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# Reliability and Entropy of Delay PUFs:

## *A Theoretical Analysis*

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# Physically Unclonable Functions (PUFs)

## Motivating Examples

### Twitter Admits Recording Plaintext Passwords in Internal Logs, Just Like GitHub

By Catalin Cimpanu

May 3, 2018 05:19 PM 1

### List of data breaches

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

For a broader coverage related to this topic, see [Data breach](#).

This is a list of **data breaches**, using data compiled from various sources, including press reports, government news releases and mainstream news articles. The list includes those involving records, although many more smaller breaches occur continually. Breaches of large organizations where the number of records is still unknown are also listed. The various methods used to breach records were exposed as a result of data breaches.<sup>[1]</sup> [Vigilante](#) [pwn](#) lists over 2,100 websites which have had their databases breached, containing over 2 billion user entries in total.

Most breaches occur in North America. It is estimated that the average cost of a data breach will be over \$150 million by 2020, with the global annual cost forecast to be \$2.1 trillion.<sup>[1]</sup> Records were exposed as a result of data breaches.<sup>[1]</sup> [Vigilante](#) [pwn](#) lists over 2,100 websites which have had their databases breached, containing over 2 billion user entries in total.

| Entity                                                       | Year | Records       | Organization type           | Method | Sources |
|--------------------------------------------------------------|------|---------------|-----------------------------|--------|---------|
| Yahoo                                                        | 2013 | 3,000,000,000 | web                         | hacked |         |
| Yahoo                                                        | 2014 | 500,000,000   | web                         | hi     |         |
| Friend Finder Networks                                       | 2016 | 412,214,295   | web                         | pi     |         |
| Massive American business hack including 7-Eleven and Nisdaq | 2012 | 160,000,000   | financial                   | hi     |         |
| Adobe Systems                                                | 2013 | 152,000,000   | tech                        | hi     |         |
| Under Armour                                                 | 2018 | 150,000,000   | Consumer Goods              | hi     |         |
| eBay                                                         | 2014 | 145,000,000   | web                         | hi     |         |
| Equifax                                                      | 2017 | 143,000,000   | financial, credit reporting | pi     |         |
| Heartland                                                    | 2009 | 130,000,000   | financial                   | hi     |         |

### Nintendo's Switch can be hacked to run custom apps and games

A nightmare

QUICK LINKS: [Get the Switch](#) - [Reviews](#) - [Videos](#) - [Newsletters](#) - [Dark Dashboard](#) - [CSO Awards](#) - [Security Smart](#) - [Resources/White Papers](#) - [Job Search](#)

CSO

[Home](#) - [Access Control](#) - [Passwords](#)

FEATURE

### 1.4B stolen passwords are free for the taking: What we know now

hacked password breach, and others like it, are still paying dividends for criminals



### 175,000 IoT cameras can be remotely hacked thanks to flaw, says security researcher

Researchers have found that it's trivial to remotely access one brand of security camera.

By [Danny Palmer](#) | July 31, 2017 -- 08:01 GMT (17:01 BST) | Topic: [Security](#)

# Physically Unclonable Functions (PUFs)

## PUF Definition

### Definition (strong PUF)

Physical device defined by:

- Input: challenge bit-string  $C \in \{0, 1\}^n$
- Output: bit response  $\mathcal{P}(C) \in \{0, 1\}$ .

The device should **not** be **clonable** (physically and mathematically).

### Note

Real PUFs are not deterministic and subject to

- noise
- aging
- etc.

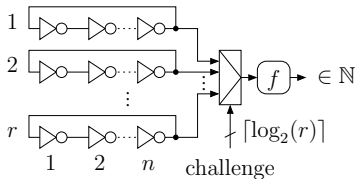
# Types of Unclonable Functions

- SRAM PUF
- Delay PUFs:
  - Arbiter PUF
  - Ring oscillator
  - RO-sum PUF
  - Loop-PUF
  - ...
- Optical PUFs
- Glitch PUF
- VIA PUF

