



SDDT: An Operation Skip Attack Framework

for Bitslice Ciphers—Validated on PIPO

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Introduction

- **Fault Attack**

- Injecting faults (e.g. clock glitch, laser) into cryptographic operations may lead misbehavior
- By analyzing this misbehavior, an adversary could recover secret key

- **Vulnerability of Bitslice Cipher**

- If a fault is injected to the operations of S-Box, its misbehavior have some property
- With these property, we propose an enhanced fault attack on PIPO

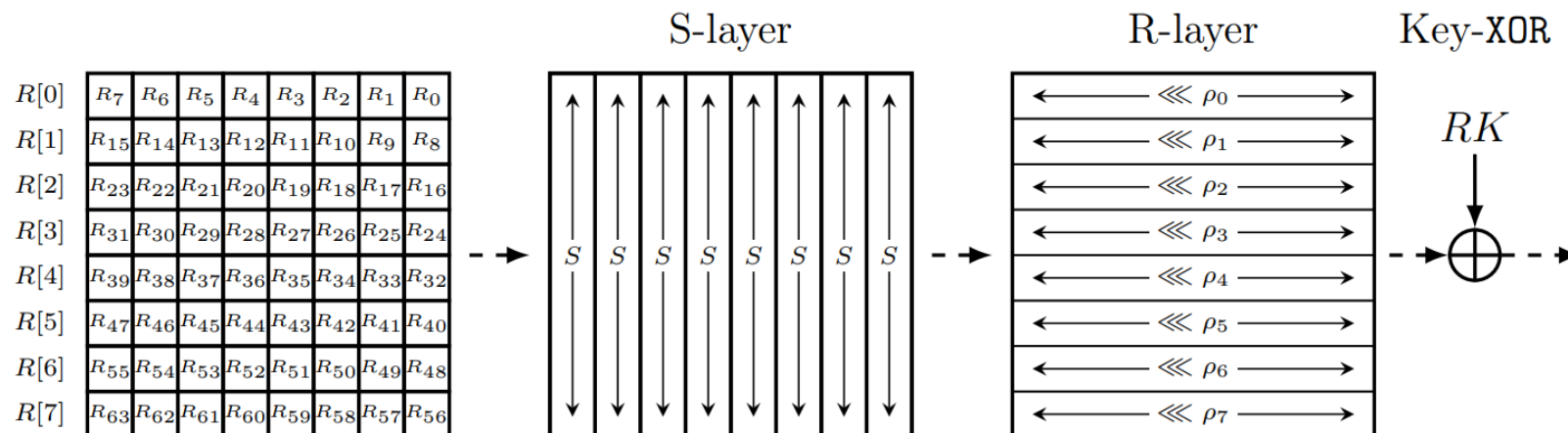
Attack Target: Bitslice Cipher PIPO

● Settings

- 64-bit block, 128 or 256-bit key, 13 or 17 rounds respectively

● Configuration

- S-layer: 8-bit S-box to each vertical column
- R-layer: rotation to each parallel row



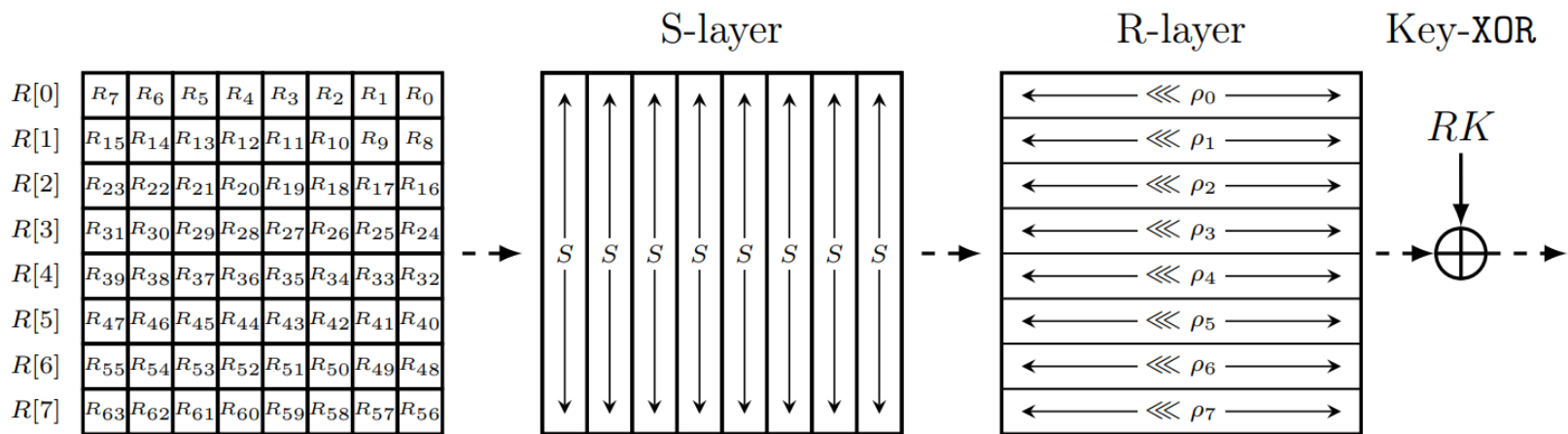
Round function of PIPO.

