



A Single-Trace Fault Injection Attack on Hedged Module Lattice Digital Signature Algorithm (ML-DSA)

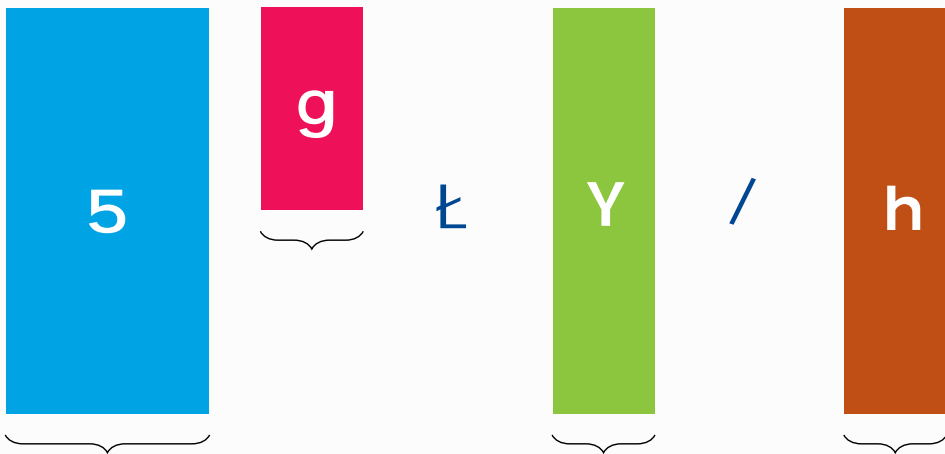
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September 4, 2024 — KTH & Ericsson Research

Post-quantum cryptography

- ⌋ Quantum computing: Shor's algorithm may break public-key cryptography
- ⌋ Post-quantum cryptography: New algorithms, secure against quantum attacks
- ⌋ NIST competition: Several algorithms currently being standardised
- ⌋ Soon widely deployed:
 - 3GPP/IETF are working on integration into 5G and internet standards
 - Required by CNSA 2.0 by 2025
 - Signature algorithms: Firmware signing, PKI

- ⌋ How can we build secure implementations?
- ⌋ How are current implementations insecure?

Learning with Errors (LWE) [Reg05]



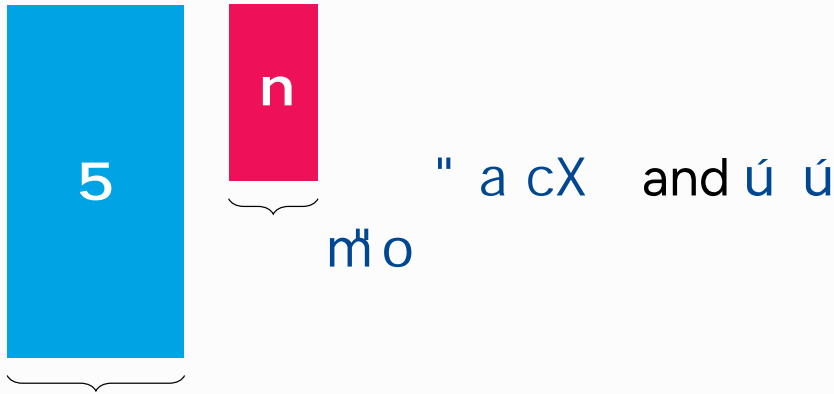
Given 5 and g :

⌋ Search: Find

⌋ Decision: Is Y random?

Hardness: Classically and quantumly NP-hard*

Short Integer Solution (SIS) [MR07]



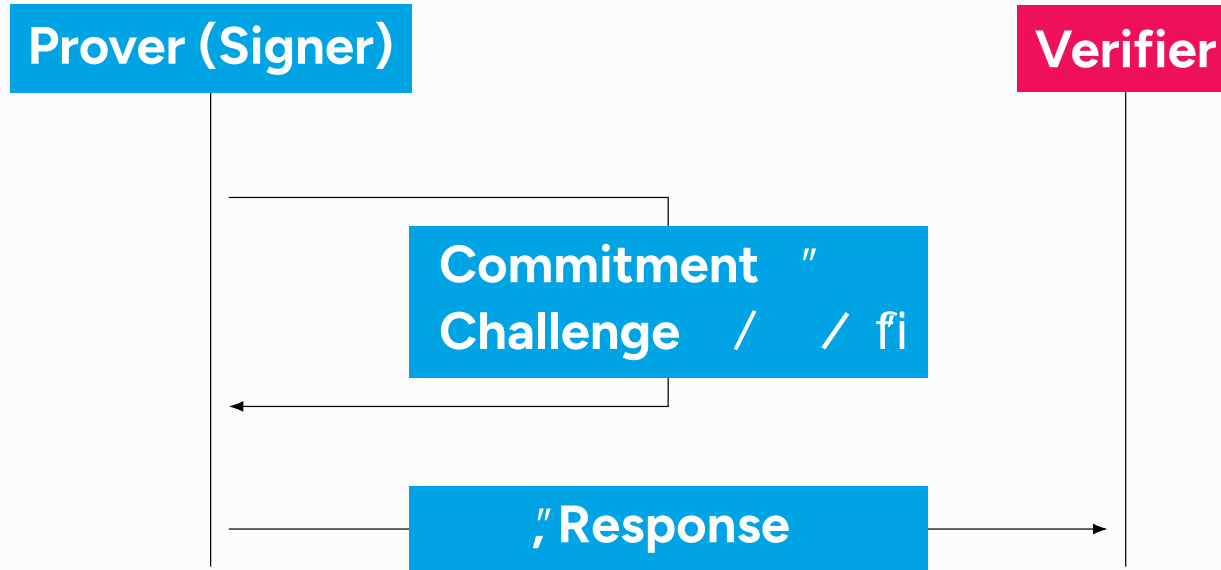
Given A and b , find

Hardness: Classically and quantumly NP-hard*

Digital signatures & Fiat-Shamir transform



Digital signatures & Fiat-Shamir transform



Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.
 Commitment (r, s) , Challenge (c, d) fi
 Responses (r, s) and (r, s) .
 Reject (r, s) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (c, d) fi Accept if (c, d) and (c, d) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.
 Commitment (r, s) , Challenge c / r fi
 Responses (r, s) and (r, s) .
 Reject r if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) fi Accept if (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) / (pk, sk) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (r, z) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.

Commitment $c = r + s \cdot m$, Challenge (c, r) if

Responses (r, z) and (r, z) .

Reject (r, z) if outside safe range and try again.

Cannot get (r, z) from (LWE)

Verification: (c, r, z) if Accept if (c, r) and (r, z) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.

Commitment (c, de) , Challenge (c, de) / (c, de) fi

Responses (c, de) and (c, de) .

Reject (c, de) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (c, de) / (c, de) / (c, de) fi Accept if (c, de) and (c, de) / (c, de) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.

Commitment $c = H(r || m)$, Challenge $z = r || m$

Responses (r, s) and (r, s) .

Reject (r, s) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (r, s) Accept if (r, s) and (r, s) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.

Commitment $C = (r, s)$, Challenge (c, τ) $\in \mathcal{R}$

Responses (r, s) and (r, s) .

Reject (r, s) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (pk, sk) $\in \mathcal{R}$ Accept if $(r, s) \in \mathcal{R}$ and $u = u \tau u$.

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

- Key generation: Secret (s, τ) , Public (pk, τ) and (σ, τ) .
- Signing: Masks (r, τ) uniformly at random.
 Commitment (c, τ) , Challenge (ρ, τ) fi
 Responses (s, τ) and (s, τ) . ← Cannot get (s, τ) from (s, τ) (LWE)
 Reject (s, τ) if outside safe range and try again.
- Verification: (σ, τ) fi Accept if (σ, τ) and (σ, τ) .

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret (sk) , Public (pk) and (σ) .

Signing: Masks (r) uniformly at random.
 Commitment (c) , Challenge (β) $\in \{0, 1\}^k$
 Responses (s) and (t) .
 Reject (s, t) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (m, σ) $\in \{0, 1\}^k$ $\in \{0, 1\}^k$ Accept if $(m, \sigma) \in \{0, 1\}^k$ and $(m, \sigma) \in \{0, 1\}^k$.

