# On the Impacts of Mathematical Realization over Practical Security of Leakage Resilient Cryptographic Scheme

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**Abstract.** In real world, in order to transform an abstract and generic cryptographic scheme into actual physical implementation, one usually undergoes two processes: mathematical realization at algorithmic level and physical realization at implementation level. In the former process, the abstract and generic cryptographic scheme is transformed into an exact and specific mathematical scheme, while in the latter process the output of mathematical realization is being transformed into a physical cryptographic module runs as a piece of software, or hardware, or combination of both. In black-box model (i.e. leakage-free setting), a cryptographic scheme can be mathematically realized without affecting its both theoretical security and practical security of mathematical realization as long as the mathematical components meet the required cryptographic properties. However, it is unknown that whether one can mathematically realize a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in existent ways without affecting its practical security of mathematical realization.

Our results give a negative answer to this important question by introducing attacks against several kinds of mathematical realization of a practical leakage resilient cryptographic scheme. Our results show the big gap between theoretical security of leakage resilient cryptographic scheme and practical security of mathematical realization of the same scheme. Therefore, on one hand, we suggest that all (practical) leakage resilient cryptographic schemes should at least come with a kind of mathematical realization whose practical security can be guaranteed. On the other hand, our results inspire cryptographers to design advanced leakage resilient cryptographic schemes whose practical security of mathematical realization is independent of details of the mathematical realization.

**Keywords:** Physical Attacks, Leakage Resilient Cryptography, Mathematical Realization, Physical Realization.

## 1 Introduction

Countermeasures for protecting against physical attacks (such as the most studied side-channel attacks) are taken on three levels: the software level, the hardware level, and combination of the above two levels. However, these countermeasures have many issues [2,3]. In order to solve these pressing issues, S. Dziembowski et al. firstly proposed one general and theoretical methodology called Leakage Resilient Cryptography (LRC) [2,3].

In real world, in order to transform an abstract and generic cryptographic scheme into actual physical implementation, one usually undergoes two processes: mathematical realization at algorithmic level and physical realization at implementation level. *Mathematical realization* refers to a process in which an abstract and generic cryptographic scheme is transformed into an exact and specific mathematical scheme (After this process, we say the cryptographic scheme is mathematically realized.). This means that all the cryptographic components utilized by the cryptographic scheme are instantiated with exact and specific mathematical components. For example, it is well known that a public key encryption scheme can be constructed from an arbitrary family of one-way trapdoor permutations. The implementor chooses a specific family of one-way trapdoor permutations (such as RSA trapdoor permutations or Rabin trapdoor permutations) to mathematically realize the public key encryption scheme in this process. Another example is that the implementor chooses AES-128 or 3DES to mathematically realize a cryptographic scheme which uses block ciphers as a building block. *Physical realization* refers to a subsequent process in which any exact and specific mathematical scheme (the output of mathematical realization) is transformed into a physical cryptographic module that runs as a piece of software, or hardware, or combination of both.

Both for cryptographic schemes in black-box model and leakage resilient cryptographic schemes, it has been turned out that physical security of physical realization highly depends on details of the physical realization. For example, the physical cryptanalysis results of the leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in paper [24] do not contradict its security proof and show that the tolerance leakage rate that is assumed in the theoretical security depends on details of the physical realization.

Now, let's concentrate on mathematical realization. We call a kind of mathematical realization of a cryptographic scheme in black-box model is practically secure if the adversary can not break security of the scheme (e.g. IND-CPA of a public key encryption scheme) even if the adversary knows all details of the mathematical realization. Similarly, we call a kind of mathematical realization of a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme is practically secure as long as (1) the adversary knows all details of the mathematical realization and can not get more leakage bits about all the secret states than those assumed in the theoretical security even if all internal states of all the mathematical components can be leaked to him (from efficiently computable leakage functions) but the number of total leakage bits in each invocation is less than the leakage parameter. For example, the number of leakage bits about a secret state $x$ is bounded by leakage

parameter $\lambda$ (i.e. $|f(x)| \leq \lambda$, where $f$ is the leakage function.). The adversary can not obtain more leakage bits about $x$ than $\lambda$ bits even if he can obtain at most $\lambda$ bits about all internal states of all the mathematical components. (2) the adversary can not break security of the leakage resilient cryptographic scheme.

***Motivation*** In recent years, in the field of LRC, many leakage models have been proposed. These leakage models are mainly based on two different leakage assumptions.

"*Only Computation Leaks Information*" There are some leakage models that follow the "*Only Computation Leaks Information*" axiom, which states that memory contents that are not accessed during computation, do not leak [4]. Leakage resilient stream cipher [3], practical leakage resilient PRNG [26] and leakage resilient ElGamal encryption scheme[1] follow this axiom are given out.

"*Memory Attack*" Inspired by [5], Akavia et al. [7] introduced the leakage model of "security against memory attacks" where one requires that the scheme remains secure even if the adversary obtains bounded memory leakages about the secret key. Public key encryption schemes under this assumption were introduced in [8,33]. *Continuous Memory Attack* [15,16,17] extends *Memory Attack*.

There are some other leakage models, such as *Bounded Retrieval Model* [9,10,11,12,13,14] and *Auxiliary Input Model* [27,28]. Theoretical security of a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in these leakage models holds only for side-channel attacks which ***rigorously*** fit the claimed leakage model.

In black-box model (i.e. leakage-free setting), a cryptographic scheme can be mathematically realized without affecting both its theoretical security and practical security of mathematical realization as long as all the mathematical components meet the required cryptographic properties. However, it is ***unknown*** that whether one can mathematically realize a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in existent ways without affecting its practical security of mathematical realization. No previous work has concerned on this question.

