



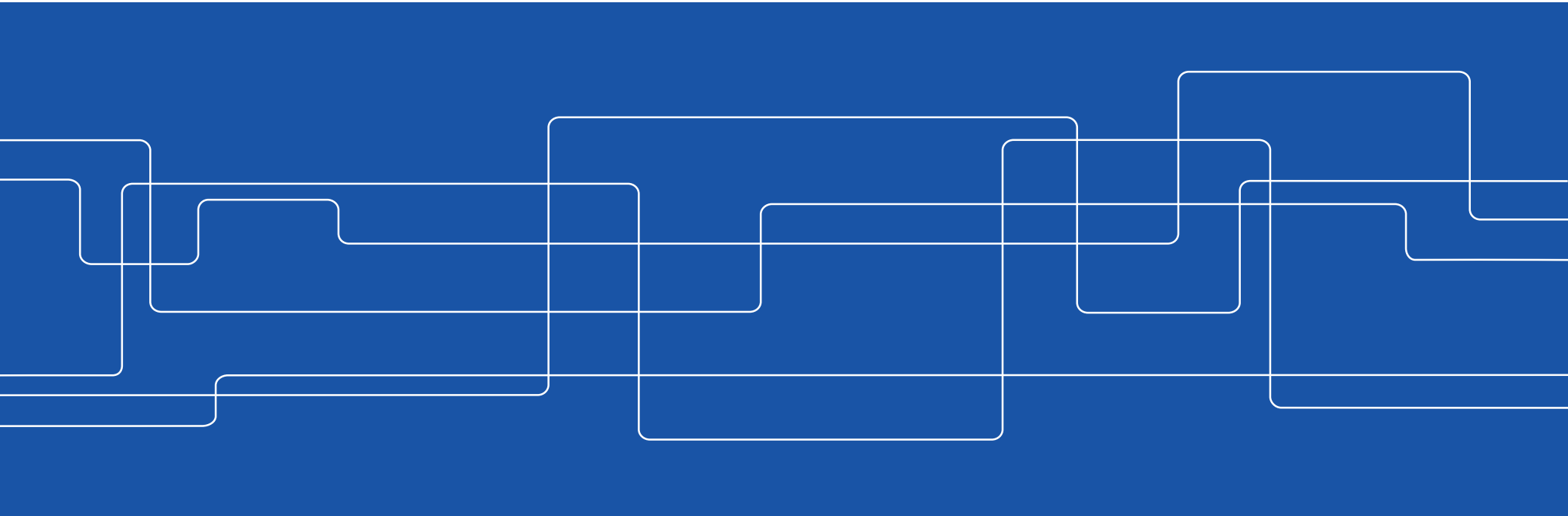
# Side-Channel and Fault Attacks on ML-KEM and ML-DSA

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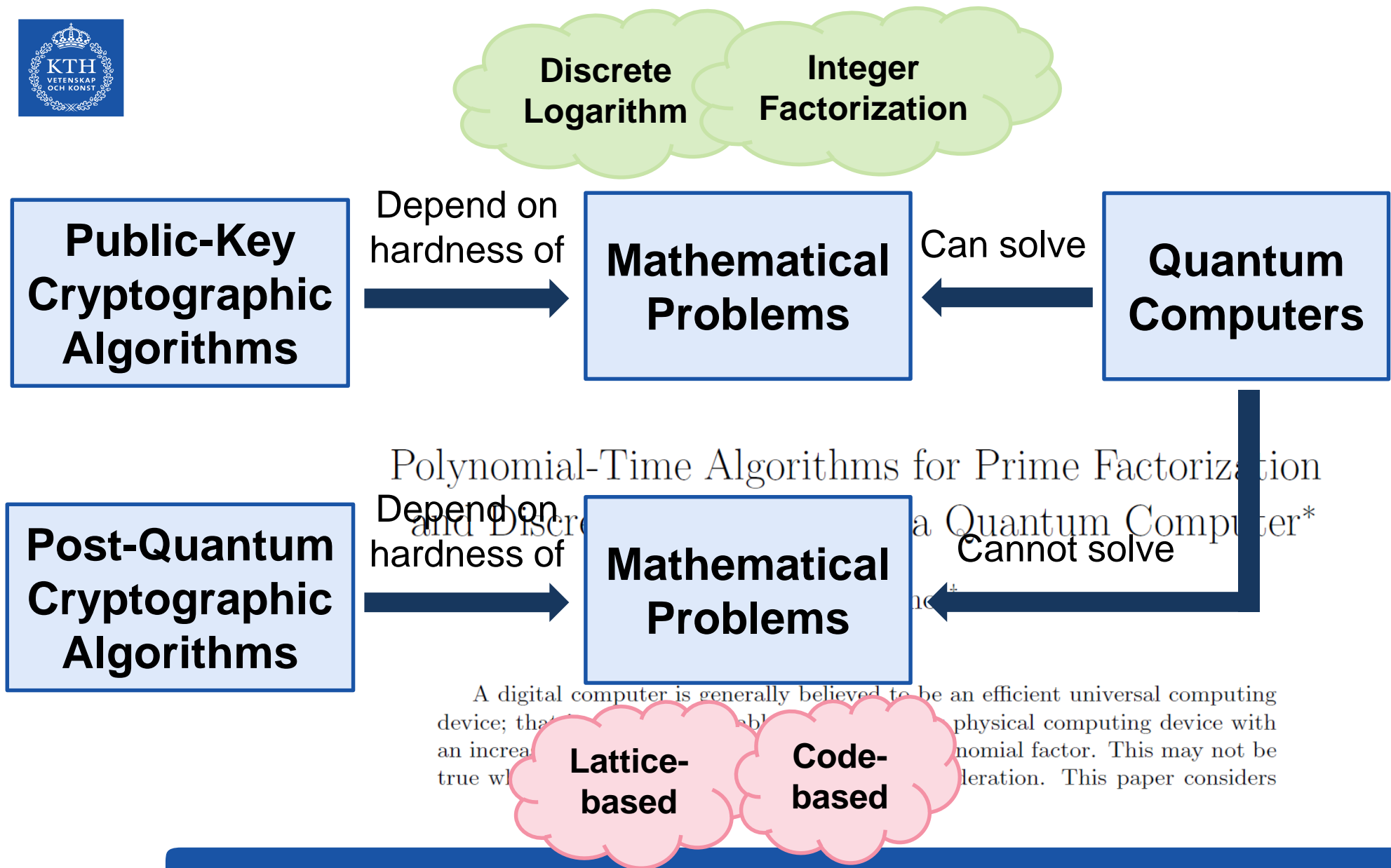
Stockholm, Sweden





# Outline

- Background
  - Public-key, secret-key and post-quantum cryptography
  - Learning With Errors (LWE) problem
  - ML-KEM (Kyber) and ML-DSA (Dilithium) algorithms
  - Side-channel and fault attacks
- Attacks on software implementations of ML-KEM and ML-DSA algorithms
- Summary





# When will a large-scale quantum computer be built?

"I estimate a 1/7 chance of breaking RSA-2048 by 2026 and a 1/2 chance by 2031."

*Michele Mosca [NIST, April 2015]  
<https://eprint.iar.org/2015/1075>*

## Public-Key Cryptography (Assymmetric)

RSA

Data  
confidentially

**Encryption**

DSA

Data integrity  
& authenticity  
Non-repudiation

**Digital  
Signature**

Diffie-Hellman

Shared key  
establishment

**Key  
Exchange**

## Secret-Key Cryptography (Symmetric)

AES

**Encryption**

Data  
confidentially

HMAC  
SHA-256

**Message  
Authentication**

Data integrity  
& authenticity

# Authenticated key exchange & symmetric encryption



Authentication using digital signatures

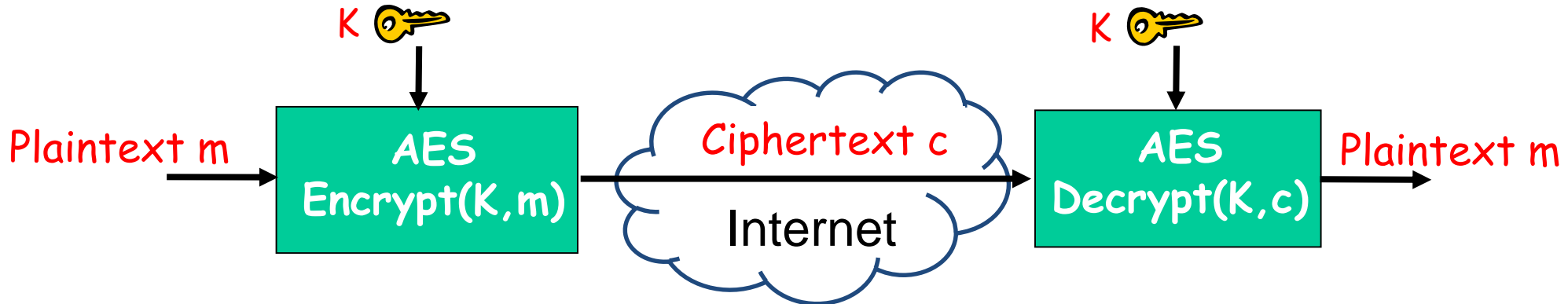
Alice's private key  $sk_A$   
Bob's public key  $pk_B$

Bob's private key  $sk_B$   
Alice's public key  $pk_A$

Shared key  $K$  

Key establishment using Diffie-Hellman

 Shared key  $K$



# Post-Quantum Cryptography

Both algorithms rely on  
hardness of Learning With  
Errors (LWE) problem

Data  
confidentially

**Encryption**

**CRYSTALS-Kyber,  
(NIST ML-KEM, 2022)**

Data integrity  
& authenticity  
Non-repudiation

**Digital  
Signature**

**CRYSTALS-Dilithium  
(NIST ML-DSA, 2022)**

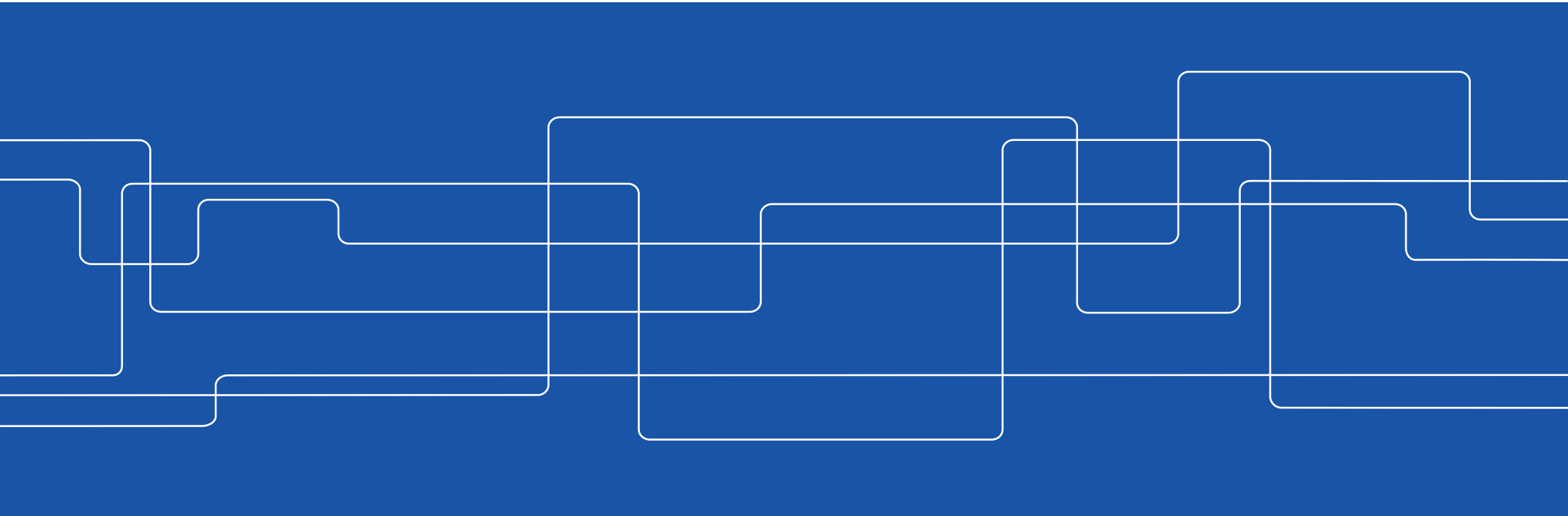
Shared key  
establishment

**Key  
Encapsulation**

**CRYSTALS-Kyber,  
(NIST ML-KEM, 2022)**



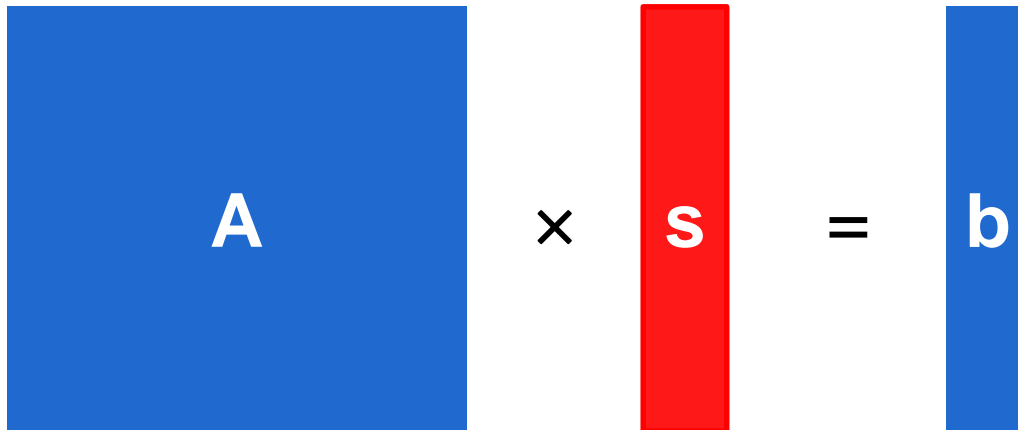
# Learning With Errors





# Learning With Errors (LWE) problem

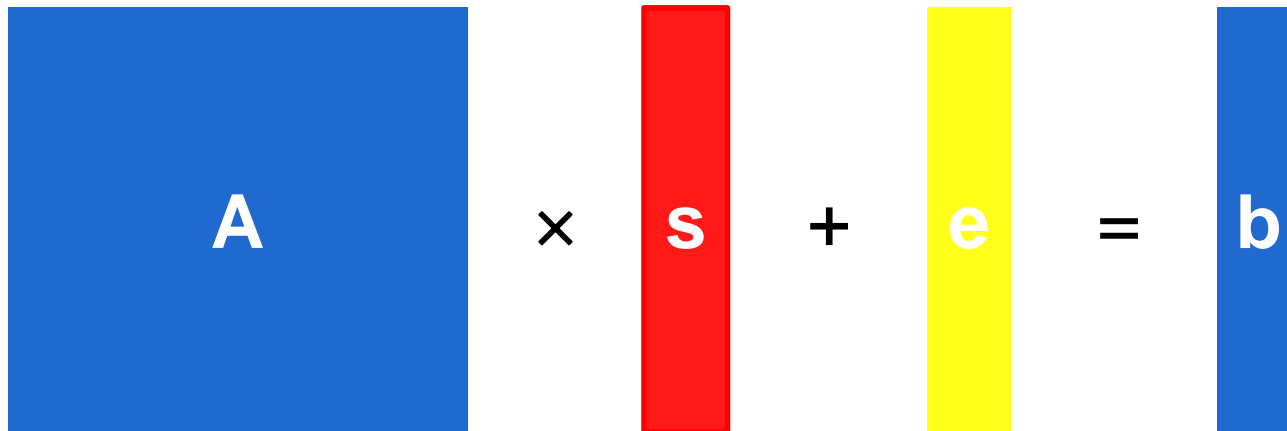
A system of linear equations can be easily solved ...

A diagram illustrating a linear system of equations. It consists of three colored rectangles: a large blue square labeled 'A', a tall red rectangle labeled 's', and a tall blue rectangle labeled 'b'. These are arranged horizontally with a multiplication sign 'x' between 'A' and 's', and an equals sign '=' between 's' and 'b'.
$$A \times s = b$$

Given **blue**, find **red**

# Learning With Errors (LWE) problem, cont.

... but not if errors (small noise) are added

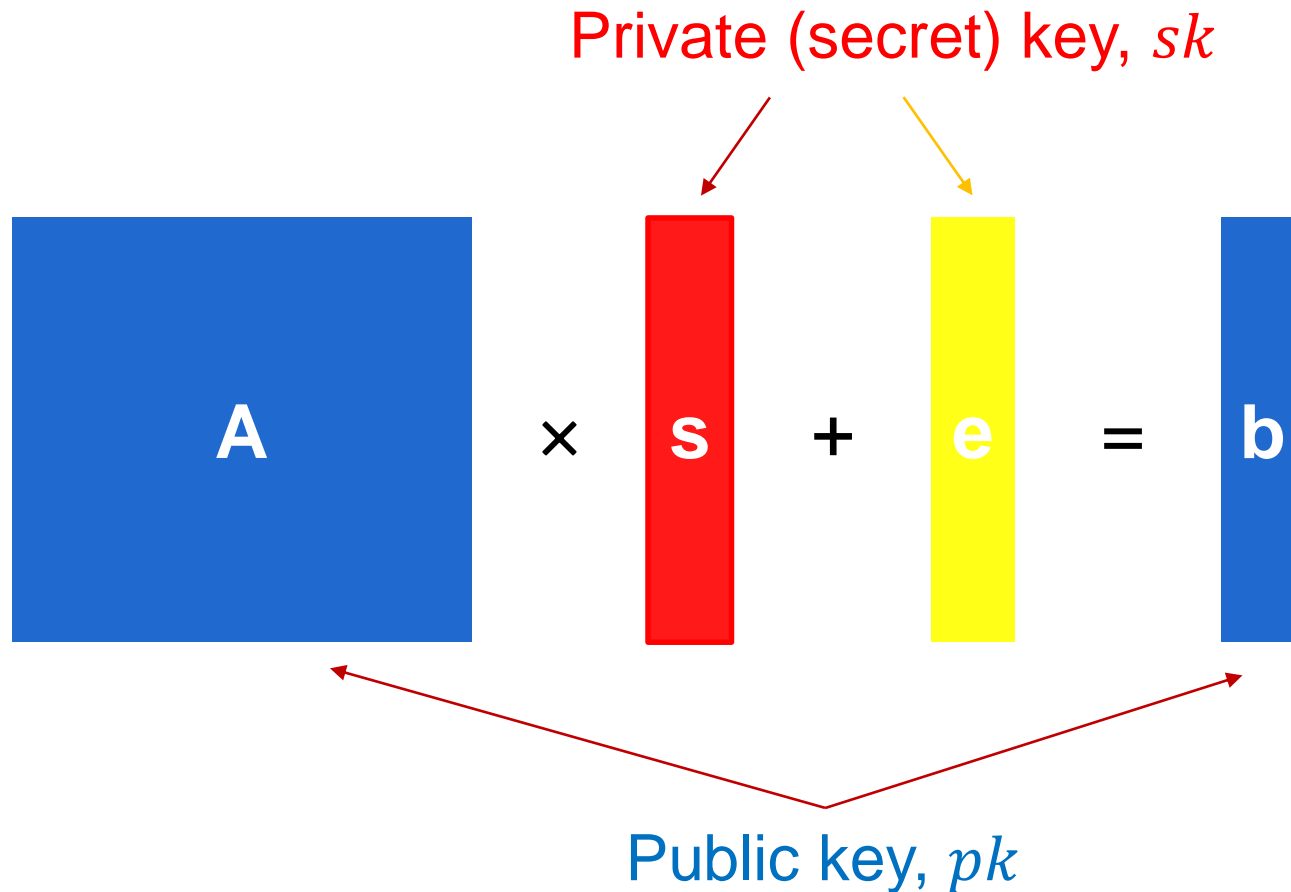

$$A \times s + e = b$$

Given **blue**, find **red** (search LWE problem)

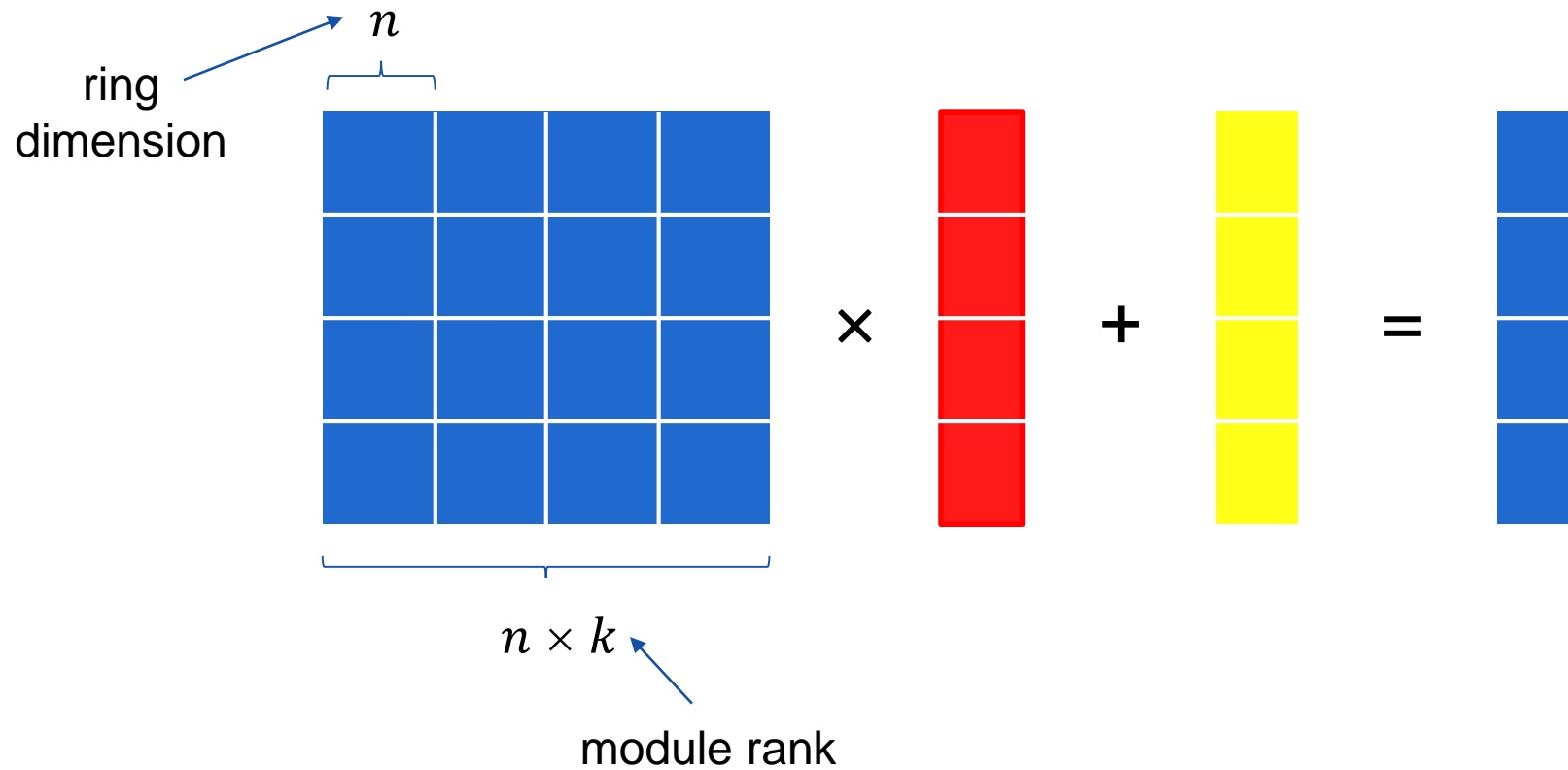
Given **A**, distinguish **b** from uniform random (decision LWE problem)

Hard even if **A** is over ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/f(X)$  for certain  $f(X)$

# Learning With Errors (LWE) problem, cont.

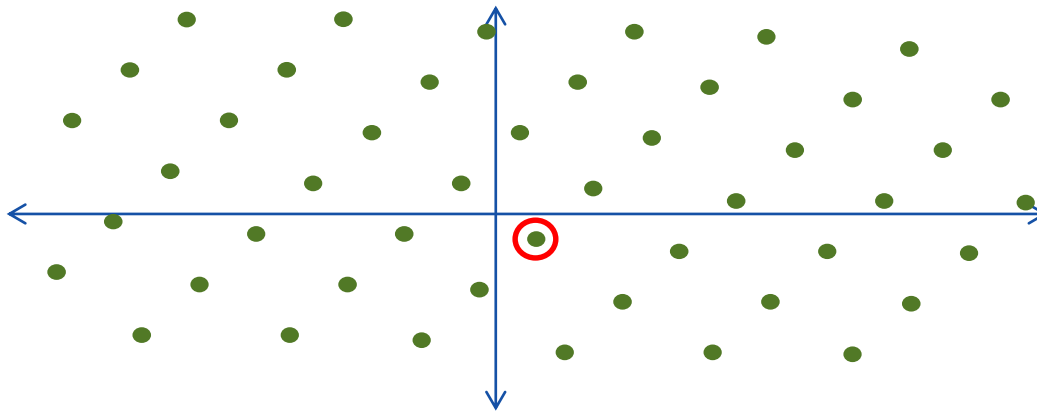


# Module LWE



# Why “lattice-based”?

- Module-LWE problem can be interpreted as a version of the Closest Vector Problem (CVP) in a structured  $q$ -ary lattice
- This CVP instance can be solved by finding an unusually short vector in a related lattice
  - a version of the Shortest Vector Problem (SVP)

