

# PUF-Based RFID Authentication Secure and Private under Complete Memory Leakage

Daisuke Moriyama<sup>1</sup>, Shin'ichiro Matsuo<sup>1</sup> and Moti Yung<sup>2,3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Information and Communications Technology, Japan  
{dmoriyam, smatsuo}@nict.go.jp

<sup>2</sup> Columbia University

<sup>3</sup> Google, inc.

**Abstract.** RFID tags are getting their presence noticeable on smart-phones, credit cards, toll payment devices, and other objects. They are expected to become an important tool for e-commerce, logistics, point-of-sale transactions, and so on, representing “things” and “human holding things” in transactions. Since a huge amount of tags are expected to be needed to be attached to various “objects,” a low-cost tag manufacturing is necessary. Thus, it is hard to imagine they will implement hardware protection mechanisms (like co-processor, TPMs). Therefore, side-channel (leakage) attacks are a critical threat. Another threat that is well known in the RFID topic is tag tracing and violation of privacy. In this paper, we consider physically unclonable functions (PUFs) as tamper resilient building block and propose security model with memory leaking adversary, trying to violate security and privacy of tags (we note that PUFs are structure-less and there is a hope they can be put on top of RFID chips more so than TPMs). We then design the first provably secure and provably private RFID authentication protocol withstanding information leakage from the non-volatile memory of the tag, and provides the two properties of: (1) security against impersonation, and (2) privacy protection against tag tracing.

## 1 Introduction

We are in a middle of the next electronic and information revolution, where computing electronic devices are embedded everywhere and are, at times, connected to the computing networks, as part of the advanced information society. A critical component in this development is Radio Frequency Identification (RFID) technology, which is among the basic techniques allowing wireless communication between the reader (representing the infrastructure of interacting devices/terminals) and tags installed on gadgets, essentially without any human or other mediation interaction. The technology has far reaching implications on the potential evolution of the way transactions taking place in commercial and financial settings,

and it is being used currently in sectors such as point-of-sale payments (e.g., credit cards), transportation (e.g., toll payment), logistics (e.g., barcode replacement) including inventory management, transaction closing (physical presence indication for verified delivery of physical goods or tickets), etc. Authentication is the major task of RFID technology in all these applications.

Due to the fact that RFID communication signals reach several meters, RFID tags are expected to replace barcodes in enabling better ability to track and count objects, and associate goods. They also have a role in identifying participants (smartphone of a buyer, say): tags will be associated with computers on gadgets that will perform an initial part of a transaction (e-commerce) while its fulfilment will be triggered by the proper RFID presence at the point of fulfilment. Overall, it is hard to envision e-commerce advancing (in many transactions along the system: in payments, in identification of users, in shipments, in object/goods identification, etc.) without RFID technology.

On the other hand, the currently existing RFID tags directly convey their identity, and therefore continuous usage leaks a lot of personal information about the users carrying them. Though several companies planned to use such a basic RFID tag for speedy product management in the last decade, boycott campaigns were organized to protect against tracking consumer and these companies abandoned the use of RFID tag [8, 10]. Thus some privacy enhancing mechanism must be implemented to the RFID technology to avoid economic loss. It is expected that when RFID technology gets larger share of e-commerce transactions, attacks trying to learn secrets and violate privacy will be more and more attractive in this domain.

It is quite costly to implement secure components and secure storage in particular, like Trusted Platform Module [43], Mobile Platform Module [44], etc. Since RFID tags require low manufacturing cost to be economically viable, we cannot assume these cheap tags can have such secure components and run public key cryptography. Therefore, numerous works in the literature propose “lightweight cryptography” for resource restrained devices like the tags.

Physically Unclonable Function (PUF) is an emerging security technology, whose purpose is to introduce physical variation into individual devices taking part in cryptographic protocols. In many cases, digitally-oriented PUFs are constructed by variations of electric devices caused by the manufacturing process. This phenomenon has many instantiations (arbiter PUF [29], ring oscillator PUF [15], SRAM PUF [16], butterfly

PUF [15, 25], latch PUF [40], etc.). These constructions are evaluated in terms of non-uniformity of output or by temperature variation with FPGA or ASIC implementation [16, 27].

PUFs can be viewed as a tamper resilient building block [3, 15, 33] and the technology is attractive to low-cost devices like RFID tag [26, 42]. Consider the scenario where a device keeps a secret in its non-volatile memory. The secret is not directly used within the cryptographic primitives, but rather it serves as an input to the PUF implemented in the device. If a physical characteristic increases entropy, then the output is unpredictable even if a malicious adversary obtains the secret key anytime. This means that the PUF can be used as a security enhancing mechanism. The previous protocol designs [26, 42], however, assumed that the tag's secret (contained in the non-volatile memory) is fixed and is reused in many sessions (which suffices for their purposes, since they do not cover secret key leakage). In contrast, our starting point in the current investigation is the fact that in RFID cheap technology, we cannot always assume that the memory is protected. Thus, we want to cover key leakage attack where the internal secret key is compromised, and we employ a stronger model allowing the adversary to obtain the secret key, in which case (due to their fixed key leakage) the previous assumptions and design rules do not apply (for privacy), and the adversary may be able to, e.g., identify which tag is interacted with the reader after the leakage attack. Since PUFs do not require special hardware, the implementation cost is lower than mechanisms like secure hardware such as TPMs.