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.
 Commitment $c = H(r || m)$, Challenge $z = H(c || m)$
 Responses (r, z) and (r, z) .
 Reject (r, z) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (r, z) \in \mathcal{R} . Accept if $(r, z) \in \mathcal{R}$ and $H(r || m) = z$.

$(r, z) \in \mathcal{R}$ \wedge $H(r || m) = z$

Lattice-based digital signatures [Lyu09; Lyu12]

Key generation: Secret s , Public (pk, sk) and (pk, sk) .

Signing: Masks r uniformly at random.
 Commitment $c = H(r || m)$, Challenge $z = r || m$
 Responses (r, z) and (r, z) .
 Reject (r, z) if outside safe range and try again.

Verification: (r, z) (pk, sk) Accept if (r, z) and (r, z) .

Cannot compute (r, z) without (r, z) (SIS)

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key sk , message m

Output: Signature s

- 1: $r \leftarrow \text{Sample}_{\text{sig}}(g, g^h, \text{prng})$
- 2: $z \leftarrow \text{Hash}(m \| r)$
- 3: $s \leftarrow z$
- 4: $s \leftarrow s + r$
- 5: $s \leftarrow s + r$
- 6: $s \leftarrow s + r$
- 7: $n \setminus$

- 8: **while** $n \setminus$ **do**
- 9: $m \leftarrow \text{Sample}_{\text{sig}}(N, \text{prng})$
- 10: $s \leftarrow s + m$
- 11: $s \leftarrow s + m$
- 12: $n \leftarrow n - m$
- 13: **if** $n \leq 0$ **then** $n \leftarrow 0$
- 14: $n \leftarrow n - m$
- 15: $s \leftarrow s + m$
- 16: **return** s

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key sk , message m

Output: Signature s

```

1:  $g, g^h, h$ 
2:  $5 \cdot m \cdot g^{-1}$ 
3:  $<$ 
4:
5:  $<$ 
6:
7:  $n \setminus$ 

```

```

8: while  $n \setminus$  do
9:    $m \cdot g^{-1} \cdot N^{-1}$ 
10:   "  $5m$ 
11:    $<$  "
12:    $n \cdot m$ 
13:   if  $n$  then  $n \setminus$ 
14:
15:    $\hat{a} \cdot \hat{u} \cdot \hat{c}^{-3}$  "na cX
16: return

```

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

```

1:  $g = g^s h^m \pmod{N}$ 
2:  $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
3:  $\sigma = s + r^{-1} m \pmod{q}$ 
4:
5:
6:
7:  $\sigma$ 

```

```

8: while  $r = 0$  do
9:    $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
10:   $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
11:   $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
12:   $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
13:  if  $r = 0$  then  $r = \text{hash}(g^s h^m)$ 
14:
15:   $\sigma = s + r^{-1} m \pmod{q}$ 
16: return  $\sigma$ 

```

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: $r \leftarrow G(g, h, s^{-3} \cdot c^{-3})$
- 2: $z \leftarrow \text{hash}(m \parallel r)$
- 3: $z < n$
- 4: $z < n$
- 5: $z < n$
- 6: $z < n$
- 7: $\sigma \leftarrow (z, r)$

- 8: **while** $z \geq n$ **do**
- 9: $m \leftarrow \text{hash}(m \parallel r)$
- 10: $z \leftarrow \text{hash}(m \parallel r)$
- 11: $z < n$
- 12: $z < n$
- 13: **if** $z \geq n$ **then** $z \leftarrow n - z$
- 14: $z < n$
- 15: $\sigma \leftarrow (z, r)$
- 16: **return** σ

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

```

1:  $g = g^s h^m$ 
2:  $r = H(g)$ 
3:  $r < n$ 
4:
5:  $r < n$ 
6:
7:  $n \setminus$ 

```

```

8: while  $n \setminus$  do
9:    $m = H(m \parallel r)$ 
10:    $r = H(g)$ 
11:    $r < n$ 
12:    $n = m$ 
13:   if  $n$  then  $n \setminus$ 
14:
15:    $\sigma = H(s \parallel r \parallel m)$ 
16: return  $\sigma$ 

```

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key sk , message m

Output: Signature σ

```

1:  $g, g, h \leftarrow \text{Gen}(p, q)$ 
2:  $r \leftarrow \text{Rand}(p)$ 
3:  $z \leftarrow \text{Rand}(p)$ 
4:  $s \leftarrow (m + rz) \cdot h^{-1} \pmod{p}$ 
5:  $s < q$ 
6:  $\sigma = (r, s)$ 
7:  $n \setminus$ 

```

```

8: while  $n \setminus$  do
9:    $m \leftarrow \text{Rand}(p)$ 
10:  "  $5m$ 
11:  "  $<$  "
12:   $n \leftarrow m$ 
13:  if  $n$  then  $n \setminus$ 
14:
15:   $\sigma \leftarrow \text{Sign}(sk, m)$ 
16: return

```

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key sk , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: g, g^h, h
- 2: $5 \cdot g^m$
- 3: $<$
- 4: $<$
- 5: $<$
- 6: $<$
- 7: $n \setminus$

- 8: **while** $n \setminus$ **do**
- 9: $m \cdot g^m \cdot N^m$
- 10: $5m$
- 11: $<$
- 12: $n \cdot m$
- 13: **if** n **then** $n \setminus$
- 14: $<$
- 15: $g^m \cdot N^m \cdot n \cdot cX$
- 16: **return**

ML-DSA signing (simplified)

Input: Private key sk , message m

Output: Signature s

```

1:  $g = g^x h^y$ 
2:  $r = H(m || g^x || g^y || h^z)$ 
3:  $s = r^{-1} (m + x + y + z)$ 
4:  $s < N$ 
5:  $s < N$ 
6:  $s < N$ 
7:  $n \setminus$ 

```

```

8: while  $n \setminus$  do
9:    $m = H(m || g^x || g^y || h^z)$ 
10:   $r = H(m || g^x || g^y || h^z)$ 
11:   $s = r^{-1} (m + x + y + z)$ 
12:   $n = m$ 
13:  if  $n$  then  $n \setminus$ 
14:   $s = r^{-1} (m + x + y + z)$ 
15:   $s = r^{-1} (m + x + y + z)$ 
16: return

```




Hedged-mode ML-DSA

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: g, g, h $\text{öÖ}^3 \text{ä}^{-3}$
- 2: 5 $) \text{ë}^{\text{TM}} \text{Ü}^-$
- 3: $<$
- 4: $<$
- 5: $<$
- 6: $<$
- 7: $n \setminus$

