

# Software-based Side-Channel Attacks and Defenses in Restricted Environments

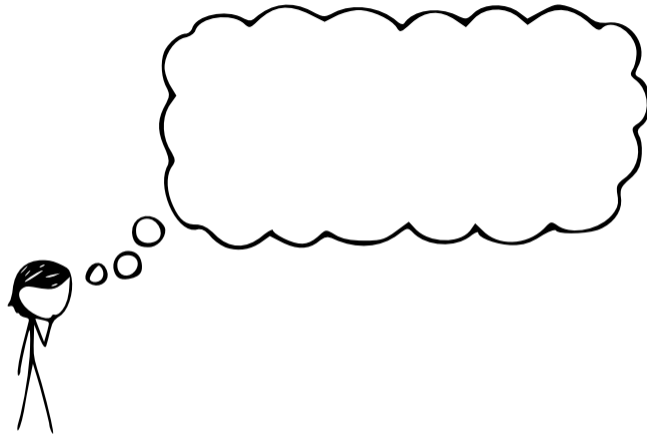
*Heinz Zemanek Preis Hearing 2020*

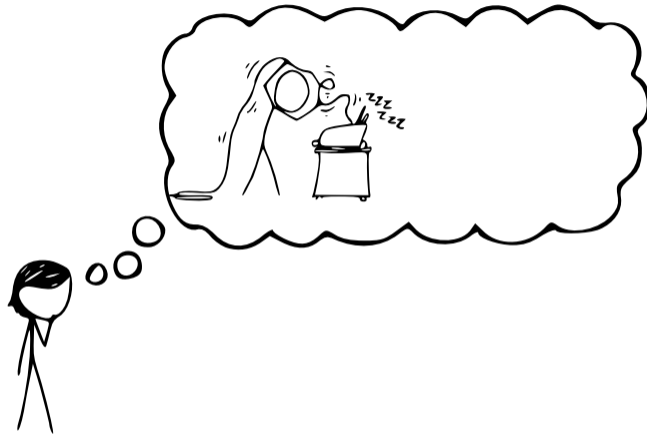
**Michael Schwarz**

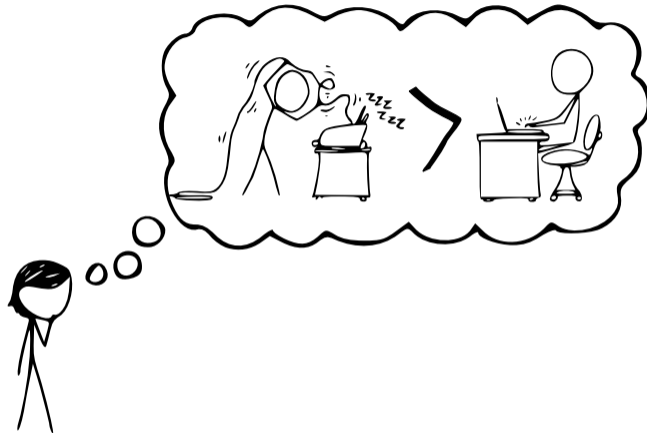
IAIK, Graz University of Technology

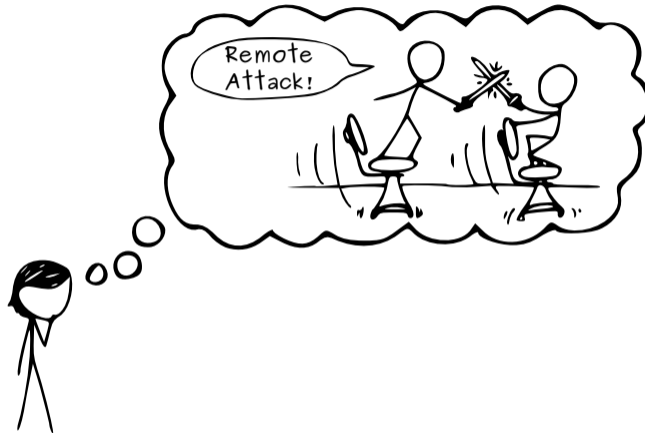
May 28, 2020











## Research Question

How far can we reduce requirements?



**24**  
(13 tier 1)



**9**  
(4 tier 1)



**34**



**9**



**2975**  
(513 first author)

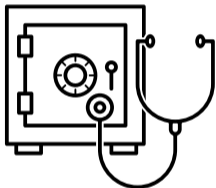


**10**  
(3 co-authors)

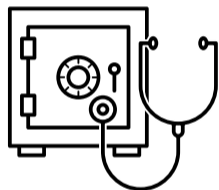


$$M \equiv C^d \pmod{n}$$

Description







$$M \equiv C^d \pmod{n}$$

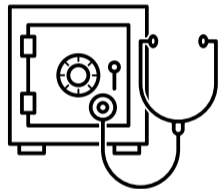
Description

$$C^n = \begin{cases} (C^2)^{\frac{n}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ C \cdot (C^2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$

Software



Execution time



$$M \equiv C^d \pmod{n}$$

Description

$$C^n = \begin{cases} (C^2)^{\frac{n}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ C \cdot (C^2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$

Software



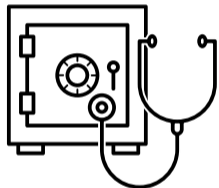
Hardware



Execution time



Power consumption



$$M \equiv C^d \pmod{n}$$

Description

$$C^n = \begin{cases} (C^2)^{\frac{n}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 0 \pmod{2} \\ C \cdot (C^2)^{\frac{n-1}{2}} & \text{if } n \equiv 1 \pmod{2} \end{cases}$$

Software



Hardware



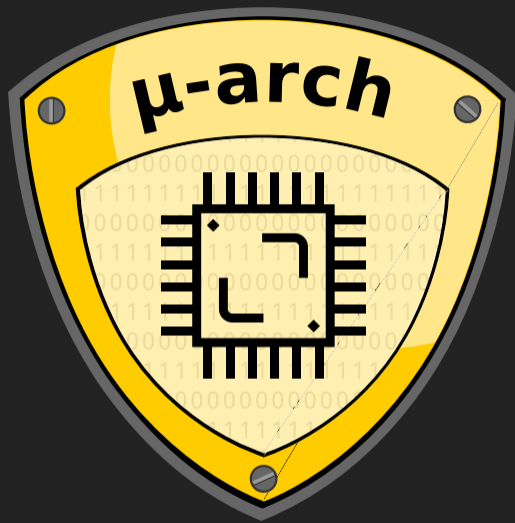
Execution time



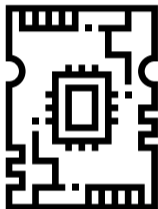
Power consumption



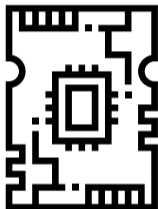
CPU caches



- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**

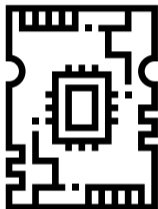


- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**



Decoder

- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**

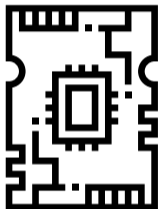


Decoder



Predictor

- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**



Decoder



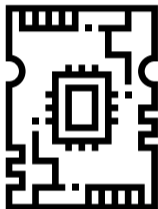
Predictor



Scheduler



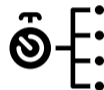
- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**



Decoder



Predictor

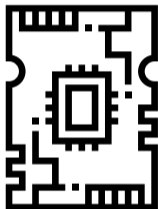


Scheduler



Buffer

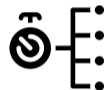
- Specific **implementation** of a **CPU**



Decoder



Predictor



Scheduler

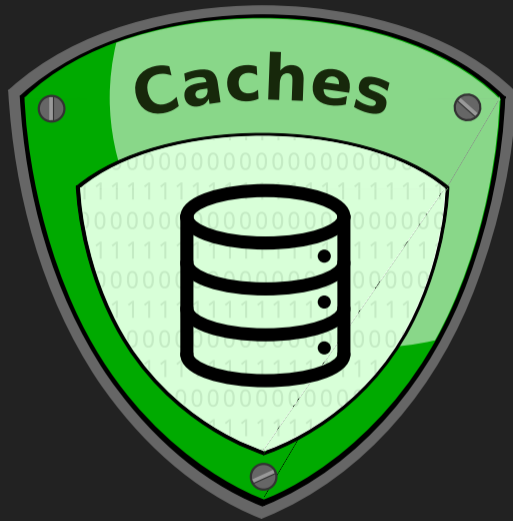


Buffer

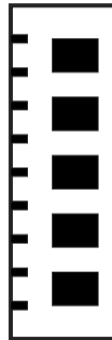
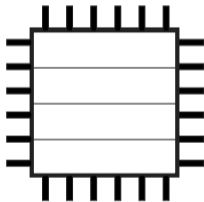


