

# Privacy-preserving Security Protocols for RFIDs

Thesis defense

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# Outline

## 1 Context

- RFID hardware
- The privacy problem
- Authentication in RFIDs

## 2 Ad-hoc protocols

- ProbIP
- EProbIP

## 3 Stream ciphers in RFIDs

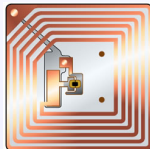
- Analysing stream ciphers with SAT solvers
- Adapting SAT solvers to stream ciphers
- Adapting stream cipher representation to SAT solvers
- Attacks

## 4 Conclusions

# What is an RFID?

An EPC RFID tag is:

- Small electronic device to identify items
- Projected to be on all items sold
- Cheap and disposable
- Used in the supply chain to track goods



# RFID classification methods

## By standards

- ISO 18000-\*, 14443, 15693
- EPCglobal
- NFC

## By frequencies

- Low Frequency (LF): 125/134.2 KHz
- High Frequency (HF): 13.56MHz (ISM)
- Ultra-HF (UHF): 856-930MHz
- Microwave Frequency: 2.4 GHz (ISM)

## By power source

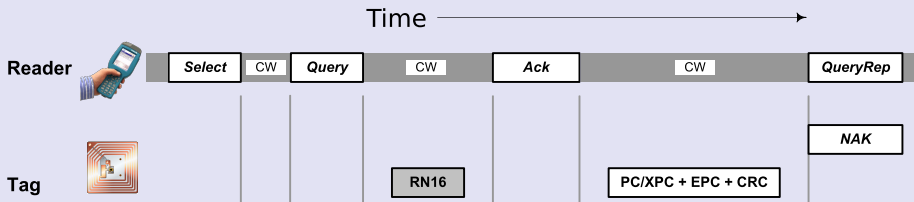
- Passive
- Semi-passive
- Active

# The privacy problem

## Causes

- RFIDs emit their ID to any query
- Their owners are easy to track
- Long read range, no line-of-sight
- Non human-detectable reader signal
- Unique ID

## EPC protocol





# Solutions to the privacy problem

## Physical layer-based

- Put the tag in a Faraday cage (ex.: mesh wallet)
- Kill the tag (ex.: EPC)
- Blocker tag, RFID Guardian
- Noisy tag
- Noisy reader

## Protocol layer-based

- Pseudonym-rotation 
- Hash-based (ex.: OSK) 
- Keytree-based
- Ad-hoc primitives (ex. ProbIP)

# Kill the tag

## How it works

- 1 Give the tag a tag-specific 32-bit PIN code
- 2 The tag self-destructs

## Advantages

- Easy to implement
- Once killed, cannot be re-awakened

## Disadvantages

Loose many of RFIDs' advantages, e.g.:

- Automatic washing-machine
- Automatic recognition of items in the fridge
- Returning to shops defective items without receipts



# Noisy tag

## How it works

- 1 Generates pseudo-random noise on the channel
- 2 Sends reader the noise seed
- 3 Reader subtracts the noise and recovers the data

## Advantages

- Simple to implement, should be cheap
- Perfect secrecy of data
- Multiple noisy tags enhance security

## Disadvantages

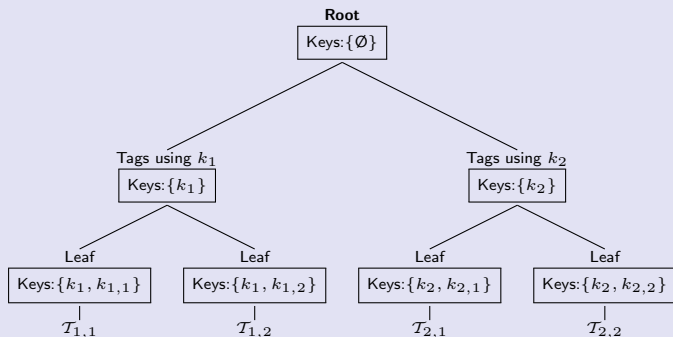
- Random noise needs to be known by the reader
- Needs to be worn all the time
- Implementation possibility has been questioned

# Key-trees

## Setup

- Tags are leaves of a multi-level tree
- Tag identifies itself with a key for each level
- Reader brute-forces each level
- This is  $n \log_n p$  speed, where  $n$  is depth,  $p$  is pop. size

