Novel Single-Trace ML Profiling Attacks on NIST 3 Round candidate Dilithium

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ABSTRACT

Dilithium¹ is a lattice-based digital signature, one of the finalist candidates in the NIST's standardization process for post-quantum cryptography. In this paper, we propose a first side-channel attack on the process of signature generation of Dilithium. During the Dilithium signature generation process, we used NTT encryption single-trace for machine learning-based profiling attacks. In addition, it is possible to attack masked Dilithium using sparse multiplication. The proposed method is shown through experiments that all key values can be exposed 100% through a single-trace regardless of the optimization level.

CCS CONCEPTS

• Security and privacy \rightarrow Security in hardware \rightarrow Hardware attacks and countermeasures \rightarrow Side-channel analysis and countermeasures • Security and privacy \rightarrow Cryptography \rightarrow Public key (asymmetric) techniques \rightarrow Digital signatures

KEYWORDS

Dilithium, side-channel attack, lattice-base, digital signature

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1 INTRODUCTION

The digital signatures are a way of proving the identity of the sender in the network. As the non-face-to-face society becomes mainstream due to the Covid-19 virus, the importance of digital signatures that provide authentication is increasing. Digital signatures mainly adopt the public key infrastructure (PKI), which is based on the difficulty of the problems, such as factorization and discrete logarithm. However, the construction based on these problems can succumb to Shor's [1] algorithm, which can defeat these systems in polynomial time, using a quantum computer. Recently, experts estimated that quantum computers would be arriving 10 to 15 years [2]. Therefore, the existing cryptographic systems should be replaced by a system that is resistant to quantum computers.

The national institute of standards and technology (NIST) announced the standardization of post-quantum cryptography (PQC) in December 2016 to address these issues. Over the years, standardization has been made for algorithm submitted to publickey encryption, key encapsulation mechanism, and digital signature. The third-round candidate algorithms were announced in July 2020, and the remaining algorithms are seven finalists and eight alternative algorithms [4]. Among finalists, digital signatures include three algorithms, two lattice-based (CRYSTALS-DILITHIUM, FALCON), and one multivariate-based (Rainbow). NIST considered three aspects of the evaluation criteria used to compare candidate algorithms in the PQC standardization process: 1) security, 2) cost and performance, and 3) algorithm and implementation characteristics [3]. NIST also explicitly states that it wants to "collect more information about the costs of implementing in a way that provides resistance to side-channel attacks". Therefore, the side-channel attack case for this is of considerable importance.

Side-channel attacks [5] is an attack to extract cryptographic keys using side-channel information, such as power consumption, electromagnetic radiation, and execution time, when cryptographic algorithms operate. The method of side-channel attack is differential power analysis (DPA), cache attack (CA), template attack (TA), Fault attack (FA), etc., which are used for attacks on

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many cryptographic. Lattice-based digital signatures are also at risk for various side-channel attacks. In the lattice-based digital signatures, the main target operations of side-channel attacks include polynomial multiplication [12], gaussian sampling [13, 14], and number-theoretic transform (NTT) [6, 7] operation.

1.1 Related Works

The first single-trace attack on lattice-based schemes targeting NTT is the attack of Primas *et al.* [6] in CHES 2017. However, this attack is not applicable because NTT is currently implemented as constant-time; the timing information of modular operations is no longer available. This attack was improved by Pessl *et al.* [7]. They did a template attack using information when data loading and storing during NTT encryption. They succeeded in a single-trace attack over Kyber, but they said that it is really difficult to apply an improved attack in Dilithium. They restored the full key of Kyber with a probability of at first time 57% and restored the full key to 95%, using lattice reduction described in Primas *et al.* [6].

1.2 Our Contribution

In this work, we show a single-trace attack on Dilithium for the first time. We present a novel side-channel attack using NTT encryption. In addition, even if the countermeasure is applied to the Dilithium, we can show that single-trace attacks are possible through polynomial multiplication.

