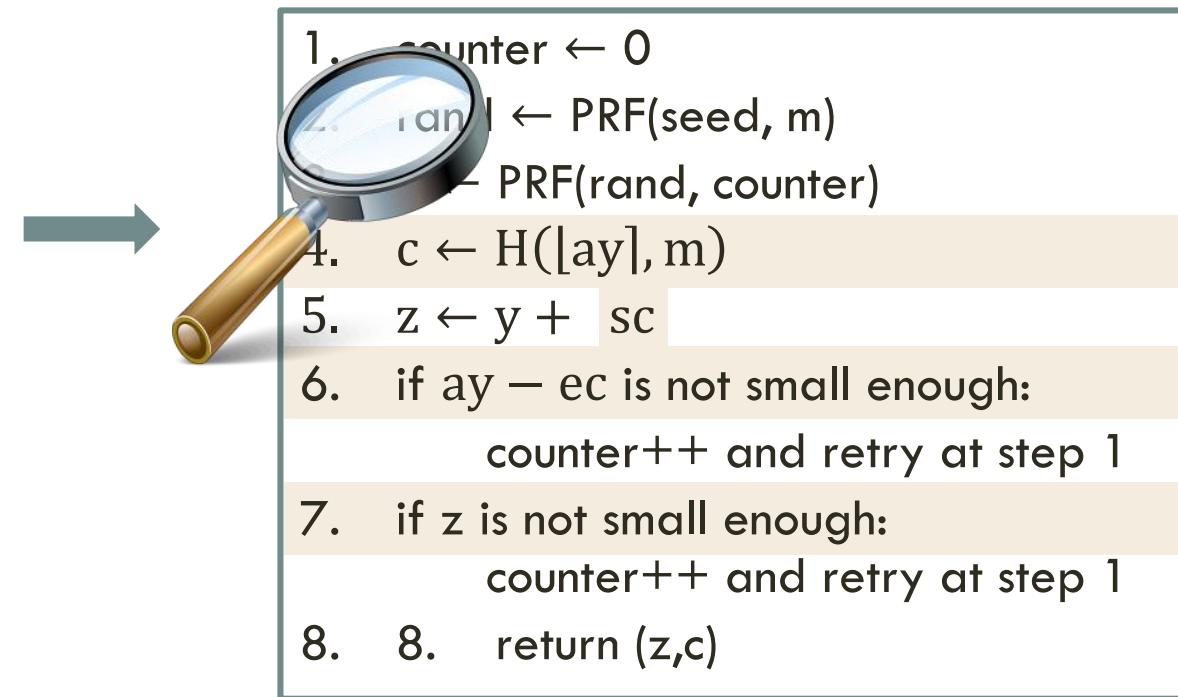
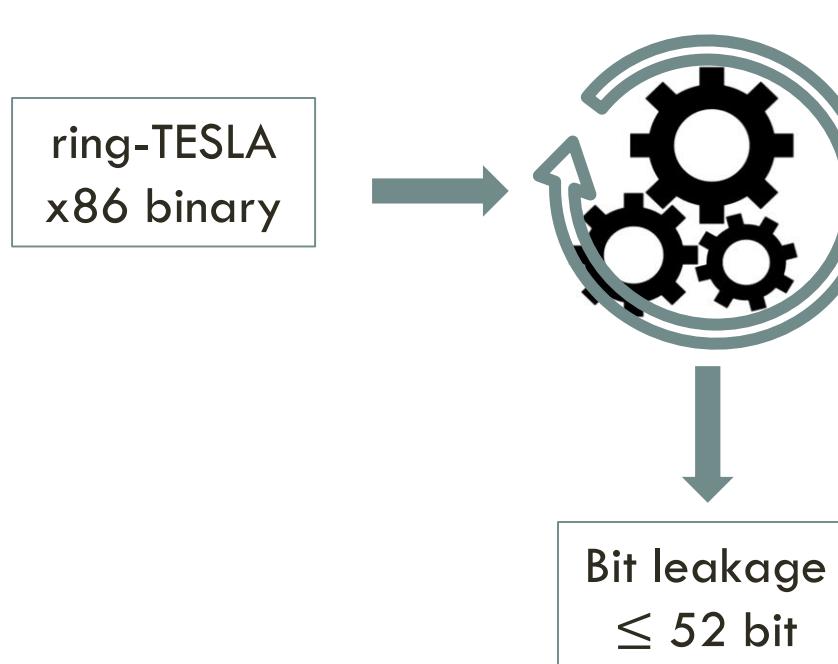
# CACHE SIDE CHANNELS

