

**Workshop on Artificial Intelligence and Cryptography 2021**

# Deep Learning and Side-Channel Analysis

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TU Delft

# Content

- Main threat models in DL-SCA
  - Profiling attacks (from template attacks to deep learning)
  - Basic steps
  - DL-SCA in the last 6 Years (achievements and challenges)
  - Overfitting, generalization, metrics
- 
- AISY Framework
  - Attack scenarios (demonstration)

# Non-Profiling Attacks (DPA, CPA)

Measurements  
(Observations)

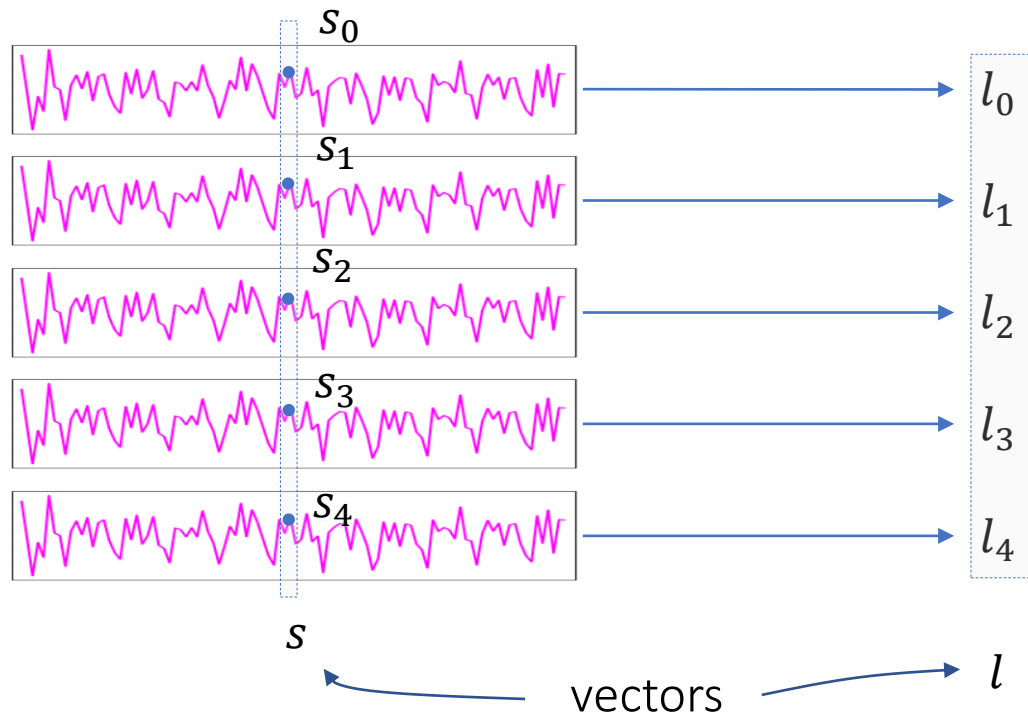
Hypothetical leakage  
for each key candidate

$$l_i = S_{BOX}(p_i \oplus k_i)$$

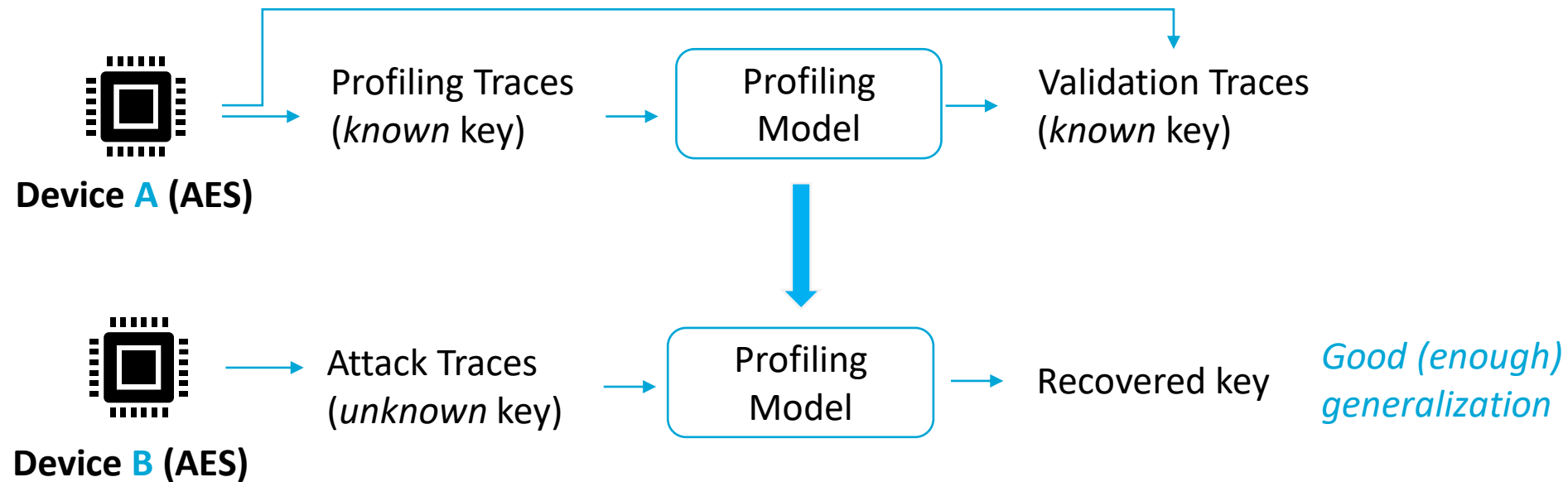
Distinguisher  $f$

$$k^* = \max_k f(s, l)$$

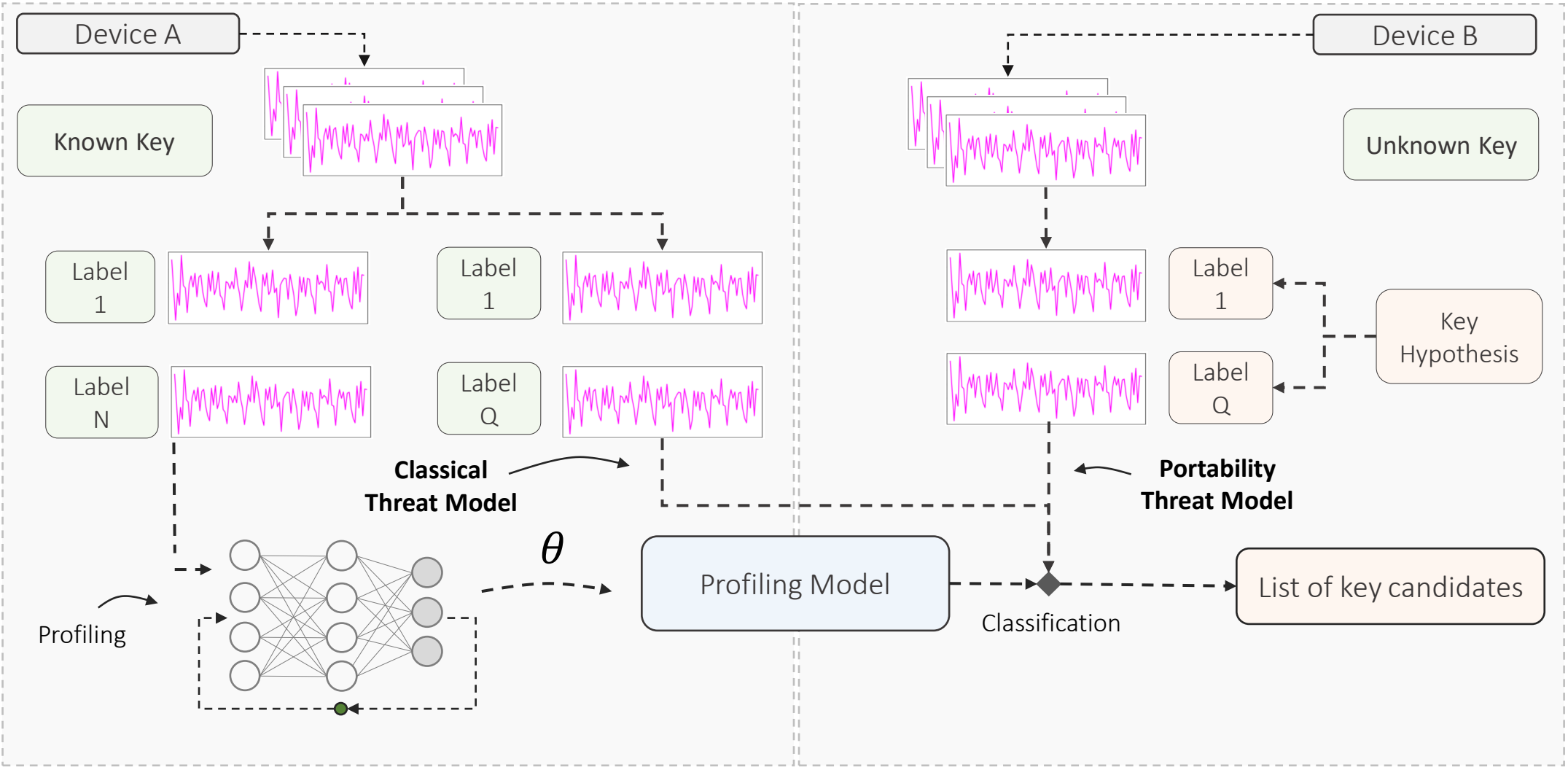
- No assumptions about statistical distributions of measured leakages.
- Non-parametric approach
- High-order analysis



