



Information Leakages in Code-based Masking: A Unified Quantification Approach

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Outline

1. Introduction of Code-based Masking

1.1 A brief history

1.2 Basics on linear codes

2. Concrete security of the code-based masking

2.1 Security models and leakage functions

2.2 Leakage quantification and optimal codes

3. Leakages in SSS-based masking

3.1 SSS-based masking and RS code

3.2 More redundancy in sharing leaks more

4. Conclusions

Side-channel analysis on observable leakages

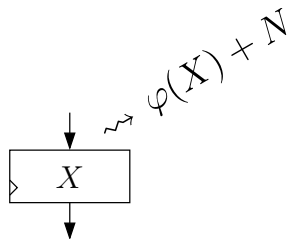
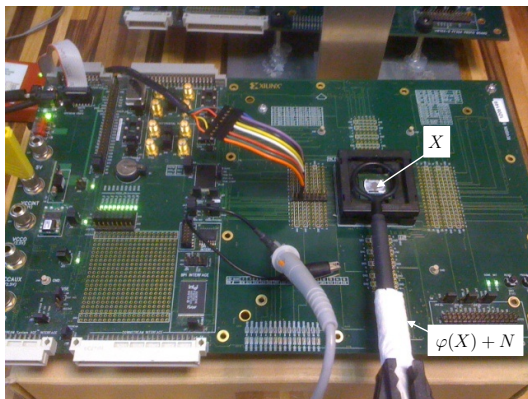


Figure 1: Observable leakages from the manipulation of X [CG18].

Masking as a countermeasure against SCA

Masking

- **Security:** provably secure against SCA [ISW03, PR13]
- **Costs:** quadratically or cubically in higher-order glitch-free case [GSF13]
- **Others:** device independent

Boolean masking [CJRR99]

Let $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_{2^\ell}$ be a finite field, e.g., $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_{2^8} \cong \mathbb{F}_2[\alpha]/\langle \alpha^8 + \alpha^4 + \alpha^3 + \alpha + 1 \rangle$, then

- $X \in \mathbb{K}$: the sensitive variable
- $Y \in \mathbb{K}^{n-1}$: the random masks
- $Z \in \mathbb{K}^n$: the masked variable

For Boolean masking with n shares:

$$Z = (Z_1, \dots, Z_n) = \left(X + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} Y_i, Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{n-1} \right).$$

Code-based masking

GCM: a uniform representation

In a generalized code-based masking [WMCS20, CGC⁺21a], the encoding is:

$$Z = XG + YH$$

where

- $X \in \mathbb{K}^k$: the sensitive variables
- $Y \in \mathbb{K}^t$: the random masks
- $Z \in \mathbb{K}^n$: the masked variable
- $G \in \mathbb{K}^{k \times n}$ and $H \in \mathbb{K}^{t \times n}$: generator matrices of \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} , resp.

Constraints & conditions

- Condition for decoding: $\mathcal{C} \cap \mathcal{D} = \{0\}$
- Without redundancy: $n = k + t$; with redundancy: $n > k + t$.

Code-based masking

Two examples

Boolean masking

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (Z_1, \dots, Z_n) \\ &= \left(X + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} Y_i, Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{n-1} \right) \quad (1) \\ &= X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H} are:

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{1 \times n}$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ 1 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{t \times n}.$$

Inner Product masking [BFG15]

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (Z_1, \dots, Z_n) \\ &= \left(X + \sum_{i=1}^{n-1} \alpha_i Y_i, Y_1, Y_2, \dots, Y_{n-1} \right) \quad (2) \\ &= X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}, \end{aligned}$$

where \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H} are:

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 0 & 0 & \dots & 0 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{1 \times n}$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & 1 & 0 & \dots & 0 \\ \alpha_2 & 0 & 1 & \dots & 0 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_t & 0 & 0 & \dots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{t \times n}.$$