Caches



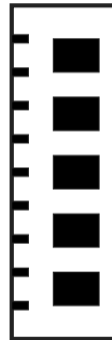
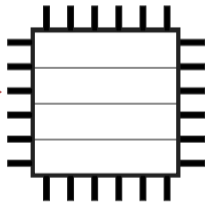


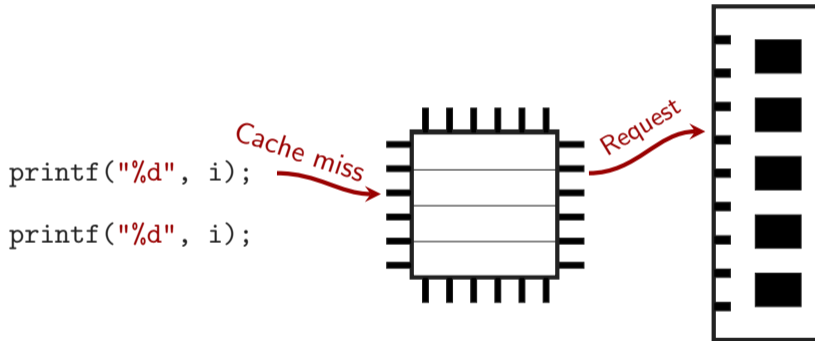
```
printf("%d", i);  
printf("%d", i);
```

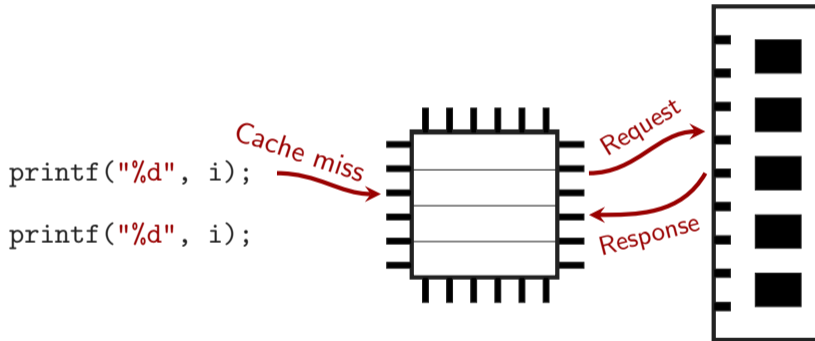


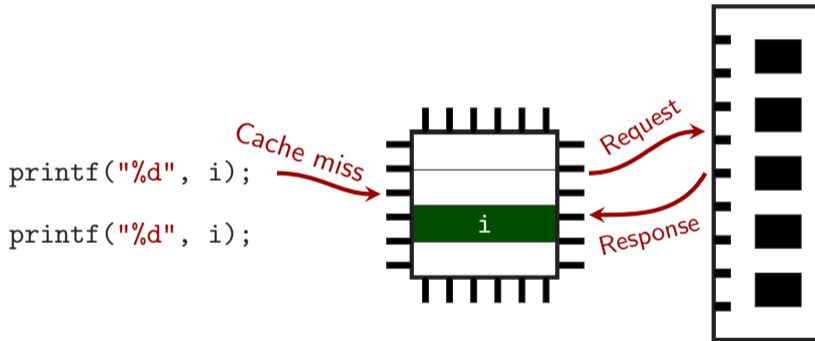
```
printf("%d", i);  
printf("%d", i);
```

*Cache miss*

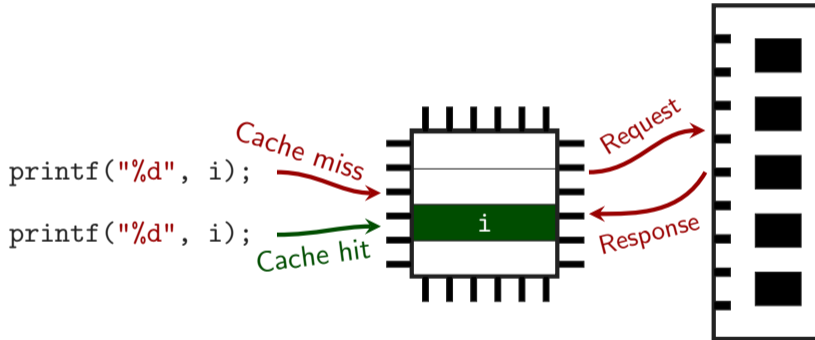


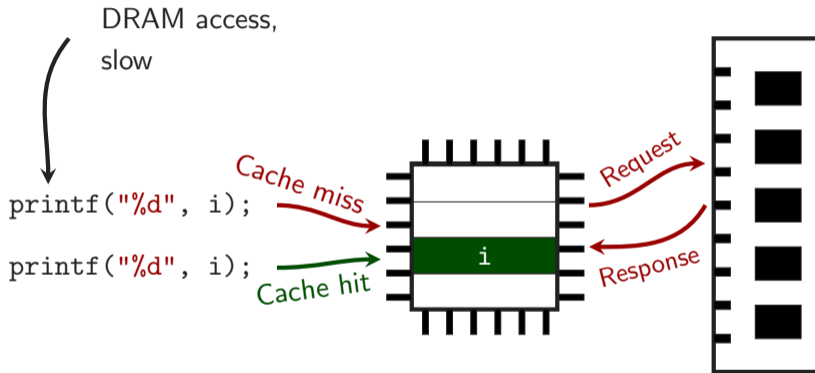


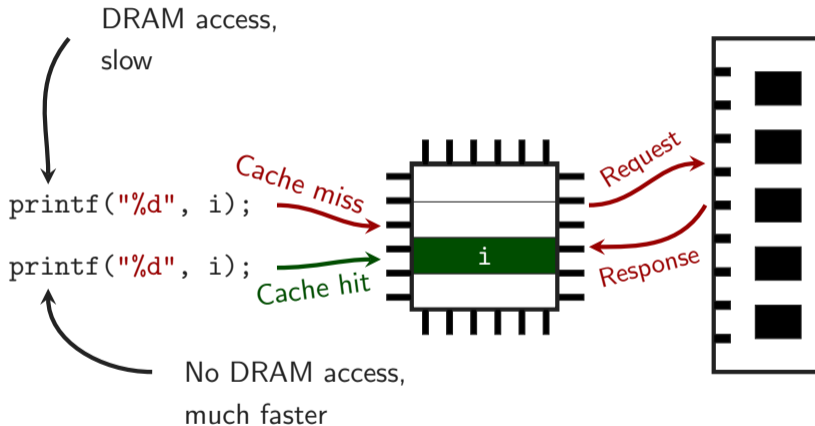


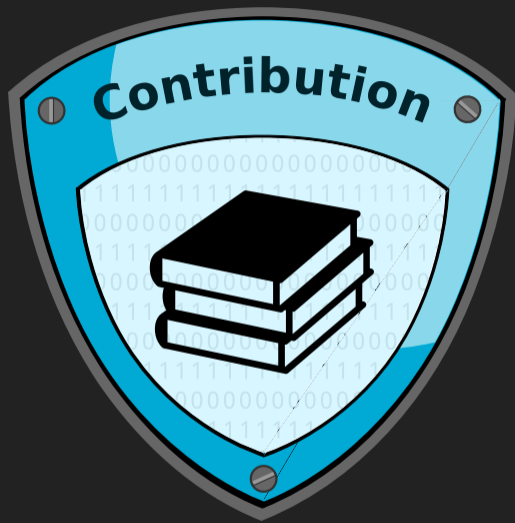


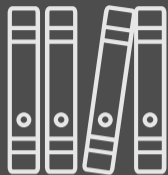










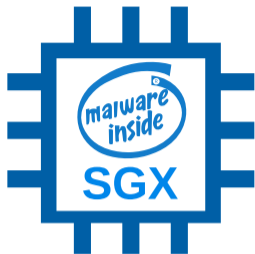


**Publications**

# FANTASTIC TIMERS

AND WHERE  
TO FIND THEM

HIGH-RESOLUTION MICROARCHITECTURAL  
ATTACKS IN JAVASCRIPT



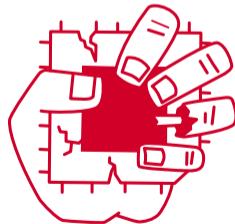
**KeyDrown**

*JavaScript*  
**zero**

**REAL**  
*JavaScript*  
AND ZERO  
SIDE-CHANNEL  
ATTACKS



**JS**  
Template Attacks



**ZOMBILOAD**

# FANTASTIC TIMERS

AND WHERE  
TO FIND THEM

---

HIGH-RESOLUTION MICROARCHITECTURAL  
ATTACKS IN JAVASCRIPT



**FC'17**

- **High-resolution timer** to measure microarchitectural effects



- **High-resolution timer** to measure microarchitectural effects



rdtsc



- **High-resolution timer** to measure microarchitectural effects



rdtsc



`performance.now()`

- **High-resolution timer** to measure microarchitectural effects



`rdtsc`



`performance.now()`

**`performance.now()`**

[...] represent times as floating-point numbers with up to microsecond precision.