In this paper, in order to answer this important question, we will take the leakage resilient ElGamal encryption scheme instantiated over arbitrary groups of prime order $p$ (where $p-1$ is not smooth) in the paper [1][1] (i.e. scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$) as an example. The scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is constructed in a leakage model that follow the "*Only Computation Leaks Information*" axiom which is regarded as the most representative axiom according to side-channel attacks. For simplicity, we only concentrate on how to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ for scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ and ignore other abstract cryptographic components which also need to be mathematically realized. We will introduce four different kinds of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. In each mathematical real-

[1] The same leakage resilient ElGamal scheme instantiated over bilinear groups of prime order $p$ (where $p-1$ is not smooth) is leakage resilient in the generic-group model (i.e. scheme $\mathsf{BEG}^*$). However, it is very hard to implement the generic-group model in practice. This drawback of the generic-group model goes against our recommendation to at least provide mathematical realization for a cryptographic scheme. Therefore, in this paper, we consider the scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ which can be implemented in practice easily.

ization, we use generic Random Number Generator (RNG) or Pseudorandom Number Generator (PRNG) to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ (Note that, PRNG is used widely for generating random numbers in practice.). We want to see if the four kinds of mathematical realization are practically secure by attacks against them.

Note that, in this paper, we only consider mathematical realization, not physical realization. That is to say, our work is regardless of any specific physical attack against physical realization.

***Our Contributions*** Main contributions of this paper are two-folds as follows. First, our results give a negative answer to the important question that whether one can mathematically realize a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in existent ways without affecting its practical security of mathematical realization by some counterexamples. For example, our research shows that if one directly uses some PRNGs (even if international standard PRNGs) to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers for some leakage resilient cryptographic schemes, the mathematical realization will not be practically secure. Furthermore, we have analyzed drawbacks of mathematical structures of these PRNGs which cause the mathematical realization with these PRNGs becomes practically insecure. Our results show that there exists a big gap between theoretical security of leakage resilient cryptographic scheme and practical security of mathematical realization of the same scheme.

Second, for any leakage resilient cryptographic scheme, tolerance leakage rate reflects its expected security. Therefore, (accurate or rough) estimation of tolerance leakage rate of any leakage resilient cryptographic scheme does make very good sense. For each of the four kinds of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$, this paper specifies an upper bound of *practical* tolerance leakage rate that scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ can tolerate *by-product*. These upper bounds are the best known so far, even thought it might not be the tightest one.

***Organization of This Paper*** The rest of this paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, we first present some basic symbols, notations, and concepts. Then, we briefly review the scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. Section 3 introduces the four kinds of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ and their practical security. Section 4 concludes the whole paper.

## 2 Preliminaries

In this section, we first present some symbols, notations, and concepts used throughout this paper. Then, we briefly review the scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$.

### 2.1 Symbols, Notations, and Concepts

If $\mathsf{S}$ is a binary bit string, we denote the most significant $a$ bits of $\mathsf{S}$ by $\mathsf{S}^{[a]}$ and denote the least significant $b$ bits of $\mathsf{S}$ by $\mathsf{S}_{[b]}$. We denote the length of $\mathsf{S}$ by $|\mathsf{S}|$ and assume that the binary bit string representation of all elements in $\mathbb{Z}_p$ has the same length. We denote the least significant bit of $\mathsf{S}$ is the $1^{st}$ bit of $\mathsf{S}$ and

the most significant bit of $\mathsf{S}$ is the $|\mathsf{S}|^{th}$ bit of $\mathsf{S}$. We use the symbol $[\mathsf{S}]_{(i)}$ to denote the $i^{th}$ bit of $\mathsf{S}$.

### 2.2 Brief Description of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$

We describe the scheme $\mathsf{EG}^* = (\mathsf{KG}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}, \mathsf{Enc}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}, \mathsf{Dec1}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}, \mathsf{Dec2}^*_{\mathsf{EG}})$ and the corresponding security definition in the same way as that in the paper [1]. Let the security parameter of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is $\kappa$. Let $\mathsf{Gen}$ denote a probabilistic algorithm that outputs a cyclic group $\mathbb{G}$ of order $p$, where $p$ is a strong prime and $|p| = \kappa$. The scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is described as a Key Encapsulation Mechanism (KEM) and is shown as follows:

$\mathsf{KG}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}(\kappa)$: Compute $(\mathbb{G}, p) \xleftarrow{*} \mathsf{Gen}(n)$, $g \xleftarrow{*} \mathbb{G}$, $x \xleftarrow{*} \mathbb{Z}_p$, $h = g^x$. Choose random $\sigma_0 \xleftarrow{*} \mathbb{Z}^*_p$ and set $\sigma'_0 = x\sigma_0^{-1} \bmod (p)$. The public key is $pk = (\mathbb{G}, p, h)$ and the secret key is $sk = x$. Two secret states are $\sigma_0$ and $\sigma'_0$.

$\mathsf{Enc}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}(pk)$: Choose random $r \xleftarrow{*} \mathbb{Z}_p$. Let $C \leftarrow g^r \in \mathbb{G}$ and $K \leftarrow h^r \in \mathbb{G}$. The ciphertext is $C$ and the symmetric key is $K$.

$\mathsf{Dec1}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}(\sigma_{i-1}, C)$: Choose random $r_i \xleftarrow{*} \mathbb{Z}^*_p$, $\sigma_i = \sigma_{i-1} r_i \bmod (p)$, $K' = C^{\sigma_i}$, return$(r_i, K')$.

$\mathsf{Dec2}^*_{\mathsf{EG}}(\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'))$: Set $\sigma'_i = \sigma'_{i-1} r_i^{-1} \bmod (p)$, and $K = K'^{\sigma'_i}$. The symmetric key is $K$ and the updated states are $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma'_i$.

