

# Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication, Side-Channel Attacks and Counter-measures

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# Outline

- 1 Problematic
  - Cryptographic Protocols: what about the Group?
  - Elliptic Curve Point Operations
  - Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication
- 2 Side-channel Attacks
  - First Attack: Simple Power Analysis
  - How to thwart SPA?
  - Second Attack: Differential Power Analysis
  - How to thwart DPA?
  - Synthesis
- 3 Conclusion

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- Cryptographic Protocols: what about the Group?
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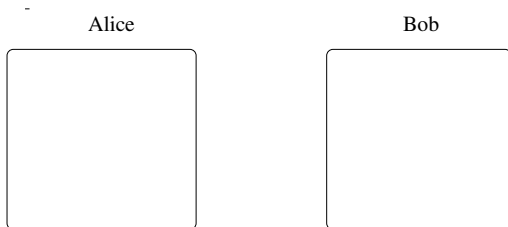
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# Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol

Alice and Bob agree on an Abelian group  $(G, +, \mathcal{O})$  and a group generator  $P$ .



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Alice

$a \leftarrow \text{random}()$

Computes  $A = a \cdot P$

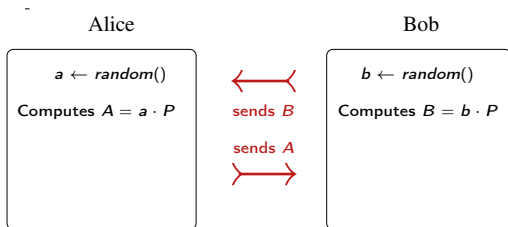
Bob

$b \leftarrow \text{random}()$

Computes  $B = b \cdot P$

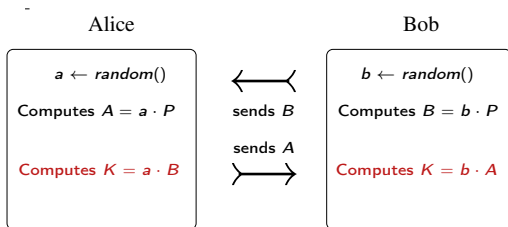
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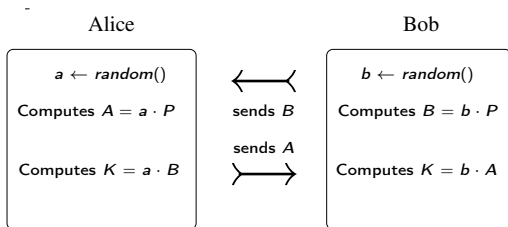
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# Diffie-Hellman key exchange protocol

Alice and Bob agree on an Abelian group  $(G, +, \mathcal{O})$  and a group generator  $P$ .



Shared Secret Key  $K = a \cdot b \cdot P$

→ The main operation is the scalar multiplication  $a \cdot P$ .



## Multiplicative groups vs Abelian (additive) groups

	Multiplicative group $(\mathcal{G}, \times, 1)$	Abelian group $(\mathcal{G}, +, \mathcal{O})$
Group operation	$a \times b$	$P + Q$
	$a^2$	$[2] \cdot P$
Neutral element	1	0 or $\mathcal{O}$
	$a^e$ exponentiation	$[k] \cdot P$ scalar multiplication
Discrete logarithm problem	knowing $X$ and $a$ , find $e$ such as $X = a^e$	knowing $X$ and $P$ , find $k$ such as $X = [k] \cdot P$