Attack Target: Bitslice Cipher PIPO

- Bitslice S-box
 - Instead of evaluating S-box with LUT,
 - apply logical operations on each registers
 - ① Constant-time, ② Hardware-friendly

```
1 void sbox(u8 *X)
2 {
3     u8 T[3] = { 0, };
4     //(MSB: x[7], LSB: x[0])
5     // Input: x[7], x[6], x[5], x[4], x[3], x[2], x[1], x[0]
6     //S5_1
7     X[5] ^= (X[7] & X[6]); (1)
8     X[4] ^= (X[3] & X[5]); (2)
9     X[7] ^= X[4]; (3)
10    X[6] ^= X[3]; (4)
11    X[3] ^= (X[4] | X[5]); (5)
12    X[5] ^= X[7]; (6)
13    X[4] ^= (X[5] & X[6]); (7)
```

Some part of PIPO S-box implementation.



Round function of PIPO.

Attack Tool

● Main Idea

- If an adversary skip an operation during bitslice S-box evaluation,
- What happens to the output difference?

● Skip-induced Difference Distribution Table (SDDT)

- Brute-force for all possible skip indices, and for all 8-bit input $x \in \mathbb{F}_2^8$

Algorithm 3 Generation of SDDT

Require: An n -bit S -box $S(x)$

Require: Set of skip faults $\{E_1, \dots, E_N\}$

Ensure: SDDT of size $N \times 2^n$ ▷ N denotes the number of operations of S -box

```

1: SDDT[ $N$ ][ $2^n$ ]  $\leftarrow$  0 ▷ Initialize matrix with zeros
2: for each operation index  $i$  from 1 to  $N$  do ▷ Iterate over all operation indices
3:   for  $x = 0$  to  $2^n - 1$  do ▷ Iterate over all possible  $x$ 
4:      $\Delta y \leftarrow S(x) \oplus S_{E_i}(x)$ 
5:     SDDT[ $i$ ][ $\Delta y$ ]  $\leftarrow$  SDDT[ $i$ ][ $\Delta y$ ] + 1 ▷ Increment the counter for  $\Delta y$ 
6:   end for
7: end for
8: return SDDT
    
```

Attack Tool

● SDDT of PIPO

- For instance, if an adversary skip the 11th operation, 0x46, 0x5E, 0xC6, 0xDE would appear with equal probability