**Our Results.** In this paper, we propose a provably secure RFID authentication protocol under the adversary who can access to the non-volatile memory via oracle query; this is quite a strong attack extending the capabilities of earlier adversaries. The adversary attempts (1) to impersonate the user (violate security) and (2) to trace tags (violate privacy). We show that our protocol withstands the attacks, and to the best of our knowledge this is the first such secure protocol in the memory leakage case. To achieve our goal, we introduce a new variant of the indistinguishability-based security model, originally proposed by Juels and Weis [23] such that the adversary can obtain the secret key of the target tag at any time. We note, in particular, that [34] showed that in symmetric key based RFID authentication protocols, it is natural to consider an active adversary which can desynchronize the secret key shared between the tag and the reader, in the cases when a protocol supports key update mechanism. Therefore, we assume that the reader and the tag can execute the honest session before and after the challenge

phase in the privacy definition (see Section 3.2 for more details).

**Other Related Works.** PUF has been mainly used in the setting of lightweight authentication protocols. One typical design of provably secure lightweight authentication protocol, originally introduced by Hopper and Blum, and its security is shown under learning parity with noise (LPN) assumption. The works in [20, 22] proposed variants of HB where the protocol structure is based on a prover who holds the PUF trying to convince the verifier to accept an authentication protocol invocation. Their protocol assumes that the verifier holds a (software based) function which can simulate the PUF, but we remark that software simulation in this context has been called “model building attack” [39], and is considered undesirable property in the PUF setting; (our setting, anyway, is not employing this idea). Kulseng et al. proposed a PUF-based RFID authentication protocol which supports key update mechanism [28], but their protocol is vulnerable to the typical man-in-the-middle attack as shown by Kardas et al. [24]. Several other cryptographic primitives based on PUF are proposed in [1] and [4]. Armknecht et al. showed an encryption scheme (a variant of Luby-Rackoff cipher) secure against memory leakage attack [1]. In their scheme, PUF and fuzzy extractor [12] are replaced by a pseudorandom function. While this application is not interactive authentication, it sets the setting of memory leakages in a device employing PUFs. Brzuska et al. proposed PUF-based cryptographic protocols: oblivious transfer, commitment and key exchange protocol [4]. However, Rührmair and Dijk showed that their oblivious transfer protocol does not hold the hiding property [37].

## 2 Preliminaries

### 2.1 Fuzzy Extractor

A  $(d, h)$ -fuzzy extractor FE consists of two algorithms: a key generation algorithm FE.Gen and a reconstruction algorithm FE.Rec. The FE.Gen algorithm takes as input a variable  $z$  and output a key  $r$  and helper data  $hd$ . For correctness, FE.Rec recovers the key  $r$  from the input variable  $z'$  and helper data  $hd$  if the hamming distance between  $z'$  and  $z$  is at most  $d$ . The fuzzy extractor satisfies security in the fact that if the min-entropy of an output  $z$  is at least  $h$ , then  $r$  is statistically close to a uniformly random variable in  $\{0, 1\}^k$ , even if the helper data is disclosed.

## 2.2 Physically Unclonable Function

The Physically Unclonable Function (PUF) is a function derived from a physical characteristic. There are many PUFs integrated in the digital circuit (arbiter PUF, ring oscillator PUF, SRAM PUF, latch PUF, etc.) and its physical properties are still under investigation (see [6, 41]). The basic purpose of these PUFs is to produce a device specific output for any input<sup>4</sup> like as a fingerprint. We present the properties (common in the literature) which our PUF has to have.

Let  $k$  be a security parameter and  $x$  be a physical characteristic of the device. We say that  $f(x, \cdot)$  is  $(d, n, \ell, h, \epsilon)$ -secure PUF if the following requirements hold:

1. For arbitrary input  $y \in \{0, 1\}^k$ , the variation of the outputs is at most  $d$ . That is,  $\Pr \left[ \text{HD}(z_1, z_2) \leq d \mid z_1 \stackrel{\mathcal{R}}{\leftarrow} f(x, y), z_2 \stackrel{\mathcal{R}}{\leftarrow} f(x, y) \right] = 1$  for any physical characteristics  $x$  where HD evaluates the hamming distance.
2. Generate  $n$  PUFs and evaluate them for different inputs  $y_1, \dots, y_\ell \stackrel{\mathcal{U}}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^k$ . Consider a set of outputs  $\mathcal{Z} := \{z_{i,j} \stackrel{\mathcal{R}}{\leftarrow} f(x_i, y_j)\}_{1 \leq i \leq n, 1 \leq j \leq \ell}$ . The conditional min-entropy given the other outputs  $\bar{H}_\infty(z_{i^*, j^*} \mid \mathcal{Z} \setminus z_{i^*, j^*})$  for any  $i^*, j^*$  is at least  $h$ .
3. Even if physical attacks are executed, the malicious adversary can obtain no extra information than the input-output behavior. Let  $\mathcal{A}$  be an adversary who can physically access  $f$  to launch physical attacks.  $\mathcal{S}$  is an algorithm which only interacts with  $f$  via oracle access. For any distinguisher  $\mathcal{D}$ , their output is negligibly close to  $\epsilon$  such that  $|\Pr[\mathcal{D}(1^k, st) \rightarrow 1 \mid st \stackrel{\mathcal{R}}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}(1^k, f(x, \cdot))] - \Pr[\mathcal{D}(1^k, st) \rightarrow 1 \mid st \stackrel{\mathcal{R}}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{S}^{f(x, \cdot)}(1^k)]| \leq \epsilon$ .