1.1.2 First single-trace attacks on Dilithium

We present single-trace attacks on Dilithium [9]. The target operation is NTT encryption. We used the leaked information in load, save, and Montgomery reduction operation of power consumption trace. The method of attack is a machine learningbased profiling attack. We describe the proposed attack that uses a single-trace to find the full key at 100% regardless of an optimization level.

1.1.2 First single-trace attacks on Masked Dilithium

We present single-trace attacks on Masked Dilithium [10]. The target operation is sparse multiplication. We used the leaked information in load, save, and multiplication operation of power consumption trace. The method of attack is a machine learning-based profiling attack. We describe the proposed attack that uses a single-trace to find the full key at 100% regardless of an optimization level.

2 PRELIMINARIES

2.1 Notation

For a prime number q = 8380417, we let R and R_q the rings $\mathbb{Z}[x]/(X^{256} + 1)$ and $\mathbb{Z}_q[x]/(X^{256} + 1)$, respectively. Multiplication of two polynomials $a, b \in R_q$ is denoted as $a \cdot b \in R_q$. The *i*-th coefficient of polynomial $a \in R_q$ is denoted as a[i]. Matrices and vectors of polynomials in R_q are denoted as $a \in R_q^{k \times \ell}$, $b \in R_q^{\ell}$. The NTT domain representation is denoted as $\hat{a} =$ NTT $(a) \in \mathbb{Z}_q^{256}$ of a polynomial $a \in R_q$, and Point-wise multiplication is denoted as $\hat{c} = \hat{a} \circ \hat{b}$.

2.2 Side-channel leakage model

We assume that the intermediate value of devices is related to the power consumption trace. Therefore, it is assumed that if a device uses a secret value of s as the intermediate value, the information related to the s can leak from the power consumption trace.

 $P_{total} \sim s$ (P_{total} : power consumption, ~ : relation)

2.3 Number theoretic transform (NTT)

In lattice-based schemes, polynomial multiplication is considered as one of the most expensive operations. To efficiently compute this, NTT-based multiplication of polynomials is often adopted. When the 512-th root of unity in modulo q is r, the domain can be changed using isomorphic such as $\mathbb{Z}_q[X]/(X - r^i) \cong \mathbb{Z}_q$, and the multiplication on the ring R_q can be easily multiplied by pointwise multiplication.

2.4 Machine Learning based profiling attack

A profiling attack is an attack method that generates a profile through another device with the same or similar specifications as the attack device and finds a secret key by comparing the probability of matching the profile with the trace obtained from an actual attack device. The attack is divided into two phases: a learning phase and an attack phase. During the learning phase, generate the profile to be used in the attack phase. In order to do so, the learning phase determines which values to learn and which models to use. These are called labeling and modeling, respectively. In this paper, the secret keys are chosen as the labeling value, and the modeling uses a multi-layer perceptron (MLP). The MLP consist of three layers (input layer, hidden layer, outpour layer), and each layer has a node, which learns the secret keys by changing its weight.

3 DILITHIUM ALGORITHM

Dilithium is a lattice-based digital signature algorithm and is designed based on Module-LWE and Module-SIS problems. The principle of Dilithium is 'Fiat-Shamir with abort' and 'public key (PK) compression'. The algorithm consists of three stages: key generation, signature generation, and signature verification, and supports a NIST category 1, 2, and 3.

3.1 Dilithium algorithms

We describe Dilithium signature generation and NTT encryption schemes [9].

Table 1: Dilithium signature generation scheme.

1	Procedure SignGen $(sk, M \in \{0,1\} *)$
2	$\hat{A} \in R_q^{k \times \ell} \coloneqq \text{ExpandA}(\rho)$
3	$\mu = CRH(tr \parallel M)$
4	$\kappa = 0, (z, h) = \perp$
5	$\rho' \in \{0,1\}^{384} \coloneqq CRH(K \parallel \mu)$
6	$\widehat{s_1} = \operatorname{NTT}(s_1)$
7	$\widehat{s_2} = \text{NTT}(s_2)$

