Security and Privacy of 5G vs. Formal Methods

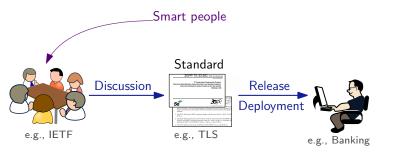
SSL

Lucca Hirschi

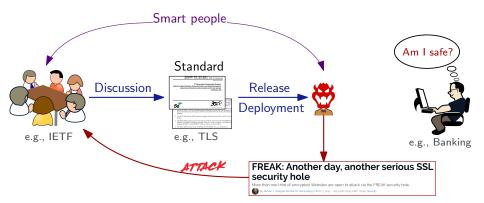




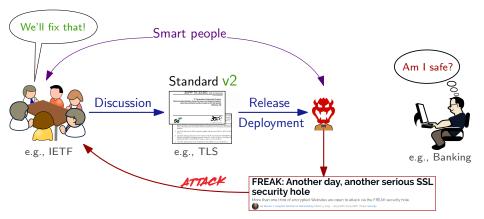
June 6, 2019

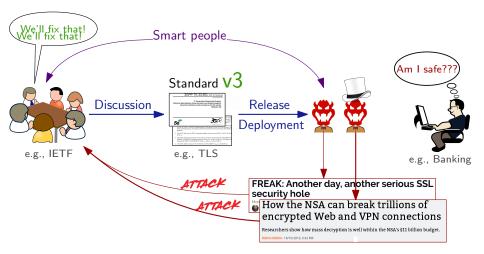




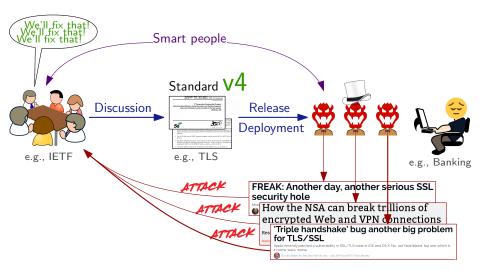


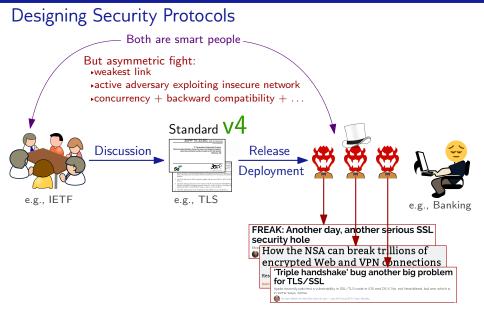


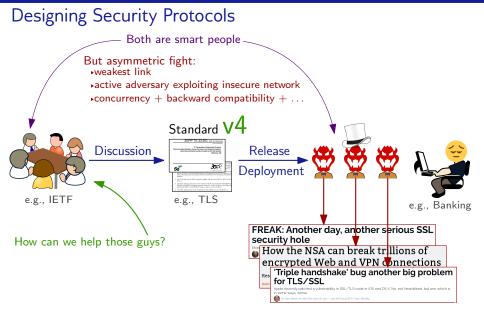


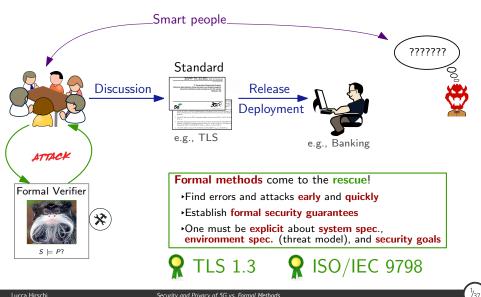












5G Authentication





Mobile communication

- ▶ 4.8 billion unique users, 60% of world population has 4G
- next-gen 5G designed by 3GPP (as for 3G/4G); deployed in 2 phases
- Phase 1: frozen specification in 2018 and commercial service in 2020

Authentication

- Key protocol AKA: secure channel + authentication between
- ► Different AKA protocols: 3G:AKA ~> 4G:EPS AKA ~> 5G:5G AKA



5G Promises



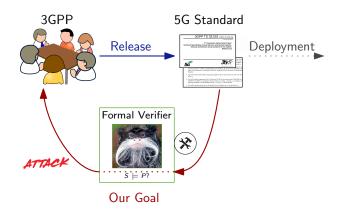
5G AKA intended to improve security and privacy but: Which security guarantees? Under which threat model/security assumptions?



