

# Sponge-Based Control-Flow Protection for IoT Devices

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Werner, Unterluggauer, Schaffenrath, Mangard

25th April 2018, London

Graz University of Technology

# Motivation and Context

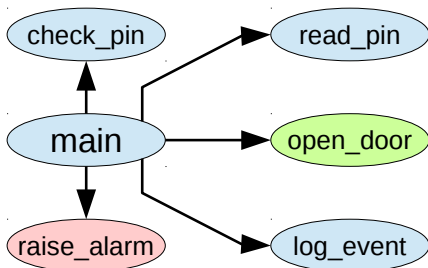
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- Exploit software and design bugs
- Mounted via external interfaces
- Applicable via the Internet
- Attack techniques:
  - Code: code injection, ret2libc, ROP, JOP
  - Data: DOP
- Countermeasures:
  - Correct software
  - SW:  $W \oplus X$ , ASLR, CFI, CPI, DFI, WIT
  - HW: processor privilege levels and access control

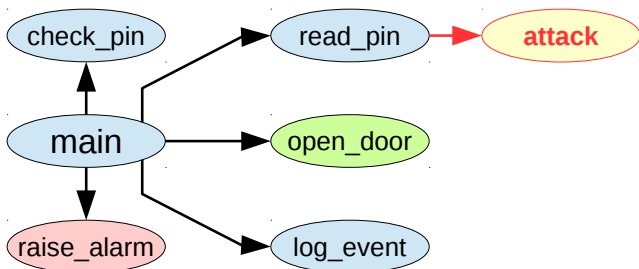
- Tamper with the operation conditions to induce faults
- Exploit the physical access to a device
- Mostly local exploitation (IoT, cloud)
- Huge portfolio of attacks [BDL97]  
and countermeasures for crypto [Bar+04]
- Only little work on protecting processors [Cle+16]
- Prominent example: Xbox 360 reset glitch hack

- Sponge-based Control-Flow Protection (SCFP)
  - Hardware supported Control-Flow Integrity (CFI) scheme
  - Encrypts the instruction stream with instruction granularity
  - Protects against logical and physical attacks
- Present and analyzed two suitable sponge constructions
- Discuss three SCFP instantiations (IE, AEE, AEE-Light)
- Evaluate AEE-Light in a RISC-V processor
  - 9.1 % runtime overhead
  - 19.8 % code size overhead