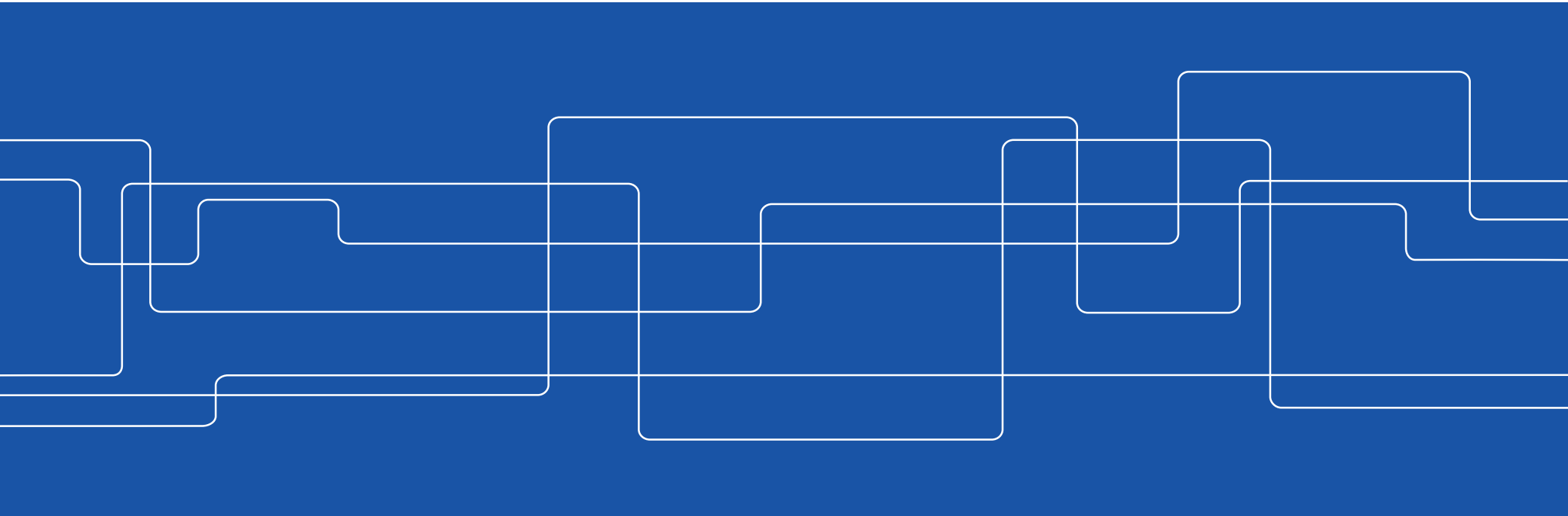


All solutions to  
 $b = As + e \bmod q$   
form a “shifted” lattice

The goal is to find the  
point closest to the origin



# ML-KEM (CRYSTALS-Kyber)





# Module Lattice Key Encapsulation Mechanism

- Security is based on the hardness of LWE in module lattices
  - PKE algorithms:
    - Key generation,  $(pk, sk) = \text{PKE.KeyGen}()$
    - Encryption,  $c = \text{Encrypt}(pk, m, r)$
    - Decryption,  $m = \text{Decrypt}(sk, c)$
  - KEM algorithms:
    - Key generation,  $(pk, sk) = \text{KEM.KeyGen}()$
    - Encapsulation,  $(c, K) = \text{Encaps}(pk)$
    - Decapsulation,  $K = \text{Decaps}(c, sk)$
- ▶  $pk$  is public key
- ▶  $sk$  is secret (private) key
- ▶  $r$  is random coin
- ▶  $m$  is message
- ▶  $c$  is ciphertext,  $c = (u, v)$
- ▶  $K$  is shared key

# ML-KEM parameters

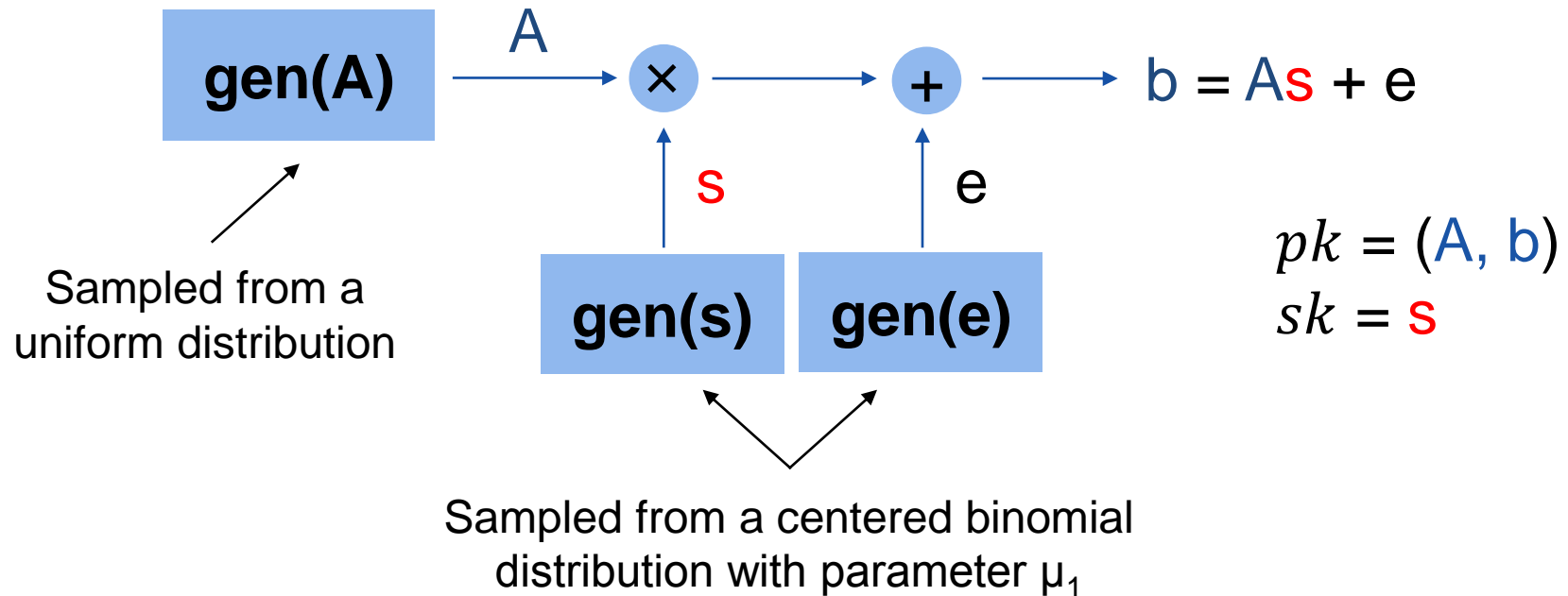
	$n$	$k$	$q$	$\eta_1$	$\eta_2$	$(d_u, d_v)$
KYBER512	256	2	3329	3	2	(10, 4)
KYBER768	256	3	3329	2	2	(10, 4)
KYBER1024	256	4	3329	2	2	(11, 5)

- $\mathbb{Z}_q$  is the ring of integers modulo a prime  $q = 2^{13} - 2^9 + 1$
- $R_q$  is the polynomial ring  $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X^n + 1)$ , where  $n$  is the ring dimension
- ML-KEM works with vectors of ring elements in  $R_q^k$ , where  $k$  is the rank of the module defining the security level
- Inputs and outputs to all API functions of ML-KEM are byte arrays



# Key generation algorithm

**Output:** public key  $pk$ , secret key  $sk$

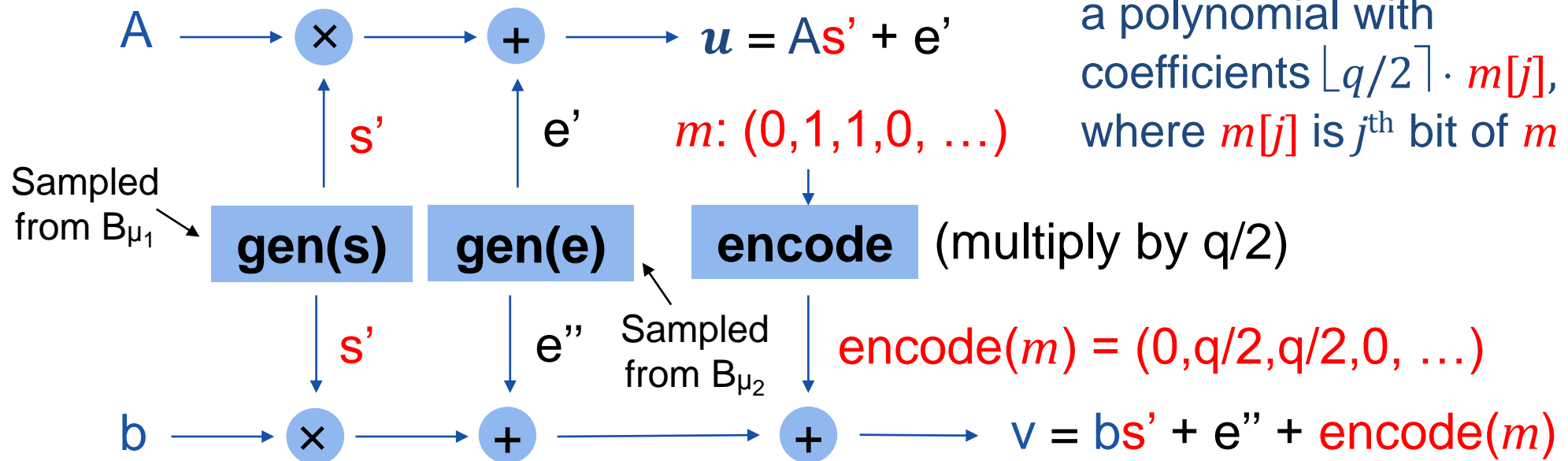


# Encryption algorithm

**Input:** public key  $pk = (A, b)$ , message  $m$

**Output:** ciphertext  $c = (u, v)$

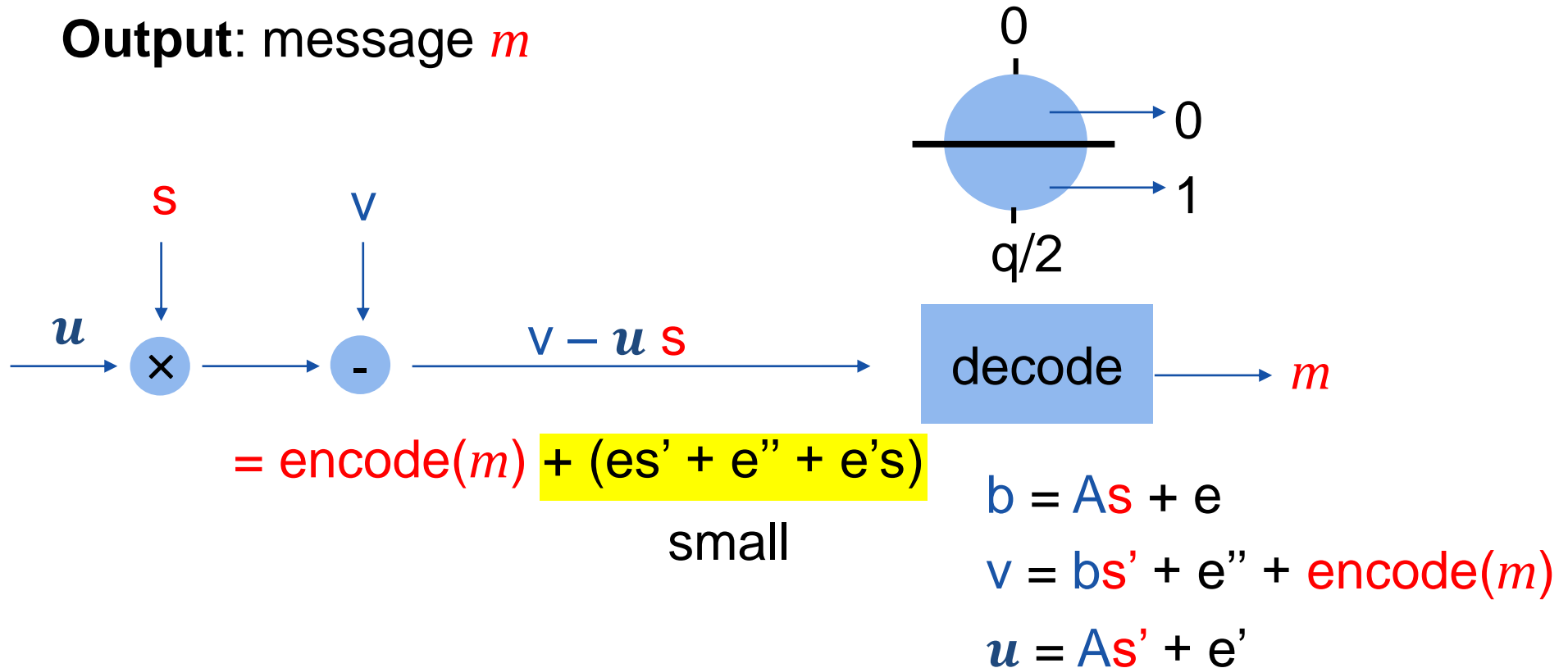
Encode converts a binary message  $m$  into a polynomial with coefficients  $\lfloor q/2 \rfloor \cdot m[j]$ , where  $m[j]$  is  $j^{\text{th}}$  bit of  $m$



# Decryption algorithm

**Input:** ciphertext  $c = (u, v)$ , secret key  $sk = s$

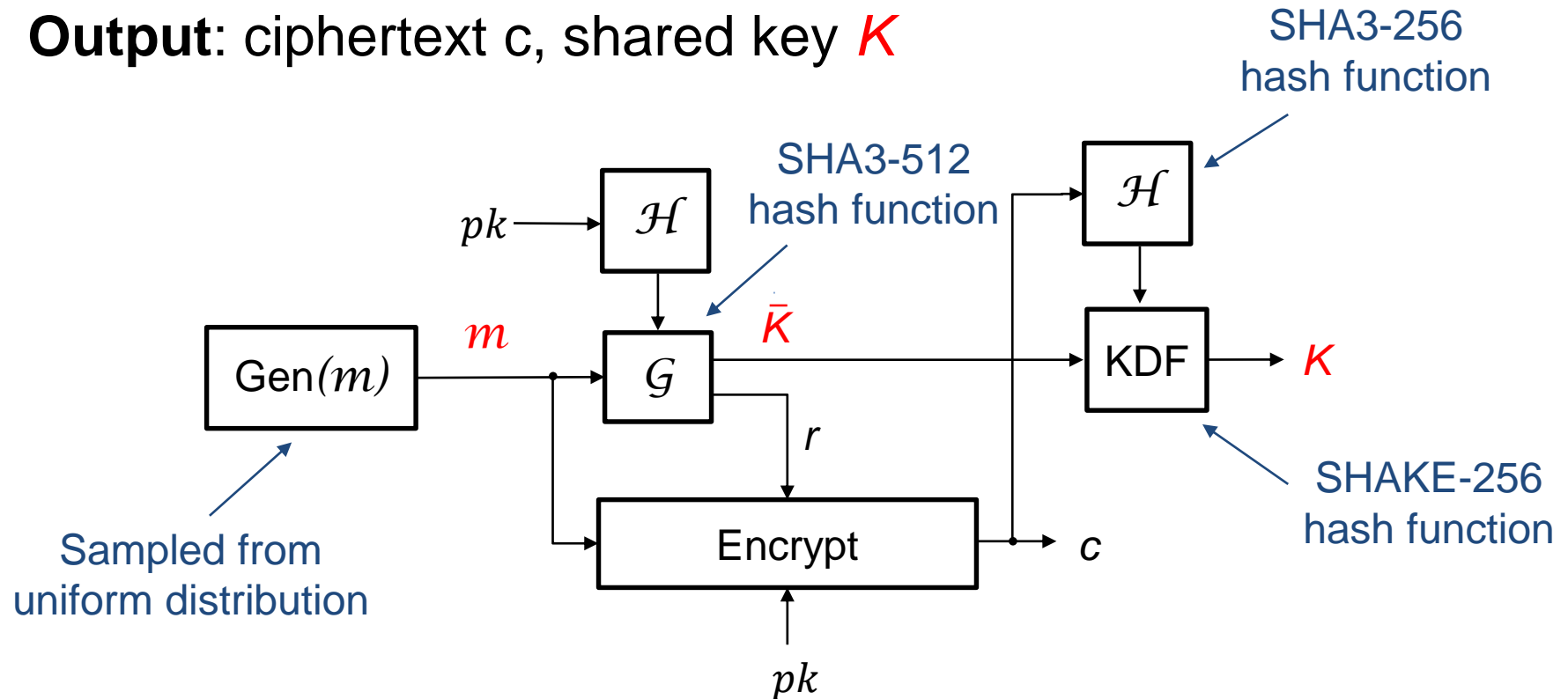
**Output:** message  $m$



# Encapsulation algorithm

**Input:** public key  $pk$

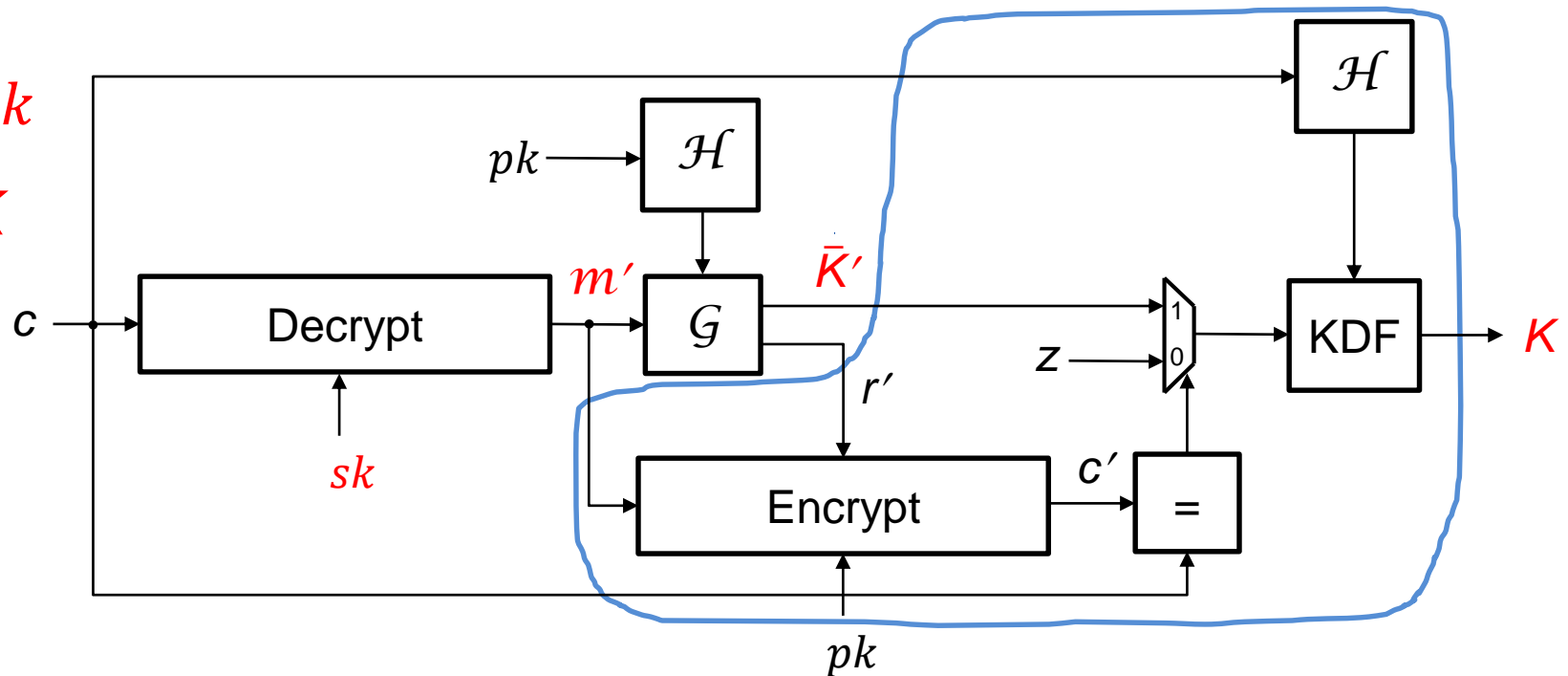
**Output:** ciphertext  $c$ , shared key  $K$



# Decapsulation algorithm

Input:  $c$ ,  $sk$

Output:  $K$



A version of [Fujisaki-Okamoto \(FO\) transform](#) is used to create an IND-CCA2 secure KEM from an IND-CPA secure PKE

IND-CPA = Indistinguishability against chosen-plaintext attacks

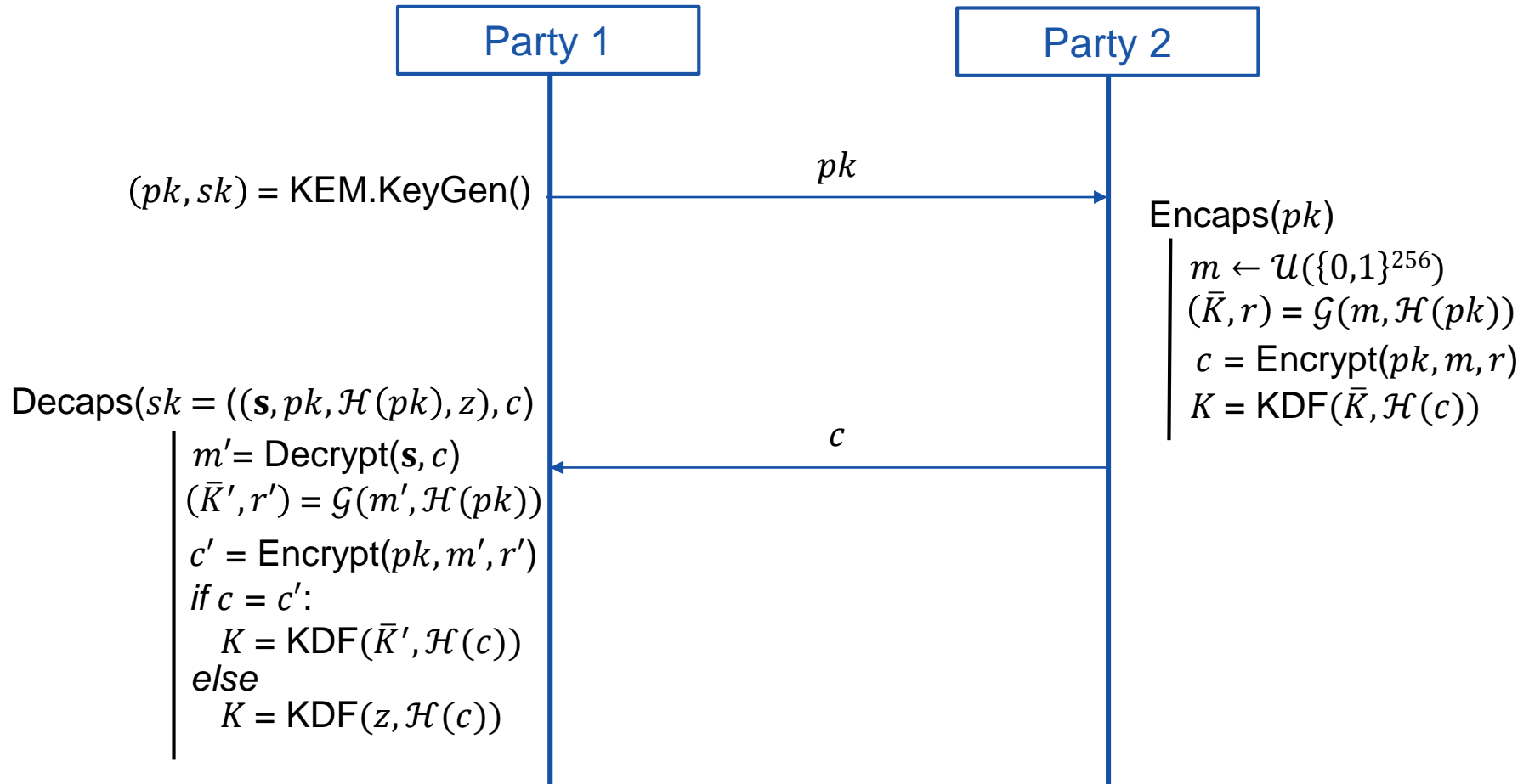
IND-CCA2 = Indistinguishability against adaptive chosen-ciphertext attacks



