

Verification of cryptographic protocols

From authentication to privacy

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Cryptographic protocols everywhere!

- **Distributed programs** that
- use **cryptographic primitives** (encryption, digital signature , . . .)
- to ensure **security properties** (confidentiality, authentication, anonymity, . . .)



E-commerce



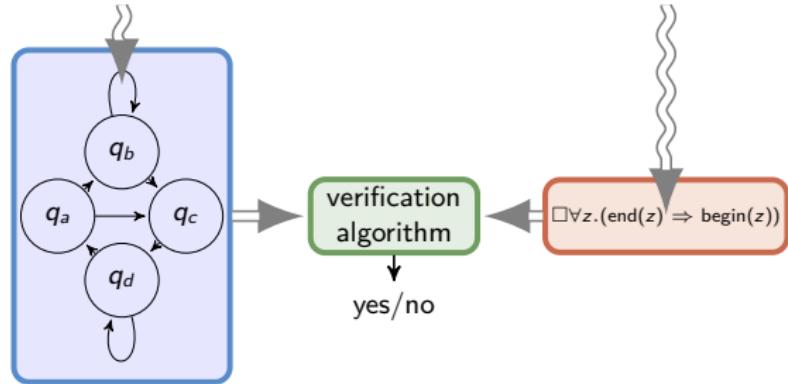
Mobile telephony



Electronic voting

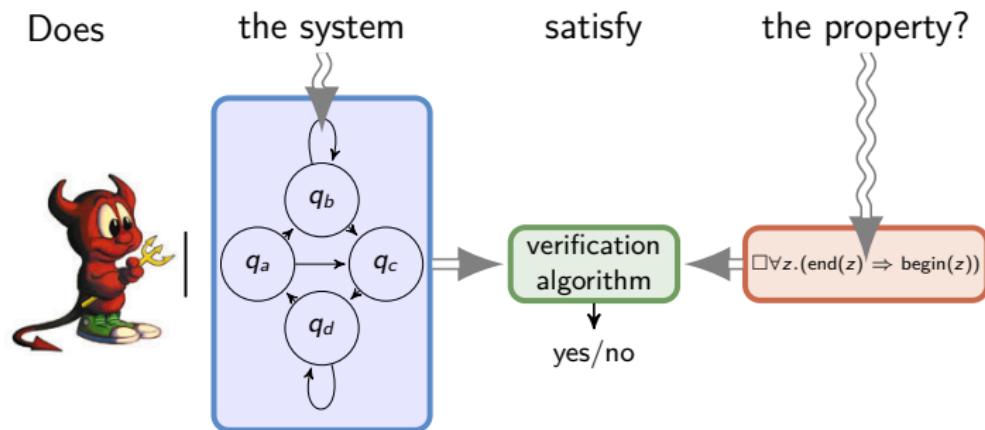
Formal verification of critical systems

Does the system satisfy the property?



Formal verification of critical systems

Applied to security protocols:



Difficulties :

- ~~ arbitrary attacker controlling the network
- ~~ infinite state system

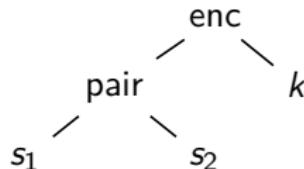
Techniques :

automated deduction, concurrency theory, model-checking, ...

Symbolic analysis

Symbolic techniques (following [Dolev&Yao'82]):

- messages = terms



- perfect cryptography (equational theories)

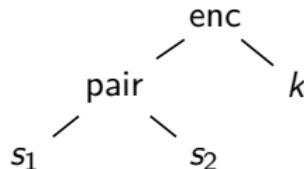
$$\text{dec}(\text{enc}(x, y), y) = x \quad \text{fst}(\text{pair}(x, y)) = x \quad \text{snd}(\text{pair}(x, y)) = y$$

- the network is the attacker

Symbolic analysis

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- the network is the attacker

Automated tools successfully found flaws in:

- Google's Single Sign-On protocol
- ISO/IEC 9798 standard for entity authentication
- commercial PKCS#11 key-management tokens
- ...

Automated verification?

Many good tools:

AVISPA, Casper, Maude-NPA, ProVerif, Scyther, Tamarin, ...