— Mozilla Developer Network

Attacker



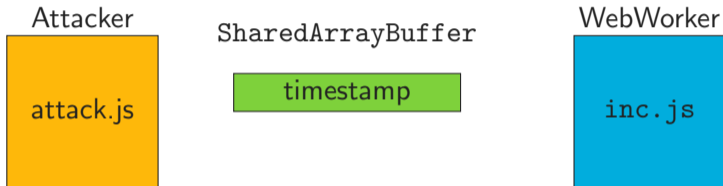
attack.js

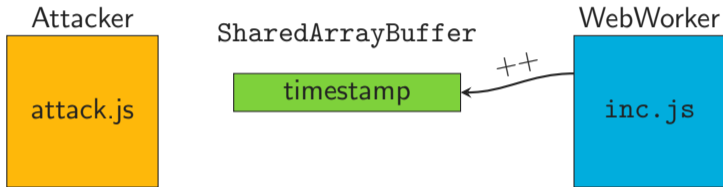
Attacker

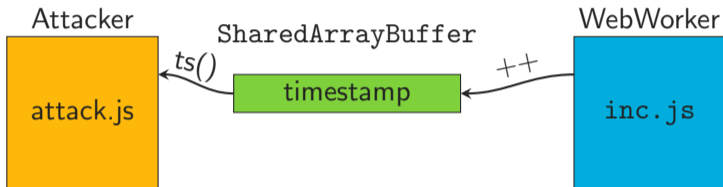
attack.js

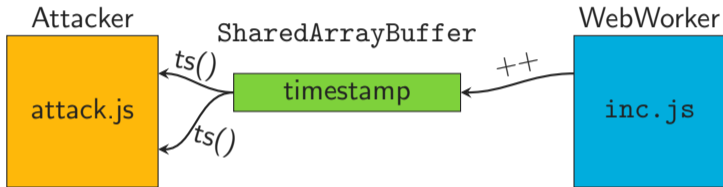
WebWorker

inc.js

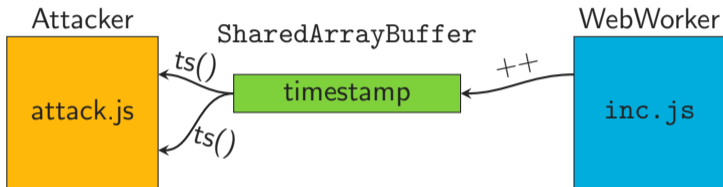












2 ns



15 ns



- Rounding timers is **not a solution**

## FC'17

Michael Schwarz, Clémentine Maurice, Daniel Gruss and Stefan Mangard.

Fantastic Timers and Where to Find Them: High-Resolution Microarchitectural Attacks in JavaScript.



- Rounding timers is **not a solution**
- **State of the art** for timers in JavaScript

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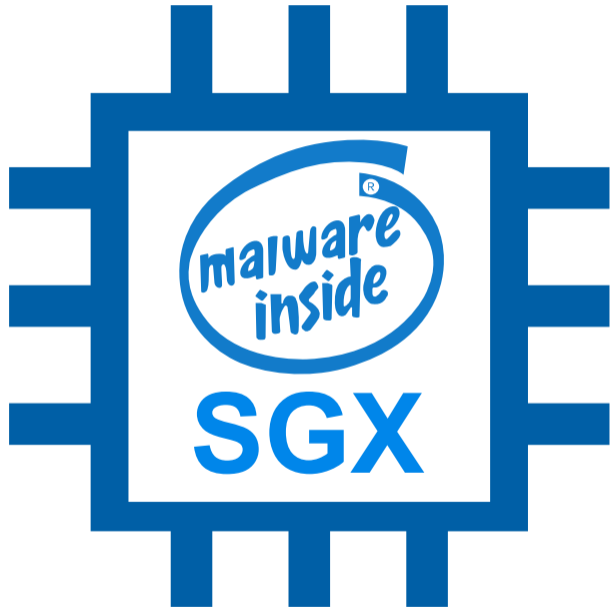


- Rounding timers is **not a solution**
- **State of the art** for timers in JavaScript
- **Microarchitectural attacks** in the browser are possible again

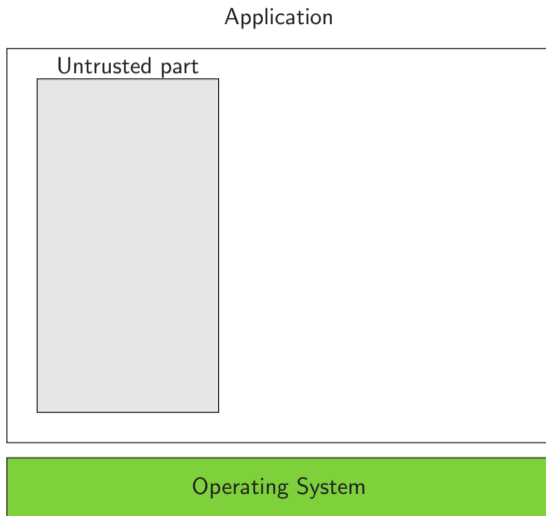
## FC'17

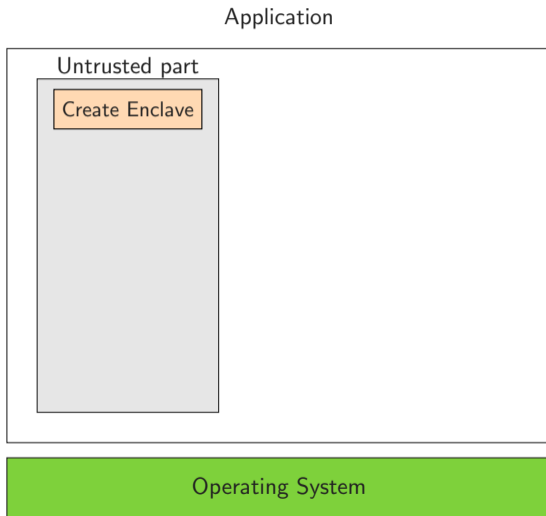
Michael Schwarz, Clémentine Maurice, Daniel Gruss and Stefan Mangard.

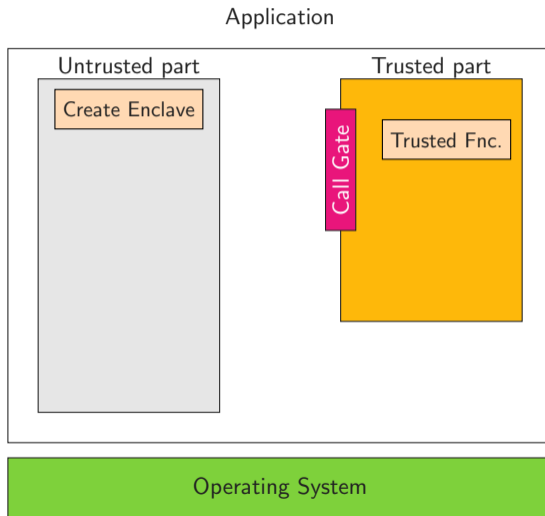
Fantastic Timers and Where to Find Them: High-Resolution Microarchitectural Attacks in JavaScript.