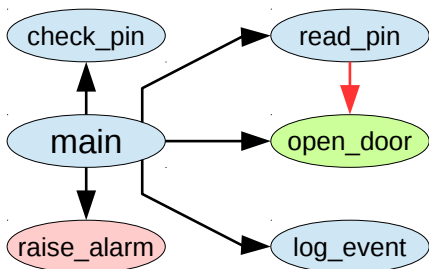
```
unsigned pin = read_pin();
bool auth = check_pin(pin);
if( auth ) {
    open_door();
} else {
    raise_alarm();
}
log_event();
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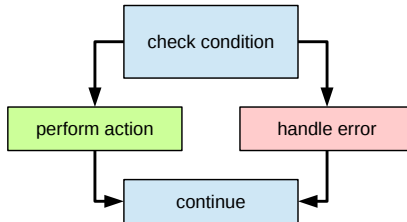


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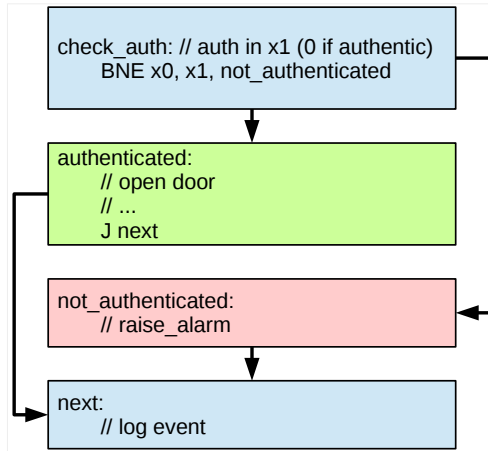


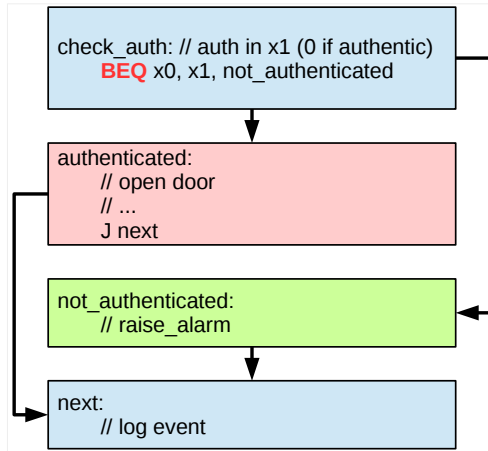
```
check_auth: // auth in x1 (0 if authentic)
            BNE x0, x1, not_authenticated
```

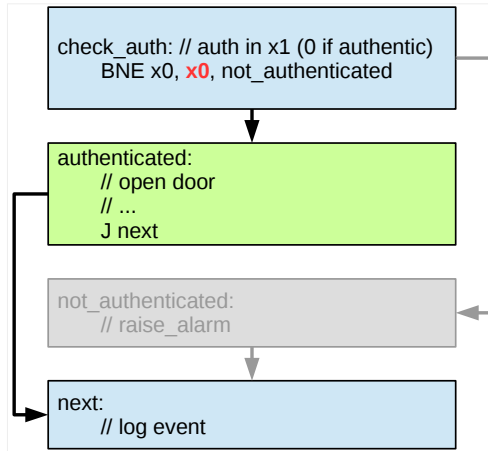
```
authenticated:
    // open door
    // ...
    J next
```

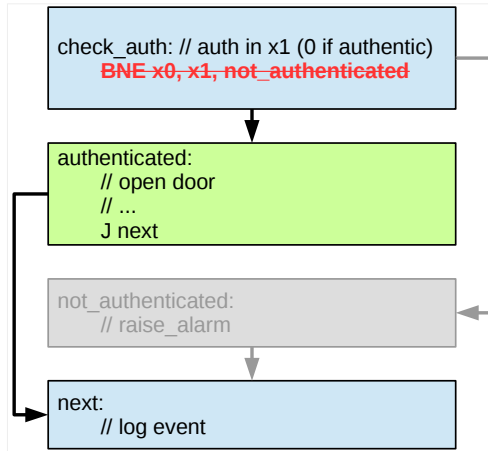
```
not_authenticated:
    // raise_alarm
```

```
next:
    // log event
```



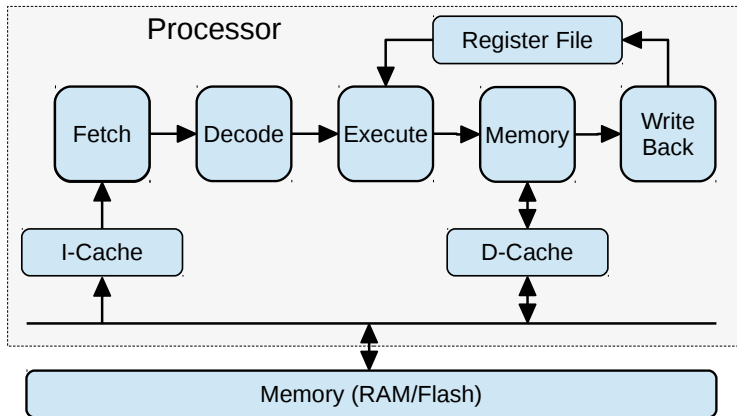




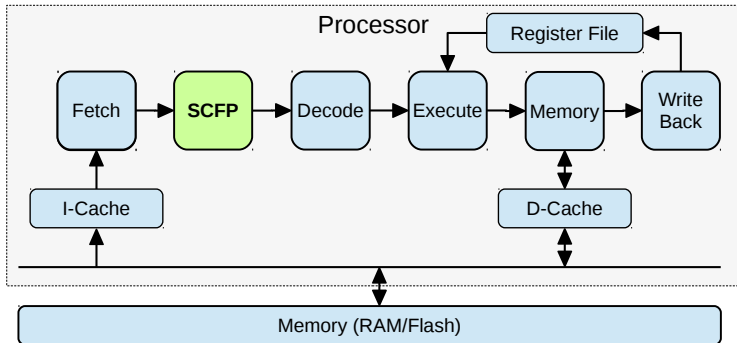


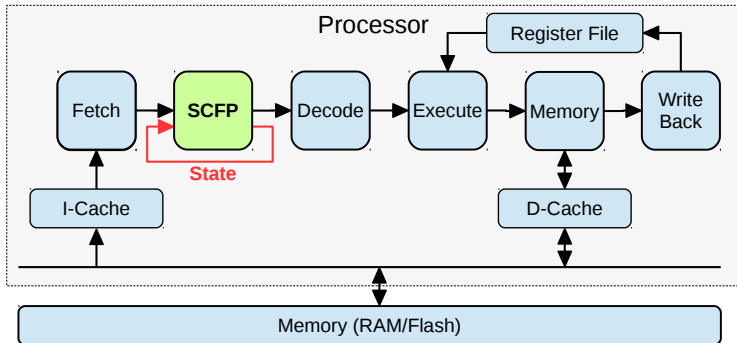
# SCFP Concept

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```
strcmp
```

```
  : ec d0 ee 97  
  : 28 ce 77 80  
  : 75 41 64 b1
```

```
  : 4b f4 51 75  
  : d9 a6 02 ad  
  : 51 7d 34 43
```

```
  : 4d 1b c0 0f  
  : a3 0f 21 3e
```

```
strcmp
```

```
0x1b2a0645
```