Code-based masking: a brief history

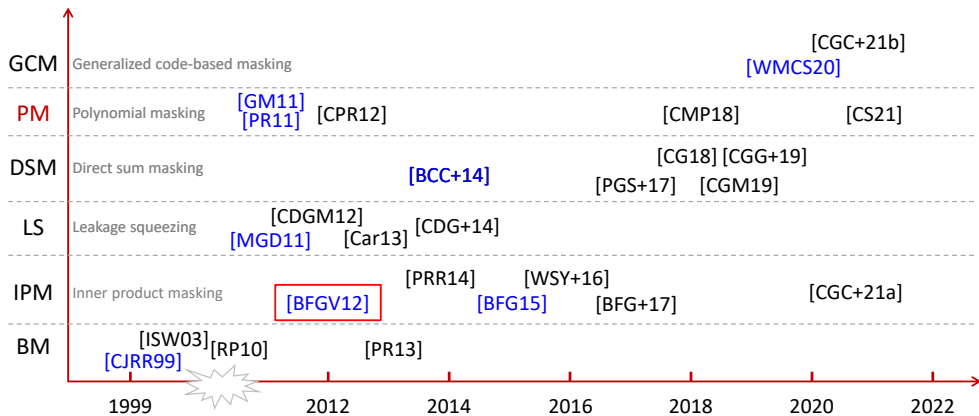
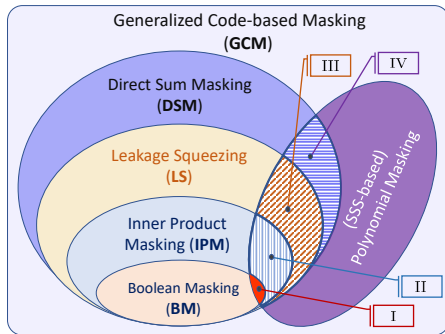


Figure 2: A brief history of masking schemes.

- Marked in **BLUE** are the first proposals of the corresponding schemes
- For IPM, we consider the improved IPM [BFG15] rather than the original one [BFGV12].

Code-based masking: overview



- The core Russian dolls: $BM \subseteq IPM \subseteq LS \subseteq DSM$ support masking only, since $n = t + 1$
- Whilst SSS-based masking and GCM also allow for error detection/correction when $n > t + 1$

Figure 3: Overview of code-based masking schemes.

Two problems

- How to measure information leakage in different schemes?
- For each scheme, how to choose optimal codes?

Dual codes and transformations

Definition (Dual Code).

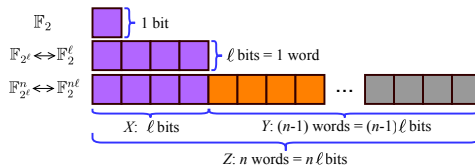
The dual code of \mathcal{D} , denoted as \mathcal{D}^\perp , is: $\mathcal{D}^\perp = \{v \mid \forall u \in \mathcal{D}, \langle v, u \rangle = 0\}$.

Sub-field representation [MS77]

Let $x \in \mathbb{F}_{2^\ell}$, the sub-field representation of x is $[x]_2 \in \mathbb{F}_2^\ell$.

Code Expansion [MS77]

Consider a generator matrix of a linear code of size $k \times n$ in \mathbb{F}_{2^ℓ} , the generator matrix of the expanded code has a size of $k\ell \times n\ell$ in \mathbb{F}_2 .



The kissing number of a code

Definition (Weight Enumerator [MS77]).

For a linear code \mathcal{D} of parameters $[n, k, d]$, its weight enumerator is defined as:

$$W_{\mathcal{D}}(X, Y) = \sum_{i=0}^n B_i X^{n-i} Y^i,$$

where $B_i = |\{u \in \mathcal{D} | w_H(u) = i\}|$ and w_H is the Hamming weight function.

In particular, B_d is called the kissing number of \mathcal{D} .

Example.

For the linear code $[8, 4, 4]$, we have $W_{\mathcal{D}}(X, Y) = X^8 + 14X^4Y^4 + Y^8$, thus: $B_0 = 1$, $B_4 = 14$, $B_8 = 1$.

Definition (Adjusted kissing number [CGC⁺21a]).

Let \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} denote two linear codes, the adjusted kissing number B'_d is defined as:

$$B'_d = |\{(x, y) \in (\mathcal{D} \setminus \mathcal{C})^2 | x + y \in \mathcal{C}, w_H(x) = w_H(y) = d\}|. \quad (3)$$

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Two probing models

The two kinds of probing model (see also [DGH⁺18, PGS⁺17]) are:

- **Bit-probing model:** each probe only gets one bit at a time where each bit leaks independently or jointly. The security order under the bit-probing model is denoted by t_b .
- **Word-probing model:** each probe gets an ℓ -bit word at a time, where an ℓ -bit variable leaks as a whole. Similarly, the security order is then denoted by t_w .