**DIMVA'17**

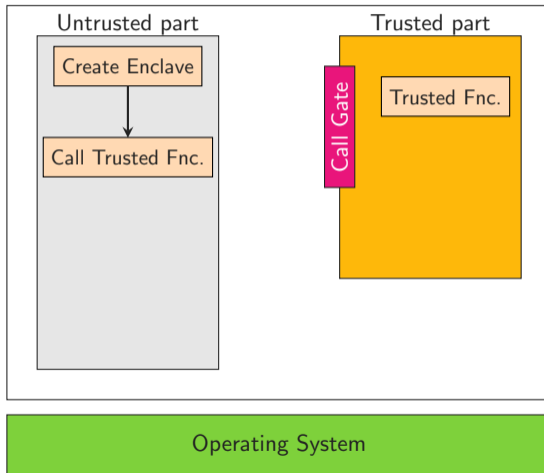


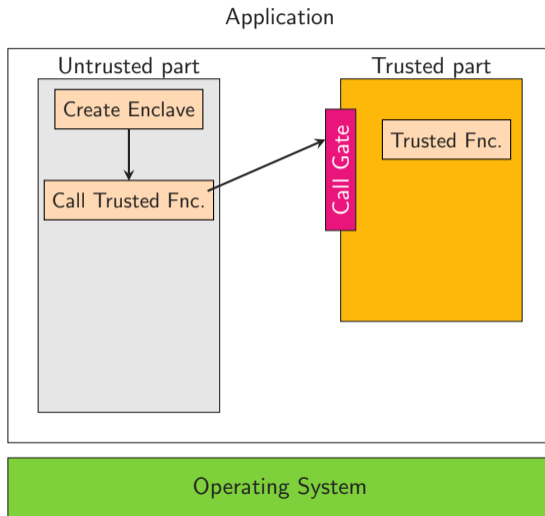


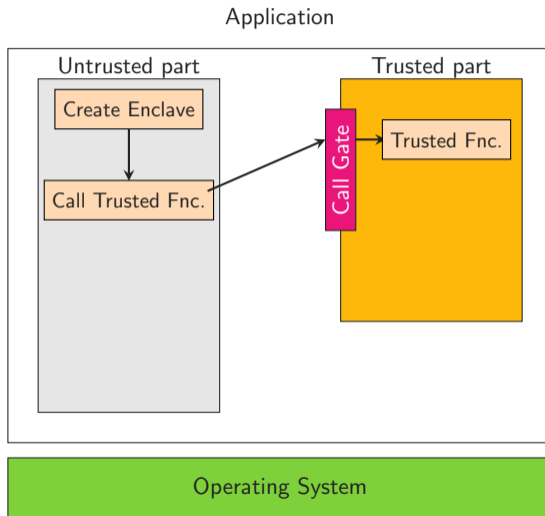


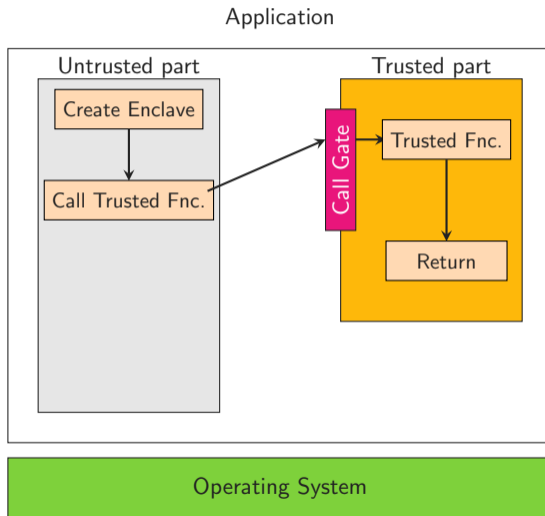


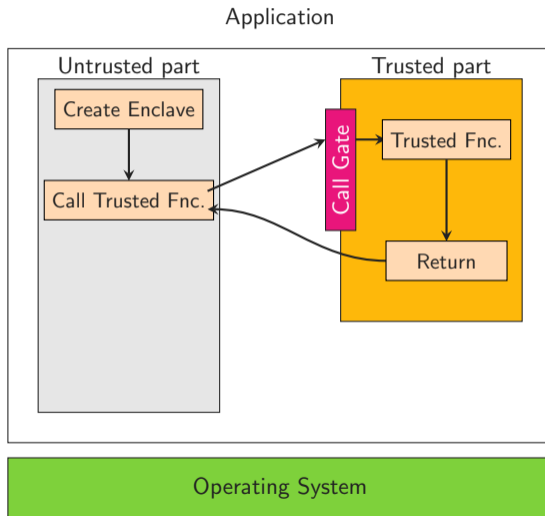
## Application



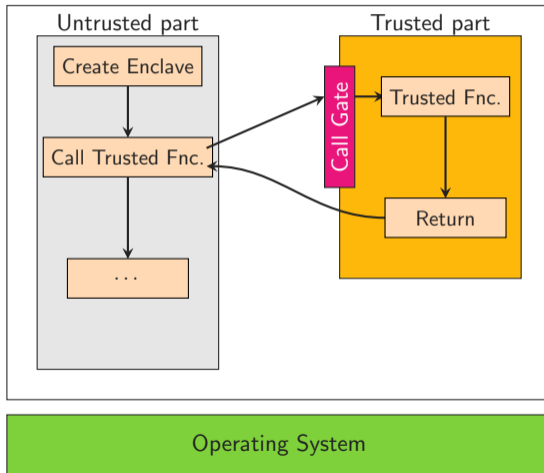


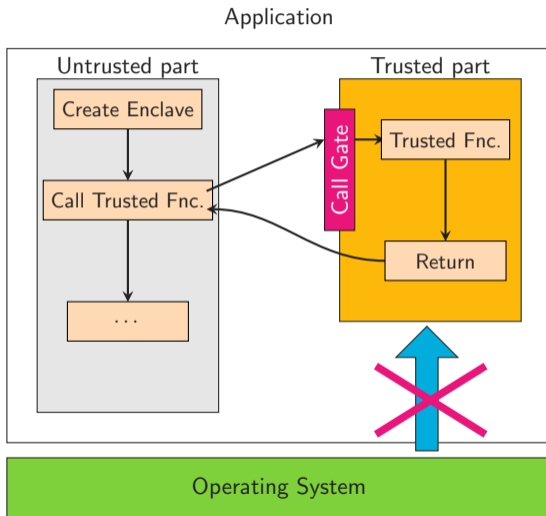




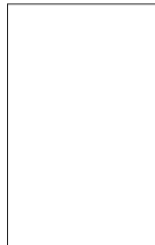


## Application



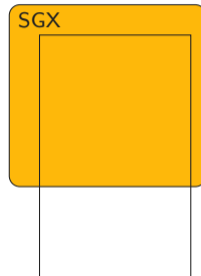


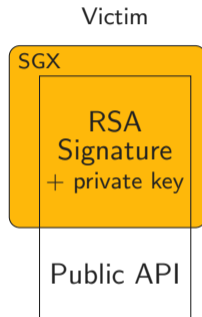
Victim

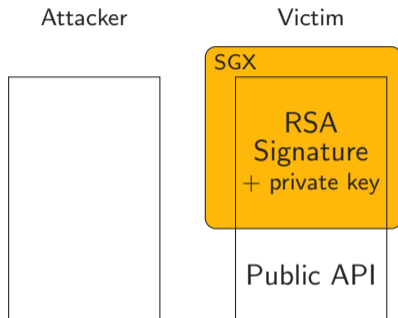


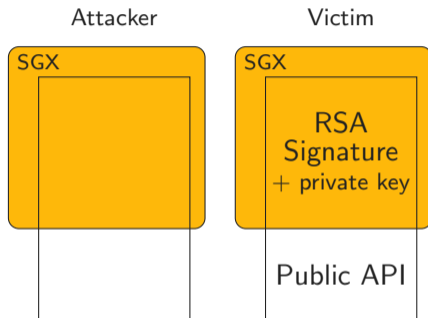


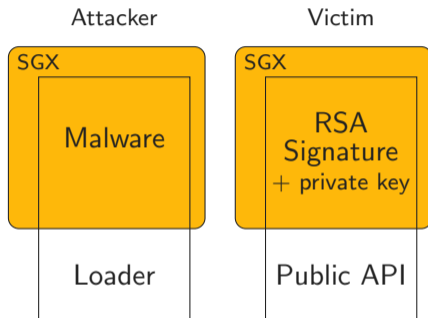
Victim

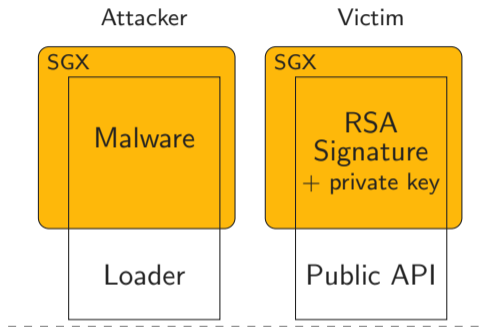


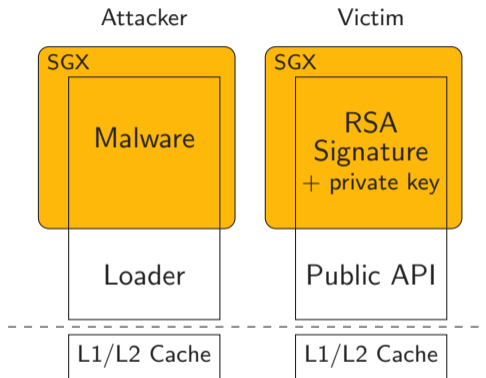


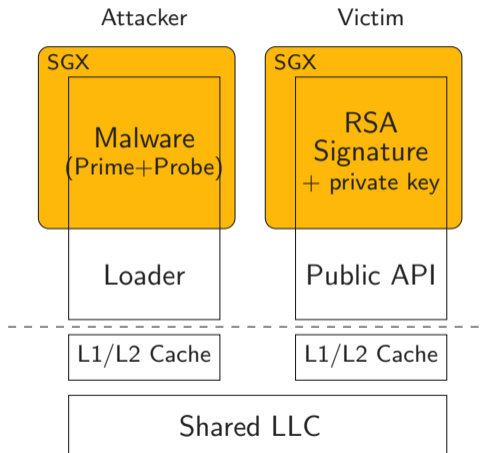
















No **privileges**



No **privileges**



No **syscall**



No **privileges**



No **syscall**



No **shared memory**



No **privileges**



No **syscall**



No **shared memory**



No **rdtsc**



No **privileges**



No **syscall**



No **shared memory**



No **rdtsc**



No **physical addresses**



No **privileges**



No **syscall**



No **shared memory**



No **rdtsc**

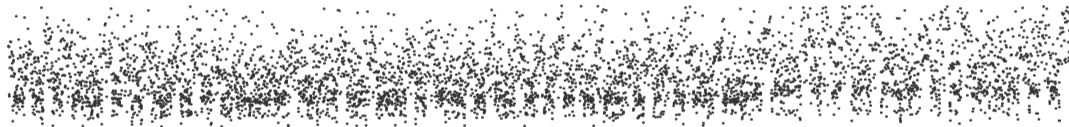


No **physical addresses**

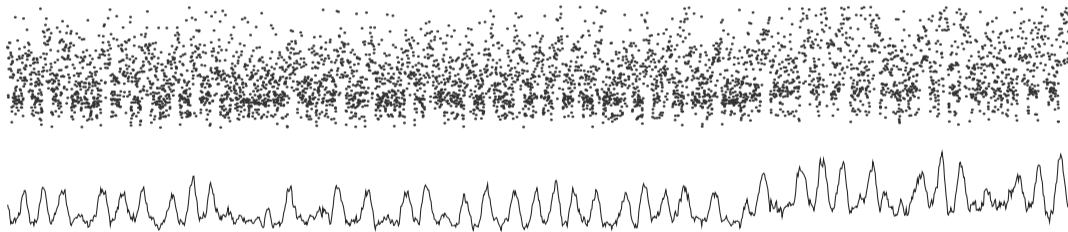


No **2 MB pages**

Raw Prime+Probe trace...

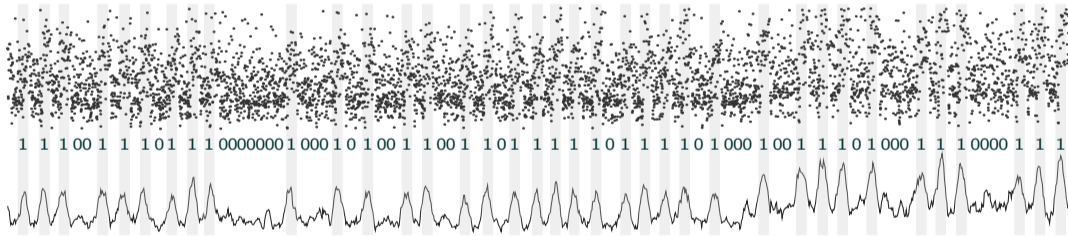


...processed with a simple moving average...





...allows to clearly see the bits of the exponent