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8	$\hat{t_0} = \text{NTT}(t_0)$
9	while $(z, h) = \perp do$
10	$y \in S^{\ell}_{\gamma_1-1} \coloneqq \operatorname{ExpandMask}(\rho' \parallel \kappa)$
11	$\hat{y} = \text{NTT}(y)$
12	$w = \text{INTT}(\hat{A} \circ \hat{y})$
13	$(w_1, w_0) = D_q(w, 2\gamma_2)$
14	$c \in B^{60} = H(\mu \parallel w_1)$
15	$\hat{c} = \text{NTT}(c)$
16	$z = y + INTT(\hat{c} \circ \hat{s}_1)$
17	$r = \text{INTT}(\hat{c} \circ \widehat{s_2})$
18	$(r_1, r_0) \coloneqq D_q(w - r, 2\gamma_2)$
19	If $ z _{\infty} \ge \gamma_1 - \beta$ or $ r_0 _{\infty} \ge \gamma_2 - \beta$
	or $r_1 \neq w_1$ then $(z, h) = \bot$
20	else
21	$g = INTT(\hat{c} \circ \hat{t_0})$
22	$h = MakeHint(-g, w - r + g, 2\gamma_2)$
23	if $ r _{\infty} \ge \gamma_2$ or $wt(h) > w$ then
24	$(z,h) = \perp$
25	end
26	end
27	return $\sigma = (z, h, c)$
	The operations used for attacking Dilithium
	highlighted in red, and those used for attacking
	masked Dilithium are shown is blue
-	

Table 2: Dilithium NTT scheme.

1	Procedure NTT (<i>p</i> [<i>N</i>])
2	k = 1
3	for $(len = 128; len > 0; len \gg = 1)$
4	for $(start = 0; start < N; start = j + len)$
5	zeta = zetas[k]
6	$k \coloneqq k + 1$
7	for $(j = start; j < start + len; + + j)$
8	$t = Mont_r((uint64)zeta * p[j + len])$
9	p[j + len] = p[j] + 2 * Q - t
10	p[j] = p[j] + t

zetas : precomputed table for converting to NTT domain

<u>Mont_r</u>: Montgomery reduction, Q: prime, N: dimension NTT operation consists of a total of eight stages. The stage is determined by *len* variable of Table 2. The value of the *len* according to a stage is as follows: stage $m \rightarrow len = 2^{8-m}$. In the first stage, the p[j] value is a secret value, and load, Montgomery reduction, and save operations occur in the highlighted operation in colors. Therefore, at line 6 in Table 1, information related to s_1 will be included in the power consumption trace. Line 7,8 is the same.

3.2 Masked Dilithium

The masking scheme for Dilithium was first proposed by Milgliore *et al.* [8]. However, due to problems with limitation performance and target boards, they focused on the optimized version of modulus, a power of two, not prime modulus. Therefore, NTT multiplication is not available. For this reason, we have taken the polynomial multiplication as the target operation, not NTT, for masked Dilithium. The specific open source did not exist, so the

attack was carried out in sparse multiplication, an efficient multiplication in Dilithium.

3.2.1 Boolean Masking. Masking is a generic and provable countermeasure to side-channel attacks. For example, Sensitive variables x is divided into several shares by masking, such as $x = x_0 \oplus x_1 \oplus \cdots \oplus x_d$, uniformly random shares $x_i's$. Therefore, sensitive variables such as s_1, s_2, t_0 will share sensitive information. 3.2.2 Sparse Multiplication. NTT and INTT operations are no longer necessary. Thus, highlighted in blue for Table 1, it is replaced by an operation $c \cdot s_1$. In addition, sensitive s_1 that became Boolean masking is like $s_1 = s_{1[0]} \oplus s_{1[1]} \oplus \cdots \oplus s_{1[d]}$. Therefore, $c \cdot s_1$ consists of: $c \cdot s_{1[0]} \oplus c \cdot s_{1[1]} \oplus \cdots \oplus c \cdot s_{1[d]}$. Each multiplication follows a sparse multiplication because c consists of $60 \pm 1's$.

