

# Some Recent Development in RFID Privacy Models

Robert H. Deng  
School of Information Systems  
Singapore Management University

# Introduction

- RFID tags are **low-cost** electronic devices, from which stored info can be collected by an RFID reader **efficiently** and **at a distance** without line of sight
- RFID has found numerous applications, from warehouse inventory control, supermarket checkout counters, e-ticket, to e-passport



# RFID Triggered Significant Concerns on Security & Privacy

- **Perfect working condition for attackers**
  - Tags can be read or traced by malicious readers from a distance w/o its owner's awareness
- **Security**
  - **Tag authentication:** ensure data collected not from fake tag & prevent database pollution
  - **Reader authentication:** prevent unauthorized access to/or tampering with tag data
- **Privacy**
  - **Anonymity:** Confidentiality of the tag identity
  - **Untraceability:** Unlinkability of the tag's transactions

# Cryptographic Protocols for RFID Privacy

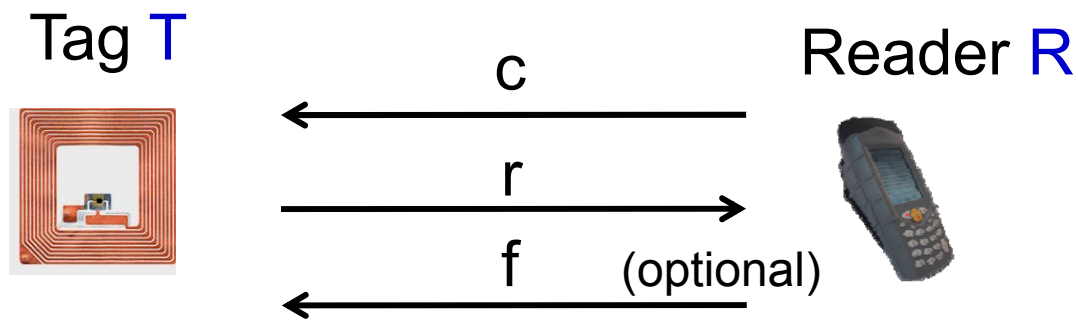
- Numerous lightweight RFID protocols for low-cost tags have been proposed
  - Use simple operations (XOR, bit inner product, CRC, etc)
- Most of them have been broken
  - T. van Deursen and S. Radomirovic: *Attacks on RFID Protocols*, *ePrint Archive: Report 2008/310*
- Need to investigate formal RFID security and privacy models which are fundamental to the design and analysis of robust RFID systems

# Assumptions



- $\mathbf{S} = \{T_1, \dots, T_n\}$  - polynomial-size group of tags
- $\mathbf{R/D}$  - Reader/Database have secure connection
- Adversary  $\mathbf{A}$  has complete control over communications between reader and tags

# Canonical RFID Protocol $\pi$



- Shorthand notation:  $(c, r, f) \leftarrow \pi(R, T)$

# Adversary

- Interactions between **A** and protocol parties **R** and **T** occur through 4 oracles
  - **O<sub>1</sub> - Launch()**: return a session id **sid** and the 1<sup>st</sup> message **c**
  - **O<sub>2</sub> - SendTag(sid, c, T)**: return **r**, the response of tag **T**
  - **O<sub>3</sub> - SendReader(sid, r)**: return **f**, the response of Reader
  - **O<sub>4</sub> - Corrupt(T)**: return the secret information and state of tag **T**

# Ind-Privacy: Indistinguishability of two tags

**JW06** (Jules & Weis, PerCom 2007)

## Experiment:

- $\{T_i, T_j\} \leftarrow A_1^{01,02,03,04}(R, \mathbf{S});$
- $b \in \{0, 1\};$
- If  $b = 0$  then  $T_c = T_i$ , else  $T_c = T_j$ ;
- $\mathbf{S}' = \mathbf{S} - \{T_i, T_j\};$
- $b' \leftarrow A_2^{01,02,03,04}(R, \mathbf{S}', T_c).$

$A_1$  not allowed to query  $O_4$  on  $T_i$  and  $T_j$

$A_2$  not allowed to query  $O_4$  on  $T_c$

- The advantage of adversary  $A = |\Pr[b'=b]-1/2|$
- **No protocol has been directly proven to satisfy Ind-Privacy**