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Example: El-Gamal encryption		
Alice's private key	$x$	
Alice's public key	$h \leftarrow g^x$ $(\mathcal{G}, g, h)$	$H \leftarrow [x] \cdot P$ $(\mathcal{G}, P, H)$
Bob's encryption $(c_1, c_2)$	$y = \text{Bob's secret parameter}$ $c_1 \leftarrow g^y, s \leftarrow h^y$ $c_2 \leftarrow m \cdot s$	$c_1 \leftarrow [y] \cdot P, S \leftarrow [y] \cdot H$ $c_2 \leftarrow m + S$
Alice's decryption	$s \leftarrow c_1^x$ $m' \leftarrow c_2 \cdot s^{-1}$ $(m' \leftarrow m \cdot s \cdot s^{-1})$	$S \leftarrow [x] \cdot c_1$ $m' \leftarrow c_2 - S$ $(m' \leftarrow m + S - S)$

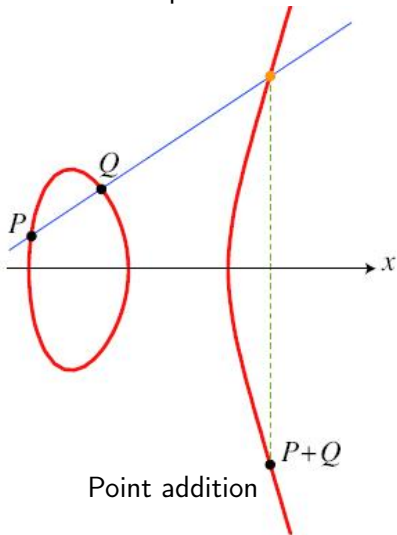
# ECC vs Exponentiation over $\mathbb{F}_p$

Date	Minimum of Strength	Symmetric Algorithms	Factoring Modulus	Discrete Logarithm Key	Discrete Logarithm Group	Elliptic Curve	Hash (A)	Hash (B)
2010 (Legacy)	80	2TDEA*	1024	160	1024	160	SHA-1** SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512	SHA-1 SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512
2011 - 2030	112	3TDEA	2048	224	2048	224	SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512	SHA-1 SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512
> 2030	128	AES-128	3072	256	3072	256	SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512	SHA-1 SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512
>> 2030	192	AES-192	7680	384	7680	384	SHA-384 SHA-512	SHA-224 SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512
>>> 2030	256	AES-256	15360	512	15360	512	SHA-512	SHA-256 SHA-384 SHA-512

NIST Recommendations (2012, from <http://www.keylength.com/en/4/>).

# Our group: the set of Elliptic Curve points

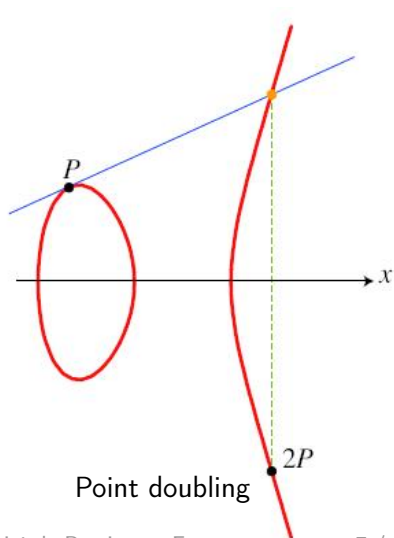
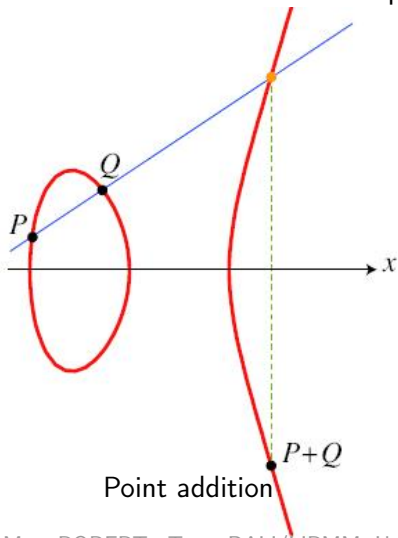
Example over  $\mathbb{R}$ :



Point addition

# Our group: the set of Elliptic Curve points

Example over  $\mathbb{R}$ :