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: ec d0 ee 97  
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: 4d 1b c0 0f  
: a3 0f 21 3e
```

```
strcmp  
0x1b2a0645  
0xdd3fbcce : 03 06 05 00 : 1b a2, 0(a0)  
              : 28 ce 77 80  
              : 75 41 64 b1
```

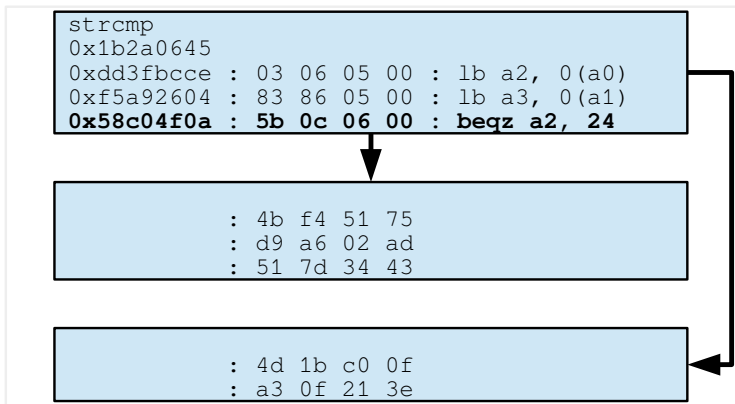
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              : 4b f4 51 75  
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```
strcmp  
0x1b2a0645  
0xdd3fbcce : 03 06 05 00 : 1b a2, 0(a0)  
0xf5a92604 : 83 86 05 00 : 1b a3, 0(a1)  
: 75 41 64 b1
```

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strcmp  
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0xf5a92604 : 83 86 05 00 : 1b a3, 0(a1)  
0x58c04f0a : 5b 0c 06 00 : beqz a2, 24
```

↓

```
0x58c04f0a  
: 4b f4 51 75  
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0x58c04f0a  
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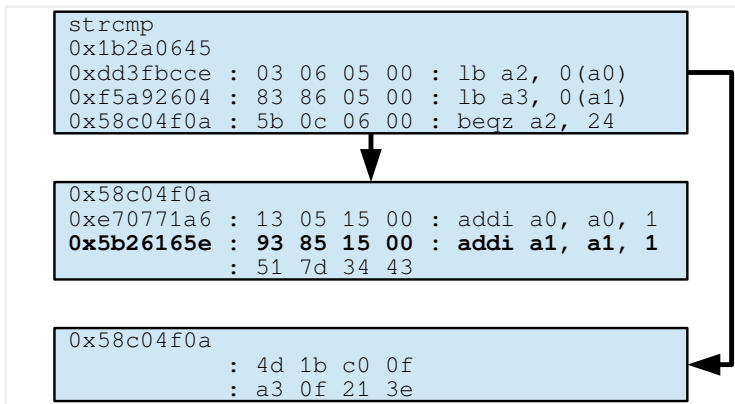