Leakage functions and numerical degree

Leakage functions

Leakage functions, turning a bitvector into a real value, are pseudo-Boolean functions $P : \mathbb{K}^{n\ell} \mapsto \mathbb{R}$, where $\mathbb{K} = \mathbb{F}_2$.

$$P(Z) = \sum_{I \in \{0,1\}^{n\ell}} \beta_I Z^I, \quad (4)$$

where $Z^I = \prod_{i \in I} Z_i$, and $\beta_I \in \mathbb{R}$.

Definition (Numerical Degree [CG99]).

The numerical degree of a pseudo-Boolean function P denoted by $\deg(P)$ equals: $\deg(P) := d = \max\{|I| \mid \beta_I \neq 0\}$.

Example.

- $Z^{(100\dots 0)_2}$ for MSB, and $Z^{(000\dots 1)_2}$ for LSB, with $\deg(P) = 1$
- $w_H(Z) = Z^{(100\dots 0)_2} + Z^{(010\dots 0)_2} + \dots + Z^{(000\dots 1)_2}$ for the Hamming weight, with $\deg(P) = 1$
- $Z^{(110\dots 0)_2} = Z_1 Z_2$ with $\deg(P) = 2$.

Concrete security level of CBM

SNR as a leakage metric

Let

$$\mathcal{L} = P(Z) + N$$

denote the leakages where $N \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$ denotes the independent Gaussian noise.

How to exploit the leakage in SCA?

The distinguishing rule in SCA:

$$\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}|X] \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}] \quad \longrightarrow \quad \text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}|X]] \stackrel{?}{=} 0$$

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We have

$$\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[P(Z) + N|X]] = \text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[P(Z)|X]],$$

where $Z = X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H} \in \mathbb{K}^n \in \mathbb{F}_{2^\ell}^n$. The SNR of leakages is defined as:

$$\text{SNR} = \frac{\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[\mathcal{L}|X]]}{\text{Var}[N]} = \frac{\text{Var}[\mathbb{E}[P(Z)|X]]}{\sigma_{total}^2}, \quad (5)$$

where $\text{Var}[N] = \sigma_{total}^2 \propto \sigma^{2d}$ [CGC+21b].

Quantifying leakage of CBM by SNR

Taking $P(z) = w_H(z)^d$ as higher-order moments of leakages, then

$$P(z) = \sum_{J_1 + \dots + J_{n\ell} = d} \binom{d}{J_1, \dots, J_{n\ell}} \prod_{i=1}^{n\ell} z_i^{J_i} = \sum_{\substack{J \in \mathbb{N}^{n\ell}, \text{ s.t. } w_H(J) < d; \\ \sum_{i=1}^{n\ell} J_i = d}} \binom{d}{J} z^J + d! \sum_{\substack{I \in \{0,1\}^{n\ell}; \\ w_H(I) = d}} z^I \quad (6)$$

where $\mathbb{N} = \{0, 1, 2, \dots\}$. The multinomial coefficient $\binom{d}{J_1, \dots, J_{n\ell}}$ is defined as $\frac{d!}{J_1! \dots J_{n\ell}!}$.

Theorem (SNR for Hamming Weight Leakage [CGC⁺21a]).

Let a device be protected by the GCM scheme as $Z = X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}$. Assume the device is leaking in Hamming weight model in the form: $\mathcal{L} = P(Z) + N$. Then the SNR of the exploitable leakages is:

$$SNR = \frac{\text{Var} [\mathbb{E} [P(Z)|X]]}{\sigma_{total}^2} = \frac{B'_{d \perp \mathcal{D}}}{\sigma_{total}^2} \left(\frac{d \perp \mathcal{D}!}{2^{d \perp \mathcal{D}}} \right)^2, \quad (7)$$

where σ_{total}^2 is the total noise such that $\sigma_{total}^2 \propto \sigma^{2d}$.

Concrete security level of CBM

In an information-theoretic sense

MI between \mathcal{L} and X is defined as $I(\mathcal{L}; X) = H(\mathcal{L}) - H(\mathcal{L}|X)$ where:

- the total entropy is: $H(\mathcal{L}) = - \int_l \mathbb{P}[l] \log_2 \mathbb{P}[l] dl$,
- the conditional entropy $H(\mathcal{L}|X)$ is: $H(\mathcal{L}|X) = - \sum_{x \in \mathbb{F}_2^\ell} \mathbb{P}[x] \int_l \mathbb{P}[l|x] \log_2 \mathbb{P}[l|x] dl$.

Theorem (MI for Hamming Weight Leakage [CGC⁺21a]).