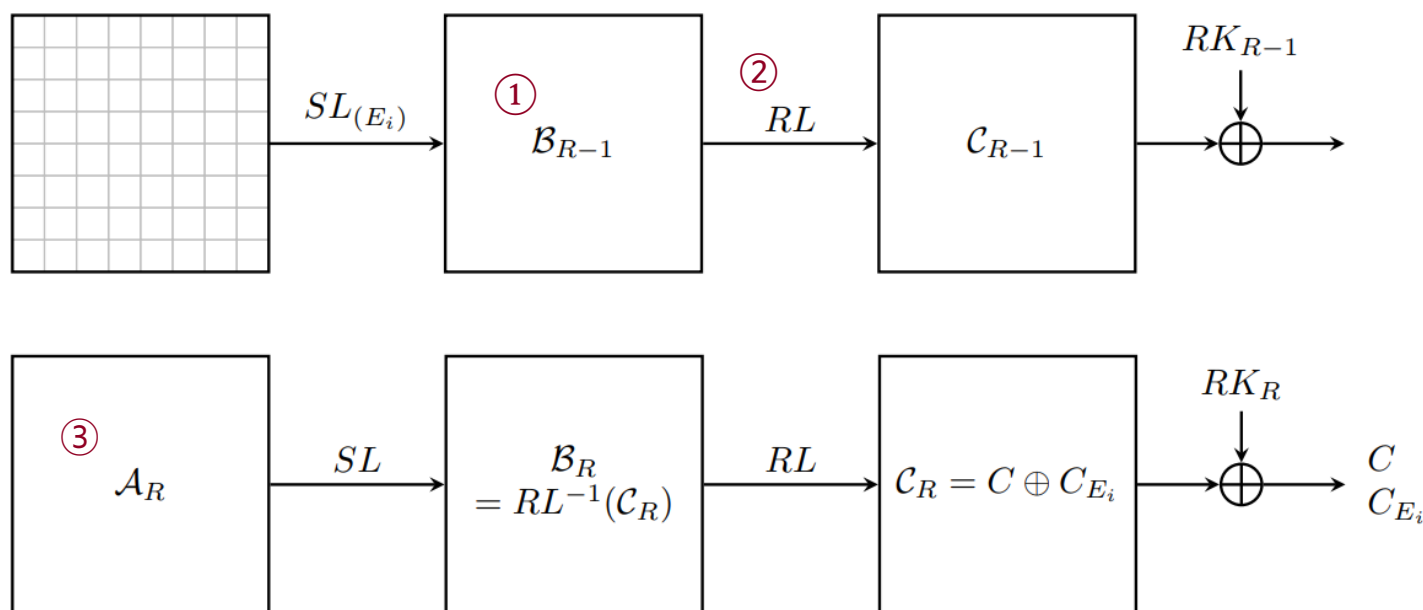
Op #	Output Differences ΔY_i (Count)
1	0x00(192), 0x22(4), 0x25(8), 0x26(2), 0x36(2), 0x3A(4), 0x64(2), 0x6C(2), 0xAE(2), 0xBD(8), 0xBE(2), 0xE0(4), 0xE3(4), 0xEB(4), 0xF3(4), 0xF4(2), 0xF8(4), 0xFB(4), 0xFC(2)
2	0x00(192), 0x17(8), 0x37(8), 0x8B(8), 0x97(8), 0x9B(8), 0xA3(4), 0xAB(4), 0xAF(8), 0xB3(4), 0xBB(4)
3	0x00(128), 0x0B(16), 0x17(16), 0x1B(16), 0x23(8), 0x2B(8), 0x33(8), 0x3B(8), 0x3F(16), 0x97(16), 0xA7(16)
4	0x00(128), 0x0C(16), 0x1C(16), 0x24(16), 0x34(16), 0x8C(16), 0x9C(16), 0xAC(16), 0xBC(16)
5	0x00(64), 0x42(48), 0x5A(48), 0xC2(48), 0xDA(48)
6	0x00(128), 0x0E(8), 0x12(32), 0x1E(8), 0x22(16), 0x26(8), 0x36(8), 0x3A(16), 0x8E(8), 0x9E(8), 0xAE(8), 0xBE(8)
7	0x00(192), 0xA0(16), 0xA8(16), 0xB0(16), 0xB8(16)
8	0x00(192), 0x43(8), 0x47(8), 0x4F(8), 0x5B(8), 0xC3(8), 0xC7(8), 0xCF(8), 0xDB(8)
9	0x00(64), 0x23(8), 0x2B(8), 0x2F(8), 0x33(8), 0x3B(8), 0x3F(8), 0xA2(32), 0xA7(8), 0xAA(32), 0xB2(32), 0xB7(8), 0xBA(32)
10	0x00(64), 0x05(48), 0x85(48), 0x89(48), 0x99(48)
11	0x46(64), 0x5E(64), 0xC6(64), 0xDE(64)
12	0x00(128), 0x05(32), 0x09(32), 0x19(32), 0x85(32)
13	0x00(128), 0x42(32), 0x5A(32), 0xC2(32), 0xDA(32)
14	0x00(128), 0xA0(32), 0xA8(32), 0xB0(32), 0xB8(32)
15	0x00(128), 0x04(32), 0x08(32), 0x18(32), 0x84(32)
16	0x00(128), 0x02(32), 0x1A(32), 0x82(32), 0x9A(32)
17	0x00(128), 0x80(32), 0x88(32), 0x90(32), 0x98(32)
18	0x00(192), 0x0C(16), 0x1C(16), 0x8C(16), 0x9C(16)
19	0x00(128), 0x04(64), 0x84(64)
20	0x00(64), 0x08(128), 0x18(64)
21	0x00(128), 0x02(64), 0x82(64)
22	0x00(64), 0x10(192)
23	0x00(192), 0x80(64)

Full SDDT of PIPO S-box.

Attack Scenario

● Fault Propagation

- Skipping fault is injected to $R - 1$ round S-box
- $\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{C}$ denote 64-bit differences of each locations
- ① $\mathcal{B}_{R-1}$ arises from SDDT, ② propagates via R-layer, ③ occurs at $\mathcal{A}_R$
- $\Rightarrow$ Difference pattern of $\mathcal{A}_R$

