

## Searching on Encrypted Data and Timing Attacks

**Dawn Song**  
*dawnsong@cs.berkeley.edu*

1

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Motivating Example: Equality Search on Encrypted Data

- Searching encrypted e-mails on servers
- Searching encrypted files on servers
- Searching in encrypted databases



2

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Desired Properties

- Word search is provably secure
  - Provable encryption properties
  - Server cannot search for arbitrary words
  - Does not leak information about other words
  - Does not reveal query word
- Efficiency
  - Low computation overhead
  - Low space and communication overhead
  - Low management overhead

3

---

---

---

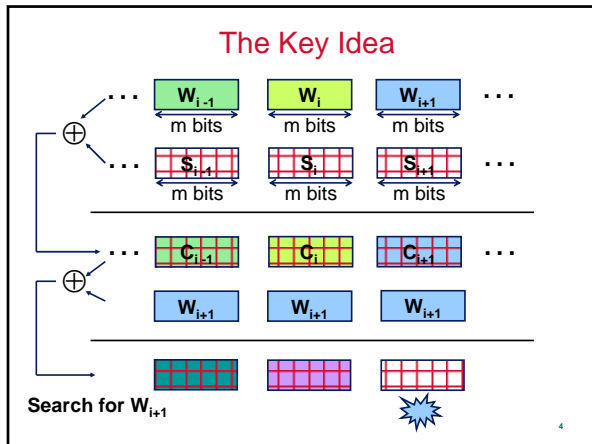
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

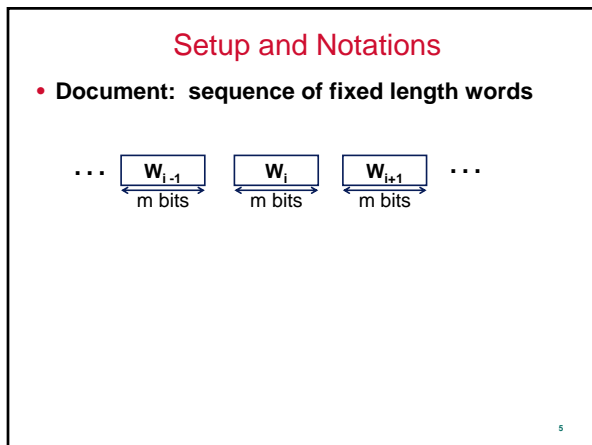
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

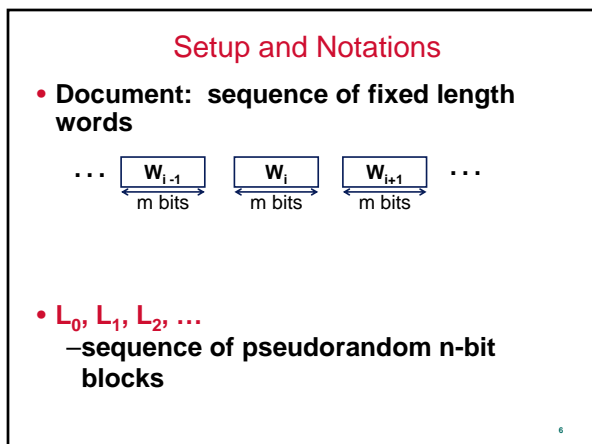
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

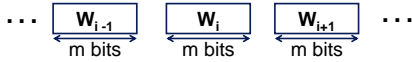
---

---

---

## Setup and Notations

- Document: sequence of fixed length words



- $L_0, L_1, L_2, \dots$   
– sequence of pseudorandom n-bit blocks
- Pseudorandom Function  $F_K$   
– maps n bits to (m-n) bits

