

## With Great Power Come Great Side Channels: Statistical Timing Side-Channel Analyses with Bounded Type-1 Errors

Martin Dunsche<sup>1</sup>, Marcel Maehren<sup>1</sup>, Nurullah Erinola<sup>1</sup>, Robert Merget<sup>2</sup>,  
Nicolai Bissantz<sup>1</sup>, Juraj Somorovsky<sup>3</sup>, Jörg Schwenk<sup>1</sup>

Ruhr University Bochum<sup>1</sup>  
Technology Innovation Institute<sup>2</sup>  
Paderborn University<sup>3</sup>

# Side-Channel Attacks

## Chosen Ciphertext Attacks Against Protocols Based on the RSA Encryption Standard PKCS #1

Daniel Bleichenbacher

Bell Laboratories  
700 Mountain Ave., Murray Hill, NJ 07974  
bleichen@research.bell-labs.com

2013 IEEE Symposium on Security and Privacy

## Lucky Thirteen: Breaking the TLS and DTLS Record Protocols

Nadhem J. AlFardan and Kenneth G. Paterson  
*Information Security Group,  
Royal Holloway, University of London  
Egham, Surrey TW20 0EX, UK*  
Email: {nadhem.alfardan.2009, kenny.paterson}@rhul.ac.uk

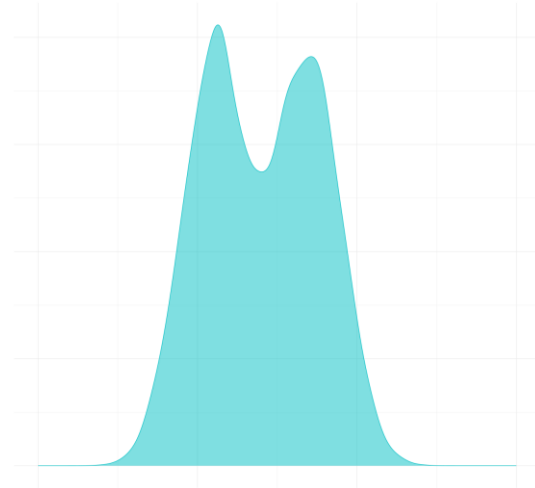
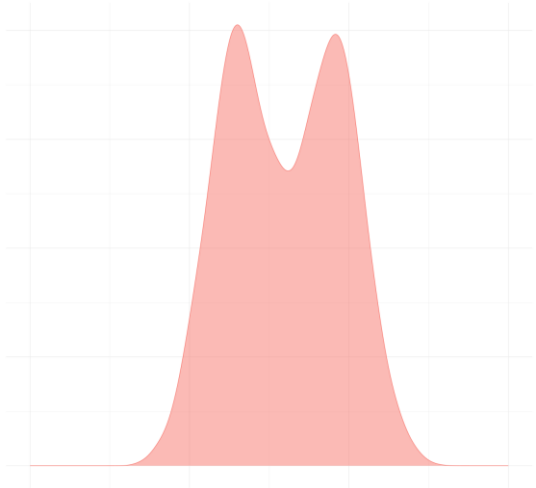
## Security Flaws Induced by CBC Padding Applications to SSL, IPSEC, WTLS...

Serge Vaudenay

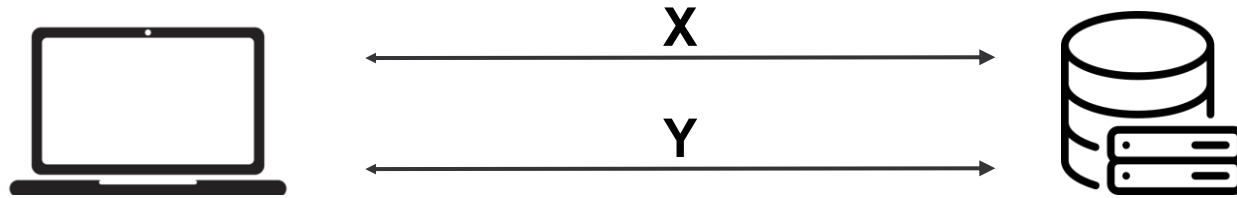
Swiss Federal Institute of Technology (EPFL)  
Serge.Vaudenay@epfl.ch

# Road Towards a Statistical Test

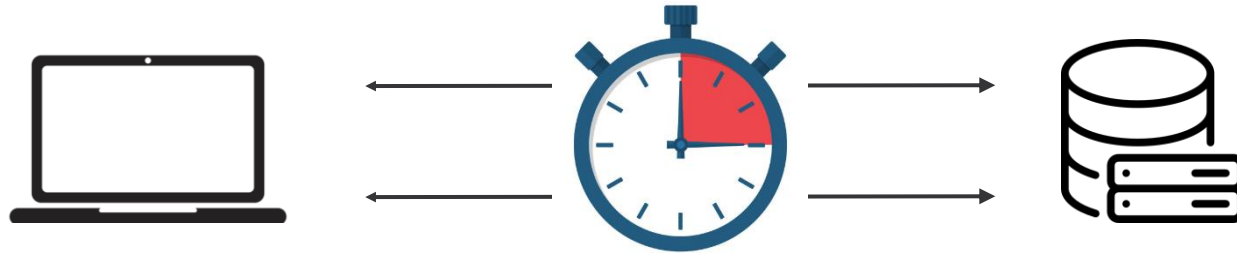
- In cryptographic timing measurements a protocol should have secret independent execution time
- For two different inputs **X** and **Y** (e.g. padding is correct vs. padding is incorrect) we have two distributions