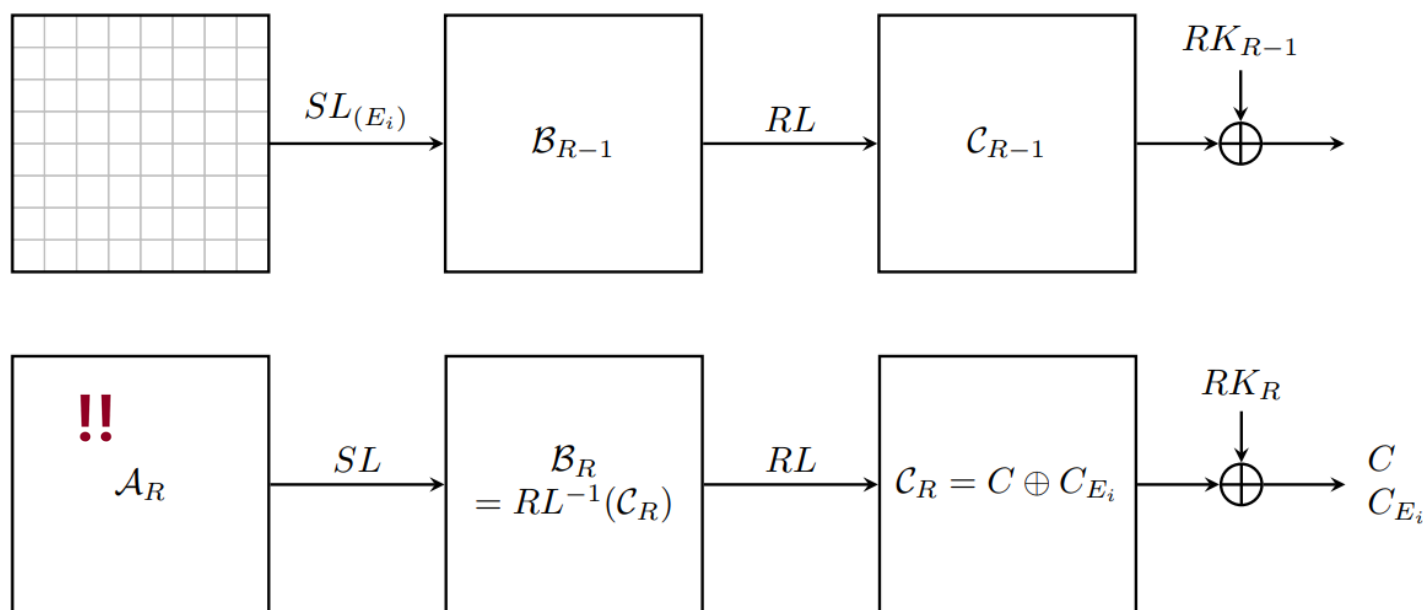


Last two rounds of PIPO.

Attack Scenario

● Guessing RK_R Key Byte Filtering

- With guessing 8-bit of RK_R , an adversary could recover vertical 8-bit of $\mathcal{A}_R$
- If the recovered 8-bit is not matching with difference pattern, guessed key would be wrong.

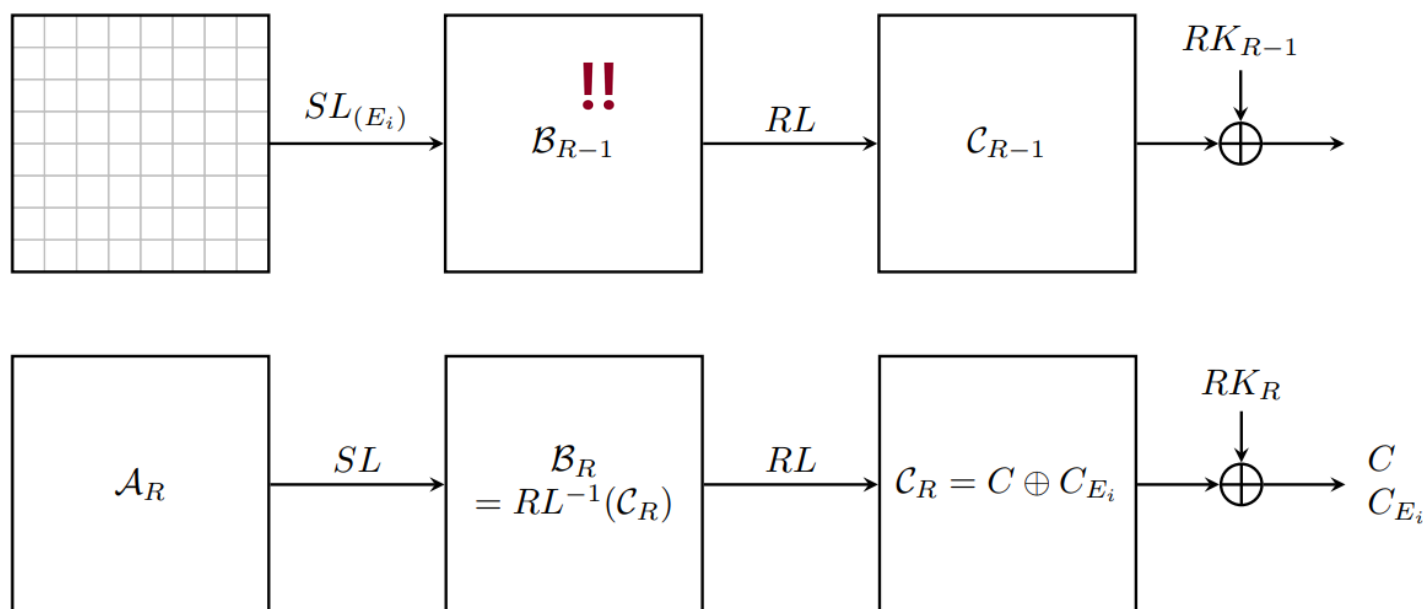


Last two rounds of PIPO.