Let us review the above. Though there are many security models to define PUF [1, 2, 4, 15, 16, 38], it is hard to determine which model is the most suitable since the physical behavior depends on the implementation. Instead, we give the requirements to provide rigorous provable security for our protocol. To obtain a stable random output from a fixed input, fuzzy extractor is usually applied for the output variable from the PUF. Therefore, the hamming distance between two outputs  $z_1$  and  $z_2$  which are derived by the same input must be at most  $d$ . Moreover, other outputs derived by any different device or input should not give sufficient information allowing to guess  $z_{i,j}$ . This property is useful to avoid false

<sup>4</sup> For SRAM PUF, memory addresses can be treated as the input.

acceptance. Though [4] requires conditional min-entropy against the outputs derived from the target device only, we consider a more general setting since PUFs are implemented in each devices. Even if these devices are manufactured by the same blueprint, each PUF should output quasi-independent variable.

The third requirement above formalizes tamper resistance properties of PUFs. Following [14, 17], we describe simulation-based definition, stating that physical tampering does not provide any negative effect when compared against the black-box oracle access attack.

### 3 Security Model for PUF-based RFID Authentication Protocols

Consider an RFID reader  $\mathcal{R}$  that interacts with many RFID tags  $\mathcal{T} := \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ . The reader runs a setup algorithm and generates public parameter and secret (symmetric cryptography) keys in this setup phase. In the authentication phase, mutual authentication is executed between the reader and the tags. Finally, the parties output 1 (acceptance) or 0 (rejection) as the authentication result for the session. The correctness of the RFID authentication protocol requires that the reader and the tag always accept the session if the communication is not modified by an active adversary. We next define security and privacy.

#### 3.1 Security

The security requirement for RFID authentication protocols is commonly defined in the existing literatures. Intuitively, security requires that the reader and the tag reject the session when an active adversary modifies the communication before the verification is executed by each device. In all previous works the adversary cannot obtain any secret information about the RFID tag (via a “reveal” query). This seems like a natural assumption since the reader checks whether the response is computed by the secret key which is contained in the RFID tag, In this paper, we actually assume a secure PUF (and fuzzy extractor) is implemented in the RFID tag, and we do allow the adversary to issue a “reveal” query in the security game (where it gets the content of the non-volatile memory, while the PUF is by definition tamper proof (as modeled above)).

More formally, we consider the security game between a challenger and the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ .

$$\begin{array}{l}
\text{Exp}_{II,\mathcal{A}}^{\text{Sec}}(k) \\
(pk, sk) \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Setup}(1^k); \\
sid^* \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}_1^{\text{Launch, SendReader, SendTag, Result, Reveal}}(pk, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}); \\
b := \text{Result}(sid^*); \\
\text{Output } b
\end{array}$$

In this security game, the adversary can issue the following oracle queries  $\mathcal{O} := (\text{Launch}, \text{SendReader}, \text{SendTag}, \text{Result}, \text{Reveal})$ , instructed to do the following:

- $\text{Launch}(1^k)$  — Launch the reader to initiate the session.
- $\text{SendReader}(m)$  — Send arbitrary message  $m$  to the reader.
- $\text{SendTag}(t, m)$  — Send arbitrary message  $m$  to the tag  $t \in \mathcal{T}$ .
- $\text{Result}(sid)$  — Output whether the reader accepts the session  $sid$  ( $sid$  is uniquely determined by the communication message).
- $\text{Reveal}(t)$  — Output the secret key of the tag  $t$  contained in the non-volatile memory.

The advantage of an active adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  against an RFID authentication protocol  $II$  is defined by probability  $\text{Adv}_{II,\mathcal{A}}^{\text{Sec}}(k)$  that  $\Pr[\text{Exp}_{II,\mathcal{A}}^{\text{Sec}}(k)]$  outputs 1 and the communication message in session  $sid^*$  is modified by the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ . Recall that the adversary can learn the memory content of the RFID tag (i.e. the secret key contained in the non-volatile memory).

**Definition 1.** *An RFID authentication protocol  $II$  is secure against impersonation attack with complete memory leakage if for any probabilistic polynomial time adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\text{Adv}_{II,\mathcal{A}}^{\text{Sec}}(k)$  is negligible in  $k$  (for large enough  $k$ ).*

### 3.2 Privacy

Different from the security property, various privacy definitions are proposed even for the canonical RFID authentication protocol (to deal with tracing of tags) [7, 11, 19, 21, 23, 31, 36, 45]. A major problem has been “how to formalize a suitable privacy model for lightweight RFID authentication protocol.” When a symmetric key primitive is the main building block of the protocol, the reader shares a secret key with the tag for authentication. Thus, to minimize the influence of tag’s key leakage, several key update mechanisms have been proposed in previous protocols to accommodate privacy. However, Ng et al. [34] showed that the de-synchronization attack is inevitable and the tag’s secret key and authentication results cannot be allowed to leak at the same time in the Paise-Vaudenay privacy model [36].