# Profiling Attacks



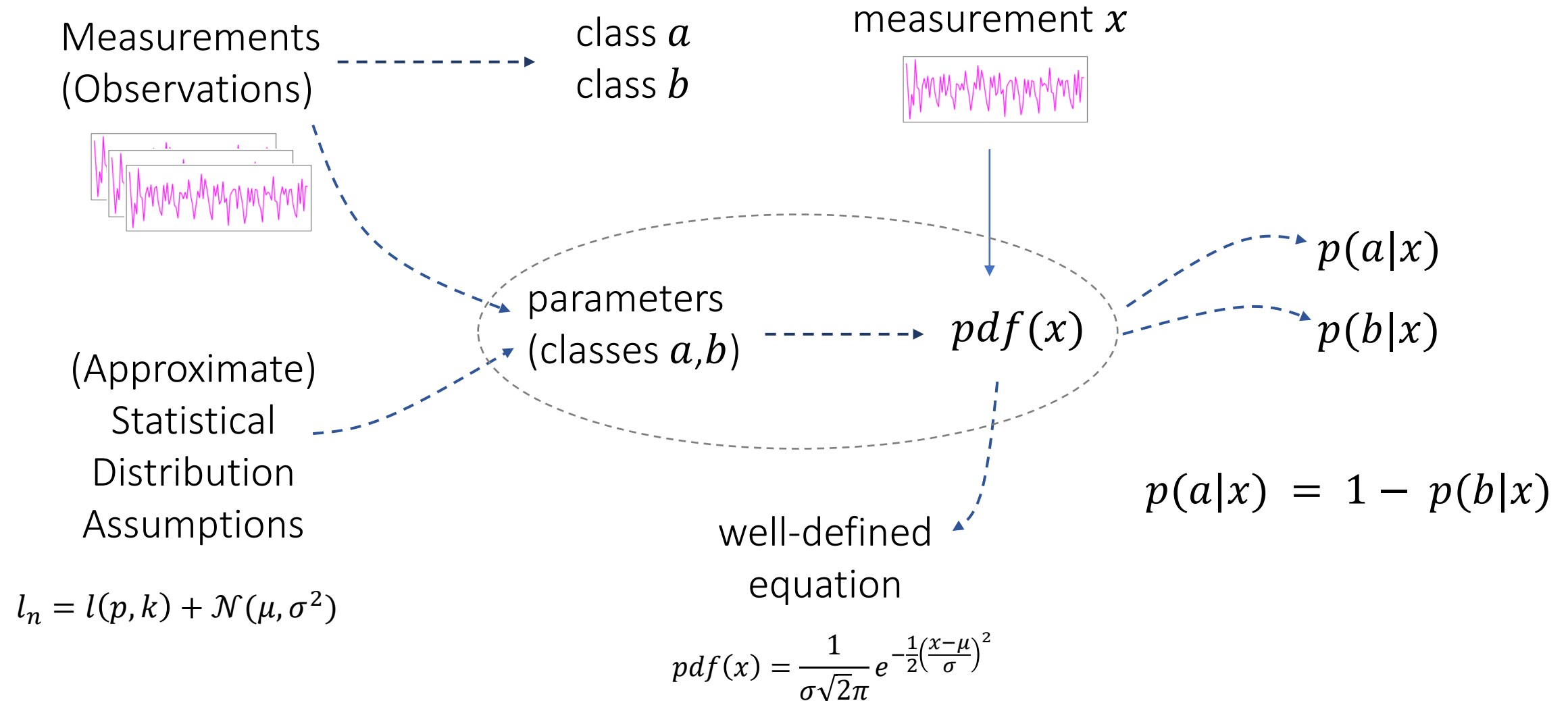
# Main threat models in DL-SCA (profiling)



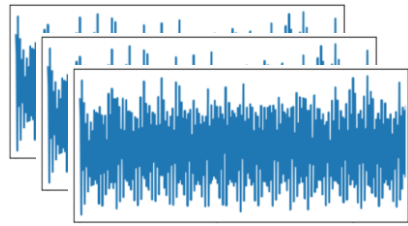
# Profiling Attacks

- Profiling attacks are about class probabilities
  - Classification
- Worst-case security assessment
  - If profiling attacks fail, then is it secure?
- Realistic attacks?
  - Adversary needs an accessible device for profiling (change key, access to random values, source code)
  - JIL rating (smart cards): identification and exploitation phases
- If we relax adversary assumptions (knowledge about source code, randomness, etc.), are profiling attacks still real worlds threats? Why so much effort on this type of attack?
  - Feature selection becomes difficult
  - Deep learning/AI might change some strong assumptions from the community in future

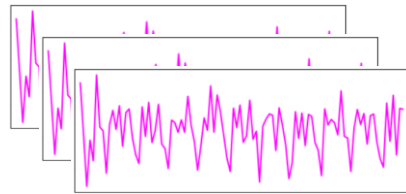
# Profiling Attacks (classical way)



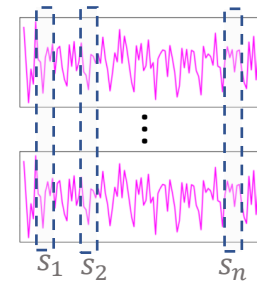
# Template Attacks



Raw Traces



Pre-processed Traces  
(trim, align, resample, filter)

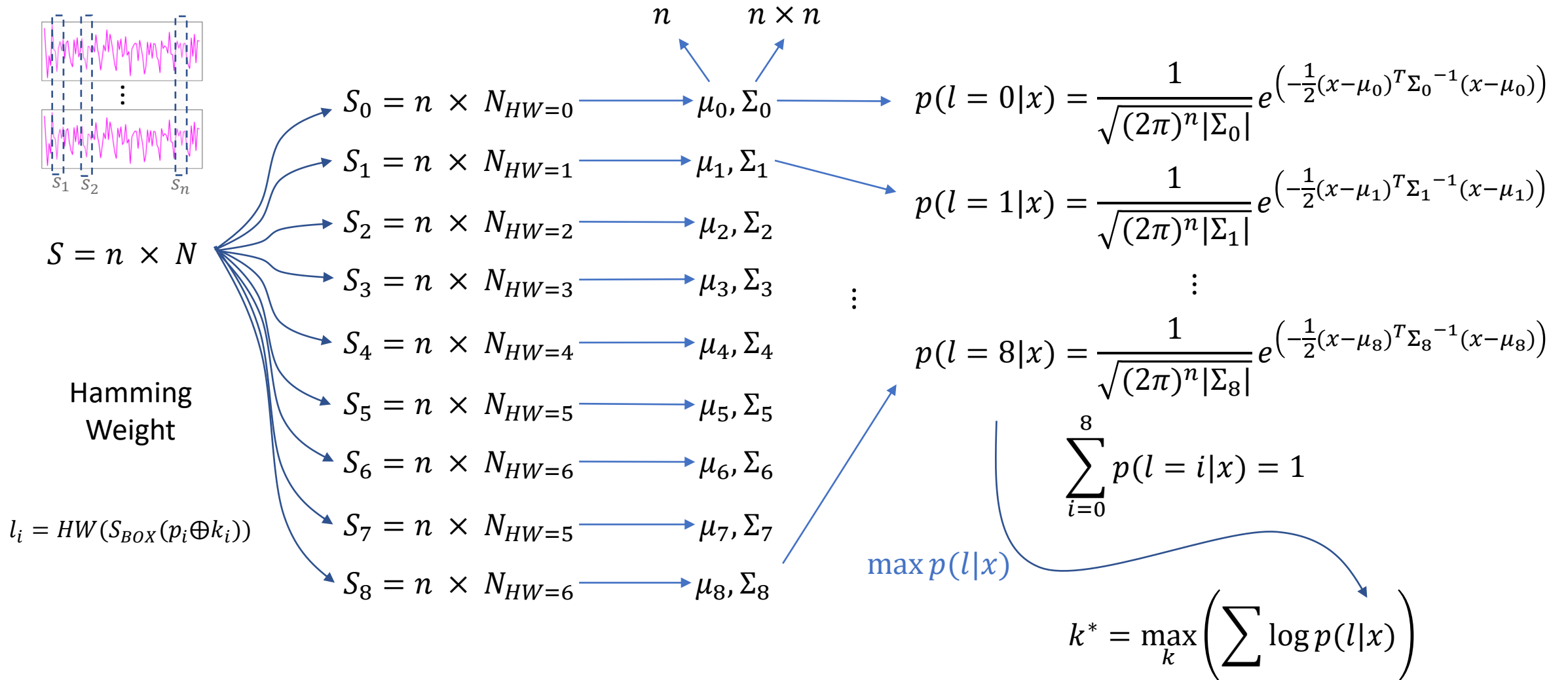


Feature Selection  
(Points-of-Interest)