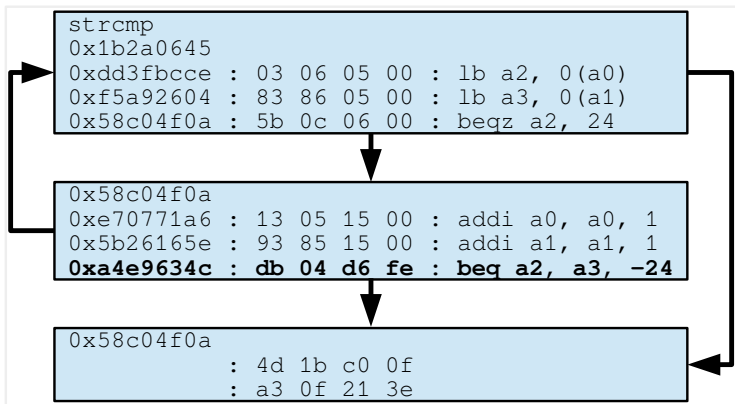
```
strcmp  
0x1b2a0645  
0xdd3fbcce : 03 06 05 00 : lb a2, 0(a0)  
0xf5a92604 : 83 86 05 00 : lb a3, 0(a1)  
0x58c04f0a : 5b 0c 06 00 : beqz a2, 24
```

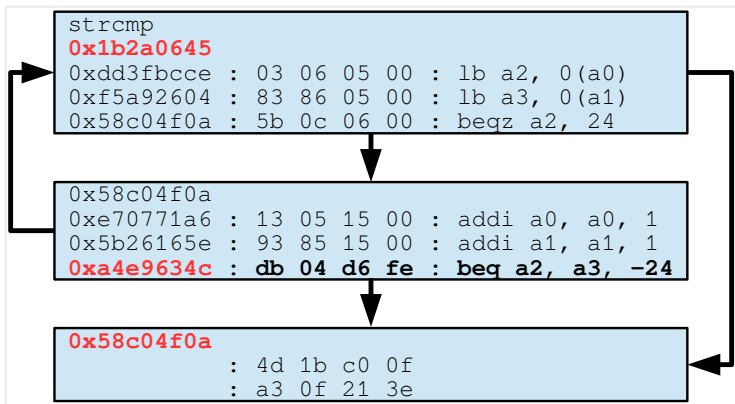
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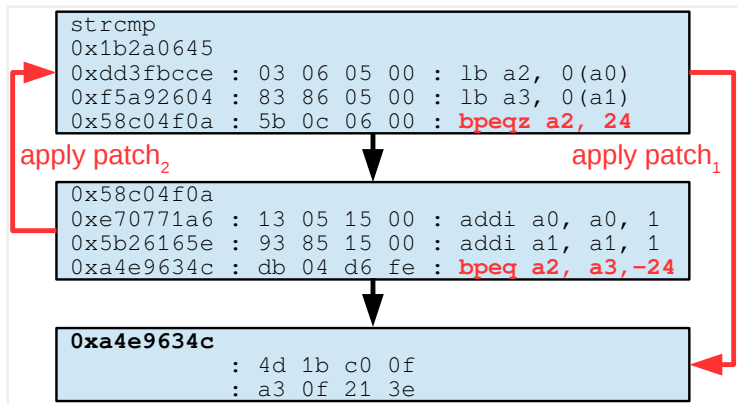
```
0x58c04f0a  
0xe70771a6 : 13 05 15 00 : addi a0, a0, 1  
: d9 a6 02 ad  
: 51 7d 34 43
```