Good at verifying **trace properties** (predicates on system behavior), e.g.,

- (weak) secrecy of a key
- correspondence properties

If B ended a session with parameter p then A must have started a session with parameters p'.

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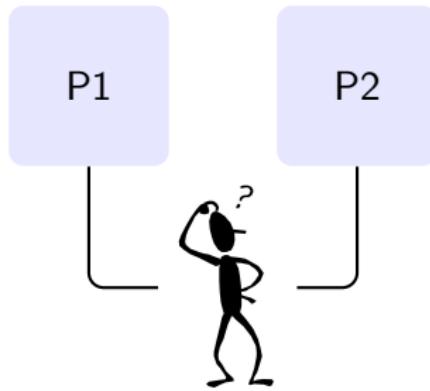
If B ended a session with parameter p then A must have started a session with parameters p' .

Not all properties can be expressed on a trace.

↔ recent interest in **indistinguishability properties**.

Indistinguishability (informally)

Can the adversary **distinguish two situations**, i.e. decide whether it is interacting with protocol P1 or protocol P2?



We write $P1 \approx P2$ when the adversary cannot distinguish $P1$ and $P2$

Indistinguishability in process calculi

Naturally modelled using **equivalences** from process calculi

e.g. [Spi calculus, Abadi & Gordon'96]

[Applied pi calculus, Abadi & Fournet'01]

Testing equivalence ($P \approx Q$)

for all processes A , we have that:

$$A \mid P \Downarrow c \text{ if, and only if, } A \mid Q \Downarrow c$$

→ $P \Downarrow c$ when P can send a message on the channel c .

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Remarks

- Process equivalences are well known notions in concurrency theory; much more difficult when adding support for crypto primitives
- A whole zoo of equivalences (with subtle differences)

A cryptographic process calculus

Protocols modelled in a process calculus, e.g. the applied pi calculus

$P ::=$	0	
	$\text{in}(c, x).P$	input
	$\text{out}(c, t).P$	output
	$\text{if } t_1 = t_2 \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q$	conditional
	$P \parallel Q$	parallel
	$!P$	replication
	$\text{new } n.P$	restriction

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	$!P$	replication
	new $n.P$	restriction

Specificities:

- messages are **terms** (not just atomic names as in the pi calculus)
- equality in conditionals interpreted modulo an **equational theory**

Secrecy in symbolic models

In symbolic analysis secrecy is generally modelled as **non-deducibility**:
the attacker cannot compute the value of the secret

~~> partial leakage is not detected

Example (Weak secrecy)

Let h be a one-way hash function. The protocol $P = \nu s.out(c, h(s))$ would be considered to enforce the secrecy of s .

Secrecy as indistinguishability

Stronger notions of secrecy can be defined using **indistinguishability**

- Strong secrecy of s : [Blanchet'04]

$$\mathbf{in}(c, \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle). P\{^{t_1}/_s\} \approx \mathbf{in}(c, \langle t_1, t_2 \rangle). P\{^{t_2}/_s\}$$

Even if the attacker chooses values t_1 or t_2 he cannot distinguish whether t_1 or t_2 was used as the secret.

- Resistance against offline guessing attacks (real-or-random): [Corin et al.'05]

$$P; \mathbf{out}(s) \approx P; \nu s'. \mathbf{out}(s')$$

*The attacker cannot distinguish whether at the end of the protocol he is given the **real** secret or a **random** value.*

How to model vote privacy?

How can we model “the attacker does not learn my vote (0 or 1)”?

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- The attacker cannot **learn the value of my vote**
~~ but the attacker knows values 0 and 1

How to model vote privacy?

How can we model “the attacker does not learn my vote (0 or 1)”?

- ~~The attacker cannot learn the value of my vote~~
- The attacker cannot distinguish when we ~~change the voter identity~~:
 $V_A(v) \approx V_B(v)$

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~~ but identities are revealed

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~~ but election outcome is revealed

How to model vote privacy?

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 $V_A(v) \approx V_B(v)$
- ~~The attacker cannot distinguish when change the vote:~~
 $V_A(0) \approx V_A(1)$
- The attacker cannot distinguish the situation where two honest voters swap votes:
 $V_A(0) \parallel V_B(1) \approx V_A(1) \parallel V_B(0)$

Also avoids the problematic case of **unanimity**!

