## 2025 Cryptographic Hardware and Embedded Systems (CHES)

# A Lightweight PUF-based Mutual Authentication Protocol

## Using a Modeling-Resistant Dynamic Refresh Strategy

Jiang Li, Yijun Cui, Chenghua Wang, and Weiqiang Liu

College of Integrated Circuit, Key Laboratory of Aerospace Integrated Circuits and Microsystem Ministry of Industry and Information Technology Nanjing University of Aeronautics and Astronautics, Nanjing, China Email: lijiang@nuaa.edu.cn





## **Background**

#### 1. Resource-constrained IoT devices

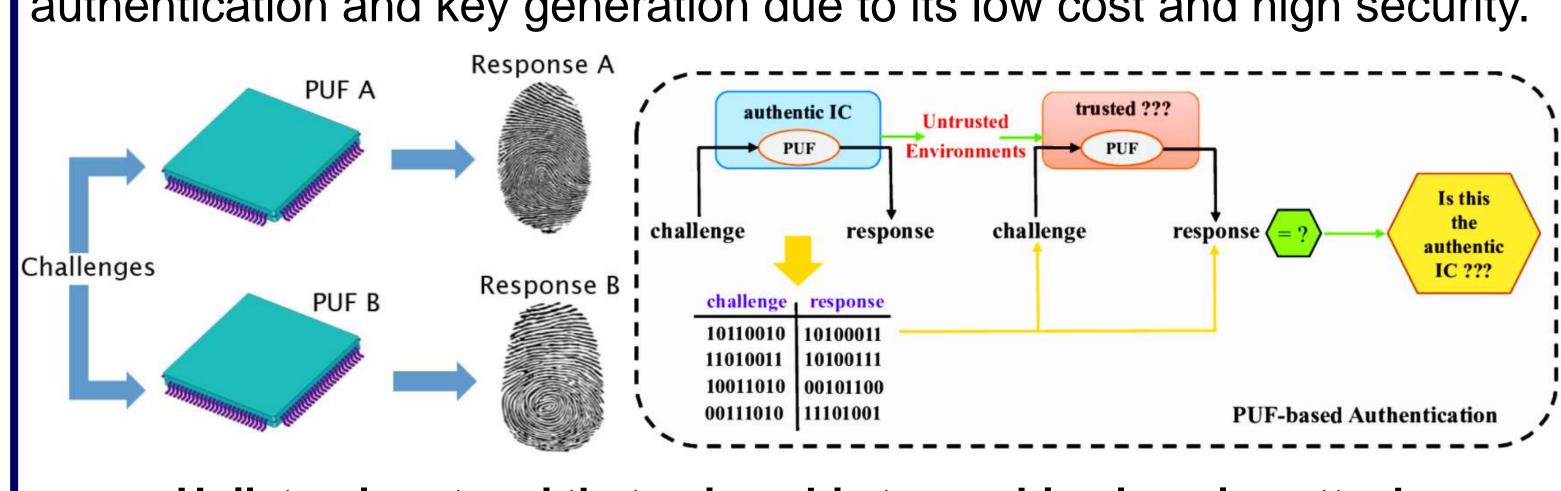
- Small calculation capacity
- Limited storage space
- Battery powered
- Outdoor Deployment