- Attacks from within SGX possible

## DIMVA'17

Michael Schwarz, Samuel Weiser, Daniel Gruss, Clémentine Maurice, Stefan Mangard.

Malware Guard Extension: Using SGX to Conceal Cache Attacks.



- **Attacks** from **within SGX** possible
- New state-of-the-art **high-resolution** timer

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- Leaked 4096-bit RSA key (11 traces)

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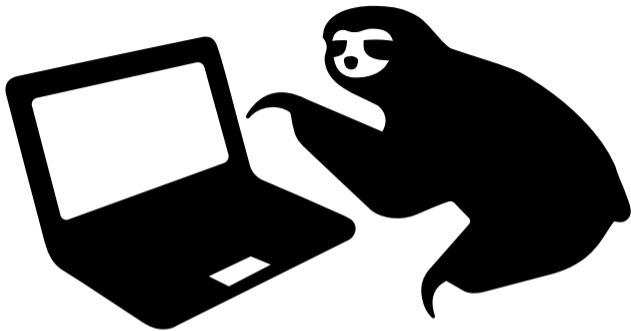


- **Attacks** from **within SGX** possible
- New state-of-the-art **high-resolution** timer
- Leaked 4096-bit RSA key (11 traces)
- SGX allows **hiding an attack**

## DIMVA'17

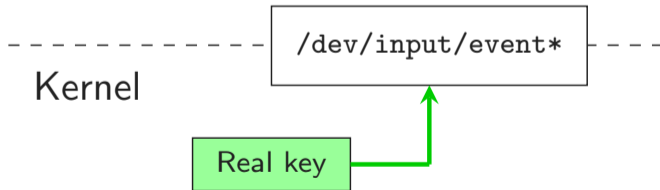
Michael Schwarz, Samuel Weiser, Daniel Gruss, Clémentine Maurice, Stefan Mangard.

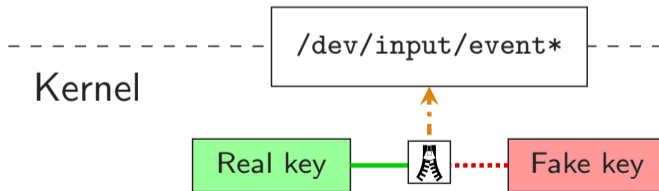
Malware Guard Extension: Using SGX to Conceal Cache Attacks.



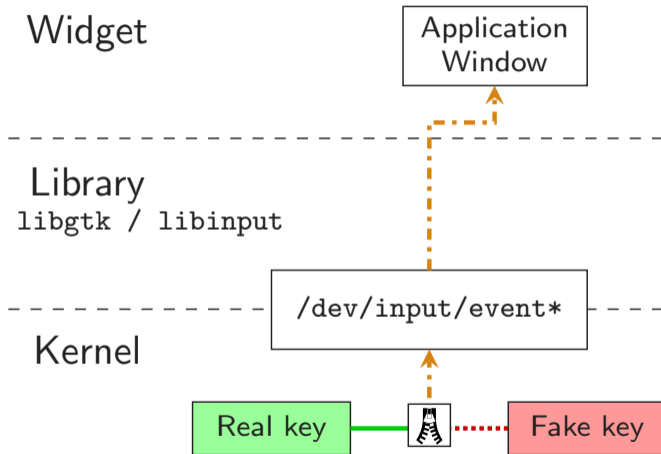
# KeyDrown

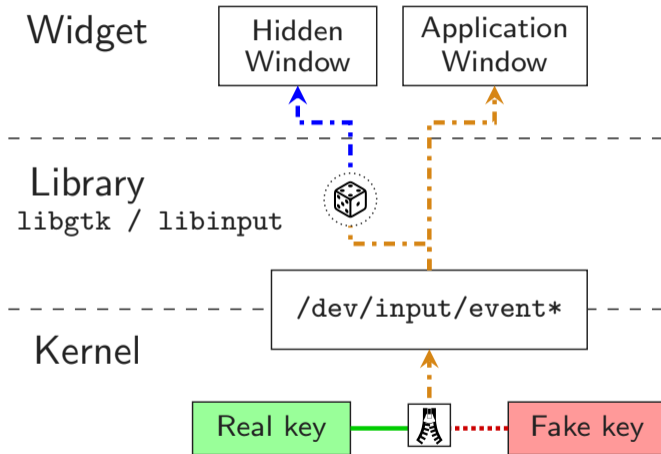
**NDSS'18**

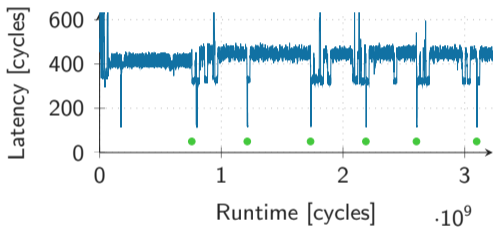




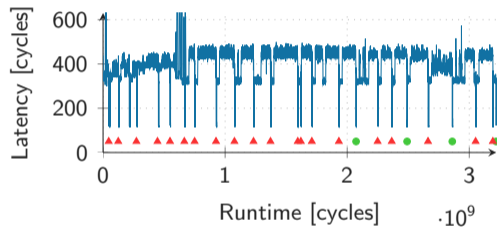




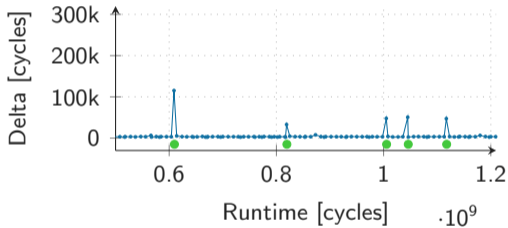




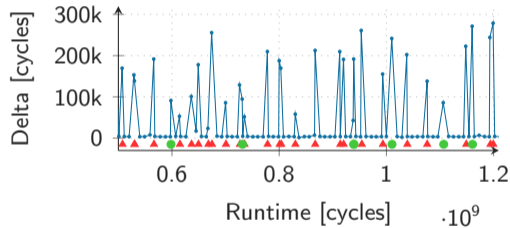
Without Keydown, F-Score 0.99



With Keydown, F-Score 0.09



Without Keydown, F-Score 0.94



With Keydown, F-Score 0.14



- Keystroke-timing attack only with **high-resolution timer**

## NDSS'18

Michael Schwarz, Moritz Lipp, Daniel Gruss, Samuel Weiser, Clémentine Maurice, Raphael Spreitzer, Stefan Mangard.