- Cache = memory to store entries for quick access
- cached entries are available faster (**hit**) than uncached entries (**miss**)  
→ example attack: measure victim execution time
- Analysis of cache-side-channel vulnerability with code inspection and program analysis [eprint 2017/951]



# INTERPRETATION OF LEAKAGE BOUNDS

- zero leakage →  **provably** no cache side channel wrt to attack model
- non-zero leakage →  **potential** vulnerabilities

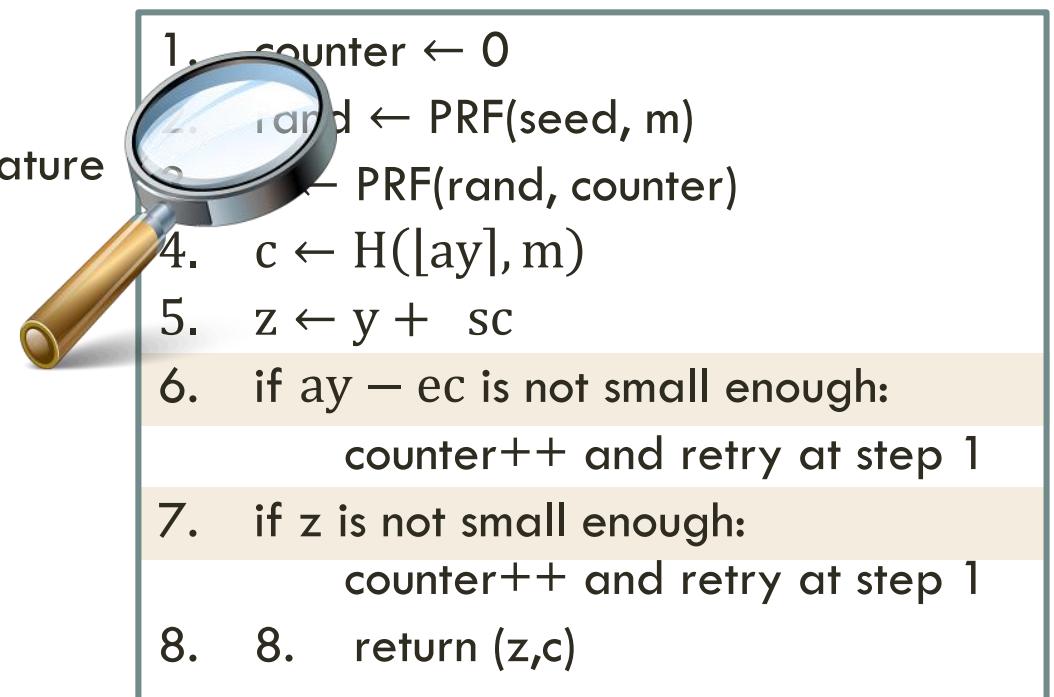


# MITIGATION IN SUBROUTINES = ZERO LEAKAGE?

- Mitigation in subroutines does not lead to zero leakage in sign

## Why?

- length of cache trace depends on rejection
- only leaks the number of tries to generate valid signature
- upper bounds are conservative, not tight
- bounds are low compared to key size
- key size: 49 152 bit\*
- bit leakage: 48.6 bit\* → 0.1% of bits are leaked



\* results correspond to ring-TESLA;  
qTESLA should be about the same

# CONCLUSION

- Summarized state-of-the-art of implementation attacks for lattice-based signature schemes
- We saw that ...
  - ... concrete fault attack influence choice of secret key
  - ... deterministic signatures might be more vulnerable to a fault attack
  - ... side channels influence the choice of randomness during sign
  - ... the provable mitigation of some cache side channels is very hard – even impossible – because of the design
- Disclaimer: no performance comparison



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Special thanks to Alexandra Weber for her  
inspiration regarding the cache-side-channel slides!

# THANKS