## Example

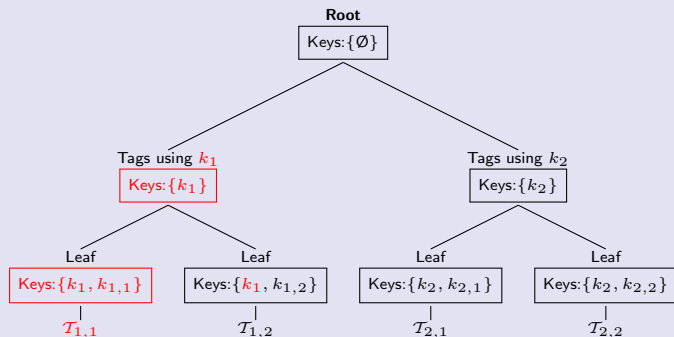


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## Example



# Key-trees

## Advantages

- Good privacy
- Fast (log-time identification)
- Extensively researched

## Disadvantages

- Anonymity loss if tags are opened
- Needs cryptographic function

# Authentication in RFIDs

## What it is

- Used to verify that other party is who he claims to be
- Achieved through demonstration that secret is known

## Why it is needed

- Against counterfeiting (e.g. medicines)
- Receiptless guarantee repairs

## Solutions

- Challenge-response protocol using lightweight crypto-primitives (e.g. Grain)
- Physically Unclonable Functions (PUF)
- Rabin cryptosystem-based protocols
- LPN-based protocols (e.g. HB<sup>#</sup>)

# Topic of the Thesis

## RFIDs cannot use standard protocols

- Privacy protection
- Authentication service

## RFIDs require

- Novel RFID protocols or crypto-primitives
- Analysis of these novel protocols for their security

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- EProbIP

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- Analysing stream ciphers with SAT solvers
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- Adapting stream cipher representation to SAT solvers
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# Ad-hoc protocols — Motivations

- Standard ciphers seem not well-adapted to RFIDs
- By designing a protocol from scratch, it could better fit RFID constraints
- Could find potentially unexplored areas, and exploit them



# ProbIP scheme

Public: keysize  $K$ , no. packets sent

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**Reader**  $\mathcal{R}$

Database  $L$ :

$\{\dots, (k_i, ID), \dots\}$

---

**Tag**  $\mathcal{T}_i$

Secret key:  $k_i$

HELLO  $\longrightarrow$

generate  $P$  packets

$\langle a_1, b_1 \rangle, \dots, \langle a_L, b_L \rangle$

s.t.  $a_j \in_r [1, K], b_j \in_r \{0, 1\}$

$$\sum_{j=1}^L [k_i[a_j] \oplus b_j] = L/2$$

$\longleftarrow$  generated packets

find  $(k_i, ID) \in L$

s.t. packets fit

$$\sum_{j=1}^L [k_i[a_j] \oplus b_j] = L/2$$

---

# Breaking ProbIP

Ouafi et al. have broken the security of ProbIP.

Packets are represented as

$$\sum_{i=1}^L v_i^1 (K[i] \oplus b_i^1) = L/2$$

$$\sum_{i=1}^L v_i^2 (K[i] \oplus b_i^2) = L/2$$

$\vdots$

$$\sum_{i=1}^L v_i^l (K[i] \oplus b_i^l) = L/2$$

- $l$  — no of packets gathered by the attacker
- $v$  – indicator function of given key bit is in the packet

Resulting matrix is solved with Gaussian elimination, in poly-time

# Error-introducing ProblP

EProblP is an extension to the original ProblP protocol:

- Tags sometimes send erroneous packets
- Reader knows the possible key, so it can filter them
- Attacker cannot distinguish between packets

# EProbIP — security evaluation

## Setup:

- 1 Generate keys  $(k_1, \dots, k_n)$  uniquely and randomly with GENKEY
- 2 Initialise  $\mathcal{R}$  with keys  $(k_1, \dots, k_n)$
- 3 Set each  $\mathcal{T}_i$ 's key  $k_i$  with a SETKEY call

## Phase 1 (Learning):

- 4 Let  $\mathcal{A}$  do  $x_A$  TAGINIT calls with  $\mathcal{T}_A$  and records received packets into  $X_A$
- 5 Let  $\mathcal{A}$  do  $x_B$  TAGINIT calls with  $\mathcal{T}_B$  and records received packets into  $X_B$