# IND-CPA and IND-CCA2

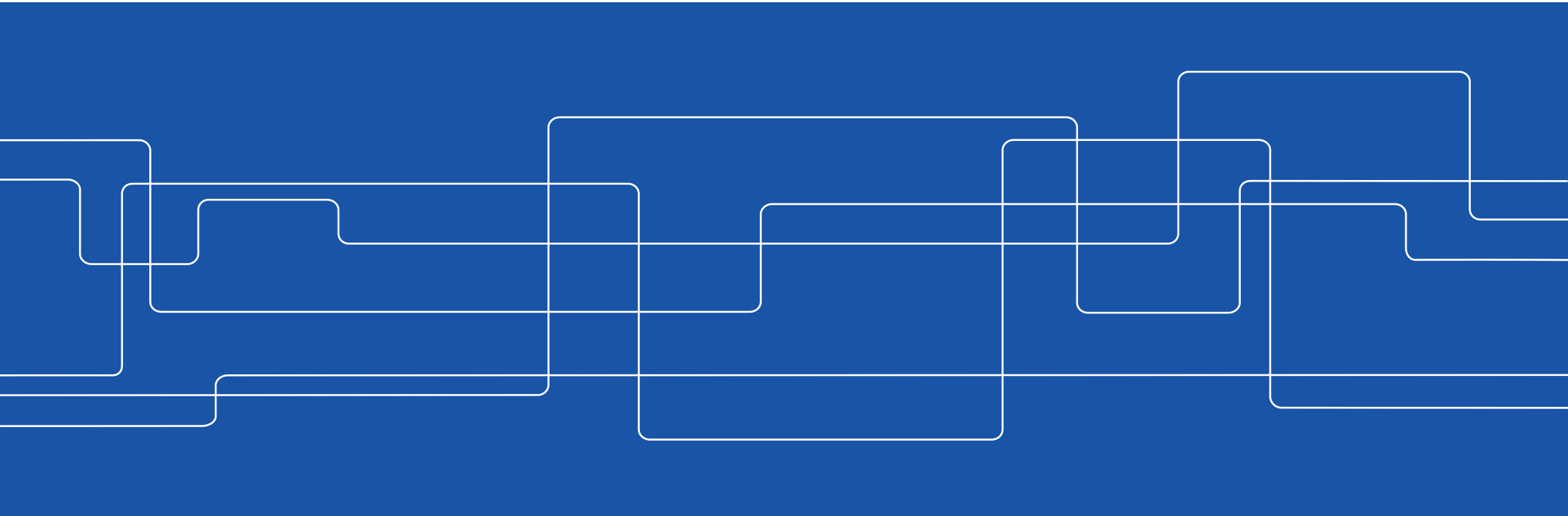
- IND-CPA means that one cannot distinguish two ciphertexts based on the messages they encrypt
  - Basic requirement for most provably secure PKE schemes
- IND-CCA2 means that one cannot improve the guess by allowing the use of a decryption oracle that can decrypt any ciphertexts except the given ones

# Shared key establishment protocol





# ML-DSA (CRYSTALS-Dilithium)







# Module Lattice Digital Signature Scheme

Security is based on the hardness of LWE in module lattices and a version of the module short integer solution (M-SIS) problem

- Key generation,  $(pk, sk) = \text{KeyGen}()$ 
  - $pk$  is public key
  - $sk$  is secret key
- Signing,  $\sigma = \text{Sign}(sk, m)$ 
  - $\sigma$  is signature
- Verification,  $\text{Verify}(pk, m, \sigma)$ 
  - $m$  is message
- Inputs and outputs to all API functions are byte arrays (as in Kyber)
  - $\Rightarrow$  unpacking of the byte arrays into the polynomial coefficients and vice versa must be performed

# ML-DSA parameters

Version	$n$	$q$	$(k, \ell)$	$\eta$	$d$	$\gamma_1$	$\gamma_2$	$\beta$	$\omega$
Dilithium-2	256	8380417	(4, 4)	2	13	$2^{17}$	$(q - 1)/88$	78	80
Dilithium-3	256	8380417	(6, 5)	4	13	$2^{19}$	$(q - 1)/32$	196	55
Dilithium-5	256	8380417	(8, 7)	2	13	$2^{19}$	$(q - 1)/32$	120	75



prime  $q = 2^{33} - 2^{13} + 1$

# ML-DSA key generation algorithm (simplified)

**Output:** public key  $pk$ , secret key  $sk$

KeyGen()

...

$$3: \mathbf{A} \in R_q^{k \times \ell} = \text{ExpandA}(\rho)$$

$$4: (\mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2) \in S_\eta^\ell \times S_\eta^k = \text{ExpandS}(\rho')$$

$$5: \mathbf{t} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s}_1 + \mathbf{s}_2$$

$$6: (\mathbf{t}_1, \mathbf{t}_0) = \text{Power2Round}(\mathbf{t}, d)$$

...

$$8: pk = \text{pkEncode}(\rho, \mathbf{t}_1)$$

$$9: sk = \text{skEncode}(\rho, K, tr, \mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{t}_0)$$

$$10: \text{return } (pk, sk)$$

Drops  $d$  low-order  
bits of each  
coefficient of  $\mathbf{t}$

$\mathbf{b} = \mathbf{A}\mathbf{s} + \mathbf{e}$  in ML-KEM

$$pk = (\mathbf{A}, \mathbf{b})$$

$$sk = \mathbf{s}$$

Packing into  
byte arrays



# ML-DSA signing algorithm (simplified)

**Input:** secret key  $sk$ , message  $m$

**Output:** signature  $\sigma$

$\text{Sign}(sk, m)$

1:  $(\rho, K, tr, s_1, s_2, t_0) = \text{skDecode}(sk)$

Unpacking of  
byte arrays

2:  $\mathbf{A} \in R_q^{k \times \ell} = \text{ExpandA}(\rho)$   
...

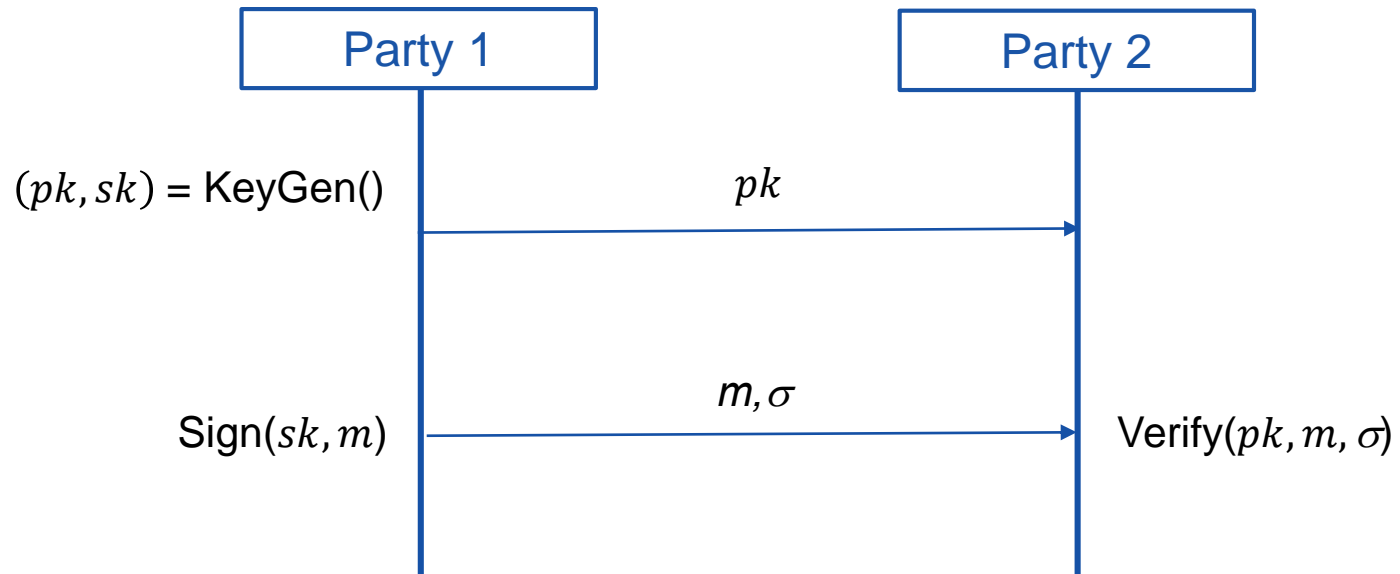
6: **while**  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) = \perp$  **do**  
...

12:  $\mathbf{z} = \mathbf{y} + cs_1$

Many side-channel  
attacks target this point

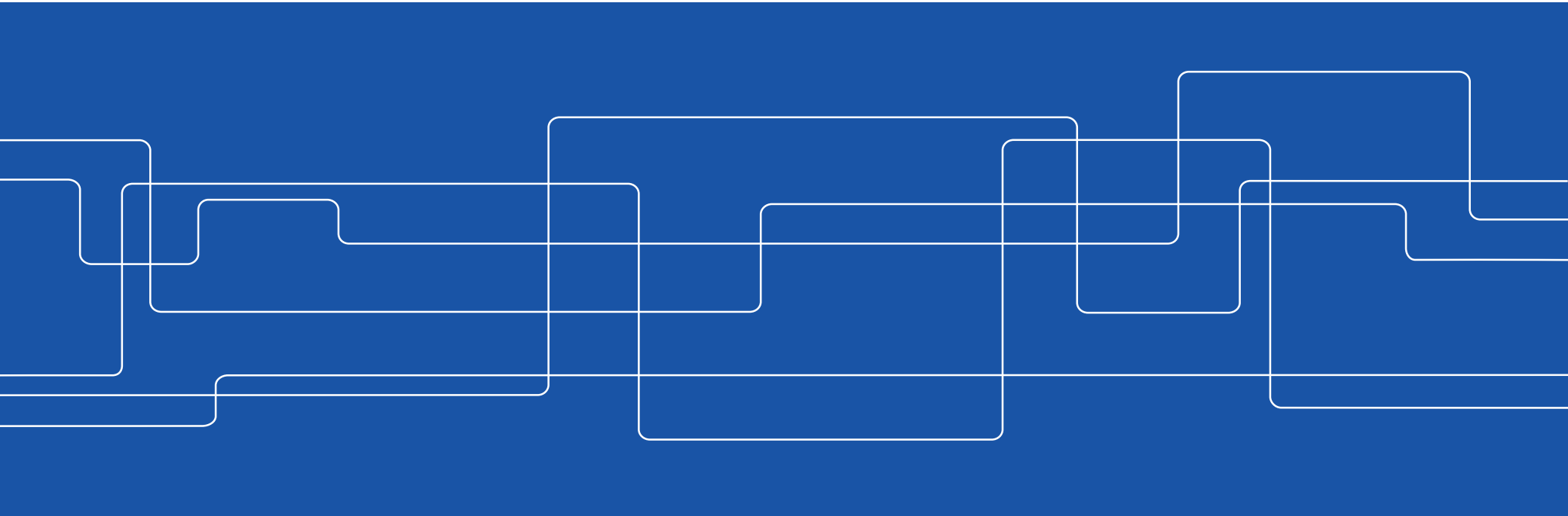
19: **return**  $\sigma = (\tilde{c}, \mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h})$

# Authentication protocol

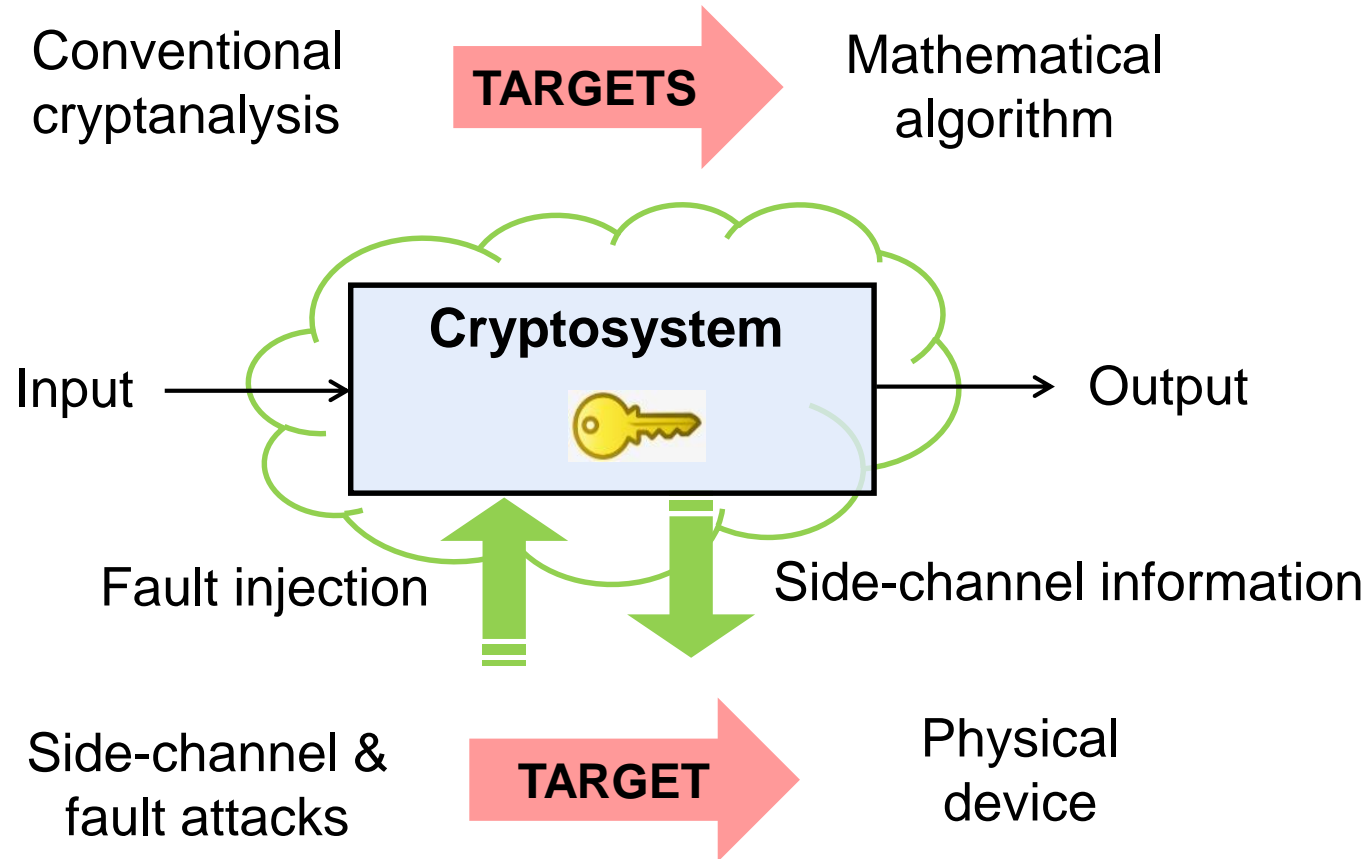




# Side-channel and fault attacks

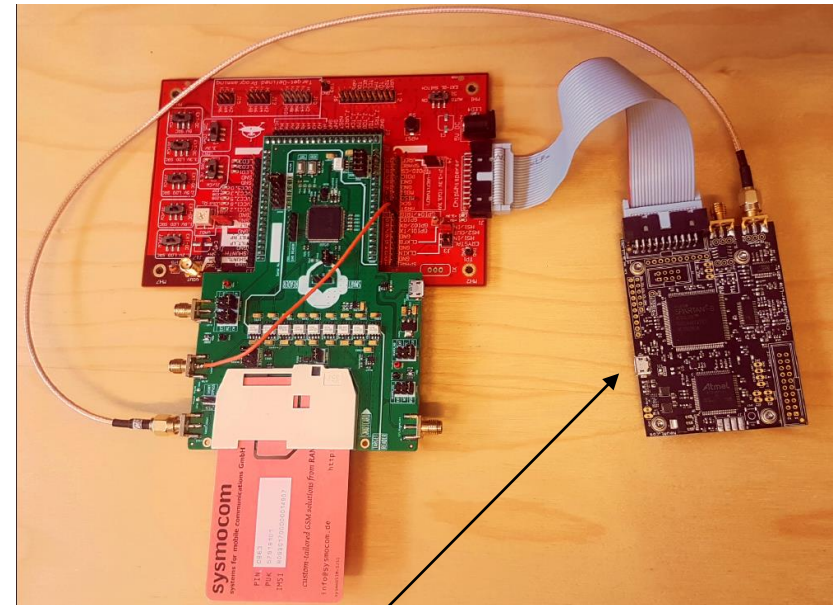


# What is a physical attack?



# Side-Channel Analysis (SCA)

- Algorithms are implemented in MCUs, CPUs, FPGAs, ASICs,...
- Different operations may consume different amount of power/time
- The same operation executed on different data may consume different amount of power/time
- It may be possible to recognize which **operations and data** are processed from power/time
  - ML techniques are useful



ChipWhisperer-Lite

photo credit: Martin Brisfors



# Fault Injection (FI)

- Clock glitching:
  - Inject/withhold rising edge in clock signal
- Voltage glitching:
  - Short power supply