Attack Scenario

● Guessing RK_{R-1} Key Byte Filtering

- After recovering RK_R , one round decrypt and filter RK_{R-1}
- Regardless of RK_{R-1} , 64-bit difference $\mathcal{C}_{R-1}$ and also $\mathcal{B}_{R-1}$ are fixed



Last two rounds of PIPO.

Attack Scenario

● Guessing RK_{R-1} Key Byte Filtering

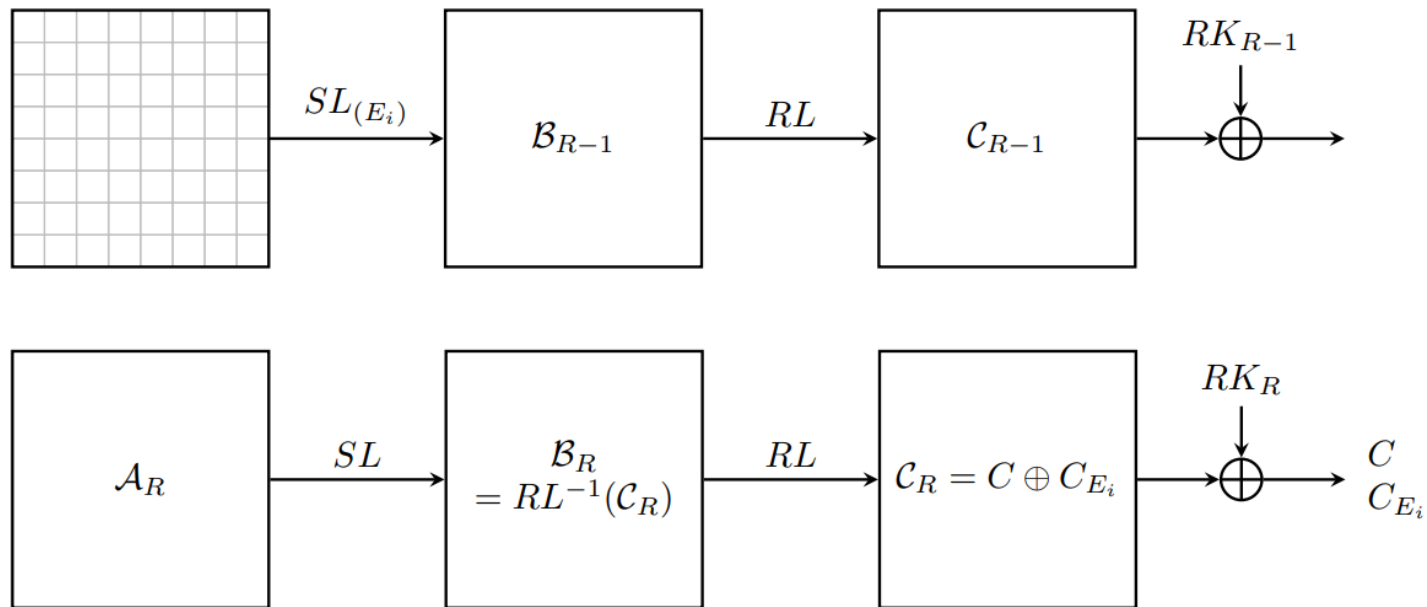
- With SDDT, an adversary could filter 8-bit value to generate the difference pattern
- 11th operation for instance, only 64 values could make 0x46, and others so.
- By filtering the internal value, the adversary filter RK_{R-1}

Op #	Output Differences ΔY_i (Count)
1	0x00(192), 0x22(4), 0x25(8), 0x26(2), 0x36(2), 0x3A(4), 0x64(2), 0x6C(2), 0xAE(2), 0xBD(8), 0xBE(2), 0xE0(4), 0xE3(4), 0xEB(4), 0xF3(4), 0xF4(2), 0xF8(4), 0xFB(4), 0xFC(2)
2	0x00(192), 0x17(8), 0x37(8), 0x8B(8), 0x97(8), 0x9B(8), 0xA3(4), 0xAB(4), 0xAF(8), 0xB3(4), 0xBB(4)
3	0x00(128), 0x0B(16), 0x17(16), 0x1B(16), 0x23(8), 0x2B(8), 0x33(8), 0x3B(8), 0x3F(16), 0x97(16), 0xA7(16)
4	0x00(128), 0x0C(16), 0x1C(16), 0x24(16), 0x34(16), 0x8C(16), 0x9C(16), 0xAC(16), 0xBC(16)
5	0x00(64), 0x42(48), 0x5A(48), 0xC2(48), 0xDA(48)
6	0x00(128), 0x0E(8), 0x12(32), 0x1E(8), 0x22(16), 0x26(8), 0x36(8), 0x3A(16), 0x8E(8), 0x9E(8), 0xAE(8), 0xBE(8)
7	0x00(192), 0xA0(16), 0xA8(16), 0xB0(16), 0xB8(16)
8	0x00(192), 0x43(8), 0x47(8), 0x4F(8), 0x5B(8), 0xC3(8), 0xC7(8), 0xCF(8), 0xDB(8)
9	0x00(64), 0x23(8), 0x2B(8), 0x2F(8), 0x33(8), 0x3B(8), 0x3F(8), 0xA2(32), 0xA7(8), 0xAA(32), 0xB2(32), 0xB7(8), 0xBA(32)
10	0x00(64), 0x05(48), 0x85(48), 0x89(48), 0x99(48)
11	0x46(64), 0x5E(64), 0xC6(64), 0xDE(64)
12	0x00(128), 0x05(32), 0x09(32), 0x19(32), 0x85(32)
13	0x00(128), 0x42(32), 0x5A(32), 0xC2(32), 0xDA(32)
14	0x00(128), 0xA0(32), 0xA8(32), 0xB0(32), 0xB8(32)
15	0x00(128), 0x04(32), 0x08(32), 0x18(32), 0x84(32)
16	0x00(128), 0x02(32), 0x1A(32), 0x82(32), 0x9A(32)
17	0x00(128), 0x80(32), 0x88(32), 0x90(32), 0x98(32)
18	0x00(192), 0x0C(16), 0x1C(16), 0x8C(16), 0x9C(16)
19	0x00(128), 0x04(64), 0x84(64)
20	0x00(64), 0x08(128), 0x18(64)
21	0x00(128), 0x02(64), 0x82(64)
22	0x00(64), 0x10(192)
23	0x00(192), 0x80(64)

