

# Key reconciliation protocol application to error correction in silicon PUF responses

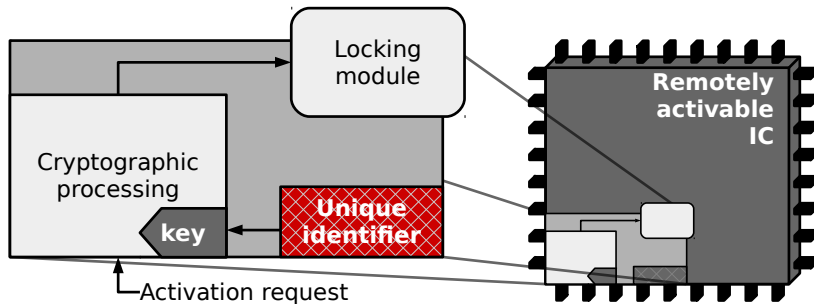
Brice COLOMBIER\*, Lilian BOSSUET\*, David HÉLY<sup>+</sup>

\*Laboratoire Hubert Curien  
Saint-Étienne — France

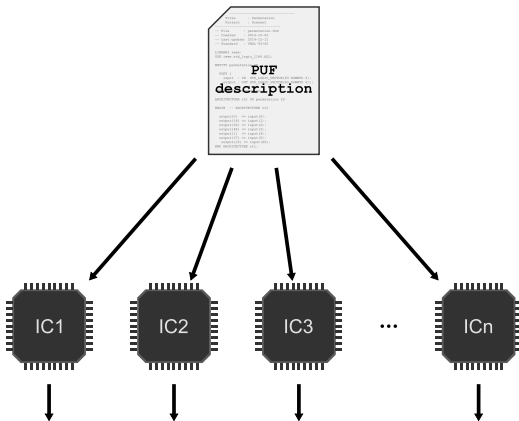
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Valence — France

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*Journée Sécurité Numérique du GDR SoC-SiP : 11<sup>ème</sup> édition*  
*La génération d'aléa dans le matériel : TRNG & PUF*



<sup>1</sup><http://www.univ-st-etienne.fr/salware/>



**Different** responses to the **same** challenge.

## Principle:

Extract entropy from **process variations**.

## Aim:

Provide a unique, per-device ID, thanks to the **inter-device uniqueness**.

## Problem:

PUF responses to the **same** challenge **change** over time.

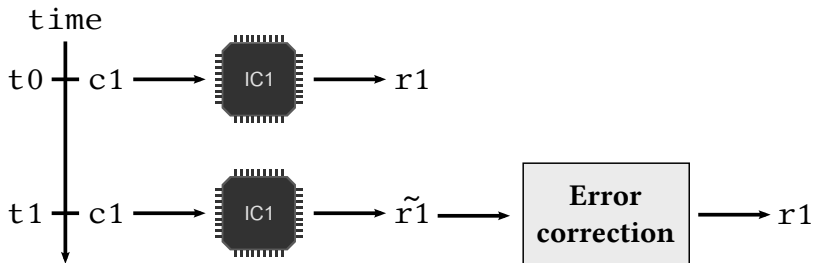
This variation depends on multiple parameters:

- PUF architecture,
- Process node,
- Aging,
- Temperature,
- Environment...

→ It prevents the PUF response from being used as a **key**.

## Solution:

Correct the PUF response.



## Requirements for the error correction module:

- Low area,
- High correction probability.

Several error-correcting code implementations exist:

Article	Construction and code(s)	Logic resources (Xilinx Slices)	
		Xilinx Spartan 3	Xilinx Spartan 6
2	Concatenated: Repetition and BCH		<b>221</b>
3	Reed-Muller		<b>179</b>
4	BCH		<b>&gt;59</b>
5	Concatenated: Repetition and Reed-Muller	<b>168</b>	

<sup>2</sup>R. Maes et al. “PUFKY: A Fully Functional PUF-Based Cryptographic Key Generator”. *CHES*. 2012.

<sup>3</sup>M. Hiller et al. “Low-Area Reed Decoding in a Generalized Concatenated Code Construction for PUFs”. *ISVLSI*. 2015.

<sup>4</sup>A. V. Herrewewege et al. “Reverse Fuzzy Extractors: Enabling Lightweight Mutual Authentication for PUF-Enabled RFIDs”. *FC*. 2012.

