

# Manger's Attack revisited

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- RSA-OAEP Encoding introduced to thwart Bleichenbacher's Attack against RSA with PKCS#1 v1.5 Encoding
- The OAEP is a so called CCA2 conversion that secures a cryptosystem against adaptive chosen ciphertext attacks
- (any manipulation of an original ciphertext is detected during the decryption)
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- public key: public exponent  $e$  and public modulus  $n$
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- encryption:  $z = m^e \pmod n$
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# OAEP Encoding

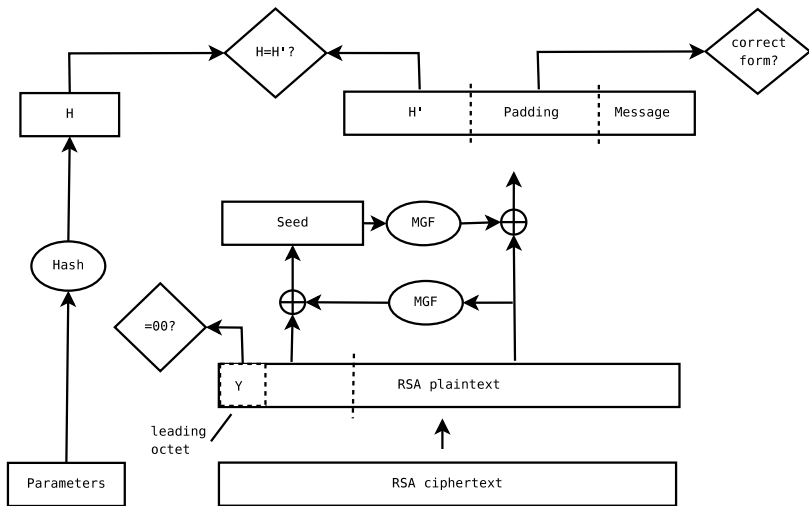
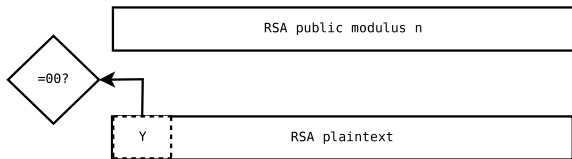


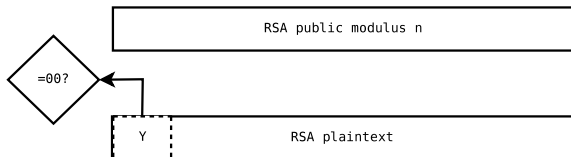
Figure: The RSA-OAEP decoding procedure. Here,  $\oplus$  denotes XOR.

# Manger's Attack - the observable Error Condition



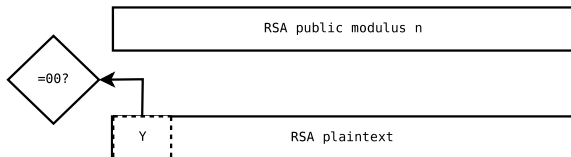
- OAEP Decoding checks that  $Y = 0$
- ( $Y \neq 0 \rightarrow$  "supernumerary octet")
- $Y \neq 0$  can be learned either through
  - a specific error message
  - shorter time to the error message compared to later OAEP errors
  - (time difference might become huge if the attacker can control the public parameters to be hashed within the OAEP decoding routine)

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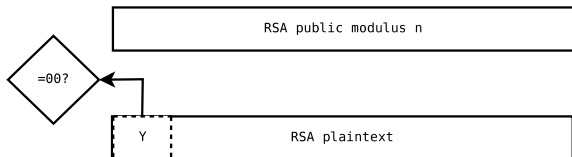
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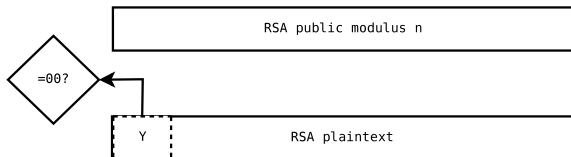
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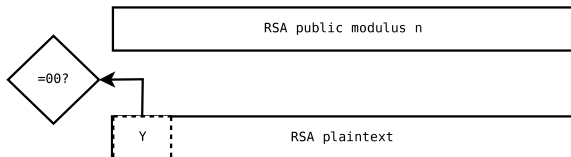
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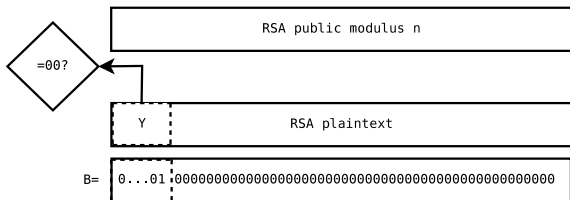
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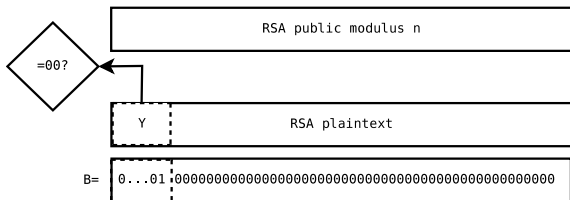


