PUFs and TRNGs

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Digital Storage



In traditional methods, secret keys are stored digitally in a nonvolatile memory which is always vulnerable based on hardware implementation and key storage.

Authentication



For extremely resource constrained platforms such as RFIDs, even simple cryptographic operations can be too costly.

What We Want to Achieve?



Attacks



Software-only protection is not enough. Non-volatile memory technologies are vulnerable to invasive attack as secrets always exist in digital form

Threat Model

Attacker goals

- To get the crypto keys stored in RAM or ROM
- To learn the secret crypto algorithm used
- To obtain other information stored into the chip (e.g. PINs)
- To modify information on the card (e.g. calling card balance)

Over \$680,000 stolen via a clever man-in-the-middle attack on chip cards in 2011.

https://arstechnica.com/tech-policy/2015/10/how-acriminal-ring-defeated-the-secure-chip-and-pin-credit-cards/



Basic Terminologies

- Keys are rules used in algorithms to convert a document into a secret document
- Keys are of two types:
 - Symmetric
 - Asymmetric
- A key is symmetric if the same key is used both for encryption and decryption
- A key is asymmetric if different keys are used for encryption and decryption

Asymmetric Security



Security

Asymmetry b/w the information (secret)

One-way functions

- Easy to evaluate in one direction but hard to reverse in the other
- E.g., multiplying large prime number as opposed to factoring them

One-way hash functions

- Maps a variable length input to a fixed length output
- Avalanche property: changing one bit in the input alters nearly half of the output bits
- Pre-image resistant, collision resistant
- Usage: digital signature, secured password storage, file identification, and message authentication code

Challenges of algorithmic (mathematical) one-way functions

Technological

- Massive number of parallel devices broke DES
- Reverse-engineering of secure processors

Fundamental

- There is no proof that attacks do not exist
- E.g., quantum computers could factor two large prime numbers in polynomial time

Practical

Embedded systems applications

Solution -- POWF

- Use the chaotic physical structures that are hard to model instead of mathematical one-way functions!
- Physical One Way Functions (POWF)
 - Inexpensive to fabricate
 - Prohibitively difficult to duplicate
 - No compact mathematical representation
 - Intrinsically tamper-resistant

IBM 4758

Problem:

Storing digital information in a device in a way that is resistant to physical attack is difficult and expensive.



IBM 4758

Tamper-proof package containing a secure processor which has a secret key and memory

Tens of sensors, resistance, temperature, voltage, etc.

Continually battery-powered

~ \$3000 for a 99 MHz processor and 128MB of memory

HSM

A hardware security module (HSM) is a physical computing device that safeguards and manages digital keys for strong authentication and provides crypto processing. These modules traditionally come in the form of a plug-in card or an external device that attaches directly to a computer or network server. - Wikipedia



TPM

A **Trusted Platform Module** (**TPM**) is a specialized chip on an endpoint device that stores RSA encryption keys specific to the host system for hardware authentication. Each TPM chip contains an RSA key pair called the Endorsement Key (EK). -- Wikipedia



A separate chip (TPM) for security functions

Decrypted "secondary" keys can be read out from the bus

Problem

Storing digital information in a device in a way that is resistant to physical attacks is difficult and



- Adversaries can physically extract secret keys from EEPROM while processor is off
- Trusted party must embed and test secret keys in a secure location
- EEPROM adds additional complexity to manufacturing

Feature: Process Variation

- Do we expect process variation (length, widths, oxide thickness) in circuit and system?
 - Impact circuit performance
 - Functional failure
 - Major obstacle to the continued scaling of integrated-circuit technology in the sub-45 nm regime
- Process variations can be turned into a feature rather than a problem?
 - Each IC has unique properties

Solution

Extract key information from a complex physical system.