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This work	CASCADE protocol	<b>69</b>	<b>19</b>

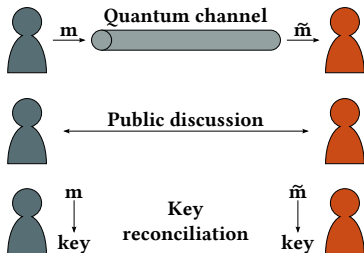
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CASCADE introduced in 1993 by Brassard and Salvail<sup>6</sup>

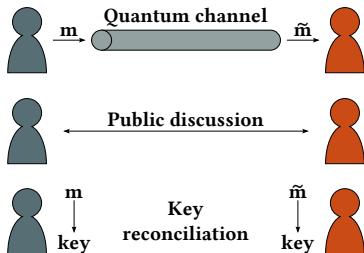


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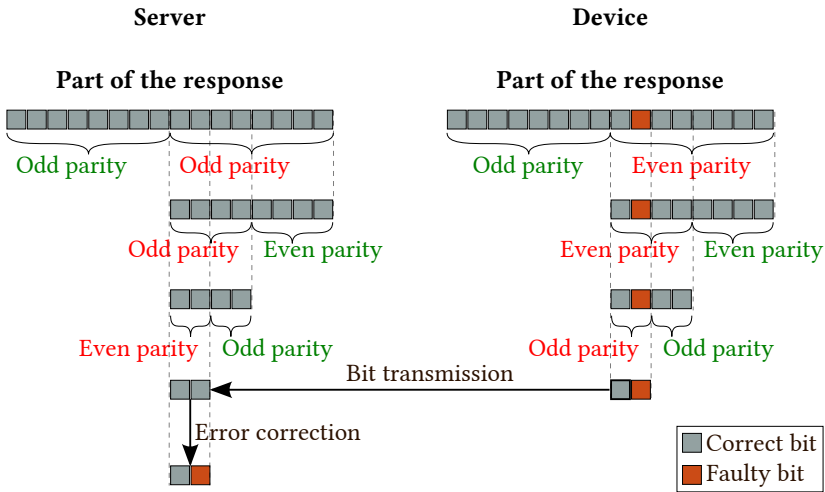
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This could be used to derive keys  
from slightly different PUF responses.

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# Dichotomous error detection and correction

Works on **parts** of the responses that have a **different parity**.



Allows to correct **one error**.

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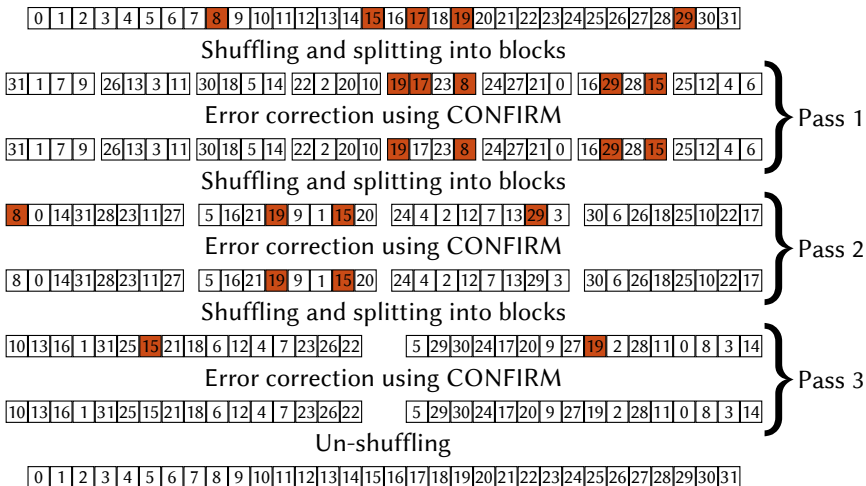
**Algorithm 1: BINARY**

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**Input:**  $r_0, r_t, n_{passes}$ **for**  $i = 1$  **to**  $n_{passes}$  **do**    Shuffle  $r_0$  and  $r_t$  using a public permutation  $\sigma_i$     Split  $r_0$  and  $r_t$  in blocks of size  $s_b$     **forall** *blocks* **do**        Compute the relative parity  $P_r(b_{0,i}, b_{t,i})$  // Detection        **if**  $P_r(b_{0,i}, b_{t,i}) = 1$  **then**            CONFIRM( $b_{0,i}, b_{t,i}$ ) // Correction    Double the block size  $s_b = 2 * s_b$ Un-shuffle  $r_0$  and  $r_t$  with inverse permutations  $\sigma_1^{-1}, \sigma_2^{-1}, \dots, \sigma_{n_{passes}}^{-1}$ **return**  $r_0, r_t$ 

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Example: 32-bit responses, 5 errors.



