ProVerif, restrictions, equivalence... what could go wrong?

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Opening remarks

- this talk does not necessarily follow ProVerif notations
- what is written is not necessarily formally correct
- this talk is about ProVerif v2.05 (unless specific comment)

Modelling protocols

$$
\begin{aligned}
P, Q := \; & 0 \\
& \mid \text{new } n;\ P \\
& \mid \text{in}(c, x);\ P \\
& \mid \text{out}(c, u);\ P \\
& \mid \text{let } u = v \text{ in } P \text{ else } Q \\
& \mid \text{insert } tbl(u);\ P \\
& \mid \text{get } tbl(x) \text{ suchthat } \phi \text{ in } P \text{ else } Q \\
& \mid (P \mid Q) \\
& \mid !P \\
& \mid \text{event } e(u_1, \ldots, u_n);\ P
\end{aligned}
$$

ProVerif before v2.02

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\end{aligned}
$$

ProVerif before v2.02

+

Restrictions:

$$\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \ldots F_n \ \&\& \ \Rightarrow H$$

"Consider only traces that satisfy ρ, i.e. $tr \vdash \rho$"

ProVerif since v2.02

Example

Evoting: ballot weeding

$Server =$

$!\ ($

in(c, x);

in$(cell, x_{token})$;

get $BB(y)$ suchthat $x = y$ in

out$(cell, x_{token})$ *(* ballot already accepted *)*

else

insert $BB(x)$;

out$(cell, x_{token})$;

$\ldots$

$)$

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You may have troubles with else branches and cells …

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$\quad\quad\quad \ldots$
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You may have troubles with else branches and cells …

$Server =$
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$\quad\quad \text{new } st;\ \text{event } Inserted(st, x);$
$\quad\quad \text{insert } BB(x);$
$\quad\quad \ldots$
$\quad)$

$+$

Restriction:

$\text{event}(Inserted(st_1, x))$
$\quad \&\&\ \text{event}(Inserted(st_2, x)) \Rightarrow st_1 = st_2\,.$

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You may have troubles with else branches and cells …

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Restriction:

$\text{event}(Inserted(st_1, x))$
$\quad \&\&\ \text{event}(Inserted(st_2, x)) \Rightarrow st_1 = st_2\,.$

No cell, no else branch

Other examples

- Ballot weeding in evoting protocols — event$(Inserted(st_1, x))$ && event$(Inserted(st_2, x)) \Rightarrow st_1 = st_2$
- Key updates / key revocations — event$(Use(k_1))$ && event$(Inserted(k_2))$ && $subterm(k_1, k_2) \Rightarrow false$
- Model protocol assumptions (e.g., audits) — event$(PublishedOnBB(b)) \Rightarrow \phi(b)$
- Easily bound the number of executions — event$(Iteration(n)) \Rightarrow n < 2$
- Abstract e.g. arithmetic properties — See [Cortier et. al. - CCS'21]
- …

How does it work?

(simplified)

$$\frac{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \to C\} \qquad (\wedge_{i=1}^{n} F_i \Rightarrow \psi) \in \mathscr{R} \qquad \text{For all } i,\ F_i\sigma \in H}{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \wedge \psi\sigma \to C\}}$$

How does it work?

(simplified)

$$\frac{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \rightarrow C\} \qquad (\wedge_{i=1}^{n} F_i \Rightarrow \psi) \in \mathscr{R} \qquad \text{For all } i,\ F_i\sigma \in H}{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \wedge \psi\sigma \rightarrow C\}}$$

It is just a matching!

If the clause is not instantiated enough (e.g. noselect) the restriction will not be applied!

Usual issues

Given the process $P :=$ event$(E1)$; event$(E2)$; event$(E3)$

and the restriction $\rho :=$ event$(E1) \Rightarrow$ event$(E2)$, is event$(E3)$ reachable?

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No!
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Given the process $P := (\text{event}(E1); \text{event}(E2)) \mid \text{event}(E3)$

and the restriction $\rho := \text{event}(E3) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E2)$,

is ProVerif able to prove $\rho' := \text{event}(E3) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E1)$?

```
adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example4.pv
Process 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
    {1}event E1;
    {2}event E2
) | (
    {3}event E3
)

-- Restriction event(E3) ==> event(E2) in process 0.
-- Query event(E3) ==> event(E1) in process 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Completing...
Starting query event(E3) ==> event(E1)
goal reachable: b-event(E2) -> event(E3)

Derivation:

1. Event E3 may be executed at {3}.
event(E3).

2. By 1, event(E3).
The goal is reached, represented in the following fact:
event(E3).


A more detailed output of the traces is available with
  set traceDisplay = long.

event E3 at {3} (goal)

The event E3 is executed at {3}.
A trace has been found.

The attack trace does not satisfy the following restriction, declared at File "example4.pv", line 16, characters 13-35:
event(E3) ==> event(E2)
RESULT event(E3) ==> event(E1) cannot be proved.

--------------------------------------------------------------
```