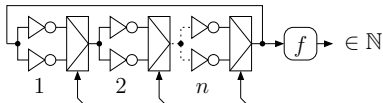
# Types of Unclonable Functions

## Zoom on Delay PUFs

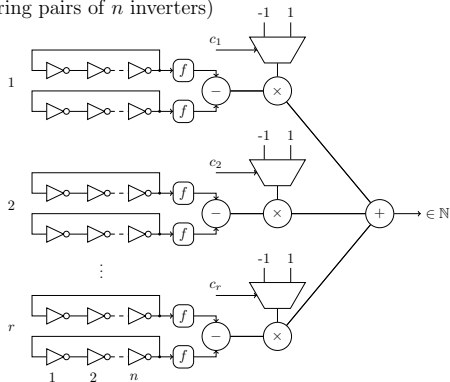
Ring-oscillator PUF  
( $r$  rings of  $n$  inverters)



Loop-PUF  
(with  $n$  inverters)



RO-sum PUF  
( $r$  ring pairs of  $n$  inverters)



## Modelisation of Delay PUFs

Ideal (noiseless) output:  $\mathcal{P}(C) = \text{sign}(\delta_C)$ .

For a PUF subject to additive noise  $Z$ :

$$\mathcal{P}(C) = \text{sign}(\delta_C + Z)$$

where:

- **Static** randomness:  $\delta_C \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \Sigma^2)$
- **Dynamic** randomness:  $Z \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma^2)$

$$SNR = \frac{\Sigma^2}{\sigma^2}$$

### Independency Hypothesis

$\mathcal{P}(C)$  independent for different challenges  $C$   
(made possible by restricting challenges).

# Reliability

## BER: Definition and Expression

### Definition

BER (bit error rate): probability that the outcome differs from the ideal output:

$$\text{BER} = \mathbb{P}_Z[\text{sign}(\delta_C + Z) \neq \text{sign}(\delta_C)]$$

Averaged over the static randomness:

$$\widehat{\text{BER}} = \mathbb{E}_{\delta_C}[\text{BER}]$$

### Theorem (Closed Form Expressions for BER)

$$\text{BER} = \frac{1}{2} \text{erfc}\left(\frac{|\delta_C|}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}\right)$$

$$\widehat{\text{BER}} = \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan\left(\frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{SNR}}}\right)$$

# BER Expression Proofs

## Proof (BER)..<

Assume  $\delta_C > 0$  (symmetrical proof for  $\delta_C < 0$ ).

$$\mathbb{P}[\delta_C + Z < 0] = \mathbb{P}[Z < -\delta_C] = \frac{1}{\sqrt{2\pi\sigma^2}} \int_{-\infty}^{-\delta_C} e^{\frac{-z^2}{2\sigma^2}} dz = \frac{1}{2} \operatorname{erfc}\left(\frac{\delta_C}{\sigma\sqrt{2}}\right) \quad \square$$

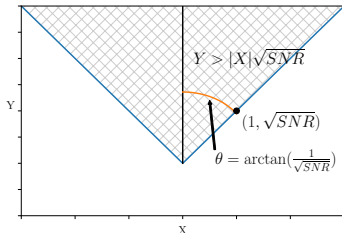
## Proof (Averaged BER)..<

$$\mathbb{P}[\operatorname{sign}(\delta_C + Z) \neq \operatorname{sign}(\delta_C)] = \mathbb{P}[Z > |\delta_C|].$$

But

$$Z > |\delta_C| \Leftrightarrow \frac{Z}{\sigma} > \frac{|\delta_C|}{\Sigma} \frac{\Sigma}{\sigma} \Leftrightarrow Y > |X| \sqrt{SNR}$$

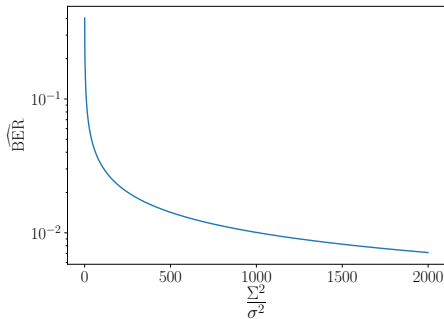
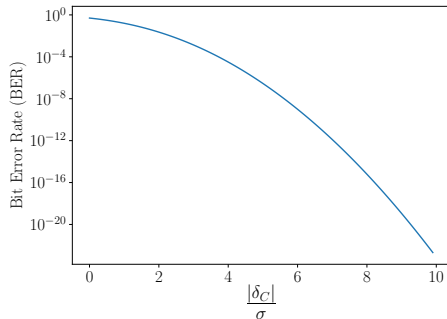
where  $X, Y \sim \mathcal{N}(0, 1)$  □