The security definition of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is CCLA1 which was introduced in the paper [1]. In CCLA1, the two leakage functions $f_i$ and $g_i$ are efficient computable functions ***adaptively*** chosen by the adversary and get as inputs only the secret states that are ***actually*** accessed during computation. The leakage functions can simulate any computation with the inputs and output any kind of leakages that might occur but the ranges of them are bounded by leakage parameter $\lambda$. For scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$, the leakage functions $f_i$ and $g_i$ are as follows:

$$\Lambda_i \leftarrow f_i(\sigma_{i-1}, r_i),\ \Lambda'_i \leftarrow g_i(\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}), \text{ and } |\Lambda_i| \leq \lambda, |\Lambda'_i| \leq \lambda.$$

Note that, when the theoretical security is considered, only $\{\sigma_{i-1}, r_i\}$ and $\{\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}\}$ are the inputs of the leakage functions. However, when the practical security (such as practical security of mathematical realization and practical security of physical realization) is considered, according to the "*Only Computation Leaks Information*" axiom, other internal states of the realization are the inputs of the leakage functions as long as they are actually accessed during computation.

Although the authors of the paper [1] didn't prove theoretical security of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ and only presented the following conjecture, the crucial technique of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ (i.e. multiplicative secret sharing) is used widely in the context of LRC [30,31,32] and scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is more practical than other leakage resilient cryptographic schemes. Therefore, we take scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ as an example.

**Conjecture 1** *The scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is CCLA1 secure if $p-1$ has a large prime factor (say, $p-1 = 2q$ for a prime $q$).*

The authors of the paper [1] conjectured that roughly $\lambda$ equals to $0.25|p|$ bits in [23]. Thus the number of total tolerance leakage bits in one decapsulation query equals to $2\lambda = 0.5|p|$ bits.

We use $\lambda/|p|$ to denote tolerance leakage rate of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ and let $\rho = \frac{|f_i|+|g_i|}{|p|}$. Any implementation of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ will be secure against every side-channel attack that fits the leakage model, i.e. as long as the amount of information that is leaked during each invocation is sufficiently bounded, and moreover the cryptographic device adheres the "*Only Computation Leaks Information*" axiom. However, the authors said ***nothing*** about how to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ for scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. Therefore, actual implementors may use True Random Number Generator (TRNG) or PRNG to mathematically realize this process.

## 3 Four Kinds of Mathematical Realization of Scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ With Generic RNG or Specific PRNG and Their Practical Security

It is well known that one can use TRNG or PRNG to generate random numbers. Although there exist some TRNGs, PRNG is used more widely than TRNG in practice. The reasons of this fact are in the following. First, TRNG requires a naturally occurring source of randomness. Designing a hardware device or software program to exploit this randomness and produce a bit sequence that is free of biases and correlations is a difficult task. Second, for most cryptographic applications, the random number generator must not be subject to observation or manipulation by an adversary. However, TRNG is subject to influence by external factors, and also to malfunction. Third, the generation of true random number is an inefficient procedure in most practical environments. Finally, it may be impractical to securely store and transmit a large number of true random bits if these are required in applications. Therefore, we mainly consider the case of utilizing PRNG to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers in this paper.

In this section, we will introduce four kinds of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. In each mathematical realization, the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized by generic RNG or specific PRNG. We want to see whether the four kinds of mathematical realization are practically secure, by presenting specific attacks against them. The goal of all our attacks is to recover the secret key $x$. To achieve this goal, our attacks need to obtain all the bits of the random number $r_i$ for each invocation of the decapsulation query of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. The adversary can recover all the bits of $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma_i'$ $(i = 0, 1, \ldots)$ and obtain a candidate value $x'$ of the real secret key $x$. The adversary can verify the correctness of $x'$ by a correct pair $(C, K)$.

In the first kind of mathematical realization, we assume the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized by generic RNG and the adversary does not know the internal mathematical structure of the generic

RNG. The attack against this kind of mathematical realization (denoted by ATTACK I) can also be viewed as an attack against theoretical security of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. ATTACK I satisfies the leakage model of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ defined in the paper [1] except that it requires a high leakage rate. Therefore, ATTACK I poses no threat on the theoretical security of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$.

In the rest three kinds of mathematical realization, we assume the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized by three specific PRNGs. For convenience, the attacks against the three kinds of mathematical realization are denoted by ATTACK II. ATTACK II have the same basic principle as ATTACK I. However, it is amazing that the results of ATTACK II show that practical tolerance leakage rate of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ will decrease dramatically when some specific PRNGs are used to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$.

In the following, we will introduce the four kinds of mathematical realization and attacks against them. Finally, we will show some discussions and results of the attacks. For both ATTACK I and ATTACK II, we assume the random number $r_i$ is generated by Algorithm 1.

**Algorithm 1** The Algorithm of Generating Random Numbers $r_i$

**Input:** no input
**Output:** a random number $r_i$
**Step 1** Invoke generic RNG or PRNG to generate a new random number $t$ and $|t| = |r_i|$.
**Step 2** If $t = 0$ then return to Step 1 else go to Step 3.
**Step 3** If $t < p$ then go to Step 4 else go to Step 5.
**Step 4** Let $r_i := t$ and return $r_i$.
**Step 5** Let $r_i := t \bmod p$ and return $r_i$.

### 3.1 Mathematical Realization Using Generic RNG

If the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized by generic RNG, we can attack this kind of mathematical realization as follows (ATTACK I):

In the $1^{st}$ invocation of decapsulation query of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$, the adversary chooses the leakage functions as follows:

$$f_1(\sigma_0, r_1) = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(1)}, r_1^{[|p|/2]} \rangle,\ g_1(\sigma_0', (r_1, K'), r_1^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma_0']_{(1)}, r_{1[|p|/2]} \rangle.$$

Now, the adversary knows $r_1$ ($r_1 := r_1^{[|p|/2]} \parallel r_{1[|p|/2]}$), $r_1^{-1}$ (Note that, the prime number $p$ is public.), $\sigma_{0[1]}$, and $\sigma'_{0[1]}$. In the $2^{nd}$ invocation of decapsulation query, the adversary chooses the leakage functions as follows:

$$f_2(\sigma_1, r_2) = \langle [\sigma_1 r_1^{-1} \bmod p]_{(2)}, r_2^{[|p|/2]} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(2)}, r_2^{[|p|/2]} \rangle,$$

$$g_2(\sigma_1', (r_2, K'), r_2^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma_1' r_1 \bmod p]_{(2)}, r_{2[|p|/2]} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0']_{(2)}, r_{2[|p|/2]} \rangle.$$