Attack Scenario

● Target Operation Selection

- If zero-difference occurs at some column of $\mathcal{A}_R$, an adversary cannot filter wrong key
- 11th operation is the only not to make zero-difference



Last two rounds of PIPO.

Attack Scenario

● Fault Propagation from the Target Operation

- As mentioned, skipping 11th operation generates only 4 patterns — 0x46, 0x5E, 0xC6, 0xDE
- By analyzing propagation through RL, 5 bits are strictly restricted
- If recovered value does not suffice this restriction, guessed key would be wrong

Possible Input Differences				RL	Output difference
0x46	0x5E	0xC6	0xDE		
0	0	1	1	→	?
1	1	1	1	→	1
0	0	0	0	→	0
0	1	0	1	→	?
0	1	0	1	→	?
1	1	1	1	→	1
1	1	1	1	→	1
0	0	0	0	→	0

Difference propagation through RL

Attack Scenario

- Achieving Robustness against Invalid Fault Injections

- In real world, targeting the specific operation precisely would be difficult
- Two strategies to achieve robustness

- Fault Profiling

- With 8 possible input patterns, the output pattern is restricted

$$\mathbb{D}_{\text{impossible}} = \{0x00, 0x04, 0x09, 0x0D, 0x19, \\ 0x1D, 0x82, 0x86, 0xCA, 0xFC\}.$$