Let a device be protected by the GCM scheme as $Z = X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}$. Assume the leakages of the device can be represented in the form: $\mathcal{L} = P(Z) + N$. Then the MI between \mathcal{L} and X is:

$$I(\mathcal{L}; X) = \begin{cases} 0, & \text{if } \deg(P) < d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp} \\ \frac{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}! B'_{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}}{2 \ln 2 \cdot 2^{2d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}} \times \frac{1}{\sigma^{2d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}} + \mathcal{O}\left(\frac{1}{\sigma^{2(d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}+1)}}\right), & \text{if } \deg(P) = d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}, \text{ when } \sigma \rightarrow +\infty \end{cases} \quad (8)$$

where σ is the standard deviation of noise in the leakage of each share.

Proof. See [CGC⁺21a].

Mutual information of IPM and DSM

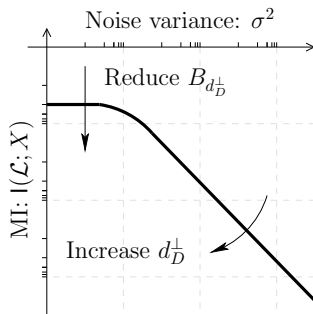


Figure 4: Two concomitant objectives to reduce the mutual information.

Two observations:

- the slope in the log-log representation of the MI versus the noise standard deviation is all the steeper as $d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}$ is high, and
- the vertical offset is adjusted by $B_{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}$: the smaller it is the smaller the MI.

Mutual information of different codes in IPM

Numerical validation

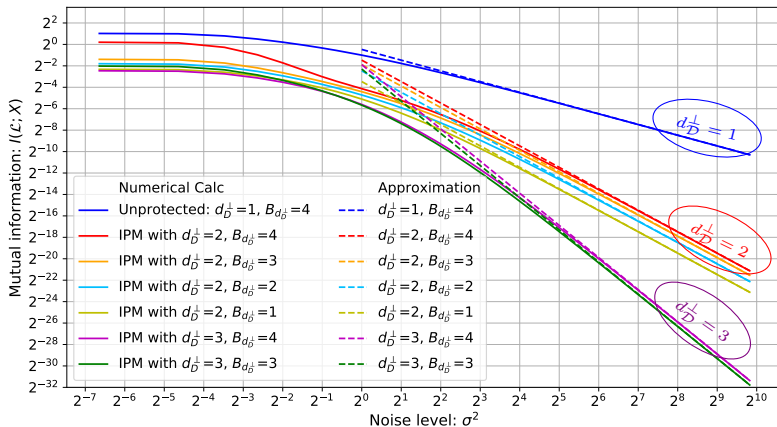


Figure 5: Numerical calculation and approximation of $I(\mathcal{L}; X)$ between leakages and X in IPM.

Evaluation framework and optimal codes for GCM

A unified evaluation framework for GCM

For GCM with $Z = X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}$, its side-channel resistance can be characterized by two defining parameters $d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}$ and $B'_{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}$, where codes \mathcal{C} and \mathcal{D} are generated by \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H} .

Optimal codes for GCM

The optimal codes for GCM are determined by $d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}$ and $B'_{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}$, which can be chosen by maximizing $d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}$ and /or minimizing $B'_{d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}}$.

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SSS-based masking and RS code

Definition (Reed-Solomon Code [CMP18]).

The Reed-Solomon code $RS(\mathcal{S}, t+1) \subset \mathbb{K}^n$ of dimension $t+1$ over a finite field \mathbb{K} and with evaluation subset $\mathcal{S} = \{\alpha_0, \alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}$ of \mathbb{K} is the subspace:

$$RS(\mathcal{S}, t+1) = \{(f(\alpha_0), f(\alpha_1), \dots, f(\alpha_n)); f(X) \in \mathbb{K}[X] \text{ and } \deg(f) \leq t\}.$$

SSS-based masking and RS code

In fact, the sharing of X with SSS scheme is an encoding with a RS code: $\text{RS}(\{\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n\}, t + 1)$:

$$Z = (Z_1, Z_2, \dots, Z_n) = (X, Y) \begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{G} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix} = X\mathbf{G} + Y\mathbf{H}, \quad (9)$$

where $\begin{pmatrix} \mathbf{G} \\ \mathbf{H} \end{pmatrix}$ is the generator matrix $(\alpha_i^j)_{i \in [1; n], j \in [0; t]}$ shown as below.