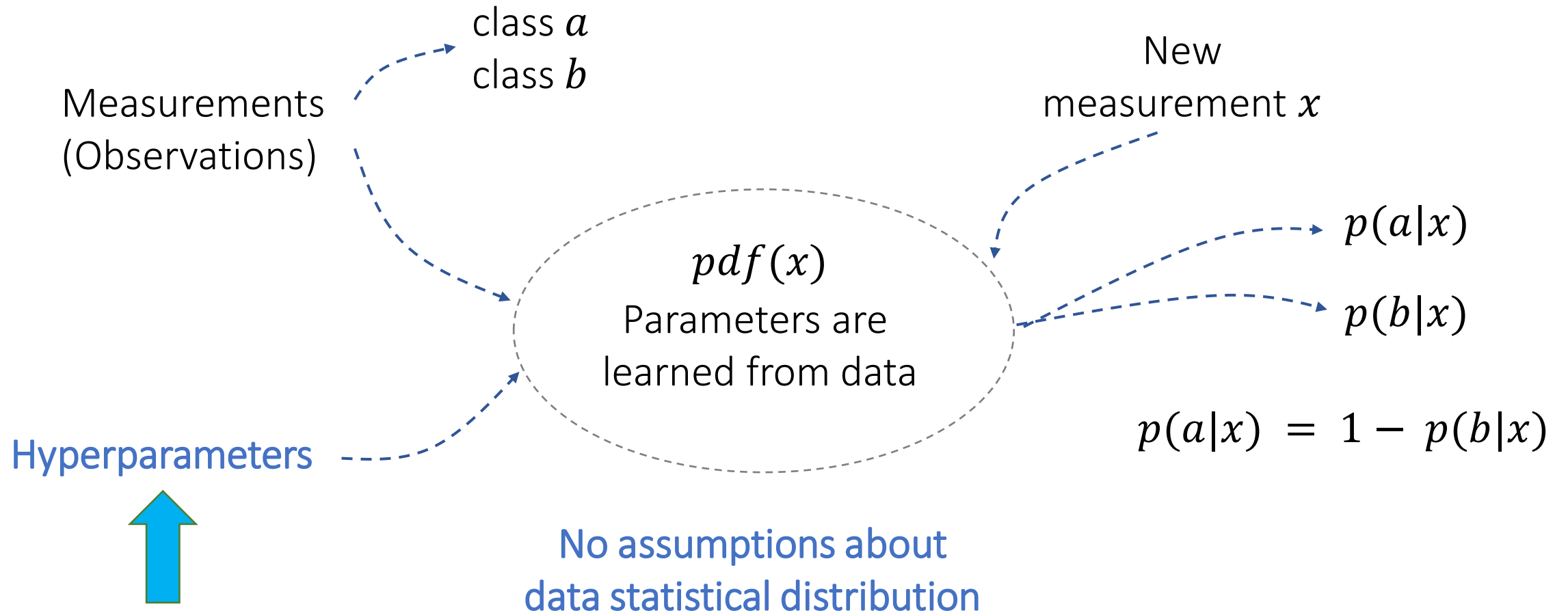




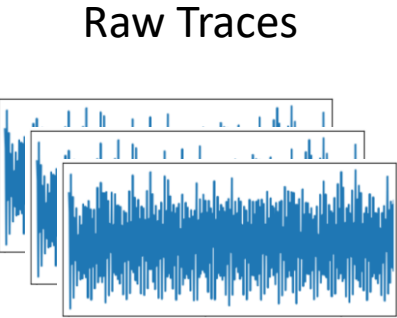
# Template Attacks (Gaussian Mixture Models)



# Machine Learning (incl. Deep Learning)

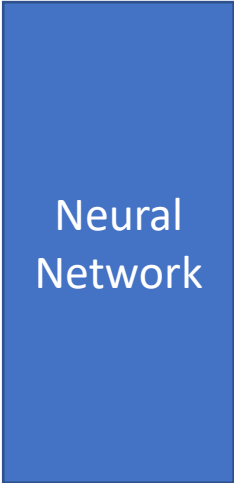


# Deep Learning

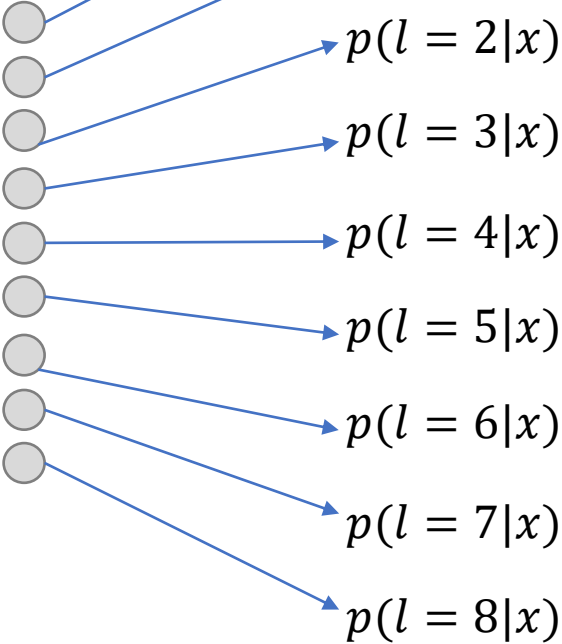


Hamming Weight

$$l_i = HW(S_{BOX}(p_i \oplus k_i))$$



Softmax



$$\sum_{i=0}^8 p(l = i|x) = 1$$

$\max p(l|x)$

$$k^* = \max_k \left( \sum \log p(l|x) \right)$$

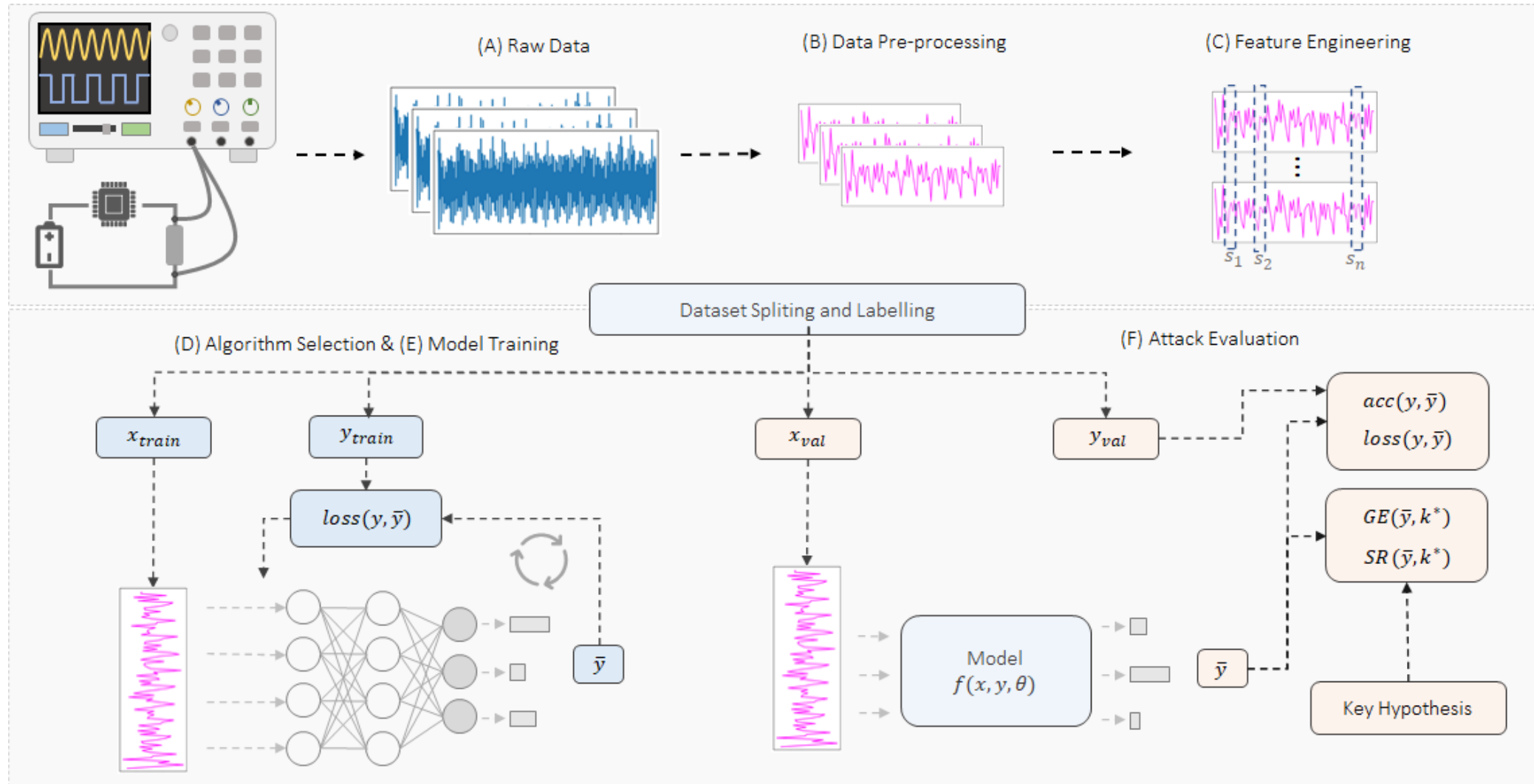
# Template vs Deep Learning: should we compare?

- TA and DL have different purposes and applications
  - *Bronchain et al. “Breaking Masked Implementations with Many Shares on 32-bit Software Platforms or When the Security Order Does Not Matter”, CHES 2021.*
- DL is not a replacement. It is an alternative. It is what comes next.
  - Highly exploratory.
  - But limitations are still unknown (this is a good direction for research).

# Basic steps for DL-SCA

- Get measurements (profiling and attack traces)
- Leakage assessment ?
- Split profiling set into training and validation traces
- Label training, validation and attack traces
- Define the neural network (or neural network search process)
- Define the metric (Guessing Entropy, Number of Attack Traces)
- Train, validate, adjust, train, validate, adjust, ...
- Attack phase