After the $2^{nd}$ invocation of decapsulation query, the adversary knows $r_1$, $r_1^{-1}$, $r_2$, $r_2^{-1}$, $\sigma_{0[2]}$, and $\sigma'_{0[2]}$. Let $R_{\{a,b\}} := \prod_{s=a}^{b} r_s \bmod p$ and $R_{\{a,b\}}^{-1} := \prod_{s=a}^{b} r_s^{-1} \bmod p$. In the $i^{th}$ $(i = 2, \ldots, |p| - 1)$ invocation of decapsulation query, the adversary chooses the leakage functions as follows:

$$f_i(\sigma_{i-1}, r_i) = \langle [\sigma_{i-1} R_{\{1,i-1\}}^{-1} \bmod p]_{(i)}, r_i^{[|p|/2]} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(i)}, r_i^{[|p|/2]} \rangle,$$

$$g_i(\sigma_{i-1}', (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma_{i-1}' R_{\{1,i-1\}} \bmod p]_{(i)}, r_{i[|p|/2]} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0']_{(i)}, r_{i[|p|/2]} \rangle.$$

In the $|p|^{th}$ invocation of decapsulation query, the adversary chooses the leakage functions as follows:

$$f_{|p|}(\sigma_{|p|-1}, r_{|p|}) = \langle [\sigma_{|p|-1} R_{\{1,|p|-1\}}^{-1} \bmod p]_{(|p|)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(|p|)} \rangle,$$

$$g_{|p|}(\sigma_{|p|-1}', (r_{|p|}, K'), r_{|p|}^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma_{|p|-1}' R_{\{1,|p|-1\}} \bmod p]_{(|p|)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0']_{(|p|)} \rangle.$$

In this way, after invoking the decapsulation query $|p|$ times, the adversary knows all the bits of $\sigma_0$ and $\sigma_0'$. Then, he can recover a candidate value $x' = \sigma_0 \sigma_0' \bmod p$ of the real secret key $x$. Then, the adversary can verify the correctness of $x'$ by a correct pair $(C, K)$. The attack process is shown in Figure 3 in Appendix B.

To successfully execute ATTACK I, the leakage parameter $\lambda$ should achieve $0.5|p| + 1$ bits, which is larger than $0.25|p|$. Therefore, ATTACK I poses no threat on the theoretical security of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$. Note that, ATTACK I can also be executed after the $i^{th}$ decapsulation query similarly. After the adversary obtaining $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma_i'$, he can recover a candidate value $x' = \sigma_i \sigma_i' \bmod p$ of the real secret key $x$.

### 3.2 Mathematical Realization Using Specific PRNG

Now, we assume that the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized by specific PRNG. According to Kerckhoffs' principle, the adversary knows concrete mathematical structure of the specific PRNG used by the mathematical realization. When the PRNG is invoked to generate a random number $r_i$ in the decapsulation query, all internal secret states of the PRNG which are actually accessed during computation can be leaked to the adversary due to the *"Only Computation Leaks Information"* axiom.

We know that if one obtains all bits of all the secret states (such as the seed) of any PRNG, he can totally recover the output of the PRNG trivially. Therefore, for ATTACK II, we ***don't*** allow the adversary to obtain all bits of all the secret states of the PRNG from leakages ***directly*** in one invocation. Specifically speaking, what the adversary can obtain from leakage functions in one invocation of decapsulation query of scheme $EG^*$ includes only *part* of bits about the secret states of the PRNG and *part* of bits about the output of the PRNG. But

the amount of leakages is bounded by $\lambda$ (the leakage parameter) bits. The central idea of ATTACK II is that the adversary tries to recover all bits of the seed of the PRNG (not from direct leakages) using the specific mathematical structure of the PRNG with at most $\lambda$ bits from leakages. In this manner, we show the impacts of mathematical realization over practical security of the leakage resilient scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$.

If the practical tolerance leakage rate of a kind of mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ can not achieve 0.25 (i.e. the theoretical tolerance leakage rate $\frac{\lambda}{|p|} = 0.25$), we say the mathematical realization is not practically secure (as the definition about practical security of mathematical realization of a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme in Section 1).

We surprisingly find that practical tolerance leakage rate of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ will reduce to a value less than 0.25 when three specific PRNGs are used to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$. Therefore, mathematical realization of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is not practically secure when the three specific PRNGs are used. The three specific PRNGs are ANSI X9.17 PRNG, ANSI X9.31 PRNG, and FIPS 186 PRNG for DSA per-message secrets. We also assume that the seed of the specific PRNG is refreshed in each invocation of the decapsulation query.

#### 3.2.1 Case 1: ANSI X9.17 PRNG and ANSI X9.31 PRNG

The ANSI X9.17 PRNG [18] has been used as a general purpose PRNG in many applications. Let $E_{key}$ (resp. $D_{key}$) denotes DES E-D-E two-key triple-encryption (resp. decryption) under a key $key$, which is generated somehow at initialization time and must be reserved exclusively used only for this generator. The $key$ is a internal secret state of the PRNG which is never changed for every invocation of the PRNG. ANSI X9.17 PRNG is shown in Algorithm 2.