[Kremer, Ryan '05]

The Helios e-voting protocol

Verifiable online elections via the Internet

<http://heliosvoting.org/>

A screenshot of a Mozilla Firefox browser window showing the Helios Demo - Voters and Ballot Tracking Center. The title bar reads "Voters & Ballot Tracking Center for Helios Demo - Helios - Mozilla Firefox". The main content area displays the "helios" logo and the text "Helios Demo — Voters and Ballot Tracking Center [\[Back to election\]](#)". Below this, it says "Registration is Open." and features a search bar. A table titled "Smart Ballot Tracker" lists three voters: Ben Smyth, Michael Rabinowitch, and Veronique Cortier, each with a unique voter ID. At the bottom, there are links for "not logged in. [log in]" and "About Helios | Help!". The status bar at the bottom shows "Done" and the title "Voters & Ballot Trackin...".

Already in use:

- Election at [Louvain University Princeton](#)
- Election of the [IACR board](#) (major association in Cryptography)

Behavior of Helios (simplified)

Phase 1: voting

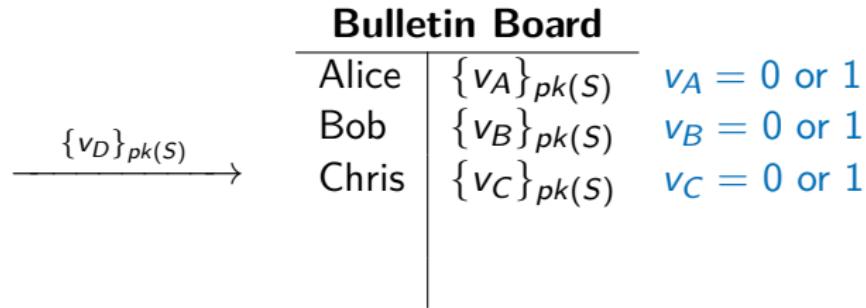


Bulletin Board		
Alice	$\{v_A\}_{pk(S)}$	$v_A = 0 \text{ or } 1$
Bob	$\{v_B\}_{pk(S)}$	$v_B = 0 \text{ or } 1$
Chris	$\{v_C\}_{pk(S)}$	$v_C = 0 \text{ or } 1$

$pk(S)$: public key, the private key being shared among trustees.

Behavior of Helios (simplified)

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...	...	

Phase 2: Tallying using homomorphic encryption (El Gamal)

$$\prod_{i=1}^n \{v_i\}_{pk(S)} = \left\{ \sum_{i=1}^n v_i \right\}_{pk(S)}$$

based on $g^a * g^b = g^{a+b}$

→ Only the final result needs to be decrypted!

$pk(S)$: public key, the private key being shared among trustees.

This is oversimplified!



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Result: $\{v_A + v_B + v_C + v_D + \dots\}_{pk(S)}$

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David	$\{v_D\}_{pk(S)}$	$v_D = 100$
...	...	

Result: $\{v_A + v_B + v_C + 100 + \dots\}_{pk(S)}$

A malicious voter can cheat!

This is oversimplified!



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...	...