Devadas, et. al, DAC02

Physical Unclonable/Random Functions (PUFs)

Generate keys from a complex physical system



- Security Advantage
 - Keys are generated on demand \rightarrow No non-volatile secrets
 - No need to program the secret
 - Can generate multiple master keys
- What can be hard to predict, but easy to measure?

Definition

- A Physical Random Function or Physical Unclonable Function (PUF) is a function that is:
 - Based on a physical system
 - Easy to evaluate (using the physical system)
 - Its output looks like a random function
 - Unpredictable even for an attacker with physical access

WYSINWYG

Sub-Wavelength WYSINWYG

What You See Is Not What You Get





No two transistors have the same parameters

Silicon PUF – Proof of Concept

- Because of process variations, no two Integrated Circuits are identical
- Experiments in which *identical circuits with identical layouts* were placed on different FPGAs show that path delays vary enough across ICs to use them for identification.



A Candidate: Silicon PUF



- Compare two paths with an identical delay in design
 - Random process variation determines which path is faster
 - □ An arbiter outputs 1-bit digital response
- Path delays in an IC are statistically distributed due to random manufacturing variations

Experiments

- Fabricated candidate PUF on multiple ICs, 0.18um TSMC
- Apply 100 random challenges and observe responses



Measurement Attacks and Software Attacks

Can an adversary create a *software clone* of a given PUF chip?



Measurement Attacks and Software Attacks

Can an adversary create a *software clone* of a given PUF chip?



Physical Attacks

- Make PUF delays depend on overlaid metal layers and package
- Invasive attack (e.g., package removal) changes PUF delays and destroys PUF
- Non-invasive attacks are still possible
 - To find wire delays one needs to find precise relative timing of transient signals as opposed to looking for 0's and 1's
 - Wire delay is not a number but a function of challenge bits and adjacent wire voltages and capacitances

Using a PUF as an Unclonable Key

A Silicon PUF can be used as an unclonable key.

- The lock has a database of challenge-response pairs.
- To open the lock, the key has to show that it knows the response to one or more challenges.



Applications

Anonymous Computation

Alice wants to run computations on Bob's computer, and wants to make sure that she is getting correct results. A certificate is returned with her results to show that they were correctly executed.

Software Licensing

Alice wants to sell Bob a program which will only run on Bob's chip (identified by a PUF). The program is copy-protected so it will not run on any other chip.



We can enable the above applications by trusting only a single-chip processor that contains a silicon PUF.

Sharing a Secret with a Silicon PUF

Suppose Alice wishes to share a secret with the silicon PUF She has a challenge response pair that no one else knows, which can authenticate the PUF

She asks the PUF for the response to a challenge



Restricting Access to the PUF

- To prevent the attack, the man in the middle must be prevented from finding out the response.
- Alice's program must be able to establish a shared secret with the PUF, the attacker's program must not be able to get the secret.

\Rightarrow Combine response with hash of program.

• The PUF can only be accessed via the **GetSecret** function:



Cryptographic Hash Function

- Crypto hash function h(x) must provide
 - **Compression** output length is small
 - Efficiency h(x) easy to compute for any x
 - One-way given a value y it is infeasible to find an x such that h(x) = y
 - □ Weak collision resistance given x and h(x), infeasible to find $y \neq x$ such that h(y) = h(x)
 - □ Strong collision resistance infeasible to find any x and y, with $x \neq y$ such that h(x) = h(y)

Getting a Challenge-Response Pair

- Now Alice can use a Challenge-Response pair to generate a shared secret with the PUF equipped device.
- But Alice can't get a Challenge-Response pair in the first place since the PUF never releases responses directly.

 \Rightarrow An extra function that can return responses is needed.

Getting a Challenge-Response Pair – 2

- Let Alice use a Pre-Challenge.
- Use program hash to prevent eavesdroppers from using the pre-challenge.
- The PUF has a GetResponse function



Controlled PUF Implementation



Challenge-Response Pair Management: Bootstrapping

When a Controlled PUF (CPUF) has just been produced, the manufacturer wants to generate a challenge-response pair.