**Algorithm 2** ANSI X9.17 PRNG

**Input:** a random (and secret) 64-bit seed $seed[1]$, integer $v$, and $E_{key}$.
**Output:** $v$ pseudorandom 64-bit strings (denoted by $output[1], \ldots, output[v]$).
**Step 1** For $l$ from 1 to $v$ do the following:
1.1 Compute $I_l = E_{key}(input[l])$, where $input[l]$ is a 64-bit representation of the system date/time.
1.2 $output[l] = E_{key}(I_l \bigoplus seed[l])$
1.3 $seed[l+1] = E_{key}(I_l \bigoplus output[l])$
**Step 2** Return $(output[1], output[2], \ldots, output[v])$

Suppose that each $input[l]$ $(l = 1, 2, \ldots, v)$ has 10 bits that the adversary does not know (We assume these 10 bits are the least significant 10 bits of each $input[l]$.). This is a reasonable assumption for many systems[1] [22]. Before doing

[1] For example, consider a millisecond timer, and an adversary who knows the nearest second when an output was generated.

our attack, due to the fact that *key* is never changed for every invocation of the PRNG (*stateless*), the adversary can completely obtain *key* from leakage function $f_i$ by invoking the decapsulation query repeatedly. In each invocation, the leakage function $f_i$ leaks only part of bits about *key* (not all the bits of *key*). After knowing *key* completely, the adversary continually invoke the decapsulation query for $|p|$ times. Let

$$state_{i+u} := \{output[1]_{i+u}, input[1]_{i+u[10]}, \ldots, input[v]_{i+u[10]}\}$$

and the leakage functions are defined as follows:

For $u = 1$,

$$f_{i+u}(\sigma_{i+u-1}, r_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma_i]_{(1)}, state_{i+u} \rangle,$$

$$g_{i+u}(\sigma'_{i+u-1}, (r_{i+u}, K'), r^{-1}_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma'_i]_{(1)} \rangle.$$

For $u = 2, \ldots, |p| - 1$,

$$f_{i+u}(\sigma_{i+u-1}, r_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma_{i+u-1} R^{-1}_{\{i+1,i+u-1\}} \bmod p]_{(u)}, state_{i+u} \rangle,$$

$$g_{i+u}(\sigma'_{i+u-1}, (r_{i+u}, K'), r^{-1}_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma'_{i+u-1} R_{\{i+1,i+u-1\}} \bmod p]_{(u)} \rangle.$$

For $u = |p|$,

$$f_{i+u}(\sigma_{i+u-1}, r_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma_{i+u-1} R^{-1}_{\{i+1,i+u-1\}} \bmod p]_{(|p|)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_i]_{(|p|)} \rangle$$

$$g_{i+u}(\sigma'_{i+u-1}, (r_{i+u}, K'), r^{-1}_{i+u}) = \langle [\sigma'_{i+u-1} R_{\{i+1,i+u-1\}} \bmod p]_{(|p|)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma'_i]_{(|p|)} \rangle.$$

The adversary obtains

$$\{output[1]_{i+u}, input[1]_{i+u}, \ldots, input[v]_{i+u}\}, \ (u = 1, \ldots, |p| - 1)$$

and he can further compute

$$seed[1]_{i+u} := D_{key}(output[1]_{i+u}) \oplus E_{key}(input[1]_{i+u}).$$

Then the adversary can easily get

$$seed[s]_{i+u} := E_{key}(E_{key}(input[s-1]_{i+u}) \oplus output[s-1]_{i+u})$$

as well as

$$output[s]_{i+u} := E_{key}(E_{key}(input[s]_{i+u}) \oplus seed[s]_{i+u}), \ (s = 2, 3, \ldots, v).$$

Thus the adversary obtain all the bits of $r_i$ for every decapsulation query. Figure 1, Figure 2 and Table A.1 in Appendix A show that scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is not practically secure any more, if it uses ANSI X9.17 PRNG for strong prime $p$ with size larger than 700 bits. Note that ANSI X9.31-1998 Appendix A 2.4 in [21] introduces PRNGs using 3-key triple DES or AES. In 3-key triple DES case, due to the fact that $input[l]$, $seed[l]$ and $output[l]$ have the same length as that of ANSI X9.17 PRNG, we can obtain the same attack results as those of the attack against ANSI X9.17 PRNG. Our attack is still valid for this PRNG using AES-128 similarly. Therefore, we do not introduce the attack against this PRNG for AES-128 case here. Figure 1, Figure 2 and Table A.2 in Appendix A show that scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is not practically secure any more, if it uses ANSI X9.31 PRNG Using AES-128 for strong prime $p$ with size larger than 756 bits.

***Analysis*** Although this PRNG is not secure even in leakage-free setting if the adversary knows the *key*, what we want to emphasize here is drawbacks of the mathematical structure of this PRNG. The drawbacks make this PRNG become insecure in leakage setting. The designers of the two PRNGs exploit block ciphers (such as DES, 3DES, and AES-128) to mathematically realize an abstract One-Way Permutations (OWP). The PRNG (ANSI X9.17 PRNG or ANSI X9.31 PRNG) itself can compute the output of the OWP because it knows the key of the block cipher. In leakage-free setting, if the adversary does not know the key, he can not recover the input of the block cipher (the seed of the PRNG) and the "One-Way" property holds. However, in leakage setting, the adversary can obtain *key* completely from leakages because it is ***stateless***. This means that the One-Way Permutation becomes to a One-Way Trapdoor Permutation and the adversary knows the trapdoor (i.e. the ***stateless*** key) from leakages. Therefore, the "One-Way" property does not hold.

Due to the drawbacks, we think possible solutions which can make this attack become invalid are as follows: *Solution 1* Using advanced mathematical components to mathematically realize the abstract OWP to guarantee the "One-Way" property in leakage setting. *Solution 2* To make the key *key* become *stateful* may be another solution. This means that the implementor needs to refresh the key and to guarantee the adversary can not obtain the key completely in every invocation of the PRNG.

#### 3.2.2 Case 2: FIPS 186 PRNG for DSA Pre-message Secrets

The Digital Signature Standard (DSS) specification (FIPS 186) [19] also describes a fairly simple PRNG based on SHA or DES, which is used for generating DSA per-message secrets. This PRNG is shown in Algorithm 3.