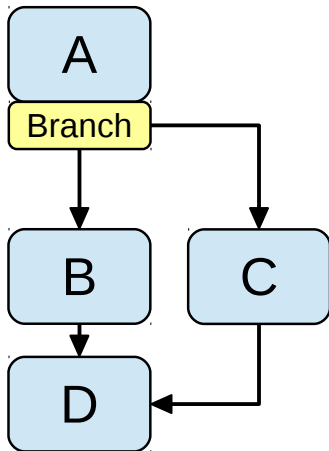
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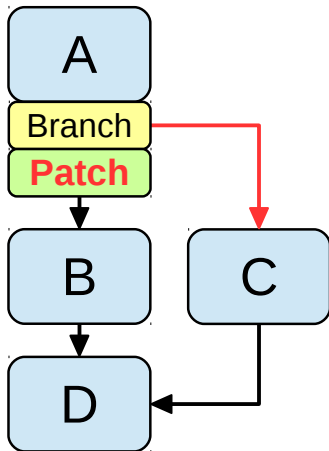


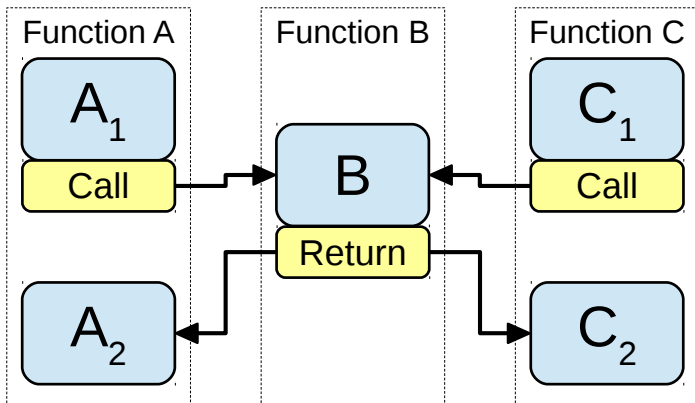




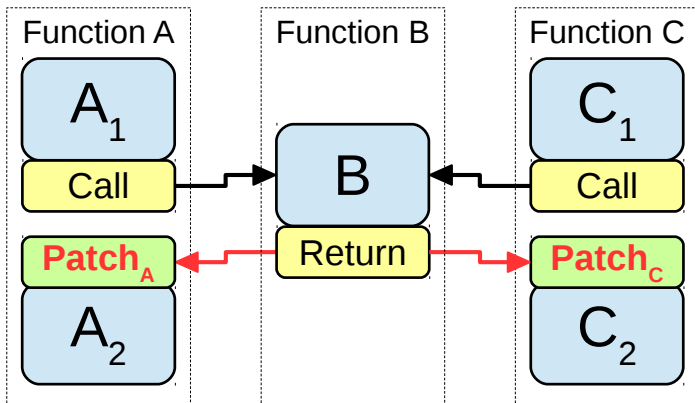


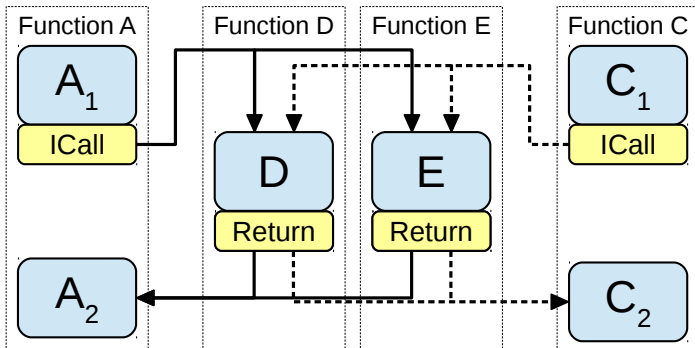


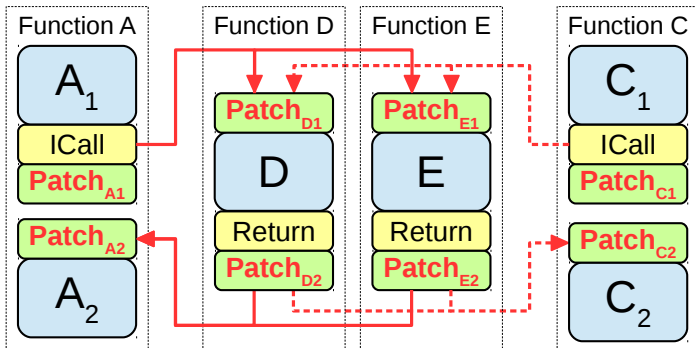








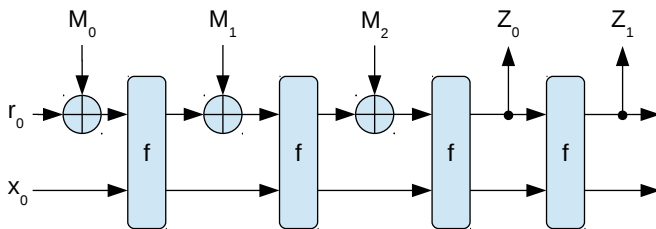




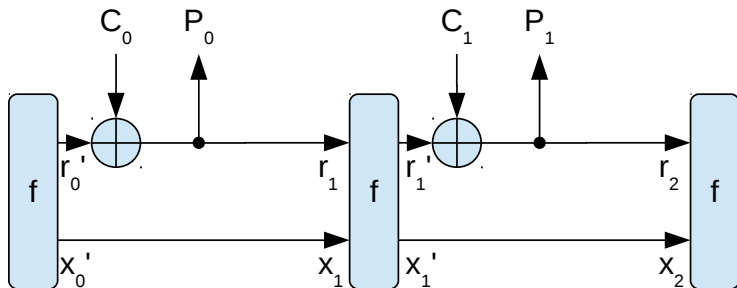
# **Sponge Constructions for SCFP**

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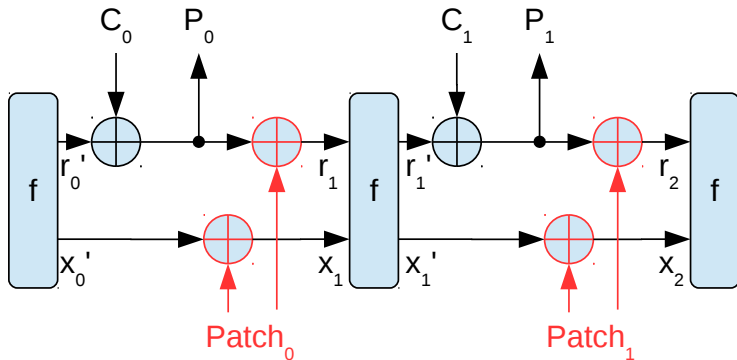
- Mode of operation developed by Bertoni et al. [Ber+07]