- 1. Manufacturer provides Pre-challenge and Program.
- 2. CPUF produces Response.
- 3. Manufacturer gets Challenge by computing Hash(Hash(Program), PreChallenge).
- Manufacturer has (Challenge, Response) pair where Challenge, Program, and Hash(Program) are public, but Response is not known to anyone since Pre-challenge is thrown away


Software Licensing

Program (Ecode, Challenge) Secret = GetSecret(Challenge) Code = Decrypt(Ecode, Secret) Run Code Ecode has been encrypted with Secret by Manufacturer

Secret is known to the manufacturer because he knows Response to Challenge and can compute

Secret = Hash(Hash(Program), Response)

Adversary cannot determine Secret because he does not know Response or Pre-Challenge

If adversary tries a different program, a different secret will be generated because Hash(Program) is different

Summary

- PUFs provide secret "key" and CPUFs enable sharing a secret with a hardware device
- CPUFs are not susceptible to model-building attack if we assume physical attacks cannot discover the PUF response
 - Control protects PUF by obfuscating response, and PUF protects the control from attacks by "covering up" the control logic
 - Shared secrets are volatile

More on Physically Unclonable Functions (PUFs)

PUF Experiments

 Fabricated 200 "identical" chips with PUFs in TSMC 0.18µ on 5 different wafer runs



Security

 What is the probability that a challenge produces different responses on two different PUFs?

Reliability

- What is the probability that a PUF output for a challenge changes with temperature?
- With voltage variation?

Inter-Chip Variation

• Apply random challenges and observe 100 response bits



Environmental Variations

• What happens if we change voltage and temperature?



Ring-Oscillator (RO) PUF

- The structure relies on delay loops and counters instead of MUX and arbiters
- Better results on FPGA more stable



RO PUFs (cont'd)

- Easy to duplicate a ring oscillator and make sure the oscillators are identical
 - Much easier than ensuring the racing paths with equal path segments
- How many bits can we generate from the scheme in the previous page?
 - There are N(N-1)/2 distinct pairs, but the entropy is significantly smaller: log₂(N!)
 - E.g., 35 ROs can produce 133 bits, 128 ROs can produce 716, and 1024 ROs can produce 8769

Consider the following minimal example, given three ROs: $RO_A f < RO_B f$ and $RO_B f < RO_C f$ implicates $RO_A f < RO_C f$. The total PUF entropy is only $log_2(N!)$ bit as there are N! ways to sort the frequency values.

Reliability of RO PUFS



- Two types of reliability issues:
- Aging:
 - Negative Bias Temperature Instability
 - Hot Carrier Injection (HCI)
 - Temp Dependent Dielectric Breakdown
 - Interconnect Failure
- Temperature
 - Slows down the device

Reliability Enhancement

 Environmental changes have a large impact on the freq. (and even relative ones)



RO PUFs

- ROs whose frequencies are far are more stable than the ones with closer frequencies
 - Possible advantage: do not use all pairs, but only the stable ones
 - It is easy to watch the distance in the counter and pick the very different ones.
 - Can be done during enrollment
- RO PUF allows an easier implementation for both ASICs and FPGAs.
- The Arbiter PUF is appropriate for resource constrained platforms such as RFIDs and the RO PUF is better for use in FPGAs and in secure processor design.