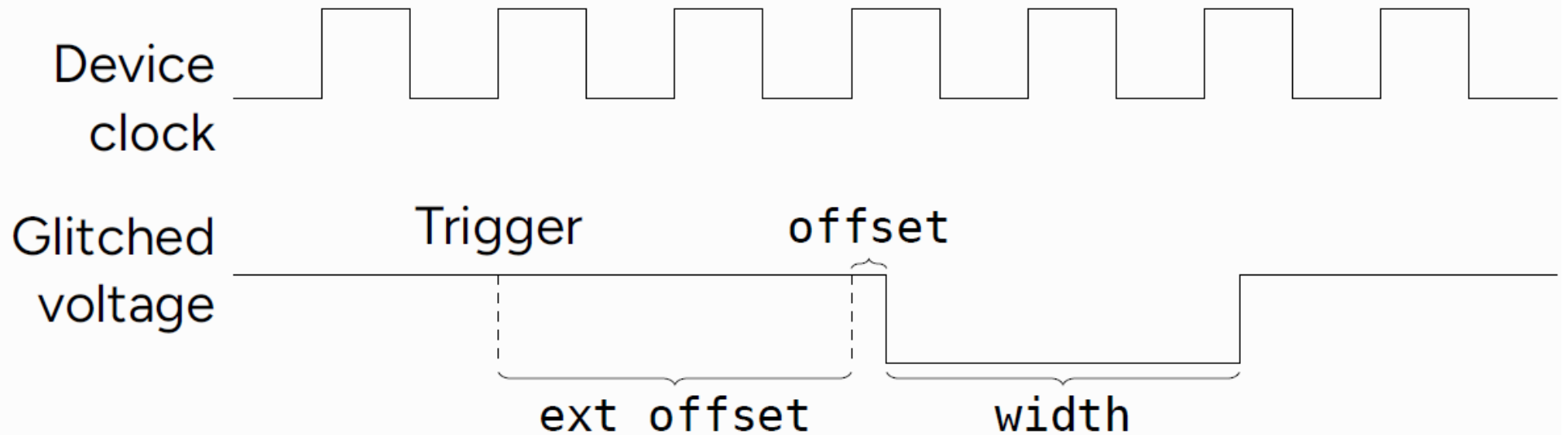
## ChipWhisperer-Husky

- Inexpensive (\$550), easy to use
- Requires precise timing

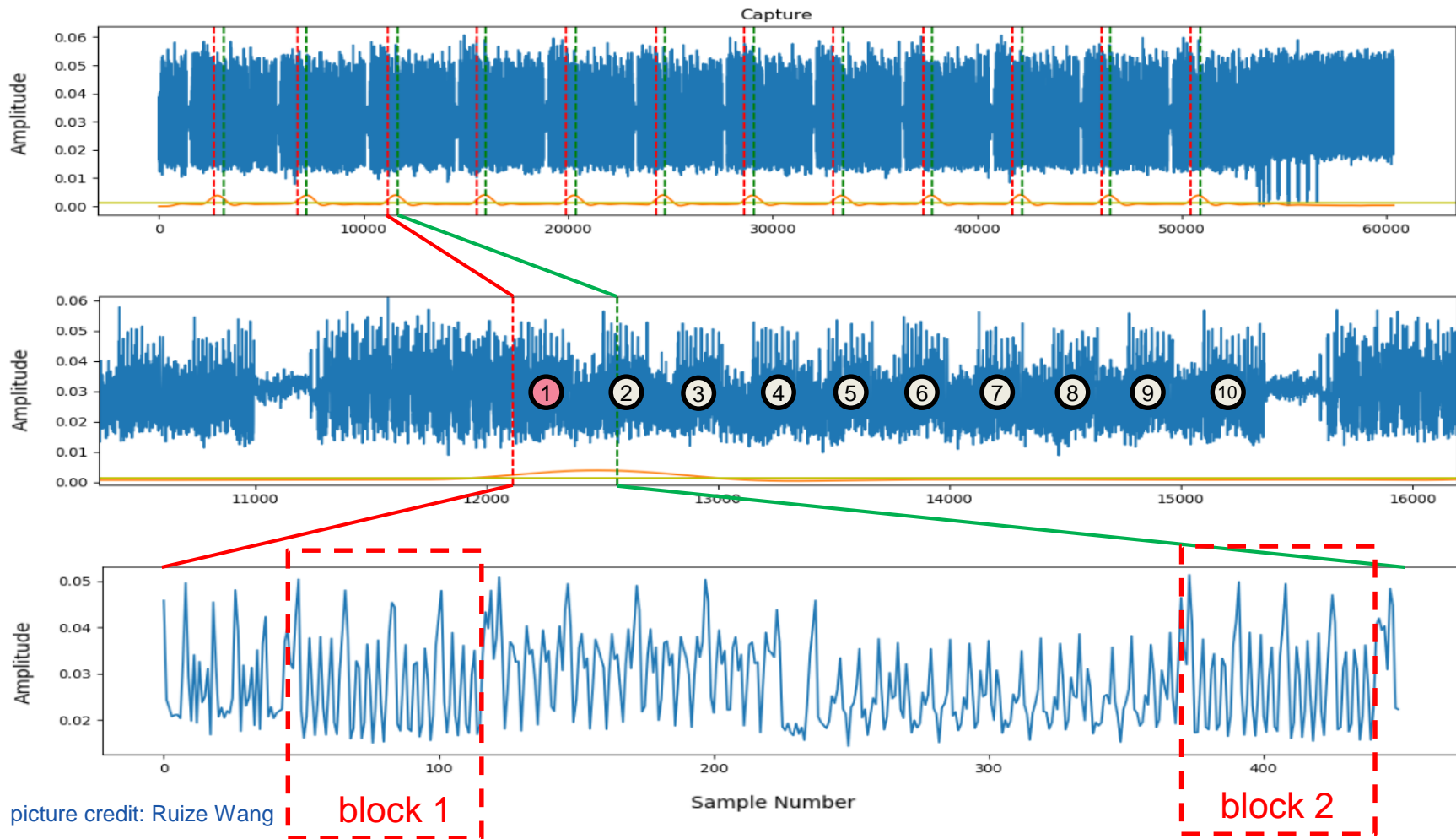


photo credit: Sönke Jenral

# Voltage glitching parameters

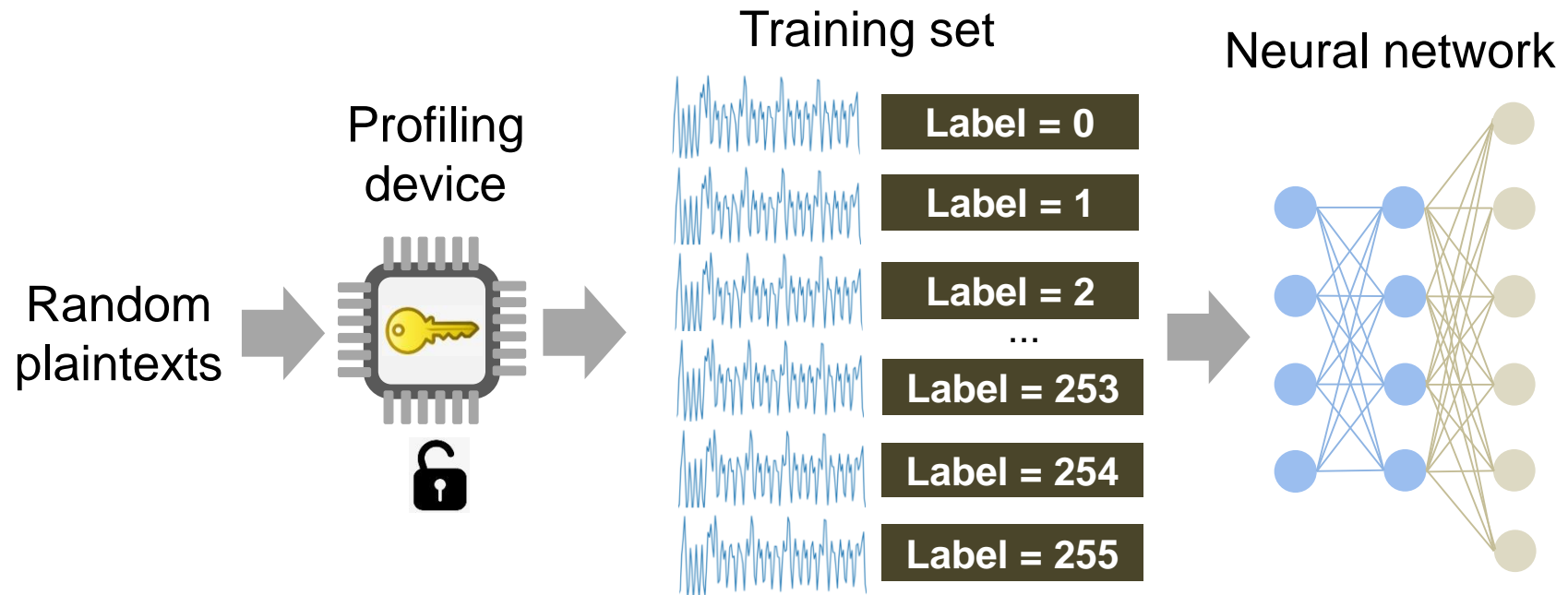


# SCA example of AES-128 on 32-bit MCU



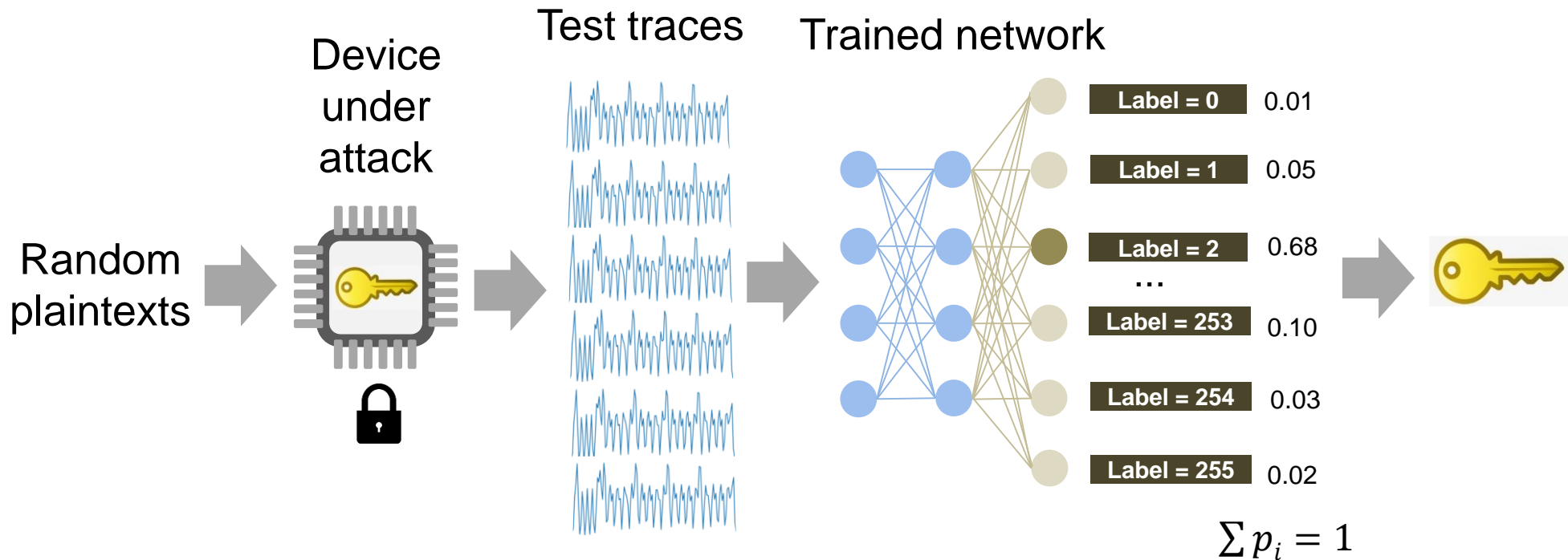
# How Deep Learning (DL) helps?

**Profiling stage:** Train a neural network using traces from profiling devices

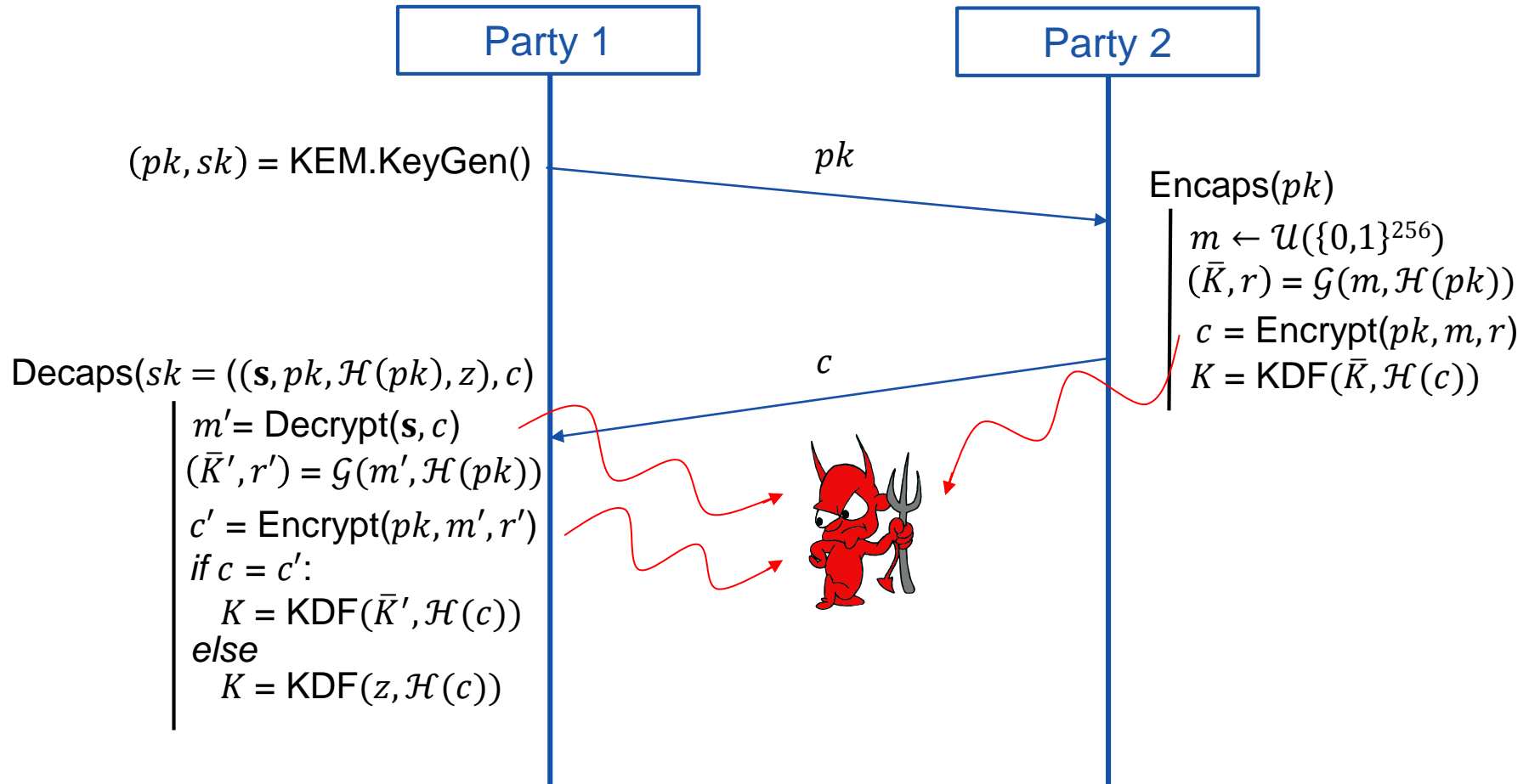


# How Deep Learning (DL) helps?

**Attack stage:** Use the trained network to classify traces from the device under attack



# Attack scenario for ML-KEM





Party 1

Party 2

$(pk_p, sk_p) = \text{KeyGen}()$   
 $m_p \leftarrow \mathcal{U}(\{0,1\}^{256})$   
 $c_p = \text{Encrypt}(pk_p, m_p, r_p)$   
 $T_p \sim \text{Decaps}(sk_p, c_p)$   
 $\mathcal{M} = \text{TrainModel}(T_p, m_p)$

If  $m$  is used as a label, profiling traces can be captured from the device under attack since  $pk$  is used to compute  $c$

$(pk, sk) = \text{KeyGen}()$

$pk$

$pk$

$c$

$c$

$K = \text{Decaps}(sk, c)$

$T$

$m' = \mathcal{M}(T)$

$(\bar{K}', r') = \mathcal{G}(m', \mathcal{H}(pk))$

$K = \text{KDF}(\bar{K}', \mathcal{H}(c))$

$(c, K) = \text{Encaps}(pk)$

$K_1 = \text{Decaps}(sk, c_1)$

$K_2 = \text{Decaps}(sk, c_2)$

...

$c_1, c_2, \dots$

$T_1, T_2, \dots$

$m_1 = \mathcal{M}(T_1)$

$m_2 = \mathcal{M}(T_2)$

...

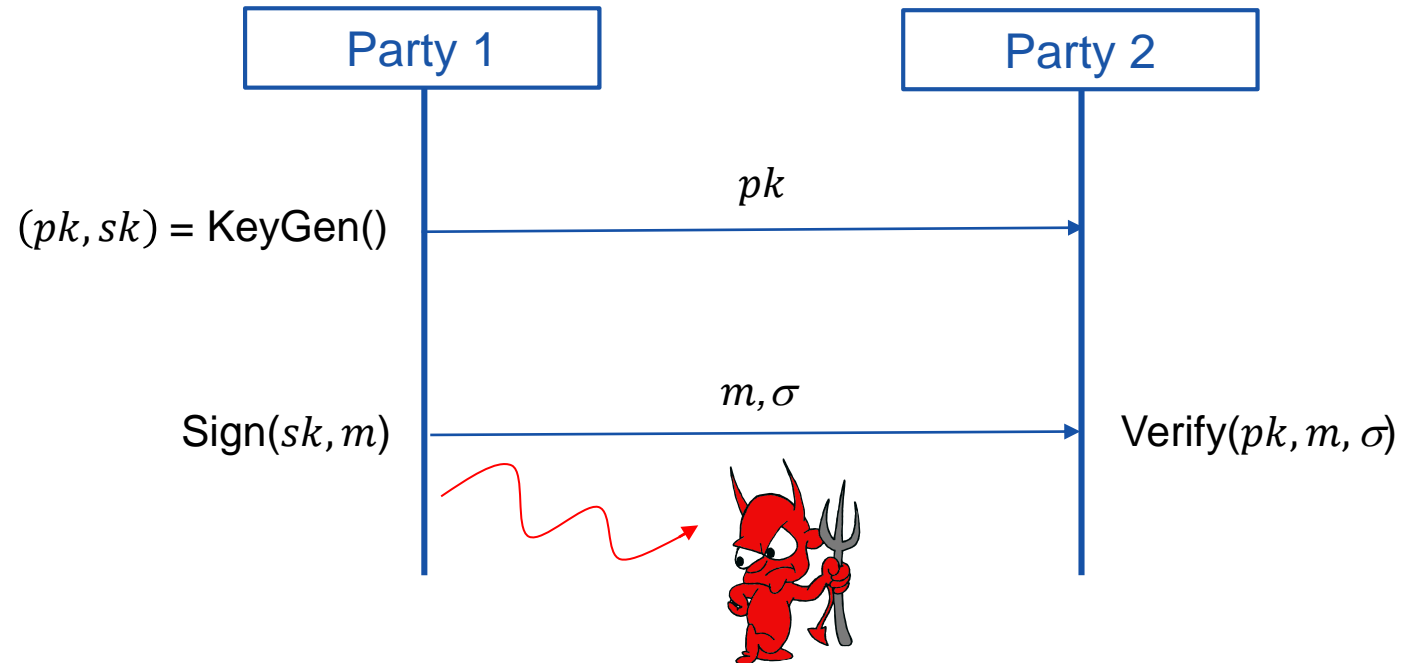
$sk = \text{RecoverKey}(m_1, m_2, \dots)$

Profiling stage

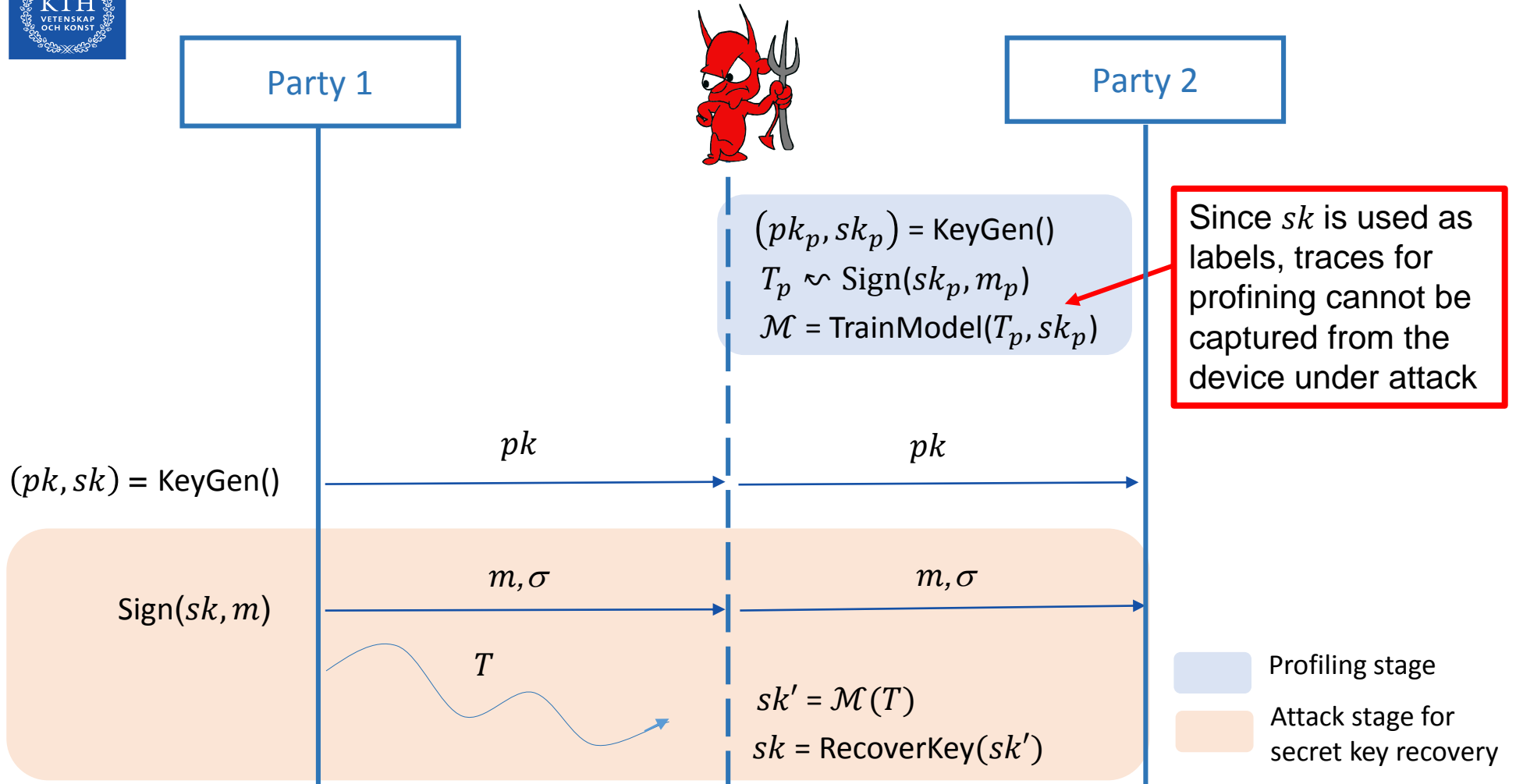
Attack stage for shared key recovery

Attack stage for secret key recovery

# Attack scenario for ML-DSA

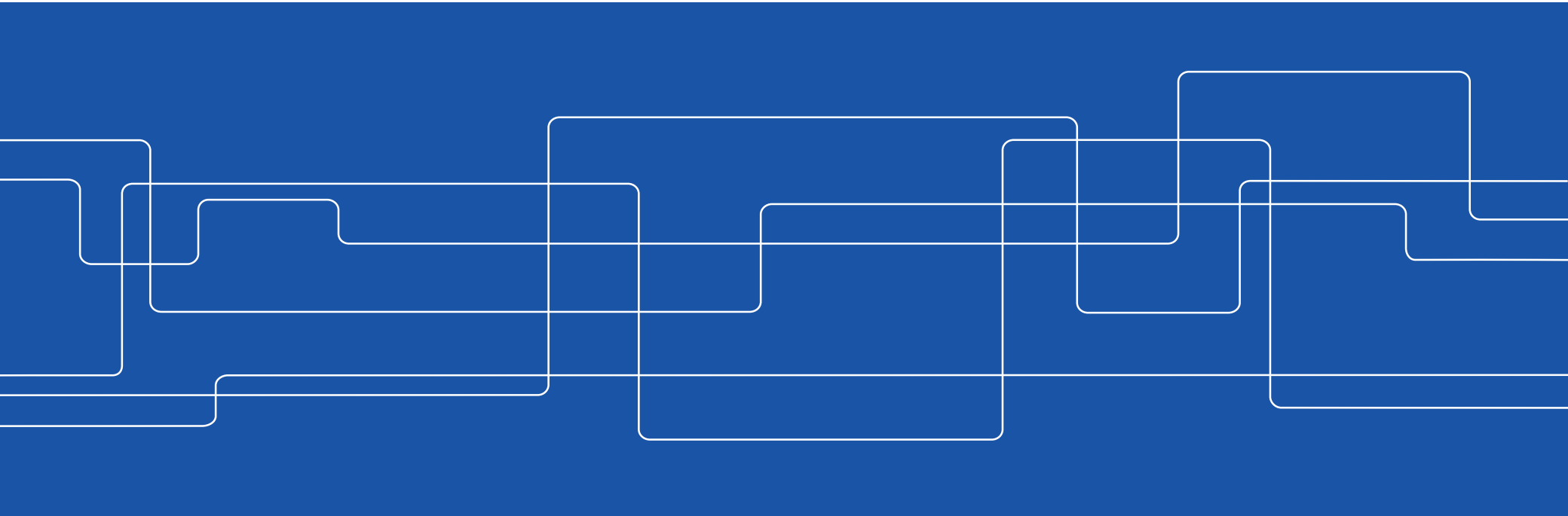




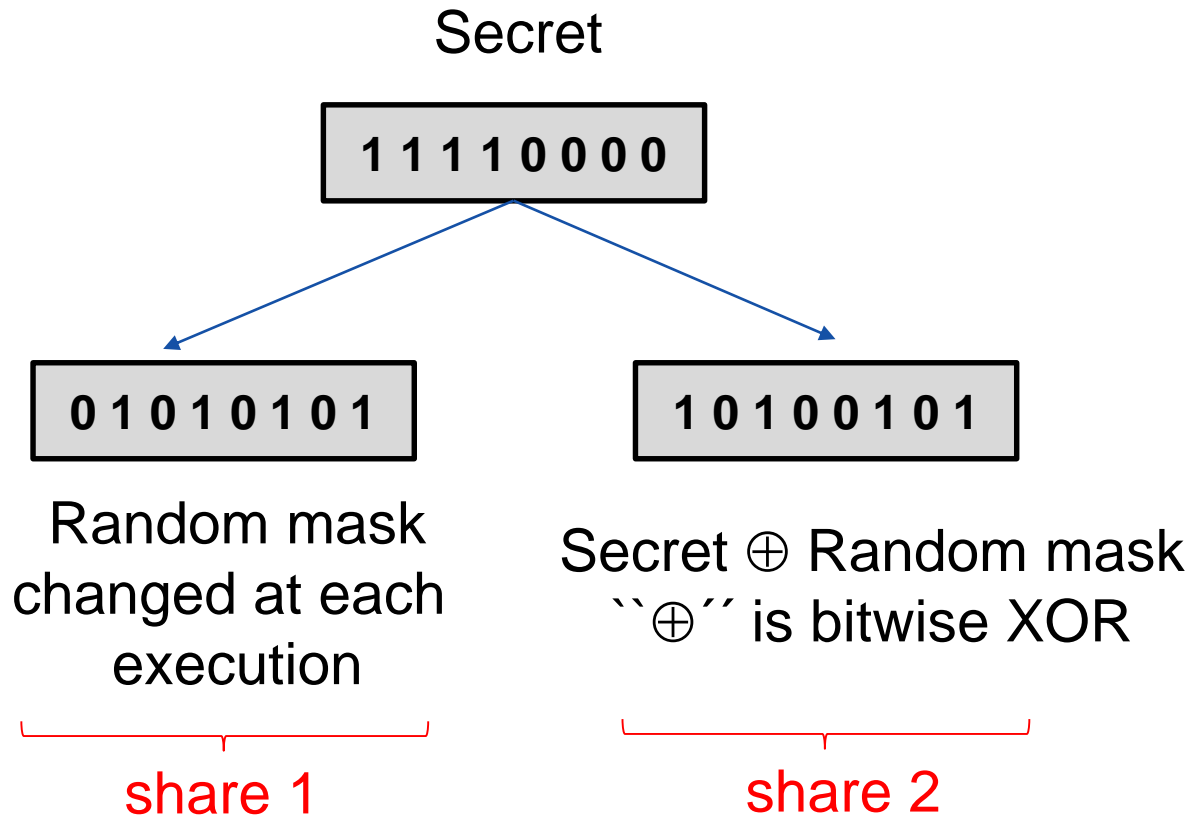




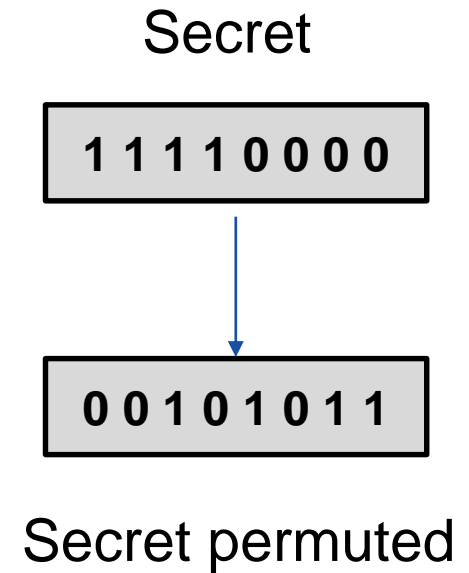
# Countermeasures



# Masking and shuffling countermeasures

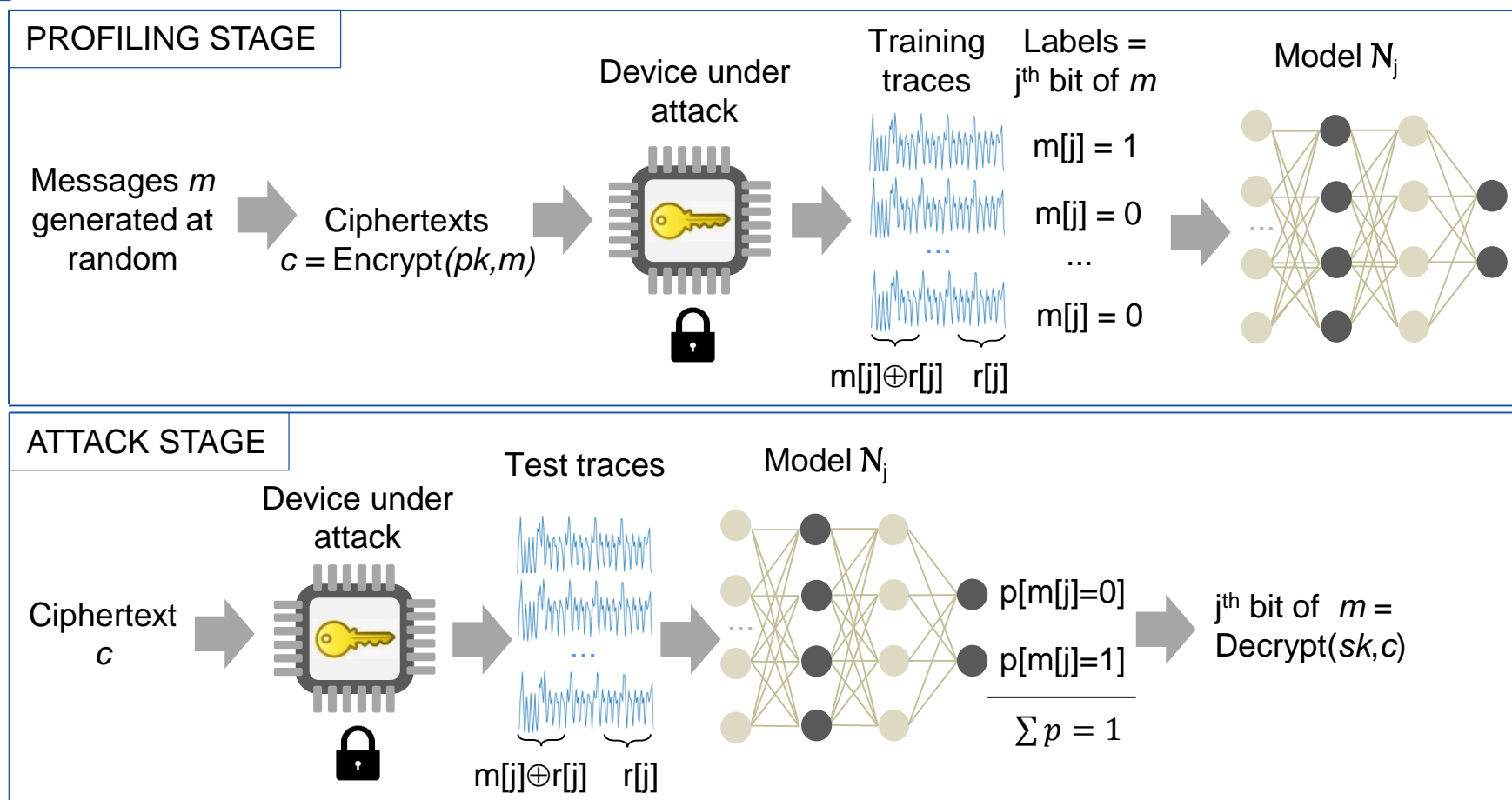


First-order Boolean masking



Shuffling

# How DL helps break masking



*A Side-Channel Attack on a Masked IND-CCA Secure Saber KEM Implementation,*  
 K. Ngo, E. Dubrova, Q. Guo, T. Johansson, TCHES'2021(4), 676-707