5G Promises



5G AKA intended to improve security and privacy but: Which security guarantees? Under which threat model/security assumptions? Let's try to formally analyze 5G AKA!





Outline

Introduction

- I A Formal Analysis of 5G Authentication (CCS'18)
- II New Privacy Vulnerability in 5G (+3G, 4G) (PETS'19)
- III Privacy vs. Formal Methods
- IV Conclusion

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Paper

Session 7B: Formal + LangSec

CCS'18, October 15-19, 2018, Toronto, ON, Canada

A Formal Analysis of 5G Authentication

David Basin Department of Computer Science ETH Zurich Switzerland basin@inf.ethz.ch

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Ralf Sasse Department of Computer Science ETH Zurich Switzerland ralf.sasse@inf.ethz.ch Lucca Hirschi Department of Computer Science ETH Zurich Switzerland lucca.hirschi@inf.ethz.ch

Vincent Stettler Department of Computer Science ETH Zurich Switzerland svincent@student.ethz.ch

ABSTRACT

Mobile communication networks connect much of the world's population. The security of users' calls, SMSs, and mobile data depends on the guarantees provided by the Authenticated Key Exchange protocols used. For the next-generation network (SG), the 3GPP group has standardized the SG AKA protocol for this purpose.

We provide the first comprehensive formal model of a protocol

1 INTRODUCTION

Two thirds of the world's population, roughly 5 billion people, are mobile subscribers [25]. They are connected to the mobile network via their USIM cards and are protected by security mechanisms standardized by the 3rd Generation Partmership Project (3GPP) group. Both subscribers and carriers expect security guarantees from the mechanisms used, such as the confidentiality of user data

in ACM Conference on Computer and Communications Security 2018



Formal Verification in the Symbolic Model

(also called Dolev-Yao model)



Cryptographic primitives assumed perfect

Security protocols encoded in a formal language (syntax + semantics)

Attacker 🖑 = network (worst case scenario)

- eavesdrop: he learns all protocol outputs
- injections: he chooses all protocol inputs

Security properties encoded as reachability or equivalence properties

Sweet spot between precision and automation



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Sweet spot between precision and automation

Automated Verification (tool):

- several efficient procedures and tools (but verification is undecidable)
- our tool of choice: Tamarin (the only one with the required features)





Formalization

- implicit/unclear threat model and goals
- documents are often not self-contained





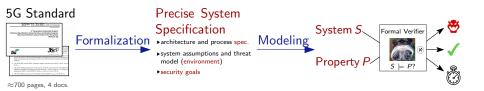
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Modeling

- large, complex protocol with intricate state-machine
- encode security goals under many threat models





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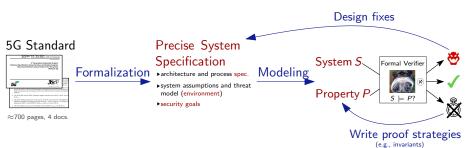
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Proofs

- many features that make the verification
- need for proof strategies: sound by design, guide the proof search





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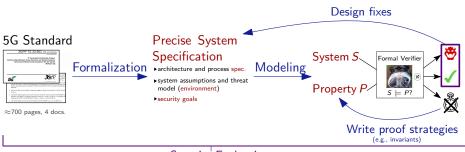
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Design fixes that are provably secure







Security Evaluation

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Proofs

- many features that make the verification
- need for proof strategies: sound by design, guide the proof search

Design fixes that are provably secure Sec. Evaluation: attacks and fixes



Our Contributions (CCS'18)

Formalization of the 5G standard

- Identify key missing security goals + flaws in stated goals
- Propose fine-grained variants of goals (secrecy, authentication, privacy)
- Extract/Formally interpret security assumptions and system spec.