Private random seed r used in

$$m \oplus \text{H}(r \parallel N \parallel \text{fi})$$

"Hedged" mode

Offers protection against RNG zeroisation

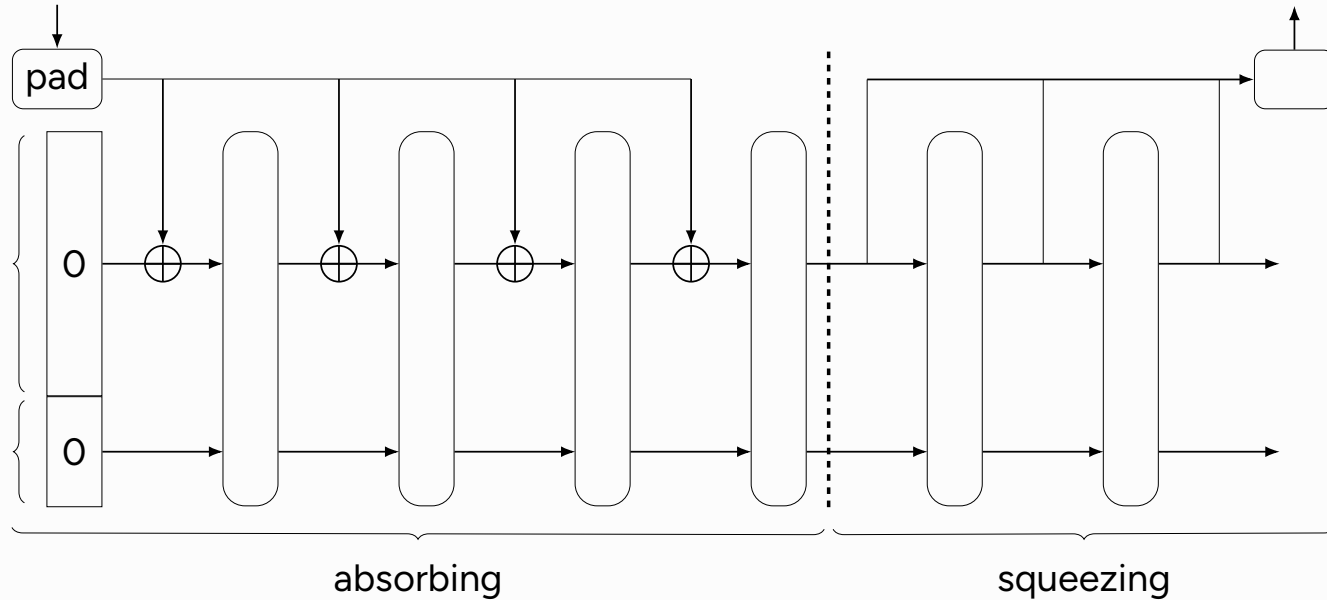
Only in ML-DSA, not in CRYSTALS-Dilithium
not well studied ...

SHAKE256

- ⌋ e**X**tendable **O**utput **F**unction (**XOF**)
- ⌋ Part of FIPS-202 (SHA-3)
- ⌋ Based on Keccak family of permutations
- ⌋ Uses sponge construction

- ⌋ Used in ML-DSA to expand seeds, hash messages and sample matrices/vectors (directly or indirectly interacts with secret keys!)

Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]

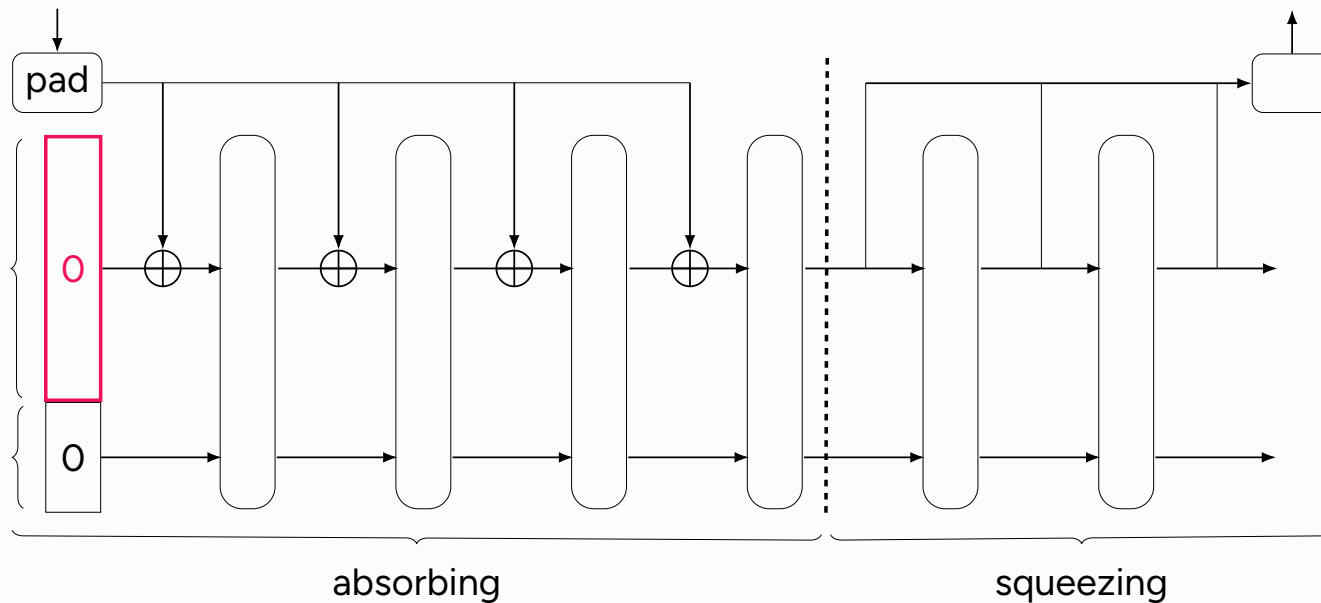
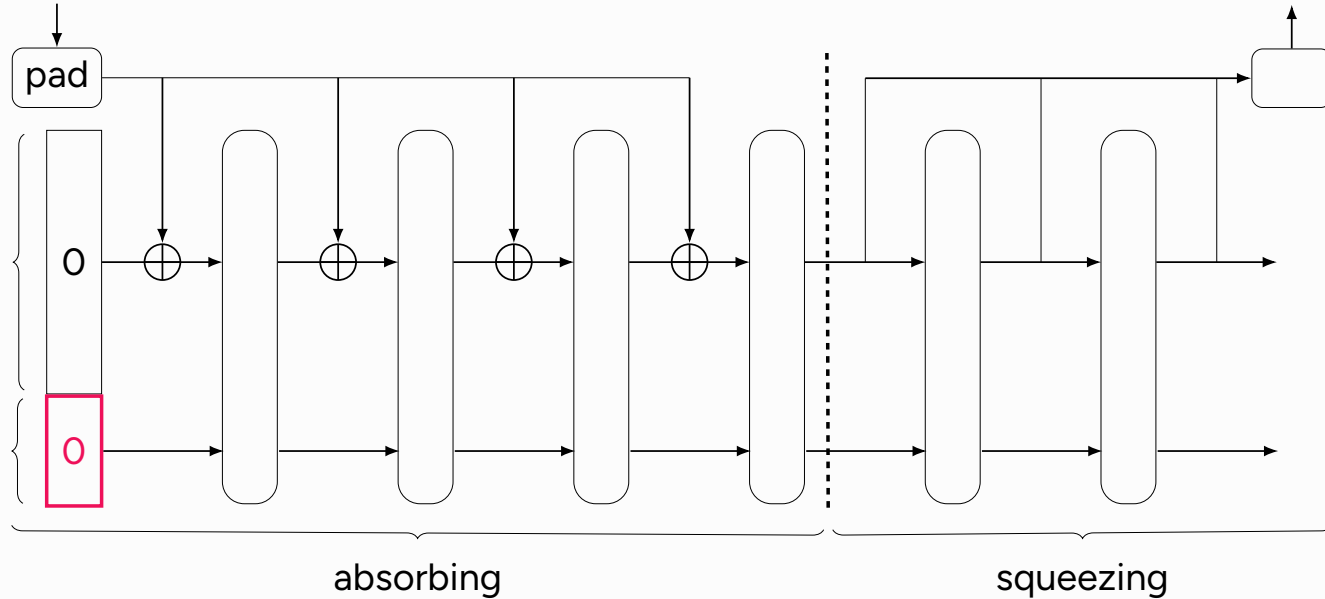
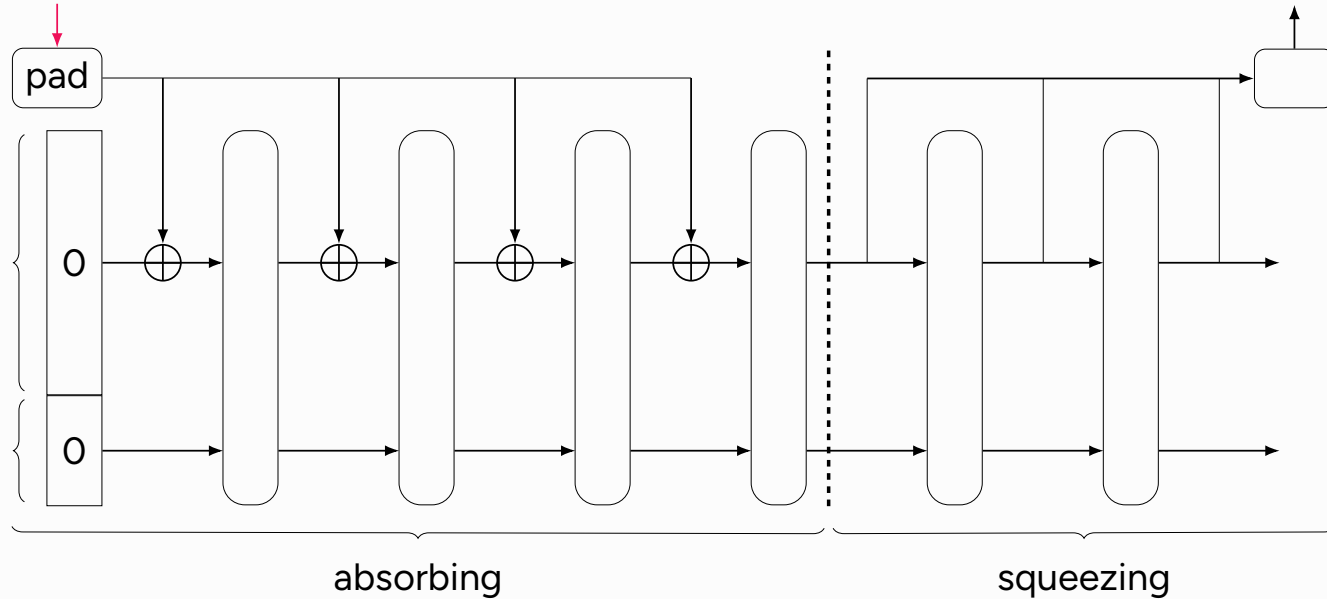