# Attacks on ML-KEM and ML-DSA



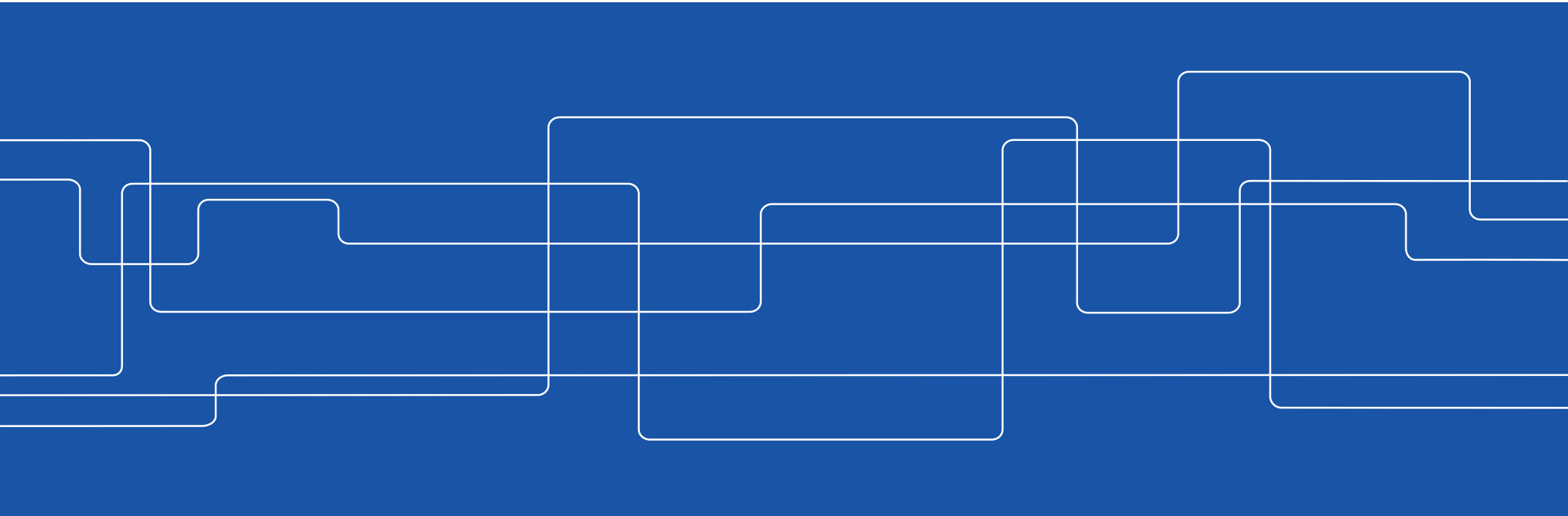
# Six attacks on software implementations

- ML-KEM:
  - DL-SCA on an unmasked implementation
  - DL-SCA on a first-order masked & shuffled implementation
  - FI attack on a first-order masked & shuffled implementation
  - DL-SCA on a higher-order masked implementation
- ML-DSA
  - DL-SCA on an unmasked implementation
  - FI attack on an unmasked implementation



# Secret key recovery attack on unmasked Kyber using $k$ chosen ciphertexts

A Side-Channel Secret Key Recovery Attack on CRYSTALS-Kyber Using  $k$  Chosen Ciphertexts, R. Wang, E. Dubrova, C2SI'2023



# Attack details

- Kyber-768 C implementation:
  - Kannwischer, M.J., Petri, R., Rijneveld, J., Schwabe, P., Stoffelen, K.: PQM4: Post-quantum crypto library for the ARM Cortex-M4, <https://github.com/mupq/pqm4>
  - Compiled with optimization level -O3
- Attack point:
  - Decryption step of decapsulation
    - message decoding and polynomial reduction procedures
- Target board:
  - ARM Cortex-M4 in CW308TSTM32F4

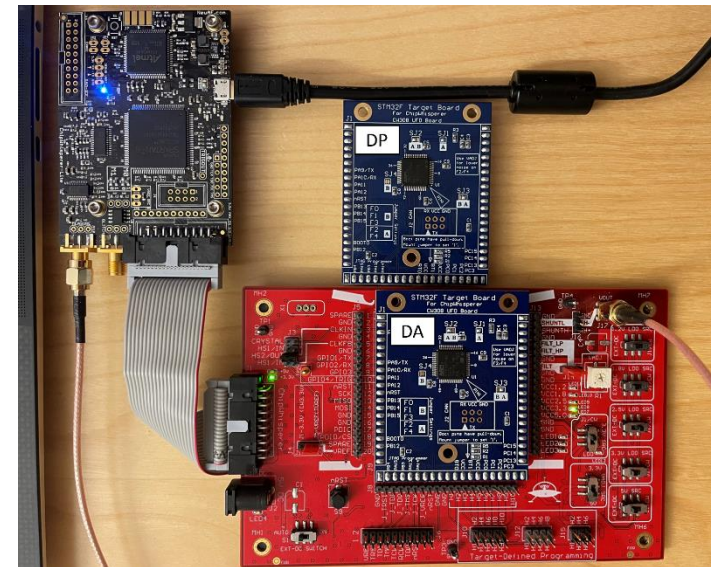


photo credit: Ruize Wang



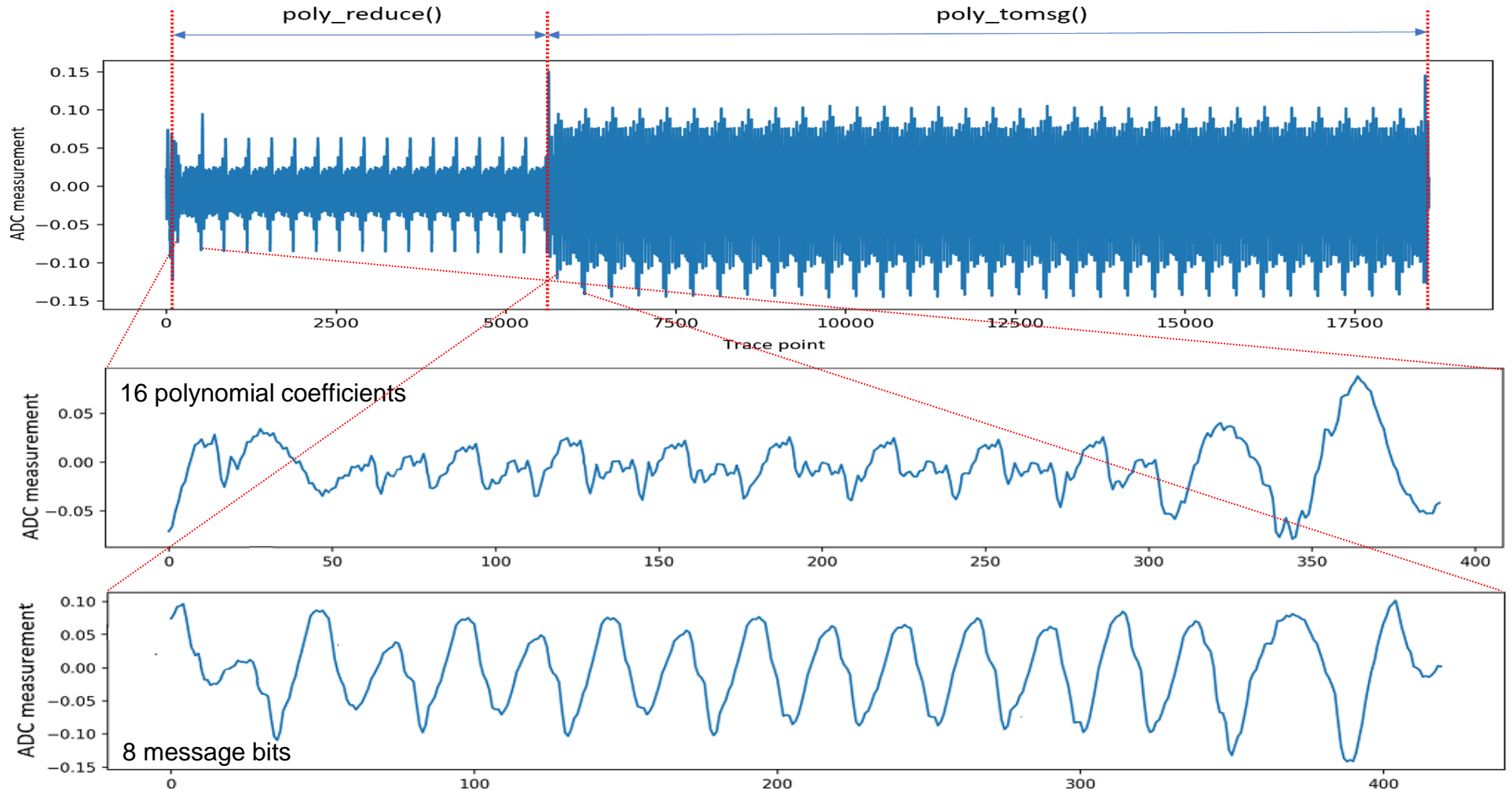


# Message decoding and polynomial reduction procedures

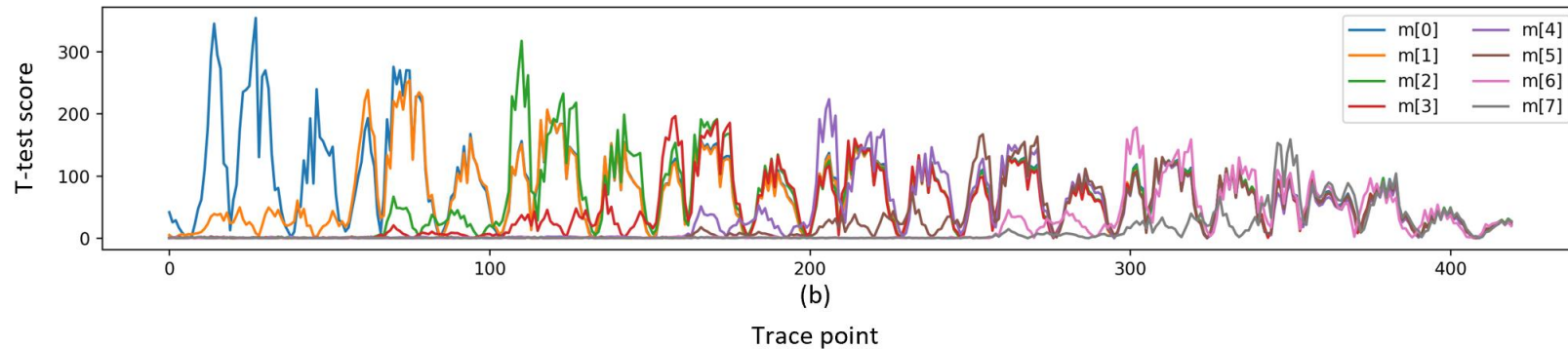
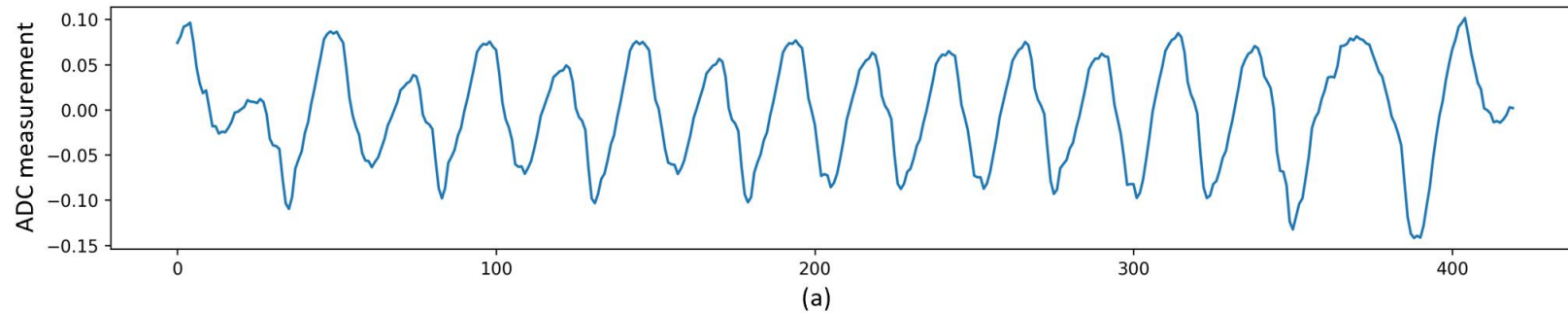
```
void poly_tomsg(char *msg, poly *a)
1: for (i = 0; i < BYTES; i++) do
2:   msg[i] = 0;
3:   for (j = 0; j < 8; j++) do
4:     t=(((a->coeffs[8*i+j]<<1) + KYBER_Q/2)/KYBER_Q)&1;
5:     msg[i] |= t<<j;
6:   end for
7: end for

void poly_reduce(poly *r)
1: asm_barrett_reduce(r->coeffs); /*In assembly*/
```

# Power trace of `poly_reduce()` and `poly_tomsg()`



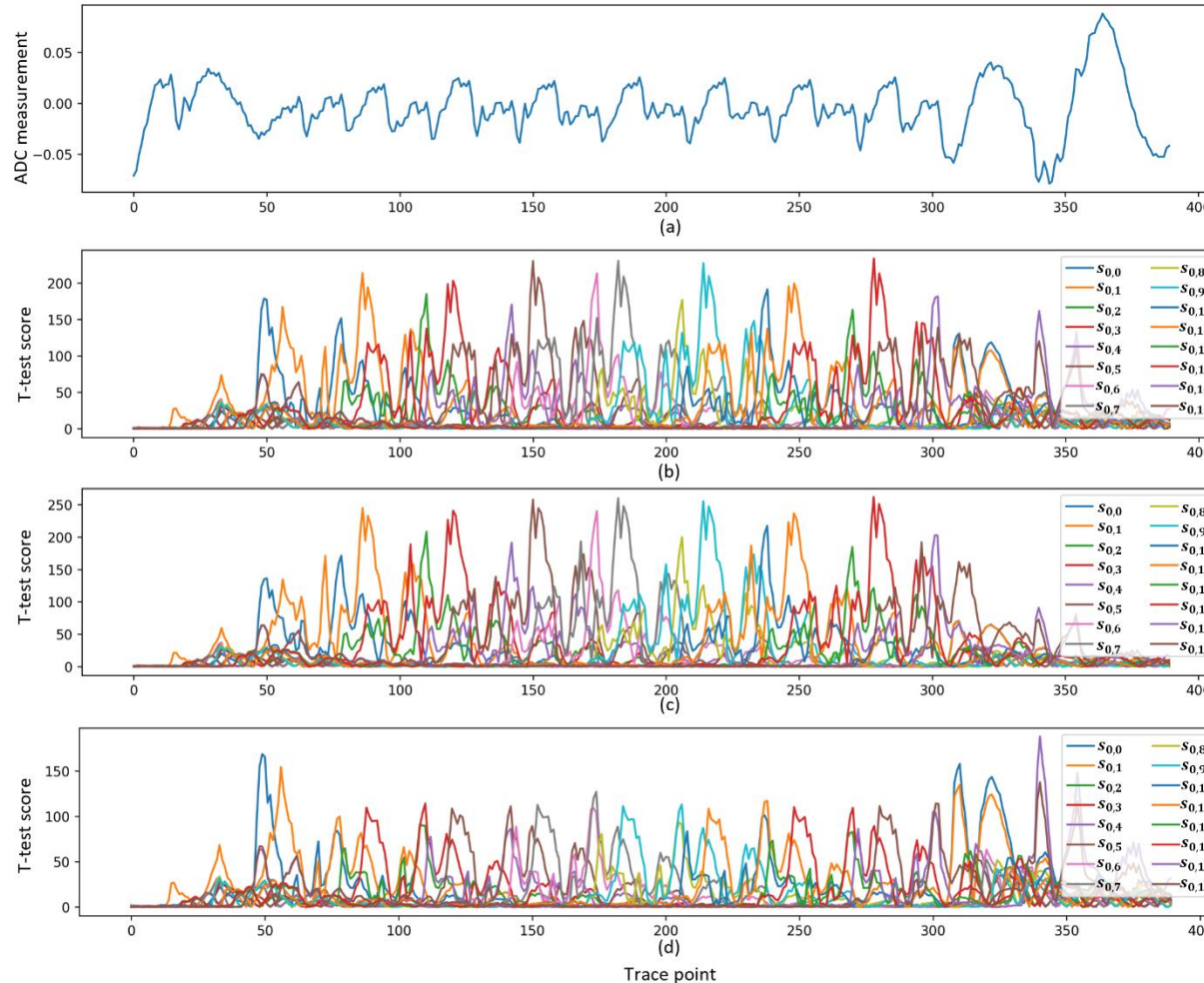
# Leakage analysis of poly\_tomsg()



$m[i] = 0$   
vs  
 $m[i] = 1$

(a) Power trace of poly\_tomsg(); (b) T-test for 8 message bits (100K traces)

# Leakage analysis of poly\_reduce()



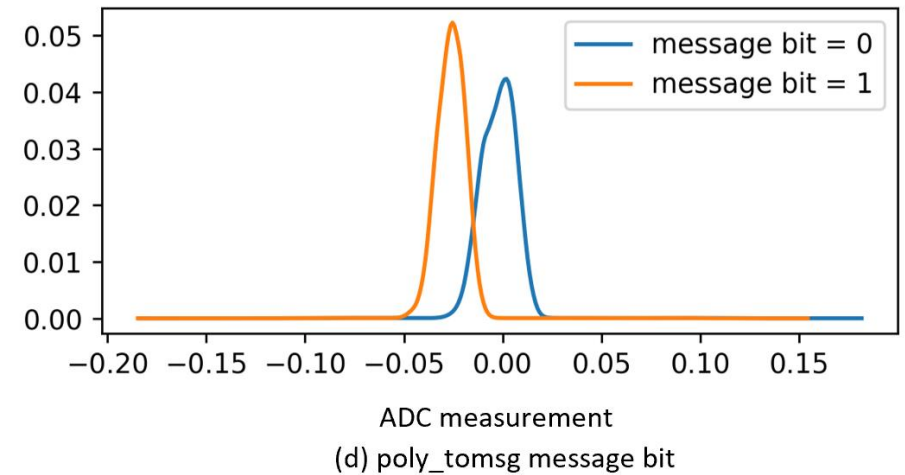
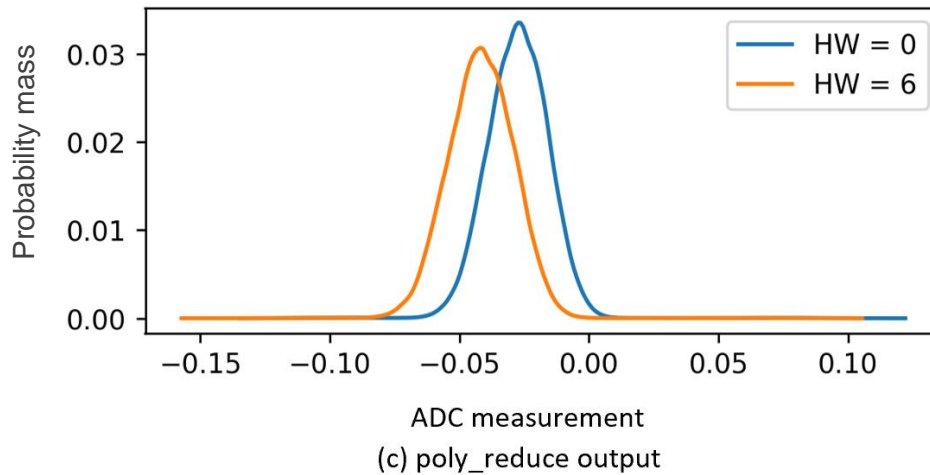
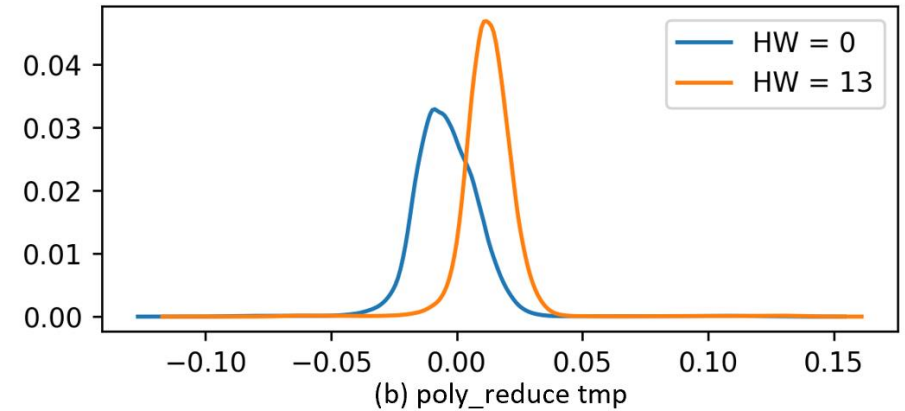
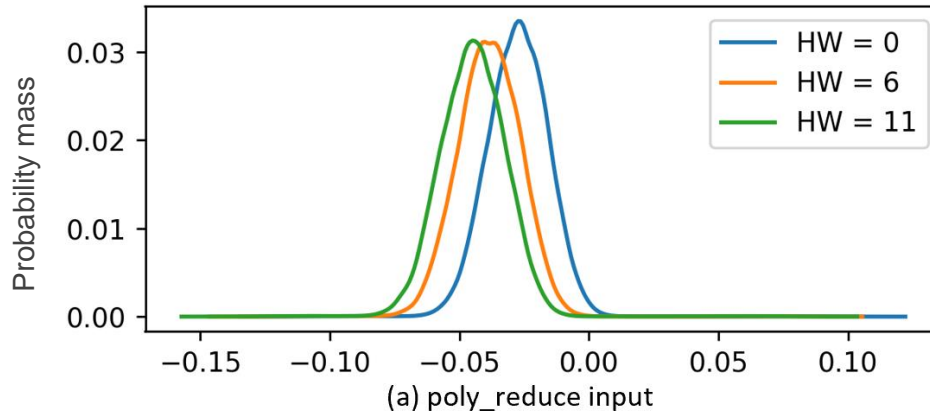
HW(input) = 0 vs  
HW(input) = 11

HW(tmp) = 0 vs  
HW(tmp) = 13

HW(output) = 0 vs  
HW(output) = 6

(a) Power trace of poly\_reduce(): (b,c,d) T-test for 16 poly. coeff. (100K traces)

# Distributions of power consumption for different intermediate variables



## Chosen ciphertext construction method

The secret key  $s$  consists three polynomials  $s = (s_0, s_1, s_2)$

The ciphertext  $c = (\mathbf{u}, v)$  consists of  $\mathbf{u} = (u_0, u_1, u_2)$  and  $v$