# Collecting Measurements

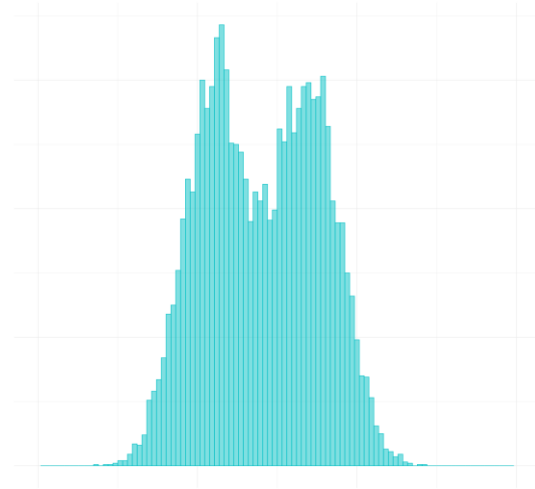
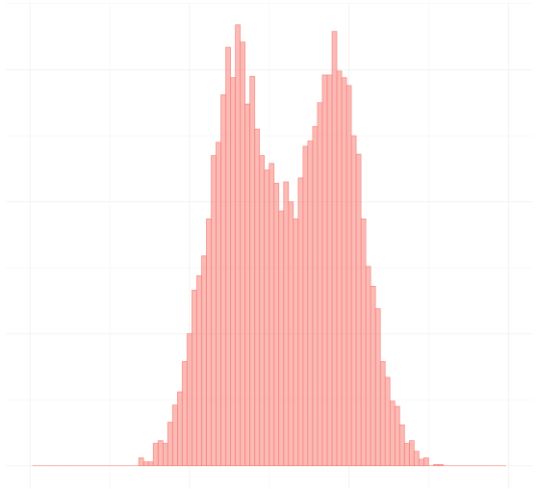