Figure adapted from [Ber+11]

Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]

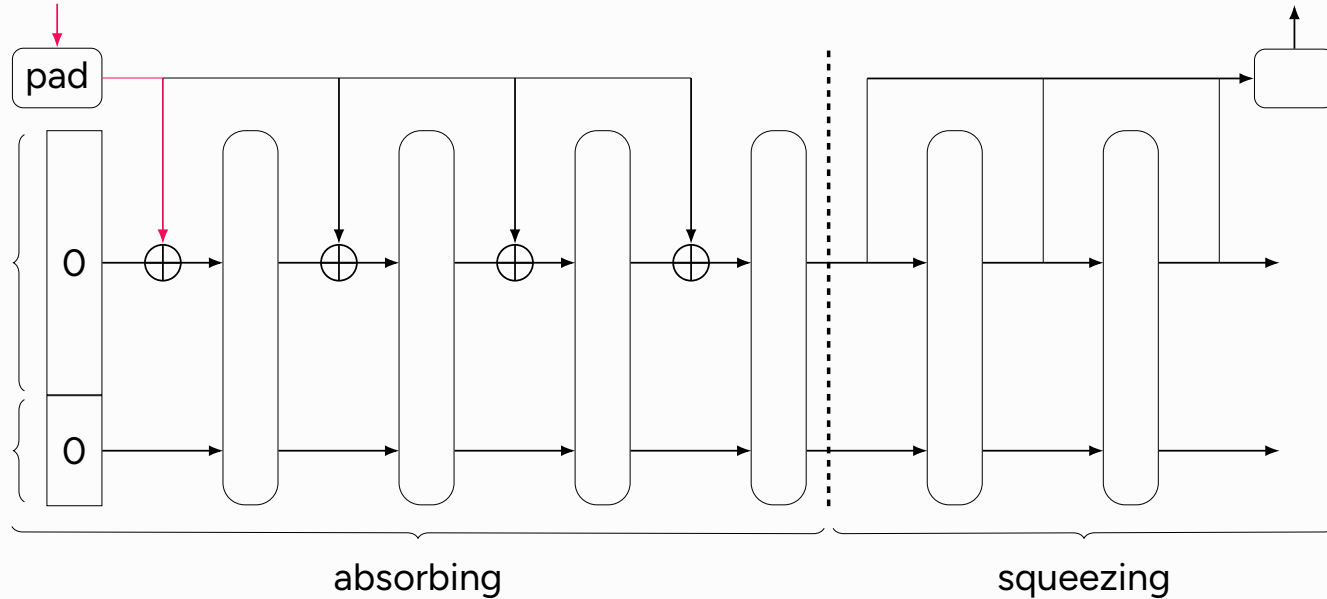


Figure adapted from [Ber+11]

Sponge constructions [Ber+11]