7

---

---

---

---

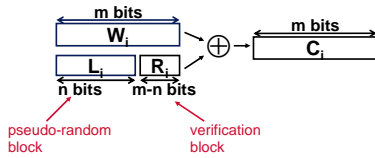
---

---

---

---

## Basic Scheme (Encryption)



We xor the word  $W_i$  with

$$L_i \leftarrow \text{pseudorandom bits}$$

$$R_i \leftarrow F_K(L_i)$$

8

---

---

---

---

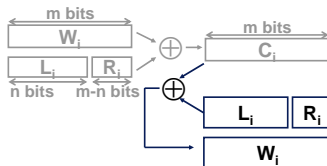
---

---

---

---

## Basic Scheme (Decryption)



$$L_i \leftarrow \text{pseudorandom bits}$$

$$R_i \leftarrow F_K(L_i)$$

9

---

---

---

---

---

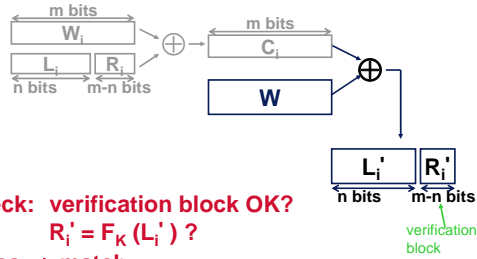
---

---

---

## Basic Scheme (Searches)

Search for word  $W$ , give server  $W$  and  $K$



Check: verification block OK?

$$R_i' = F_K(L_i') ?$$

Yes  $\Rightarrow$  match,

$$\text{false positive rate} = 1 / 2^{m-n}$$

10

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Controlled Searches and Query Isolation

- To keep server from searching for arbitrary words & To avoid leaking information about other words
- In encryption:
  - Replace  $R_i \leftarrow F_K(L_i)$
  - with  $R_i \leftarrow F_{K_i}(L_i)$ , where  $K_i = F'_K(W_i)$
- To search for word  $W$ :
  - Reveal  $K_w = F'_K(W)$
- Enhancements:
  - Check only for "word occurs at least once" in document
  - Check only for "word occurs at least N times" in document

11

---

---

---

---

---

---

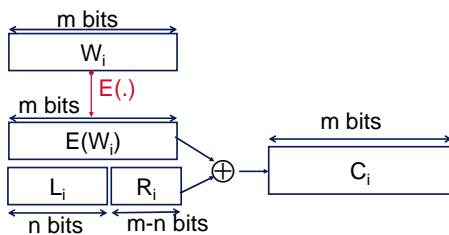
---

---

---

---

## Hidden Queries



$L_i \leftarrow$  pseudorandom bits

$$R_i \leftarrow F_{K_i}(L_i)$$

where  $K_i = F'_K(E(W_i))$

12

---

---

---

---

---

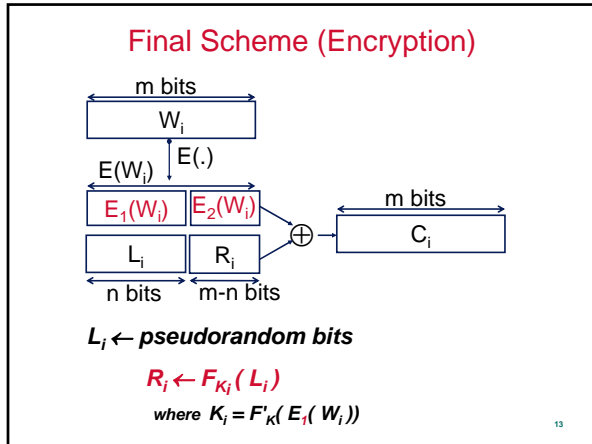
---

---

---

---

---




---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ### Summary for Keyword Search on Encrypted Data (Symmetric Key Case)
- **Provable security**
    - Provable secrecy
    - Controlled search
    - Query isolation
    - Hidden queries
  - **Simple and efficient**
    - $O(\text{length of document})$  stream cipher, block cipher and MAC operations for encryption/decryption
    - $O(\text{length of document})$  MAC operations for search
    - Almost no space and communication overhead
    - Easy to add documents
    - Convenient key management : user needs only one master key
- 14

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

- ### Administrative Matters
- Out of town starting Wed
  - My office hour this week will be 5pm Tue
  - John will give a guest lecture on Wed
  - Rusty and Todd will do midterm review next Mon
- 15

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Midterm Scope (I)

- **Symmetric key encryption**
  - Concept
  - One-time pad
  - Block cipher modes: how they work
- **Public key encryption**
  - Concept
  - How does RSA encryption/decryption work?
  - How does ElGamal encryption/decryption work?
- **Hash functions**
  - Concept of one-way, pre-image resistance, 2<sup>nd</sup> pre-image resistance, collision resistance
- **Message authentication**
  - Concept
    - » E.g., what's the difference between the concept of encryption and message authentication?