## Phase 2 (Challenge):

- 6  $\mathcal{T}_C \xleftarrow{r} \{\mathcal{T}_A, \mathcal{T}_B\}$
- 7  $\mathcal{A}$  performs  $x_C$  TAGINIT calls with  $\mathcal{T}_C$  and records received packets into  $X_C$
- 8  $\mathcal{A}$  performs calculations on the recorded packets to guess  $\mathcal{T}_C \stackrel{?}{=} \mathcal{T}_A$

Experiment succeeds if  $\mathcal{A}$  guessed  $\mathcal{T}_C$  correctly

# How can the attacker win the privacy exp.?

## Possible methods

- 1 Find a key that fits most packets — using a MaxSAT solver
- 2 Use a tailor-made approach using out that the error rate is low

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## 1) Using MaxSAT solvers

- Solves for *any* error rate
- Can work on a small amount of packets
- Does not benefit from more packets

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- 1 Find a key that fits most packets — using a MaxSAT solver
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## 1) Using MaxSAT solvers

- Solves for *any* error rate
- Can work on a small amount of packets
- Does not benefit from more packets

## 2) Using strategy adapted to low error rate

- Needs a large amount of packets to work
- Can benefit from low error rate
- Benefits from more packets

# Strategy adapted to low error-rate

---

**Input:** packets  $X_A \cup X_C$

**Output:**  $\mathcal{T}_A = \mathcal{T}_C$  or  $\mathcal{T}_A \neq \mathcal{T}_C$

```
1 Pick a set of  $k$  most prevalent key bits;
2 foreach combination of true-false for the picked bits do
3   | picked key bits  $\leftarrow$  selected combination;
4   | while enough packets indicate: key bit must be set to a value do
5   |   | key bit  $\leftarrow$  value indicated;
6   | end
7   | if all key bits are set and the satisfied portion of packets is about
   |   |  $1 - \text{err}$  then
8   |   |   | return  $\mathcal{T}_A = \mathcal{T}_C$ ;
9   |   | end
10 end
11 return  $\mathcal{T}_A \neq \mathcal{T}_C$ ;
```

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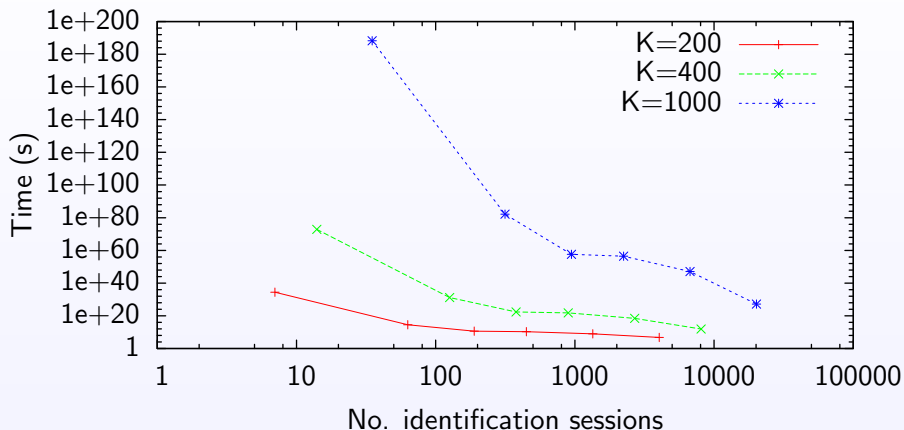


# Implementation: in MiniSat

Modified MiniSat such that:

- Inferences are made based on multiple packets
- $X$  number of packets needed to make an inference
- The  $X$  the larger, the more 'robust' the solving
- But more information will be lost
- i.e. more packets  $\rightarrow$  faster solving

# Security rating results



# Ad-hoc protocols — What have we learnt

- Ad-hoc primitives need multiple cycles of design&analysis
- Difficult to evaluate the security of the resulting schemes
- Can take many years to develop a robust ad-hoc protocol

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# Stream ciphers in RFIDs

## Motivations

- We have seen that ad-hoc protocols are notoriously un-robust
- Stream ciphers could be adapted to RFIDs — eSTREAM project
- Analysis of hardware-oriented stream ciphers is possible with SAT solvers