## Our group: the set of Elliptic Curve points

Our curve is over a finite field  $\mathbb{F}_p$  or  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  (instead of  $\mathbb{R}$ ):

$$E : Y^2 = X^3 + aX + b, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{F}_p.$$

$$E : Y^2 + XY = X^3 + aX^2 + b, \quad a, b \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}.$$

- Finite field operations

Operation	$A, B \in \mathbb{F}_p$	$A, B \in \mathbb{F}_{2^m}$ (= $\mathbb{F}_2[x]/(f(x) \cdot \mathbb{F}_2[x])$ )
Field element	$0 \leq A < p$ $0 \leq B < p$ $p$ large prime	$A = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} a_i \cdot x^i$ $B = \sum_{i=0}^{m-1} b_i \cdot x^i$ $a_i, b_i \in \{0, 1\}$
Addition $A + B =$	$A + B \pmod p$	$\sum_{i=0}^{m-1} (a_i + b_i) \cdot x^i$
Multiplication $A \times B =$	$A \times B \pmod p$	$A \cdot B \pmod f$

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## Elliptic Curve Point Operations

Doubling and addition formulas:  $P_1 + P_2 = P_3$   
 (with  $P_1 = (x_1, y_1)$ ,  $P_2 = (x_2, y_2)$ ,  $P_3 = (x_3, y_3)$ .)

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{F}_p \\ x_3 = \lambda^2 - x_1 - x_2 \\ y_3 = (x_1 - x_3)\lambda - y_1 \end{array} \right| \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \mathbb{F}_{2^m} \\ x_3 = \lambda^2 + \lambda + x_1 + x_2 + a \\ y_3 = (x_1 + x_3)\lambda + x_3 + y_1 \end{array} \right.$$

with

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda = \frac{y_2 - y_1}{x_2 - x_1} \text{ if } P_1 \neq P_2 \\ \lambda = \frac{3x_1^2 + a}{2y_1} \text{ if } P_1 = P_2 \end{array} \right| \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \lambda = \frac{y_1 + y_2}{x_1 + x_2} \text{ if } P_1 \neq P_2 \\ \lambda = \frac{y_1}{x_1} + x_1 \text{ if } P_1 = P_2 \end{array} \right.$$



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- One **doubling** requires 1 inversion, 2 multiplications, 1 or 2 squaring(s), and some additions;
- One **addition** requires 1 inversion, 2 multiplications, 1 squaring, and some additions;

# Elliptic curve point representation: Projective Coordinate Systems

- In order to eliminate the field inversion (the costliest operation), we use projective coordinate systems.

Example over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  (Lopez-Dahab system):

$$P = (x, y) \text{ is transformed into } (X : Y : Z) \text{ with } \begin{cases} x = \frac{X}{Z} \\ y = \frac{Y}{Z^2} \end{cases}$$

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- Now, the doubling is computed as follows:

$$2 \cdot (X : Y : Z) = (X_1 : Y_1 : Z_1) \text{ with } \begin{cases} X_1 = X^2 + b \cdot Z^2 \\ Y_1 = bZ^2 \cdot Z_1 + X_1 \cdot (aZ_1 + Y^2 + bZ^2) \\ Z_1 = X^2 \cdot Z^2 \end{cases}$$

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Operation	Affine	Lopez-Dahab
Doubling	2M + 1S + 1I	4M + 4S
Addition	2M + 1S + 1I	13M + 4S
Addition (mixed coordinates)	-	9M + 5S (Projective + Affine)

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## ECSM algorithm : *Double-and-add*

- Let  $k = (k_{t-1}, \dots, k_1, k_0)_2 \in \mathbb{N}$ ,  $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_{2^m})$

$$\begin{aligned}
 k \cdot P &= \left( \sum_{i=0}^{t-1} 2^i k_i \right) \cdot P \\
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- This is the following algorithm:

### Left-to-Right double-and-add Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication (ECSM)

**Require:**  $k = (k_{t-1}, \dots, k_1, k_0)$ ,  $P \in E(\mathbb{F}_{2^m})$

**Ensure:**  $Q = k \cdot P$

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"mixed coordinate addition"  $\Rightarrow$



## Double-and-add improvement : NAF and W-NAF.

- NAF replaces the sequences of consecutive 1: let  $k \in \mathbb{N}$  such as  $k = 2^i - 1$ , then

$$(k)_2 = \underbrace{111\dots1}_{i \text{ times}} \text{ and one has: } (k)_{NAF} = \underbrace{100\dots00}_{i+1 \text{ digits}} - 1.$$

⇒ Average number of non zero digits: from  $n/2$  down to  $n/3$ .

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- W-NAF decreases even more the number of non zero digits:  $n/(w+1)$  now by using:

$$\{-2^{w-1} + 1, \dots, -5, -3, -1, 0, 1, 3, 5, \dots, 2^{w-1} - 1\}.$$

- Complexity balance for the ECSM over  $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$  or  $E(\mathbb{F}_p)$ :

	doubling number	additions number
<i>Double-and-add</i>	$n$	$n/2$
<i>NAF Double-and-add</i>	$n$	$n/3$
<i>W-NAF Double-and-add</i>	$n$	$n/(w+1) + 2^{w-2}$

## State of the art

	Scalar multiplication	Curve	Security	processor	Method	Cycles
$E(\mathbb{F}_p)$	Hamburg [4]	Montgomery	126	i7 SB	Montg. ladder	153000
	Langley [7]	Curve25519	128	i7 SB	Montg. ladder	229000
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	Longa <i>et al.</i> [8]	jac256189	128	2 Duo	WNAF D&A	337000
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$E(\mathbb{F}_{2^m})$	Nègre <i>et al.</i> [9]	B233	112	i7 SB	WNAF D-H&A	98000
	Taverne <i>et al.</i> [11]	B233	112	i7 SB	WNAF D-H&A	102000
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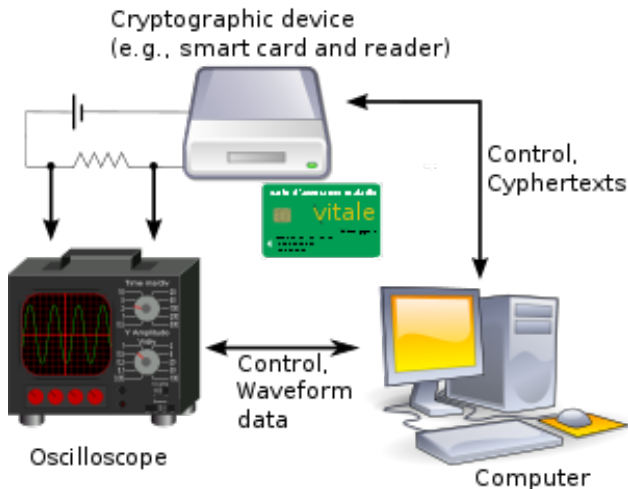
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This is several hundreds of time faster than the modular exponentiation over  $\mathbb{Z}/p\mathbb{Z}$ !

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# Side-Channel attack: What is it?



Side Channel test bench.

# Vulnerable ECSM: Double-And-Add case

Left-to-Right double-and-add  
Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication (ECSM)

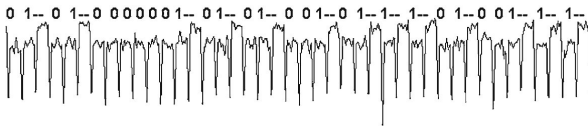
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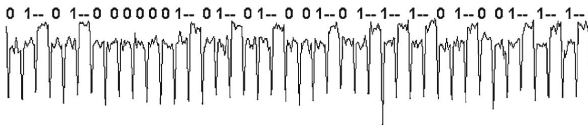
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→ Vulnerable: the sequence of operations leaks the secret scalar (no regularity)