In this paper, to define our privacy property we introduce a variant of the indistinguishability-based privacy model based on the Juels-Weis privacy model [23]. In the original Juels-Weis model, the adversary chooses two RFID tags and accesses one of the two anonymously to evaluate the gap between them. Though this model allows the adversary to issue reveal queries to tags, the adversary cannot issue a reveal query to the above two tags. In contrast, in our modified model, we allow the adversary to issue the reveal query in any time to cover backward and forward privacy. To assure that privacy still makes sense under such conditions, we add a restriction that an honest protocol execution without active adversary is launched before and after the anonymous access (i.e., the challenge phase): This is done to locally neutralize prior and future tracing compromises and allow some state update to take place before and after the challenge phase (i.e., with a little bit of lack of continued tracing by the same reader, we can achieve privacy). The proposed privacy model between the challenger and the adversary  $\mathcal{A} := (\mathcal{A}_1, \mathcal{A}_2, \mathcal{A}_3)$  is then described as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}
& \text{Exp}_{\Pi, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*-b}(k) \\
& (pk, sk) \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Setup}(1^k); \\
& (t_0^*, t_1^*, st_1) \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}_1^{\mathcal{O}}(pk, \mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}); \\
& b \stackrel{U}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}, \mathcal{T}' := \mathcal{T} \setminus \{t_0^*, t_1^*\}; \\
& \pi_0 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Execute}(\mathcal{R}, t_0^*), \pi_1 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Execute}(\mathcal{R}, t_1^*); \\
& st_2 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}_2^{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}', \mathcal{I}(t_b^*), \pi_0, \pi_1, st_1); \\
& \pi'_0 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Execute}(\mathcal{R}, t_0^*), \pi'_1 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \text{Execute}(\mathcal{R}, t_1^*); \\
& b' \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} \mathcal{A}_3^{\mathcal{O}}(\mathcal{R}, \mathcal{T}, \pi'_0, \pi'_1, st_2); \\
& \text{Output } b'
\end{aligned}$$

Similar to the security game, the adversary can interact with the reader and a tag via oracle queries  $\mathcal{O}$ . When the adversary sends two tags  $(t_0^*, t_1^*)$  to the challenger, a random coin  $b$  is flipped and the adversary can access the challenge tag  $t_b^*$  anonymously. When the adversary issues  $\text{SendTag}(\mathcal{I}, m)$ , the challenger sends  $m$  to  $t_b^*$  and responds with the tag's output. Even in the anonymous access phase, the adversary can issue the reveal query and obtain the secret key of the tag. As said above, Ng et al. [34] showed that the de-synchronization attack is inevitable problem for symmetric key based RFID authentication protocols with key update mechanism. Therefore, we admit a re-synchronization opportunity before and after the anonymous access. The Execute query is the normal protocol

execution between the reader and the tag. The adversary cannot modify the communications but the transcript  $(\pi_0, \pi_1)$  and  $(\pi'_0, \pi'_1)$  are given as inputs to the adversary.

Finally, the advantage of the adversary in guessing the correct tag bit is evaluated as  $\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*}(k) = |\Pr[\text{Exp}_{\Pi, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*-0}(k) \rightarrow 1] - \Pr[\text{Exp}_{\Pi, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*-1}(k) \rightarrow 1]|$ .

**Definition 2.** *An RFID authentication protocol  $\Pi$  satisfies the modified indistinguishability-based privacy under complete memory leakage if for any probabilistic polynomial time (PPT) adversary  $\mathcal{A}$ ,  $\text{Adv}_{\Pi, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*}(k)$  is negligible in  $k$  (for large enough  $k$ ).*

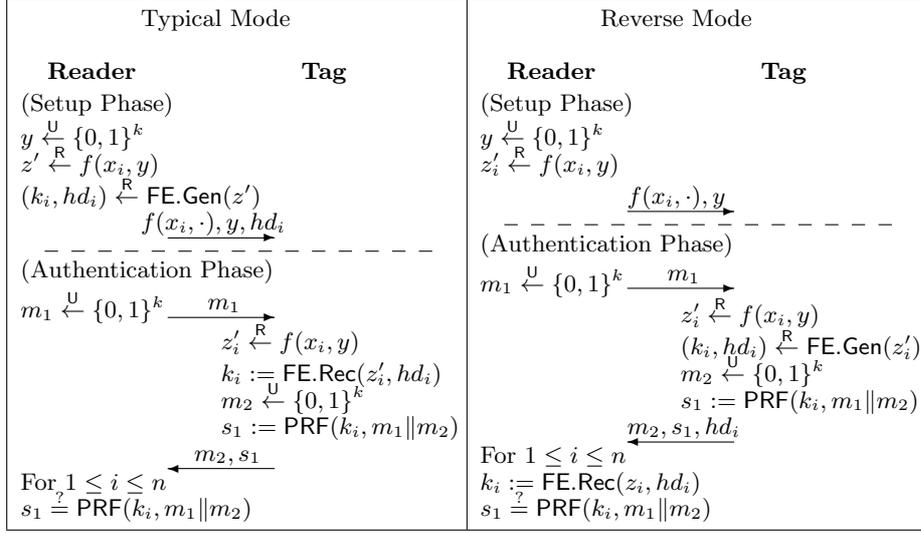
The proposed privacy definition requires that the secret key contained in the RFID tag gives no information to distinguish among RFID tags. This is a novel approach, and for example, the PUF-based RFID authentication protocol in [42] does not satisfy our privacy model since the secret key of the RFID tag is always fixed.