Result: $\{v_A + v_B + v_C + v_D + \dots\}_{pk(S)}$

~~A malicious voter can cheat!~~

In Helios: use Zero Knowledge Proof

$$\{v_D\}_{pk(S)}, \text{ZKP}\{v_D = 0 \text{ or } 1\}$$

A privacy attack on Helios



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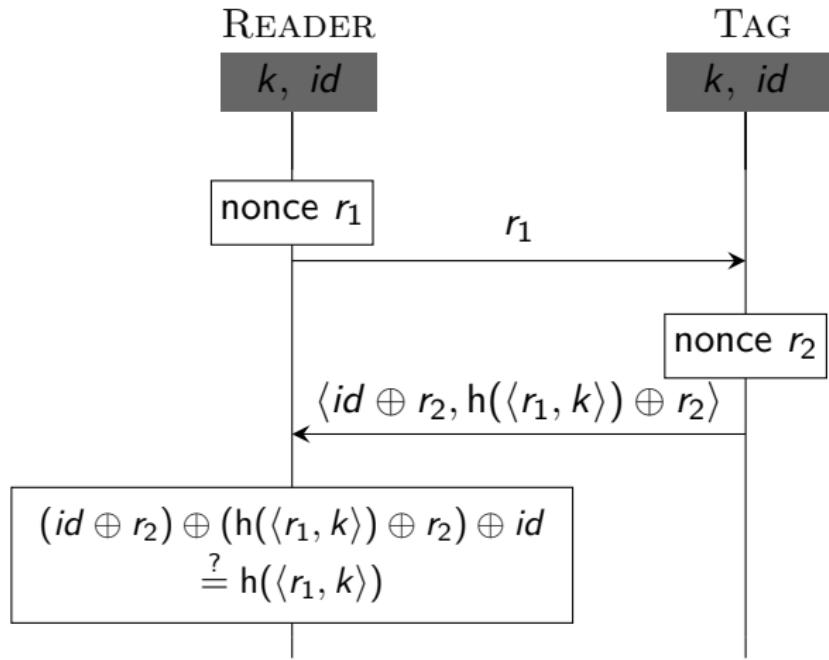
Vote-copying attack:

copying Alice's vote introduces a **bias** in the outcome

Weakness in Helios discovered when trying to prove the previous definition of anonymity

[Cortier, Smyth '11]

Authentication protocol of a RFID tag



$$P_{\text{tag}} = \mathbf{in}(c, x). \mathbf{new} \ r_2. \mathbf{out}(c, \langle id \oplus r_2, h(\langle x, k \rangle) \oplus r_2 \rangle). 0$$

Untraceability

An attacker must not be able to **link two sessions of a same tag**.

Modelled as an equivalence:

2 sessions of the **same** tag \approx 2 sessions of **different** tags

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Linkability attack:

$$\begin{aligned} P_{\text{same}} &= \mathbf{in}(c, x). \text{ new } r_2. \mathbf{out}(c, t). \mathbf{in}(c, x). \text{ new } r'_2. \mathbf{out}(c, t'_s). 0 \\ &\quad \not\approx \\ P_{\text{diff}} &= \mathbf{in}(c, x). \text{ new } r_2. \mathbf{out}(c, t). \mathbf{in}(c, x). \text{ new } r'_2. \mathbf{out}(c, t'_d). 0 \end{aligned}$$

where

$$\begin{aligned} t &= \langle id \oplus r_2, h(\langle x, k \rangle) \oplus r_2 \rangle \\ t'_s &= \langle id \oplus r'_2, h(\langle x, k \rangle) \oplus r'_2 \rangle \\ t'_d &= \langle id' \oplus r'_2, h(\langle x, k' \rangle) \oplus r'_2 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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distinguished by

$$(\text{proj}_1(t) \oplus \text{proj}_2(t) \stackrel{?}{=} \text{proj}_1(t') \oplus \text{proj}_2(t'))$$

Our goals and approach for verifying equivalence properties

[Chadha, Ciobâcă, K., 2012]

... and actively developed since

Decision procedure for **trace equivalence**:

- many equational theories,
- practical implementation

Protocols modelled as **first order Horn clauses** (**bounded number of sessions**, i.e., no replication)

Resolution based procedure for trace equivalence for convergent equational theories (in particular **optimally reducing eq. theories**)

Terms and frames

Messages are modelled as first-order terms equipped with a convergent rewrite system R .

Secret values are modelled as names in a set \mathcal{N} .

We write $t =_R u$ when $t \downarrow = u \downarrow$

Example

Signature: `senc/3`, `sdec/2`, `pair/2`, `fst/1`, `snd/1`, `0/0`, `1/0`

Rewrite system:

$sdec(senc(x, y, z), y) \rightarrow_R x, fst(pair(x, y)) \rightarrow_R x, snd(pair(x, y)) \rightarrow_R y$

Terms: $t_1 = senc(n, k, r)$, $t_2 = sdec(t_1, k)$ ($n, k, r \in \mathcal{N}$)

We have that $t_2 =_R n$

Deduction

Sequences of messages are grouped in a frame $\varphi = \{^{t_1} / w_1, \dots, ^{t_n} / w_n\}$

What messages can an attacker compute?

Definition (Deduction)

A term t is *deducible from frame φ with a recipe r* ($\varphi \vdash^r t$) if $r\varphi =_{\mathcal{R}} t$ and r does not contain names in \mathcal{N} .