Usual issues

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No…

$$\Rightarrow \text{event}(E3) \xrightarrow{\text{apply } \rho} \text{event}(E2) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E3)$$

Not enough to conclude… 😢

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Not enough to conclude… 😢

You can use the development branch `improve-scope-lemma` to make it prove

What about

equivalence properties?

Reminder

- ProVerif proves equivalence of processes that differ only by terms
- ProVerif internally proves diff-equivalence

Definition - "A biprocess P is in diff-equivalence if $traces(P) \downarrow\uparrow$ i.e., for all traces of P, the first and the second projections progress in the same way."

$$P[a_1, \ldots, a_n] \approx P[b_1, \ldots, b_n]$$

$$\downarrow$$

$$P[diff[a_1, b_1], \ldots, diff[a_n, b_n]] \uparrow\downarrow$$

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$$(\text{let } x = v \text{ in } P \text{ else } Q) \mid \mathscr{P} \longrightarrow P\{x \mapsto diff[M^{\mathsf{L}}, M^{\mathsf{R}}]\} \mid \mathscr{P} \quad \text{if } \mathsf{fst}(v)\Downarrow = M^{\mathsf{L}} \text{ and } \mathsf{snd}(v)\Downarrow = M^{\mathsf{R}}$$

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$$(\mathsf{in}(c, x);\ P) \mid (\mathsf{out}(c', u);\ Q) \mid \mathscr{P} \longrightarrow P\{x \mapsto u\} \mid Q \mid \mathscr{P} \quad \text{if } \mathsf{fst}(c) = \mathsf{fst}(c') \text{ and } \mathsf{snd}(c) = \mathsf{snd}(c')$$

$$\ldots$$

Reminder

Theorem [Blanchet et. al. 2006]

Given a biprocess P, $\quad traces(P) \downarrow\uparrow \Rightarrow \mathsf{fst}(P) \approx \mathsf{snd}(P)$

where $\approx$ denotes the observational equivalence relation.

Reminder

Theorem [Blanchet et. al. 2006]

Given a biprocess P, $\quad traces(P)\downarrow\uparrow \Rightarrow \mathsf{fst}(P) \approx \mathsf{snd}(P)$

where $\approx$ denotes the observational equivalence relation.

```
adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example1.pv
Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
    {1}new n: bitstring;
    {2}new m: bitstring;
    {3}out(cpriv, choice[n,m])
) | (
    {4}in(cpriv, x: bitstring);
    {5}out(cpub, x)
)

-- Observational equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
Completing...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
RESULT Observational equivalence is true.

--------------------------------------------------------------
Verification summary:

Observational equivalence is true.

--------------------------------------------------------------
```

Equivalence with restrictions

- We can write restrictions, e.g. $\rho := \text{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = y^{\mathsf{L}} \;\&\&\; x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

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$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y \not\equiv \rho$ 

$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y \;\equiv\; \text{event}(E(diff[x, x], diff[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$

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$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y$

Always define restrictions with explicit $diff[\,\cdot\,,\cdot\,]$ operators!

$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y \;=\; \text{event}(E(diff[x, x], diff[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$

Equivalence with restrictions

- We can write restrictions, e.g. $\rho :=$ event$(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = y^{\mathsf{L}}$ && $x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

$\rho' :=$ event$(E(x, y$

Always define restrictions with explicit $diff[\,\cdot\,,\cdot\,]$ operators!

$\rho' :=$ event$(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y$ = event$(E(diff[x, x], diff[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$

Definition - A biprocess P is in diff-equivalence for the restrictions $\mathscr{R}$, if $traces_{|\mathscr{R}}(P) \downarrow\uparrow$ i.e., for all traces tr of P that satisfy $\mathscr{R}$, $\forall \rho \in \mathscr{R}, tr \vdash \rho$ the first and the second projections progress in the same way.

Relation with observational equivalence

Definition - Let P^{L}, P^{R} be two processes and $\mathscr{R}^{\mathsf{L}}$, $\mathscr{R}^{\mathsf{R}}$ be two sets of restrictions. Observational equivalence is extended with restrictions as expected (i.e. considering only traces that satisfy restrictions 😇) and denoted $(P^{\mathsf{L}}, \mathscr{R}^{\mathsf{L}}) \approx (P^{\mathsf{R}}, \mathscr{R}^{\mathsf{R}})$

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New-theorem?