Table 3: Sparse multiplication

1	Procedure Sparse multiplication (<i>c</i> , <i>s</i> _{1[<i>k</i>]})
2	H = 60
3	for <i>i</i> from 0 to <i>H</i> – 1 do
4	$pos = c_pos[i]$
5	for <i>j</i> from 0 to <i>pos</i> – 1 do
6	$pd[j] = pd[j] - c_sign[i] * s_{1[k]}[j + N - pos]$
7	for <i>j</i> from 0 to $N - 1$ do
8	$pd[j] = pd[j] + c_sign[i] * s_{1[k]}[j - pos]$
9	return <i>pd</i>

Because of the sparse property of c, c can be expressed using position (*c_pos*) and sign (*c_sign* \in {-1,1}) lists [11]. The highlighted in red is the boolean masking value, which can be leaked from load, multiplication, and save operation because c_sign is ± 1 . Therefore, information related to $s_{1[k]}[j]$ will be included in the power consumption trace.

4 Proposed single-trace attacks on Dilithium

In order to obtain all secret keys in Dilithium, two of three t_0, s_1, s_2 must be obtained. Then we can use two equations $t = A \cdot s_1 + s_2$, $t_1 = power2Round_q(t, d)$ to get the remaining values [9]. Because *A* and t_1 are public keys, we can find the remaining values using the two equations. In this paper, we aim to find s_1, s_2 . This is because each coefficient of s_1 and s_2 are $[-\eta, \eta]$, so the secret keys can be restored if only a maximum of 15 values can be distinguished ($\eta \in \{3,5,6,7\}$).



Figure 1: NTT encryption stage 1

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NTT encryption (lines 7-10 in Table 2) is divided into two cases by stage in Fig. 1. *Case 1*: Not used as input for Montgomery reductions. *Case* 2: Used as input to Montgomery reduction.

p[i+len]		1	t=Mont_r((uint64)zetas[1]*p[i+len])		
-7	0.0	75	DE	57	00 70 00 57	
-6	00	75	DF	FB	00 47 4B F8	
-5	00	7F	DF	FC	00 10 C9 F9	
-4	00	7F	DF	FD	00 5A 27 FB	
-3	00	7F	DF	FE	00 23 A5 FC	
-2	00	7F	DF	FF	00 6D 03 FE	
-1	00	7F	DF	00	00 36 81 FF	
0	00	7F	E0	01	00 7F E0 01	
1	00	7F	EO	02	00 49 5E 02	
2	00	7F	E0	03	00 12 DC 03	
3	00	7F	EO	04	00 5C 3A 05	
4	00	7F	E0	05	00 25 B8 06	
5	00	7F	EO	06	00 6F 16 08	
6	00	7F	EO	07	00 38 94 09	
7	00	7F	EO	08	00 02 12 0A	

Figure 2: Result 32bit hex value Mont_r according to secret value (NTT stage 1)

For *Case 1*, the output p[i] = p[i] + t does not give a significant difference according to the other p[i] values. However, in *Case 2*, it can be seen that there is a significant difference in the value of t according to the different p[i + len] as shown in Fig. 2. Thus, depending on the secret value p[i + len], there is a significant difference in the intermediate value t. This difference also results in a significant difference in power consumption trace information. Therefore, we attack *Case 2* for each stage and restore the full secret keys. The procedure for a proposed single-trace attack is as shown in Fig. 3.



Figure 3: Flow chart of single-trace attacks

4.1.1 Stage m : Set attack coefficients



Figure 4: Attack coefficients for each stage

When a target stage is m, *Case 2* exists $2^m - 1$ times. For convenience, the attack coefficients were chosen as shown in Fig.