# Manger's Attack - the Information Gain



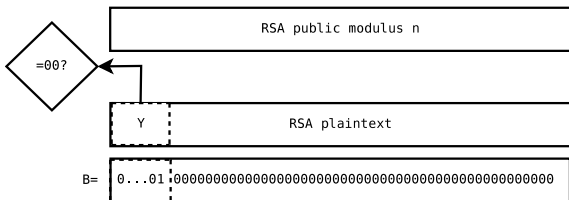
- The attacker wants to decrypt the ciphertext  $c_0 = m_0^e \bmod n$
- He chooses  $f \in \{0, 1, \dots, n-1\}$
- He creates ciphertexts  $c_f = f^e c_0 = (fm_0)^e \bmod n$
- He observes the decryption of  $c_f$
- If  $Y \neq 0$  he learns  $fm_0 \bmod n \geq B$
- Manger gives a specific strategy how to choose  $f$  initially
- and how to adapt  $f$  in subsequent queries

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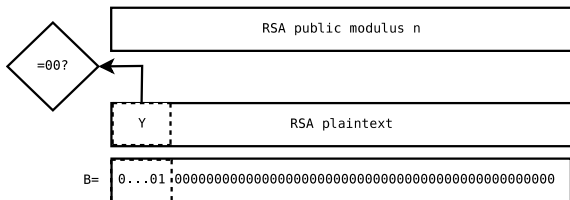
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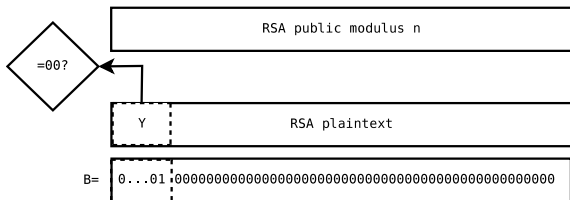
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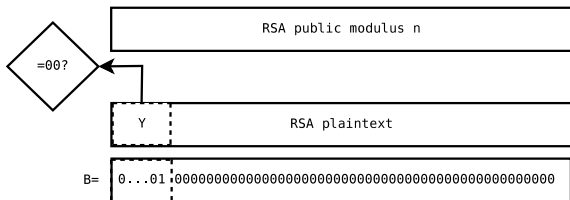
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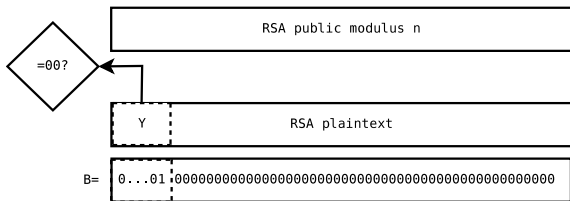
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```
lzero = num - flen;  
if (lzero < 0)  
{  
    /* signalling this error immediately after detection might allow for  
    * side-channel attacks (e.g. timing if 'plen' is huge – cf. James  
    * H. Manger, "A Chosen Ciphertext Attack on RSA Optimal  
    * Asymmetric Encryption Padding (OAEP) [...]", CRYPTO 2001),  
    * so we use a 'bad' flag */  
    bad = 1;  
    lzero = 0;  
    flen = num; /* don't overflow the memcpy to padded_from */  
}  
...  
if (memcmp(db, phash, SHA_DIGEST_LENGTH) != 0 || bad)  
    goto decoding_err;
```