To recover  $n$  coefficients of  $s_i$ , we set:

$$\mathbf{u} = \begin{cases} (k_1, 0, 0) \in R_q^{3 \times 1} & \text{for } i = 0 \\ (0, k_1, 0) \in R_q^{3 \times 1} & \text{for } i = 1 \\ (0, 0, k_1) \in R_q^{3 \times 1} & \text{for } i = 2 \end{cases} \quad v = k_0 \sum_{j=0}^{255} x^j \in R_q^{1 \times 1}$$

Then, for  $i \in \{0, 1, 2\}$ ,  $m[j]$  is a function of the tuple  $(k_0, k_1, s_i[j])$ :

$$v - \mathbf{s}^T \mathbf{u} = \sum_{j=0}^{255} (k_0 - k_1 s_i[j]) x^j$$



## Chosen ciphertext construction, cont.

Search through all possible  $k_0, k_1 \in \mathbb{Z}_q$  to construct  $c = (u, v)$  such that:

1. The number of different HWs of `poly_reduce()` intermediate variables is minimized
2. Hamming distances between `poly_reduce()` intermediate variables are maximized
3. There are both 0 and 1 message bits in `poly_tomsg()`
4. Given 1-3, all five key coefficients are uniquely defined

# Mapping of intermediate values into secret key coefficients for $k_0 = 0$ and $k_1 = 1369$

Procedure	Variable	-2	-1	0	1	2
poly_reduce	input	-591 (11)	1369 (6)	0 (0)	-1369 (11)	591 (6)
	<i>tmp</i>	-3329 (13)	0 (0)	0 (0)	-3329 (13)	0 (0)
	output	2738 (6)	1369 (6)	0 (0)	1960 (6)	591 (6)
poly_tomsg	message bit	0	1	0	1	0



# Mapping of MLP's labels into secret key coefficients for $k_0 = 0$ and $k_1 = 1369$

Procedure	MLP models	-2	-1	0	1	2
poly_reduce	$\{\mathcal{M}_0^{in}, \dots, \mathcal{M}_{15}^{in}\}$	1	2	0	1	2
	$\{\mathcal{M}_0^{tmp}, \dots, \mathcal{M}_{15}^{tmp}\}$	1	0	0	1	0
	$\{\mathcal{M}_0^{out}, \dots, \mathcal{M}_{15}^{out}\}$	1	1	0	1	1
poly_tomsg	$\{\mathcal{M}_0^{p2m}, \dots, \mathcal{M}_7^{p2m}\}$	0	1	0	1	0

# Empirical secret key recovery results (mean for 100 different secret keys)

$N \times k$	For profiling device			For device under attack		
	Single coefficient	Full key	Max # enum.	Single coefficient	Full key	Max # enum.
$1 \times 3$	0.9990	0.47	$5^8$	0.9940	0.02	$5^{16}$
$10 \times 3$	0.9997	0.81	$5^3$	0.9990	0.43	$5^4$
$20 \times 3$	0.9997	0.81	$5^3$	0.9991	0.45	$5^3$
$50 \times 3$	0.9997	0.81	$5^2$	0.9994	0.53	$5^2$
$100 \times 3$	0.9997	0.81	$5^2$	0.9994	0.53	$5^2$

# Number of chosen ciphertexts required for Kyber-768 secret key recovery

Paper	Attack target	Attack method	#CCT	Detect errors	Protected implem.	Real
Xu et al. [32]	Message encoding	Template	$4 \times 3$	No	No	Yes
Ravi et al. [21]	Message decoding		$3 \times 3$	No	No	Yes
Mu et al. [16]	Barrett reduction		11	No	No	Yes
Sim et al. [26]		Clustering	$3 \times 3$	No	No	Yes
Hamburg et al. [10]	NTT	Template	$1 \times 3^*$	No	Yes	No
Backlund et al. [3]	Message decoding	MLP	$4 \times 3^{**}$	Yes	Yes	Yes
This work	Message decoding & Barrett reduction		$1 \times 3$	Yes	No	Yes

\*For noise tolerance level  $\sigma \leq 1.2$  in the Hamming weight (HW) leakage.

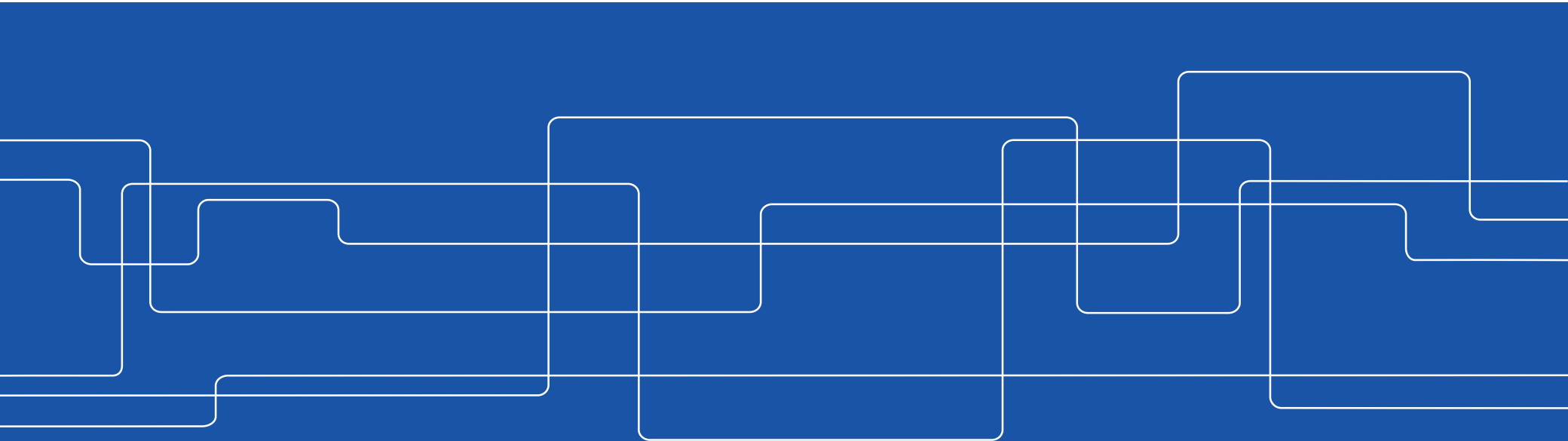
\*\*If a linear code with the code distance two is used for constructing CCT.



# Secret key recovery attacks on a masked and shuffled ML-KEM

Secret Key Recovery Attack on Masked and Shuffled Implementations of CRYSTALS-Kyber and Saber, L. Backlund, K. Ngo, J. Gärtner, E. Dubrova, in *ACNS Workshops, 2023*

Breaking SCA-Protected CRYSTALS-Kyber with a Single Trace, S. Jendral, K. Ngo, R. Wang, E. Dubrova, HOST'2024



# Attack details

- Kyber-768 C implementation (with shuffling added):
  - Heinz, D., Kannwischer, M.J., Land, G., Pöppelmann, T., Schwabe, P., Sprenkels: First-order masked Kyber on ARM Cortex-M4. Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2022/058
  - Complied with optimization level -O3
- Attack point:
  - Decryption step of decapsulation
    - message decoding
    - Fisher-Yates index generation and usage
- Target board:
  - ARM Cortex-M4 in CW308TSTM32F4

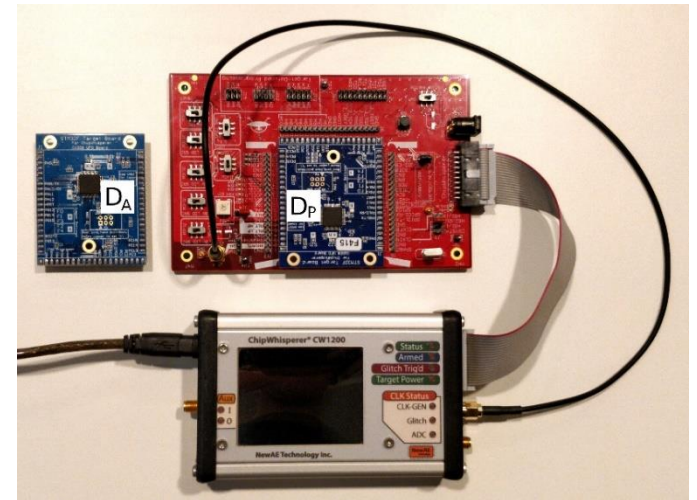
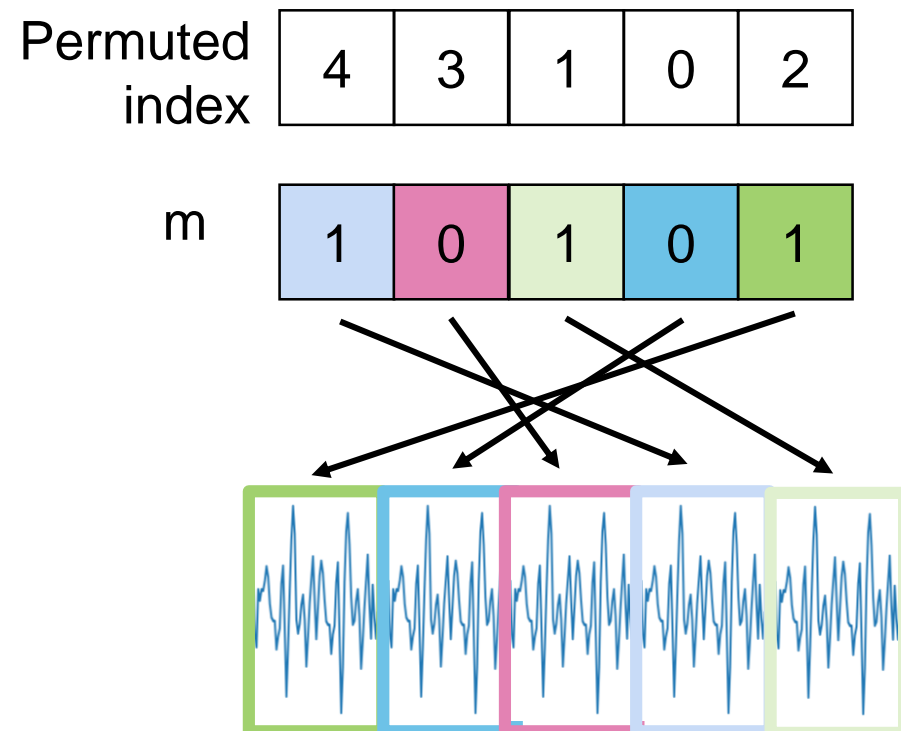
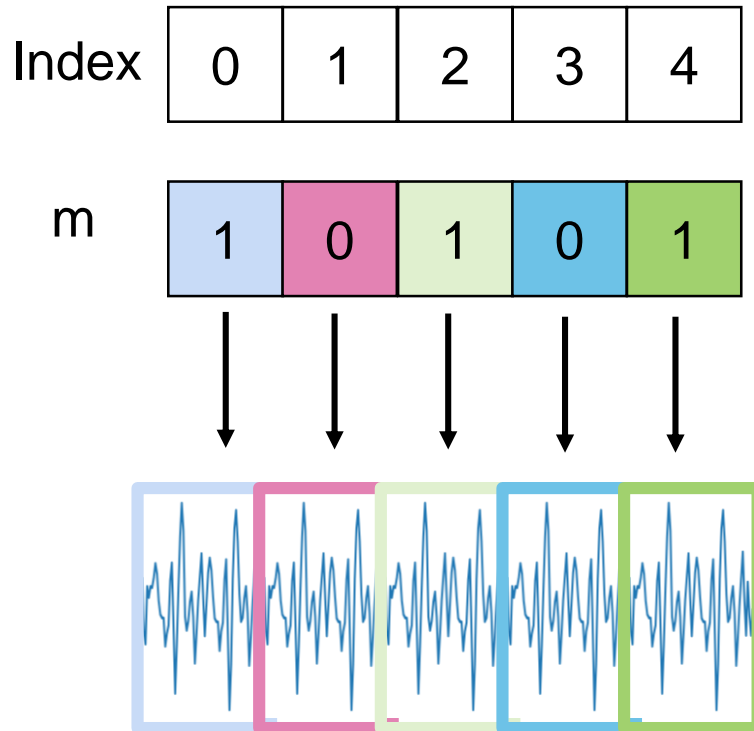


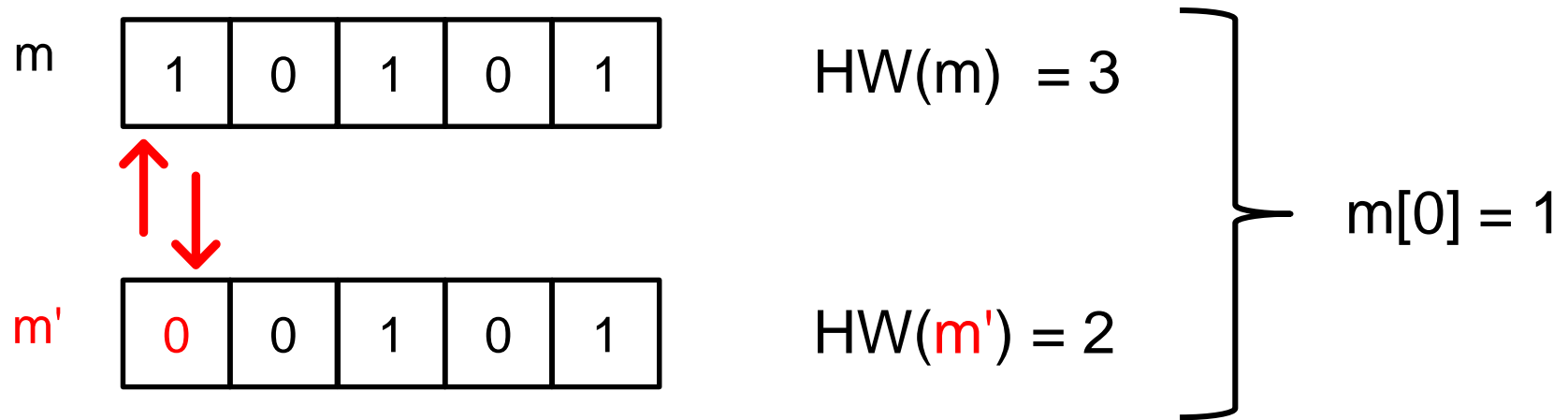
photo credit: Linus Backlund

# Message recovery for a shuffled implementation



Individual message bits can be recovered, but their order is unknown

## Previous approaches based on bit flipping



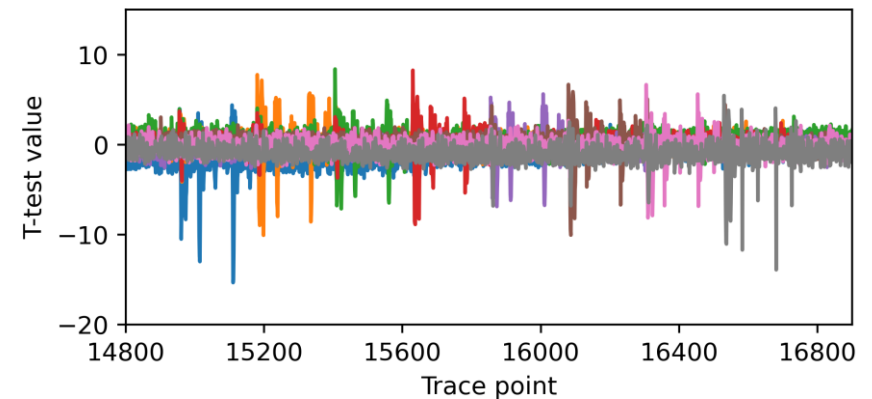
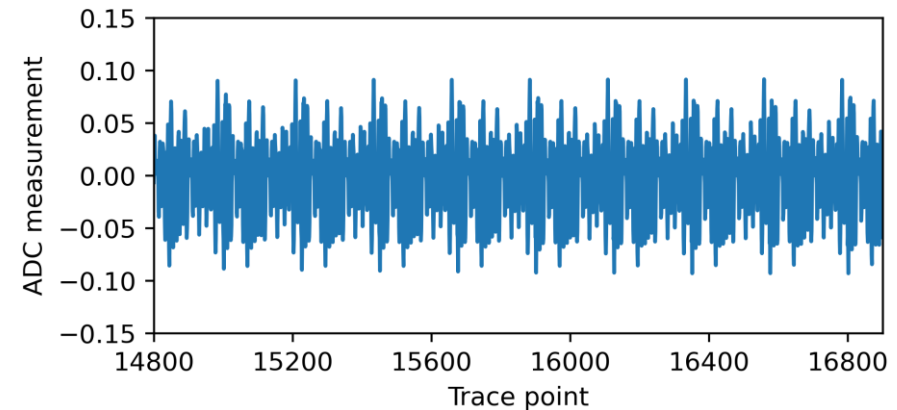
Ravi, P., Bhasin, S., Roy, S., Chattopadhyay, A., On exploiting message leakage in (few) NIST PQC candidates for practical message recovery and key recovery attacks, <https://eprint.iacr.org/2020/1559.pdf>

Ngo, K., Dubrova, E., Johansson, T., Breaking masked and shuffled CCA secure Saber KEM by power analysis, ASHES'2021

# Fisher-Yates (FY) index usage

```
void masked_poly_tomsg(uint8 msg[2][32],
uint16 poly[2][256])
uint16 c[2];
uint8 permutation[256];
```

```
1: FY_Gen(permutation, 256);
2: for (x = 0; x < 256; x++) do
3:   x_rand = permutation[x];
4:   i = x_rand / 8;
5:   j = x_rand % 8;
6:   ... Processing ...
7:   msg[0][i] += ((c[0] >> 15) & 1) << j;
8:   msg[1][i] += ((c[1] >> 15) & 1) << j;
9: end for
```



T-test on 5K traces



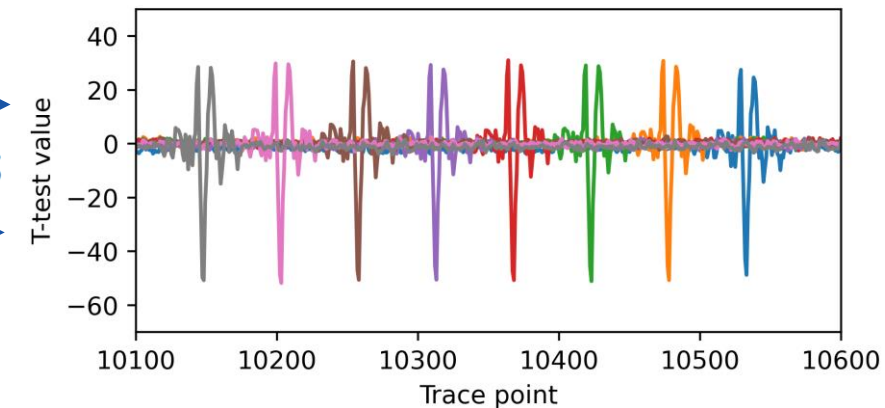
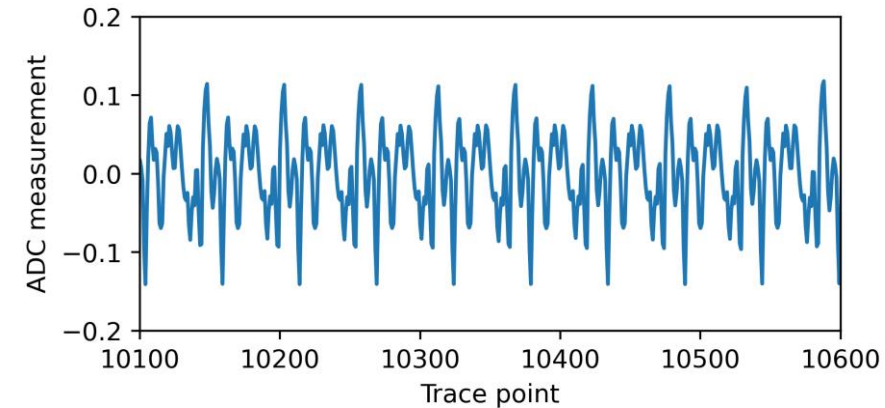
# FY index generation

```
void FY_Gen(uint8* permutation, int max)
```

```

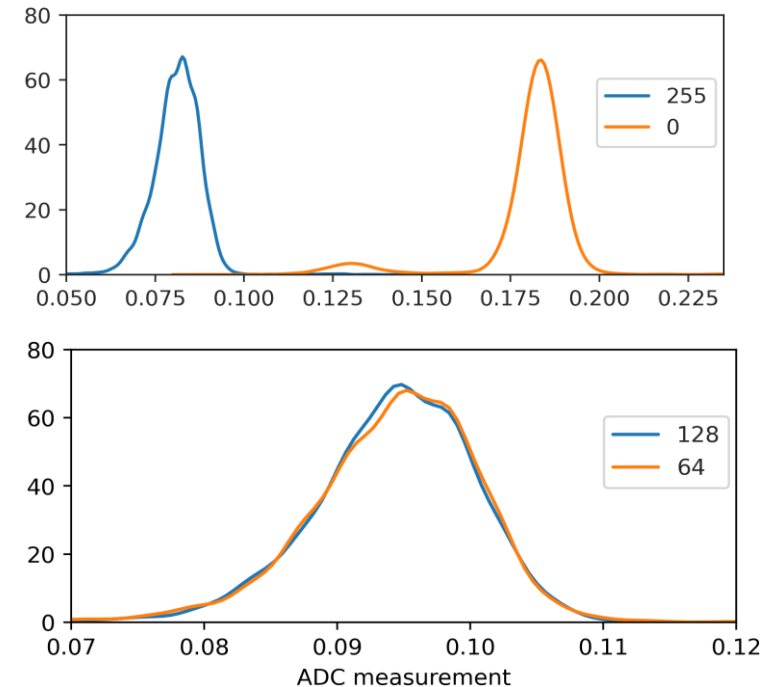
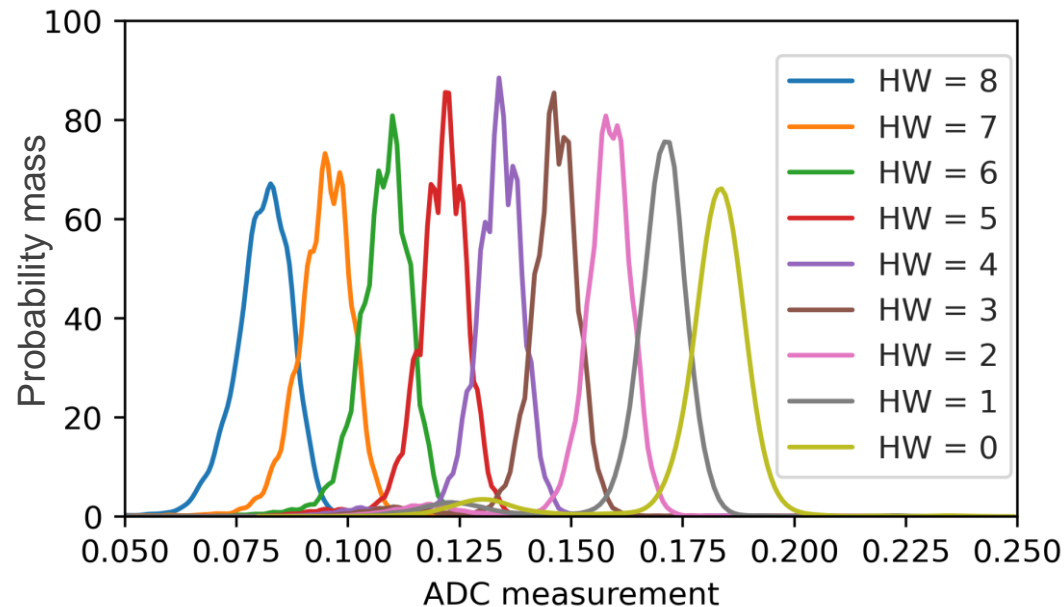
1: for (i = 0; i < max; i++) do
2:   permutation[i] = i;
3: end for
4: for (i = max - 1; i > 0; i=i-1) do
5:   int index = rand() % (i+1);
6:   uint8 temp = permutation[index];
7:   permutation[index] = permutation[i];
8:   permutation[i] = temp;
9: end for

```



T-test on 5K traces

# Distributions of power consumption for FY index generation



Only FY indexes with  $HW = 0$  and  $8$  can be distinguished with a high probability (from a single trace)

**Solution:** Recover message bits with these indexes only & rotate cyclically

# The maximum number of traces required for secret key recovery in all 10 attacks

Algorithm	Code distance		
	8	6	4
Saber ASHES'21 bit flipping method	-	-	61680
Saber FY index recovery method	-	4608	9216
Kyber FY index recovery method	48384	38016	59136