## Contributions

- Adapt the SAT solver to the environment of cryptography
- Adapt the stream cipher's representation to SAT solvers
- Solve a number of ciphers

# What is a SAT solver

Solves a problem in CNF

CNF is an “and of or-s”

$$\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \quad \neg x_2 \vee x_3 \quad x_1 \vee x_2$$

Uses DPLL( $\varphi$ ) algorithm

- ❶ If formula  $\varphi$  is trivial, return SAT/UNSAT
- ❷ Picks a variable  $v$  to branch on
- ❸  $v \leftarrow \text{value}$
- ❹ Simplifies formula to  $\varphi'$  and calls DPLL( $\varphi'$ )
- ❺ if SAT, output SAT
- ❻ if UNSAT,  $v \leftarrow \text{opposite value}$
- ❼ Simplifies formula to  $\varphi''$  and calls DPLL( $\varphi''$ )
- ❽ if SAT, output SAT
- ❾ if UNSAT, output UNSAT

# Problem with XOR-s

The truth

$$a \oplus b \oplus c$$

must be put into the solver as

$$a \vee \bar{b} \vee \bar{c} \quad (1)$$

$$a \vee b \vee c \quad (3)$$

$$\bar{a} \vee \bar{b} \vee c \quad (2)$$

$$\bar{a} \vee b \vee \bar{c} \quad (4)$$

So, straightforward conversion takes  $2^{n-1}$  clauses to model an  $n$ -long XOR

# Solution until now

## Example

$$x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3 \oplus x_4 \oplus x_5 \oplus x_6 \oplus x_7 \oplus x_8 \oplus x_9$$

Modelled in CNF:

$$\begin{aligned} \neg i_1 \oplus x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3 \oplus x_4 \\ \neg i_2 \oplus x_5 \oplus x_6 \oplus x_7 \oplus x_8 \oplus x_9 \\ i_1 \oplus i_2 \end{aligned}$$

## Problems

- Still very long to model
- Needs extra vars



# Solution until now

## Example

$$x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3 \oplus x_4 \oplus x_5 \oplus x_6 \oplus x_7 \oplus x_8 \oplus x_9$$

Modelled in CNF:

$$\neg i_1 \oplus x_1 \oplus x_2 \oplus x_3$$

$$\neg i_2 \oplus x_4 \oplus x_5 \oplus x_6$$

$$\neg i_3 \oplus x_7 \oplus x_8 \oplus x_9$$

$$i_1 \oplus i_2 \oplus i_3$$

## Problems

- Still very long to model
- Needs extra vars

# Solution to XOR: xor-clause

## Example

$$a \oplus b \oplus c$$

Represents regular clauses

$$a \vee \neg b \vee \neg c \quad (1) \qquad \neg a \vee \neg b \vee c \quad (2)$$

$$a \vee b \vee c \quad (3) \qquad \neg a \vee b \vee \neg c \quad (4)$$

changes appearance to match the situation

## Example set-up

$$a = \text{true} \quad b = \text{true} \quad c = \text{false}$$

$$\Rightarrow \neg a \vee \neg b \vee c$$

# Solution to XOR: xor-clause

## Example

$$a \oplus b \oplus c$$

Represents regular clauses

$a \vee \neg b \vee \neg c$	(1)	$\neg a \vee \neg b \vee c$	(2)
$a \vee b \vee c$	(3)	$\neg a \vee b \vee \neg c$	(4)

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## Results

- 2.2x speed
- Order of magnitude savings in memory

# Solution to XOR: xor-clause

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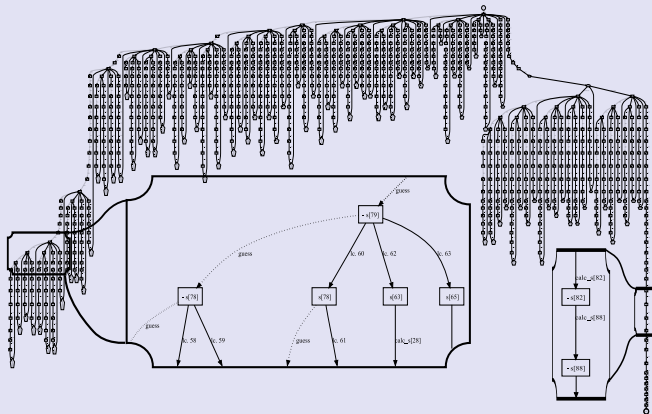
changes appearance to match the situation