For general purpose PRNG, *mod q* operation in this PRNG could be omitted. It is necessary only for DSS where all arithmetic is done *mod q*. In this paper, we only consider the DES version of this PRNG, where the $G$ function is based on DES. Therefore, the seed (as well as the output) of this PRNG is 160 bits long. We show the attack against this PRNG when $|p| = 964$ bits as an example. To generate a 964 bits long random number, one needs to invoke this PRNG 7

**Algorithm 3** FIPS 186 PRNG for DSA pre-message secrets

**Input:** an integer $v$ and a 160-bit prime number $q$.
**Output:** $v$ pseudorandom numbers $output[1], \ldots, output[v]$ in the interval $[0, q-1]$, which may be used as the per-message secret numbers in the DSA.

**Step 1** If the SHA based $G$ function is to be used in step 4.1 then select an integer $160 \leq b \leq 512$. If the DES based $G$ function is to be used in step 4.1 then set $b \leftarrow 160$.
**Step 2** Generate a random (and secret) $b$-bit seed $seed[1]$.
**Step 3** Define the 160-bit string $str = efcdab89\ \ 98badcfe\ \ 10325476\ \ c3d2e1f0\ \ 67452301$ (in hexadecimal).
**Step 4** For $l$ from 1 to $v$ do the following:
4.1 $output[l] \leftarrow G(str, seed[l]) \mod (q)$.
4.2 $seed[l+1] \leftarrow (1 + seed[l] + output[l]) \mod (2^b)$.
**Step 5** Return $(output[1], output[2], \ldots, output[v])$.

times ($v = 7$) iteratively to obtain a 1120 bits long random number and discards $output[v]_{[156]}$. Let

$$state_i = \{output[1]_i^{[40]}, output[2]_i^{[30]}, output[3]_i^{[20]},$$

$$output[4]_i^{[10]}, output[5]_i^{[10]}, output[6]_i^{[6]}, output[7]_i^{[4]}\}.$$

The leakage functions are as follows:

For $i = 1$,

$$f_i(\sigma_{i-1}, r_i) = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(1)}, seed[1]_i^{[120]}, state_i \rangle,$$

$$g_i(\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma'_0]_{(1)} \rangle.$$

For $i = 2, \ldots, |p| - 1$,

$$f_i(\sigma_{i-1}, r_i) = \langle [\sigma_{i-1} R^{-1}_{\{1,i-1\}} \bmod p]_{(i)}, seed[1]_i^{[120]}, state_i \rangle,$$

$$g_i(\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma'_{i-1} R_{\{1,i-1\}} \bmod p]_{(i)} \rangle.$$

For $i = |p|$,

$$f_i(\sigma_{i-1}, r_i) = \langle [\sigma_{i-1} R^{-1}_{\{1,i-1\}} \bmod p]_{(i)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma_0]_{(|p|)} \rangle,$$

$$g_i(\sigma'_{i-1}, (r_i, K'), r_i^{-1}) = \langle [\sigma'_{i-1} R_{\{1,i-1\}} \bmod p]_{(i)} \rangle = \langle [\sigma'_0]_{(|p|)} \rangle.$$

After the adversary getting the most significant 120 bits of the seed (i.e. $seed[1]_i^{[120]}$ $(i = 1, 2, \ldots, |p|-1)$) from leakages, he could compute all the possible values of the least significant 40 bits of $seed[1]_i$ (i.e. $seed[1]_{i[40]}$) and gets $2^{40}$ candidate values of $seed[1]_i$. Denote a candidate value by $seed[1]'_i$. For each $seed[1]'_i$, the adversary computes

$$state'_i = \{output[1]'^{[40]}_i, output[2]'^{[30]}_i, output[3]'^{[20]}_i,$$

$$output[4]'^{[10]}_i, output[5]'^{[10]}_i, output[6]'^{[6]}_i, output[7]'^{[4]}_i\}.$$

using $seed[1]'_i$ and test the correctness of this candidate value $seed[1]'_i$ using $state_i$ obtained from leakages. For the correct candidate value $seed[1]'_i$ (i.e. $seed[1]_i$), $state'_i$ must equal to $state_i$. This test fails with extremely low probability. For larger size $p$, the adversary also obtain $seed[1]^{[120]}_i$ from leakages. The number of total leakage bits about the output of the PRNG keeps 120 bits unchanged but the distribution of the leakage bits is changed. For every output block $output[l]$ $(l = 1, 2, \ldots, v)$, the adversary must obtain some bits about it from leakages (In other words, there does not exist a block of the output of the PRNG ($output[l]$,$l \in \{1, 2, \ldots, v\}$) such that no bit of the block leaks.).

We verified this attack by experiments for different size $p$. For each size of $|p| \in \{1120, 1280, 1440, 1600\}$ bits, we generated 500 sets of random data and ran the above test with the 500 sets of random data. The success rates of all experiments were 100%. Therefore, our attack is valid. Giving out theoretical success rate of this attack would be interesting but is beyond the scope of this paper. Figure 1, Figure 2 and Table A.3 in Appendix A show that the scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ is not practically secure any more, if it uses this PRNG for strong prime $p$ with size larger than 964 bits.

***Analysis*** It is well known that one bit difference in the input of $G$ function will cause many bits difference in the output of $G$ function. Moreover, this PRNG is invoked ***iteratively*** to generate random numbers. These drawbacks make our attack become valid.

### 3.3 Discussions and The Results of Our Attacks

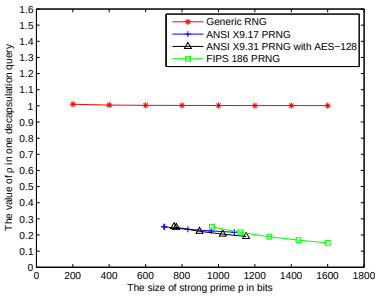


**Fig. 1.** Minimum $\rho$ required to successfully recover $x$ for different kinds of mathematical realization

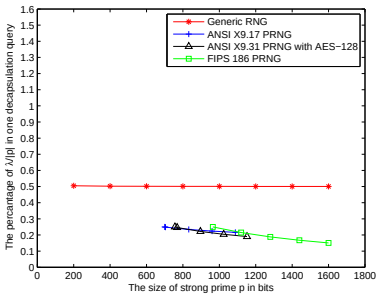


**Fig. 2.** Minimum $\lambda/|p|$ required to successfully recover $x$ for different kinds of mathematical realization

Figure 1. shows the minimum $\rho$ required to successfully recover $x$ for different kinds of mathematical realization. Figure 2. shows the minimum $\lambda/|p|$ required to successfully recover $x$ for different kinds of mathematical realization. According to [29], for long-term security, 1024-bit or larger modulus should be used. Therefore, we can see that if scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ uses the above-mentioned four PRNGs to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$, the scheme will not be practically secure any more. Although practical tolerance leakage rate can be made arbitrarily small for Case 2 with increase of the size of $p$, the success of *all* our attacks against these PRNGs is not depend on the size of $p$ but is depend on the mathematical structures of these PRNGs.