# Collecting Measurements

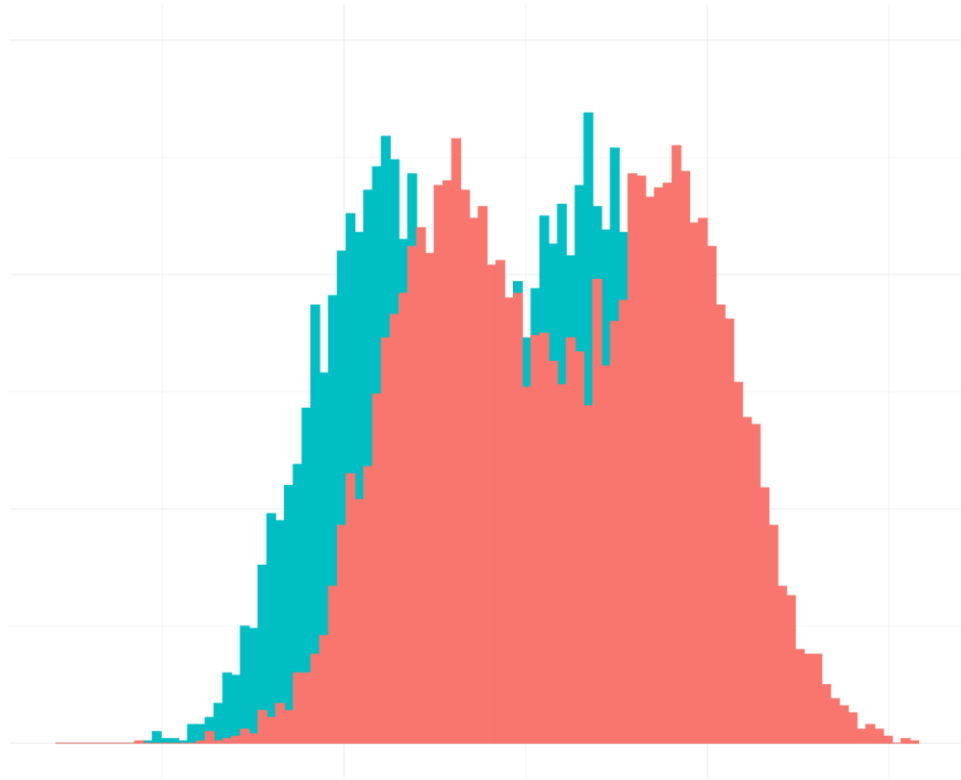


# Road Towards a Statistical Test

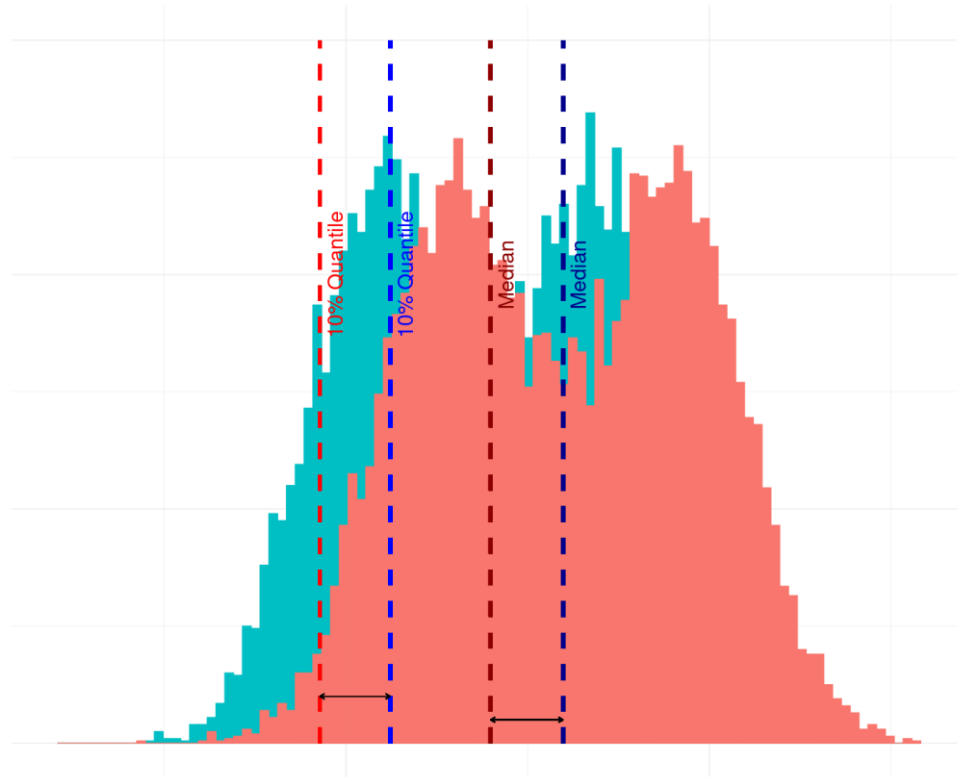
- We collect measurements  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_n$
- If the execution time is secret independent histograms should look *similar*



# Distinguish Test Vectors X,Y



# How We Distinguish Test Vectors X,Y





# Deriving a Decision Rule

- Decision is based on data  $x_1, \dots, x_n$  and  $y_1, \dots, y_n$

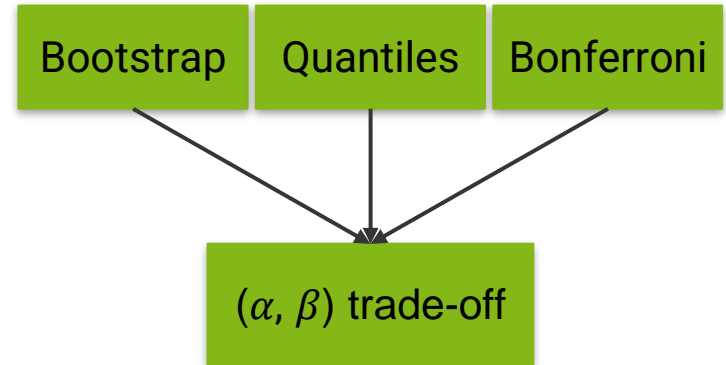
Reality \ Decision	Side Channel	No Side Channel
Side Channel	true positive	false negative
No Side Channel	false positive	true negative

- Common approach in statistics:
  - prescribe false positive rate  $\alpha$
  - given  $\alpha$ , minimize false negative rate  $\beta$



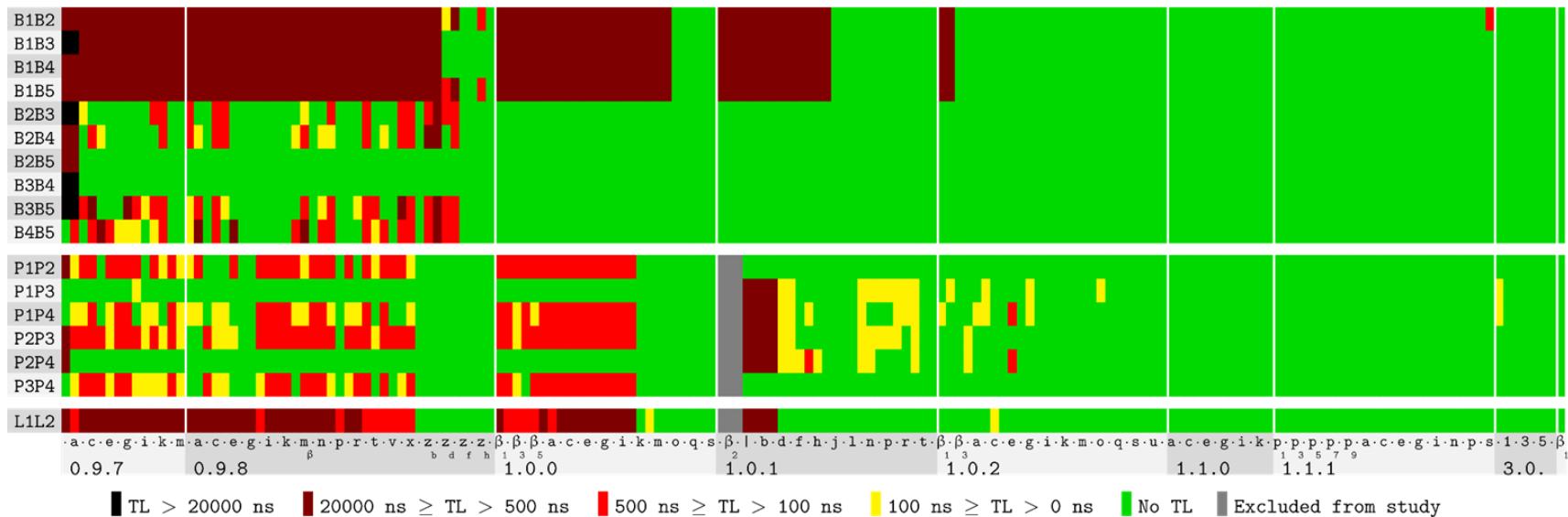
# R-Time-Leak-Finder (RTLTF)