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4, because the attack on any *Case 2* could restore the secret keys. Therefore, in stage *m*, we target from $p[2^{8-m}]$ to $p[2^{9-m} - 1]$. To learn this, we generate a power consumption trace corresponding to lines 7-10 in Table 2. Afterward, we can get target coefficients through the process in sections from 4.1.2 to 4.1.4. If there are previous attack stages, the secret keys restored from the previous attack stages are fixed and then generates a power consumption trace. For example, in stage 2, we have known the coefficients from p[128] to p[255], which are targets in stage 1. Thus, when attacking the coefficients from p[64] to p[127], we generate a learning trace that fixes the coefficient from p[128] to p[255]. Because the non-fixed coefficients can affect the next stage attacks. 4.1.2 Pol Selection

The power consumption-based side-channel attack assumes that the intermediate value used in a cryptographic algorithm operation is related to power consumption. Therefore, the secret key that we want to find has a location that is relevant to the power consumption, and that location is called points of interest (PoI). Pearson correlation coefficient is used to find a location related to the secret keys, *i.e.*, to find PoI. The Pearson correlation coefficient equation is as follows.

$$\rho = \frac{\sum_{i}^{n} (X_{i} - \bar{X})(Y_{i} - \bar{Y})}{\sqrt{\sum_{i}^{n} (X_{i} - \bar{X})^{2}} \sqrt{\sum_{i}^{n} (Y_{i} - \bar{Y})^{2}}} \quad \cdots \quad (1)$$

The Pearson correlation coefficient equation is a formula that calculates the association between two groups, and its value is between -1 and 1. The greater the value of the absolute value, the more relevant the two groups are. We calculated the Pearson correlation between power consumption traces of NTT operation and p[i] + t (stage 1: t = 0), as presented in Fig. 5.



Figure 5: PoI selection of NTT operation (stage 1)

4.1.3 Learning phase

In the learning phase, select the label value and model. The label value is the secret keys s_1 or s_2 , and the model use MLP. Details of the secret keys and MLP are in Table 4 and 5, respectively. The MLP of Table 5 is not the optimal model and is just the model used in the experiment.

 $s_1[i]$ is a 32bit value, and the first and second bytes of $s_1[i]$ are always the same, i.e., 0Byte and 1Byte are always 0x00 and 0x7F, respectively. And third byte is determined by fourth byte, i.e., 2Byte is 0xDF when 3Byte is 0xFA to 0xFF, and the rest is 0xE0.

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Therefore, generating profiles for the fourth bytes (3Byte) of $s_1[i]$ is only needed. The total number of necessary profiling per coefficient is $2\eta + 1$.

Hex value by Byte						
	0Byte	1Byte	2Byte	3Byte		
-7	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0xDF	0xFA		
-6	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xDF</i>	0 <i>xFB</i>		
-5	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xDF</i>	0 <i>xFC</i>		
-4	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xDF</i>	0 <i>xFD</i>		
-3	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xDF</i>	0 <i>xFE</i>		
-2	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xDF</i>	0 <i>xFF</i>		
-1	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0 <i>x</i> 00		
0	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0x01		
2	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0 <i>x</i> 02		
3	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0x03		
4	0x00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0 <i>x</i> 04		
5	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0x05		
6	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0x06		
7	0 <i>x</i> 00	0x7F	0 <i>xE</i> 0	0 <i>x</i> 07		

Table 4: 32bit secret value of *s*₁[*i*]

Table 5: Network structure for Multi-Layer Perceptron

Layer	node (in, out)	Kernel initializer
InputLayer	(x, x)	-
Batch Normal	(x, x)	-
Dense	(<i>x</i> , 32)	he_uniform
Batch Normal	(32,32)	-
ReLU	(32,32)	-
Dense	(32, y)	he_uniform
Softmax	(y, y)	-

* x : PoI section of power consumption trace

* Input Normalization : all values are within the range [-1,1]

* Loss function : categorical crossentropy

* Optimizer : adam(lr=0.001, epsilon=1e-08)

* Batch size and epochs: 32 and maximum 100, respectively

* *y* : Labeling value (3Byte)

4.1.4 Attack phase

In the attack phase, returns the guessed key through the probability of matching the profile generated in the learning phase with the target single-trace. The secret keys are restored by matching the learned profile with the PoI section of the attack single-trace.