- Based on a fixed-length permutation + padding rule
- Keccak standardized as SHA-3 and SHAKE
- Hash functions, XOFs, MACs, stream and AEAD ciphers



- Original construction by Bertoni et al. [Ber+11]



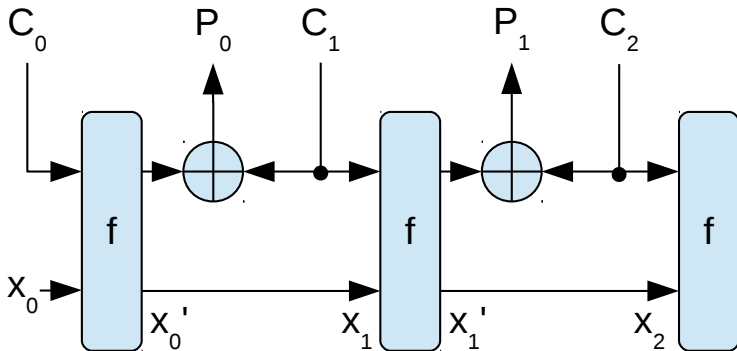
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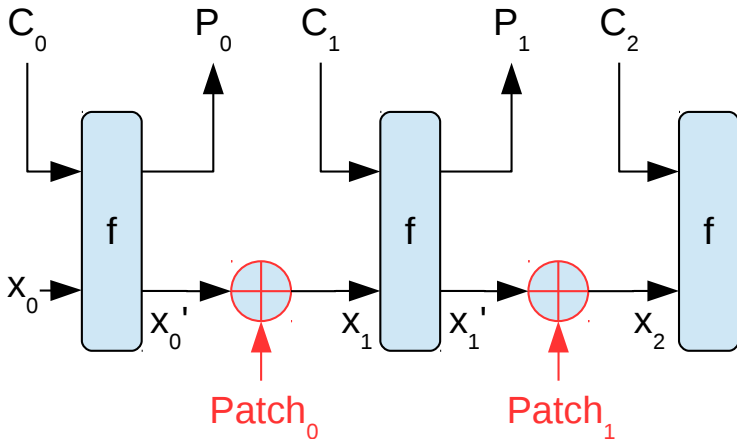
- Unmodified duplex construction when Patch = 0
- Full state has to be patched for branches
- Patch can be considered as associated data (AD)
- Absorbing AD into the capacity is allowed for keyed sponges [MRV15; SY15]
- Errors propagate directly from ciphertext to plaintext