- New tool with **adequate** trade-off between false positives and false negatives
- $\alpha$  is an input parameter and upper bounds the false positives
- larger  $n$  decreases  $\beta$
- Statistical methods we use:
  - Bootstrap (resampling): method to balance the trade-off between  $\alpha$  and  $\beta$  based on the data
  - Bonferroni correction to address multiple testing

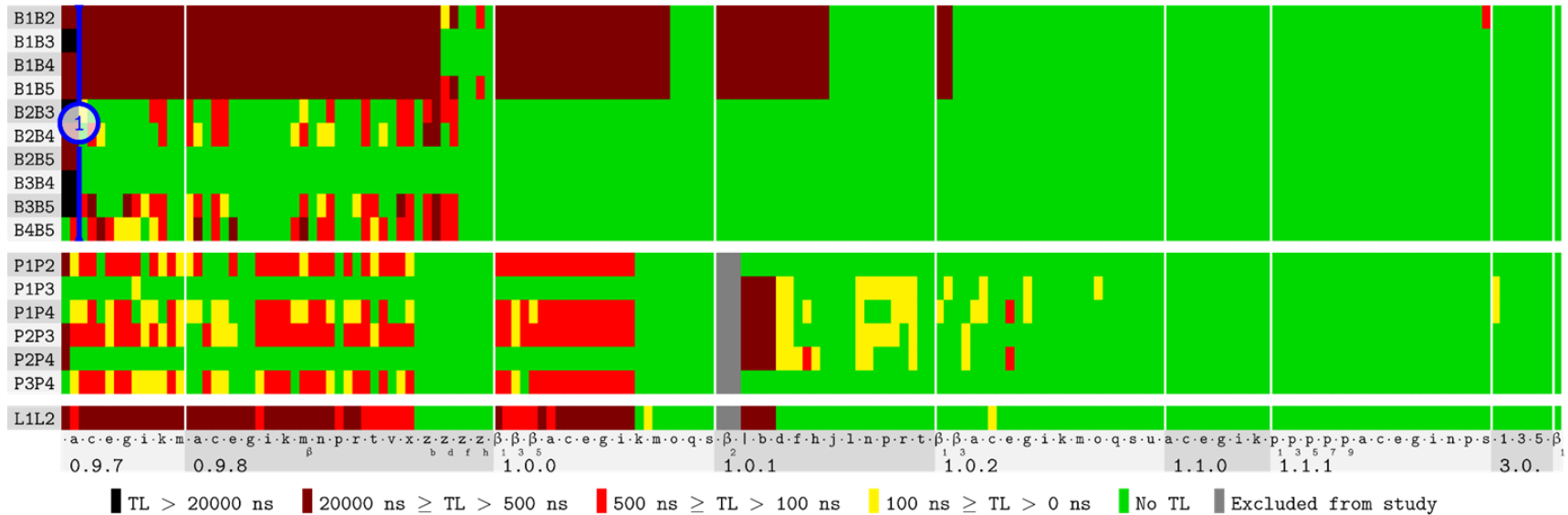




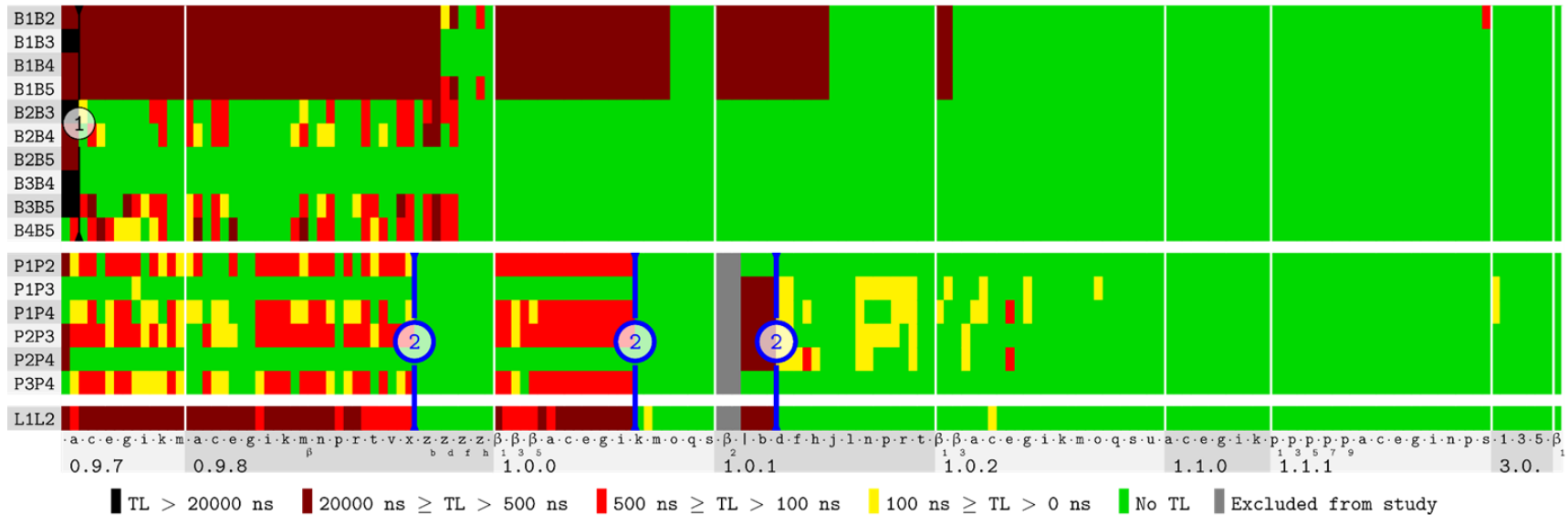
# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$