Example

Let $\varphi = \{\text{senc}(n_1, k_1, r_1) / w_1, \text{senc}(n_2, k_2, r_2) / w_2, k_1 / w_3\}$.

We have that $\varphi \vdash^{\text{sdec}(w_1, w_3)} n_1$, $\varphi \not\vdash n_2$, $\varphi \vdash^1 \mathbf{1}$

Static equivalence

Sequences of messages are grouped in a frame $\varphi = \{^{t_1} / w_1, \dots, ^{t_n} / w_n\}$

Indistinguishability of sequences of messages

Definition (Static equivalence)

$(r_1 = r_2)\varphi$ if $\varphi \vdash^{r_1} t$ and $\varphi \vdash^{r_2} t$ for some t .

φ_1 statically equivalent to φ_2 ($\varphi_1 \approx_s \varphi_2$) iff $(r_1 = r_2)\varphi_1 \Leftrightarrow (r_1 = r_2)\varphi_2$.

Examples

$$\{^{n_1} / w_1\} \approx_s \{^{n_2} / w_1\}$$

$$\{^{n_1} / w_1, ^{n_2} / w_2\} \not\approx_s \{^{n_1} / w_1, ^{n_1} / w_2\} \quad (w_1 \stackrel{?}{=} w_2)$$

$$\{\text{senc}(\mathbf{0}, k, r) / w_1\} \approx_s \{\text{senc}(\mathbf{1}, k, r) / w_1\}$$

$$\{\text{senc}(n, k, r) / w_1, ^k / w_2\} \not\approx_s \{\text{senc}(\mathbf{0}, k, r) / w_1, ^k / w_2\} \quad (\text{sdec}(w_1, w_2) \stackrel{?}{=} \mathbf{0})$$

A simple crypto process calculus: syntax

Actions : $\mathbf{in}(c, x)$ | $\mathbf{out}(c, t)$ | $[s \stackrel{?}{=} t]$

Symbolic Trace: sequence of actions

Example

$$\begin{aligned} T = & \mathbf{out}(c, \text{enc}(a, k)).\mathbf{out}(c, \text{enc}(a', k)). \\ & \mathbf{in}(c, x).\mathbf{out}(c, \text{dec}(x, k)). \\ & \mathbf{in}(c, y). [y \stackrel{?}{=} \text{pair}(a, a')].\mathbf{out}(c, s) \end{aligned}$$

Process: set of symbolic traces

Remark: Parallel composition ($P \mid Q$) can be defined as the set of interleavings

A simple crypto process calculus: semantics

Operational semantics: $(T, \varphi) \xrightarrow{\ell} (T', \varphi')$

$$\text{RECEIVE } \frac{\varphi \vdash^r t}{(\mathbf{in}(c, x). T, \varphi) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{in}(c, r)} (T\{x \mapsto t\}, \varphi)}$$

$$\text{TEST } \frac{s =_R t}{([s \stackrel{?}{=} t]. T, \varphi) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{test}} (T, \varphi)}$$

$$\text{SEND } \frac{}{(\mathbf{out}(c, t). T, \varphi) \xrightarrow{\mathbf{out}(c)} (T, \varphi \cup \{w_{|dom(\varphi)|+1} \mapsto t\})}$$

$$P \xrightarrow{\ell} (T', \varphi) \text{ if } \exists T \in P. (T, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell} (T', \varphi)$$
$$\xrightarrow{\ell} \text{ if } \xrightarrow{\mathbf{test}^* \ell \mathbf{test}^*}: \text{weak semantics hiding silent test actions}$$

Trace equivalences

Trace equivalence: $P \sqsubseteq_t Q$

if $(P, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (P', \varphi)$ then $\exists Q', \varphi'. (Q, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (Q', \varphi') \wedge \varphi \sim_s \varphi'$

$P \approx Q$ iff $P \sqsubseteq Q \wedge Q \sqsubseteq P$

Trace equivalences

Fine grained trace equivalence: $P \sqsubseteq_{ft} Q$

$\forall T \in P. \exists T' \in Q. T \approx_t T'$

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Coarse trace equivalence: $P \sqsubseteq_{ct} Q$

if $(P, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (P', \varphi) \wedge (r = s)\varphi$ then $\exists Q', \varphi'. (Q, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (Q', \varphi') \wedge (r = s)\varphi'$

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$P \approx Q$ iff $P \sqsubseteq Q \wedge Q \sqsubseteq P$

P is *determinate* if whenever $(P, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (T, \varphi)$ and $(P, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} (T', \varphi')$ then $\varphi \approx_s \varphi'$.