Applications – Authentication

 Same challenges should not be used to prevent the man-in-the-middle attacks



Application – Cryptographic Key Generation

- The unstability is a problem
- Some crypto protocols (e.g., RSA) require specific mathematical properties that random numbers generated by PUFs do not have
- How can we use PUFs to generate crypto keys?
 - Error correction process: initialization and regeneration
 - There should be a one-way function that can generate the key from the PUF output



Crypto Key Generation

- Initialization: a PUF output is generated and error correcting code (e.g., BCH) computes the syndrome (public info)
- Regeneration: PUF uses the syndrome from the initial phase to correct changes in the output
- Clearly, the syndrome reveals information about the circuit output and introduces vulnerabilities



Experiments with RO PUFs

- Experiments done on 15 Xilinx Virtex4 LX25 FPGA (90nm)
- They placed 1024 ROs in each FPGA as a 16by-64 array
- Each RO consisted of 5 INVs and 1 AND, implemented using look-up tables
- The goal is to know if the PUF outputs are unique (for security) and reproducible (for reliability and security)

Reliability and Security Metrics

- Inter-chip variation: How many PUF output bits are different between PUF A and PUF B? This is a measure of uniqueness. If the PUF produces uniformly distributed independent random bits, the inter-chip variation should be 50% on average.
- Intra-chip (environmental) variation: How many PUF output bits change when re-generated again from a single PUF with or without environmental changes? This indicates the reproducibility of the PUF outputs. Ideally, the intra-chip variation should be 0%.

The Probability Distribution for Interchip Variations

- 128 bits are produced from each PUF
- x-axis: number of PUF o/p bits different b/w two FPGAs; yaxis: probability
- Purple bars show the results from 105 pair-wise comparisons
- Blue lines show a binomial distribution with fitted parameters (n=128, p =0.4615)
- Average inter-chip variations 0.4615 ~ 0.5



The Probability Distribution for Intrachip Variations

- PUF responses are generated at two different conditions and compared
- Changing the temperature from 20°C to 120°C and the core voltage from 1.2 to 1.08 altered the PUF o/p by ~0.6 bits (0.47%)
- Intra-chip variations is much lower than inter-chip the PUF o/p did not change from small to moderate



Configurable Ring Oscillator



Table 1. Frequency differences in a configurable RO pair

$c_1 c_2 c_3$	Frequency of ROs in CLB i	Frequency of ROs in CLB j	Δf
000	\mathbf{f}_{0}	$\mathbf{f'}_0$	$f_0 - f'_0$
001	f_1	$\mathbf{f'}_1$	$f_1 - f_1'$
010	f ₂	f_2	$f_2 - f'_2$
011	f ₃	f'3	f 3 - f'3
100	f_4	f'_4	f 4 - f'4
101	f ₅	$\mathbf{f'}_5$	f 5 - f'5
110	f_6	f_6	f ₆ - f' ₆
111	\mathbf{f}_7	$\mathbf{f'}_7$	f ₇ -f' ₇

 The pair which has the maximum difference in frequency in CRO is selected.

Configurable Ring Oscillator



- Higher difference in frequency will ensure higher reliability
- Redundancy

True Random Number Generator



Random Numbers in Cryptography

- The keystream in the one-time pad
- The secret key in the DES encryption
- The prime numbers p, q in the RSA encryption
- Session keys
- The private key in digital signature algorithm (DSA)
- The initialization vectors (IVs) used in ciphers

Pseudo-random Number Generator

Pseudo-random number generator:

 A polynomial-time computable function f (x) that expands a short random string x into a long string f (x) that appears random

Not truly random in that:

- Deterministic algorithm
- Dependent on initial values (seed)

Objectives

- Fast
- Secure

Sources

The only truly random number sources are those related to physical phenomena such as the rate of radioactive decay of an element or the thermal noise of a semiconductor.



 Randomness is bound to natural phenomena. It is impossible to algorithmically generate truly random numbers.

Microcalorimeter (black) and high-purity germanium (red) spectra of a mixture of plutonium isotopes. Minimal thermal noise is achieved at 100 mK. High sensitivity is due to use of a superconducting quantum interference device. ^{26 January 2018} https://www.aps.org/units/fps/newsletters/2006/july/article6.html

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Good TRNG Design

Entropy Source:

 Randomness present in physical processes such as thermal and shot noise in circuits, brownian motion, or nuclear decay.

Harvesting Mechanism:

The mechanism that does not disturb the physical process but collects as much entropy as possible.