# Unp\*-Privacy (Ha, Moon, Zhou & Ha, *ESORICS 2008*; Lai, Deng, Li, *ACNS 2010*)

## Experiment:

- $T_c \leftarrow A_1^{O_1, O_2, O_3, O_4}(R, S);$
- $b \in \{0, 1\};$
- **When  $A_2$**  makes queries to  $O_1, O_2, O_3$  on  $T_c$ 
  - If  $b = 0$ , return oracles' responses
  - Else ( $b = 1$ )
    - return  $c \in_R \mathbf{C}$  if query  $O_1$
    - return  $r \in_R \mathbf{R}$  if query  $O_2$
    - Return  $f \in_R \mathbf{F}$  if query  $O_3$
- $b' \leftarrow A_3$

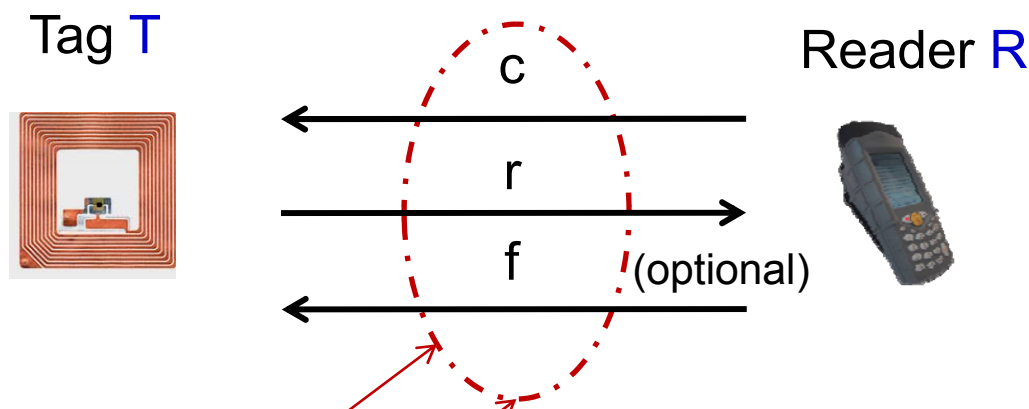
$A_1$  &  $A_2$  not allowed to query  $O_4$  on  $T_c$

- The advantage of adversary  $A = |\Pr[b'=b]-1/2|$
- **Some protocols have been proven to satisfy Unp\*-privacy**

# Relationships (Ma, Li, Deng, Li, CCS09)

- **Ind-privacy  $\Rightarrow$ ! Unp\*-privacy**
  - Assume that  $(c, r, f) \leftarrow \pi(R, T)$  satisfies Ind-privacy
  - Let  $(c, r | r, f) \leftarrow \pi'(R, T)$
  - $\pi'(R, T)$  also satisfies Ind-privacy, but it does not satisfy Unp\*-privacy
- **Ind-privacy  $\Leftarrow$  Unp\*-privacy**
- **Minimal requirement for RFID systems to achieve RFID system privacy**
  - Unp\*-privacy  $\iff$  PRF

# RFID Privacy Preserving Authentication Protocol Design

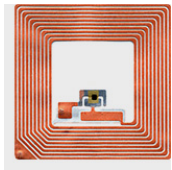


## ■ Privacy requirements

- **Anonymity:** Confidentiality of the tag identity
- **Untraceability:** Unlinkability of the tag's transactions

# Symmetric Key Crypto Based Solution

Tag T ( $ID_T, K_T$ )

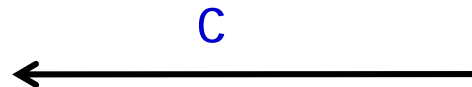


Reader R



Database D

Tag ID	Tag Secret
$ID_{T1}$	$K_{T1}$
$ID_{T2}$	$K_{T2}$
.....	
$ID_{Tn}$	$K_{Tn}$