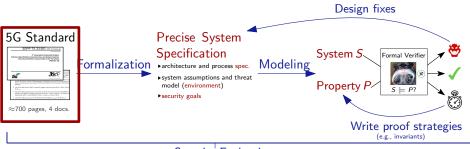
Formal model of 5G AKA amenable to automation

- First faithful model of an AKA protocol (challenges: loops, stateful, complex state-machine, scale, XOR)
- Dedicated proof strategies (in Tamarin)

Security Evaluation of 5G AKA

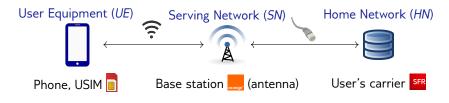
- Identify minimal assumptions required for each security goal to hold
- Highlights: critical authentication properties are violated
- Explicit recommendations and provably secure fixes (also simplify)





Security Evaluation

5G AKA

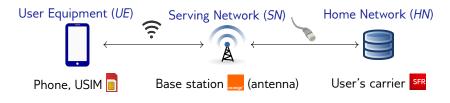


5G AKA designed to:

- mutually authenticate User Equipment is Home Network SFR



5G AKA



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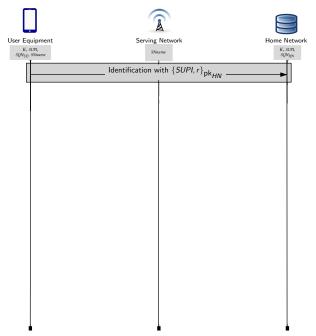
User Equipment (Phone with USIM) and Home Network share:

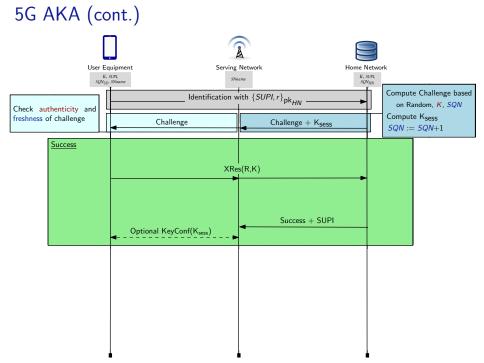
- ► a permanent UE's identifier SUPI (for identification)
- ► a symmetric key *K* (shared secret)
- a sequence number SQN (for replay protection for the UE)

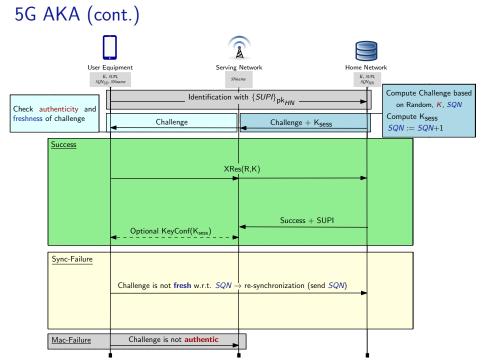
User Equipment knows the Home Network's public key pk_{HN}



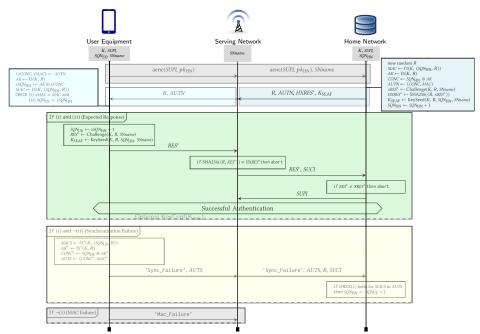
5G AKA (cont.)







5G AKA (cont.)