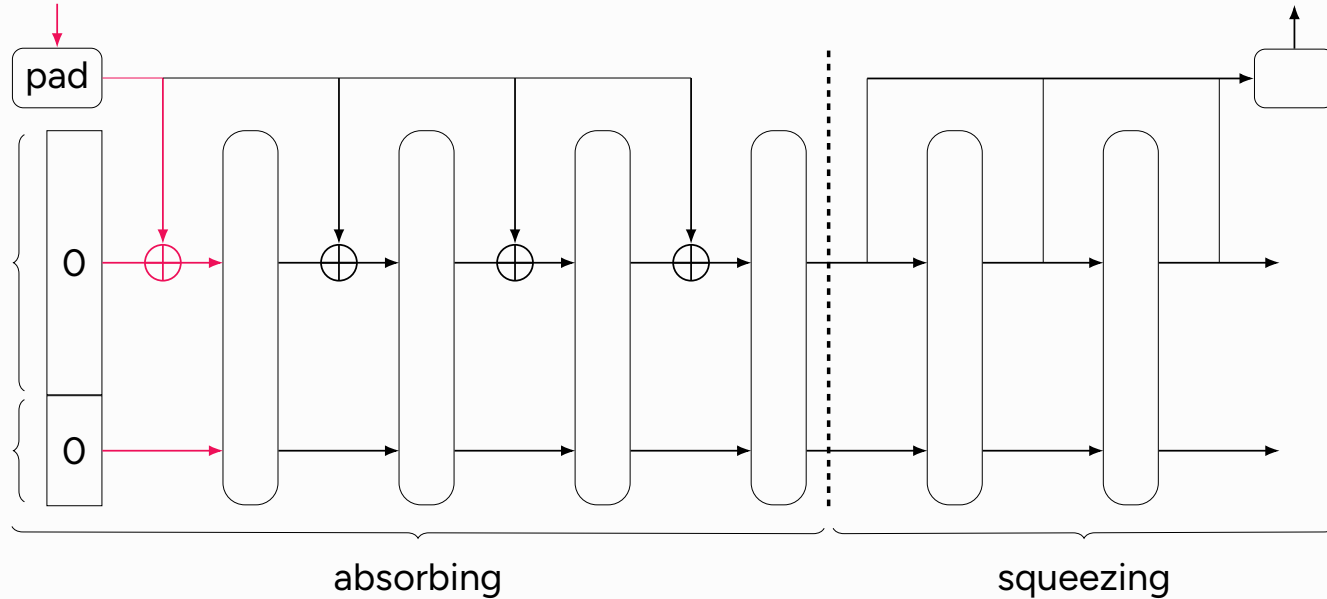
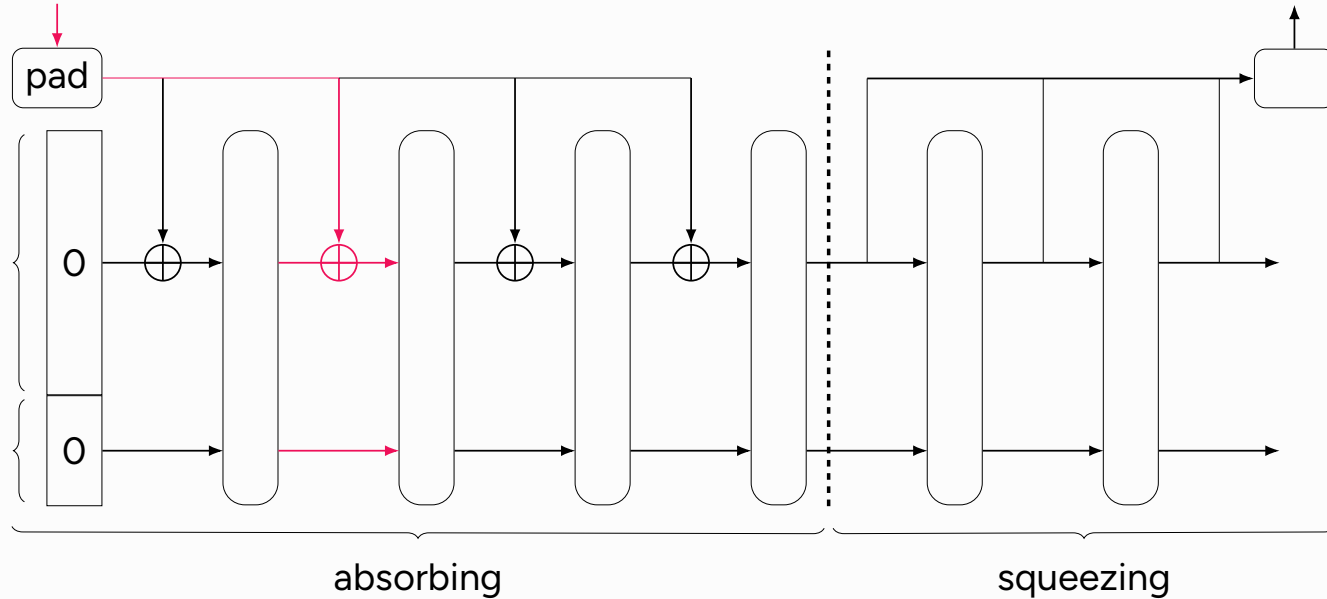
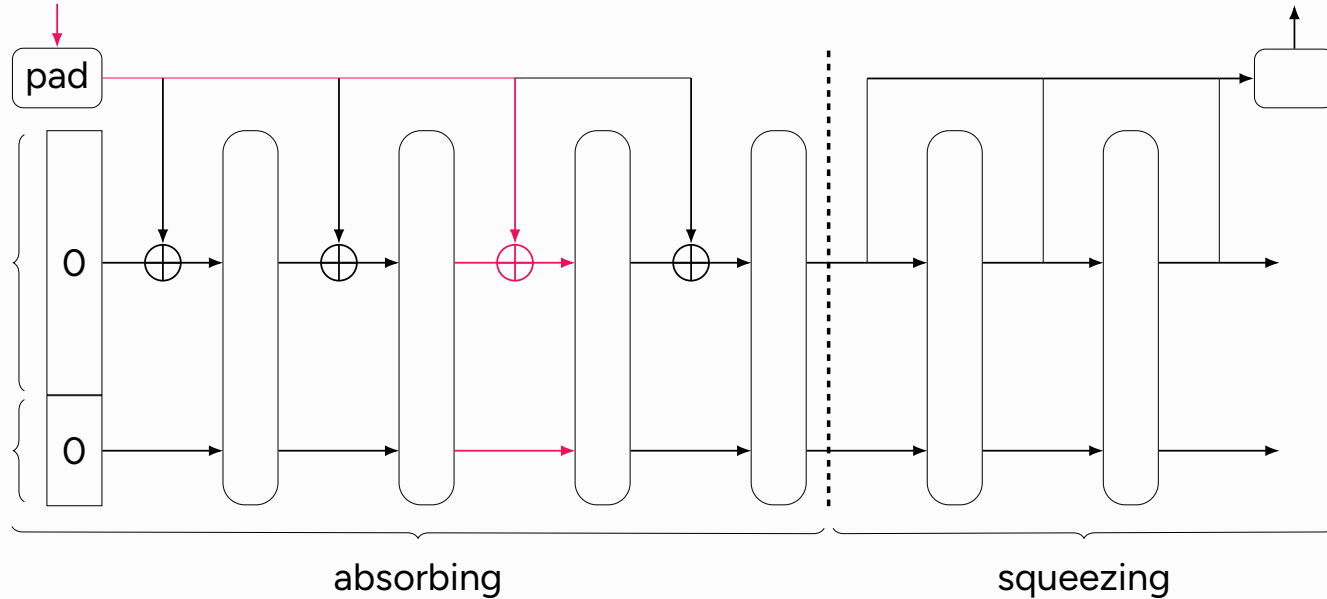


Figure adapted from [Ber+11]

Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]