- If one of these patterns occurs, it would be wrong faulty cipher, and reject

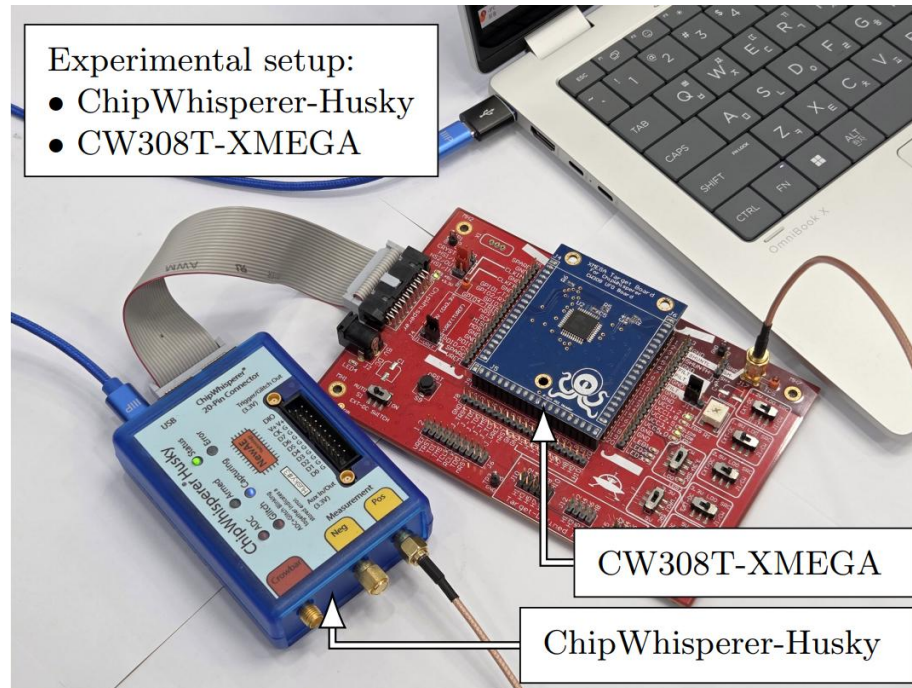
- Voting Scheme

- Not strictly deny the filtered key, vote to the 'not filtered' keys

Experimental Results

● Setup

- Utilized ChipWhisperer-Husky and 8-bit MCU board
- Reference C implementation

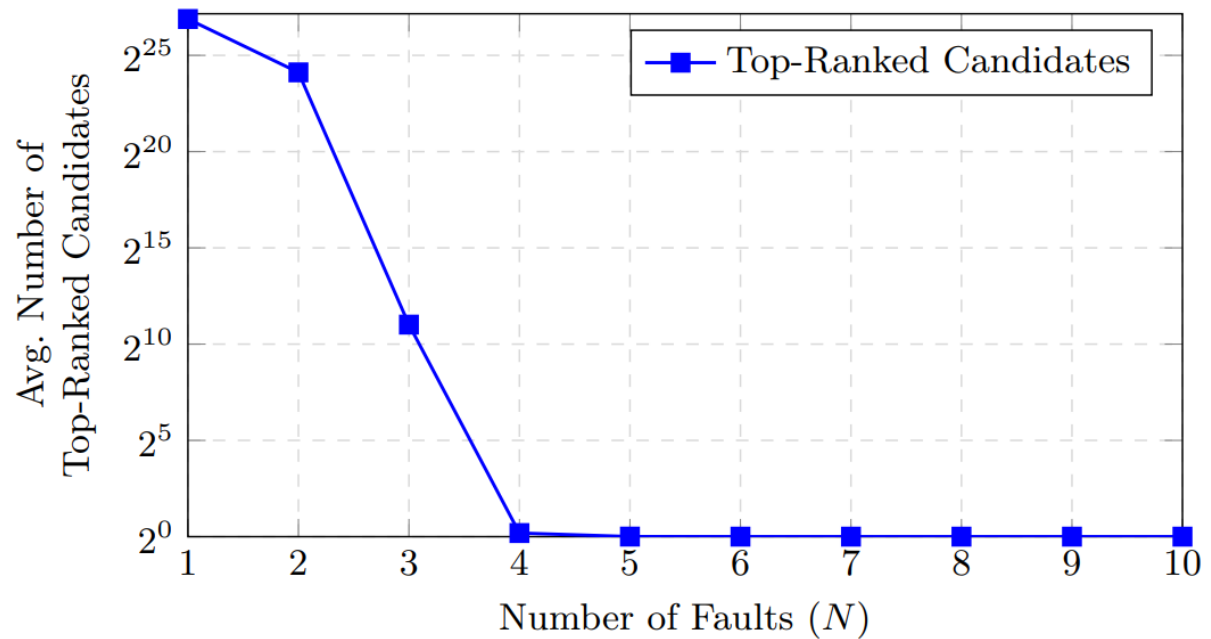


Experimental Results

● RK_R Guessing Entropy over Number of Faults

- With these parameters, we achieved 98.85% of fault injection success rate
- Unique key recovery at $N = 6$

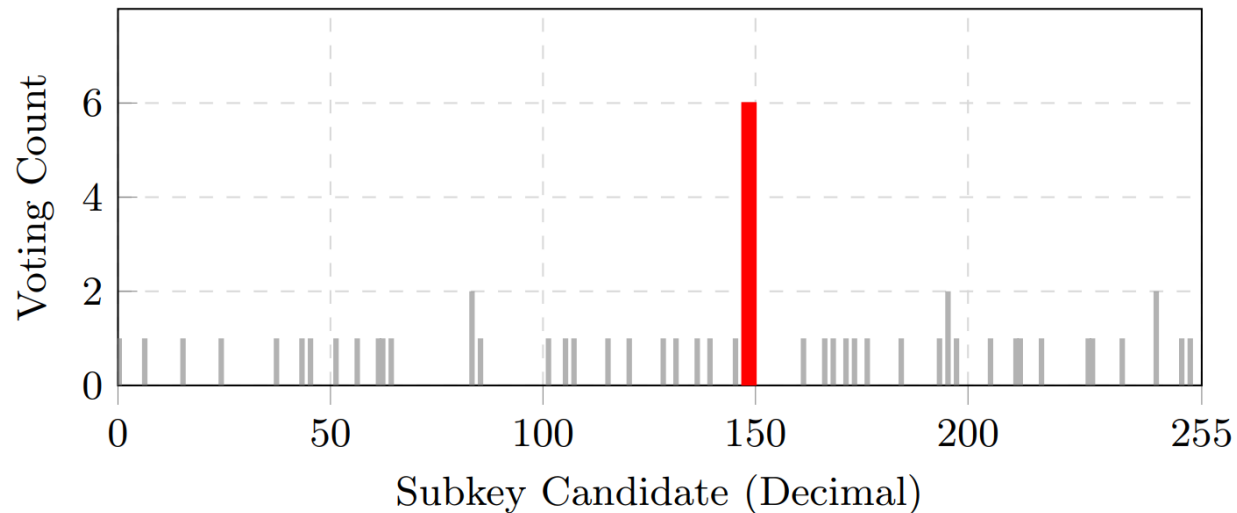
Parameter	Value
ext_offset	13
offset	50
width	150
repeat	1