# Main DL-SCA steps



# Workflow in DL-SCA

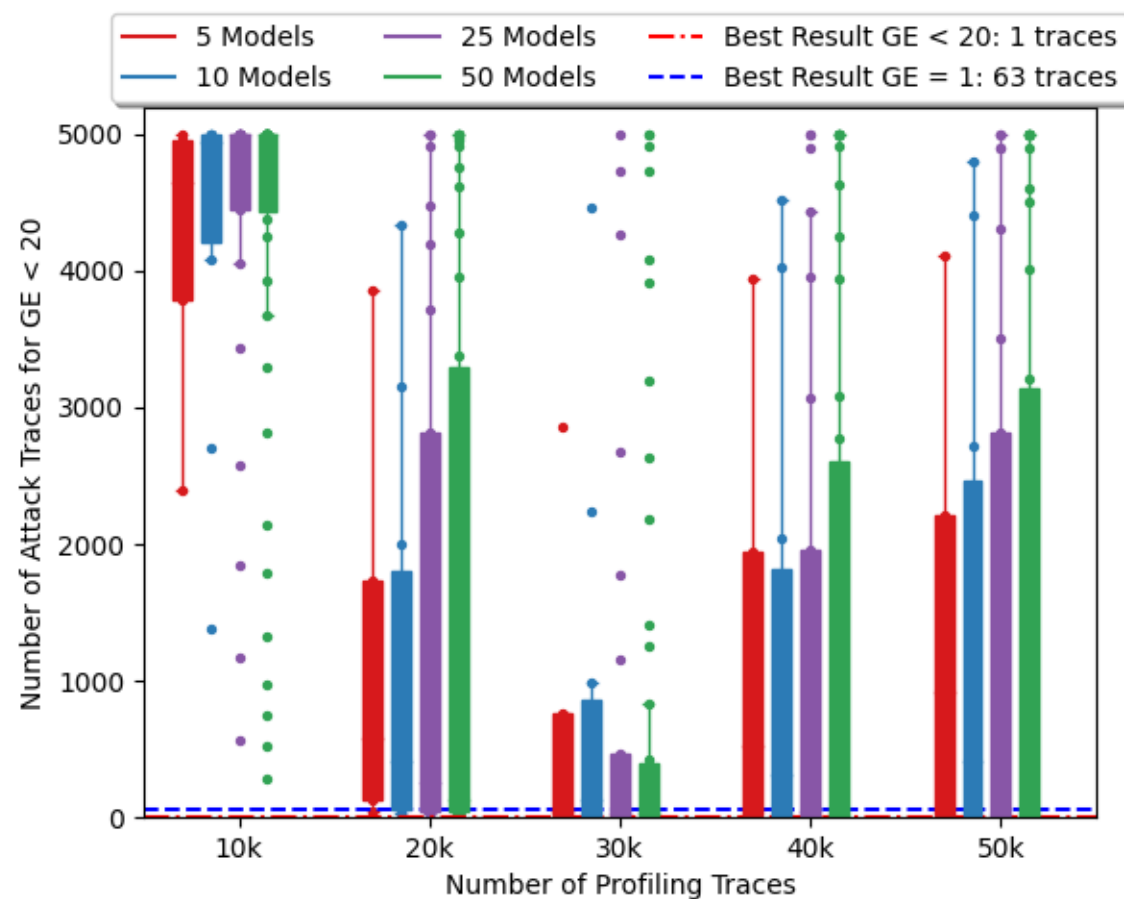
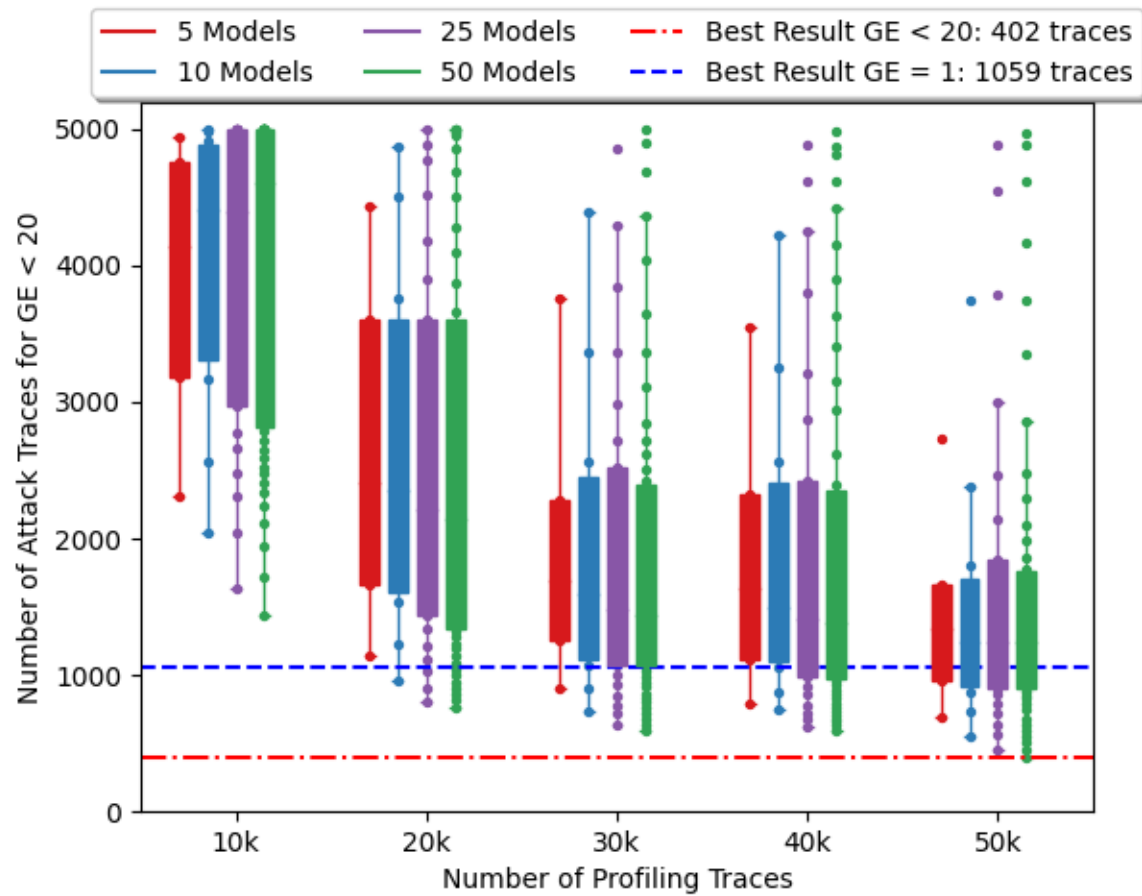
- DL-SCA attacks against (first-order protected) AES implementations became completely feasible (at least in 2021).
- What would happen if we would focus on more realistic and difficult targets?
- We need to understand what impacts our attack efficiency

# Attack Components

- Number of profiling traces
- Number of attack traces
- Learnability: number of neural networks configurations we can try
- What happen if we have limited traces (profiling, attack), but *infinite learnability capacity*?
  - We should be able to recover the key with a single attack trace.
  - “*Replace the human by the machine*” -> we are far from this point. And we need good frameworks and guidelines.

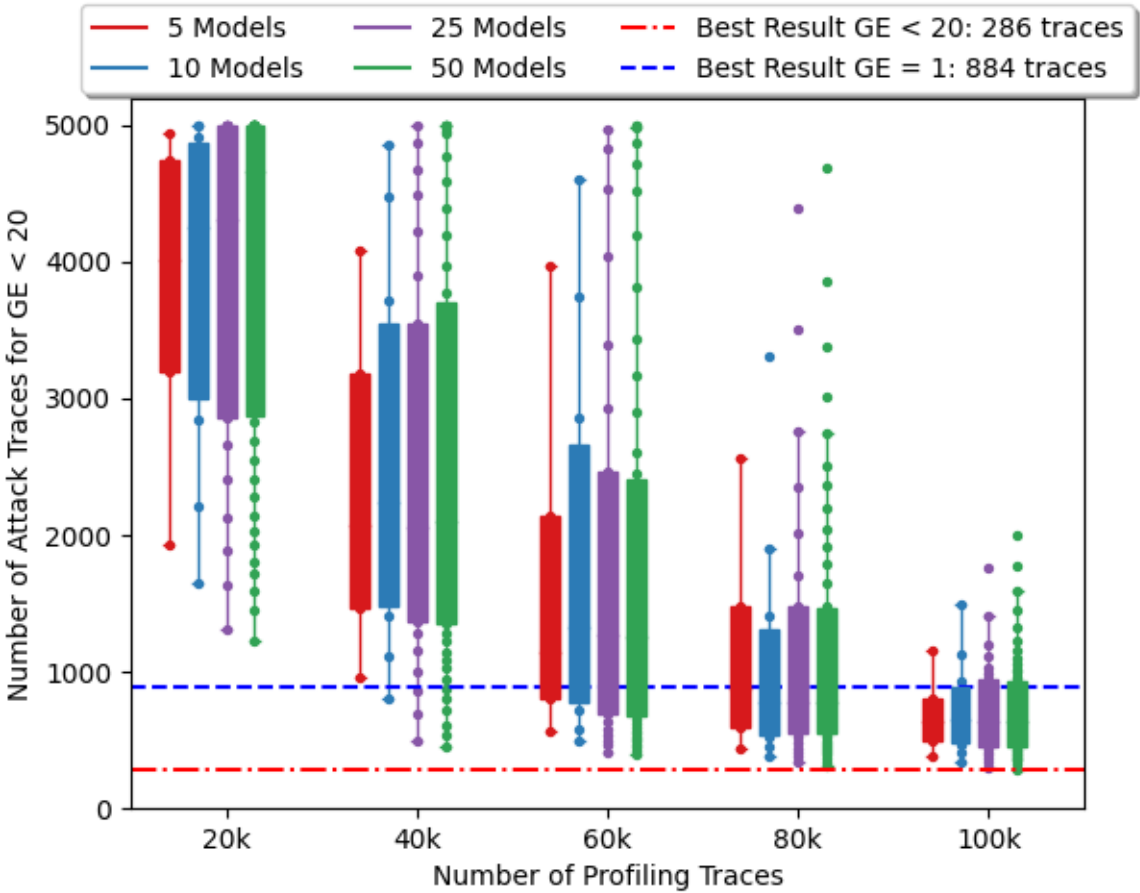
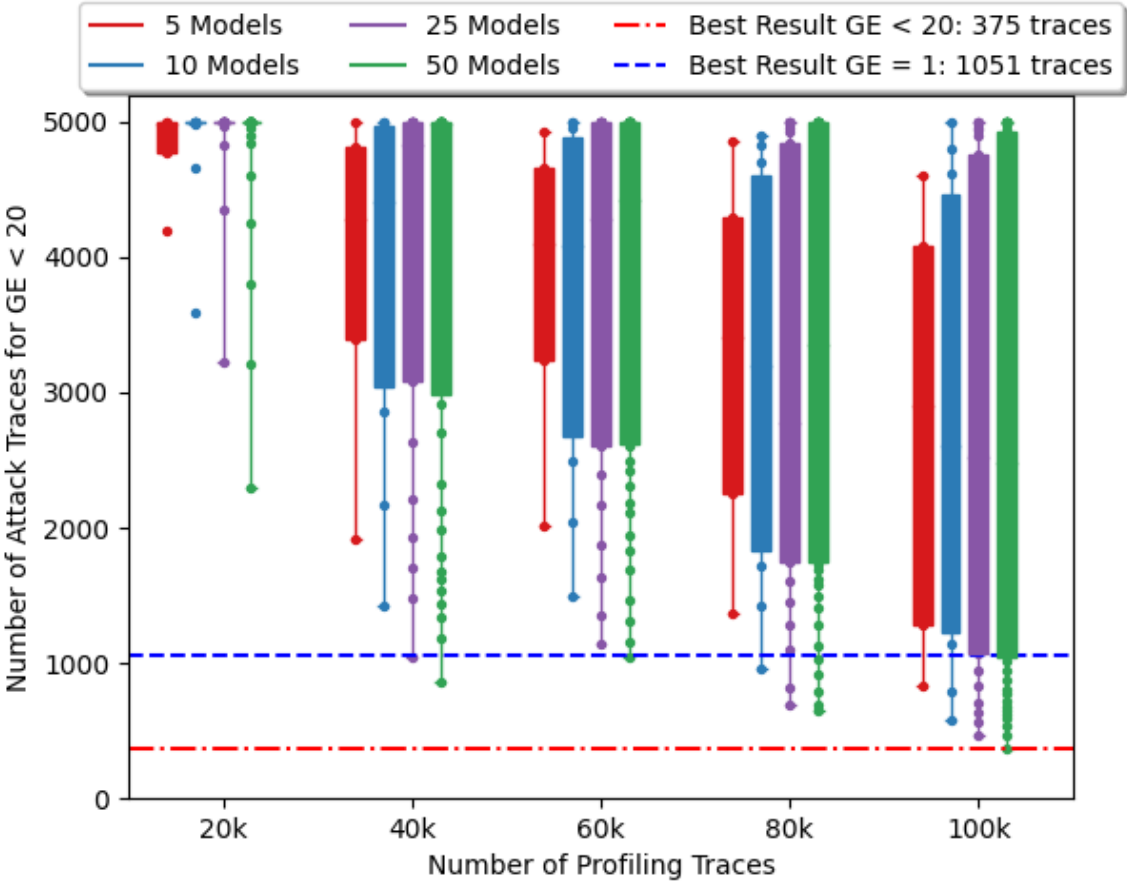