Security Evaluation



Security Evaluation

Formal Modeling

System ~500LoC

- ▶ for unbounded number of UEs, SNs, and HNs, and unbounded sessions
- full state-maching with re-synchronization, precise modeling of XOR and counter SQN (only Tamarin can handle all that)
- + optional key-confirmation

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Threat Model & Security Goals ~1000LoC, 124 lemmas

- wide-range of formal security goals (including secrecy, authentication, privacy)
- ► + many compromise scenarios in order to identify minimal assumptions ~ strongest possible adversary model



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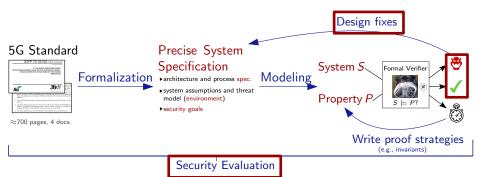
- wide-range of formal security goals (including secrecy, authentication, privacy)
- ► + many compromise scenarios in order to identify minimal assumptions ~ strongest possible adversary model

Proof Strategies ~1000LoC, ~ 5 hours computation time

- \blacktriangleright complex state-changes + loops \sim automatic: 🖉 / manual: impractical
- proof strategies: lemmas + heuristics that guide the proof search



Process





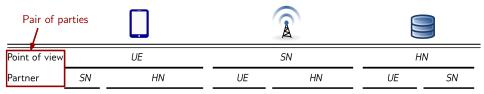


More than just \mathfrak{G}/\checkmark ?

YES! For instance for *authentication*:

Different perspectives ...

(who obtains guarantees, about whom?)





More than just $\textcircled{O}/\sqrt{?}$

YES! For instance for *authentication*:

- Different perspectives ... (who obtains guarantees, about whom?)
- with different kinds of agreement properties ... (identities?, data?, replay?)

Pair of parties				à					
Point of view	UE			SN	HN				
Partner	SN	HN	UE	HN	UE	SN			
	ication pr								
Lucca Hirschi		Security and Privac	Security and Privacy of 5G vs. Formal Methods						

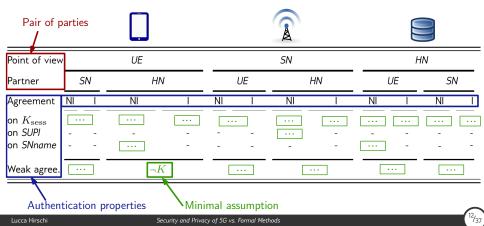
More than just \mathfrak{G}/\checkmark ?

YES! For instance for authentication:

Different perspectives ... (who obtains guarantees, about whom?)

(*e.g.* what can be compromised?)

- with different kinds of agreement properties ... (identities?, data?, replay?)
- under different attacker models.



Results (cont.)

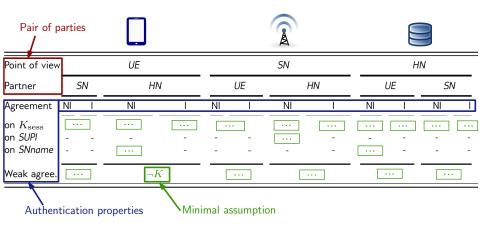
Minimal security assumptions:

- k-c: requires key-confirmation
- $\neg K$: no reveal of long-term key
- $\neg sk_{HN}$: no reveal of sk_{HN}

▶ ¬ch: requires secure channel SN-HN

13/37

- ▶ ¬SUPI: no reveal of SUPI
- ► ¬SQN: no reveal of SQN



Results (cont.)