## 4 How to Apply PUF in Cryptographic Protocols

It is known that even if one selects an input and evaluates the PUF multiple times, the physical circuit causes small noise and the output is not deterministically defined [15, 16, 29, 40]. Moreover, while unpredictability of its output is desirable, we cannot treat the PUF's output as a pseudo-random string. Applying a fuzzy extractor to the PUF's output is an easy solution to overcome these problems. Thus one of the major applications of the PUF combined with the fuzzy extractor is to extract a secret key from an input.

The first PUF-based RFID authentication protocol was proposed by Sadeghi, Visconti and Wachsmann [42]. However, we slightly modify their protocol in the spirit of Herrewége et al. [18] who found that there are two typical ways to apply the fuzzy extractor in any PUF-based protocols (typical, as in the original [42], and reverse ways). We follow their idea and describe two PUF-based RFID authentication protocols and discuss their security and privacy threats.

In the typical mode, the verifier (e.g., the RFID reader) evaluates the PUF  $f$  and runs the FE.Gen algorithm to obtain a random key and helper data before the authentication. Upon receiving the input to the PUF and helper data, the prover (the RFID tag) recovers the secret with the FE.Rec algorithm. In contrast, Herrewége et al. showed that the fuzzy extractor can be applied in an opposite fashion [18]. That is, the verifier evaluates



**Fig. 1.** Previous PUF-based RFID authentication protocol

the PUF and sends its input to the prover in the reverse mode. Then the prover computes the PUF and runs the FE.Gen algorithm. When the helper data is sent from the prover, the verifier reconstructs the random key with the FE.Rec algorithm.

In either case, the non-volatile memory contains a “superficial” secret key  $y$  and the PUF with fuzzy extractor derives the actual secret key  $k_i$  from that superficial key. When the reader evaluates the PUF and obtains input/output pair in the setup phase,  $k_i$  can be used as a secret key for any symmetric key primitives. Note that the existing RFID authentication protocols specify that the tag directly keeps  $k_i$ . Thus, the main advantage of the above PUF-based RFID authentication protocol is that the leakage of  $y$ , the secret key kept in the non-volatile memory, does not imply the total break of the tag.

However, this additional mechanism does not increase the tag’s privacy right away. Even though an adversary cannot impersonate the tag under the memory leakage attack, the fixed secret key contained in the non-volatile  $n$  memory leaks the tag’s identity in the above protocol. Specifically, the adversary can easily break the privacy game described in Section 3.2 since the superficial secret key  $y$  is reused in many sessions the adversary can trace the tag. Thus, we conclude that for privacy reasons, we must establish a key update mechanism for PUF-based RFID authentica-

tion protocols. This is indeed, a step in the right direction and a starting point for us, since we can strengthen the security requirement, allowing the adversary to issue the reveal query at any time.

One technical problem in supporting a key update mechanism in PUF-based RFID authentication protocol is that the reader can directly handle the PUF only in the setup phase. One straightforward solution is to observe a lot of input/output pairs of the PUF and write inputs to the tag before the authentication phase at setup time. But, this method is quite inefficient from the perspective of, both, the tag and the reader. In our protocol, we employ another principle of careful chaining, where the tag securely transfers the output of the PUF which will be used in the next activation.

Another issue for PUF-based cryptographic protocols is how to transfer the helper data in a secure way. In particular, helper data  $hd_i$  is sent as a plaintext in the reverse mode as described in Figure 1. Indeed, [18] pointed out that the outsider chosen perturbation security introduced by Boyen [9] is needed in the above case. In contrast, PUF-friendly fuzzy extractors are proposed in several works [5,33] to minimize the implementation cost. Of course, these are no guarantee that these fuzzy extractors satisfy the outsider chosen perturbation security. Nonetheless, if we transfer the helper data in a secure way during the authentication protocol, we need not rely on such highly secure fuzzy extractor.

## 5 The Proposed Protocol

### 5.1 Setup Phase

The reader  $\mathcal{R}$  selects  $y_1 \xleftarrow{\mathcal{U}} \{0, 1\}^k$  and inputs it to the PUF  $z_1 \xleftarrow{\mathcal{R}} f(x, y_1)$ . It computes  $(r_1, hd_1) := \text{FE.Gen}(z_1)$  and sends  $(f, y_1, hd_1)$  to the RFID tag  $t_i$ . The PUF is already implemented in the tag, so the reader computes it with the tag itself. The reader keeps  $(r_1, r_{old} := r_1, t_i)$  in the database.

### 5.2 Authentication Phase

The mutual authentication phase between the reader and the tag is executed as follows: The reader holds database  $\{(r_1, r_{old}, t_i)\}_{i \in \mathcal{T}}$  and the tag  $t_i$  keeps  $(y_1, hd_1)$  in its memory. Let  $\mathcal{G} : \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^{2k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^{6k}$  and  $\mathcal{G}' : \{0, 1\}^k \times \{0, 1\}^{2k} \rightarrow \{0, 1\}^k$  be pseudorandom functions (PRFs).