Two ways of leaking information:

- Relative parity computations,
  - 1 bit.
- CONFIRM executions on an  $n$ -bit block.
  - $\log_2(n)$  bits.

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## Example:

**128-bit** response,  $\varepsilon = 0.05 \rightarrow 7$  errors.

- 1<sup>st</sup> pass: **8-bit blocks**, **4 errors corrected**.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> pass: **16-bit blocks**, **3 errors corrected**.

Leakage:  $\frac{128}{8} + 4 \times \log_2(8) + \frac{128}{16} + 3 \times \log_2(16) = 48$  bits.

The final effective length of the response is  $128 - 48 = \mathbf{80}$  bits.

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**How can it be improved?**

**Backtracking** can be used to leak fewer bits.

After a pass, all the blocks have an **even** relative parity.



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## Example:

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---

Parity check does not detect these errors.

If, **in a subsequent pass**, the error 9 is corrected:

→ The block can be **processed again** to correct error 13.

## Required:

Two lists storing blocks according to their relative parity.

- Correcting an error at index  $i$  makes blocks containing index  $i$  move from one list to the other  
→ **(their relative parity changed)**.
- Error correction is carried out until there are **no more blocks of odd parity**.
- At the end of each pass, the blocks are added to the list of blocks of **even relative parity**.



Blocks of even  
relative parity:

$\emptyset$

Blocks of odd relative  
parity:

$\emptyset$

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Correction

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Shuffling

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Shuffling

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Extra correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Extra correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Blocks of even  
relative parity:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---

Blocks of odd relative  
parity:

∅

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Correction

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

Shuffling

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
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Extra correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
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Extra correction

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5	2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---	---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

Blocks of even  
relative parity:

0	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---

8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
---	---	----	----	----	----	----	----

2	10	8	11	3	15	6	1
---	----	---	----	---	----	---	---

12	14	4	7	9	0	13	5
----	----	---	---	---	---	----	---

Blocks of odd relative  
parity:

∅

For the **same number of passes**, the CASCADE protocol allows to correct **more errors** than BINARY.

→ The information leakage is **lower**.

What is the lower bound on the information leakage?

It is related to the conditional entropy<sup>7</sup>  $H(r_t|r_0) = nh(\varepsilon)$  where:  $\varepsilon$  is the error rate and  $n$  is the response length.

$$h(\varepsilon) = -\varepsilon \cdot \log_2(\varepsilon) - (1 - \varepsilon) \cdot \log_2(1 - \varepsilon)$$

The best length we can expect for the final response is then:

$$n - nh(\varepsilon) = n(1 - h(\varepsilon))$$

## Examples:

With a 128-bit response and a 5% error rate: 91 bits.

With a 128-bit response and a 10% error rate: 67 bits.

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<sup>7</sup>J. Martinez-Mateo et al. "Demystifying the Information Reconciliation Protocol CASCADE". (2015).

How to set the CASCADE parameters?

- **Initial block size:** depends on the error rate.
- **Number of passes:** depends on the required correction success rate.
- **Block size multiplier:** x2 at each pass.

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## Solution

Add extra passes **without increasing** the block size.

Several realistic PUF references:

- RO PUF in FPGA  $\varepsilon = 0.9\%$ <sup>8</sup>.
- TERO PUF in FPGA  $\varepsilon = 1.8\%$ <sup>9</sup>.
- SRAM PUF in ASIC  $\varepsilon = 5.5\%$ <sup>10</sup>.

256-bit responses, aim for 128-bit security

Simulation carried out on 2 500 000 responses.