Given a biprocess P, and a set of restrictions $\mathscr{R}$,

$$traces_{|\mathscr{R}}(P) \downarrow\uparrow \Rightarrow (\mathsf{fst}(P), \mathsf{fst}(\mathscr{R})) \approx (\mathsf{snd}(P), \mathsf{snd}(\mathscr{R})).$$

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New-theorem?

Given a biprocess

tra

```
adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example1.pv
Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
    {1}new n: bitstring;
    {2}new m: bitstring;
    {3}out(cpriv, choice[n,m])
) | (
    {4}in(cpriv, x: bitstring);
    {5}out(cpub, x)
)

-- Restriction not event(E(x_1)) encoded as not event2(E(x_1),E(x_1)) in biprocess 0.
-- Diff-equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
Completing...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
RESULT Diff-equivalence is true.

--------------------------------------------------------------
Verification summary:

Query(ies):
 - Diff-equivalence is true.
Associated restriction(s):
 - Restriction not event(E(x_1)) encoded as not event2(E(x_1),E(x_1)) in biprocess 0.

--------------------------------------------------------------
```

Why is it false?

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Strange restrictions

$$\rho := \mathsf{event}(E(\mathit{diff}[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = x^{\mathsf{R}}$$

Why is it false?

Strange restrictions $\rho := \text{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = x^{\mathsf{R}}$ ✗ fst(ρ) is not properly defined!

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A bi-restriction impact both sides of the equivalence

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A bi-restriction impact both sides of the equivalence

$P = ($
new n; new m;
out($cpriv1$,$diff[n, n]$);
out($cpriv2$,$diff[n, m]$);
) | (
in($cpriv1$,x);
in($cpriv$, y);
event $E(x, y)$;
out($cpub$, ok)
)

Restriction: $\rho := \text{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

Why is it false?

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) | (
in($cpriv1$,x);
in($cpriv$, y);
event $E(x, y)$;
out($cpub$, ok)
)

$T :=$ out($cpriv1$,n) . in($cpriv1$,n) .
out($cpriv2$,n) . in($cpriv2$,n) .
event($E(n, n)$) . out($cpub$, ok)

$T \in traces(\text{fst}(P))$ and $T \vdash true = \text{fst}(\rho)$

But $event(E(n, m))$ cannot be executed in snd(P) while satisfying snd(ρ)

Restriction: $\rho := \text{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

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)

$T :=$ out($cpriv1$,n) . in($cpriv1$,n) .
out($cpriv2$,n) . in($cpriv2$,n) .
event($E(n, n)$) . out($cpub$, ok)

$T \in t$

$(\text{fst}(P), \emptyset) \not\approx (\text{snd}(P), \text{snd}(\rho))$

But $event(E(n, m))$ cannot be executed in snd(P) while satisfying snd(ρ)

Restriction: $\rho := \text{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

Why is it false?

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$P = ($

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adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example3.pv
Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
    {1}new n: bitstring;
    {2}new m: bitstring;
    {3}out(cpriv1, n);
    {4}out(cpriv2, choice[n,m])
) | (
    {5}in(cpriv1, x: bitstring);
    {6}in(cpriv2, y: bitstring);
    {7}event E(x,y);
    {8}out(cpub, choice[ok,ko])
)

-- Restriction event(E(choice[xL,xR],choice[yL,yR])) ==> xR = yR encoded as event2(E(xL,yL),E(xR,yR)) ==> xR = yR in biprocess 0.
-- Diff-equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
Completing...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
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Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
RESULT Diff-equivalence is true.

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Verification summary:

Query(ies):
 - Diff-equivalence is true.
Associated restriction(s):
 - Restriction event(E(choice[xL,xR],choice[yL,yR])) ==> xR = yR encoded as event2(E(xL,yL),E(xR,yR)) ==> xR = yR in biprocess 0.