The authors of the paper [1] conjectured that theoretical tolerance leakage rate $\lambda$ of scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ equals to $0.25|p|$. If the actual value of $\lambda > 0.25|p|$, all our attacks are valid. Otherwise, if the actual value of $\lambda < 0.25 \cdot |p|$, some attacks against these PRNGs *may* become invalid. However, there still exist some kinds of mathematical realization which are not practically secure. For example, for large size $p$, the attacks against FIPS 168 PRNG is still valid.

In paper [26], a practical leakage resilient PRNG in the standard model was introduced. This leakage resilient PRNG is based on $(\epsilon, s, n/\epsilon)-$secure weak Pseudorandom Function (wPRF) $\mathsf{F}(k, pr) : \{0,1\}^\kappa \times \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}^m$. The symbol $pr$ denotes public randomness. The initial state of this PRNG is $(pr_0, pr_1, k_0)$ for public randomness $(pr_0, pr_1) \xleftarrow{*} (\{0,1\}^n)^2$ and the random seed $k_0 \xleftarrow{*} \{0,1\}^\kappa$. This leakage resilient PRNG can be instantiated with any length-expanding wPRF ($m > \kappa$), which in turn can be mathematically realized from any secure block cipher $\mathsf{BC} : \{0,1\}^\kappa \times \{0,1\}^n \to \{0,1\}^\kappa$. That is, if $\mathsf{BC}$ is an $(\epsilon, s, 2q)-$secure wPRF, then $\mathsf{F}(k, pr_l \parallel pr_r) = \mathsf{BC}_k(pr_l) \parallel \mathsf{BC}_k(pr_r)$ is an $(\epsilon, s, q)-$secure wPRF.

Note that, the amount of leakages this PRNG can tolerate (denoted by $\lambda_{\mathsf{prng}}$) equals to $log(\epsilon^{-1})/6$ and depends on the hardness of the underlying wPRF $\mathsf{F}$ [20]. Thus, if $\mathsf{F}$ is secure against adversaries of super-polynomial size (i.e. $\epsilon = 2^{\omega(log\kappa)}$), then the amount of leakages $\lambda_{\mathsf{prng}}$ equals to $\omega(log\kappa)$, which is quite small. If $\lambda = 0.25|p| \leq \lambda_{\mathsf{prng}}$, the size of the seed $k_0$ (i.e. $\kappa$) should be much larger than $|p|$. What's worse, even if the wPRF $\mathsf{F}$ is exponentially hard (i.e. $\epsilon = 2^{-\Omega(\kappa)}$), $\epsilon = 2^{-a\kappa}$ ($a \in (0,1]$) and $\lambda_{\mathsf{prng}} = a\kappa/6$. This PRNG is leakage resilient if and only if $\kappa \geq 1.5|p|$ ($\lambda = 0.25|p| \leq \lambda_{\mathsf{prng}}$). For large size $p$, a secure block cipher with $1.5|p|$ bits long key size is unrealistic. Therefore, this leakage resilient PRNG is not suitable to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ for scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$.

The process of generating random numbers $r_i$ for scheme $\mathsf{EG}^*$ can also be mathematically realized by TRNGs or other PRNGs. However, it is very difficult to guarantee the mathematical realization using TRNGs or other PRNGs is practically secure in provable security way when the actual value of $\lambda < 0.25|p|$. Therefore, an existent way to mathematically realize the process of generating random numbers for a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme will make the corresponding mathematical realization become practically insecure with high probability.

Note that, the secret key $x$ can also be recovered with an attack method based on Hidden Number Problem [23,25] with lower theoretical tolerance leakage rate (i.e. $\frac{3}{8}|p| + o(|p|)$) than that of ATTACK I. However, practical tolerance leakage rate of this attack method (also equals to $\frac{3}{8}|p| + o(|p|)$) is higher than that of ATTACK II when only the process of generating random numbers $r_i$ is mathematically realized with PRNGs because this attack method requires leakages from $\sigma_i$ and $\sigma_i'$ but does not require leakages from $r_i$.

If we set $t$ to $r_i$ in Algorithm 1 directly, our attacks can work with much less practical tolerance leakage rate. The reason is that the bits about $t$ (the output of the PRNG) needed by the attacks can be leaked from leakage function $g_i$.

## 4 Conclusions and Future Work

Our results show that there exists a big gap between theoretical security of leakage resilient cryptographic scheme and practical security of mathematical realization of the same scheme. A leakage resilient cryptographic scheme may not be practically secure when it is mathematically realized in existent ways even if its theoretical security still holds.

It is well known that specifying all details of implementation in a leakage model is tedious. Moreover, it is not clear if it is feasible at all to prove anything without assuming some kind of bounded leakages at higher abstraction level (like mathematical realization at algorithmic level). For example, the paper [6] shows that it is very difficult to state assumptions at logic gate level. So, even from the practical point of view, working at mathematical realization at algorithmic level seems appealing. Therefore, we suggest that all (practical) leakage resilient cryptographic schemes should at least come with a kind of mathematical realization whose practical security can be guaranteed. Our results also inspire cryptographers to design advanced leakage resilient cryptographic schemes whose practical security of mathematical realization is independent of specific details of mathematical realization.