→ Simple Power Analysis



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## How to thwart SPA: first idea, Double-and-add-always

As a counter-measure, Coron in [3] suggested the following algorithm:

### Double-and-add-always

**Require:**  $k = (k_{t-1}, \dots, k_1, k_0)$  with  $k_{t-1} = 1, P \in E(\mathbb{F}_q)$

**Ensure:**  $Q = k \cdot P$

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1:  $Q_0 \leftarrow \mathcal{O}, Q_1 \leftarrow \mathcal{O}$ 
2: for  $i$  from  $t-1$  downto 0 do
3:    $Q_0 \leftarrow 2 \cdot Q_0$ 
4:   if  $(k_i = 0)$  then
5:      $Q_1 \leftarrow Q_0 + P$ 
6:   else
7:      $Q_0 \leftarrow Q_0 + P$ 
8:   end if
9: end for
10: return  $(Q_0)$ 
```

### Double-and-add-always

Weak against Fault Injection Attacks (see Oviedo in [10]).

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4:   if  $(k_i = 0)$  then
5:      $Q_1 \leftarrow Q_0 + P$   $\leftarrow$  "dummy addition"
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### Double-and-add-always

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# How to thwart SPA: Montgomery ladder

## Montgomery

**Require:**  $k = (k_{t-1}, \dots, k_1, k_0)$  with  $k_{t-1} = 1, P \in E(\mathbb{F}_q)$

**Ensure:**  $Q = k \cdot P$

- 1:  $Q_0 \leftarrow P, Q_1 \leftarrow 2P$
- 2: **for**  $i$  from  $t - 2$  **downto** 0 **do**
- 3:     **if**  $(k_i = 0)$  **then**
- 4:          $Q_1 \leftarrow Q_0 + Q_1, Q_0 \leftarrow 2 \cdot Q_0$
- 5:     **else**
- 6:          $Q_0 \leftarrow Q_0 + Q_1, Q_1 \leftarrow 2 \cdot Q_1$
- 7:     **end if**
- 8: **end for**
- 9: **return**  $(Q_0)$

## Basic Montgomery's ladder ECSM

## How does the Montgomery ladder work?

Example :  $k = 45_{10} = 0x2D = [1, 0, 1, 1, 0, 1]_2$

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$i$	init	4	3	2	1	0
$k_i$	1	0	1	1	0	1
$Q_0$						
$Q_1$						

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$i$	<b>init</b>	4	3	2	1	0
$k_i$	<b>1</b>	0	1	1	0	1
$Q_0$	<b>P</b>					
$Q_1$						

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$Q_0$	P					
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Double:

$$Q_0 \leftarrow 2 \cdot Q_0$$

$$(Q_1 \leftarrow Q_0 + Q_1 = 2 \cdot Q_0 + P \\ \text{therefore } Q_1 - Q_0 = P)$$

$i$	init	4	3	2	1	0
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$Q_0$	P	2P				
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Double-and-add:

$$Q_0 \leftarrow Q_0 + Q_1 = 2 \cdot Q_0 + P$$

$$(Q_1 \leftarrow 2 \cdot (Q_0 + P))$$

therefore  $Q_1 - Q_0 = P$

$i$	init	4	3	2	1	0
$k_i$	1	0	1	1	0	1
$Q_0$	$P$	$2P$	$5P$			
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therefore  $Q_1 - Q_0 = P$

$i$	init	4	3	2	1	0
$k_i$	1	0	1	1	0	1