- The reader chooses nonce  $m_1 \xleftarrow{\mathcal{U}} \{0, 1\}^k$  and sends it to the tag.
- Upon receiving  $m_1$ , the tag runs the following steps:

1. Compute  $z'_1 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} f(x, y_1)$ .
  2. Obtain  $r_1 := \text{FE.Rec}(z'_1, hd_1)$ .
  3. Select  $m_2 \stackrel{U}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^k$ .
  4. Compute  $(s_1, \dots, s_6) := \mathcal{G}(r_1, m_1 \| m_2)$ .
  5. Choose  $y_2 \stackrel{U}{\leftarrow} \{0, 1\}^k$ .
  6. Compute  $z'_2 \stackrel{R}{\leftarrow} f(x, y_2)$ .
  7. Compute  $u_1 := s_2 \oplus z'_2$  and  $v_1 := \mathcal{G}'(s_3, m_2 \| u_1)$ .
  8. Send  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$  to the reader.
- When the reader  $\mathcal{R}$  receives  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$ , it runs the following steps:
1. Compute  $(s'_1, \dots, s'_6) := \mathcal{G}(r_1, m_1 \| m_2)$  and check  $s'_i = s_i$  for some  $1 \leq i \leq n$ . If this search fails, the reader skips the following procedure.
  2. Verify  $v_1 = \mathcal{G}'(s'_3, m_2 \| u_1)$ . If this verification fails, the reader skips the following procedure.
  3. Decrypt  $z_2 := s'_2 \oplus u_1$ .
  4. Obtain  $(r_2, hd_2) := \text{FE.Gen}(z_2)$ .
  5. Compute  $u_2 := s'_5 \oplus hd_2$  and  $v_2 := \mathcal{G}'(s'_6, m_1 \| u_2)$ .
  6. Send  $(s'_4, u_2, v_2)$  to the tag and update  $(r_1, r_{old}) := (r_2, r_1)$ .
- The reader repeats the runs above with  $r_{old}$  instead of  $r_1$ . If the above verifications do not hold, then the reader rejects the session and sends randomly chosen  $(s'_4, u_2, v_2)$  to the tag.
- Upon receiving  $(s'_4, u_2, v_2)$ , the tag checks  $s'_4 = s_4$  and  $v_2 = \mathcal{G}'(s_6, m_1 \| u_2)$ . If the verifications hold,  $u_2$  is decrypted as  $hd_2 := s_4 \oplus u_2$  and the tag updates  $(y_1, hd_1)$  to  $(y_2, hd_2)$ .

Intuitively, our protocol is “challenge response authentication” with PRF  $\mathcal{G}$ . The seed input to the function is generated by PUF  $f$  and the fuzzy extractor. If the tag does not accept any adversarial message, the tag always computes  $r_1$  or  $r_{old}$  (when the adversary executes desynchronization attack) and the reader can authenticate the tag. Moreover, the tag generates the next input to the PUF  $y_2$  and sends its output  $z'_2$  to the reader in a secure way. If the tag authentication is accepted, the reader securely sends the next helper data  $hd_2$  as the tag’s computation.

One can imagine authenticated encryption against  $(u_1, v_1)$  and  $(u_2, v_2)$ . So  $(u_1, u_2)$  is the ciphertext of the plaintext and  $(v_1, v_2)$  is the tag of the MAC.  $m_2$  is randomly chosen by the tag and changed per session, the XOR operation is sufficient in our protocol instead of a standard symmetric key encryption algorithm. The MAC tag generation is replaced by the computation of PRF to minimize implementation cost. Obviously, when the tag holding the keys and the PUF performs, then the reader

will accept the authentication (in or out of synchronization); next, the security and privacy properties of our protocol are proven.

We note that it is hard to achieve resilience to all side-channel attacks for cryptographic protocols. Even if a secure PUF is implemented in the RFID tag, the adversary may execute side-channel attacks against other building blocks, fuzzy extractor or pseudorandom function. Though it is out of scope of our paper, several works have investigated leakage resilience for fuzzy extractor and pseudorandom function to achieve security against side-channel attacks [13, 32].

**Theorem 1.** *Let FE be a  $(d, h)$ -fuzzy extractor and  $(d, n, \ell, h, \epsilon)$ -secure physically unclonable function. Assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{G}'$  are secure pseudorandom functions. Then our protocol is secure against impersonation attack with complete memory leakage.*

*Proof.* The goal of the adversary  $\mathcal{A}$  is for the reader or the tag to accept the session while the communication is modified by the adversary. We concentrate only on the former case, since the reader authentication is quite similar to that of the tag. We consider the following game transformations. Let  $S_i$  be the advantage that the adversary wins the game in Game  $i$ .

**Game 0.** This is the original game between the challenger and the adversary.

**Game 1.** The challenger randomly guesses the tag  $t^* \xleftarrow{\text{U}} \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ . If the adversary cannot impersonate  $t^*$  to the reader, the challenger aborts the game.

**Game 2.** Assume that  $\ell$  is the upper bound of the sessions that the adversary can establish in the game. For  $1 \leq j \leq \ell$ , we evaluate or change the variables related to the the session between the reader and  $t^*$  up to the  $\ell$ -th session as the following.

**Game 2- $j$ -1.** The challenger evaluates the output from the PUF implemented in  $t^*$  at the  $j$ -th session. If the output does not have enough entropy or is correlated to the other outputs derived from the other inputs or the PUF, then the challenger aborts the game.

**Game 2- $j$ -2.** The output from the fuzzy extractor  $(r_{old}, r_1)$  is changed to a random variable.

**Game 2- $j$ -3.** The output from the PRF  $\mathcal{G}(r_1, \cdot)$  is derived from a truly random function in this game.