#### 2. Conventional software encryption

- High cost
- Need to store keys
- High power consumption
- Can be copied

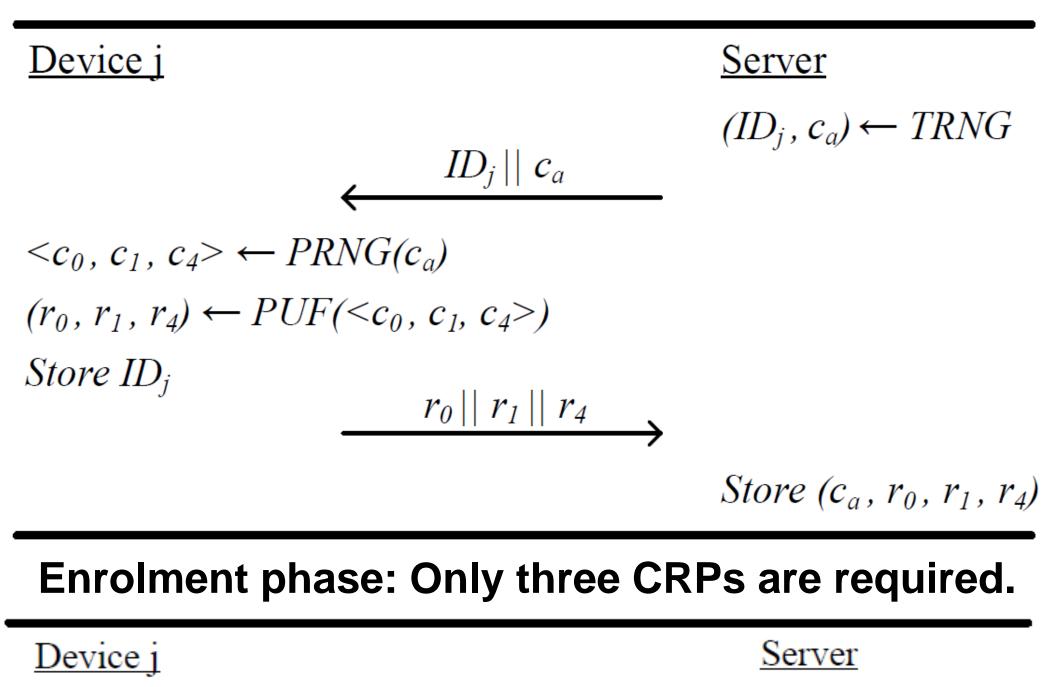
## Introduction

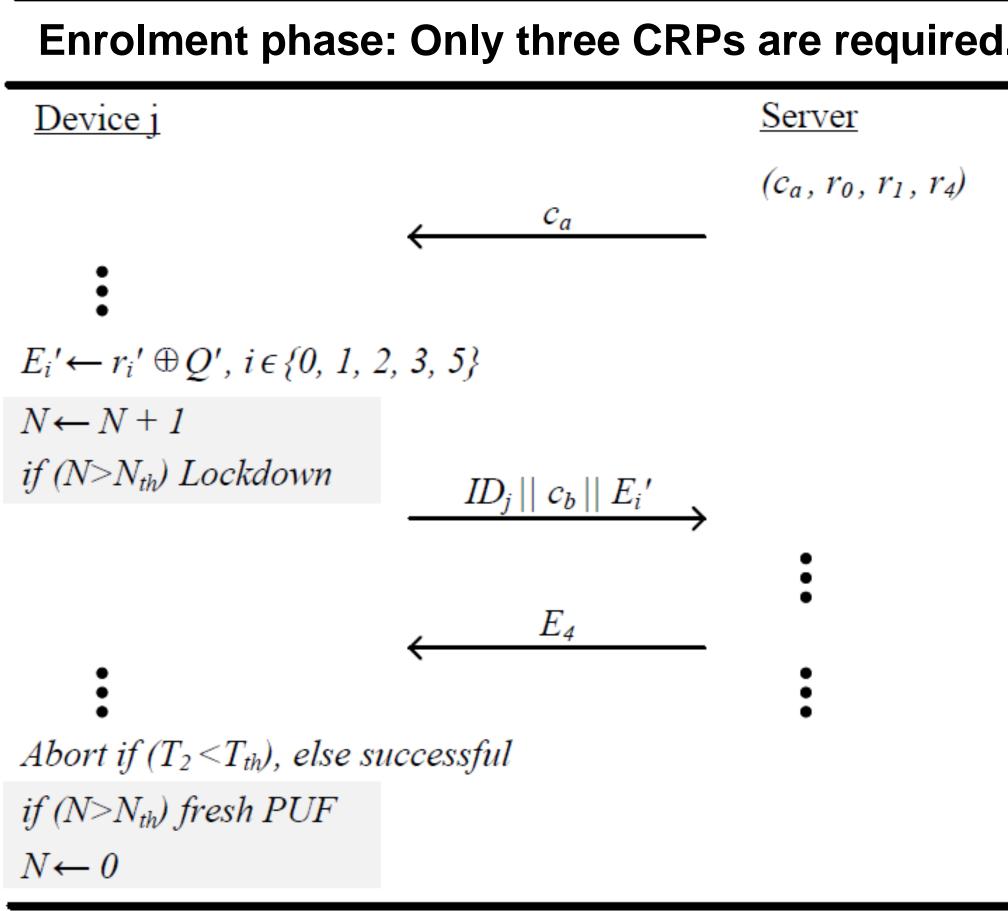
Physical Uncloanble Function (PUF) is increasingly used in authentication and key generation due to its low cost and high security.