# Efficient Attacker Framework



Number of profiling traces impacts more than learnability

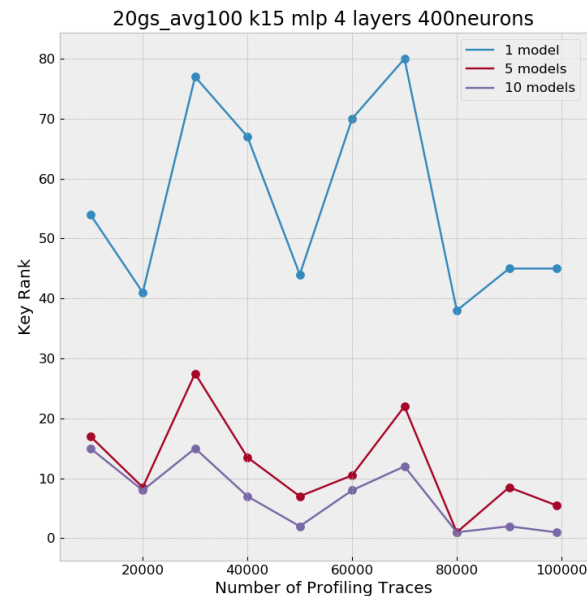
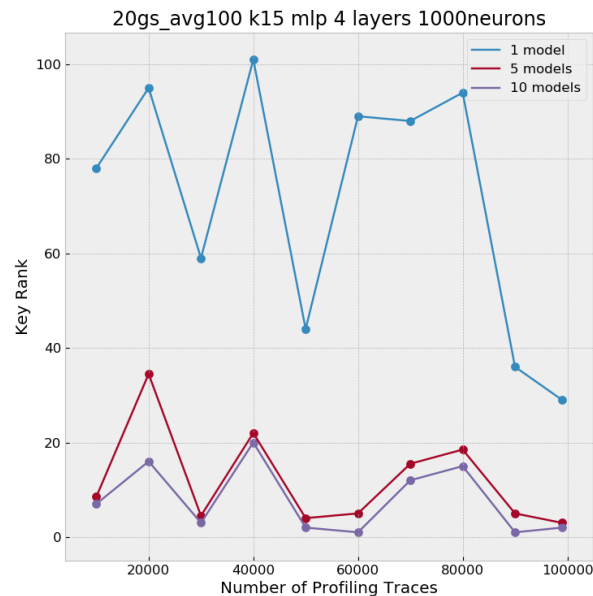
# Efficient Attacker Framework



Number of profiling traces and learnability impacts the efficiency.

# Efficient Attacker Framework

- Analyze how the number of profiling traces impacts the attack performance (Guessing Entropy, Success Rate)
- Analyze how number of models (neural network configurations) affects results (random hyperparameter search)



The number of profiling traces has a smaller influence in the attack performance with respect to number of models we try.

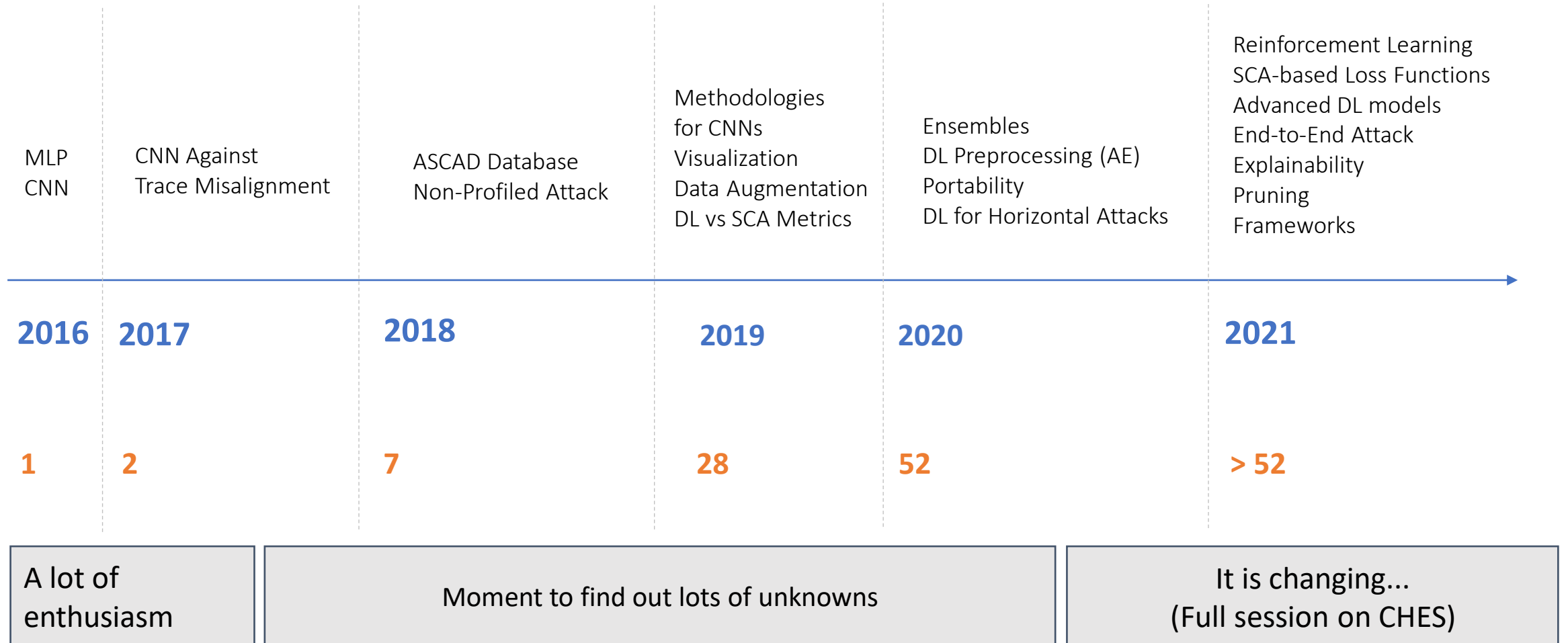
*“Zooming out from the problem”.*

Achievements  
Challenges

# DL-SCA in security evaluations

- Hyperparameter search that delivers *pass* verdict is enough?
  - 100 Models (4 activation functions): 2 activation functions are inefficient -> 50% of models are useless.
  - We need more realistic open-source datasets
  - How to judge/evaluate attacker's decisions?
- AI, deep learning, reinforcement learning fields are evolving fast. Are security evaluators adopting state-of-the-art?
  - How feasible is to do that?
  - It is becoming a standard to publish source code with paper. That is a good thing!
  - [We need good frameworks.](#)

# DL-SCA progress over the years



# Where are we today?

- (MILESTONE) Successful and efficient profiling attacks against *first-order* (Boolean) *masking* schemes (symmetric crypto) and *protected* public-key algorithms (RSA, ECC)
  - Software (8, 16 and 32-bit platforms) and Hardware (FPGA)
  - Noisy measurements
  - Misaligned measurements
  - Unified deep learning structures for multiple targets
  - Efficient methods for hyperparameters search

# Challenges

- Attacks on high-order masking schemes (e.g., ASCADv2)
- We need more realistic open-source datasets (countermeasures, platforms)
- Definition of best profiled attack setup (several methods, which one should we use?)
- What is the path to define an efficient neural network?
  - For profiling SCA, do we always have to run hundreds of trainings?
  - Can we have a universal DL model for multiple targets?
- Metrics that can evaluate how much the model is bypassing countermeasures
  - Could we measure how much my neural network is bypassing misalignment during training? If yes, we could adapt hyperparameters earlier during hyperparameter search.
  - Hyperparameter search/optimization based on the SCA context
- Efficient model interpretation (to avoid wrong security assessments conclusions)
  - Explainability and interpretability
- Going from local to broad generalization (F. Chollet, *“On the measure of intelligence”*, 2019)
- Unsupervised DL-SCA attack