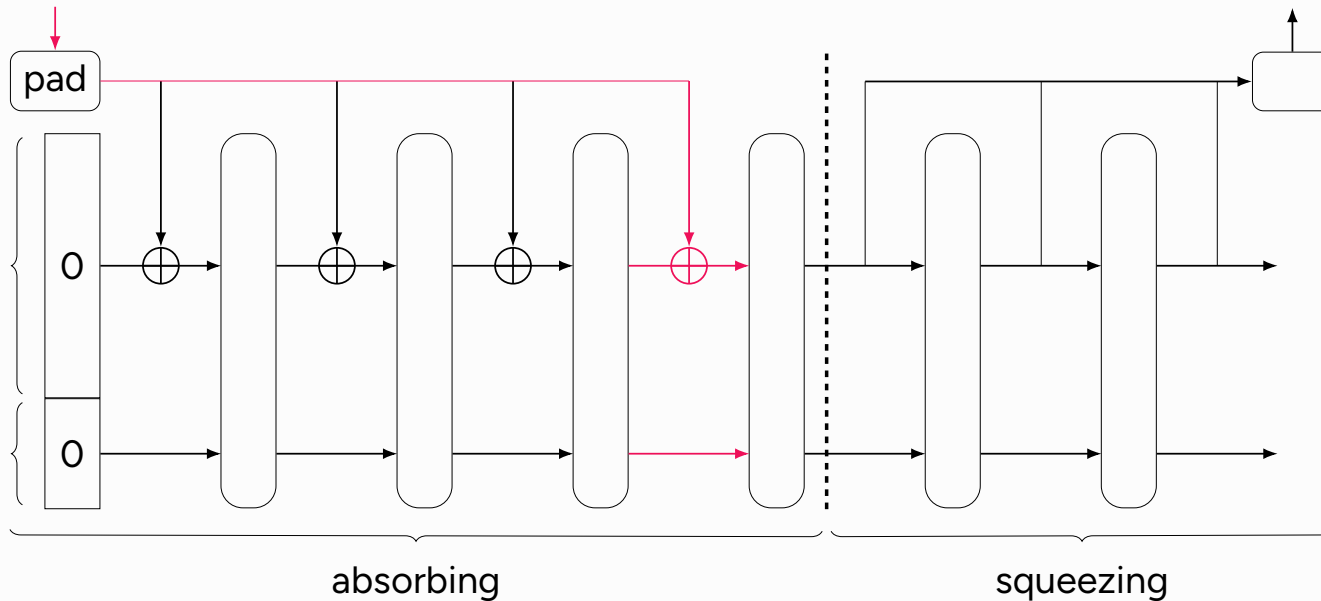
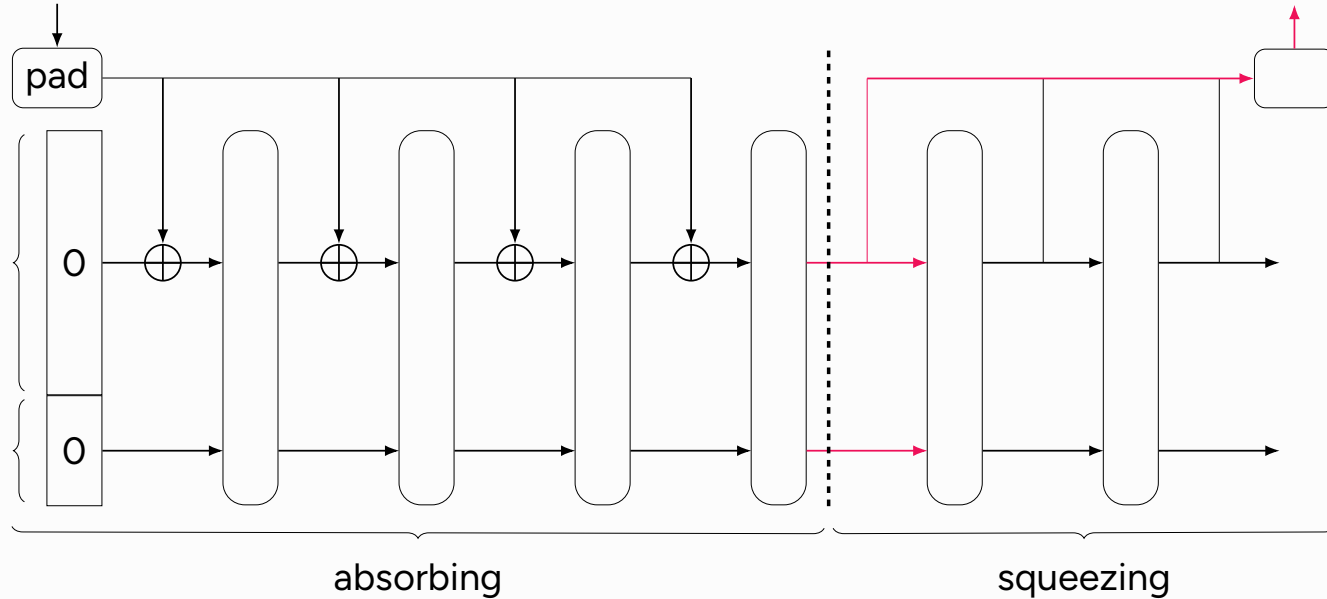
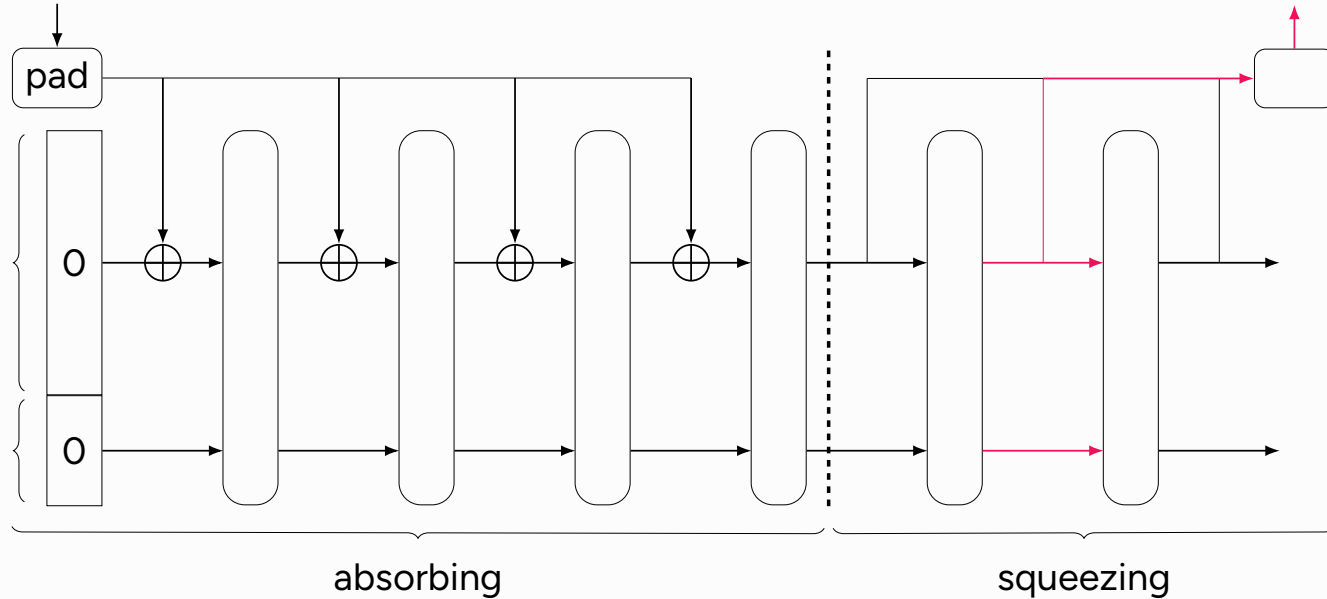


Figure adapted from [Ber+11]

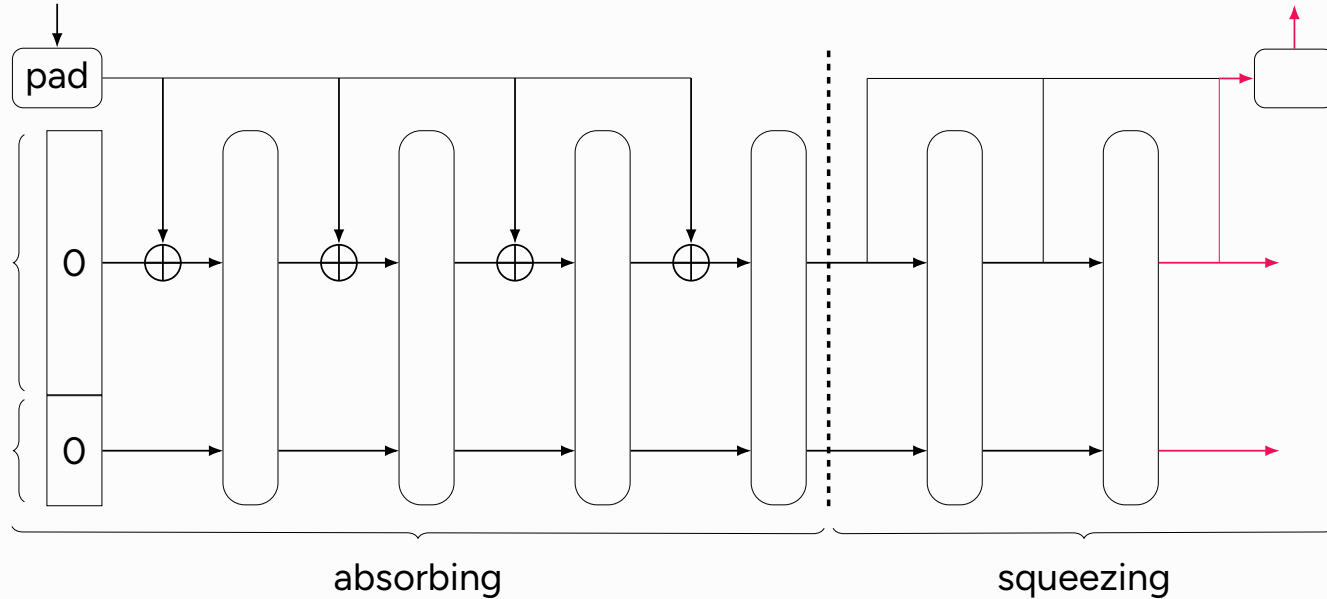
Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



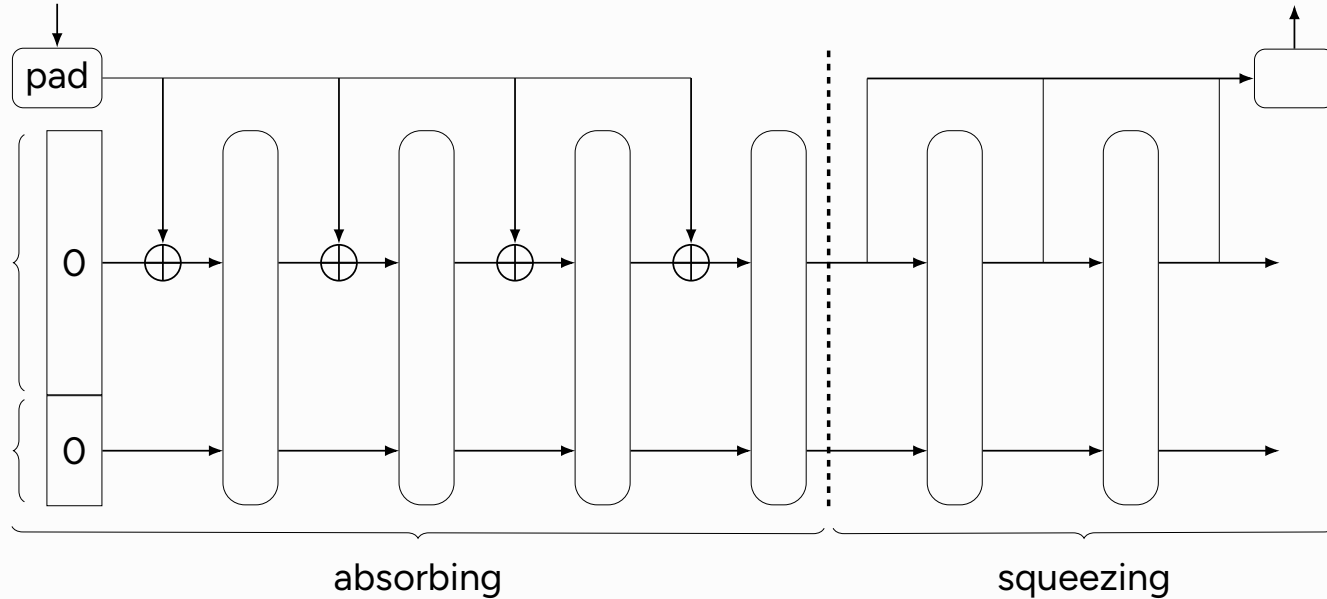
Sponge constructions [Ber+11]