- Original construction by Andreeva et al. [And+14]



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- Removes direct dependency of  $P_i$  on  $C_{i+1}$
- Permutation between  $P_i$  and  $C_i$
- Only the capacity has to be patched
- Non-inverse free regarding the permutation
- Encryption has to be performed backward

- Extremely flexible due to the sponge-based design
- Security as well as overhead scales with the sponge
- Three different instantiations of the APE-like mode
- 32-bit instruction encodings

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AEE	Keccak- $p$ [200,12]	168	—	84	168	168

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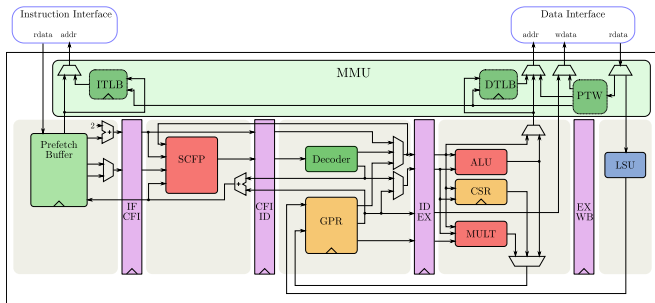
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AEE-Light	PRINCE	32	96	16	128	32

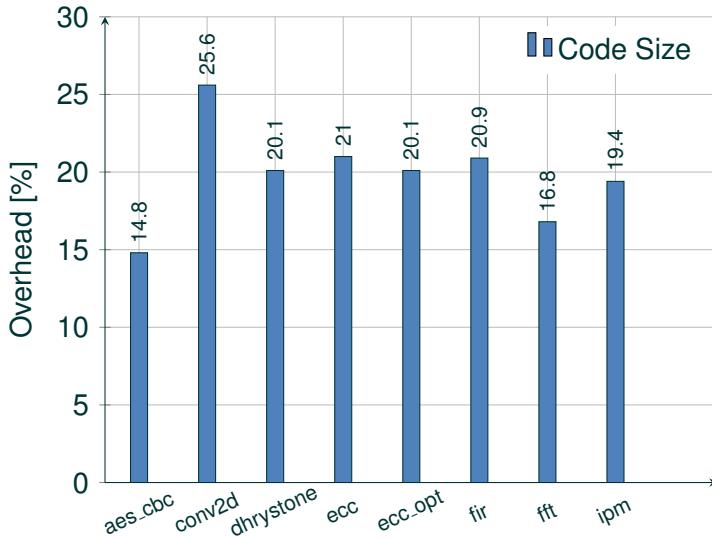
## **Evaluation and Summary**

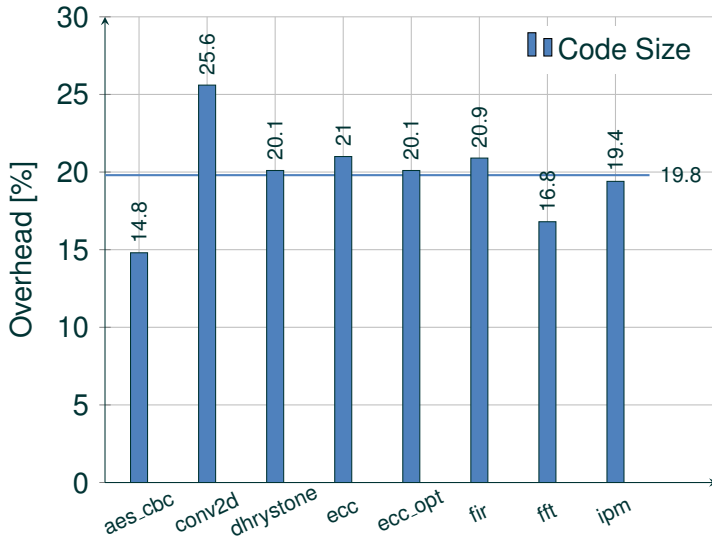
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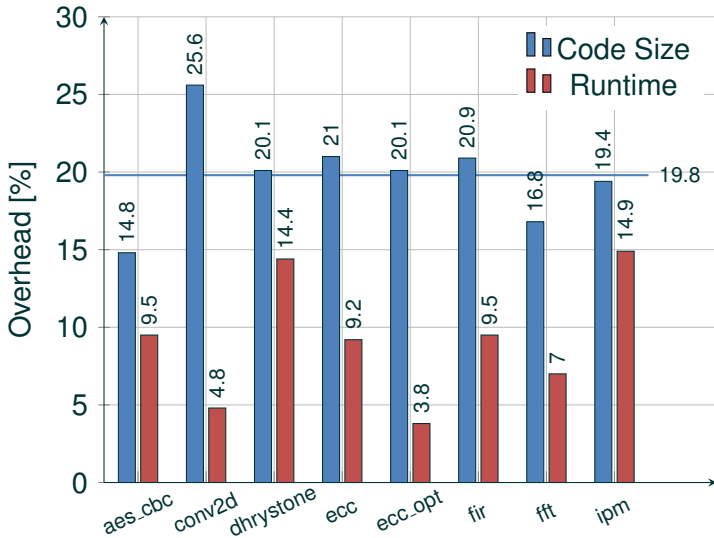