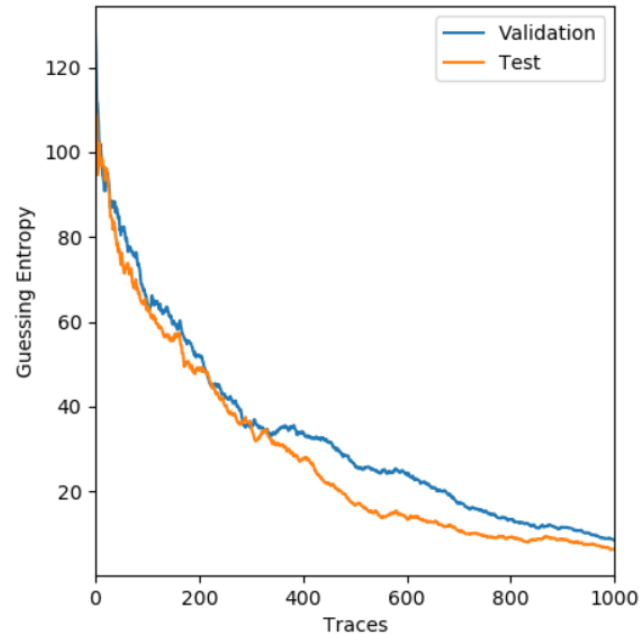
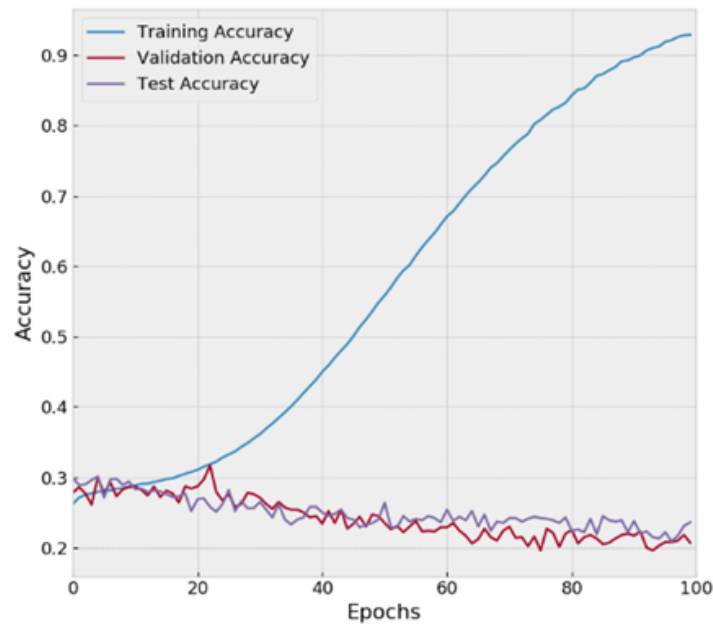
Generalization  
Overfitting  
Metrics

# Minimizing loss

- Minimizing **categorical cross-entropy** is equivalent to maximize **Perceived Information (PI)**
  - *Masure et al. “A Comprehensive Study of Deep Learning for Side-Channel Analysis”, TCHES2020.*
- Other directions using SCA-based loss functions:
  - **Cross-Entropy Ratio (CER) Loss Function (TCHES 2020)**
  - **Ranking Loss (RKL) (TCHES 2021)**
  - **Ensemble Loss (TCHES 2021)**

# SCA vs DL Metrics

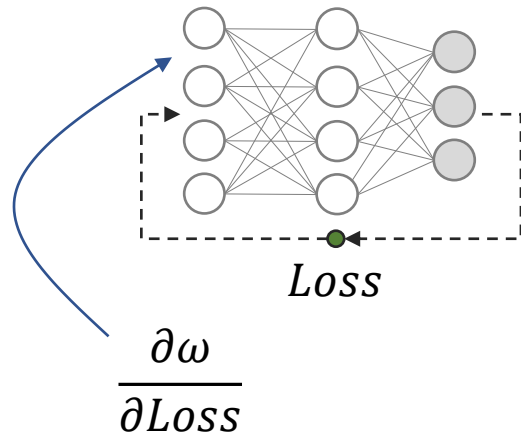
- Validation loss and validation accuracy



# Overfitting and Generalization – Can we measure?

- Not clear method for that. Only estimation.
- What we can do is to check generalization capability.
- Can Guessing Entropy indicate generalization?
  - Guessing entropy vector = average of 100 key rank executions
  - From a large set of  $U$  attack traces, randomly select  $Q$  attack traces for each key rank execution, where  $U \gggg Q$
  - Ex.:  $U = 100000$ ,  $Q = 1000$

# Visualization



Other methods:

- Occlusion
- Saliency maps
- Layer-wise relevance propagation
- LIME

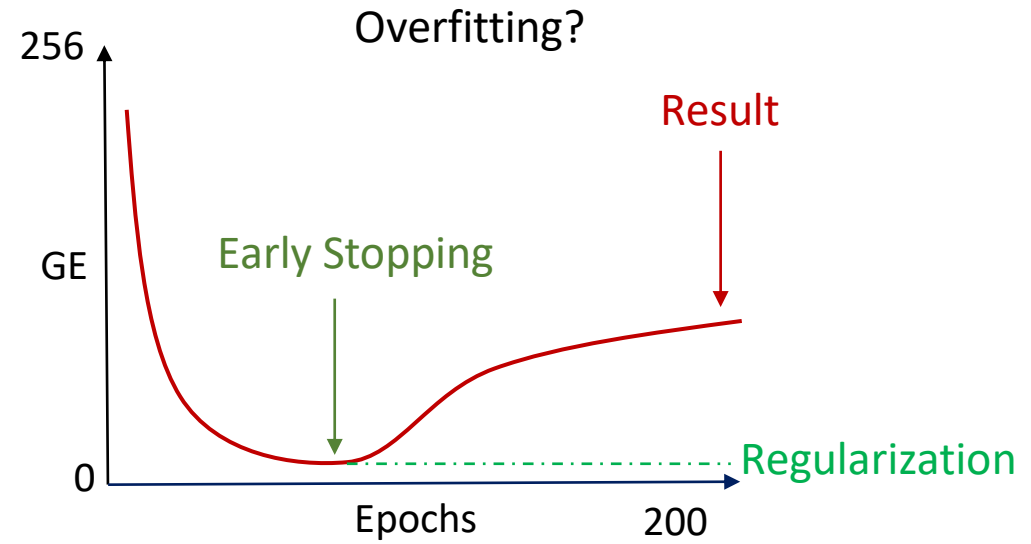
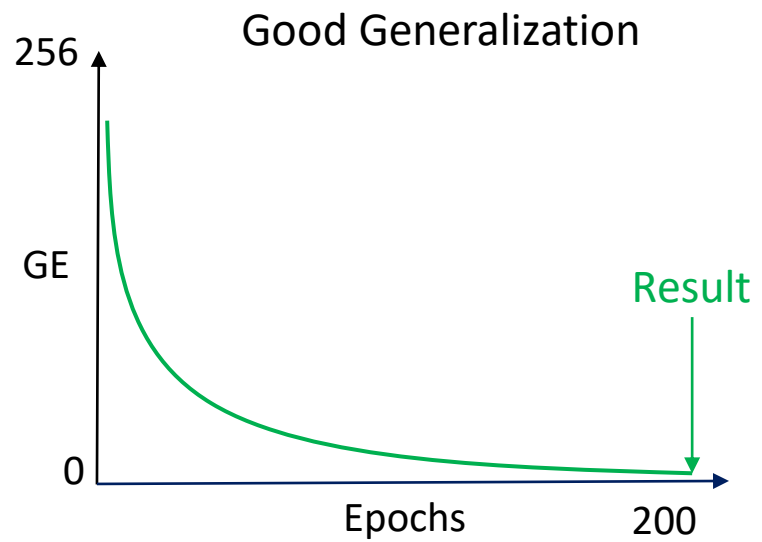
Input Gradient: measures how much changing  $\omega$  affects  $Loss$

- Most important features for the trained model
- Good tool to understand/visualize if a neural network is able to automatically reject what is not leakage.

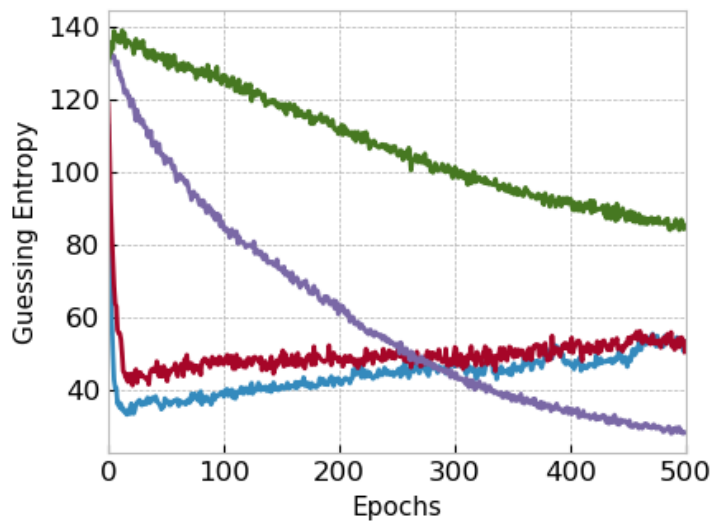
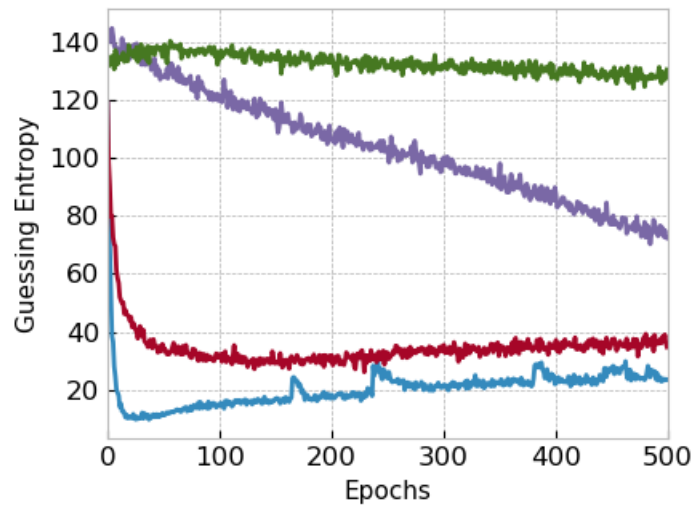
# Regularization

- Implicit regularization (small models, large training sets): less overfitting
  - Small model capacity adds regularization
  - Small learning rates
- Explicit regularization (large models, small training sets): easy overfitting
  - Gaussian or noise layers
  - Early stopping
  - Batch normalization
  - Data augmentation (traces shifts, noise)