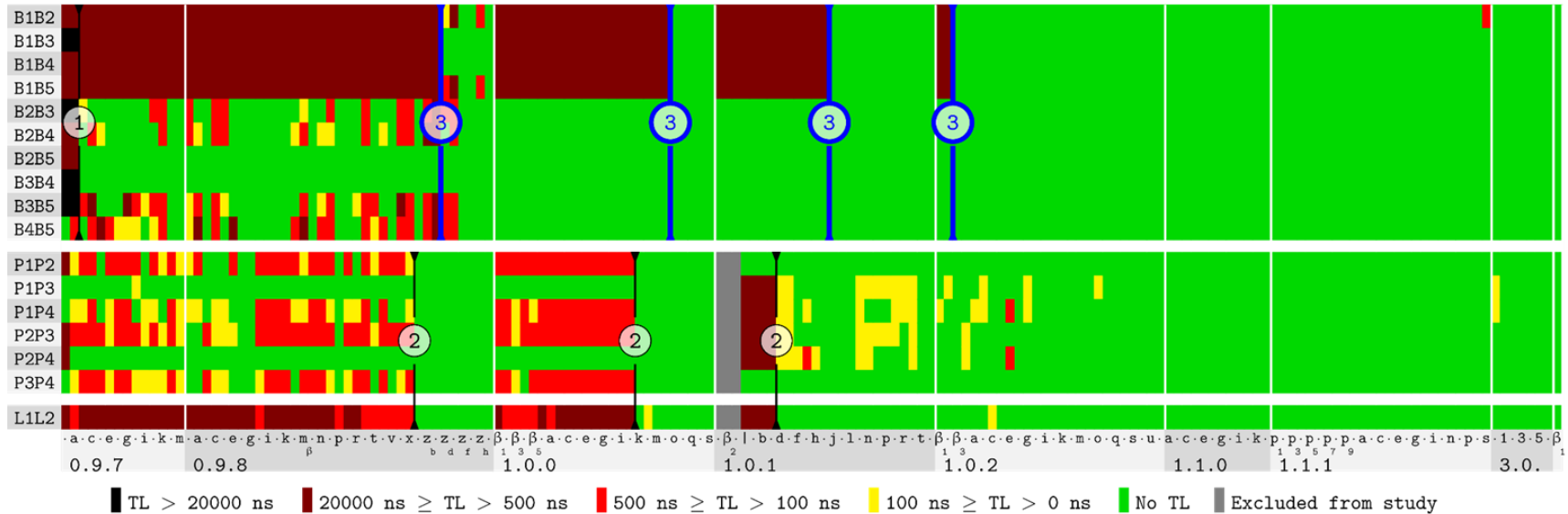
# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$



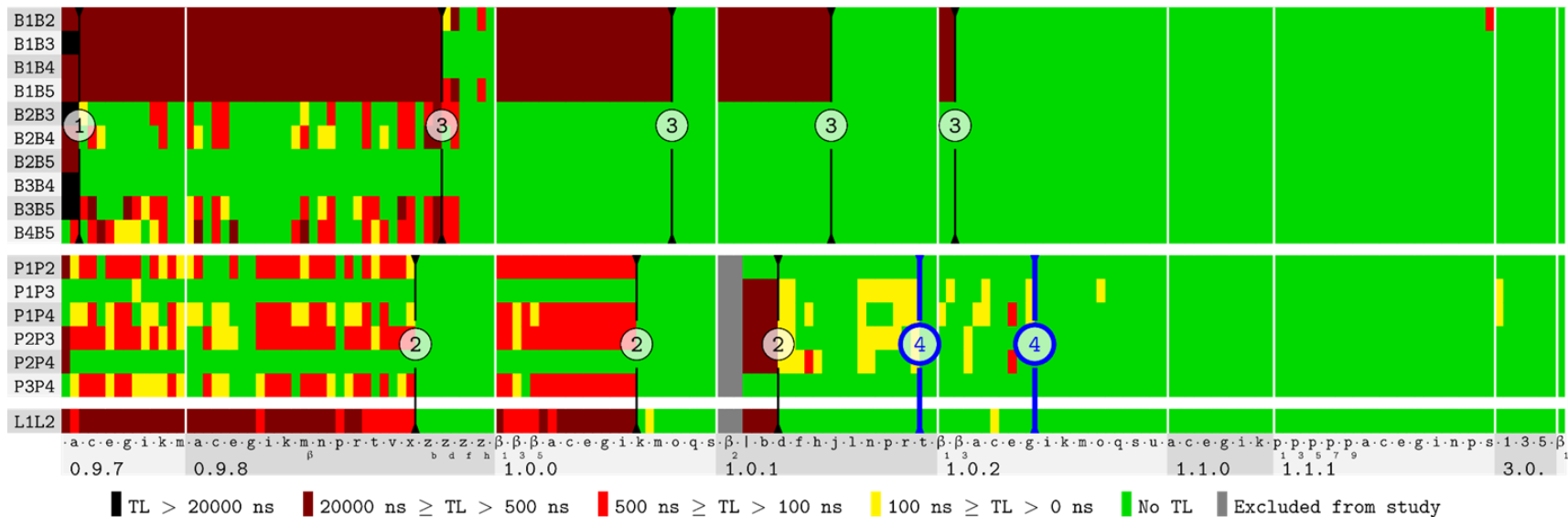
# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$



# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$

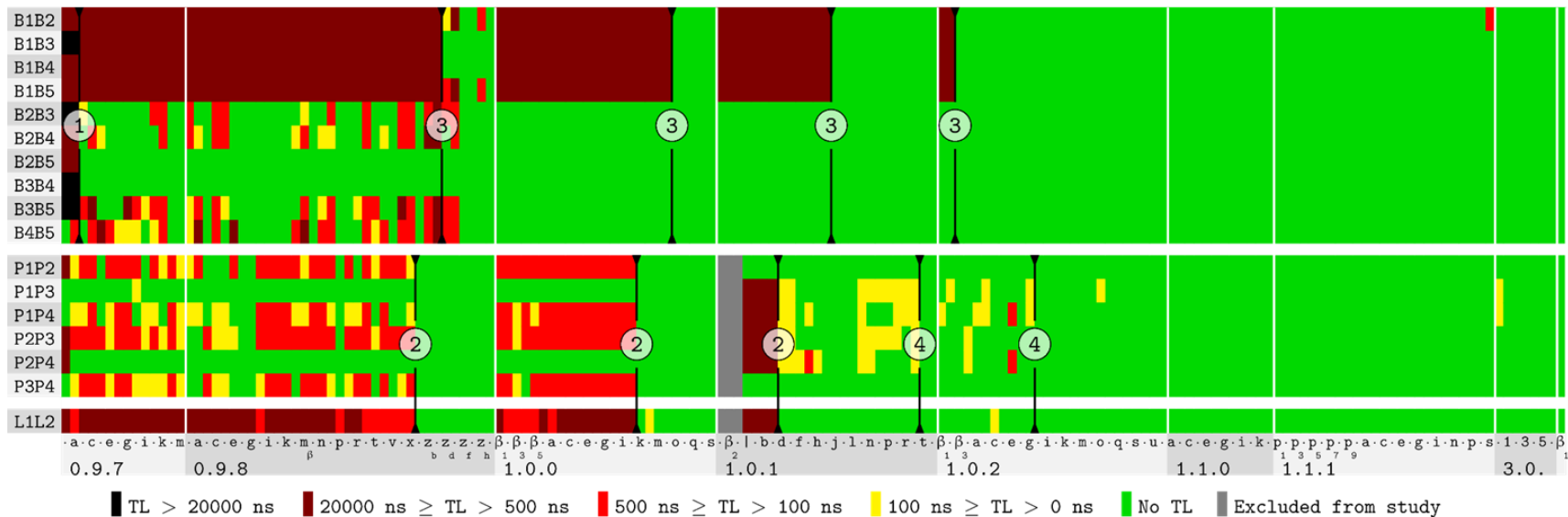


# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$

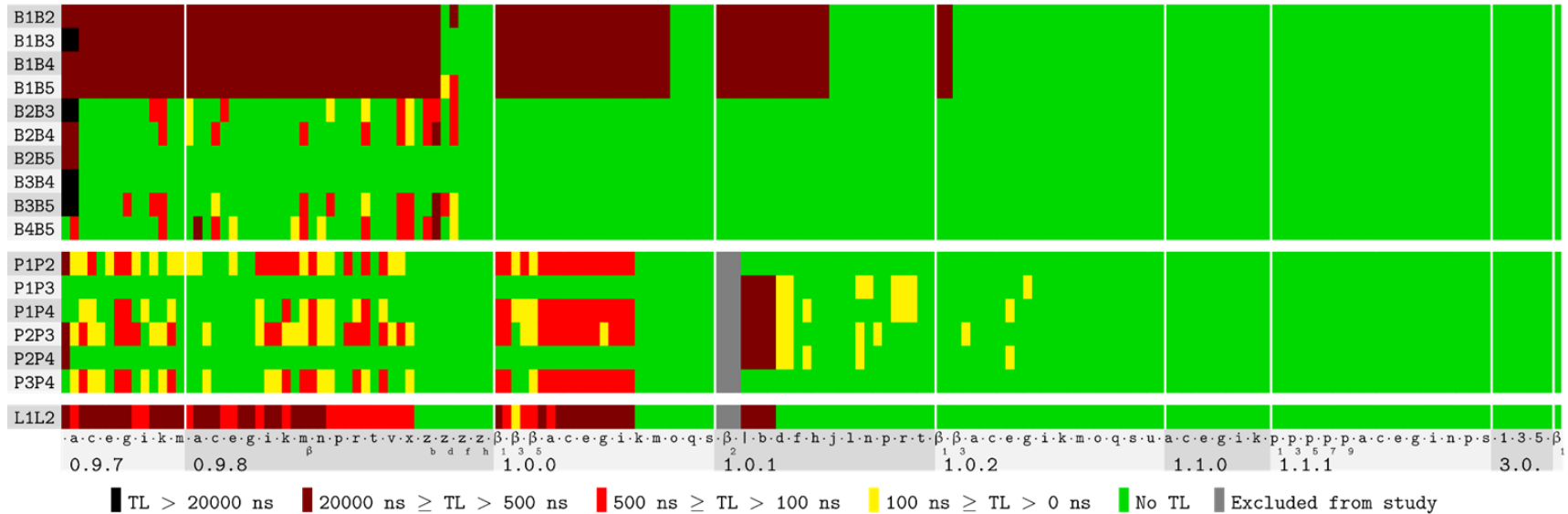




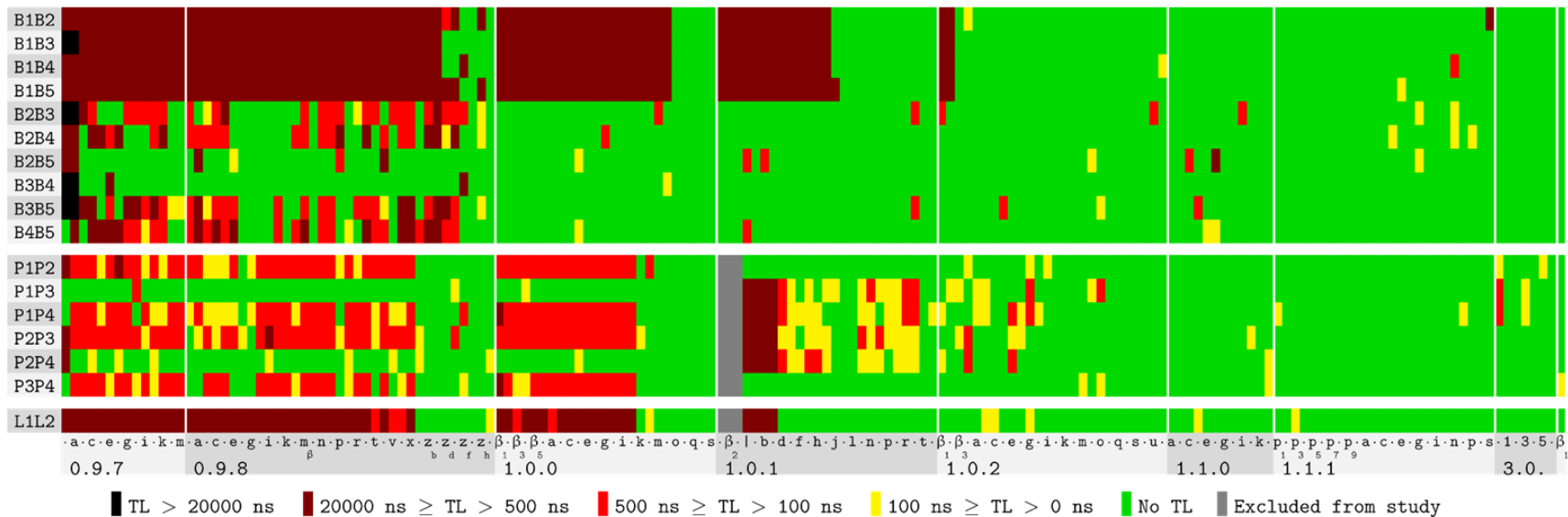
# OpenSSL - $\alpha < 0.9\%$



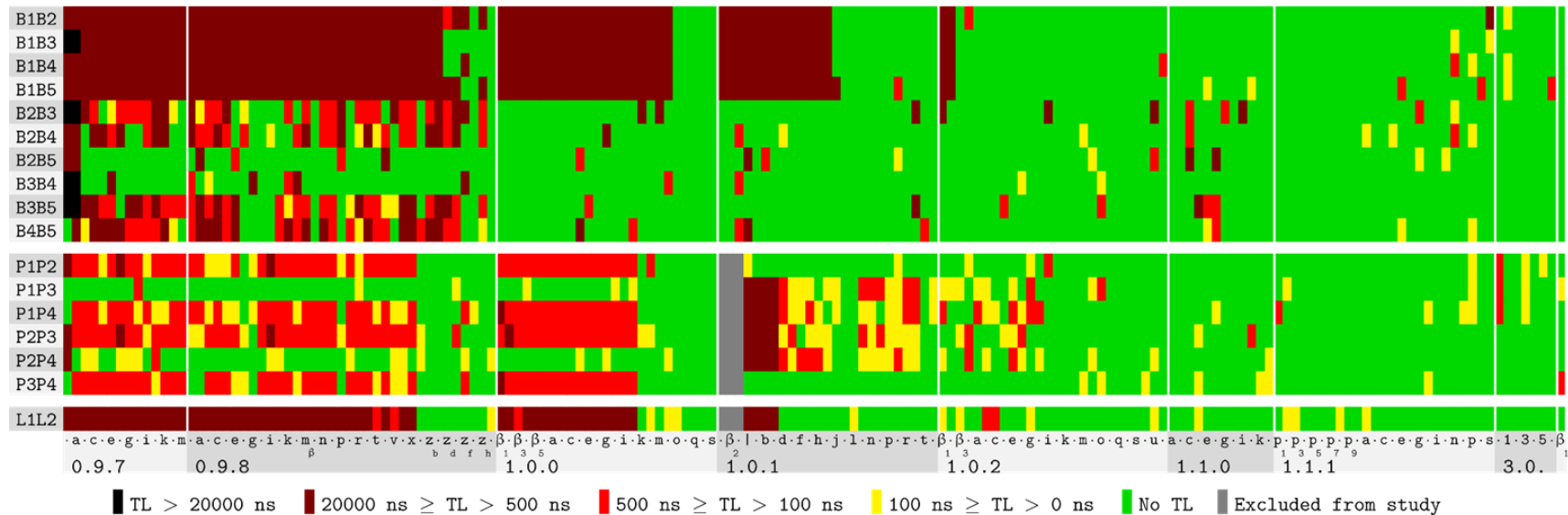
# Decreasing $\alpha$



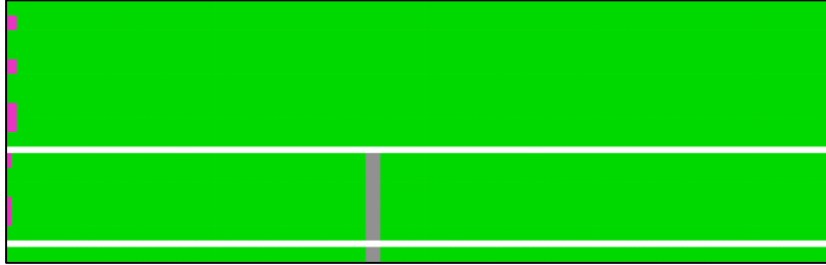
# Increasing $\alpha < 9\%$



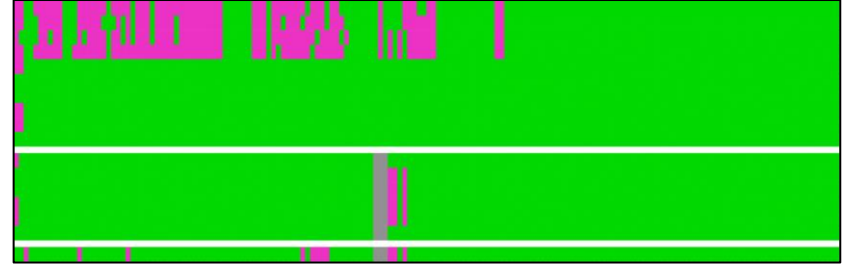
# Increasing $\alpha < 18\%$



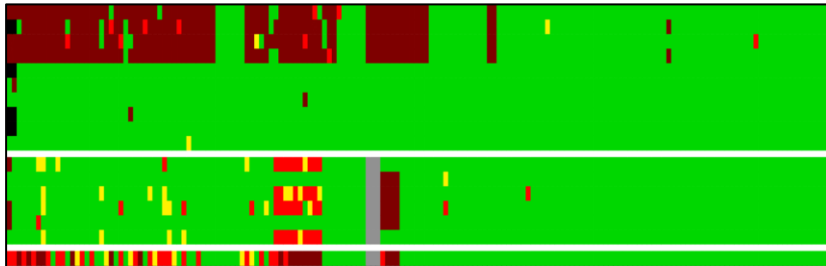