In this paper, we only consider mathematical realization of the process of generating random numbers. Whether mathematical realization of other cryptographic components would affect practical security of mathematical realization of a leakage resilient cryptographic scheme is still not known. For other leakage resilient cryptographic schemes in different kinds of leakage models, we anticipate similar problems are also existent. These questions themselves are rather interesting and worthy of research. Our results show a new perspective about security of leakage resilient cryptographic schemes.

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## Appendix A: The Result of Our Attacks

We use $\rho_{ATTACKI}$ (resp. $\rho_{ATTACKII}$) to denote the specific value of $\rho$ for ATTACK I (resp. ATTACK II). We define $\lambda_{ATTACKI}$ (resp. $\lambda_{ATTACKII}$) to denote the specific value of leakage parameter $\lambda$ for ATTACK I (resp. ATTACK II). We use $v$ to denote how many times the PRNG is invoked in order to generate the random number $r_i$.

**Table A.1.** Attack results about ANSI X9.17 PRNG

| $\|p\|$ (in bits) | $\rho_{ATTACKI}$ | $\rho_{ATTACKII}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKI}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKII}$ | $v$ (times) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 700 | 100.29% | 25.14% | 351 | 175 | 11 |
| 704 | 100.28% | 25.00% | 353 | 175 | 11 |
| 832 | 100.24% | 23.56% | 417 | 195 | 13 |
| 960 | 100.21% | 22.50% | 481 | 215 | 15 |
| 1088 | 100.18% | 21.69% | 545 | 235 | 17 |

**Table A.2.** Attack results about ANSI X9.31 PRNG Using AES-128

| $\|p\|$ (in bits) | $\rho_{ATTACKI}$ | $\rho_{ATTACKII}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKI}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKII}$ | $v$ (times) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 756 | 100.26% | 25.13% | 379 | 189 | 6 |
| 768 | 100.26% | 24.74% | 385 | 189 | 6 |
| 896 | 100.22% | 22.32% | 449 | 199 | 7 |
| 1024 | 100.20% | 20.51% | 513 | 209 | 8 |
| 1152 | 100.17% | 19.10% | 577 | 219 | 9 |

**Table A.3.** Attack results about about FIPS 186 PRNG

| $\|p\|$ (in bits) | $\rho_{ATTACKI}$ | $\rho_{ATTACKII}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKI}$ | $\lambda_{ATTACKII}$ | $v$ (times) |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 964 | 100.21% | 25.10% | 483 | 241 | 7 |
| 1120 | 100.18% | 21.61% | 561 | 241 | 7 |
| 1280 | 100.16% | 18.91% | 641 | 241 | 8 |
| 1440 | 100.14% | 16.81% | 721 | 241 | 9 |
| 1600 | 100.13% | 15.13% | 801 | 241 | 10 |

## Appendix B: The Attack Processes

We show our attack processes in the following.

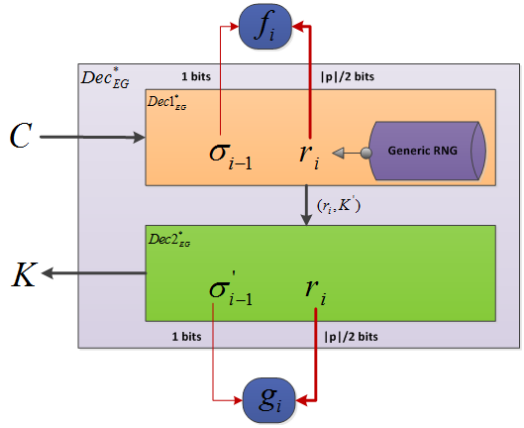


**Fig. 3.** our attack on decapsulation of EG* with generic RNG

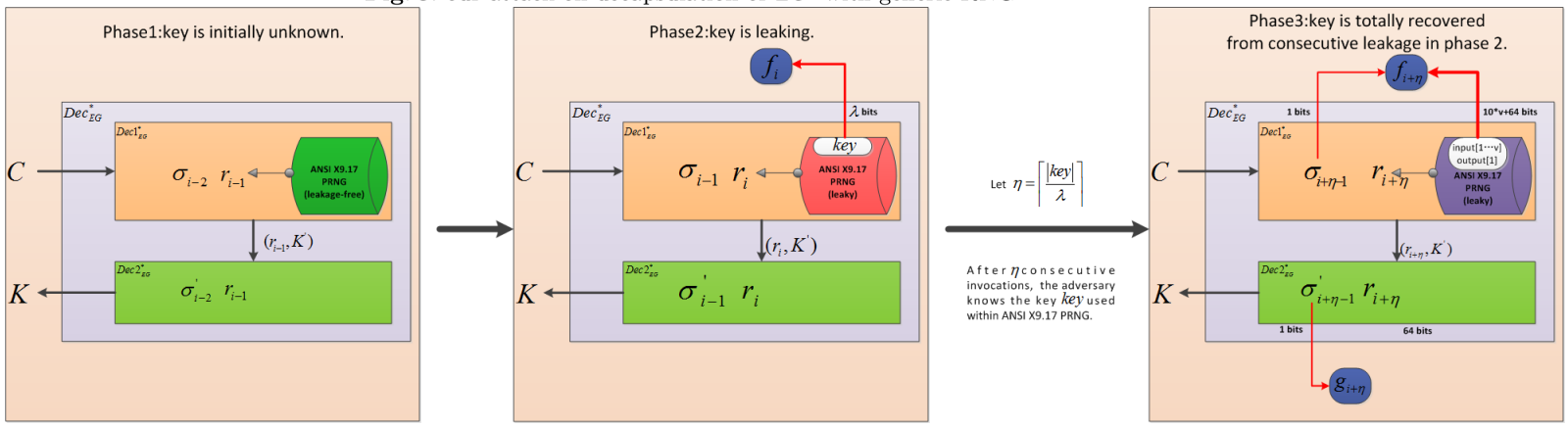


**Fig. 4.** our attack on decapsulation of EG* with a leaky ANSI X9.17 PRNG