Minimal security assumptions:

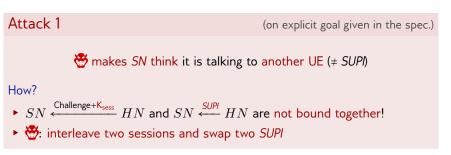
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					à							
Point of view UE				SN			HN					
Partner	SN		HN	V	UE		HN		UE		SN	
Agreement	NI	Ι	NI	I	NI	I	NI	I	NI	Ι	NI	I
on $K_{ m sess}$ on <i>SUPI</i> on <i>SNname</i>	X wa wa	x × ×	$\neg K \land k-c$ wa [$\neg K \land k-c$]	$\neg K \land k-c$ × ×	x wa wa	x × ×	⊐ch [¬ch] wa	$\neg K \land \neg ch$ × ×	$\neg K$ wa $[\neg K]$	$\neg K$ × ×	⊣ch × wa	¬ch × ×
Weak agree.		[X] ¬ <i>K</i>		[¬K∧¬ch] ¬ch		$\neg K$		⊸ch				

wa: coincides with weak agreement. $\times:$ undefined.

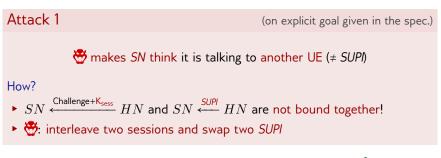
Results: Authentication: Attack 1



Remark: In an earlier draft (v0.7.1), SUPI, K_{sess} sent together $\sim \checkmark$ (we detected the introduced flaw when updating our models)



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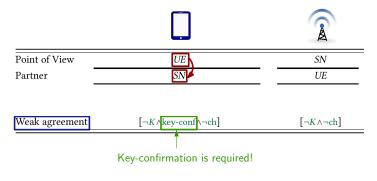
Fix

Either:

- explicitly assume a binding channel SN-HN (= binding message-session)
- cryptographically bind the messages together

Results: Authentication: Attack 2

We re-verify all authentication properties when attack 1 is fixed:



However, key-confirmation is not mandatory in the standard!

(subsequent procedures?)



Results: Authentication: Attack 2 (cont.)

Attack 2

(on explicit goal given in the spec.)

😴 can impersonate a SN towards UEs without key-conf (not mandatory)

How?

 SNname is not included in the MAC sent by HN that comes with the challenge

Results: Authentication: Attack 2 (cont.)

Attack 2

(on explicit goal given in the spec.)

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How?

 SNname is not included in the MAC sent by HN that comes with the challenge

Fix

Either:

- ► mandatory key-confirmation, required in one direction only (UE ← SN)
- add SNname to the MAC sent by HN (key-confirmation not required then)

Remark: our fixes reduce the number of roundtrips required to get security!

Results: Secrecy and Privacy

Secrecy(K_{sess}, K) holds but not PFS(K_{sess})

Privacy: The UE's identifier SUPI remains secret (with honest SN/HN)

- defeats IMSI-catchers but not necessarily passive 🖑 (?)
- insufficient to ensure untraceability with an active
- we were not able to formally analyze any fix or find attacks for the full model (we'll come back to that)



Takeaways (CCS'18)

Contributions: Formalization of the 5G standard + Tamarin model with proof techniques + comprehensive security evaluation

5G AKA standard:

- ► definitely lacks explicit assumptions and security goals ③
- ▶ meets core properties after easy fixes/+assumptions ③
- ▶ improves privacy over 3G/4G, but still suffers from traceability attacks ☺

We have an ongoing discussion with 3GPP and GSMA about potential remedies. Process is slow and communication is hard.

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5G AKA standard:

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- ▶ meets core properties after easy fixes/+assumptions ③
- improves privacy over 3G/4G, but still suffers from traceability attacks (2)

We have an ongoing discussion with 3GPP and GSMA about potential remedies. Process is slow and communication is hard.