16

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Midterm Scope (II)

- **Digital signatures**
  - Concept
    - » E.g., what's the difference between digital signatures & MACs
  - One-time signature
  - ElGamal signature
  - RSA signature
- **Secret sharing**
  - Concept
  - Threshold secret sharing schemes
- **Zero-knowledge proofs**
  - Concept
  - ZKP of square roots and other graph-based examples

17

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Midterm Scope (III)

- **Authentication and key exchange protocols**
  - Identify potential attacks
  - Do not need to know how exactly every message works
- **Random number generator**
  - How to generate random numbers in practice
  - Which sources are potentially good/bad sources of randomness

18

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Side-Channel Attacks on Crypto

- **A different attacker model**
  - Side-channel attacks on Crypto
- **Example: RSA in OpenSSL was vulnerable to timing attack:**
  - Attacker can extract RSA private key by measuring web server response time
- **Exploiting OpenSSL's timing vulnerability:**
  - One process can extract keys from another.
  - Extract web server key remotely.
    - » Our attack works across Stanford campus.

19

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Background: RSA Decryption

- **RSA decryption:  $g^d \bmod N = m$** 
  - $d$  is private decryption exponent,  $N$  is public modulus
- **Chinese remaindering (CRT) uses factors directly.  $N=pq$ , and  $d_1$  and  $d_2$  are pre-computed from  $d$ :**
  1.  $m_1 = g^{d_1} \bmod q$
  2.  $m_2 = g^{d_2} \bmod p$
  3. combine  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  to yield  $m \pmod{N}$
- **Goal: learn factors of  $N$ .**
  - Kocher's [K'96] attack fails when CRT is used.

20

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## RSA Decryption Time Variance

- **Causes for decryption time variation:**
  - Which multiplication algorithm is used.
    - » OpenSSL uses both basic mult. and Karatsuba mult.
  - Number of steps during a modular reduction
    - » modular reduction goal: given  $u$ , compute  $u \bmod q$
    - » Occasional extra steps in OpenSSL's reduction alg.
- **There are MANY:**
  - multiplications by input  $g$
  - modular reductions by factor  $q$  (and  $p$ )

21

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Reduction Timing Dependency

- **Modular reduction:** given  $u$ , compute  $u \bmod q$ .
  - OpenSSL uses Montgomery reductions [M'85].
- **Time variance in Montgomery reduction:**
  - One extra step at end of reduction algorithm with probability  $\Pr[\text{extra step}] \approx \frac{(q \bmod q)}{2q}$  [S'00]

22

---

---

---

---

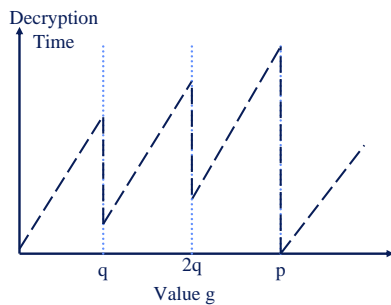
---

---

---

---

$$\Pr[\text{extra step}] \approx \frac{(g \bmod q)}{2q}$$



23

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Multiplication Timing Dependency

- **Two algorithms in OpenSSL:**
  - Karatsuba (fast): Multiplying two numbers of equal length
  - Normal (slow): Multiplying two numbers of different length
- **To calc  $x \cdot g \bmod q$  OpenSSL does:**
  - When  $x$  is the same length as  $(g \bmod q)$ , use Karatsuba mult.
  - Otherwise, use Normal mult.