Sponge constructions [Ber+11]

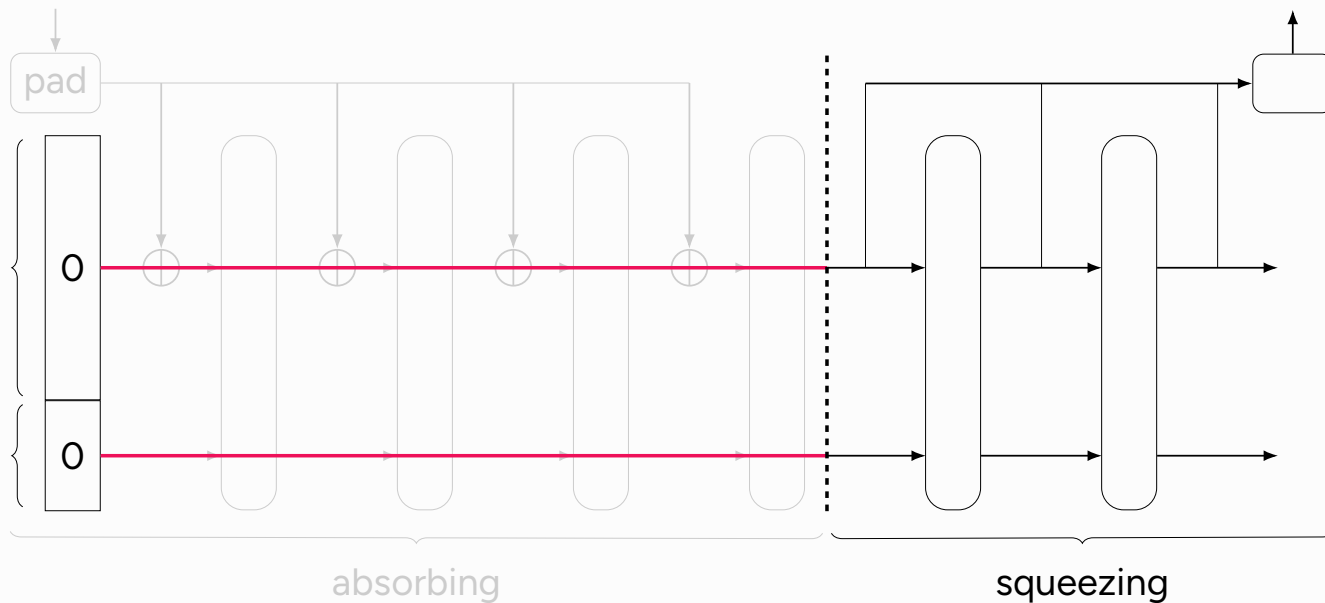


Attack: Skipping absorption



Attack: Skipping absorption

Output is constant



Key recovery from known

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: $g, g, h, \text{hash}(m)$
- 2: $s \cdot g + \text{hash}(m) \cdot h$
- 3: r
- 4: z
- 5: $r \cdot z^{-1}$
- 6: $s \cdot z^{-1}$
- 7: (r, s)

- 8: **while** $r \neq 0$ **do**
- 9: $m = \text{hash}(m \parallel r)$
- 10: $z = \text{hash}(z \parallel m)$
- 11: $r = z$
- 12: $s = s + m$
- 13: **if** $s \geq h$ **then** $s = s - h$
- 14: $(r, s) = \text{compress}(r, s)$
- 15: $(r, s) = \text{decompress}(r, s)$
- 16: **return** (r, s)

Key recovery from known

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: g, g, h $\text{à}^3 \text{c}^{-3}$
- 2: 5 $) \text{ë}^{\text{TM}} \text{U}^-$
- 3: $<$
- 4:
- 5: $<$
- 6:
- 7: $n \setminus$

- 8: **while** $n \setminus$ **do**
- 9: m $) \text{ë}^{\text{TM}} \text{U}^- N^{\text{TM}} \text{ó}$
- 10: $"$ $5m$
- 11: $<$ $"$
- 12: n m
- 13: **if** n **then** $n \setminus$
- 14: $\text{à}^3 \text{U} \text{c}^{-3}$ $"na cX$
- 15: $\text{à}^3 \text{U} \text{c}^{-3}$ $"na cX$
- 16: **return**

Key recovery from known

Input: Private key s , message m

Output: Signature σ

- 1: g, g, h $\sigma = s^3 \cdot c^3$
- 2: 5 $) \cdot e^{TMU^-}$
- 3: $<$
- 4:
- 5: $<$
- 6:
- 7: $n \setminus$

- 8: **while** $n \setminus$ **do**
- 9: m $) \cdot e^{TMU^-} \cdot N^{TM} \cdot \sigma$
- 10: $"$ $5m$
- 11: $<$ $"$
- 12: n m
- 13: **if** n **then** $n \setminus$
- 14: $\sigma = s^3 \cdot c^3$ $"na cX$
- 15: $\sigma = s^3 \cdot c^3$ $"na cX$
- 16: **return**

