
The relevance and challenges of random probing security for post-quantum algorithms. Application to Raccoon signature scheme.

Mélissa Rossi*¹

¹CryptoExperts – CryptoExperts – France

Résumé

The random probing model is a side-channel security model that formalizes a leakage scenario where each wire in a circuit leaks with a fixed probability p . This model has practical relevance as it can be reduced to the noisy leakage model, which is widely recognized as the appropriate framework for power and electromagnetic side-channel attacks. While straightforward to describe, it is more challenging to achieve provable security and efficiency within this model, especially compared to the t -probing model (where the attacker gets the value of at most t probes of its choice).

I will introduce the various security notions associated with this model and explain why they are difficult to apply to concrete algorithms. Together with my co-authors, Sonia Belaïd and Matthieu Rivain, we provided the first fully secure instantiation of a post-quantum algorithm in the random probing model (presented in Eurocrypt 2025). Specifically, we focused on Raccoon, whose masking-friendly structure makes it an ideal starting point. However, the performance remains underwhelming, particularly in terms of randomness consumption.

All in all, I aim to convince you that random probing is the future of side-channel security, and a lot of exciting work still lies ahead.

*Intervenant