24

---

---

---

---

---

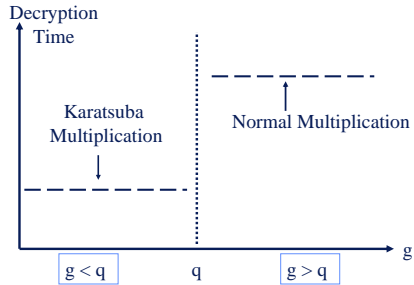
---

---

---



## Multiplication Summary



25

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Data Dependency Summary

- Decryption value  $g < q$ 
  - Montgomery effect: longer decryption time
  - Multiplication effect: shorter decryption time
- Decryption value  $g > q$ 
  - Montgomery effect: shorter decryption time
  - Multiplication effect: longer decryption time

**Opposite effects! But one will always dominate**

26

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Timing Attack

### High Level Attack:

- 1) Suppose  $g=q$  for the top  $i-1$  bits, and 0 elsewhere.
- 2)  $g_{hi} = g$ , but with the  $i^{\text{th}}$  bit 1. Then  $g < g_{hi}$   
Goal: decide if  $g < q < g_{hi}$  or  $g < g_{hi} < q$
- 3) Sample decryption time for  $g$  and  $g_{hi}$ :  
 $t_1 = \text{DecryptTime}(g)$   
 $t_2 = \text{DecryptTime}(g_{hi})$   
A callout bubble says: "large vs. small creates 0-1 gap"
- 4) If  $|t_1 - t_2|$  is large  $\Rightarrow$   $g$  and  $g_{hi}$  straddle  $q \Rightarrow$  bit  $i$  is 0 ( $g < q < g_{hi}$ )  
else  $\Rightarrow$  don't straddle  $q \Rightarrow$  bit  $i$  is 1 ( $g < g_{hi} < q$ )

27

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Timing Attack Details

- We know what is “large” and “small” from attack on previous bits.
- Decrypting just  $g$  does not work because of sliding windows
  - Decrypt a neighborhood of values near  $g$
  - Will increase diff. between large and small values  
⇒ larger 0-1 gap
- Only need to recover  $q/2$  bits of  $q$  [C'97]
- Attack requires only 2 hours, about 1.4 million queries

28

---

---

---

---

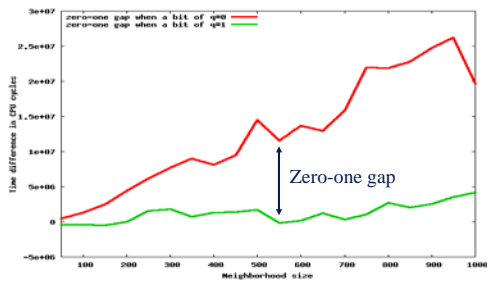
---

---

---

---

## The Zero-One Gap



29

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## How does this work with SSL?

How do we get the server to decrypt our  $g$ ?

30

---

---

---

---

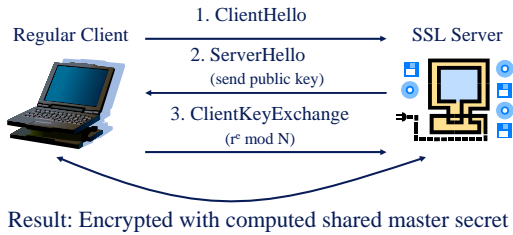
---

---

---

---

## Normal SSL Decryption



31

---

---

---

---

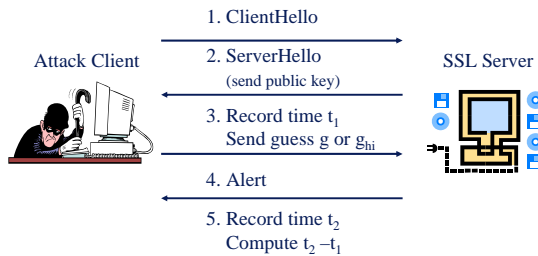
---

---

---

---

## Attack SSL Decryption



32

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Attack requires accurate clock

- **Attack measures 0.05% time difference between  $g$  and  $g_{hi}$** 
  - Only 0.001 seconds on a P4
- **We use the CPU cycle counter as fine-resolution clock**
  - “rdtsc” instruction on Intel
  - “%tick” register on UltraSparc