KeyDrown: Eliminating Software-Based Keystroke Timing Side-Channel Attacks.



- Keystroke-timing attack only with **high-resolution timer**
- First accurate Prime+Probe attack on **kernel**

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- First **generic countermeasure** against keystroke-timing attack

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- First **generic countermeasure** against keystroke-timing attack
- PoC for Linux and Android

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KeyDrown: Eliminating Software-Based Keystroke Timing Side-Channel Attacks.



# *JavaScript* zero

**REAL**  
*JavaScript*  
**AND ZERO**  
**SIDE-CHANNEL**  
**ATTACKS**

**NDSS'18**



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



Memory addresses



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



Memory addresses



Accurate timing



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



Memory addresses



Accurate timing



Multithreading



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



Memory addresses



Accurate timing



Multithreading



Shared data



11 known attacks



5 identified categories



Memory addresses



Accurate timing



Multithreading

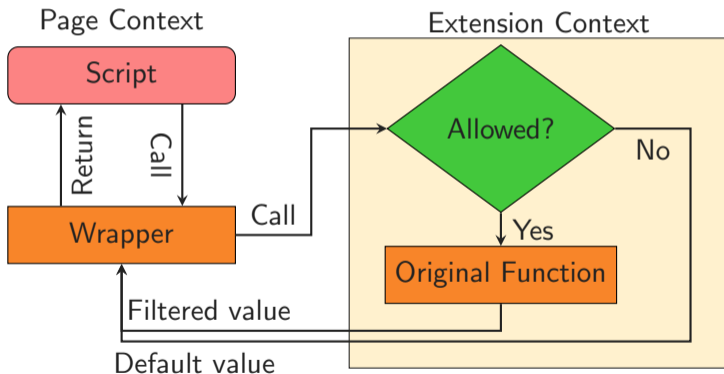


Shared data



Sensor API

- Functions and properties are replaced by **wrappers**





Prevents Defense	Rowham- mer.js	Page Dedu- plication	DRAM Covert Channel	Anti- ASLR	Cache Eviction	Keystroke Timing	Browser
Buffer ASLR	○	◐	○	●	●	○	○
Array preloading	●	○	●	○	○	○	○
Non-deterministic array	●	◐	◐	●	●	○	○
Array index randomization	○	●	○	●	○	○	○
Low-resolution timestamp	○	◐	○	○	○	◐	◐
Fuzzy time	○	◐*	○	○*	○	●*	●*
WebWorker polyfill	○	○	●	●	●	●	○
Message delay	○	○	○	○	○	◐	◐
Slow SharedArrayBuffer	○	○	●	◐	●	○	○
No SharedArrayBuffer	○	○*	●	●*	●	○*	○*
<b>Summary</b>	●	●	●	●	●	●	●

Fully prevented (●), partly prevented (◐), not prevented (○). Policies must be combined (\*).



- First **systematic analysis** of the attack surface

## NDSS'18

Michael Schwarz, Moritz Lipp, Daniel Gruss.

JavaScript Zero: Real JavaScript and Zero Side-Channel Attacks.



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- Microarchitectural attacks in the browser are still possible

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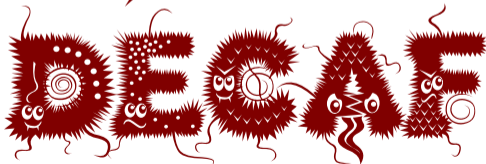


- First **systematic analysis** of the attack surface
- Microarchitectural attacks in the browser are still possible
- First efficient **countermeasures** in browsers
- More microarchitectural attacks in JavaScript will appear

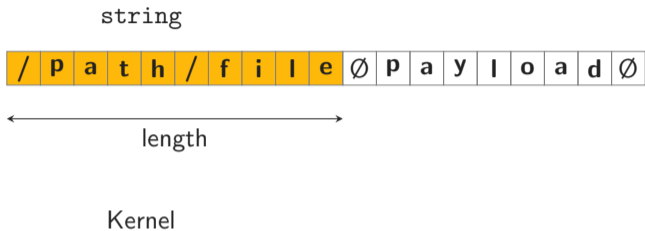
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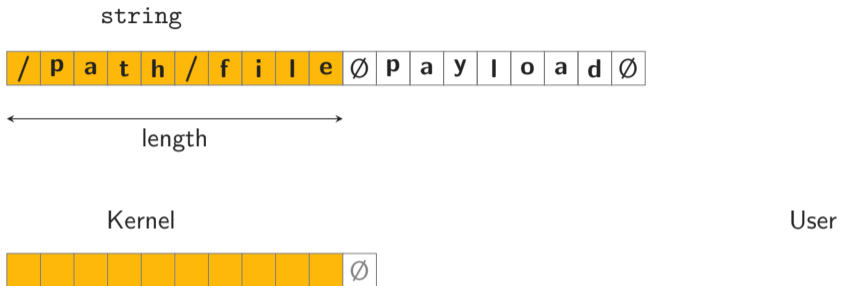
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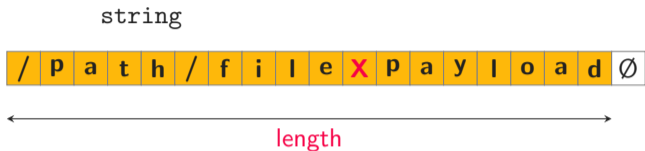


**AsiaCCS'18**







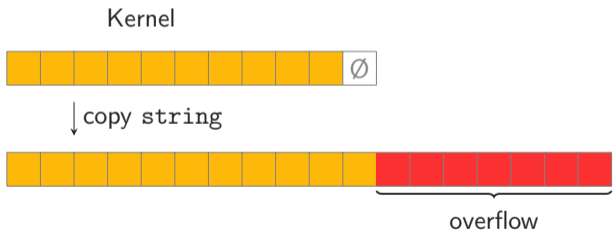
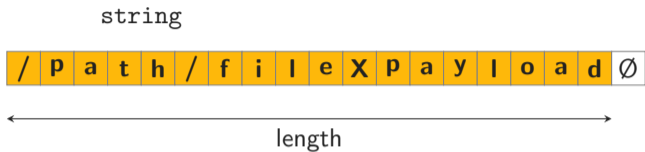