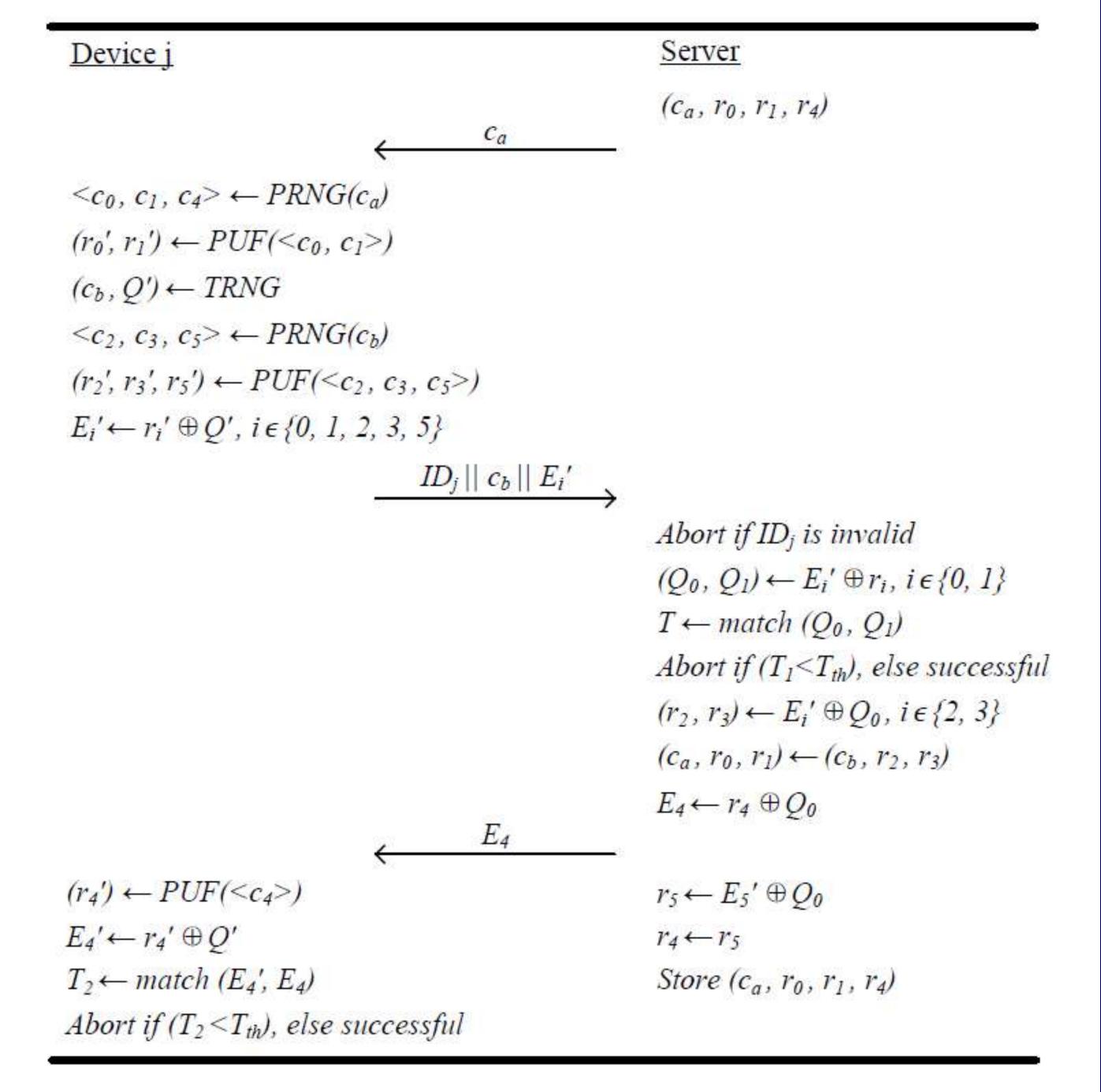
Unilateral protocol that vulnerable to machine learning attacks.