**Game 2- $j$ -4.** We change the PRF  $\mathcal{G}(r_{old}, \cdot)$  to a truly random function.

**Game 2- $j$ -5.** We change the XORed output  $u_1 := s_2 \oplus z'_2$  and  $u_2 := s'_5 \oplus hd_2$  to randomly chosen  $u_1 \xleftarrow{\text{U}} \{0, 1\}^k$ .

**Game 2- $j$ -6.** The output from the PRFs  $\mathcal{G}'(s_3, \cdot)$  and  $\mathcal{G}'(s'_6, \cdot)$  are derived from a truly random function in this game.

The basic strategy of the security proof is to change the communication messages corresponding to the target tag  $t^*$  to random variables. However, we must take care of the key chaining mechanism in our protocol that updated secret keys are XORed by  $(s_2, s_5)$  which is derived by current secret key. So we must proceed the game transformation starting from the first invocation of the tag  $t^*$ , communication messages are gradually changed from Game 2- $j$ -1 to Game 2- $j$ -6. When these transformations are finished, we can move to the next session. We recursively apply this strategy up to the upper bound of the  $t^*$ 's activation.

If the PUF implemented in the tag generates enough entropy, the fuzzy extractor can provide variables which are statistically close to random strings. Then, this output can be applied to the PRF as the seed and the RFID reader and the tag share the common secret. So we can construct the challenge response authentication protocol with secure key update.

**Lemma 1.**  $S_0 = n \cdot S_1$  (where  $n$  is the number of RFID tags).

*Proof.* If the adversary wins the game, there is at least one session which the reader or tag accepts the session while the communication is modified by the adversary. Since the challenger randomly selects the session, the probability that the session is correctly guessed by the challenger is at least  $1/n$ .

**Lemma 2.**  $S_1 = S_{2-1-1}$  and  $S_{2-(j-1)-6} = S_{2-j-1}$  for any  $2 \leq j \leq \ell$  if  $f$  is a  $(d, n, \ell, h, \epsilon)$ -secure PUF.

*Proof.* If the output from the PUF has enough min-entropy and is independent from the other outputs, there is no difference between these games. The property of the PUF assumed here says that even if the input to the PUF is published, the output derived from the input keeps the sufficient min-entropy property, and therefore each output is uncorrelated. Hence, the reveal query issued by the adversary is random looking by the assumption of this property.

**Lemma 3.**  $S_{2-j-1} = S_{2-j-2}$  for any  $1 \leq j \leq \ell$  if the FE is a  $(d, h)$ -fuzzy extractor.

*Proof.* Since we assumed that, always, the output from the PUF has enough min-entropy, it is clear that no adversary can distinguish these games due to the randomization property of the fuzzy extractor.

**Lemma 4.**  $\forall 1 \leq j \leq \ell, |S_{2-j-2} - S_{2-j-3}| \leq \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(k)$  where  $\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(k)$  is an advantage of  $\mathcal{B}$  to break the security of the PRF  $\mathcal{G}$ .

*Proof.* If there is a difference between these games, we construct an algorithm  $\mathcal{B}$  which breaks the security of PRF  $\mathcal{G}$ .  $\mathcal{B}$  can access the real PRF  $\mathcal{G}(r_1, \cdot)$  or truly random function RF.  $\mathcal{B}$  sets up all secret keys and simulates our protocol except the  $n$ -th session. When the adversary invokes the  $n$ -th session,  $\mathcal{B}$  sends  $m_1 \xleftarrow{\text{U}} \{0, 1\}^k$  as the output of the reader. When  $\mathcal{A}$  sends  $m_1^*$  to a tag  $t_i$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  selects  $m_2$  and issues  $m_1^* \| m_2$  to the oracle instead of the normal computation of  $\mathcal{G}$ . Upon receiving  $(s_1, \dots, s_6)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  continues the computation as the protocol specification and outputs  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$  as the tag's response. When the adversary sends  $(m_2^*, s_1^*, u_1^*, v_1^*)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  issues  $m_1 \| m_2^*$  to the oracle and obtains  $(s'_1, \dots, s'_6)$ . These variables are used in the tag authentication.

If  $\mathcal{B}$  accesses the real PRF, this simulation is equivalent to Game 2- $j$ -2. Otherwise, the oracle query issued by  $\mathcal{B}$  is completely random and this distribution is equivalent to Game 2- $j$ -3. Thus we have  $|S_{2-j-2} - S_{2-j-3}| \leq \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(k)$ .

**Lemma 5.**  $\forall 1 \leq j \leq \ell, |S_{2-j-3} - S_{2-j-4}| \leq \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(k)$ .

*Proof.* We can prove this lemma as the proof for Lemma 4.

**Lemma 6.**  $\forall 1 \leq j \leq \ell, S_{2-j-4} = S_{2-j-5}$ .

*Proof.* Since the PRF  $\mathcal{G}(r_1, \cdot)$  is already changed to the truly random function in Game 1- $j$ -4,  $t_2$  is used as effectively one-time pad to encrypt  $z'_2$ . Therefore this transformation is purely conceptual change and the output distributions of these games are information theoretically equivalent.

**Lemma 7.**  $\forall 1 \leq j \leq \ell, |S_{2-j-5} - S_{2-j-6}| \leq 2 \cdot \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{B}'}^{\text{PRF}}(k)$ .