Kernel



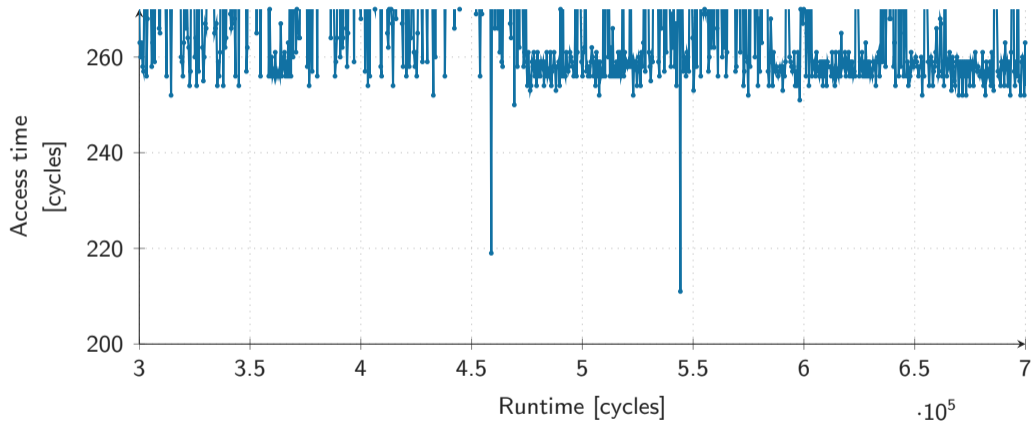
User

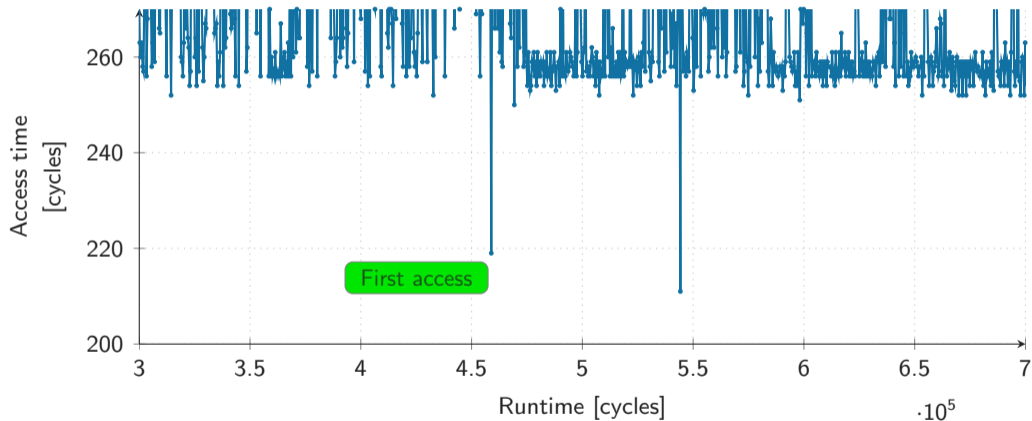
```
string[10] = 'X';
```

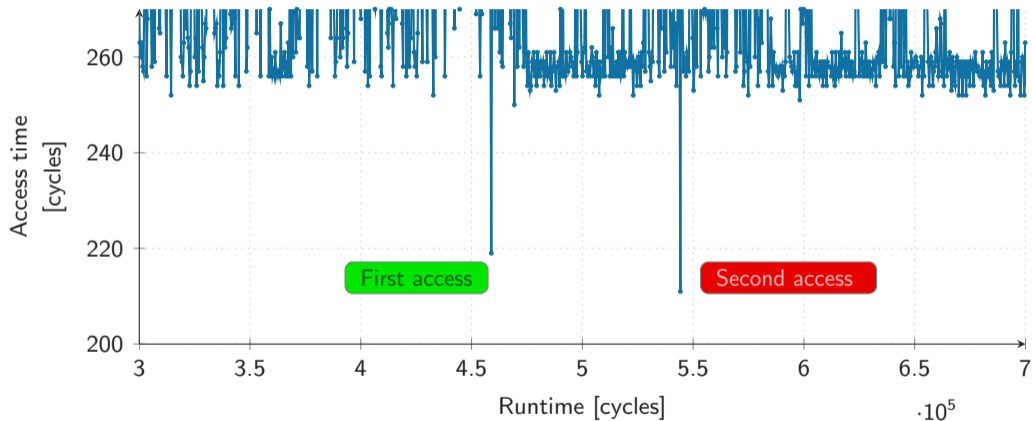


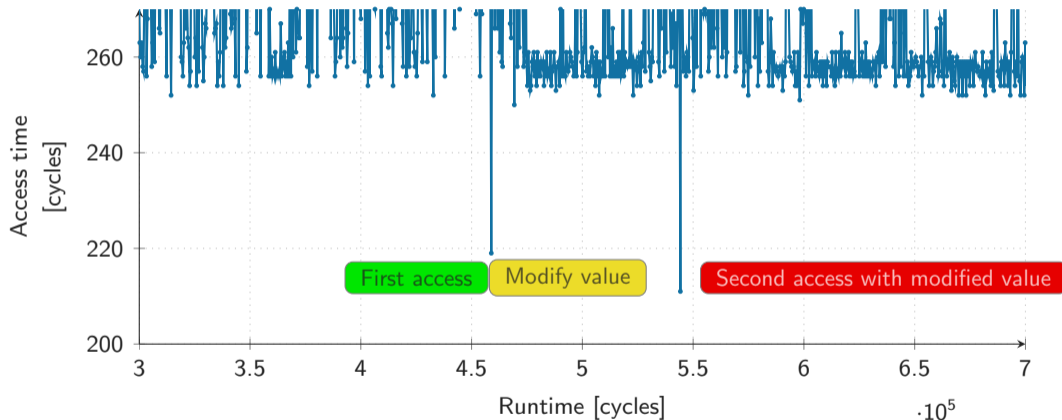
User

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- Fuzzing + cache attacks → double-fetch bugs

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- Fuzzing + cache attacks → double-fetch bugs
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- Fuzzing + cache attacks → double-fetch bugs
- Cache as trigger outperforms state of the art
- Hardware transactional memory prevents exploitation

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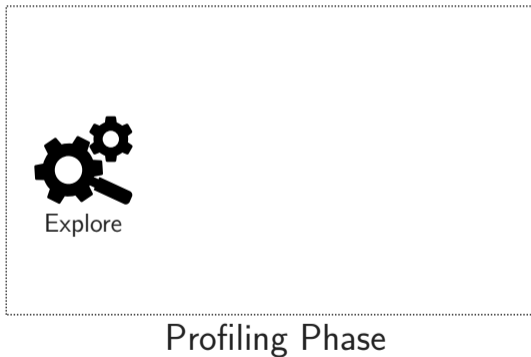


**Template Attacks**

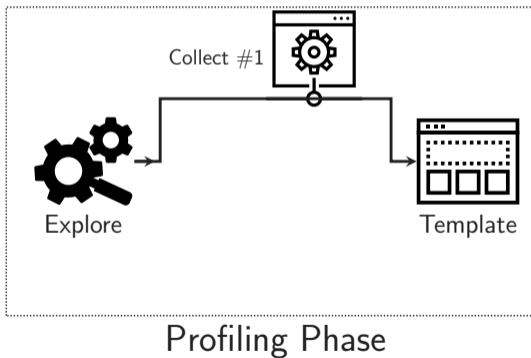


**NDSS'19**

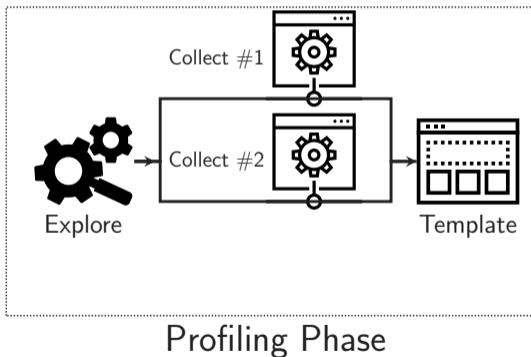
- Template attack on JavaScript properties



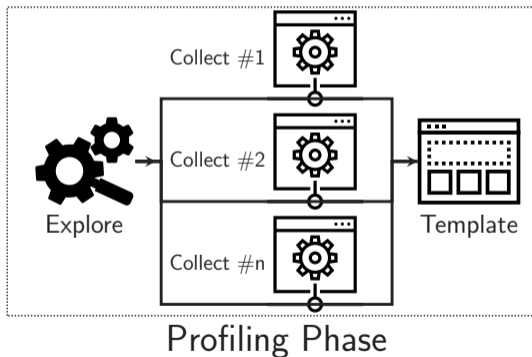
- Template attack on JavaScript properties



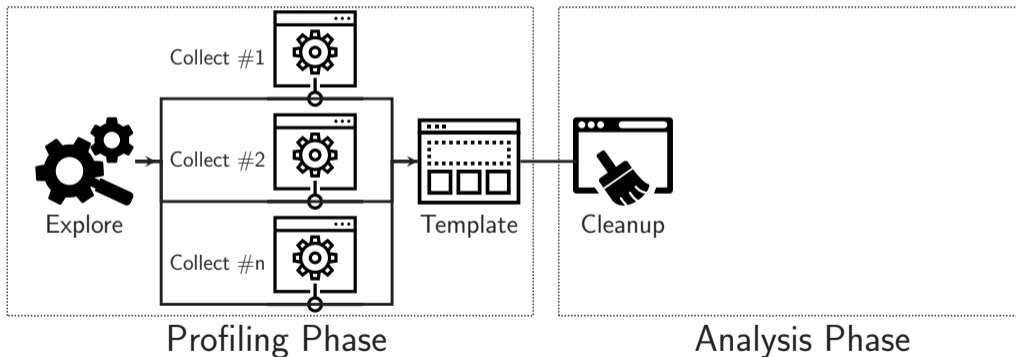
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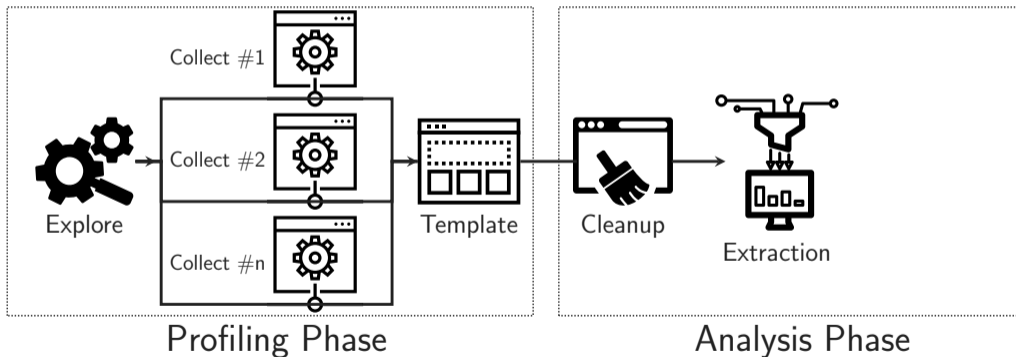
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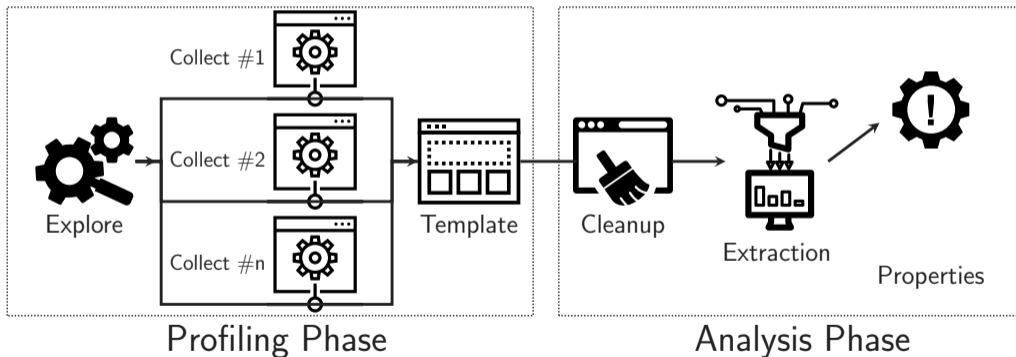