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & \cdots & 1 \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{1 \times n}$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1^1 & \alpha_2^1 & \cdots & \alpha_n^1 \\ \alpha_1^2 & \alpha_2^2 & \cdots & \alpha_n^2 \\ \vdots & \vdots & \ddots & \vdots \\ \alpha_1^t & \alpha_2^t & \cdots & \alpha_n^t \end{pmatrix} \in \mathbb{K}^{t \times n}$$

By denoting \mathbf{G}_i and \mathbf{H}_i the i -th column of \mathbf{G} and \mathbf{H} resp., we have:

$$Z_i = f_X(\alpha_i) = X + \sum_{j=1}^t Y_j \alpha_i^j = X\mathbf{G}_i + (Y_1, \dots, Y_t) \mathbf{H}_i.$$

SSS-based masking: one instance

(3, 1)-SSS based masking

Considering $n = 3$ and $t = 1$, giving α_1, α_2 and α_3 are three public points, we have

$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha^j & \alpha^k \end{pmatrix}.$$

Therefore, taking a random mask u_1 , X is encoded into:

$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (Z_1, Z_2, Z_3) \\ &= X\mathbf{G} + u_1\mathbf{H} \\ &= (X + u_1\alpha_1, X + u_1\alpha_2, X + u_1\alpha_3). \end{aligned} \tag{10}$$

Mutual information of SSS-based masking

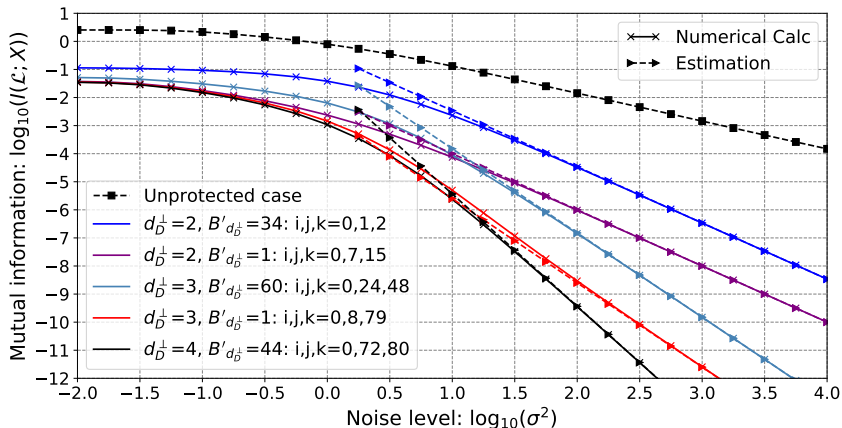


Figure 6: Numerical calculation and approximation of $I(\mathcal{L}; X)$ between leakage \mathcal{L} and X in $(3, 1)$ -SSS based masking. The three public points are $\alpha_1 = \alpha^i, \alpha_2 = \alpha^j, \alpha_3 = \alpha^k$.

All codes for (3, 1)-SSS based masking

Table 1: Exhibiting different codes in (3, 1)-SSS scheme generated by Eqn. 10. Note that we take $\alpha_1 = \alpha^i = 1$, $\alpha_2 = \alpha^j$ and $\alpha_3 = \alpha^k$.

	$j = 1$ $k = 2$	$j = 7$ $k = 15$	$j = 24$ $k = 48$	$j = 8$ $k = 79$	$j = 59$ $k = 172$	$j = 72$ $k = 80$
Minimum distance $d_{\mathcal{D}}$	3	3	3	3	3	3
Dual distance (word) $d_{\mathcal{D}}^{\perp}$	2	2	2	2	2	2
Dual distance (bit) $d_{\mathcal{D}_2}^{\perp}$	2	2	3	3	4	4
Kissing number (bit) $B_{d_{\mathcal{D}_2}^{\perp}}$	20	1	22	1	76	36
Adjusted kissing number (bit) $B'_{d_{\mathcal{D}_2}^{\perp}}$	34	1	60	1	140	44

We extend the state-of-the-art [CS21] in two directions:

- we show the **BEST** cases of the linear codes, that are recommended to use,
- we give the **WORST** cases of the linear codes that are NOT recommend for practical applications.