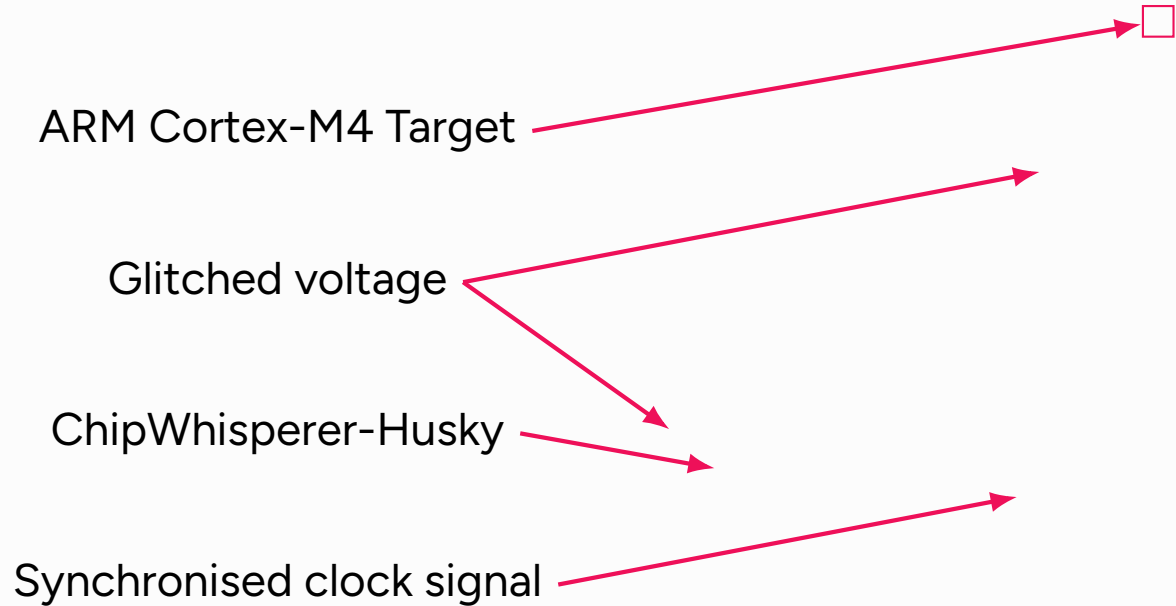


Fault injection method

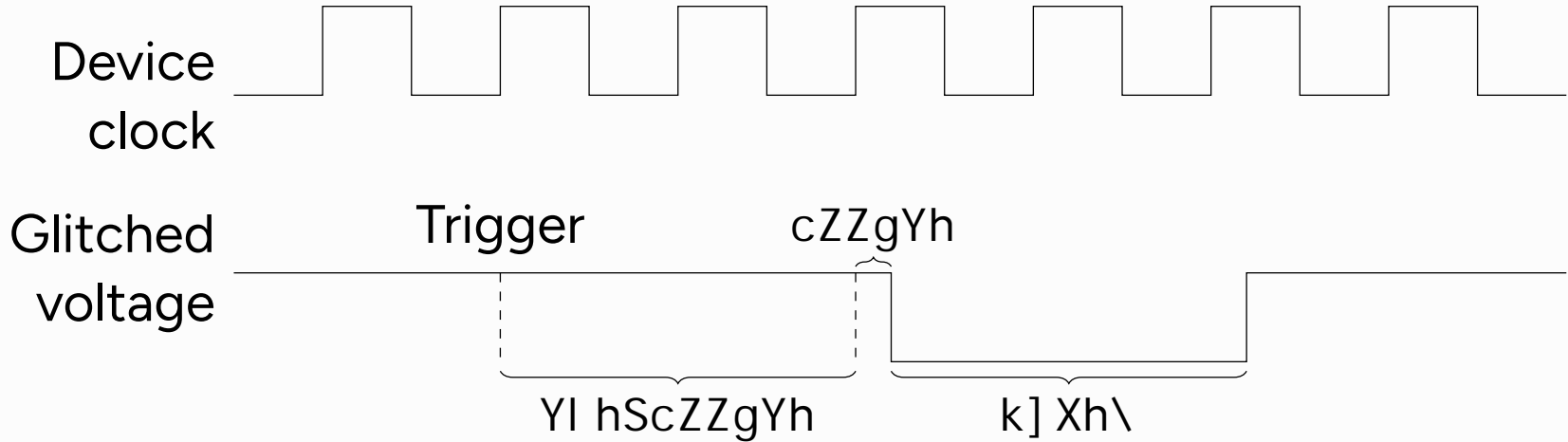
ChipWhisperer-Husky:

- ↳ Inexpensive (\$550), easy to use
- ↳ Clock glitching:
 - Inject/withhold rising edge in clock signal
- ↳ Voltage glitching:
 - Short power supply
- ↳ Requires precise timing

Fault injection method



Voltage glitching parameters



Attack: Skipping absorption

```

1 size_t _YVWU_S] bW$UVgcf Vfluuint64_t † ghUhYž size_t bž
2                               uint8_t † až size_t a`Ybł o
3 while fla`Yb Ž b 21 % *ł o
4   ?YVWU_: %* $$SGhUhYLCF6mhYgflghUhYž až bł/
5   a`Yb !1 % * ! b/
6   a Ž1 % * ! b/
7   b 1 $/
8   ?YVWU_: %* $$SGhUhYDYf ai hYflghUhYł/
9   q
10
11 ?YVWU_: %* $$SGhUhYLCF6mhYgflghUhYž až bž a`Ybł/
12 return b Ž a`Yb/
13 q

```

```

1   ""
2   acj f%ž f,
3   acj f' ž f(
4   acj f$ž f+
5   V` ?YVWU_: %* $$SGhUhYLCF6mhYg
6   `Xf f&ž Ogdž .&$, Q
7   `Xf f' ž Ogdž .&%&Q
8   ""

```

Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

- ⌋ Generic fault detection / CFI
- ⌋ Eliminate branches
- ⌋ Sample inside the rejection sampling loop
- ⌋ Include or when sampling **m**

Input: Private key , message

Output: Signature

```

1:      g g h      00%3 @a^-3
2: 5 ) e^TMU^-
3: <
4:
5: <
6:
7: n \
8: while n \ do
9:   m ) e^TMU^- N^TMO
10:  " 5m
11:   < "
12:   n m
13:   if n then n \
14:
15:   0A) U@a^-3 "na cX
16: return
  
```


Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

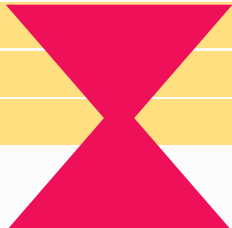
- Generic fault detection / CFI
- Eliminate branches
- Sample inside the rejection sampling loop
- Include or when sampling **m**

Input: Private key , message

Output: Signature

```

1:  g g h  00%3 0a-3
2: 5 ) e™U-
3: <
4:
5: <
6:
7: n \
8: while n \ do
9:  m ) e™U- N™00
10: " 5m
11: < "
12: n m
13: if n then n \
14:
15: 0A) U0a-3 "na cX
16: return
  
```



Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

- Generic fault detection / CFI
- Eliminate branches
- Sample `inside` inside the rejection sampling loop
- Include `or` when sampling `m`

Input: Private key `, message`

Output: Signature

```

1:      g g h      00%3 @a^-3
2: 5 ) e^TMU^-
3: <
4:
5: <
6:
7: n \
8: while n \ do
9:   m ) e^TMU^- N^TM60
10:  " 5m
11:   < "
12:  n m
13:  if n then n \
14:
15:   0A) U@a^-3 "na cX
16: return
  
```

Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

- Generic fault detection / CFI
- Eliminate branches
- Sample inside the rejection sampling loop
- Include or when sampling **m**

Input: Private key , message

Output: Signature

```

1:      g g h      00%3 @a^-3
2: 5 ) e^TMU^-
3: <
4:
5: n \
6: while n \ do
7:
8: <
9: m ) e^TMU^- N^TM0
10: " 5m
11: < "
12: n m
13: if n then n \
14:
15: 0A) U@a^-3 "na cX
16: return
  
```

Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

- ⌋ Generic fault detection / CFI
- ⌋ Eliminate branches
- ⌋ Sample inside the rejection sampling loop
- ⌋ Include or when sampling **m**

Input: Private key , message

Output: Signature

```

1:      g g h      00%3 ca- 3
2: 5 ) e^TMU-
3: <
4:
5: <
6:
7: n \
8: while n \ do
9:   m ) e^TMU- N^TM6
10:  " 5m
11:  < "
12:  n m
13:  if n then n \
14:
15:  0A) Uca- 3 "na cX
16: return
  
```

Results and countermeasures

Succeeds in a single trace with probability 52.8%

Countermeasures:

- ⌋ Generic fault detection / CFI
- ⌋ Eliminate branches
- ⌋ Sample inside the rejection sampling loop
- ⌋ Include or when sampling **m**

Input: Private key , message

Output: Signature

```

1:      g g h      00%3 ca- 3
2: 5 ) e^TMU-
3: <
4:
5: <
6:
7: n \
8: while n \ do
9:   m ) e^TMU- N^TM60
10:  " 5m
11:  < "
12:  n m
13:  if n then n \
14:
15:  0A) Uca- 3 "na cX
16: return
  
```

Conclusions & Future work

- ⌋ Point-of-failure allows trivial single trace key recovery
- ⌋ Fault injection attack makes strong assumptions:
 - Physical access, ability to precisely skip instructions
 - ChipWhisperer is idealised target
- ⌋ No hedged ML-DSA implementations yet
- ⌋ ML-DSA final standard: Init-Absorb-Squeeze now explicit
 - Implementations unlikely to provide multiple variants
 - Variable-sized hash function when only fixed-sized is required
- ⌋ SHAKE256 used in other PQC algorithms



KTH

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