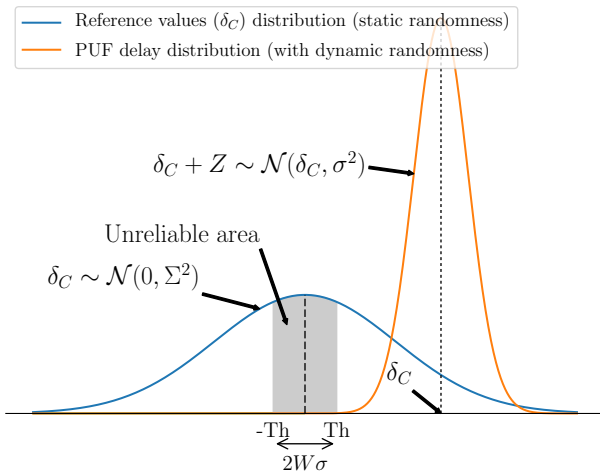
# Reliability

## Evolution of the BER



# Dynamic vs Static Randomness

## An Illustration



## Reliability Improvement : Filtering

- Discard "unstable" bits
- Unstable:  $|\delta_C| < \text{Th} = W\sigma$
- Tradeoff: improves reliability but reduces number of output bits

$$W = \text{relative threshold proportion} = \frac{\text{Th}}{\sigma}$$

# Reliability Improvement

## Closed-Form Expression for Filtered Output

Filtered BER depends on  $W$  as well as the SNR:

### Theorem (BER After Filtering)

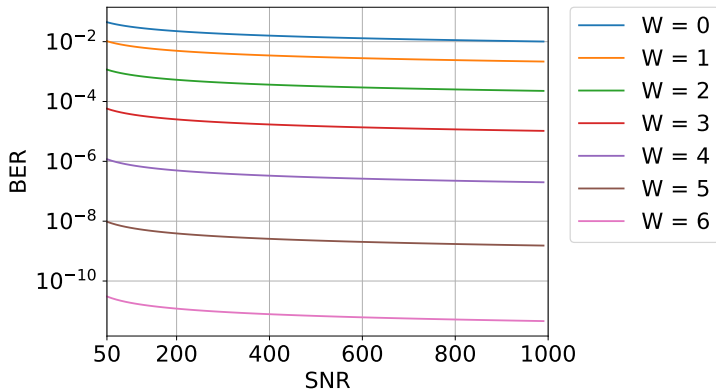
$$\widehat{\text{BER}}_{\text{filt}} = \frac{2}{\text{erfc}\left(\frac{W}{\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{\text{SNR}}}\right)} \left( T\left(W, \frac{1}{\sqrt{\text{SNR}}}\right) + \frac{1}{4} \text{erf}\left(\frac{W}{\sqrt{2} \cdot \sqrt{\text{SNR}}}\right) \left( \text{erf}\left(\frac{W}{\sqrt{2}}\right) - 1 \right) \right)$$

where  $T$  is Owen's  $T$ -function:

$$T(h, a) = \frac{1}{2\pi} \int_0^a \frac{e^{-\frac{1}{2}h^2(1+x^2)}}{1+x^2} dx.$$

# Reliability Improvement : Summary

BER as a function of  $W$  and SNR



BER mainly depends on  $W$ , less sensitive on the SNR.

# Reliability Improvements

## Entropy Loss

Assuming  $n$  independent challenge responses, entropy  $H = n$ .