Post-Processing (optional):

 Applied to mask imperfections in entropy sources or harvesting mechanism or to provide tolerance in the presence of environmental changes and tampering.

Shot noise, the time-dependent fluctuations in electrical current caused by the discreteness of
the electron charge, is well known to occur in solid-state devices.61

Set of Requirements

- The Design Should be purely digital
- The harvesting mechanism should be simple.
 - The unpredictability of the TRNG should not be based on the complexity of the harvesting mechanism, but only on the unpredictability of the entropy source.
- No correction circuits are allowed
- Compact and efficient design (high throughput per area and energy spent).
- The design should be sufficiently simple to allow rigorous analysis.

Method : Clock Jitter

- Jitter is variations in the significant instants of a clock
- Jitter is nondeterministic (random)

Sources of Jitter:

- Semiconductor noise
- Cross-talk
- Power supply variations
- Electromagnetic fields



LFSR: Generate random patterns, causing random switching noise



Ring Oscillators

- Process variations & environmental variations
- Random phase jitter



Selection & Operation Unit: The random phase of ring oscillators could be translated into digital values by this unit, such as XOR operation



 Capture Unit: Make sure the digital value is sampled with the frequency of the required true random number.



TRNG Output



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More on PUF Applications

Motivation: Securely Sensing without Key

- Physical features should be closely monitored
 - The temperature of data center, Facebook, Google, Amazon, etc


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- Physical features should be closely monitored
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- Some physical features might be meaningful for security/privacy
 - Relative location between bank cards and automated teller machines (ATMs), card (not) present withdrawal

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- Some physical features are hard to sense but favoring many applications
 - Digital rights management, physically/irreversibly canceling membership?
- Secure sensors are needed:
 - Operation safety, secrecy of sensitive data

Key Is a Target

 Modern security protocols are commonly based on secret keys.

 A robust key enhances the robustness of security systems, but also announces itself as an interested target for attackers. [1]



[1] Rivest, Ronald L. Illegitimi non carborundum. CRYPTO (2011).

Virtual Proofs of Temperature (Or: Keyless Temperature Sensors)



- Alice wants to prove to Bob that
 - a certain object O
 - is at temperature T
 - at the time of the execution of the VP
- Classical approach: Secure sensors with key known to Bob...
 - Buf, of course, we want no keys...

VPs of Temperature via Noise Sensitivity



Key Idea: Use a temperature-sensitive Strong PUF as Object O

- ie., an integrated circuit (IC) / PUF whose output intentionally depends upon the ambient temperature T
- Output of the IC/PUF to Bob's random challenges proves temperature

VP of Temperature $T_i \in \{T_1, ..., T_k\}$



Private set-up phase:

- For each temperature T_i ∈ {T₁, ..., T_k}:
 - Bob puts the objects O₁ at temperature T_i
 Chooses n random challenges C₁ⁱ, ..., C_nⁱ
 Measures the n resulting responses: r₁ⁱ, ..., r_nⁱ
 - Bob creates&stores private list List(T_i) = (C₁ⁱ, r₁ⁱ), ..., (C_nⁱ, r_nⁱ)

VP of Temperature $T_i \in \{T_1, ..., T_k\}$



- Bob
- Set-up phase closes, and the objects are transferred to Alice
- Some time may pass... (time for Alice to attack the system...)
- VP starts!!



VP of Temperature $T_i \in \{T_1, ..., T_k\}$



If pre-recorded values I_i^m in the match the values that Alice sen then Bob will accept the VP

VPs of Temperature via Noise Sensitivity



- Leads to "keyfree temperature sensors"
 - Practical outcome of our new theoretical concept!!!
- Temp.-dependent behavior in PUFs usually unwanted
 Turning known weakness of PUF into strength!
- Again, all standard properties of PUFs needed
 Unclonability, no modeling, many challenge-response pairs