$Q_0$	$P$	$2P$	$5P$	$11P$		
$Q_1$	$2P$	$3P$	$6P$			

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$k_i$	1	0	1	1	0	1
$Q_0$	$P$	$2P$	$5P$	$11P$	$22P$	$45P$
$Q_1$	$2P$	$3P$	$6P$	$12P$	$23P$	



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The algorithm returns:

$$\rightarrow Q_0 = 45P$$

# Outline

- 1 Problematic
  - Cryptographic Protocols: what about the Group?
  - Elliptic Curve Point Operations
  - Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication
- 2 Side-channel Attacks
  - First Attack: Simple Power Analysis
  - How to thwart SPA?
  - **Second Attack: Differential Power Analysis**
  - How to thwart DPA?
  - Synthesis
- 3 Conclusion

## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

These attacks are presented in Kocher *et al.* [5, 6]

The attacker uses a power consumption model of the device.

Let  $\mathcal{H}(k)$  be the Hamming weight of the processed data  $\Delta$  at time  $t$ .

Then, our model is:

$$\mathcal{P}(t) = \mathcal{C} \cdot \mathcal{H}(\Delta) + \epsilon + K$$

( $\mathcal{C}$  and  $K$  are constants,  $\epsilon$  represents the noise.)

## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

A toy example: The attacker ask the device to compute a serie of multiplications of chosen  $I[i]$  by a secret constant  $k$  over 12 bits (CPA).

Assume the attacker knows the seven first bits of  $k$  :  $[1, 0, 1, 1, 1, 0, 0]_2 = 0x5A$ .

The attacker select one bit of the intermediate value computed:

Chosen value ( $I[i]$ )	intermediate value loop round 6 ( $Q_0$ )	Assumption $k_i = 1$ first 8 bits $\rightarrow 0xB5$ ( $= (0x5A \ll 1) \wedge 0x1$ )	selected bit: $n^{\circ}8$
⋮	⋮	⋮	⋮

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500-1000 computations

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500-1000 computations			

over 16 bits,

- average Hamming weight of the "red ones": 8.5;
- average Hamming weight of the "black ones": 7.5.

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500-1000 computations

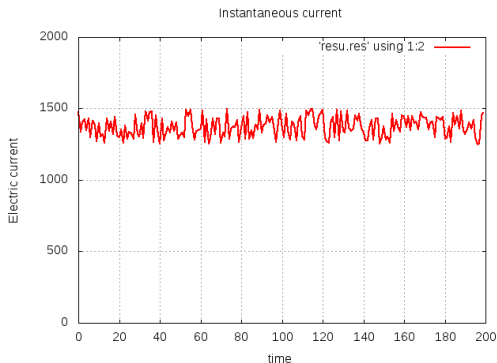
over 16 bits,

- average Hamming weight of the "red ones": 8.5;
- average Hamming weight of the "black ones": 7.5.

When the device processes the selected bit ( $n^{\circ}8$ ), if the assumption on  $k_i$  is correct, the "red ones" need more electric power then the "black ones".

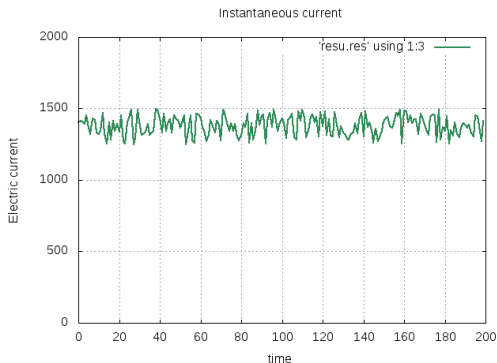
## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

The attacker collects the  $m$  power traces of the  $m$  computations  $\mathbf{T}_{1\dots m}[j]$ .  
Power trace of a "red one":



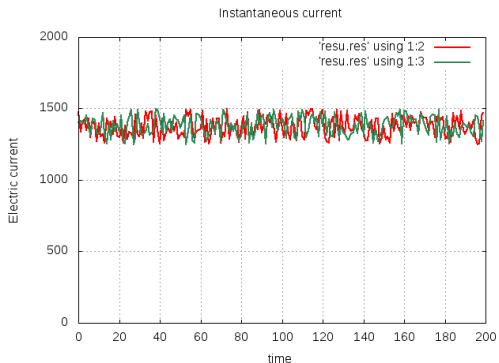