```
...  
key_length /= 8;  
if(in_length > key_length)  
    throw Decoding_Error("Invalid EME1 encoding");  
SecureVector<byte> tmp(key_length);  
tmp.copy(key_length - in_length, in, in_length);  
mgf->mask(tmp + HASH_LENGTH, tmp.size() - HASH_LENGTH, tmp,  
HASH_LENGTH);  
mgf->mask(tmp, HASH_LENGTH, tmp + HASH_LENGTH, tmp.size() -  
HASH_LENGTH);  
for(u32bit j = 0; j != Phash.size(); ++j)  
    if(tmp[j+HASH_LENGTH] != Phash[j])  
        throw Decoding_Error("Invalid EME1 encoding");  
...
```

- the strongest form of Manger's Attack (exploiting the running time of hash computation of huge Parameters) is not possible for either library
- OpenSSL did not respond to the report of the potential vulnerability
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# A new potential Vulnerability in the Integer to Octet String Conversion

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void BigInt::binary_encode(byte output[]) const
{
    const u32bit sig_bytes = bytes();
    for(u32bit j = 0; j != sig_bytes; ++j)
        output[sig_bytes-j-1] = byte_at(j);
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- the running time of this routine obviously depends on the number of octets of the encoded integer
- → potential timing or power vulnerability!
- independent of encoding method
- the integer encoding routine in OpenSSL is equivalent

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# A potential Vulnerability in the Multi-Precision Integer (MPI) Arithmetic

- We take a look back one step further from the integer encoding routine
  - with respect to conditional branching based on  $Y = 0$
  - We choose the PolarSSL Library for embedded systems
  - We assume the last operation of the RSA computation to be a modular reduction implemented as a division
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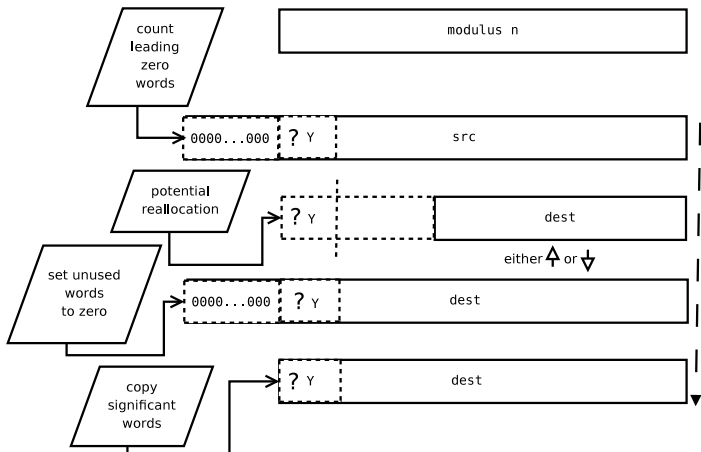


# The mpi\_copy() Routine in the PolarSSL Library

```
typedef struct {
int n;
U8 *p;
} mpi;

int mpi_copy( mpi *X, const mpi *Z ) { // Z is src
    int ret, i;
    if( X == Z )
        return( 0 );
    for( i = Z->n - 1; i > 0; i - - )
        if( Z->p[i] != 0 )
            break;
    i++; // i = # significant words in Z (src)
    X->s = Z->s;
    MPI_CHK( mpi_grow( X, i ) );
    memset( X->p, 0, X->n * ciL );
    memcpy( X->p, Z->p, i * ciL );
    ...
}
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# The `mpi_copy()` Routine in the PolarSSL Library

- the call to `memcpy` (potentially) offers a plain dependency of the running time on “ $Y = 0$ ?”
- other routines in this function also show such dependencies
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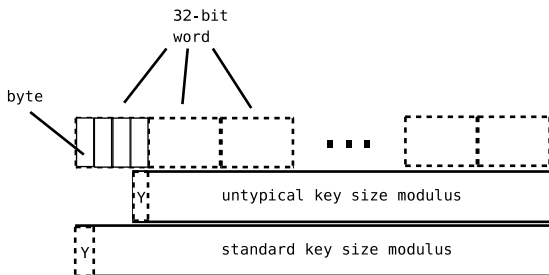
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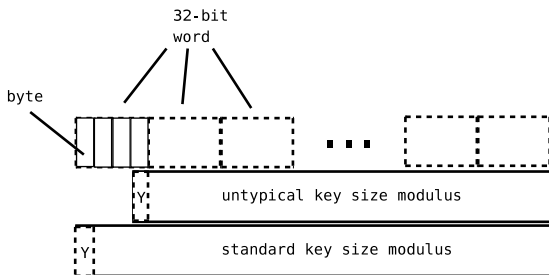
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- we have identified “unbalanced conditional branching” based on a message property
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- Previously proposed countermeasures incur security threats:
- (1) if  $Y \neq 0$ , one shall use randomly generated dummy values in the further OAEP decoding
  - → threat: random values turn an otherwise deterministic processing indeterministic, which might be detected through side channels by repeatedly decrypting the same ciphertext
- (2) if  $Y \neq 0$ , one shall set the  $m = 0 \dots 0$  in the further OAEP decoding
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- → threat: an “all zero” octet string is an extreme case of low Hamming weight and might very likely be detected through power analysis

# Effective Countermeasures against Timing Attacks

- We give a countermeasure against the MPI encoding routine:
- C++ source code
- number of iterations in the encoding routine depends only on the key size
- enforces  $Y = 0$  already in the encoding routine
- uses the `volatile` specifier to take away the compilers ability to remove unnecessary operations
- use no conditional branching, not even comparison operators
- but only logical operations
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- (compare with cache-timing attacks against AES, where minimal timing differences are regarded as critical)
- even though Manger’s Attack is known for almost 10 years, we could find new leakages about crucial properties of the message
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- Thank You!