Experimental Results

● Voting Score Results

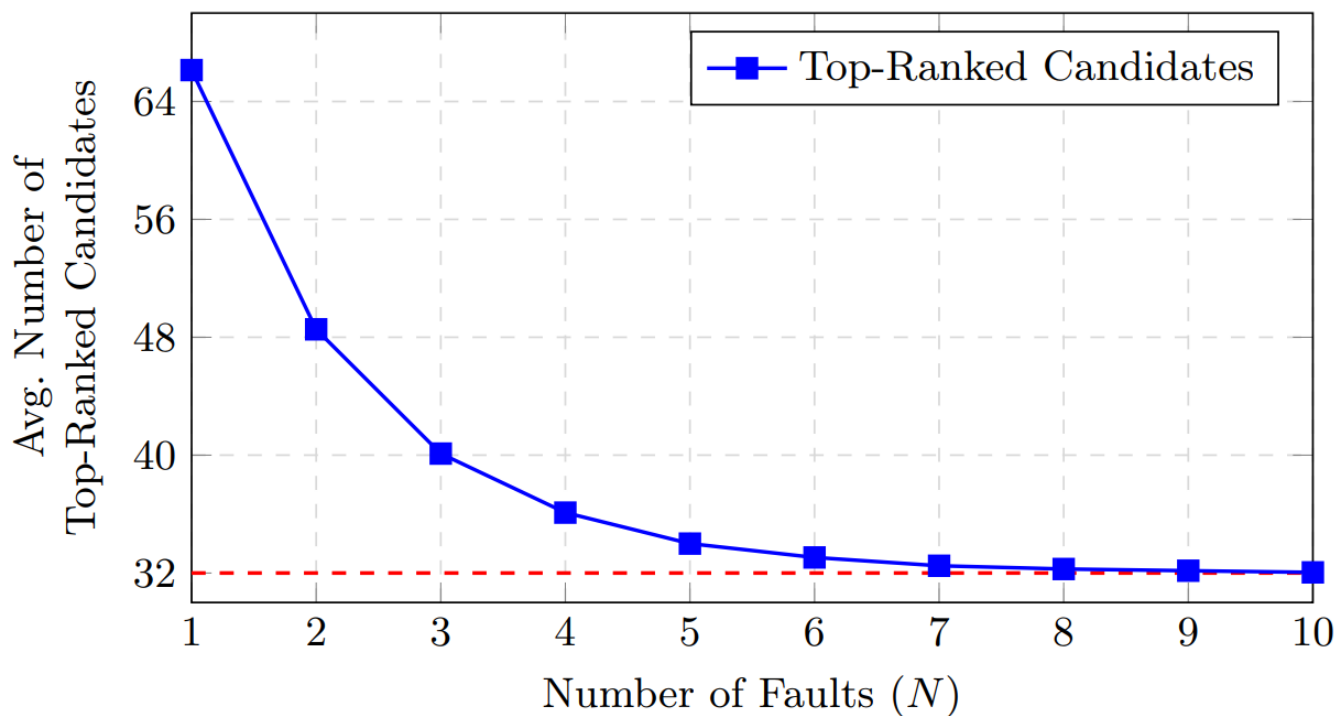
- True key is 0x95 (149_{10})
- Leveraging 6 faults, correct key is uniquely identified with maximum score
- Score of wrong keys shrinks



Experimental Results

● RK_{R-1} Guessing Entropy over Number of Faults

- Bounded on $32 = 2^5$ key space
- Recall that only 3 bits differs on the $\mathcal{B}_{R-1}$ pattern, so only 3 bits of RK_{R-1} column could be determined



Conclusion & Discussions

● Fault Attack on Bitslice Cipher PIPO

- Utilizing the output difference pattern to recover secret key
- Deeper round to fault injection, fewer number of faults than previous works

Target Cipher	Reference	Fault Model	Fault Loc.	# Faults
PIPO-64/128	[24]	Bit-flip	Round 12 and 13	64
PIPO-64/256	[24]	Bit-flip	Round 16 and 17	128
PIPO-64/128	[23]	Random Byte	Round 12 and 13	≤ 32
PIPO-64/128	[34]	Random Byte	Round 13 and Key schedule	$4^\dagger$
PIPO-64/128	Ours	Operation Skip	Round 11 and 12	≤ 10
PIPO-64/256	Ours	Operation Skip	Round 15 and 16	≤ 20

Conclusion & Discussions

- Countermeasures

- Inserting random delay to prevent accurate fault injection
- Masking

- SIFA-like Attack

- On fault detection, an adversary cannot acquire faulty ciphertexts
- But using zero-difference (ineffective fault) like SIFA, would be still vulnerable
- (Future Work)

Q&A

Thanks



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