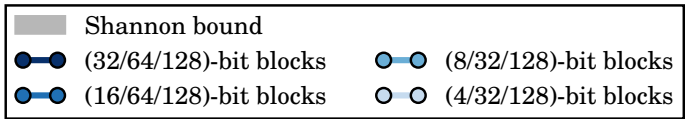
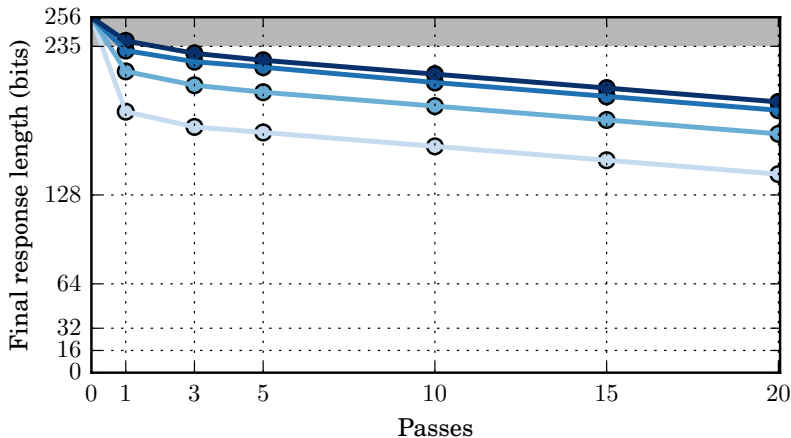
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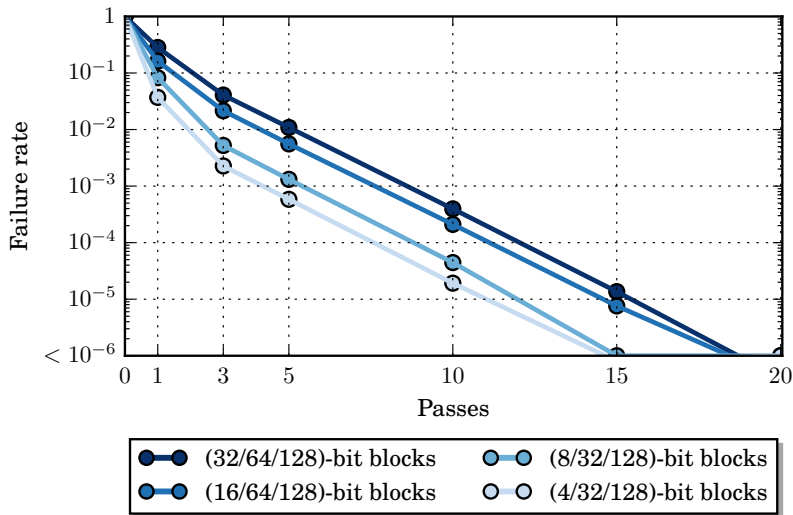
<sup>8</sup>A. Maiti et al. “A large scale characterization of RO-PUF”. . *HOST*. 2010.

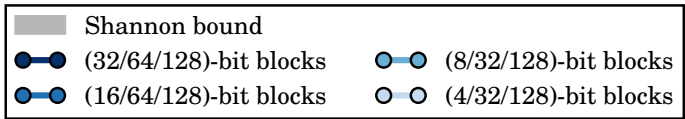
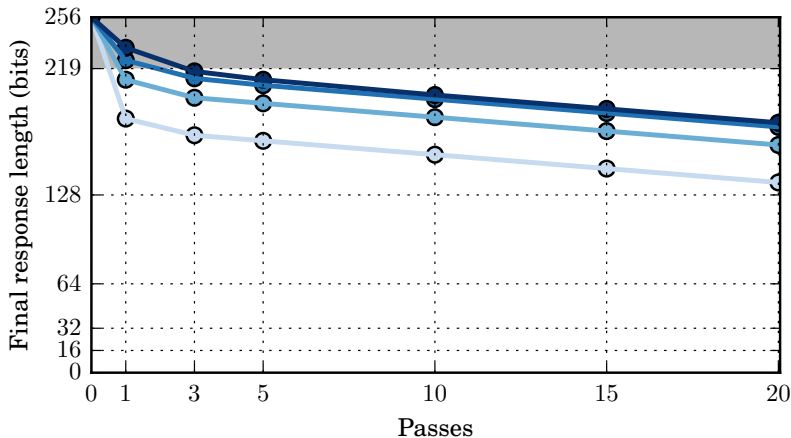
<sup>9</sup>C. Marchand et al. “Enhanced TERO-PUF Implementations and Characterization on FPGAs”. *International Symposium on FPGAs*. ACM, 2016.