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The attacker collects the  $m$  power traces of the  $m$  computations  $\mathbf{T}_{1\dots m}[j]$ .  
Power trace of a "black one":



## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

Both power traces:





## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

The attacker now computes the average trace for the red ones and the black ones, and the difference between both average traces:

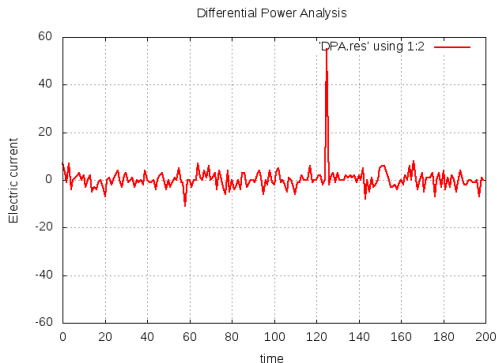
$$\begin{aligned}\Delta_D[j] &= \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m D(P_i, s) \cdot \mathbf{T}_i[j]}{\sum_{i=1}^m D(P_i, s)} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m (1 - D(P_i, s)) \cdot \mathbf{T}_i[j]}{\sum_{i=1}^m (1 - D(P_i, s))} \\ &\approx 2 \cdot \left( \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m D(P_i, s) \cdot \mathbf{T}_i[j]}{\sum_{i=1}^m D(P_i, s)} - \frac{\sum_{i=1}^m \mathbf{T}_i[j]}{m} \right).\end{aligned}$$

with:

- $D(P_i, s) = \text{bit } 8 \text{ of } 0xB5 \cdot I[i]$
- $\mathbf{T}_{1\dots m}[j]$

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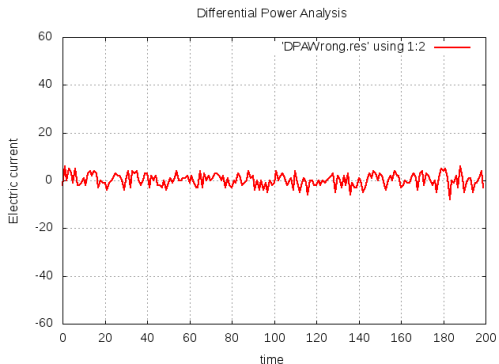


→ At the time the selected bit is processed, one can see a peak: good guess!

(The eight<sup>th</sup> bit of the secret scalar is 1!)

## Second Attack: *Differential Power Analysis*

We now do the same with the assumption of a bit equal to 0 (same computations as previously,  $0xB4$  instead of  $0xB5$ ):



→ Only noise! Wrong guess!

(However, the attacker wins the game anyway: if the eight<sup>th</sup> bit of the secret scalar is not 0, it is 1 !)

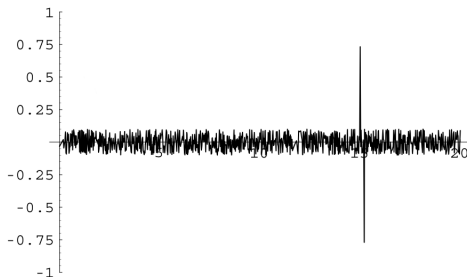
# DPA in pictures, Coron, CHES 99



**Fig. 2.** Simulated correlation function  $g(t)$  between the points  $4P_i$  and power consumption  $C_i(t)$  when  $d_{\ell-2} = 1$ . No peak is observed since the points  $4P_i$  are never computed by the card.

In this exemple quoted from Coron, a smart card computes an elliptic curve scalar multiplication  $d \cdot P$  with the Left-to-right-Double-and-add algorithm, and the attacker guesses the second bit to be processed.

# DPA in pictures, Coron, CHES 99



**Fig. 1.** Simulated correlation function  $g(t)$  between the points  $4P_i$  and power consumption  $C_i(t)$  when  $d_{\ell-2} = 0$ . A peak is observed corresponding to the computation of  $4P_i$  inside the card.

In this exemple quoted from Coron, a smart card computes an elliptic curve scalar multiplication  $d \cdot P$  with the Left-to-right-Double-and-add algorithm, and the attacker guesses the second bit to be processed.

# Analysis of the algorithms: Double-and-Add-Always

<i>Double-and-Add-Always</i>									
round $i$ :				$i = l - 2$			$i = l - 3$		