4.1.5 Profiling attack of p[0]

After completing from stage 1 to stage 8 profiling attack, we can get from p[1] to p[255]. However, p[0] is always included in *Case 1*, so attacks using Montgomery reduction are not applicable. Instead, we restored the p[0] using another method. First, because we known form p[1] to p[255], we can generate learning trace fixed from p[1] to p[255] of stage 8 (p[0] is random secret). In addition, p[0] affects all coefficients (256 coefficients) after stage 8 operations. Therefore, even if there is not a significant difference

in the intermediate value according to p[0], p[0] can be restored. Because p[0] affects the intermediate of all coefficients, the sum of differences can be significant. Therefore, p[0] can be restored by using load, save, and addition information (line 9,10 in Table 2) that leaks from all coefficients without the Montgomery reduction, as shown in Fig. 6. Thus, we can restore p[0] through the profiling attack.



Figure 6: PoI of p[0] between 41 coefficients of NTT stage 8

5 Proposed single-trace attacks on Masked Dilithium

In this section, the contents described in Section 3.2 are addressed here. The attack procedure is similar to Section 4.

5.1.1 PoI selection

Similar to section 4.1.2, we calculated the Pearson correlation between power consumption traces of sparse multiplication and boolean masked secret keys, as presented in Fig. 7.



Figure 7: PoI selection of Sparse Multiplication

5.1.2 Learning phase

Similar to section 4.1.3, but masked coefficients of s_1 is shared 32bit random values, shown in Table 6, we have to distinguish 256 values for each of the four bytes. So, we generate 256 profiles each of 0, 1, 2, 3bytes, the total number of required profiling per coefficient is 1024.

5.1.3 Attack phase

In the attack phase, returns the guessed key through the probability of matching the profile generated in the learning phase with the target single-trace. The secret keys are restored by matching the learned profile with the PoI section of the attack single-trace.

Table 6: 32bit secret value of $s_{1[k]}[i]$

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Hex value by Byte				
0Byte	1Byte	2Byte	3Byte	
Random	Random	Random	Random	

6 Experimental results

In this section, we perform an experiment on Dilithium that supports the NIST category 1 (Dilithium II). The Dilithium III and IV are similarly applicable. The experiment used the open-source implementation of Dilithium submitted to the NIST submission. In the case of Masked Dilithium, an open-source did not yet exist, referring to the open-source of qTESLA sparse multiplication [11]. Our target platform is ChipWhisperer UFO STM32F3 board equipped with ARM Cortex-M4 microcontroller, and the sampling rate is 29.54 MS/s. Implementations were compiled using gcc-armnone-eabi-9-2019-q4-major, and we used compiler options as described in Table 7 and 8.

6.1 Dilithium

The number of traces used in the learning phase was 2000, and the attack phase was 8000. At all optimization levels, the average attack success rates for 8000 random secret keys are as shown in Table 7 and Fig. 8.

Table 7: Single-trace attacks on NTT operation

NTT	Success rate (%)
Optimization Level	Dilithium-II
-00	100%
-01	100%
-02	100%
-O3	100%
-Os	100%

6.2 Masked Dilithium

The number of traces used in the learning phase was 9000, and the attack phase was 8000. At all optimization levels, the average attack success rates for 8000 random secret keys are as shown in Table 8 and Fig. 8. In the case of masked Dilithium, all boolean masking values were found, and the final values were finally restored through relation $s_1 = s_{1[0]} \bigoplus s_{1[1]} \bigoplus \cdots \bigoplus s_{1[d]}$.

Table 0. Single-trace attack on Sparse multiplication	Table 8:	Single-trace	attack on	Sparse	multiplication
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Sparse multiplication	Success rate (%)
Optimization Level	Dilithium-II
-00	100%
-01	100%
-02	100%
-03	100%
-08	100%

7 Conclusion

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In this paper, we propose a single-trace attacks in NTT encryption during Dilithium signature generation process. It was shown that NTT operation could be vulnerable because the full key can be derived 100% regardless of the optimization level using the profiling attack for each stage of NTT. This is also applicable to other cryptographic schemes that perform NTT operations. In the case of masked Dilithium, secure countermeasure should be considered, since implementation vulnerabilities may also exist as presented in this paper.



Figure 8: Success rate graph by Epoch

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