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## Lowering the Bar: Deep Learning for Side Channel Analysis

Guilherme Perin, Baris Ege, Jasper van Woudenberg @jzvw Blackhat, August 9, 2018





### Before





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### After





# Power / EM side channel analysis





### Power analysis

Some crypto algorithm



### Example (huge) leakage



## Signal processing (demo)

### Raw trace



### Processed trace



## Misalignment (demo)



# AES-128 first round attack



## Points of interest selection

Correlation, T-test, Difference of Means



Samples showing **statistical dependency** between intermediate (key-related) data and power consumption.



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## Concept of Template Analysis



### Key recovery



### The actual process



# Deep learning background



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## Convolutional Neural Networks (CNNs)

(the size is

equivalent to the number of samples)



### Output Layer (the size is

equivalent to the number of classes)









The **convolutional layers** are able to detect the features independently of their positions

### Creating training/test/validation data sets



### Classification



Deep learning on side channels in practice



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### Step 1: Define initial hyper-parameters (demo)



### Step 2: Make sure it's capable of learning

- Increase the number of training traces and observe the training and validation accuracy
- Overfitting too fast?
  - Training accuracy: 100% | Validation accuracy: low
  - Neural network is too big for the number of traces and samples



### Step 3: Make it generalize

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### Make sure the training accuracy/recall is increasing



Epochs

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## Validation recall *stays* above the minimum threshold value = model is generalizing

0.111 = 1/9 (9 is the number of classes – HW of a byte)

### Step 3: Make it generalize

Regularization techniques:

- L1, L2 (penalty applied to the weights)
- Dropout
- Data Augmentation (+traces)
- Early Stopping



### Step 4: Key Recovery

In this analysis, we only need slightly-above coin flip accuracy!



# Getting keys from the thingz!



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# Piñata AES-128 with misalignment (demo)





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## Bypassing Misalignment with CNNs

Neural Network: Input Layer > ConvLayer > 36 > 36 > 36 > 0utput Layer Training/validation/test sets: 90000/5000/5000 traces of 500 samples Leakage Model: HW of S-Box Out (Round 1)  $\rightarrow$  9 classes

Validation Recal

Training Recall



Use Data Augmentation as regularization technique to improve generalization

### Results for key byte 0:







## Breaking protected ECC on Piñata

Supervised deep learning attack:

- Curve25519, Montgomery ladder, scalar blinding
- Messy signal
- Brute-force methods for ECC are needed if test accuracy < 100%
- Need to get (almost) all bits from one trace!



## Breaking protected ECC







- Target published in 2013 (http://www.dpacontest.org/v4/)
- 40k traces available
- AES-256 (Atmel ATMega-163 smart card)
- Countermeasure: Rotating S-box Masking (RSM)



 $\begin{array}{c} x \oplus m \\ y \oplus m \end{array}$ 

Remove the relationship between power consumption (EM) and predictable data



Combine data:  $(x \oplus m) \oplus (y \oplus m) = x \oplus y$ Combine samples:  $t[i] \times t[j]$ Brute-force  $i, j \rightarrow Quadratic complexity$ 

Challenge: Training key == validation key



Overfitting can be verified by checking where the NN is learning



Correct key byte candidate (CNN learns from specific and leaky samples)



Wrong key byte candidate (CNN overfits because it can't distinguish leaky samples from noise)

Neural Network: Input Layer > ConvLayer > 50 > 50 > 50 > Output Layer Training/validation/test sets: 36000/2000/2000 traces Leakage Model: HW of S-Box Out (Round 1)  $\rightarrow$  9 classes



### Results for key byte 0:

# 1<sup>st</sup> cool thing

### This shouldn't work



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# 2<sup>nd</sup> cool thing

### DL is up there with dozens of SCA research teams



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# Wrapping up



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## I want to learn more!



Deeplearningbook.org introtodeeplearning.com

bookstores

nostarch

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# Key takeaways

- DL does SCA art + science and scales
- DL requires network fiddling, the bar is low, not yet at 0
- Automation needed to put a dent in embedded insecurity



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Riscure B.V.

Frontier Building, Delftechpark 49 2628 XJ Delft The Netherlands Phone: +31 15 251 40 90

www.riscure.com

Riscure North America 550 Kearny St., Suite 330 San Francisco, CA 94108 USA Phone: +1 650 646 99 79

inforequest@riscure.com

**Riscure China** Room 2030-31, No. 989, Changle Road, Shanghai 200031 China Phone: +86 21 5117 5435

inforcn@riscure.com

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# jasper@riscure.com @jzvw