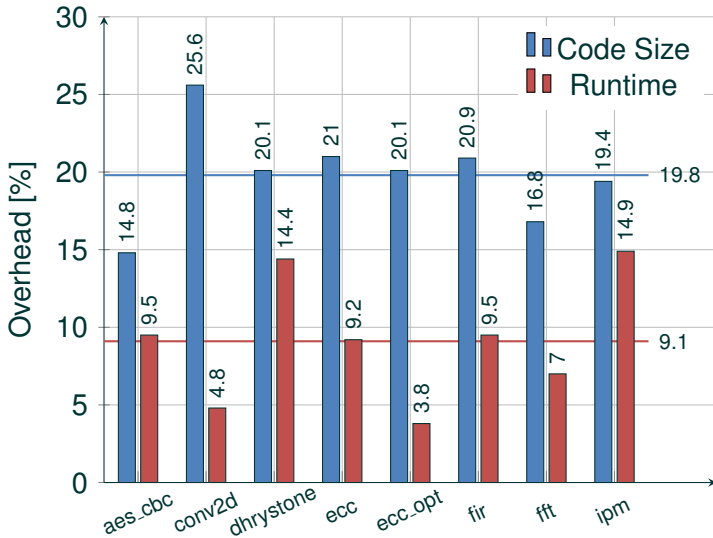
- Added SCFP the RI5CY [ETH17] RISC-V processor core
- 4 or 5 pipeline stages
- AEE-Light with PRINCE in APE-like mode
- ~30 kGE of area for SCFP at 100 MHz in UMC65
- Benchmarks using a very simple software toolchain











- Physical attacks have to be considered
- Sponge-based Control-Flow Protection
  - Hardware supported CFI scheme
  - Encrypts the instruction stream with instruction granularity
- Presented and analyzed two suitable sponge constructions
- Discussed three SCFP instantiations (IE, AEE, AEE-Light)
- Implemented AEE-Light into a RISC-V processor
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## References

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Yu Sasaki and Kan Yasuda. “How to Incorporate Associated Data in Sponge-Based Authenticated Encryption”. In: *Topics in Cryptology – CT-RSA 2015*. Ed. by Kaisa Nyberg. Vol. 9048. LNCS. Springer, 2015, pp. 353–370. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-319-16715-2\_19.