⁰All codes are available at: <https://github.com/Qomo-CHENG/GeneralizedCM>

More redundancy leaks more

Recall that in $(3, 1)$ -SSS based masking:

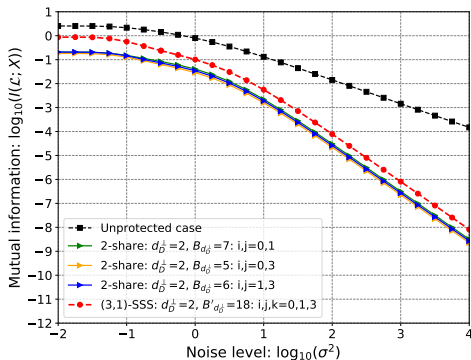
$$\mathbf{G} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & 1 & 1 \end{pmatrix},$$
$$\mathbf{H} = \begin{pmatrix} \alpha_1 & \alpha_2 & \alpha_3 \end{pmatrix} = \begin{pmatrix} 1 & \alpha^j & \alpha^k \end{pmatrix}.$$

Taking a random mask u_1 , then X is encoded into:

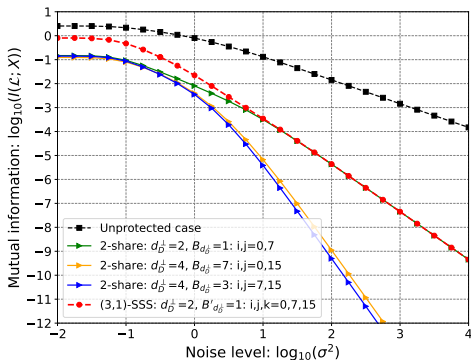
$$\begin{aligned} Z &= (Z_1, Z_2, Z_3) \\ &= X\mathbf{G} + u_1\mathbf{H} \\ &= (X + u_1\alpha_1, X + u_1\alpha_2, X + u_1\alpha_3). \end{aligned}$$

More redundancy leaks more

In (3, 1)-SSS based masking



(a) $\alpha^i, \alpha^j, \alpha^k = 1, \alpha, \alpha^2$.

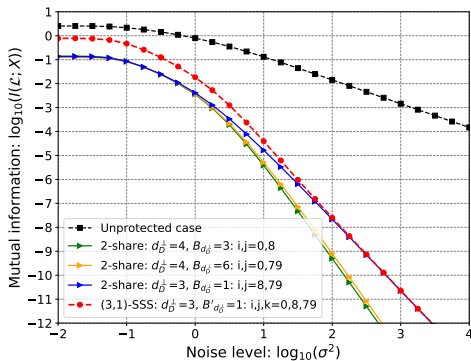


(b) $\alpha^i, \alpha^j, \alpha^k = 1, \alpha^7, \alpha^{15}$.

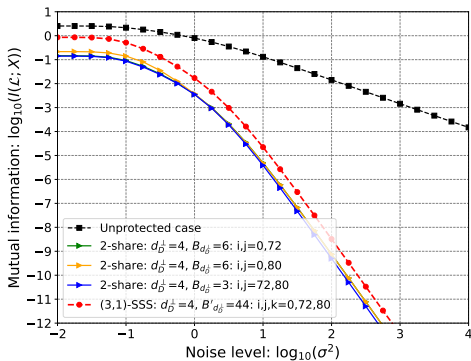
Figure 7: More shares leak more information, two cases on (3, 1)-SSS based masking.

More redundancy leaks more

In (3,1)-SSS based masking



(a) $\alpha^i, \alpha^j, \alpha^k = 1, \alpha^8, \alpha^{79}$.



(b) $\alpha^i, \alpha^j, \alpha^k = 1, \alpha^{72}, \alpha^{80}$.

Figure 8: More shares leak more information, two cases on (3,1)-SSS based masking.

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Conclusions

We propose a coding-theoretic approach to quantify the side-channel resistance of general code-based masking:

- using SNR and MI to characterize the SCA resistance quantitatively
- proposing a unified framework to evaluate all codes for GCM systematically
- presenting a simple method to choose optimal codes for GCM and provide some instances

Open sources on Github

- Optimal linear codes for IPM: <https://github.com/Qomo-CHENG/OC-IPM>
- Optimal linear codes for GCM: <https://github.com/Qomo-CHENG/GeneralizedCM>
The paper is available at: <https://tches.iacr.org/index.php/TCHES/article/view/8983>

Welcome to our talk in *PROOFS 2021* on Sep 17, 2021, we will show our justification of MI and how to choose optimal linear codes for GCM based on the [complete weight distribution](#).

PROOFS 2021: <http://www.proofs-workshop.org/2021/>

Questions?



Acknowledgments

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- the National Natural Science Foundation of China, N° 61632020.

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