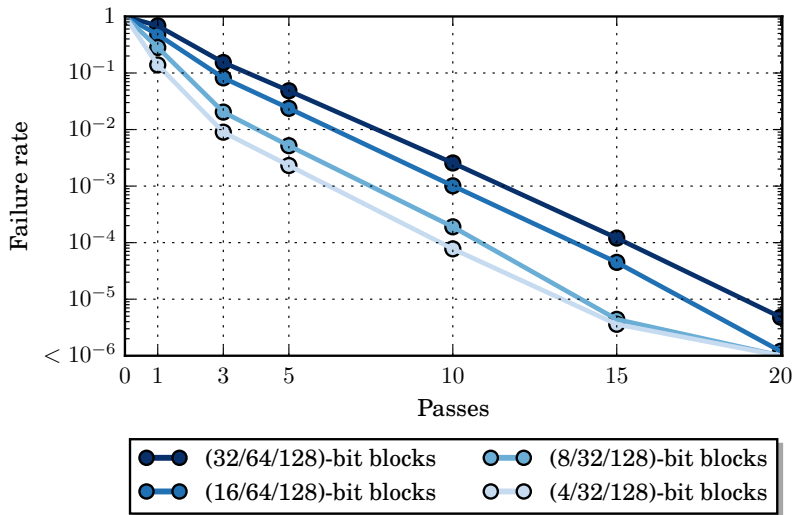
<sup>10</sup>M. Claes et al. “Comparison of SRAM and FF-PUF in 65nm Technology”. *Nordic Conference on Secure IT Systems*. 2011.

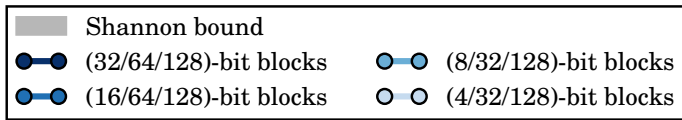
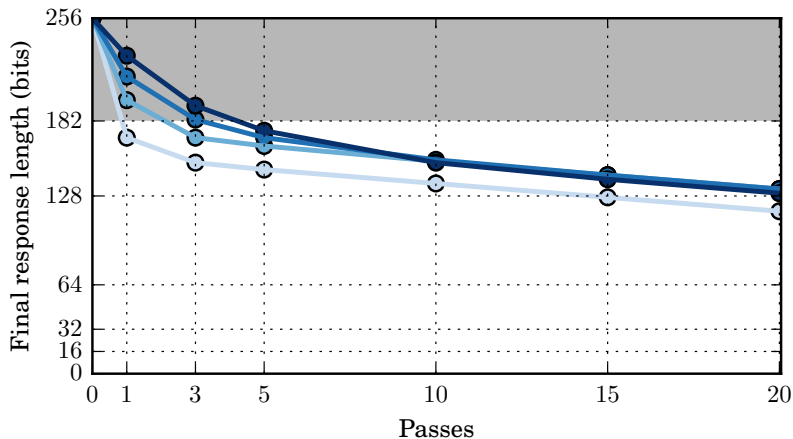


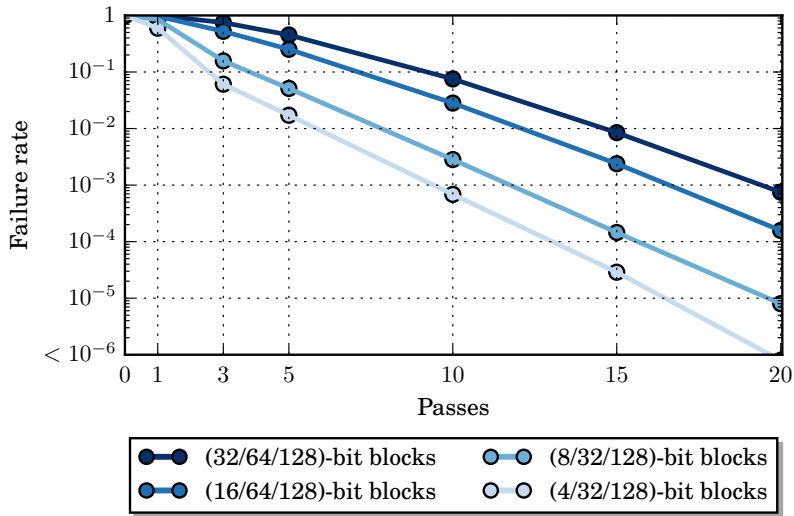




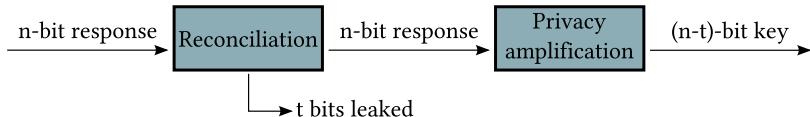








From an  $n$ -bit response, if  $t$  bits are leaked, it is possible to obtain an  $(n - t)$ -bit secret key.