--------------------------------------------------------------
```

Restriction: $\rho :=$ event$(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

What can I do now…?

I don’t know what I’m proving…

Solution 1

Trust yourself 🤞

It’s the most often used technique… 🙈

Solution 2

Do a paper proof to justify each restriction…

Solution 3

Let ProVerif do the proof for you

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Methodology - Given a biprocess P, and a restriction $\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \ldots \ \&\& \ F_n \Rightarrow H^{\mathsf{L}} \ \&\& \ H^{\mathsf{R}}$ such that:

- $vars(H^{\mathsf{L}}) \subseteq vars(\mathsf{fst}(\rho))$ and $vars(H^{\mathsf{R}}) \subseteq vars(\mathsf{snd}(\rho))$
- $vars(\mathsf{fst}(\rho)) \cap vars(\mathsf{snd}(\rho)) = \emptyset$

Let ProVerif prove that: for all $tr \in traces(P)$, $tr \vdash \overline{\mathsf{fst}(\rho)}$ implies $tr \vdash \overline{\mathsf{snd}(\rho)}$ and conversely.

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Example: $\rho := \mathsf{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = y^{\mathsf{L}} \ \&\& \ x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

$\overline{\mathsf{fst}(\rho)} := \mathsf{event}(E(diff[x^{\mathsf{L}}, x_1], diff[y^{\mathsf{L}}, x_2])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{L}} = y^{\mathsf{L}}$

$\overline{\mathsf{snd}(\rho)} := \mathsf{event}(E(diff[x_1, x^{\mathsf{R}}], diff[x_2, y^{\mathsf{R}}])) \Rightarrow x^{\mathsf{R}} = y^{\mathsf{R}}$

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is not always possible…

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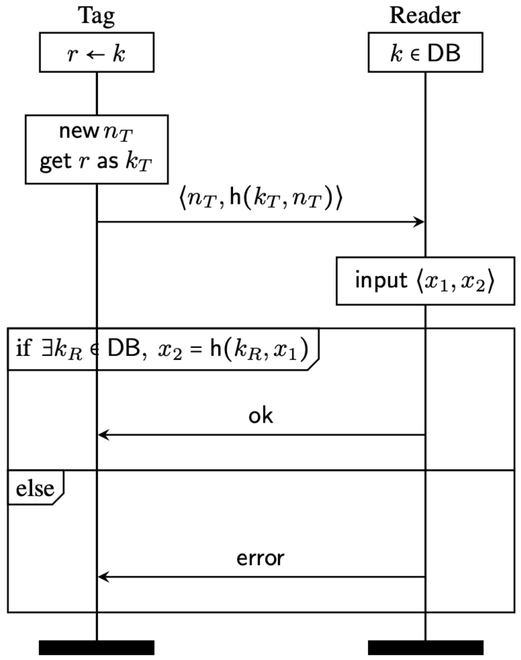
$P := !Reader \mid !\text{new } k;\ !\text{new } kk;\ \text{insert } DB(diff[k, kk]);\ Tag(diff[k, kk])$



Basic Hash protocol

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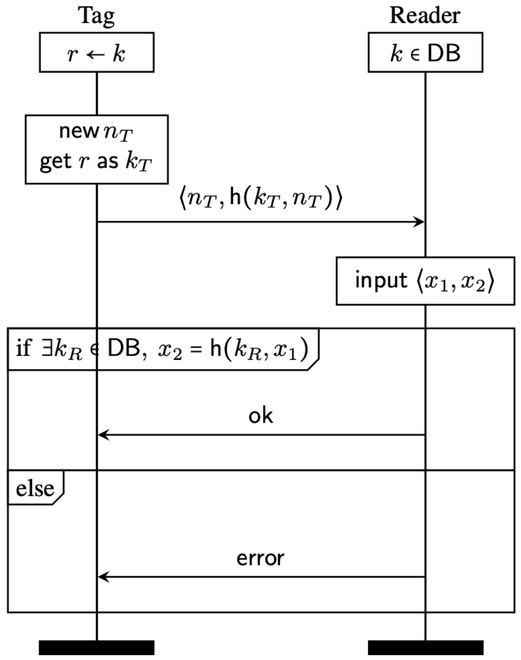

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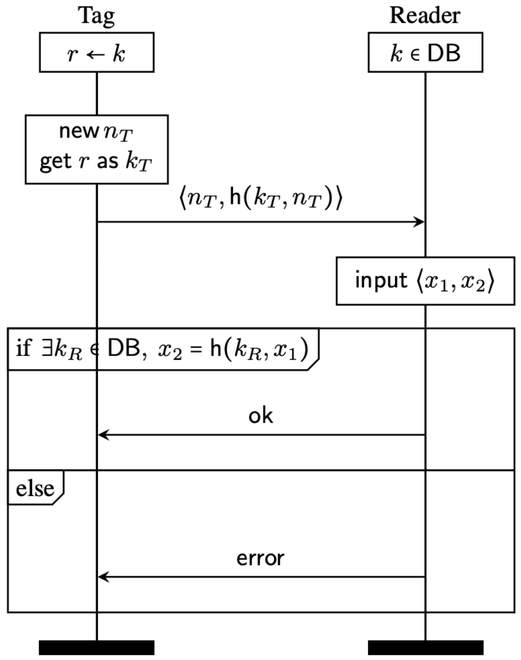

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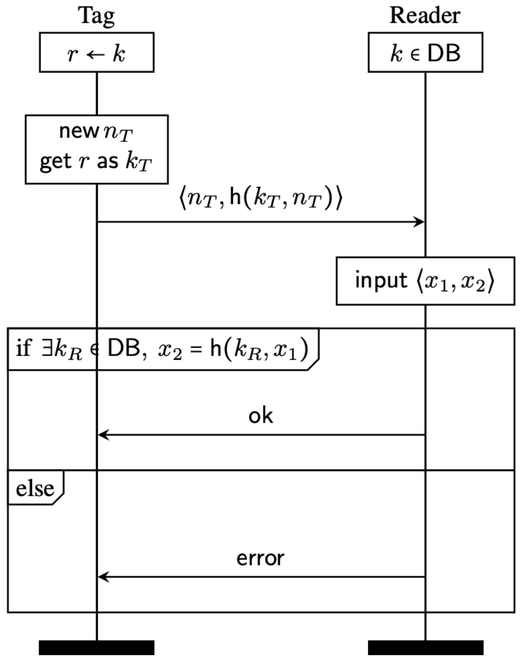
The previous lemma does not hold for traces using the "bad" entries



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Solution 4

(ongoing work with Vincent and Itsaka)

Methodology

1. reinforce diff-equivalence to make it even stronger

2. adapt ProVerif procedure to make it sound w.r.t. this new definition

3. build upon Vincent and Itsaka's approach [CSF'23] to discard false attacks

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1. Reinforce diff-equivalence

Given a trace T and a well-formed restriction ρ, $T{\downarrow\uparrow}_\rho$ if $T{\downarrow\uparrow}$ and for all $T \to P$ we have:

$$(T \to P) \vdash \overline{\mathsf{fst}(\rho)} \text{ if and only if } (T \to P) \vdash \overline{\mathsf{snd}(\rho)}$$

Solution 4

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2. Adapt ProVerif procedure - translation in "Horn" clauses

Given a process P, we note $\mathscr{C}(P)$ the initial set of clauses generated by ProVerif.

Given a well-formed restriction $\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \ldots \ \&\& \ F_n \Rightarrow H^{\mathsf{L}} \ \&\& \ H^{\mathsf{R}}$, we define:

- $C_\rho^{\mathsf{L}} = F_1 \ \&\& \ \ldots \ \&\& \ F_n \ \&\& \ H^{\mathsf{L}} \ \&\& \ \neg H^{\mathsf{R}} \Rightarrow \mathsf{bad}$
- $C_\rho^{\mathsf{R}} = F_1 \ \&\& \ \ldots \ \&\& \ F_n \ \&\& \ H^{\mathsf{R}} \ \&\& \ \neg H^{\mathsf{L}} \Rightarrow \mathsf{bad}$

We define $\mathscr{C}_{\mathscr{R}} = \{C_\rho^{\mathsf{X}} \mid \rho \in \mathscr{R}, \mathsf{X} \in \{\mathsf{L}, \mathsf{R}\}\}$

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Lemma [soundness of the set of initial clauses]

Given a process P and a set of well-formed restrictions $\mathscr{R}$, if $\neg P \downarrow\uparrow_{\mathscr{R}}$ then bad is derivable from $\mathscr{C}(P) \cup \mathscr{C}_{\mathscr{R}}$.

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Once this lemma is proved, the saturation is (almost) let unchanged, and thus its soundness proof too 😉

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3. Build upon Vincent and Itsaka's approach [CSF'23] to discard false attacks

[Cheval & Rakotonirina - CSF'23] ==> ProVerif extension to (almost) prove session equivalence

Intuition:

- either the restriction is defined to discard some matchings (e.g. Basic Hash) and they are unnecessary to prove session equivalence
  - ➡ Vincent&Itsaka extension will remove the newly reachable bad
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TODO

- adapt Vincent&Itsaka extension (i.e. adapt all the proofs…)
- extend ProVerif (or find tricks) to support $\neg H^{\mathsf{X}}$ in premise of a clause for any fact H^{X}

Conclusion

Be careful when you are using restrictions with equivalence queries…

It is not possible to think a bi-restriction as a restriction on the left side and a restriction on the right side

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The manual of ProVerif and the long version of S&P’21 paper describe all the theory

Everything is well-documented. Do not hesitate to open them when you’re not sure about what you’re proving.

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The `improve-scope-lemma` branch brings many new features

But part of them are under-documented…