## Challenges overcome

- MiniSat is complex, we needed to completely understand it
- Design choices were difficult: e.g. we use special memory alloc. to maximise cache-hit

# Dynamic behaviour analysis

## Example search tree



## Visualised

- Guesses
- Propagations
- Generated learnt clauses
- Clause group causing the propagation

## Calculated stats

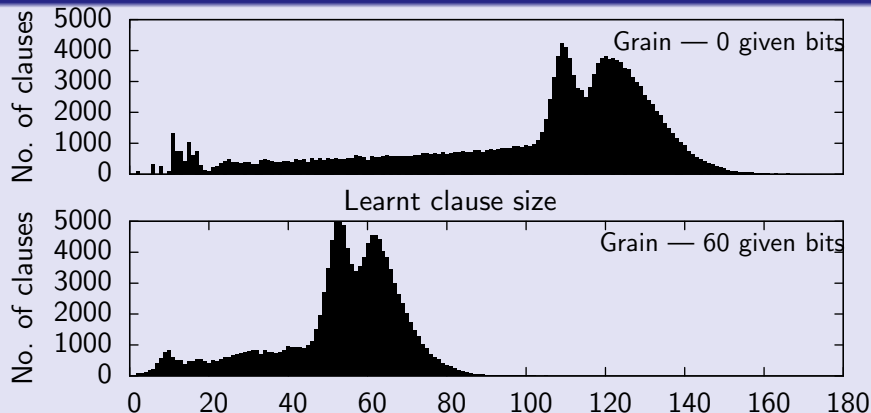
- Average depth
- Most conflicted clauses
- No. of guess/branch
- Most guessed vars
- Most propagated vars

# Statistics generated

## Further stats

- Learnt clause size distribution
- Branch length distribution

## Ex. learnt clause distribution



# Gaussian elimination

## Reasoning

- Gaussian elimination is efficient for solving systems of linear equations
- xor-clause is a linear equation  $\rightarrow$  use Gauss elim. to solve them

## Implementation

A-matrix

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} v_{10} & v_8 & v_9 & v_{12} & \text{aug} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

N-matrix

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} v_{10} & v_8 & v_9 & v_{12} & \text{aug} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

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with  $v8$  assigned to true

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A-matrix with $v8$ assigned to true					N-matrix				
$v10$	$v8$	$v9$	$v12$	aug	$v10$	$v8$	$v9$	$v12$	aug
1	—	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0
0	—	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	1
0	—	0	1	0	0	1	0	1	1
0	—	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1

Resulting xor-clause:

$$v8 \oplus v12$$

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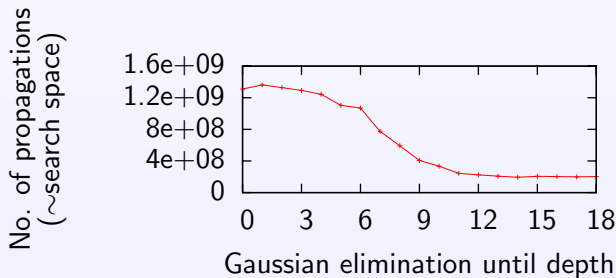
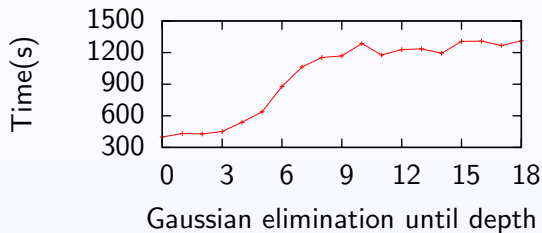
N-matrix

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} v10 & v8 & v9 & v12 & \text{aug} \\ \left[ \begin{array}{cccc|c} 1 & 1 & 1 & 1 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 1 & 1 & 1 \\ 0 & 1 & 0 & 0 & 1 \end{array} \right] \end{array}$$