33

---

---

---

---

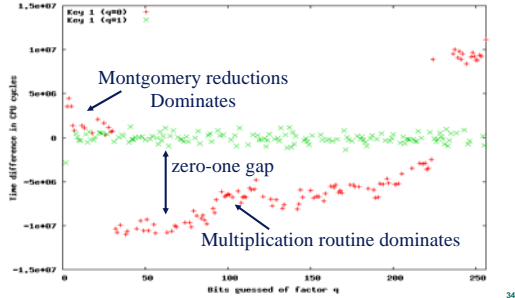
---

---

---

---

### Attack extract RSA private key



---

---

---

---

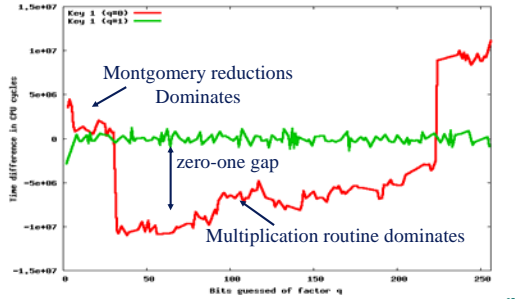
---

---

---

---

### Attack extract RSA private key



---

---

---

---

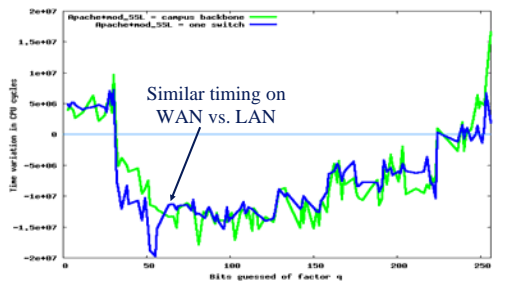
---

---

---

---

### Attack works on the network



---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Attack Summary

- Attack successful, even on a WAN
- Attack requires only 350,000 – 1,400,000 decryption queries.
- Attack requires only 2 hours.

37

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Defenses

Good: Use RSA blinding

BAD: Require statically all decryptions to take the same time

BAD: Use dynamic methods to make all decryptions take the same time

38

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### RSA Blinding

- Decrypt random number related to  $g$ :
  1. Compute  $x' = g^{r^e} \text{ mod } N$ ,  $r$  is random
  2. Decrypt  $x' = m'$
  3. Calculate  $m = m'/r \text{ mod } N$
- Since  $r$  is random, the decryption time should be random
- 2-10% performance penalty

39

---

---

---

---

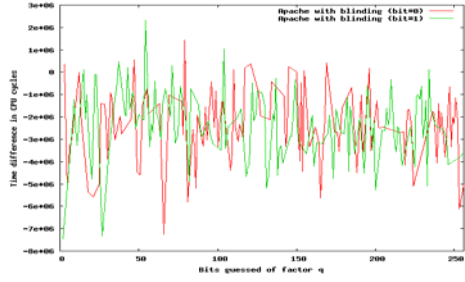
---

---

---

---

## Blinding Works!



40

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Conclusion

- **Side-channel attacks**
  - Different attacker model can break security
- **Crypto libraries should defend against side-channel attacks**

41

---

---

---

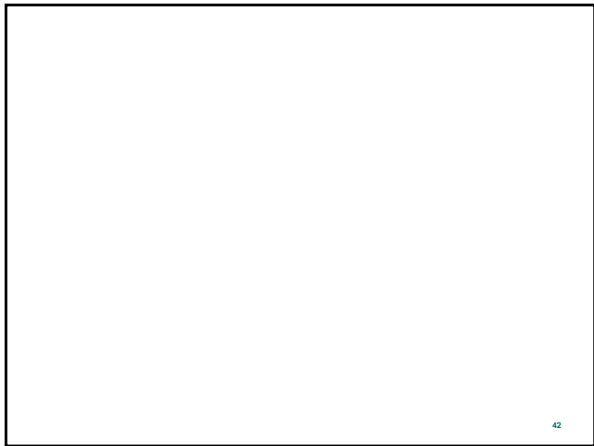
---

---

---

---

---



42

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conclusion

- We developed a timing attack based on multiplication and reduction timings
- Attack works against real OpenSSL-based servers on regular PC's.
- Lesson: Crypto libraries should always defend against timing attacks.