*Proof.* We can think that the seed input to the PRF  $\mathcal{G}'$  is changed to the random variable from the previous games. Consider an algorithm  $\mathcal{B}$  which interacts with PRF  $\mathcal{G}'(s'_3, \cdot)$  or random function RF. As in the proof for Lemma 4,  $\mathcal{B}$  simulates the protocol as the challenger up to the  $n$ -th session.  $\mathcal{B}$  generates  $(m_2, u_1)$  and issues  $m_2 \| u_1$  to the oracle.  $\mathcal{B}$  generates the other variables as Game 5 and sends  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$  as the tag's output

after it obtains  $v_1$  from the oracle. If the reader receives  $(m_2^*, s_1^*, u_1^*, v_1^*)$ ,  $\mathcal{B}$  checks that  $(m_2^*, s_1^*) = (m_2, s_1)$ . If so,  $\mathcal{B}$  issues  $m_2^* \| u_1^*$  to the oracle to check whether its response is identical to  $v_1^*$ .

If  $\mathcal{B}$  accesses the real PRF, this simulation is equivalent to Game 2- $j$ -5. Otherwise,  $\mathcal{B}$ 's simulation is identical to Game 2- $j$ -6. Thus the difference between these games are bounded by the security of PRF  $\mathcal{G}'$ . Similarly, we evaluate the gap between  $\mathcal{G}'(s'_6, \cdot)$  and RF.

When we transform Game 0 to Game 2- $\ell$ -6, there is no advantage against the adversary to impersonate the tag. To accomplish tag impersonation attack, the adversary must modify  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$  given from the tag. Consider this tuple as  $(m_2, s_1)$  and  $(u_1, v_1)$ . When the adversary modifies  $m_2$ , the probability that the adversary wins the security game is negligible since  $s_1$  is chosen from the truly random function. If  $m_2$  is not changed, the reader only accepts  $s_1$  since it is deterministically defined by  $m_1$  chosen by the reader and  $m_2$ . The first verification is passed only when the adversary reuses  $(m_2, s_1)$ , but  $v_1$  is also derived from another random function. Thus the adversary cannot guess it and any modified message is rejected except with negligible probability. The same argument also applies to the reader authentication, because the tag checks the reader with the outputs from  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{G}'$ .

Finally, we have

$$\text{Adv}_{II, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{Sec}}(1^k) \leq \frac{1}{2\ell n} \cdot (\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(1^k) + \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{B}'}^{\text{PRF}}(1^k))$$

if the PUF and fuzzy extractor holds properties described in Section 2.  $\square$

**Theorem 2.** *Let FE be a  $(d, h)$ -fuzzy extractor and  $(d, n, \ell, h, \epsilon)$ -secure physically unclonable function. Assume that  $\mathcal{G}$  and  $\mathcal{G}'$  are secure pseudo-random functions. Then our protocol satisfies the modified indistinguishability-based privacy under complete memory leakage (described in Section 3).*

*Proof.* The proof we provide here is similar to that for Theorem 1. However, we remark that it is important to assume that our protocol satisfies security first for privacy to hold. The reason is that if the security is broken and a malicious adversary successfully impersonates tag  $t_0^*$ , the reader will update the secret key that is not derived by the tag any more. So the reader does not accept this tag after the attack and the adversary easily distinguishes the tag in the privacy game. Even if the adversary honestly transmits the communication message between  $\mathcal{I}(t_0^*)$  and the

reader in the challenge phase, the authentication result is always 0 and the adversary can realize which tag is selected as the challenge tag.

We modify Game 1 such that the challenger guesses two tags which will be chosen by the adversary in the privacy game. This probability that is at least  $1/n^2$ , and, then, we can continue the game transformation. After that, the game transformation described in Game 2 is applied to the sessions related to  $t_0^*$  and  $t_1^*$ . Then the communication message  $(m_2, s_1, u_1, v_1)$  and  $(s'_4, u_2, v_2)$  are changed to random variables. Even if the adversary can obtain the secret key of the tag within the privacy game, input to the PUF and helper data used in the challenge phase are independent from choices in the other phases. The re-synchronization allows this separation and new values are always random. Therefore, there is no information against which the adversary can distinguish the challenge tag in the privacy game, and we get:

$$\text{Adv}_{H, \mathcal{A}}^{\text{IND}^*}(1^k) \leq \text{Adv}_{H, \mathcal{A}'}^{\text{Sec}}(1^k) + \frac{1}{4\ell n^2} \cdot (\text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}, \mathcal{B}}^{\text{PRF}}(1^k) + \text{Adv}_{\mathcal{G}', \mathcal{B}'}^{\text{PRF}}(1^k))$$

for some algorithm  $(\mathcal{A}', \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{B}')$  derived from the games.  $\square$

## 6 Conclusion

We considered security and privacy of RFID tags, and proposed a provably secure and private PUF-based RFID authentication protocol in the case that the adversary gets contents of memories. We investigated a new variant of the indistinguishability-based privacy model for RFID authentication protocol where the adversary can obtain the information contained in the tag's non-volatile memory. Our protocol is resilient to this memory leakage attack because the PUF can, in effect, serve as the secure component of the RFID tag, in a way which is sufficient to foil impersonations and tracing. Conceptually, the work has shown that an infrastructure reading RFID tags can be made robust to leakages given the adoption of PUFs of tags; this opens an avenue of design possibilities for RFID devices which will increase the robustness of RFID authentication and the major applications they span.

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