# $\alpha, \beta$ -Trade Off Is Poor in *dudect*<sup>1</sup>



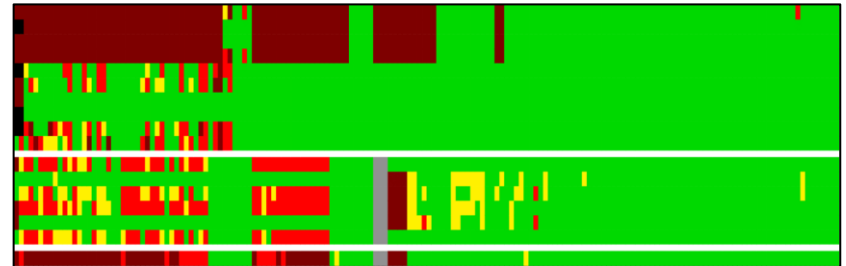
a) dudect (n=30.000,  $\alpha=?$ )



b) dudect (n=200.000,  $\alpha=?$ )



c) RTLFL (n=30.000,  $\alpha < 0.9\%$ )



d) RTLFL (n=200.000,  $\alpha < 0.9\%$ )

# Summary

Statistical tool with **usable** trade-off between false positives and false negatives

Empirically outperformed existing tools

Extensive real world evaluation

- 11 TLS libraries in 823 versions
- 7 vulnerabilities in recent versions

**With Great Power Come Great Side Channels:  
Statistical Timing Side-Channel Analyses with Bounded Type-1 Errors**

Martin Dunsche<sup>1</sup>, Marcel Maehren<sup>1</sup>, Nurullah Erinola<sup>1</sup>, Robert Merget<sup>2</sup>, Nicolai Bissantz<sup>1</sup>,  
Juraj Somorovsky<sup>3</sup>, and Jörg Schwenk<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Ruhr University Bochum  
<sup>2</sup>Technology Innovation Institute  
<sup>3</sup>Paderborn University



<https://github.com/tls-attacker/RTLF>