Resulting xor-clause:

$$v12 = \text{false} \quad \leftarrow \quad v8 \oplus v12$$

# Gaussian elimination results



# Gaussian elimination results

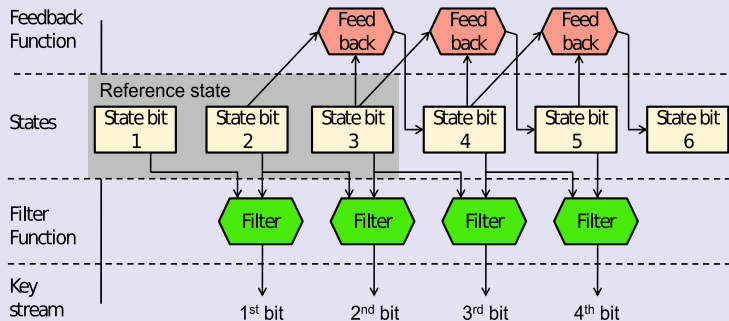
	No. help bits	Gaussian elimination active until level		
		Inactive	2	3
Crypto-1	12	27.0 s	25.8 s(4%)	26.5 s(2%)
HiTag2	18	34.8 s	33.9 s(3%)	29.5 s(15%)
Bivium B	60	174.0 s	165.1 s(5%)	171.1 s(2%)

## Highlights

- Search space reduced by up to 87%
- Speedup between 0-15%
- A mix of linear and non-linear methods
- Adds possibility to add other algebraic tools → potentially major speedup

# Logical circuit representation

## Example



## Legend

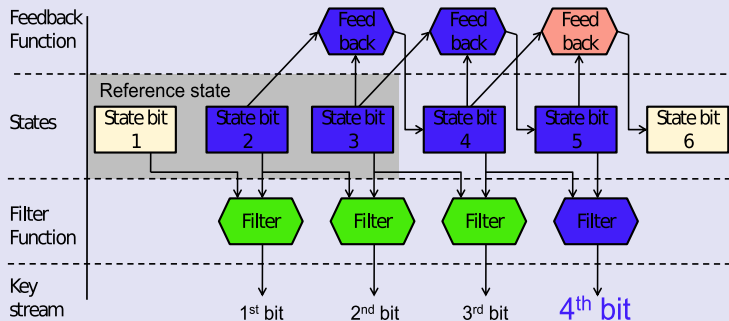
- Variables → boxes
- Functions → hexagons

## Complexity measures

- *Depth* of keystream bit
- *Dependency no.:* state  $\leftrightarrow$  keystream
- *Difficulty of functions:* representation

# Logical circuit representation

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## Legend

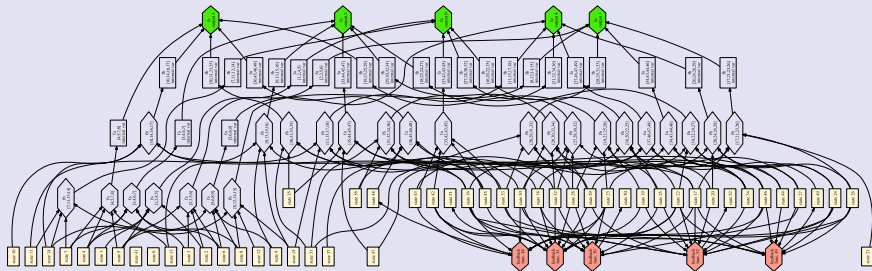
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## Complexity measures

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# Dependency graph generator

## Example HiTag2 logical circuit

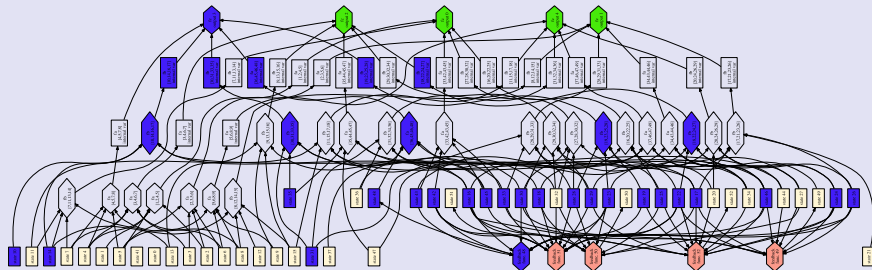


## Usage

- Calculate mentioned statistics
- Visual clue

# Dependency graph generator

## Example HiTag2 logical circuit



## Usage

- Calculate mentioned statistics
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# Optimising representation of non-linear functions