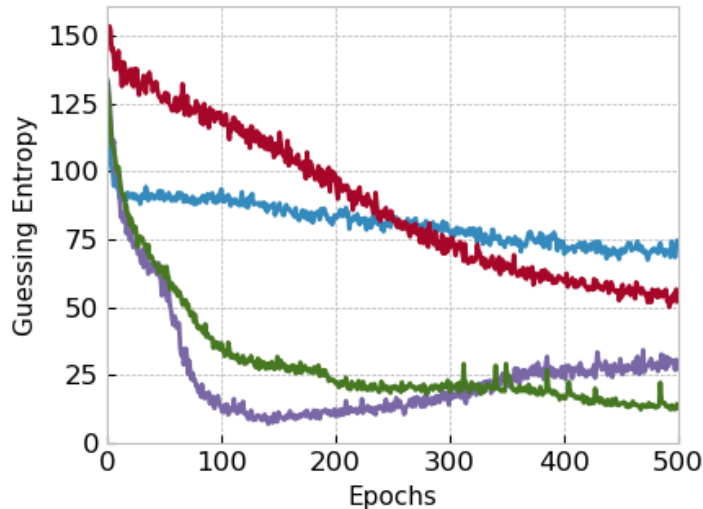
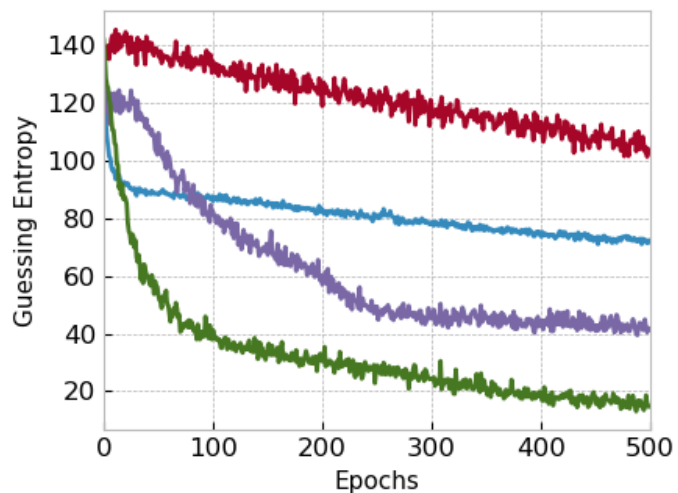
# Regularization



# Optimizers



- Avg Adam
- Avg Adagrad
- Avg RMSprop
- Avg Adadelta



- Avg SGD
- Avg SGD Momentum
- Avg SGD Nesterov
- Avg SGD Momentum



# Lottery Ticket Hypothesis (LTH)

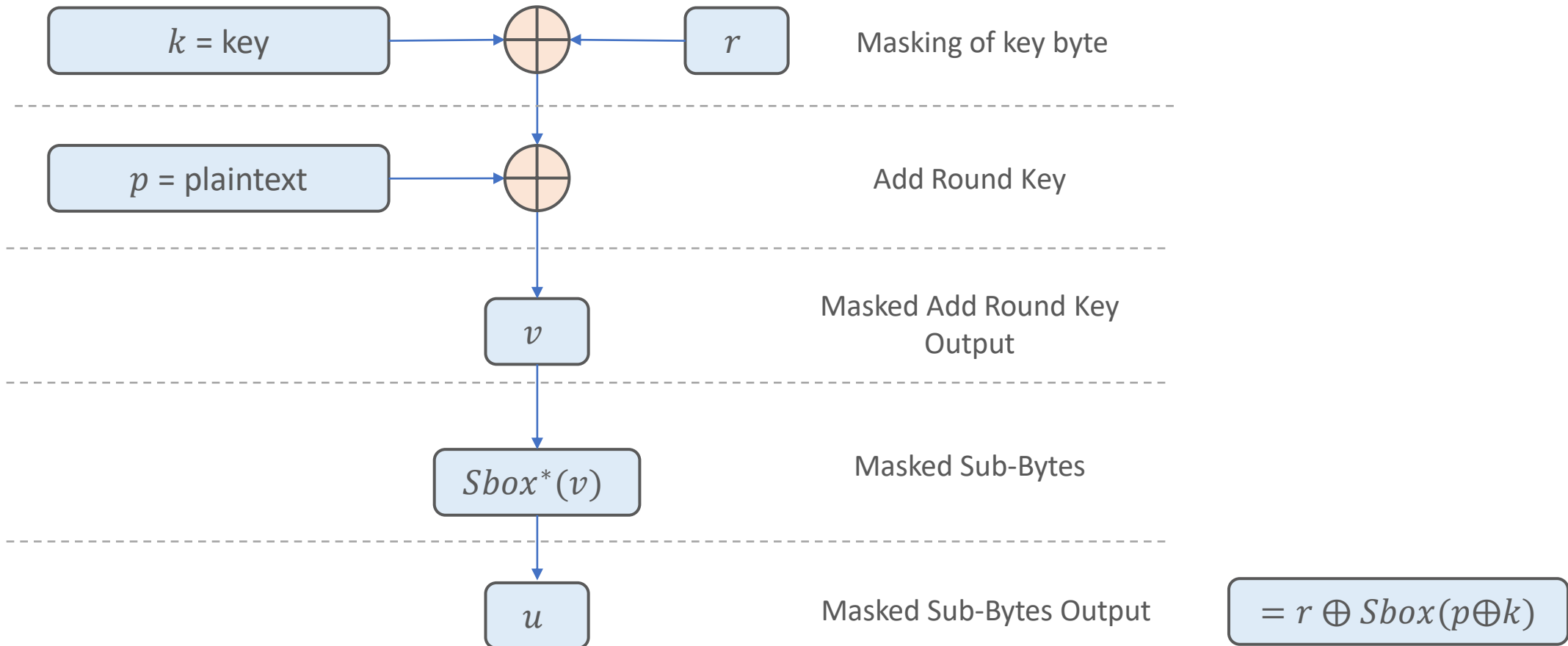
- J. Frankle et al, “[The Lottery Ticket Hypothesis: Finding Sparse, Trainable Neural Networks](#)”, ICLR 2019.
- Technique to find efficient deep learning models without tuning hyperparameters
- Alternative regularization method
- Train a baseline model (large one)
- Pruning
- **Reinitialize** the pruned model with **initial weights** from baseline
- Train pruned model
- Accuracy Pruned  $\cong$  Accuracy Baseline

# AI SY Framework

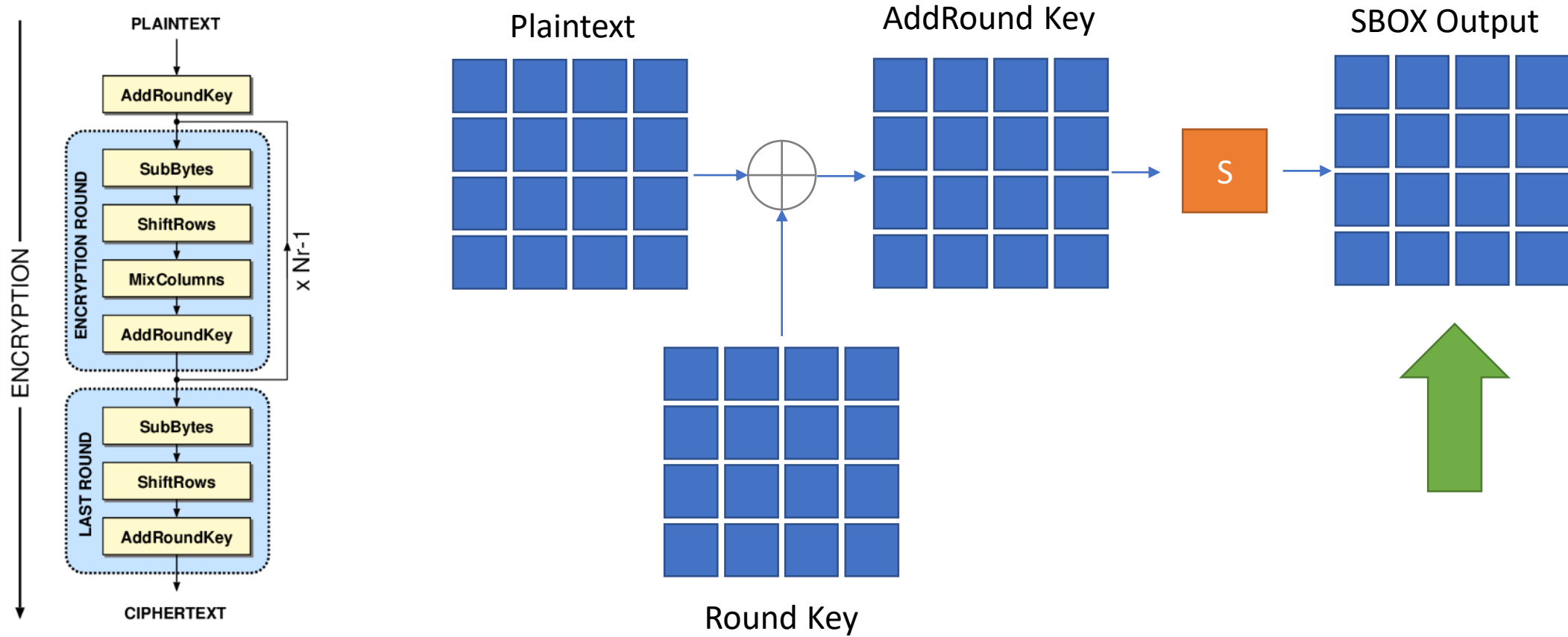
# ASCAD Database (AES128, 8-bit Software)

- ASCAD fixed key (1 device):
  - 60,000 measurements
  - 100,000 points per measurement
- ASCAD random keys (1 device):
  - 200,000 measurements (random key)
  - 100,000 measurements (fixed key)
  - 250,000 points per measurement
- Key bytes 0 and 1: unprotected (masks are equal to ZERO)
- Key bytes 2 to 15: 1<sup>st</sup> order Boolean masking countermeasure