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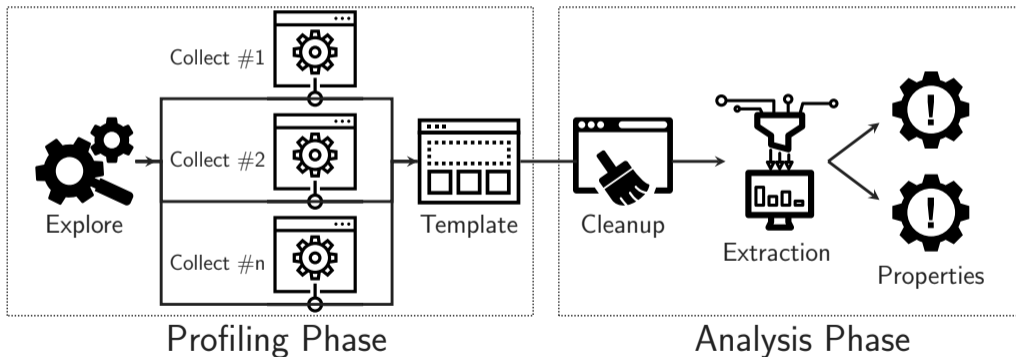




- Template attack on JavaScript properties



- Template attack on JavaScript properties





Browser + version



Browser + version



Privacy extensions



Browser + version



Privacy extensions



Private mode



Browser + version



Privacy extensions



Private mode



Operating system



Browser + version



Privacy extensions



Private mode



Operating system



CPU vendor



Browser + version



Privacy extensions



Private mode



Operating system



CPU vendor



Virtual machine





- JavaScript Template attacks detect **environment properties**

## NDSS'19

[Michael Schwarz](#), [Florian Lackner](#), [Daniel Gruss](#).

JavaScript Template Attacks: Automatically Inferring Host Information for Targeted Exploits.



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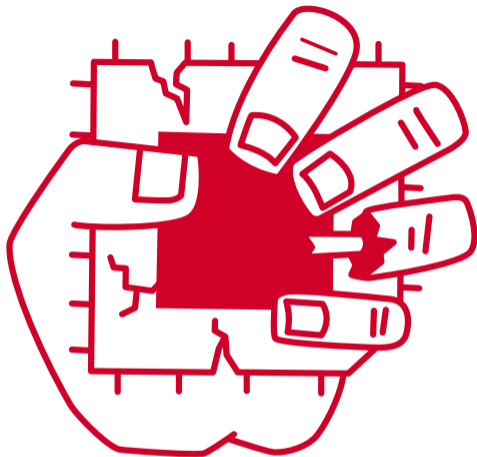


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- Tool for browser vendors to **find leakage**
- Advances field of **fingerprinting**

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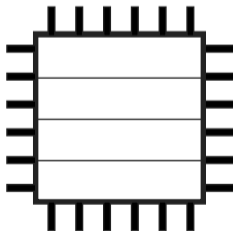
**ZOMBIELoad**

**CCS'19**

User Memory

	A	B
C	D	E
F	G	H
I	J	K
L	M	N
O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
X	Y	Z

```
char value = faulting[0]
```

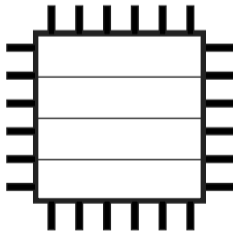


User Memory

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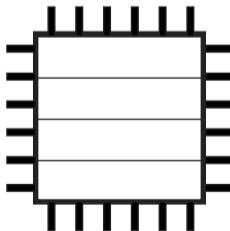
⚡ Fault



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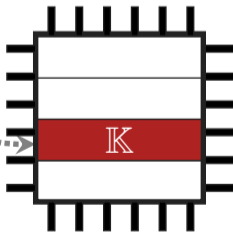
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F	G	H
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O	P	Q
R	S	T
U	V	W
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`char value = faulting[0]`



K





AES-NI key



AES-NI key



SGX sealing key



AES-NI key



SGX sealing key



Cross-VM covert  
channel



AES-NI key



SGX sealing key



Cross-VM covert  
channel



Keyword matching



AES-NI key



SGX sealing key



Cross-VM covert  
channel



Keyword matching



URL recovery



AES-NI key



SGX sealing key



Cross-VM covert  
channel



Keyword matching



URL recovery



Targeted leakage



- Meltdown on the **line-fill buffer**

## CCS'19

Michael Schwarz, Moritz Lipp, Daniel Moghimi, Jo Van Bulck, Julian Stecklina, Thomas Prescher, Daniel Gruss.

ZombieLoad: Cross-Privilege-Boundary Data Sampling.





- Meltdown on the **line-fill buffer**
- Data sampling attacks are **powerful**

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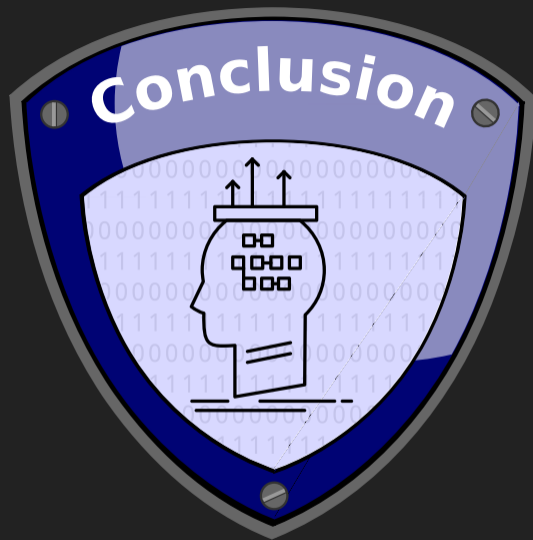


- Meltdown on the **line-fill buffer**
- Data sampling attacks are **powerful**
- Basis for Load Value Injection (**LVI**)

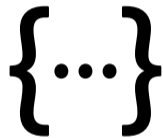
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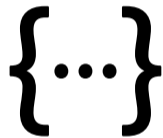
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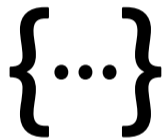


- **Attack research** is necessary for effective defenses

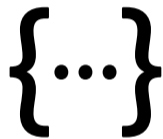




- **Attack research** is necessary for effective defenses
- Data-dependent **optimizations** often lead to side channel

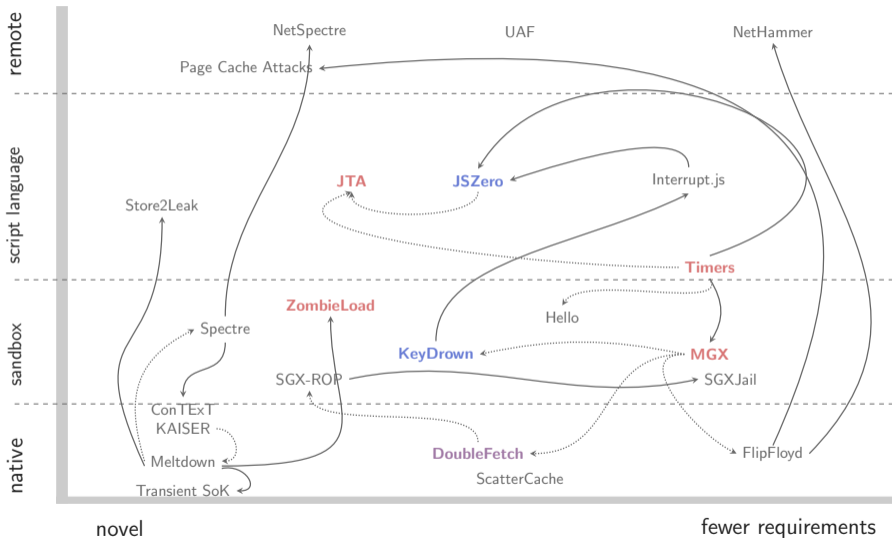


- **Attack research** is necessary for effective defenses
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- Trade-off between **performance** and **security**



- **Attack research** is necessary for effective defenses
- Data-dependent **optimizations** often lead to side channel
- Trade-off between **performance** and **security**
- Created **new field** of **transient-execution attacks**







# Software-based Side-Channel Attacks and Defenses in Restricted Environments

*Heinz Zemanek Preis Hearing 2020*

**Michael Schwarz**

IAIK, Graz University of Technology

May 28, 2020