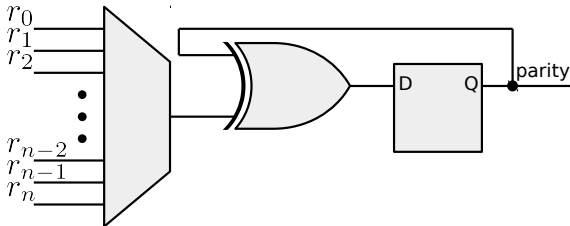


A **hash function** can be used for privacy amplification<sup>11</sup>.

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<sup>11</sup>R. Impagliazzo, L.A. Levin and M. Luby, *Pseudo-random Generation from one-way functions*, 21st Annual Symposium on Theory of Computing, 1989.

Only **parity computations** are embedded.  
All other computations can be done **on the server**.



## Requirements:

- Multiplexer to select the bits to XOR,
- One XOR gate,
- One D flip-flop.



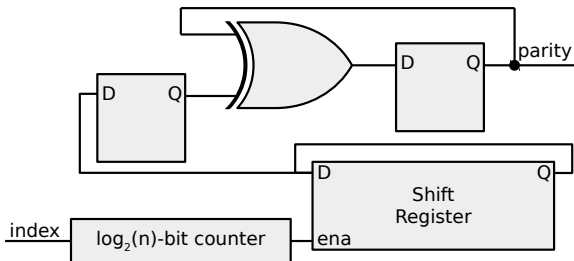
- Compute the parity of an  $n$ -bit block:  **$n$  cycles.**
- Correct one error in an  $n$ -bit block:  $\sum_{i=1}^{\log_2(n)} \frac{n}{2^i} = \mathbf{n - 1}$  cycles.

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### Example:

256-bit response,  $\varepsilon = 2\%$ , 20 passes,  $k_1 = 8$  bits:

- Best case (3%): 1 error, corrected AEAP.
  - Latency: **5 127** clock cycles.
- Worst case (0.05%): 14 errors, corrected ALAP.
  - Latency: **8 690** clock cycles.



## Requirements:

- Circular shift register to select the bits to XOR,
- One counter,
- One XOR gate,
- Two D flip-flops.

- Compute the parity of an  $n$ -bit block:  $\frac{n^2}{2}$  **cycles.**
- Correct one error in an  $n$ -bit block:  $\frac{n(n-1)}{2}$  **cycles.**

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- Best case (3%): 1 error, corrected AEAP.
  - Latency: **656 256** clock cycles.
- Worst case (0.05%): 14 errors, corrected ALAP.
  - Latency: **1 112 320** clock cycles.

- Compute the parity of an  $n$ -bit block:  $\frac{n^2}{2}$  cycles.
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**Trade-off:** area/latency.

IP core activation procedure:

	Server		Device $i$
at $t = 0$	Generates challenge $c_i$	$\xrightarrow{c_i}$	
enrolment			$r_0 \leftarrow PUF(c_i)$
		$\xleftarrow{r_0}$	
	Stores $r_0$		
at $t = t_1$		$\xrightarrow{c_i}$	Requests activation
activation			$r_{t_1} \leftarrow PUF(c_i)$
		$r_0$	$r_{t_1}$
		$K \leftarrow PA(r_{t_1})$	$K \leftarrow PA(r_{t_1})$
	Encrypts $UW$ with $K$	$\xrightarrow{[UW]_K}$	
			Decrypts $UW$
			Activates by unlocking

*CASCADE*  
 $\longleftrightarrow$   
*Privacy amplification*

Compared to existing methods:

- few on-chip logic resources,
- can reach very low failure rates,
- very tunable depending on the expected error-rate



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— Questions? —