13 times smaller

# Skipping shuffling with a fault injection

## FY index generation

```
init_loop: ←  
    strb.w    r3, [r2, #1]!  
    adds     r3, #1  
    cmp.w    r3, #256  
    bne.n    init_loop  
    add      r3, sp, #32  
    addw     r6, sp, #287  
    rsb      r4, r3, #1
```

Initialization

```
shuffle_loop: ←  
    bl       rng_get_random_blocking  
    adds     r3, r4, r6  
    udiv     r2, r0, r3  
    mls      r0, r2, r3, r0  
    add      r3, sp, #32  
    add      r1, sp, #32  
    ldrb     r3, [r3, r0]  
    ldrb     r2, [r6, #0]  
    strb     r2, [r1, r0]  
    strb.w   r3, [r6], #-1  
    cmp      r6, r1  
    mov      r3, r1  
    bne     shuffle_loop
```

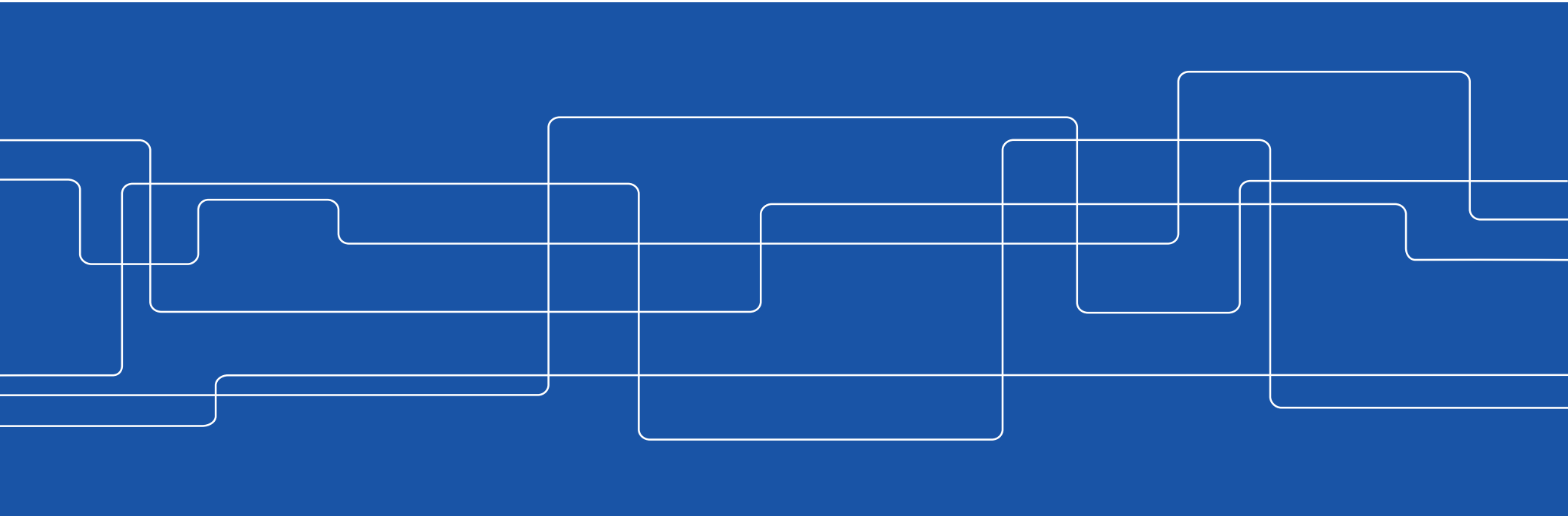
Shuffling

Voltage glitch injection  
(0.89 success rate)



# Message recovery attack on a higher-order masked ML-KEM

Breaking a Fifth-Order Masked Implementation of  
CRYSTALS-Kyber by Copy-Paste, E. Dubrova, K. Ngo, J. Gärtner  
R. Wang, *RWC'23, APKC'23*



# Attack details

- Kyber-768 C implementation (extended to higher orders):
  - Heinz, D., Kannwischer, M.J., Land, G., Pöppelmann, T., Schwabe, P., Sprenkels: First-order masked Kyber on ARM Cortex-M4. Cryptology ePrint Archive, Report 2022/058 (2022)
  - Complied with optimization level -O3
- Attack point:
  - Re-encryption step of decapsulation
    - message encoding
- Target board:
  - ARM Cortex-M4 in CW308TSTM32F4

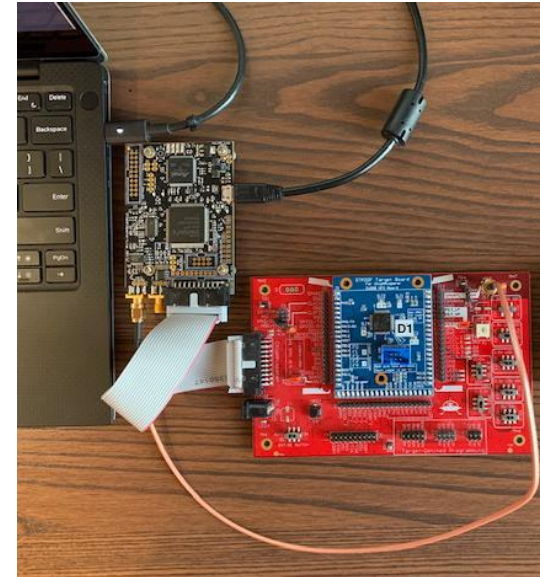


photo credit: Kalle Ngo



# Non-masked message encoding in Kyber implementation of Kannwischer et al.

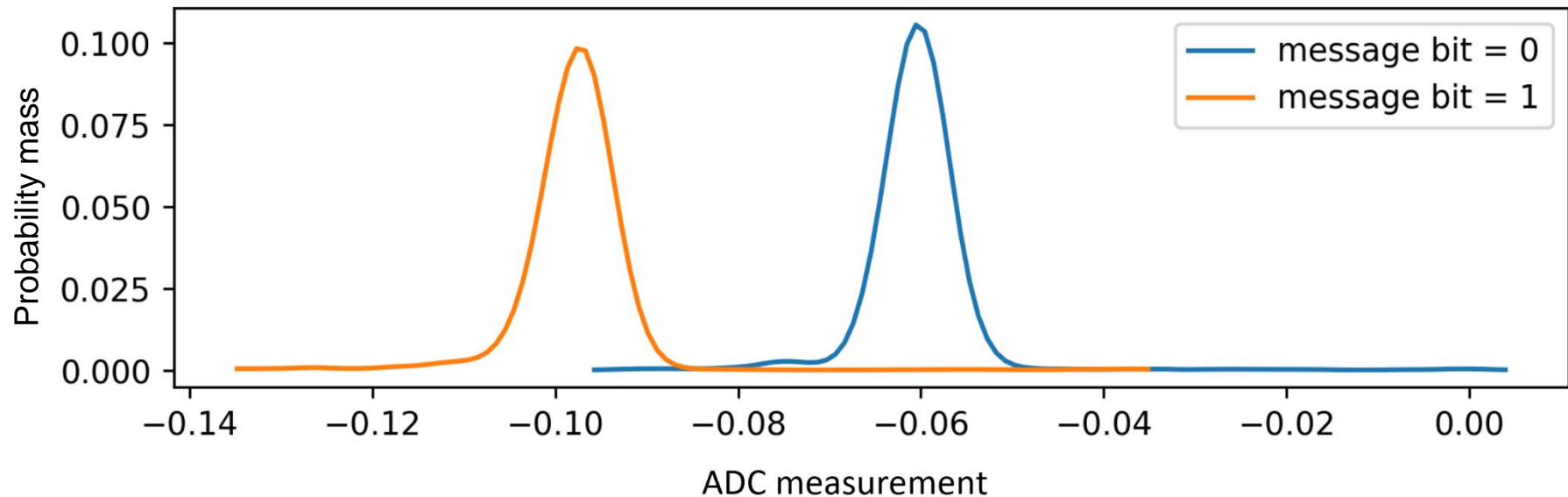
```
function POLY_FROMMSG(poly *r, unsigned char msg[32])
    uint16 mask
    for (int i=0; i < 32; i++) do
        for (int j=0; j < 8; j++) do
            mask = -((msg[i] >> j) &) 1 )           /* bit extraction */
            r.coeff[8*i+j] = mask & ((KYBER_Q + 1)/2)
        end for
    end for
end function
```

Mask takes values 0x0000 or 0xFFFF

Large difference in Hamming weight  $\Rightarrow$  easy to distinguish

First described by Amiet et al. for NewHope KEM, ICPQC'2020

# Distributions of power consumption for message bits



Non-overlapping distributions  $\Rightarrow$  easy to distinguish

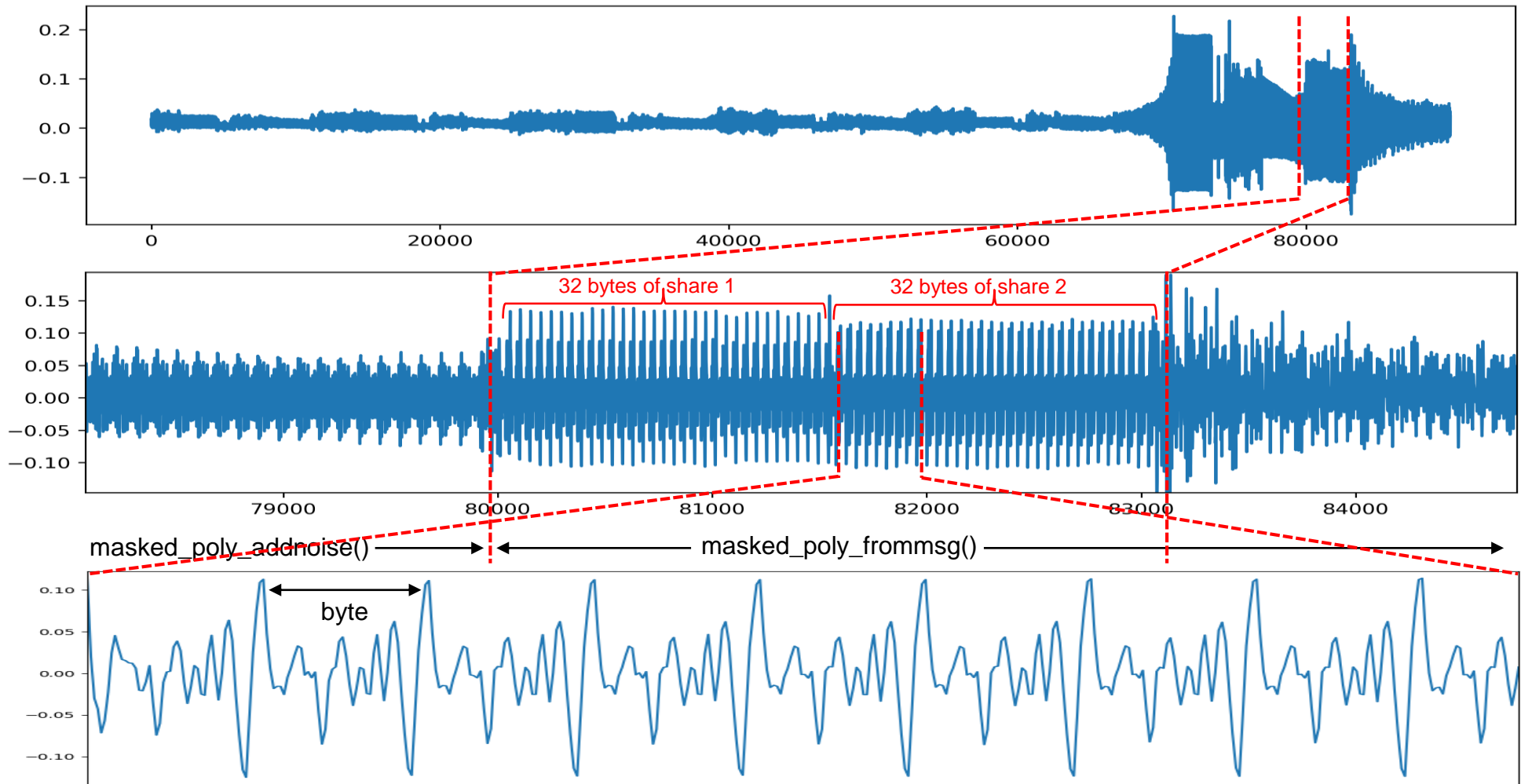


# Masked message encoding in Kyber implementation on Heinz et al.

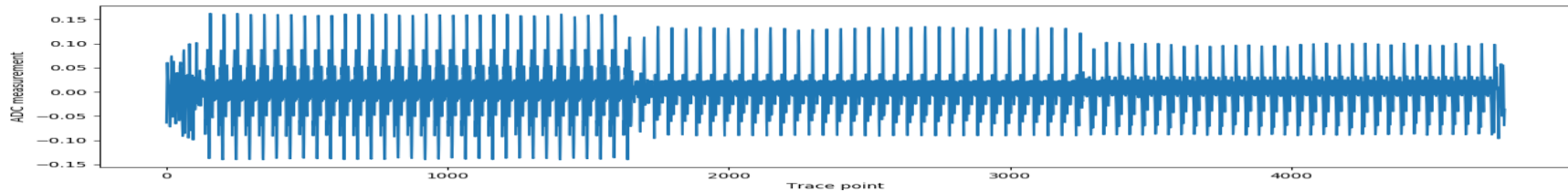
```
void masked_poly_frommsg(uint16 poly[2][256],
uint8 msg[2][32])

1: for (i = 0; i < 32; i++) do
2:   for (j = 0; j < 8; j++) do
3:     mask = -((msg[0][i] » j) & 1); /* Boolean share 0 bit extraction */
4:     poly[0][8*i+j] += (mask&((KYBER_Q+1)/2));
5:   end for
6: end for
7: for (i = 0; i < 32; i++) do
8:   for (j = 0; j < 8; j++) do
9:     mask = -((msg[1][i] » j) & 1); /* Boolean share 1 bit extraction */
10:    poly[1][8*i+j] += (mask&((KYBER_Q+1)/2));
11:   end for
12: end for
13: ...
```

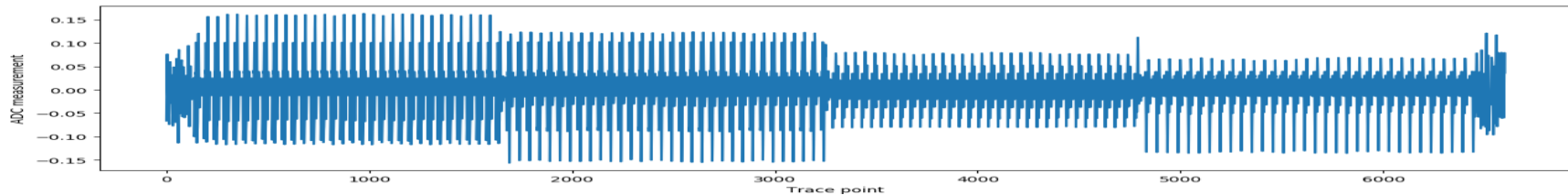
# Segment of power trace of re-encryption in Kyber implementation on Heinz et al.



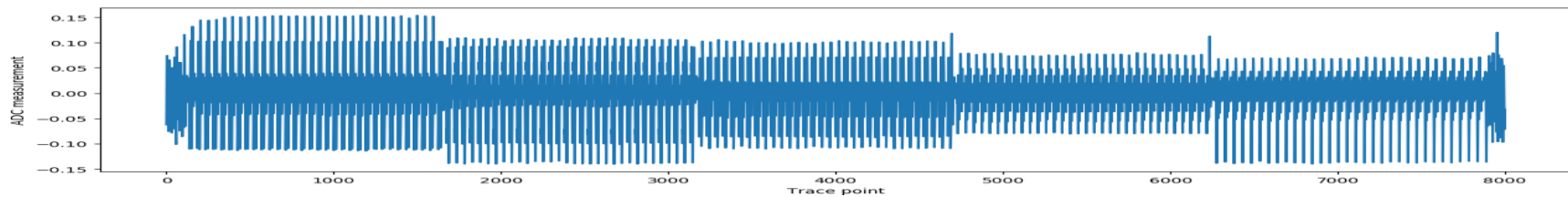
# More shares $\Rightarrow$ more 32-byte blocks



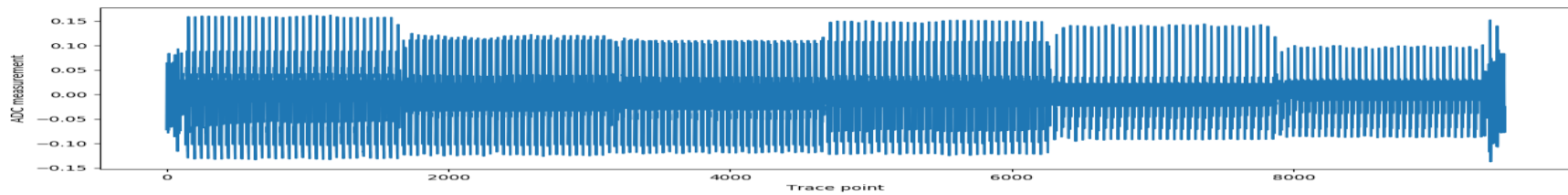
3



4

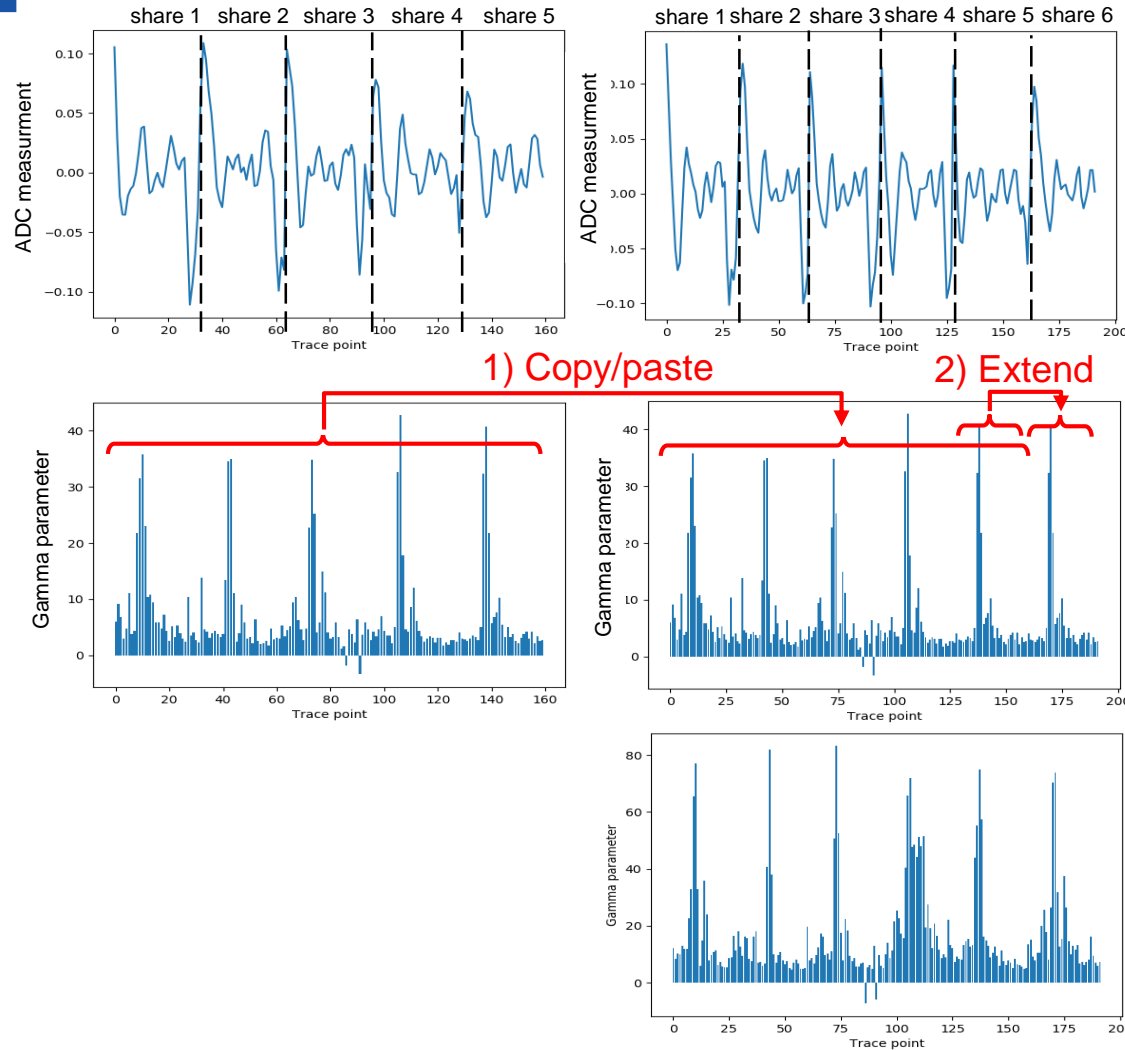


5



6

# Copy-paste method



Power traces  
(cut & concatenated  
 $i^{\text{th}}$  bits of shares)

Weights of MLP  
BatchNorm.1 layer  
before training

3) Train

Weights of MLP  
BatchNorm.1 layer  
after training

# Attack results for the first-order masking

Attack type	Mean empirical probability to recover $i^{\text{th}}$ message bit								Avg.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
Single-trace	0.9992	0.9989	0.9953	0.9841	0.9876	0.9835	0.9393	0.9067	0.9743
With 4 rotations	0.9994	0.9991	0.9993	0.9990	0.9988	0.9885	0.9993	0.9992	0.9991

# 20-trace attack results for 5-order masking (with 4 negacyclic rotations and 5 repetitions)

$\omega$	Mean empirical probability to recover $i^{\text{th}}$ message bit								Avg.
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
5	1.0000	0.9987	1.0000	0.9989	1.0000	0.9992	1.0000	0.9988	0.9995

$\omega$	5
$p_{\text{message}}$	0.8709

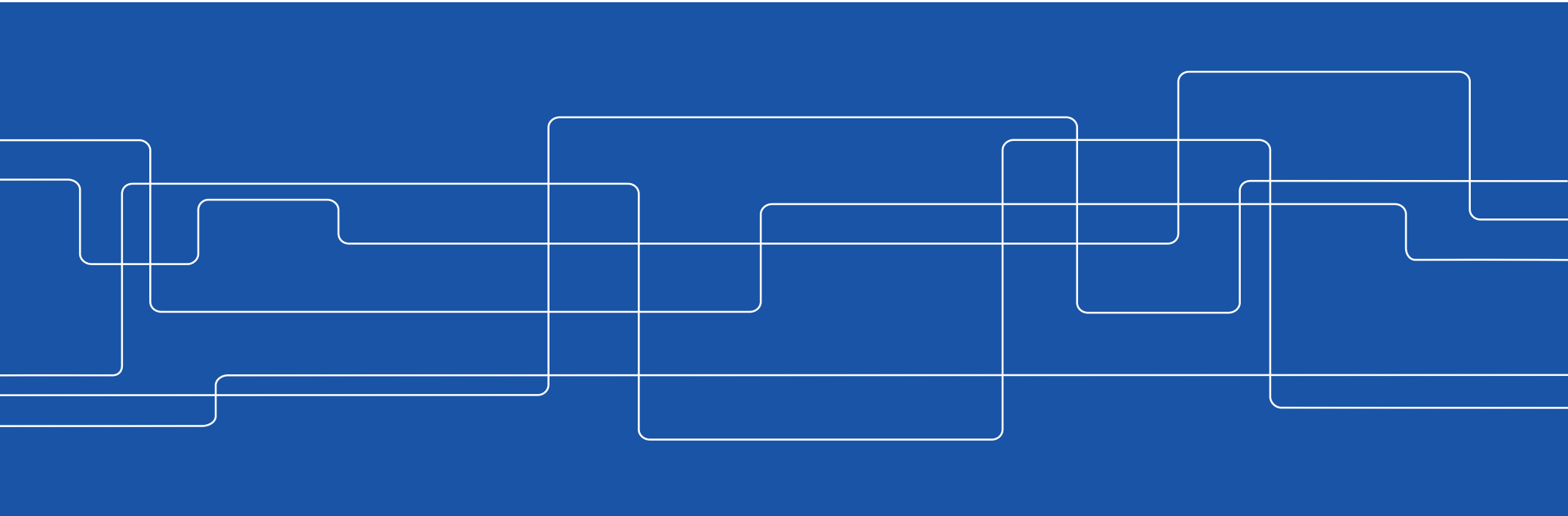
Since random masks are updated at each execution, errors in repeated measurements are more independent than in the non-masked case



# Secret Key Recovery Attacks on ML-DSA

Ruize Wang, Kalle Ngo, Joel Gärtner, Elena Dubrova, Ruize et al. Unpacking Needs Protection: A Single-Trace Secret Key Recovery Attack on Dilithium, IACR Communications in Cryptology, 2024, 1(3)

A Single-Trace Fault Injection Attack on Hedged Module Lattice Digital Signature Algorithm (ML-DSA), S. Jendral, J. P. Mattsson and E. Dubrova, *FDTC'2024*