After filtering, the remaining entropy is the number of "stable" bits:

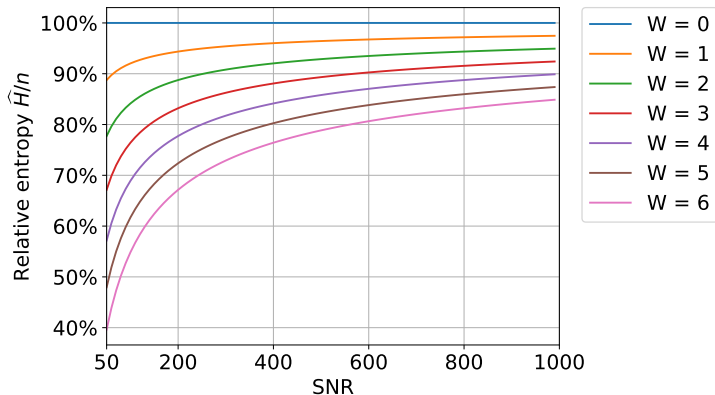
### Theorem (Entropy After Filtering)

*Average (over static randomness) entropy for  $n$  delay elements:*

$$\widehat{H(n, W)}_{SNR} = n \cdot \text{erfc}\left(\frac{W}{\sqrt{2SNR}}\right).$$

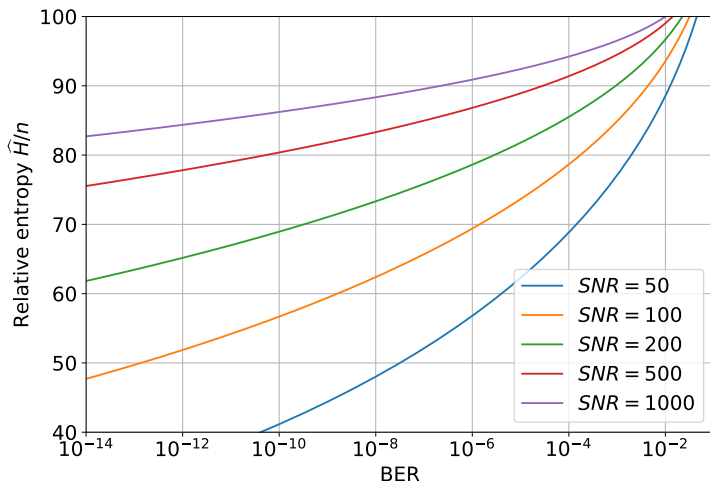
# Reliability Improvements

## Entropy Loss Figure



High number of rejected output bits for small SNR.

## Conclusion: Entropy/BER Tradeoff After Filtering





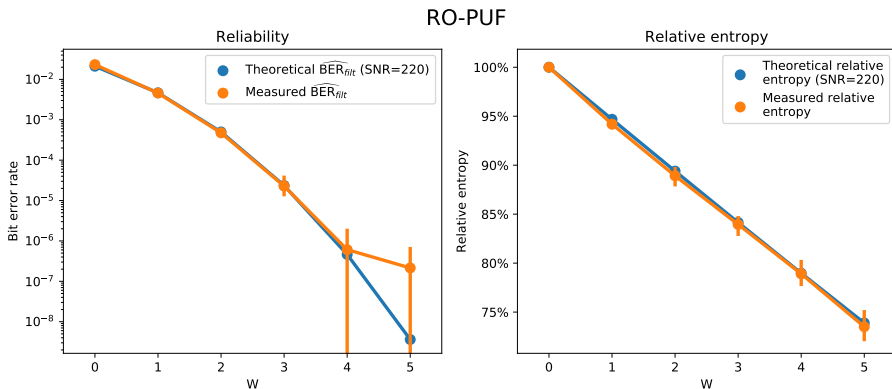
# Is Our Static/Dynamic Gaussian Model Valid ?

⇒ Experimental validation needed !