# ASCAD Database (1<sup>st</sup> order Boolean Masking)



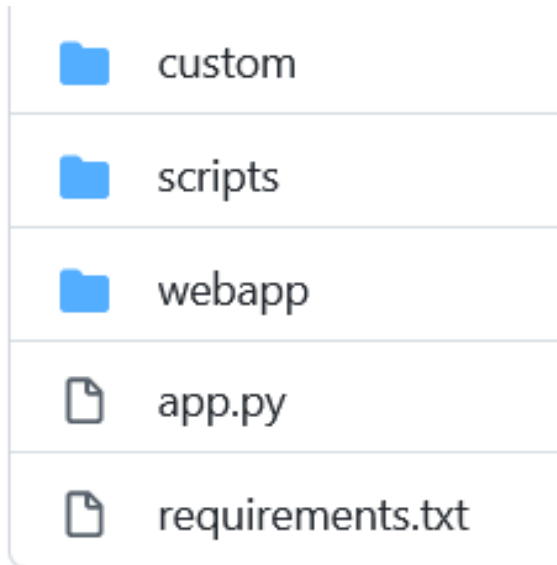
# AES-128 Encryption



# AISY Framework



# AISY Framework



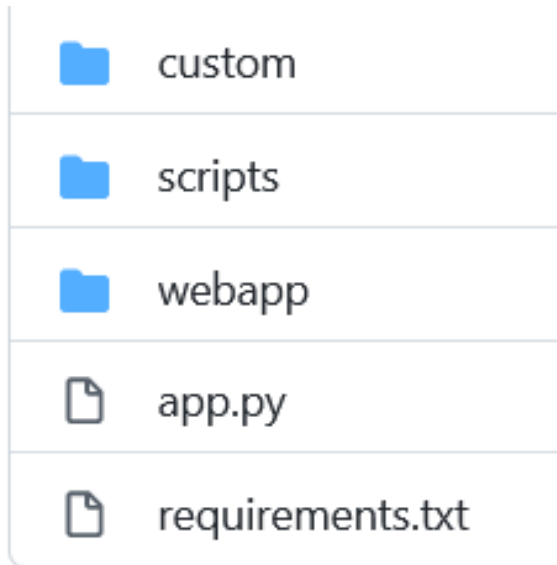
- script\_aes.py
- script\_aes\_cpa.py
- script\_aes\_custom\_callback.py
- script\_aes\_custom\_metrics.py
- script\_aes\_custom\_table.py
- script\_aes\_data\_augmentation.py
- script\_aes\_ensembles.py
- script\_aes\_grid\_search.py
- script\_aes\_lth.py
- script\_aes\_neural\_network\_parameters.py
- script\_aes\_plot\_probability\_ranks.py
- script\_aes\_random\_search.py
- script\_aes\_save\_to\_npz.py
- script\_aes\_visualization.py
- script\_open\_npz\_file.py

# AISY Framework



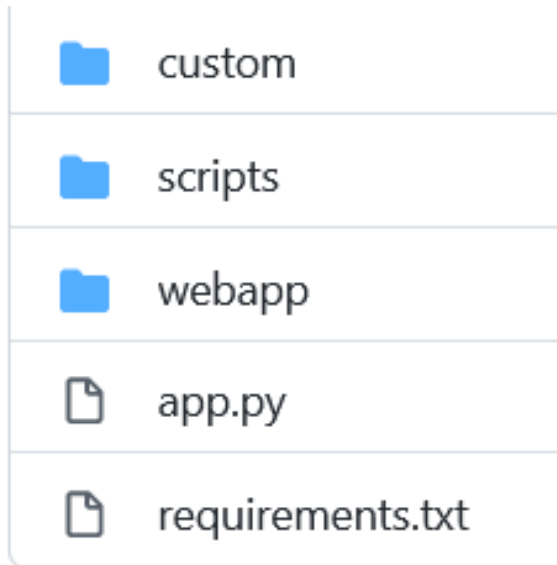


# AISY Framework



Path settings (datasets, databases, models, figures)  
Localhost application (*Flask*)

# AISY Framework



```
1  numpy==1.19.4
2  tensorflow-gpu==2.0.0
3  matplotlib
4  joblib
5  keras==2.1.6
6  plotly==4.5.2
7  sqlalchemy
8  flask
9  python-dotenv
10 flaskcode
11 pandas
12 hiplot
13 dash
14 h5py==2.10.0
15 termcolor
16 pytz
17 sklearn
18 scipy
19 dash_bootstrap_components
20 aisy-sca==0.1.7
21 aisy-database==0.1.0
```

# Installation

```
git clone https://github.com/AISyLab/AISY\_Framework.git  
cd AISY_Framework
```

```
virtualenv env  
source env/Scripts/activate (Windows)  
source env/bin/activate (Linux/MacOS)
```

```
pip install -r requirements.txt
```

# https://aisylab.github.io/AISY\_docs/

[Docs](#) » Home

## Welcome to AISY Framework - Deep Learning for Side-Channel Analysis

AISY framework is a python-based framework that allows efficient and scalable applications of deep learning to side-channel attacks (SCA). This project was implemented as a result of several years of research on deep learning and side-channel analysis by AisyLab at TU Delft (The Netherlands).

### Why you should consider AISY Framework for Deep Learning-based SCA

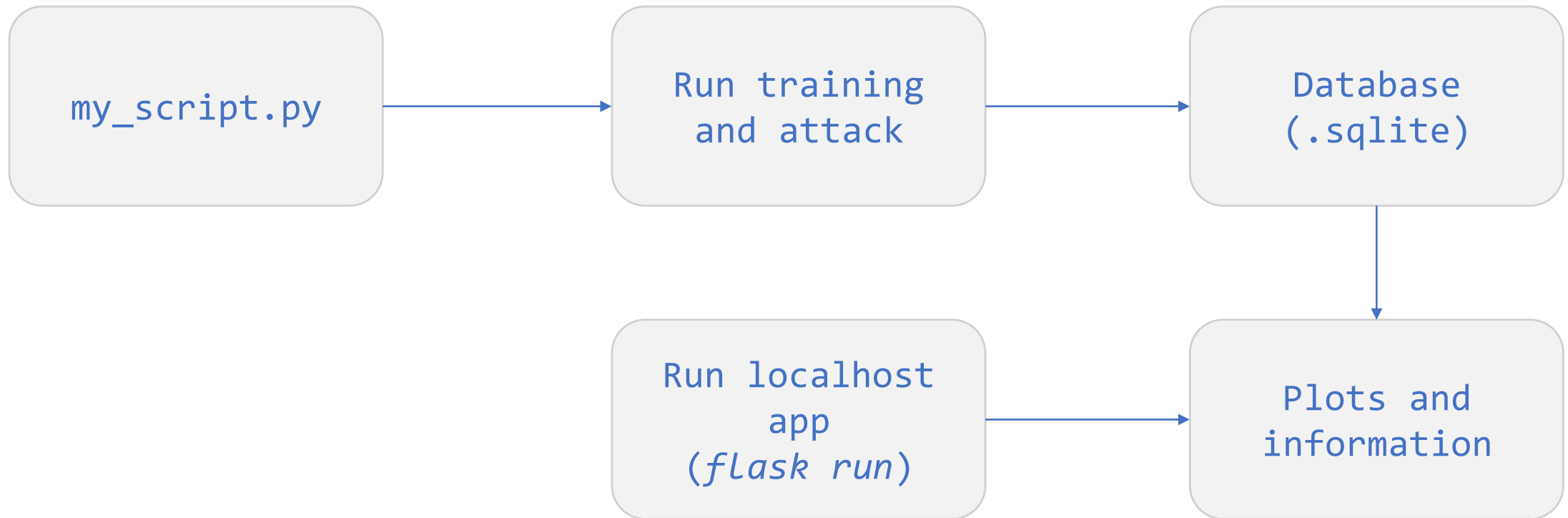
#### Reason 1: Easy to use

AISY Framework allows very easy execution of deep learning in profiled side-channel attacks. Here is an example of all the code that is needed to run a profiled SCA attack on key byte 2 of an AES implementation from well-known ASCAD database:

```
import aisylab
from app import *
from custom.custom_models.neural_networks import *

aisy = aisylab.Aisy()
aisy.get_resources_root_folder(resources_root_folder)
```

# Framework Structure



# Open-source framework limitations

- AES128 (demonstration only)
- MLPs and CNNs (users may add other topologies)
- Limited functionalities (e.g., no custom loss function, to be added in future)
- You may find bugs and errors.

# Keras

```
model.compile(...)
```

```
model.fit(  
    ...,  
    callbacks=my_callbacks)
```

```
model.fitgenerator(...)
```

AI SY Framework

Custom metrics

Custom callbacks

Custom data  
augmentation

# 1) Simple script to attack one AES key byte

```
import aisy_sca
from app import *
from custom.custom_models.neural_networks import *

aisy = aisy_sca.Aisy()
aisy.set_resources_root_folder(resources_root_folder)
aisy.set_database_root_folder(databases_root_folder)
aisy.set_datasets_root_folder(datasets_root_folder)
aisy.set_database_name("database_ascad.sqlite")
aisy.set_dataset(datasets_dict["ascad-variable.h5"])
aisy.set_aes_leakage_model(leakage_model="HW", byte=2)
aisy.set_batch_size(400)
aisy.set_epochs(20)
aisy.set_neural_network(mlp)
aisy.run()
```



# 1) Simple script to attack one AES key byte

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import aisy_sca
from app import *
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→ Path definitions (Unchanged)

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Database filename

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Dataset filename

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aisy.run()
```

Leakage Function (Labels)

# 1) Simple script to attack one AES key byte

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aisy.set_batch_size(400)
aisy.set_epochs(20)
aisy.set_neural_network(mlp)
aisy.run()
```

→ Training settings

# 1) Simple script to attack one AES key byte

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aisy.set_epochs(20)
aisy.set_neural_network(mlp)
aisy.run()
```

→ Neural Network

## 2) Visualization

```
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aisy.set_aes_leakage_model(leakage_model="HW", byte=2)
aisy.set_batch_size(400)
aisy.set_epochs(20)
aisy.set_neural_network(mlp)

aisy.run(visualization=[4000])
```

Thank you!

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