## **Lightweight Mutual Authentication Protocol**

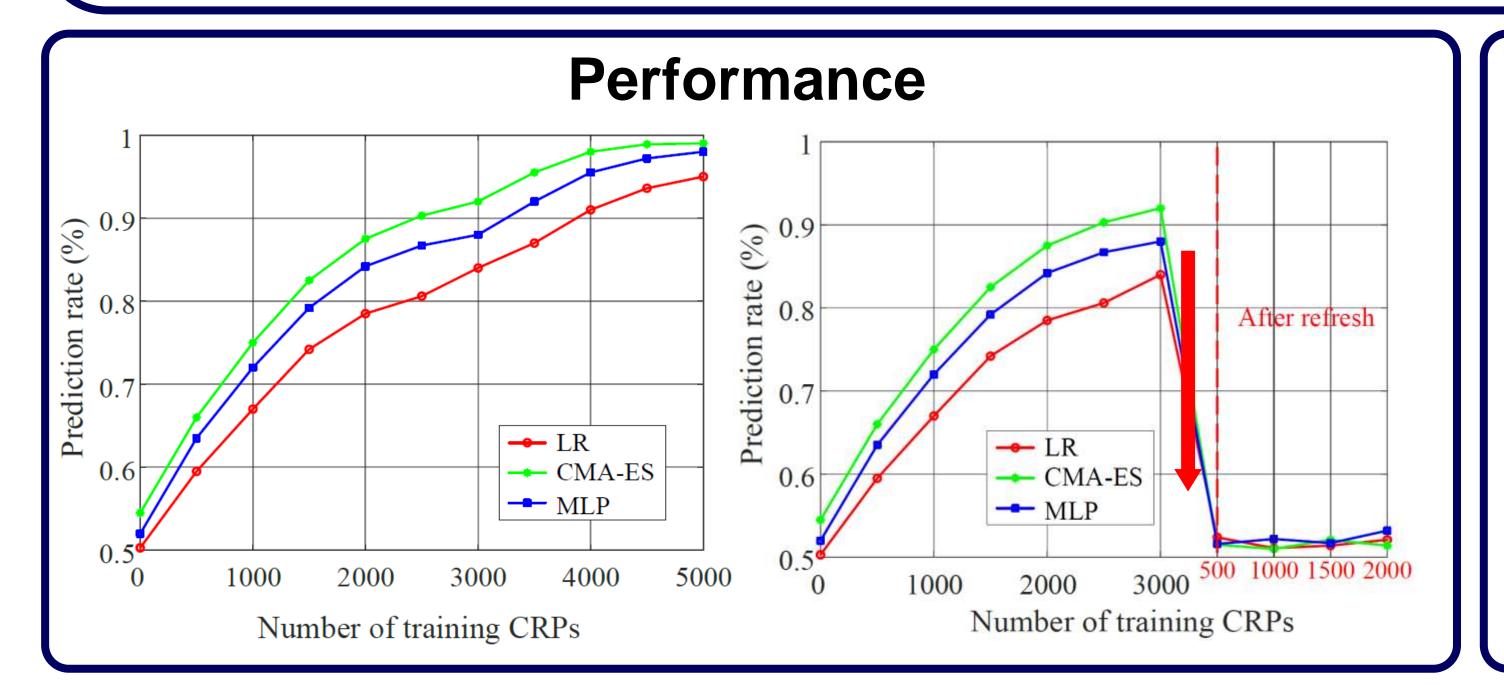




Refresh strategy against ML attacks.



Authentication phase: The enroll-while-authenticate mechanism allows simultaneous enrollment and authentication.



#### Conclusion

- This work presents a lightweight mutual authentication protocol that integrates a novel modeling-resistant dynamic refresh strategy.
- An enroll-while-authenticate mechanism is proposed, which significantly reduces server-side storage and computation overhead.
- Experimental results demonstrate that the proposed approach achieves strong resilience to modeling attacks.