$k_{l-1} = 1$	$k_{l-2}$	$k_{l-3}$	...	$Q_0$	$Q_1$	Chosen result	$Q_0$	$Q_1$	Chosen result
1	0	0	...	$2P$	$3P$	$2P$	$4P$	$5P$	$4P$
1	0	1	...	$2P$	$3P$	$2P$	$4P$	$5P$	$5P$
1	1	0	...	$2P$	$3P$	$3P$	$6P$	$7P$	$6P$
1	1	1	...	$2P$	$3P$	$3P$	$6P$	$7P$	$7P$

**Table :** First loop rounds of Algorithm 19, *Double-and-Add-Always*

# Analysis of the algorithms: Montgomery's Binary Ladder

Montgomery's binary ladder							
round $i$ :				$i = l - 2$		$i = l - 3$	
$k_{l-1} = 1$	$k_{l-2}$	$k_{l-3}$	...	$Q_0$	$Q_1$	$Q_0$	$Q_1$
1	0	0	...	$2P$	$3P$	$4P$	$5P$
1	0	1	...	$2P$	$3P$	$5P$	$6P$
1	1	0	...	$3P$	$4P$	$6P$	$7P$
1	1	1	...	$3P$	$4P$	$7P$	$8P$

Table : First loop rounds of Algorithm 20, Montgomery's binary ladder

# Outline

- 1 Problematic
  - Cryptographic Protocols: what about the Group?
  - Elliptic Curve Point Operations
  - Elliptic Curve Scalar Multiplication
- 2 Side-channel Attacks
  - First Attack: Simple Power Analysis
  - How to thwart SPA?
  - Second Attack: Differential Power Analysis
  - **How to thwart DPA?**
  - Synthesis
- 3 Conclusion



# Randomization

The DPA attack works by averaging traces. A natural way to nail these average traces is to randomize the values processed.

- *Randomization of the private exponent*

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An elliptic curve over  $\mathbb{F}_{2^m}$  or  $\mathbb{F}_p$  is a finite set of points, whose number of points is denoted  $\#\mathcal{E}$ . The order of a point divides  $\#\mathcal{E}$ .

$$Q = d \cdot P = (d + k \cdot \#\mathcal{E}) \cdot P, \forall k \in \mathbb{Z}.$$

(Indeed, one has:  $\#\mathcal{E} \cdot P = \mathcal{O}$ ).

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One adds a random point  $R$  to the base point  $P$ , whose multiple  $S = d \cdot R$  is known in advance.

-> Point used in the operation  $P' = P + R$

Variant:

->  $R \leftarrow (-1)^b 2R$ ,  $S \leftarrow (-1)^b 2S$ , ( $b$  is a random bit).

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For one point in affine coordinates  $(x, y)$ , there is a huge quantity of projective points  $(X, Y, Z)$  corresponding such as  $(x = X/Z, y = Y/Z^2)$ .

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- Moreover, the counter-measures are costly.

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# Conclusion

- Elliptic curve cryptographic main operation: the Scalar Multiplication;
- Much faster than fast exponentiation, smaller data for the same level of security;
- Side channel attacks are real threats!
- SPA attack;
- DPA attack;
- Other attacks every day... New counter-measures...

Thank you for your attention,

Any questions ?

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