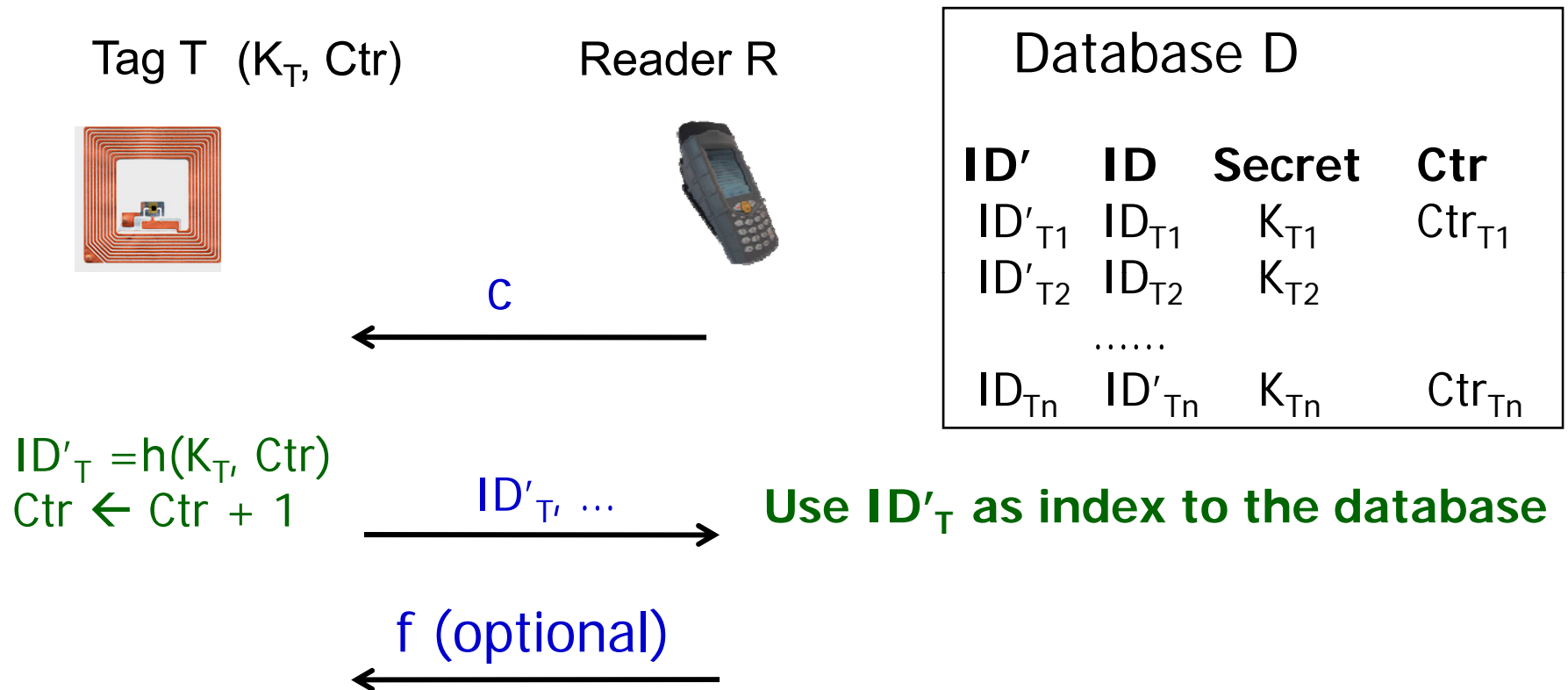


$$r = \text{prf}(K_T | c \dots), \cancel{ID_T}$$

**Exhaustive research to find a matching  $K_T$  and then  $ID_T$**



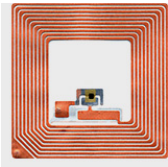
# Symmetric Key Crypto & Counter Based Solution



Must be able to recover from desynchronization attack

# Public Key Crypto Based Solution

Tag T ( $ID_T, K_T, P_R$ )



Reader R ( $S_R$ )



Database D

Tag ID	Tag Secret
$ID_{T1}$	$K_{T1}$
$ID_{T2}$	$K_{T2}$
.....	
$ID_{Tn}$	$K_{Tn}$

c



$r = PK_R(K_T | ID_T | c \dots)$  Use  $ID_T$  as index to look for  $K_T$



f (optional)



**PKC based protocols do not satisfy Unp\*-privacy!**

# Summary

- Ind-Privacy and Unp\*-Privacy models
- No protocol has been directly proven to satisfy Ind-Privacy
- Symmetric key based protocols can be designed to satisfy Unp\*-privacy, but not public key based protocols
- ZK-privacy model (**Deng, Li, Yung, Zhao, ESORICS 2010**)
  - Output of real world experiment and output of simulated world experiment are indistinguishable
  - Both symmetric key and public key protocols can be designed to satisfy zk-privacy

# Acknowledgement

**Junzuo LAI<sup>1</sup>**

**Tieyan LI<sup>2</sup>**

**Yingjiu LI<sup>1</sup>**

**Changshe MA<sup>3</sup>**

**Yunlei Zhao<sup>4</sup>**

1. Singapore Management University
2. Institute for Infocomm Research, Singapore
3. South China Normal University
4. Fudan University



# Thank You!