## Example $\mathbb{GF}(2)$ polynomial

$$x_1 + x_1x_2 + x_2x_3 + x_1x_3$$

### Usual representation

$$x_1 + i_1 + i_2 + i_3$$

- No. of clauses:  $3 \times 3$  regular + 1 xor-clause
- $\sum$  clause length: 31
- 2 extra variables

### Karnaugh-table representation

$$\neg x_1 \vee \neg x_3 \quad \neg x_2 \vee x_3 \quad x_1 \vee x_2$$

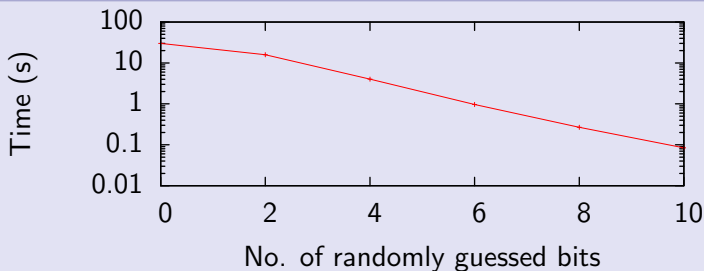
- No. of clauses: 3 regular
- $\sum$  clause length: 6
- No extra variables

# Crypto-1

## Background

- Used for micropayment in public transport
- Best SAT solver-based attack : 200 s to solve on avg.
- Best non-SAT solver-based attack: 0.1 s through algebraic attack

## Our techniques



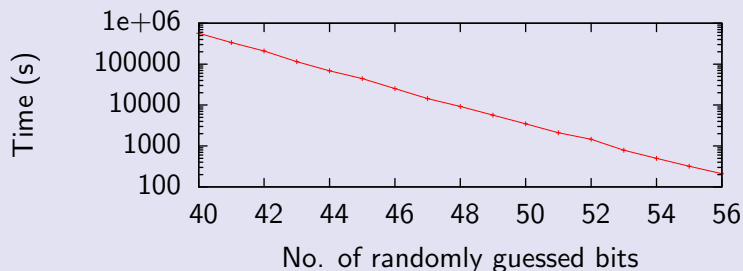
Find its secret state in approx. 40 s

# Bivium B

## Background

- Simplified version of Trivium eSTREAM candidate
- Best SAT solver-based attack against it takes  $2^{43}$  s
- Non-SAT solver-based attack:  $2^{64.5}$  s

## Our techniques



Find its secret state in approx.  $2^{36.5}$  s

# Stream ciphers in RFIDs — What we have learnt

- SAT solvers are useful to study hardware-oriented stream ciphers
- Best results are achieved by adapting both solvers to ciphers and cipher's representation to solvers
- Such a system is able to break certain ciphers

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# Contributions of the Thesis

## Contributions

- Created an in-depth state of the art
- Conceived two ad-hoc protocols, ProblP [1] and EProblP
- Analysed the Di Pietro-Molva ad-hoc protocol [2]
- Improved SAT solver-based cryptographic attacks [3,4]

## References

- ① “Secret Shuffling: A Novel Approach to RFID Private Identification” by CASTELLUCCIA and SOOS, RFIDSec’07
- ② “Analysing the Molva and Di Pietro Private RFID Authentication Scheme” by SOOS, RFIDSec’08
- ③ “Solving Low-Complexity Ciphers with Optimized SAT solvers” by NOHL and SOOS, EUROCRYPT’09 (poster)
- ④ “Extending SAT Solvers to Cryptographic Problems” by SOOS, CASTELLUCCIA and NOHL, SAT’09

# Conclusions

- RFID hardware is unnatural to optimise for
- Ad-hoc protocols are notoriously fragile, but could be a solution in the long run
- For immediate use, standard crypto-primitives optimised for RFIDs (e.g. HW-oriented stream ciphers) are more suited

# Future work

- Post-Doc in the SALSA team of INRIA
- Distributed SAT solving
- Iterative SAT solving
- Mix of SAT solving and algebraic techniques
- RFID-AP ANR project



Thank you for your time



# Di Pietro-Molva scheme

The Di-Pietro Molva scheme works as follows:

- 1 Tag generates nonces  $r_1 \dots r_2$
- 2 Tag sends  $\alpha_p = r_p \oplus k$
- 3 Tag sends  $V[p] = \text{DPM}(r_p)$
- 4 Reader computes  $\text{DPM}(\alpha_p \oplus k) = V'[p]$  for all  $k$  — the one that fits is the tag
- 5 Once tag is identified, authentication takes place