Our procedure: overview

- ① Model protocol and intruder capabilities in Horn clauses
- ② Saturate clauses using dedicated resolution procedure
- ③ Check equivalence

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- ③ Check equivalence

We fail to verify trace equivalence (in general) :-(

- under-approximate trace equivalence (\approx_{ft})
- over-approximate trace equivalence (\approx_{ct})
- verify trace equivalence for determinate processes

1. Horn clause modelling: predicates

Predicates: interpreted over ground trace T

- Reachability predicate

$$T \models r_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} \quad \text{if } (T, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{L_1} (T_1, \varphi_1) \xrightarrow{L_2} \dots \xrightarrow{L_n} (T_n, \varphi_n) \\ \text{such that } \ell_i =_R L_i \varphi_{i-1} \text{ for all } 1 \leq i \leq n$$

- intruder Knowledge predicate

$$T \models k_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}(R, t) \quad \text{if } r_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n} \text{ then } \varphi_n \vdash^{R\sigma} t\sigma$$

- Identity predicate

$$T \models i_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}(R, R') \quad \text{if } \exists t. T \models k_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_i}(R, t) \text{ and } T \models k_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_i}(R', t)$$

- Reachable Identity predicate

$$T \models ri_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}(R, R') \quad \text{if } T \models i_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}(R, R') \text{ and } T \models r_{\ell_1, \dots, \ell_n}$$

1. Horn clause modelling: initial clauses

$$T = \mathbf{in}(c, x).[\text{dec}(x, k) \stackrel{?}{=} a].\mathbf{out}(c, s)$$

Compute an **initial set** for trace T : $\text{seed}(T)$

$$r_{\mathbf{in}(c, x)} \Leftarrow k(X, x)$$

$$r_{\mathbf{in}(c, x), \mathbf{test}} \Leftarrow k(X, x), \text{dec}(x, k) =_R a$$

$$r_{\mathbf{in}(c, x), \mathbf{test}, \mathbf{out}(c)} \Leftarrow k(X, x), \text{dec}(x, k) =_R a$$

$$k_{\mathbf{in}(c, x), \mathbf{test}, \mathbf{out}(c)}(w_1, s) \Leftarrow k(X, x), \text{dec}(x, k) =_R a$$

$$k_w(f(X_1, \dots, X_n), f(x_1, \dots, x_k)) \Leftarrow k_w(X_1, x_1), \dots, k_w(X_k, x_k)$$

for any function f

1. Horn clause modelling: getting rid of equations

Use **equational unification** to remove tests:

$$\left(H \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n, u =_R v \right) \rightsquigarrow \begin{array}{c} \left((H \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \sigma_1 \right) \\ \dots \\ \left((H \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \sigma_k \right) \end{array}$$

where $\sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k$ is a complete set of unifiers for $u =_R v$.

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Example

$$\begin{aligned} \text{r}_{\text{in}}(c, x), \text{test}, \text{out}(c) &\Leftarrow k(X, x), \text{dec}(x, k) =_R a \\ &\rightsquigarrow \\ \text{r}_{\text{in}}(c, \text{enc}(a, k)), \text{test}, \text{out}(c) &\Leftarrow k(X, \text{enc}(a, k)) \end{aligned}$$

1. Horn clause modelling: getting rid of equations (2)

Use finite variant property ([Comon-Lund, Delaune'05]) to get rid of equational reasoning:

Finite variant property: possibility to precompute a finite set of all possible normal forms

$$\left(k_h(R, t) \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n \right) \rightsquigarrow \begin{aligned} & \left((k_h(R, t))\theta_1 \downarrow \Leftarrow B_1\theta_1 \downarrow, \dots, B_n\theta_1 \downarrow \right) \\ & \dots \\ & \left((k_h(R, t))\theta_k \downarrow \Leftarrow B_1\theta_k \downarrow, \dots, B_n\theta_k \downarrow \right). \end{aligned}$$

where $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_k$ is a complete set of variants for t .