43

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conclusion

- Ecash
- Search/computation on encrypted data

44

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Conjunctive Equality Test on Encrypted Data (Public Key Case)

- Example:
  - Check whether an encrypted file contain every keyword in a set
  - Subset, range query

45

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Motivating example II: Multi-dimensional Range Query on Encrypted Data

- **Network audit logs**
  - Encrypted
  - An auditor may only be able to decrypt entries satisfying certain predicates
    - » E.g.,  $p_1 < \text{port } p < p_2$ , timestamp  $t > t_1$ , source address  $a$  with prefix  $a_1$

46

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Traditional Encryption

- **Semantic security**
  - Given  $E_k\{b\}$ , difficult to guess  $b=0$  or  $1$
- **Search on encrypted data**
  - Semantic security not suitable, by definition
  - Instead, encryption with search capability
    - » Predicate encryption

47

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

## Predicate Encryption (Symmetric Key Case)

- Let  $\Phi = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$  be a set of predicates over  $\Sigma$ .  
 $P_i : \Sigma \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  [e.g:  $P_j(S) = 1 \Leftrightarrow S \geq j$ ]
- A  $\Phi$ -query system consists of 4 algorithms:
  - **Setup** ( $\lambda$ ): outputs SK
  - **Encrypt** (SK, S)  $\rightarrow$  Ciphertext C ( $S \in \Sigma$ )
  - **GenCapability** (SK,  $\langle P \rangle$ )  $\rightarrow$  Capability  $T_p$  ( $P \in \Phi$ )
  - **Query** ( $T_p, C$ )  $\rightarrow$  Output P(S)
  - (Can allow message decryption on "hit" when  $P(S)=1$ )

48

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---



### Predicate Encryption (Public Key Case)

- Let  $\Phi = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$  be a set of predicates over  $\Sigma$ .  
 $P_i : \Sigma \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  [e.g:  $P_j(S) = 1 \Leftrightarrow S \geq j$ ]
- A  $\Phi$ -query system consists of 4 algorithms:
  - **Setup** ( $\lambda$ ): outputs PK and SK
  - **Encrypt** (PK, S)  $\rightarrow$  Ciphertext C ( $S \in \Sigma$ )
  - **GenCapability** (SK,  $\langle P \rangle$ )  $\rightarrow$  Capability  $T_p$  ( $P \in \Phi$ )
  - **Query** ( $T_p, C$ )  $\rightarrow$  Output  $P(S)$
  - (Can allow message decryption on "hit" when  $P(S)=1$ )

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Security

- Learn nothing more than the given search capabilities
- Why do we need to construct the search capability? What if the encryption algorithm allows anyone to search for anything?

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### State-of-the-Art (I)

- **Equality test:**
  - Symmetric-key Case
    - Goldreich, Ostrovsky, [JACM 1996]
    - Song, Wagner, Perrig, [S&P 2000]
  - Public-key case
    - Boneh, Crescenzo, Ostrovsky, Persiano, [Eurocrypt 2004]

$$f_a(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & X = a \\ 0 & o.w. \end{cases}$$

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### State-of-the-Art (II)

- **Multi-dimensional range queries:**  $X = (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_n)$   
[SBCSP06]

$$f_{a_1, a_2, b_1, b_2}(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x_1 \in [a_1, a_2]) \wedge (x_3 \in [b_1, b_2]) \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

$(IP \in 128.2.*.*) \wedge (\text{port} \in [1000, 2000])$

$(IP \in 128.2.*.*) \wedge (\text{port} = 1434)$

- **Core technique: conjunctive queries** [SBCSP06, BW06]

$$f_{a,b}(X) = \begin{cases} 1 & (x_1 = a) \wedge (x_3 = b) \\ 0 & \text{o.w.} \end{cases}$$

52

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

### Equality Test on Encrypted Data (Symmetric Key Case)

- **Example:**
  - Check whether an encrypted file contain a keyword
  - App: keyword search on encrypted emails

53

---

---

---

---

---

---

---

---