# Attack details

- Dilithium-2 C implementation (unprotected):
  - Abdulrahman, A., Hwang, V., Kannwischer, M.J., Sprenkels, A., Faster Kyber and Dilithium on the Cortex-M4, ACNS'2022
  - Compiled with optimization level -O3
- Attack point:
  - Secret key unpacking *skDecode* at the first step of step of signing algorithm
- Target board:
  - ARM Cortex-M4 in CW308TSTM32F4



photo credit: Kalle Ngo



# C code of secret key unpacking procedure

```
void unpack_sk(uint8_t rho, uint8_t tr, uint8_t key, polyvec *t0, smallpoly
s1, smallpoly s2, uint8_t sk)
unsigned int i;
1: ... unpacking rho, tr and key ...
2: for (i = 0; i < L; ++i) do
3:     small_polyeta_unpack(&s1[i], sk + i*POLYETA_PACKEDBYTES);
4: end for
5: sk += L*POLYETA_PACKEDBYTES;
6: for (i = 0; i < K; ++i) do
7:     small_polyeta_unpack(&s2[i], sk + i*POLYETA_PACKEDBYTES);
8: end for
...
```

Called  $\ell = 4$  times to unpack 96 bytes of each of  $\ell$  polynomials of  $s_1$  into  $n = 256$  coefficients in the range  $[-\eta, \eta]$ ,  $\eta = 2$

Called  $k = 4$  times to unpack 96 bytes of each of  $k$  polynomials of  $s_2$  into  $n$  coefficients in the range  $[-\eta, \eta]$

# C code of small\_polyeta\_unpack() procedure

```
void small_polyeta_unpack(smallpoly *r, uint8_t *a)
unsigned int i;
1: for (i = 0; i < N/8; ++i) do
2:   r->coeffs[8*i+0] = (a[3*i+0] >> 0) & 7;
3:   r->coeffs[8*i+1] = (a[3*i+0] >> 3) & 7;
4:   r->coeffs[8*i+2] = ((a[3*i+0] >> 6) | (a[3*i+1] << 2)) & 7;
5:   r->coeffs[8*i+3] = (a[3*i+1] >> 1) & 7;
6:   r->coeffs[8*i+4] = (a[3*i+1] >> 4) & 7;
7:   r->coeffs[8*i+5] = ((a[3*i+1] >> 7) | (a[3*i+2] << 1)) & 7;
8:   r->coeffs[8*i+6] = (a[3*i+2] >> 2) & 7;
9:   r->coeffs[8*i+7] = (a[3*i+2] >> 5) & 7;

10:  r->coeffs[8*i+0] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+0];
11:  r->coeffs[8*i+1] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+1];
12:  r->coeffs[8*i+2] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+2];
13:  r->coeffs[8*i+3] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+3];
14:  r->coeffs[8*i+4] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+4];
15:  r->coeffs[8*i+5] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+5];
16:  r->coeffs[8*i+6] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+6];
17:  r->coeffs[8*i+7] = ETA - r->coeffs[8*i+7];
18: end for
```

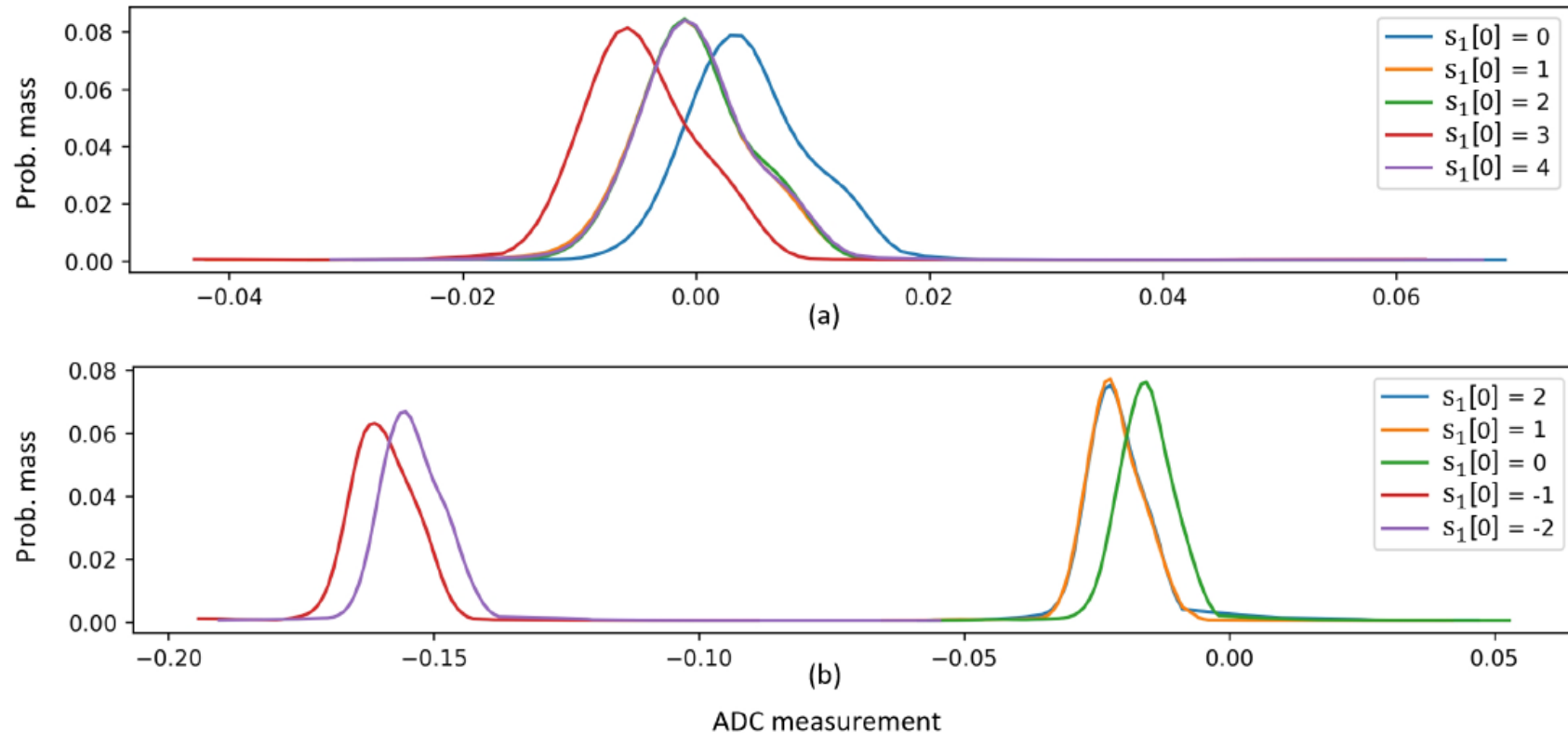
range  $[0, 2\eta]$   
(in reverse)

range  $[-\eta, \eta]$

# Power analysis

- Power consumption in a software implementation is typically proportional to the Hamming weight (HW) of processed data
- The coefficients of  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  are represented as 16-bits integers
- Negative numbers are represented in two's complement  
 $\Rightarrow -1 = 0xFFFF$  and  $-2 = 0xFFFE$
- The Hamming weight of  $(4, 3, 2, 1, 0)$  is  $HW = (1, 2, 1, 1, 0)$
- The Hamming weight of  $(-2, -1, 0, 1, 2)$  is  $HW = (15, 16, 0, 1, 1)$
- The pairs are unique:  $((1, 15), (2, 16), (1, 0), (1, 1), (0, 1))$

# Distributions of power consumption



Distributions of power consumption during the processing of the 1st coefficient of  $s_1$  by `small_polyeta_unpack()`: (a) in the range  $[0, 2\eta]$ , (b) in the range  $[-\eta, \eta]$

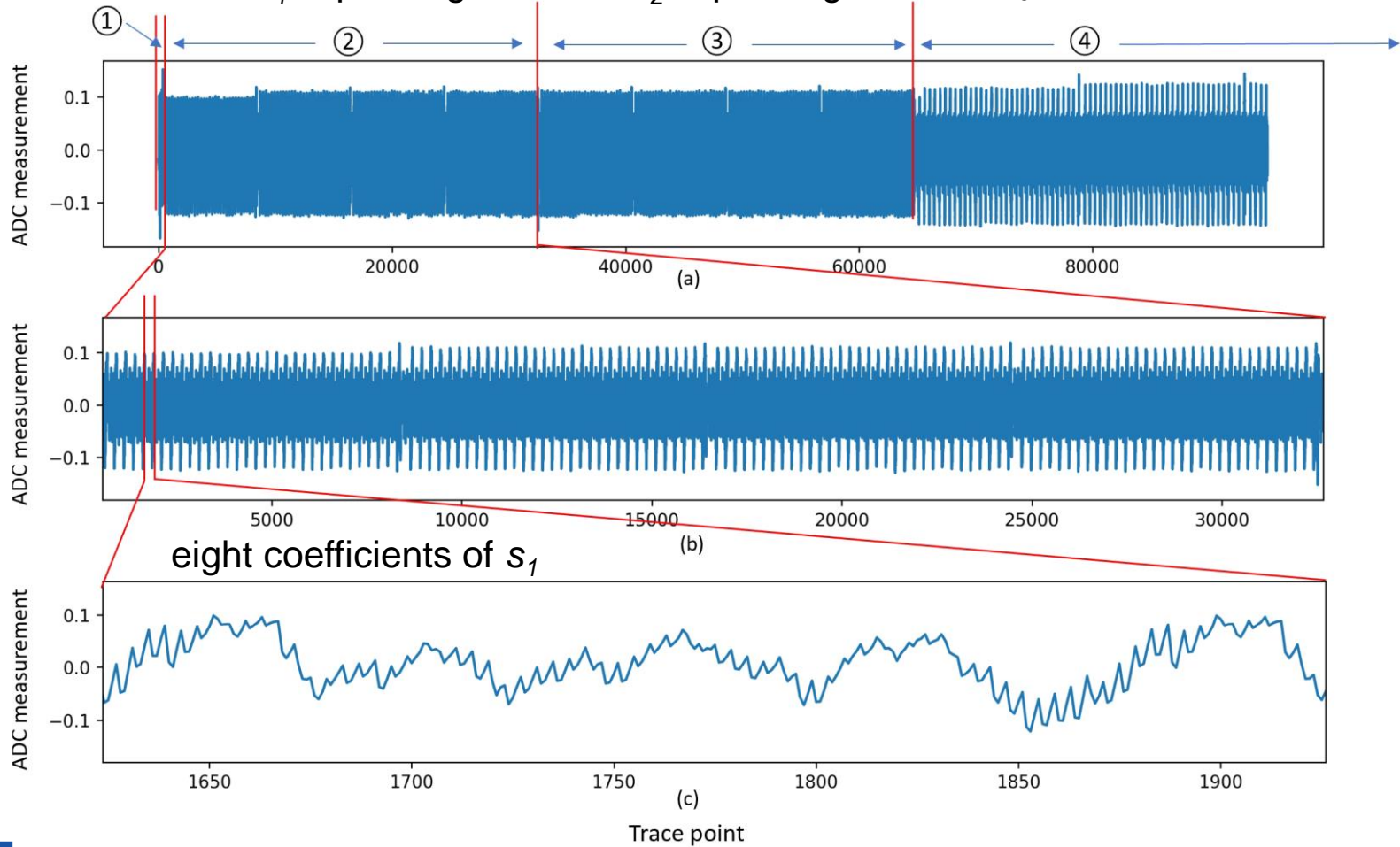
# Segment of trace of small\_polyeta\_unpack()

$\rho$ ,  $tr$  and  $K$  unpacking

$s_1$  unpacking

$s_2$  unpacking

$t_0$  unpacking



# Time for capturing the training and test sets

Training set	Time for capturing $5 \times 2.5K$ traces		
	4.8 hrs		
Test set	Time for capturing $N$ traces		
	$N = 1$	$N = 100$	$N = 1000$
	1.2 sec	36.6 sec	358.2 sec

- Eight neural network models were trained
- The training time for a single model is less than 40 min  
 $\Rightarrow$  the total profiling time is less than 10 hours

# Experimental results

**Table:** Empirical probability to recover a single coefficient of  $s_1$ ,  $s_1[j]$ , from  $N$  traces (mean over all  $s_1[j]$  with the same  $j \bmod 8$ , for  $j \in \{0, 1, \dots, 1023\}$ )

$N$	$j \bmod 8$							
	0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	0.942	0.925	0.975	0.967	0.945	0.920	0.924	0.784
10	0.980	0.951	0.999	0.993	0.988	0.951	0.956	0.863
100	0.983	0.952	0.999	0.995	0.991	0.954	0.959	0.870
1000	0.983	0.954	0.999	0.995	0.991	0.956	0.960	0.871

Probability flattens  
after  $N = 100$

The compiler does not allocate *store* and *mask*  
instructions in the same way as for the other coefficients  
 $\Rightarrow$  values are manipulated less  
 $\Rightarrow$  weaker leakage



# Two post-processing methods

To complement power analysis, we use two methods:

1. Solving a system of linear equations induced by  $t = A s_1 + s_2$ 
  - assumes the knowledge of  $t_0$
2. Lattice reduction
  - aims to find a new basis for the same lattice but with shorter, more orthogonal basis vectors



# Linear algebra (LA)-based method

1. Predict all coefficients of  $s_1$  and  $s_2$  using NN models
2. Sort by the maximum predicted probability
3. Accept as correct the top half
4. Derive the rest by solving linear equations

Probability to recover 1024 coefficients of $s_1$ and $s_2$				LA post-processing
$N = 1$	$N = 10$	$N = 100$	$N = 1000$	CPU time
0.09	0.83	0.99	1	2 sec

# Lattice reduction-based method

1. Predict all coefficients of  $s_1$  using NN models
2. Sort by the maximum predicted probability
3. Accept as correct a top fraction  $x$
4. Derive the rest by lattice reduction
  - Block Korkin-Zolotarev (BKZ) algorithm

estimate of Core-SVP  
bit hardness,  $\alpha \approx 0.292\beta$

BKZ blocksize

Fraction $x$	Probability to recover $\lfloor x \cdot 1024 \rfloor$ coeff. of $s_1$				BKZ post-processing	
	$N = 1$	$N = 10$	$N = 100$	$N = 1000$	$\beta$	$\alpha$
3/4	0	0.16	0.70	0.82	160	46.7
4/5	0	0.04	0.42	0.54	115	33.6
5/6	0	0.01	0.20	0.26	86	25.2

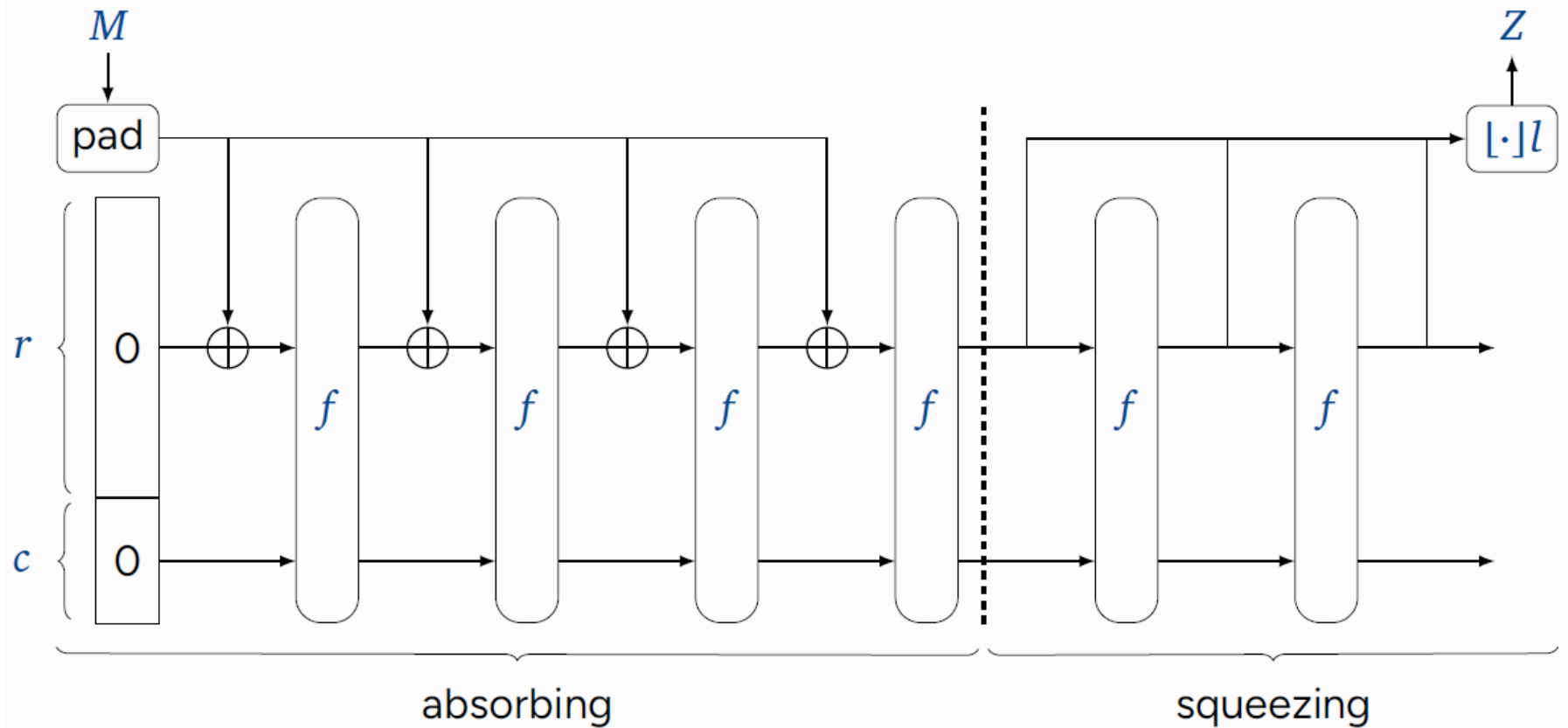
attack takes  $\approx 6$  hours



# Skipping SHAKE256 absorbtion by fault injection

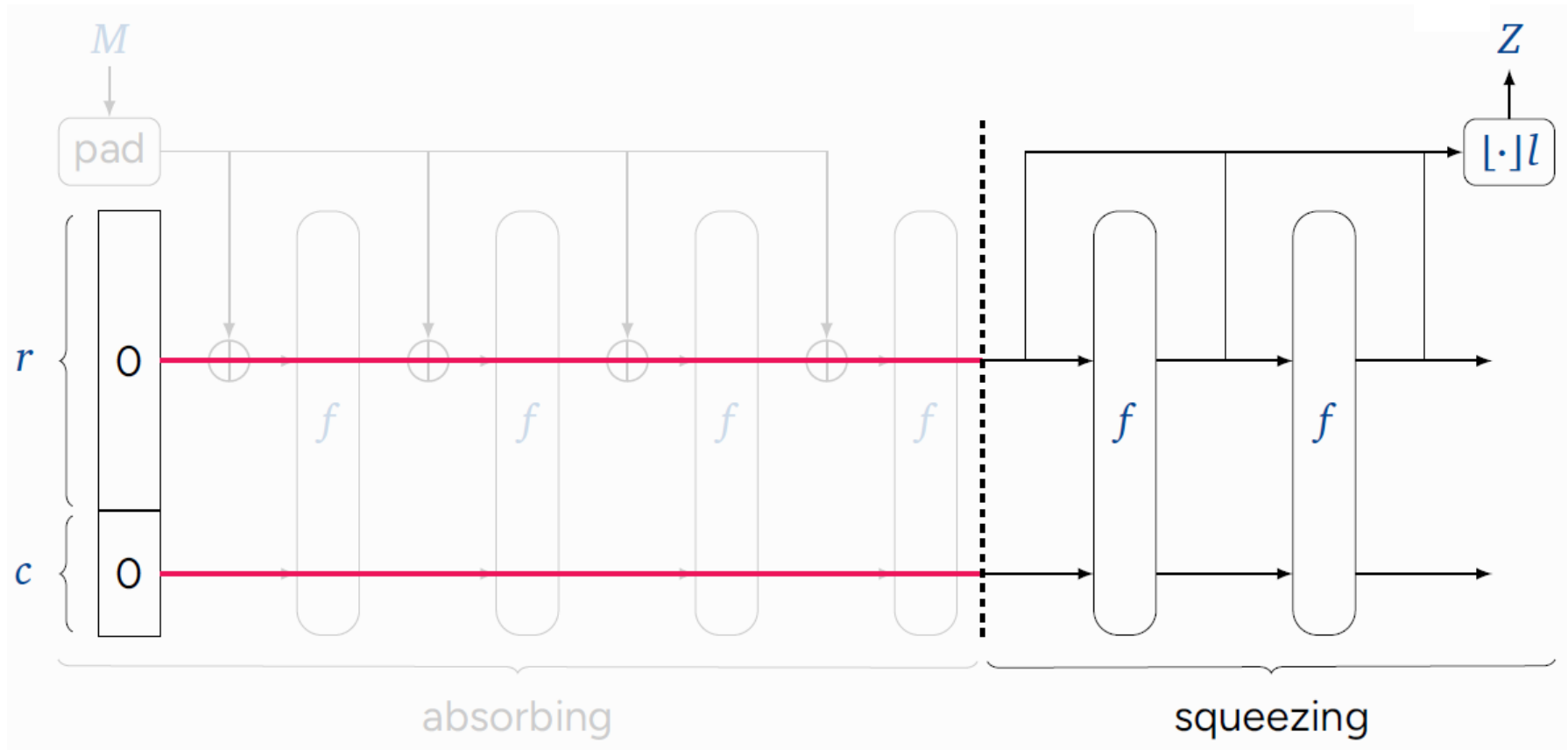
- SHAKE256 is an eXtendable Output Function (XOF) based on Keccak family
  - Uses sponge construction (absorbtion + squeezing)
  - Used in ML-DSA to expand seeds, hash messages and sample matrices/vectors

# Sponge construction



# Skipping absorption

Output is a constant



# Key recovery from a known $\rho'$

**Input:** Private key  $sk$ , message  $M$

**Output:** Signature  $\sigma$

```
1:  $(\rho, K, tr, \mathbf{s}_1, \mathbf{s}_2, \mathbf{t}_0) \leftarrow \text{skDecode}(sk)$   
2:  $\mathbf{A} \leftarrow \text{ExpandA}(\rho)$   
3:  $\mu \leftarrow H(tr \parallel M, 512)$   
4:  $rnd \leftarrow \{0, 1\}^{256}$   
5:  $\rho' \leftarrow H(K \parallel rnd \parallel \mu, 512)$   
6:  $\kappa \leftarrow 0$   
7:  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) \leftarrow \perp$ 
```

```
8: while  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) = \perp$  do  
9:    $\mathbf{y} \leftarrow \text{ExpandMask}(\rho', \kappa)$   
10:   $\tilde{\mathbf{c}} \leftarrow \mathbf{A}\mathbf{y}$   
11:   $\mathbf{c} \leftarrow H(\tilde{\mathbf{c}} \parallel \mu)$   
12:   $\mathbf{z} \leftarrow \mathbf{y} + \mathbf{c}\mathbf{s}_1$   
13:  if  $\|\mathbf{z}\|_\infty \geq \gamma_1 - \beta$  then  $(\mathbf{z}, \mathbf{h}) \leftarrow \perp$   
14:   $\kappa \leftarrow \kappa + l$   
15:  $\sigma \leftarrow \text{sigEncode}(\tilde{\mathbf{c}}, \mathbf{z} \bmod^\pm q)$   
16: return  $\sigma$ 
```

# Summary

- Practical side-channel and fault attacks on software implementations of ML-KEM and ML-DSA are possible
- Implementations protected by both masking and shuffling, or higher-order masking, may also be vulnerable
  - Features of lattice-based algorithms such as bit flipping and cyclic rotation are helpful for the attacker
- Stronger countermeasures against physical attacks on software implementations of ML-KEM and ML-DSA are needed



SXQgaXMgcG9zc2libGUgdG8g  
aW52ZW50IGEgc2luZ2xlIGlh  
Y2hpbmUgd2hpY2ggY2FuIGJl  
IHVzZWQgdG8gY29tcHV0ZSBh  
bnkgY29tcHV0YWJsZSBzZXFl  
ZW5jZS4gSWYgdGhpcyBtYWNo  
aW51IiwiaGF0e3wopZWQg  
d210aShIghGghgdGhl  
IGJlZ2hpY2ggY2FuIGJl  
aCBpcyB3cm10dGVuIHROZSBT  
LkQgb2Ygc29tZSBjb21wdXRp  
bmcgbWFjaGluzSBNLCB0aG  
VuIFUgd2lsbCBjb21wdX  
RlIHROZSBzYWllIH  
NlcXVlbmNlIG  
FzIE0uCg  
==

**CDIS**



Myndigheten för  
samhällsskydd  
och beredskap

# Thank you!

**TECOSA**

**VINNOVA**