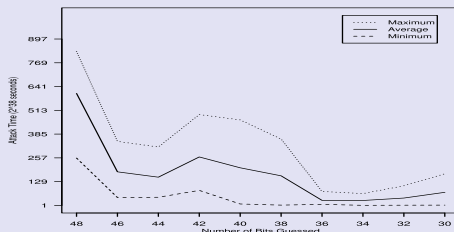
# Found shortcomings

Problems found in the scheme (published as):

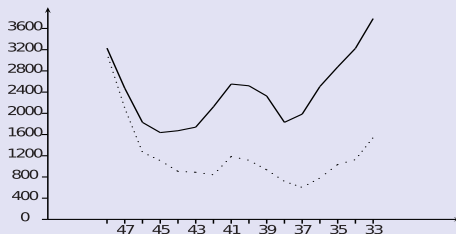
- Does not scale — finding tag is linear in population size
- Due to func.  $DPM$ , there are  $2^{2|k|/3}$  key-equivalence classes (i.e. identification is bad)
- $(\alpha_p, V[p])$  pairs do not always contain enough information (pairs are not independent)
- $DPM$  is not secure, each protocol run reveals 1 bit of secret key

# Research results until now

## “Attacking Bivium with MiniSat” by (McDONALD et al.)



## “Attacking Bivium Using SAT Solvers” by (EIBACH et al.)



# Research results until now

## We introduce more randomness

- Reference state bits to assign are picked randomly
- The picked bits are assigned randomly true or false
- Clauses are randomly permuted inside MiniSat
- MiniSat's internal seed (used to randomly explore the search space) is set randomly
- MiniSat's random number generator has been replaced

# LPN-based

How it works (ex. RANDOM-HB#)

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**Reader**  $\mathcal{R}$

Secrets  $X, Y$

**Tag**  $\mathcal{T}_i$

Secrets  $X, Y$

$\nu \in_R \{\{0, 1\}^m \mid$

$\text{Prob.}(\nu_i = 1) = \eta \text{ for } 1 \leq i \leq m\}$

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Choose  $\mathbf{b} \in_R \{0, 1\}^{k_Y}$

$\mathbf{b} \leftarrow$

Choose  $\mathbf{a} \in_R \{a, 1\}^{k_X}$

$\longrightarrow \mathbf{a}$

Let  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{a} \cdot C \oplus \mathbf{b} \cdot Y \oplus \nu$

$\mathbf{z} \leftarrow$

Check

$\text{Hwt}(\mathbf{a} \cdot X \oplus \mathbf{b} \cdot Y \oplus \mathbf{z}) \leq um$

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## Advantages

- Simple to implement: needs XOR, random number generator
- Protocol is well-analysed by its authors

## Disadvantages

- Transferred data is large ( $\rightarrow$  slow)
- LPN problem quite unresearched, new research is pushing up secure parameter sizes



# Example protocol No. 1

Reader $\mathcal{R}_j$	Tag $\mathcal{T}_i$
Generate nonce $IV_1$	$\longrightarrow IV_1$
find $(k, ID) \in L$ s.t. $ID = \sigma \oplus cipher(k, IV_1 \oplus IV_2)$	Generate nonce $IV_2$ and calculate $\sigma = ID \oplus cipher(k, IV_1 \oplus IV_2)$ $\longleftarrow IV_2, \sigma$

# Example protocol No. 2

Reader $\mathcal{R}_j$		Tag $\mathcal{T}_i$
Generate nonce $IV_1$	$\longrightarrow IV_1$	Generate nonce $IV_2$ and calculate $M = cipher(IV_1, IV_2)$ $\sigma = ID \oplus cipher(k, M)$
calculate $M = cipher(IV_1, IV_2)$ find $(k, ID) \in L$ s.t. $ID = \sigma \oplus cipher(k, M)$	$\longleftarrow IV_2, \sigma$	
<hr/> <i>optional — only for mutual authentication</i> <hr/>		
calculate $\tau = ID \oplus cipher(k, M \oplus 1)$	$\longrightarrow \tau$	check $\tau \stackrel{?}{=} ID \oplus cipher(k, M \oplus 1)$