Experimental setup:

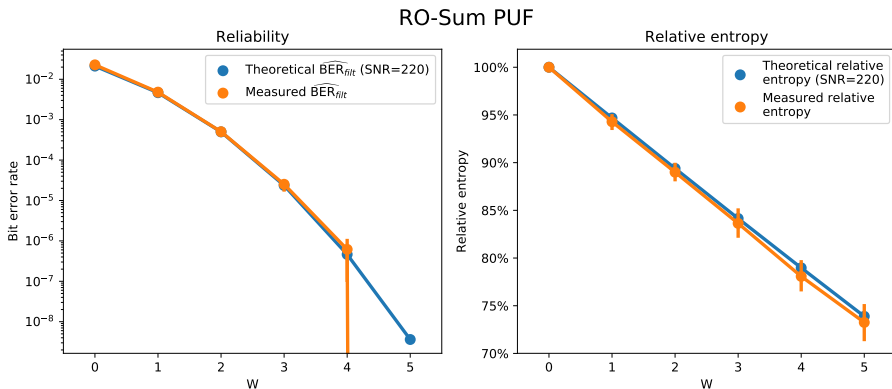
| PUF type        | Challenge restriction            | Evaluation                  |
|-----------------|----------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Ring oscillator | Pairs of independent oscillators | Difference of two delays    |
| RO-sum PUF      | Orthogonal challenges            | Sum/difference of 48 delays |
| Loop-PUF        | Orthogonal challenges            | Native PUFs                 |

# Results - Ring Oscillator PUF



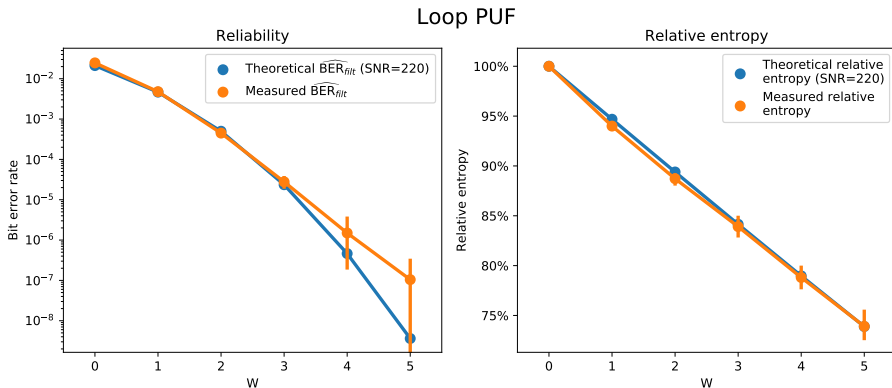
Rejected output bits as expected, too high BER.

## Results - RO-sum PUF



BER and relative entropy as expected.

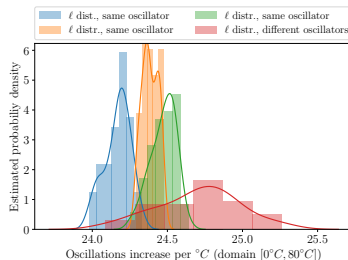
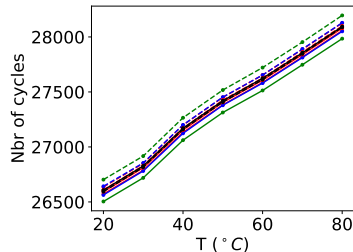
## Results - Loop PUF



Rejected output bits as expected, too high BER.

# Environmental Effects

## Temperature Dependency



Temperature dependency

Modelisation:

$$\mathcal{P}_{\theta}(C) = \delta_C + Z + \ell\theta$$

$\theta$ : temperature difference

Temperature coefficient

Modelisation:

$$\ell \sim \mathcal{N}(0, \sigma_{\theta}^2)$$

# Temperature Dependency

## Temperature-Dependent BER

### Definition

Temperature-dependent BER:

$$\widehat{BER}_\theta = \mathbb{P}[\text{sign}(\delta_C + Z + \ell\theta) \neq \text{sign}(\delta_C)]$$

### Theorem (BER Closed Form Expression)

$$\widehat{BER}_\theta = \frac{1}{\pi} \arctan\left(\frac{\sqrt{\sigma^2 + \theta^2 \sigma_\theta^2}}{\Sigma}\right)$$

For **average** BER, change in temperature equivalent to reduction in SNR.



## Wrap up

- A novel theoretical **modelization** for Delay-PUFs
- Bit **filtering**: **reliability** / **entropy** tradeoff
- Experimental **validation**
- Temperature dependency modelization



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