We can compute finite sets of variants and mgu_E for the class of optimally reducing theories (contains subterm convergent, blind sigs, td commitment, ...)

2. Saturation: goals of saturation

Saturate seed knowledge base using the following rules

$$\text{RESOLUTION} \frac{f \in K, g \in K_{\text{solved}}, \quad f = (H \Leftarrow k_{uv}(X, t), B_1, \dots, B_n) \\ g = (k_w(R, t') \Leftarrow B_{n+1}, \dots, B_m) \\ \sigma = \text{mgu}(k_u(X, t), k_w(R, t')) \quad t \notin \mathcal{X}}{K := K \cup ((H \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m)\sigma)}$$

$$\text{EQUATION} \frac{f, g \in K_{\text{solved}}, \quad f = (k_u(R, t) \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \\ g = (k_{u'v'}(R', t') \Leftarrow B_{n+1}, \dots, B_m) \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(k_u(_), t), k_{u'}(_, t'))}{K = K \cup ((i_{u'v'}(R, R') \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m)\sigma)}$$

$$\text{TEST} \frac{f, g \in K_{\text{solved}}, \quad f = (i_u(R, R') \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_n) \quad g = (r_{u'v'} \Leftarrow B_{n+1}, \dots, B_m) \quad \sigma = \text{mgu}(u, u')} {K = K \cup ((ri_{u'v'}(R, R') \Leftarrow B_1, \dots, B_m)\sigma)}$$

2. Saturation rules: soundness, completeness, termination

A clause is **solved** if it is of the form

$$H \Leftarrow k_{w_1}(X_1, x_1), \dots, k_{w_n}(X_n, x_n)$$

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- **Complete:** If $(T, \emptyset) \xrightarrow{L_1, \dots, L_n} (S, \varphi)$ and $K = \text{sat}(\text{seed}(T))_{\text{solved}}$ then
 - ① r_{L_1, \dots, L_n} is a consequence of K
 - ② if $\varphi \vdash^R t$ then $k_{L_1, \dots, L_n}(R, t \downarrow)$ is a consequence of K
 - ③ if $\varphi \vdash^R t$ and $\varphi \vdash^{R'} t$, then $i_{L_1, \dots, L_n}(R, R')$ is a consequence of K

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- **Termination:**
 - ▶ guaranteed for subterm convergent equational theories;
 - ▶ in practice terminates also on examples outside this class.

3. Checking equivalence

To check that $T \sqsubseteq_{ct} Q$

① **saturate**: let $K = \text{sat}(\text{seed}(T))_{\text{solved}}$

② **check reachability**:

for each $r_{L_1, \dots, L_n} \Leftarrow k_{h_1}(X_1, x_1), \dots, k_{h_k}(X_k, x_k) \in K$
check that $Q, \emptyset \xrightarrow{L_1, \dots, L_n} Q', \varphi$

③ **check equalities**:

for each $ri_{L_1, \dots, L_n}(R_1, R_2) \Leftarrow k_{h_1}(X_1, x_1), \dots, k_{h_k}(X_k, x_k) \in K$
check that $Q, \emptyset \xrightarrow{L_1, \dots, L_n} Q', \varphi$ and $(R_1 = R_2)\varphi$

The AKISS tool

AKISS

(Active Knowledge In Security protocols)
<https://github.com/akiss>

Examples:

- Strong secrecy
NSL protocol and Blanchet's variant's of Denning-Sacco (det. processes)
- Resistance to offline guessing attacks
EKE (det. process)
- (Everlasting) Vote privacy: FOO, Okamoto, Helios and Moran-Naor electronic voting protocols
- New: support for \oplus (RFID protocols)

Conclusions

- Process equivalences are the **main tool to model security properties** (except authentication)
- **Theoretical understanding** still rather poor: decidability for which equational theory? Complexity?
- **Tool support** not yet mature enough
 - ▶ AKISs: no else branches, approximates trace equivalence
 - ▶ APTE: only fixed equational theory (encryption, signature, hash)
 - ▶ ProVerif: unbounded number of sessions, but false attacks may occur
- WIP: a new procedure that takes **the best of both AKISs and APTE**:
real trace equivalence + else branches + many equational theories