Future work:

- ▶ verify and formally compare other variants of AKA (3G, 4G, EAP-AKA' in 5G)
- follow the development of 5G (e.g. phase 2)



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Paper

Proceedings on Privacy Enhancing Technologies 2019

Ravishankar Borgaonkar, Lucca Hirschi*, Shinjo Park, and Altaf Shaik

New Privacy Threat on 3G, 4G, and Upcoming 5G AKA Protocols

Abstract: Mobile communications are used by more than two-thirds of the world population who expect security and privacy guarantees. The 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) responsible for the worldwide standardization of mobile communication has designed and mandated the use of the AKA protocol to protect the subscribers' mobile services. Even though privacy was a requirement, numerous subscriber loThe 3rd Generation Partnership Project (3GPP) group, responsible for the standardization of 3G, 4G, and 5G technologies, designed the Authentication and Key Agreement (AKA) protocol that aims at mutually authenticating a phone equipped with a USIM card with networks, and establishing keys to protect subsequent communications. This protocol is notably implemented in all 3G and 4G USIM cards and cellular networks

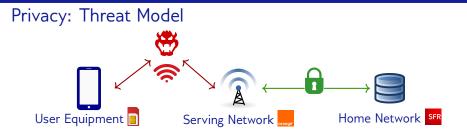
in Privacy Enhancing Technologies Symposium 2019



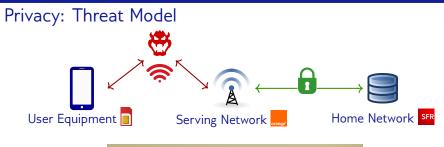
Privacy: Threat Model











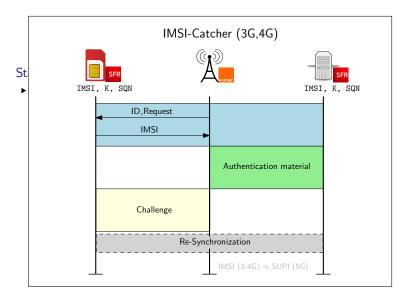


SDR (Soft Defined Radio) hardware + open software (srsLTE, OpenLTE) ~ ♂ ♂ can set up fake Base Stations (BS) for ≈ 1200€

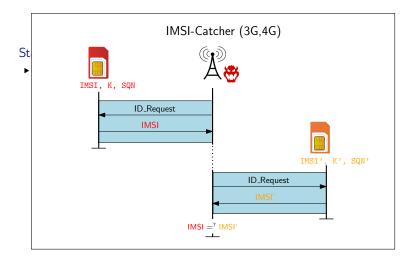


State-of-the-art

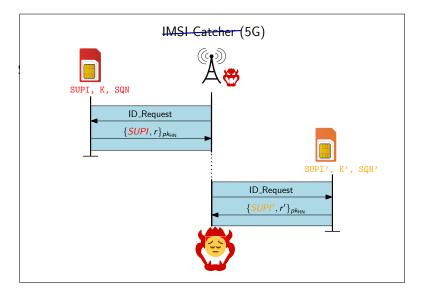
- known issues: Location Privacy
 - Can track User Equipments around his fake Base Stations
 - ▶ *e.g.* IMSI-catchers (3G,4G), failure messages (3G,4G,5G), etc..













State-of-the-art

- known issues: Location Privacy
 - Can track User Equipments around his fake Base Stations
 - ▶ *e.g.* IMSI-catchers (3G,4G), failure messages (3G,4G,5G), etc..
- ► 4G: many proposed fixes but devices are still vulnerable
- 5G: asymmetric encryption of SUPI \sim promise to protect privacy,

but still vulnerable to location privacy attacks



- Vulnerability in the protection mechanism for SQN in the specification of AKA in 3G, 4G, and 5G
- $\sim {\begin{subarray}{c} {\b$

(Confidentiality(SQN) is an explicit goal of 5G AKA)

• \sim O leaks target's activity/consumption

Service consumption (e.g. calls, SMSs) triggers AKA sessions and thus SQN \nearrow

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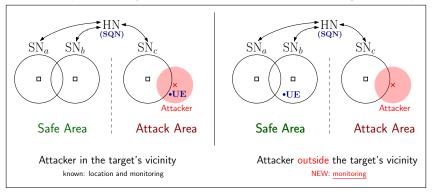
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- based on new attack vectors (need dedicated fixes) + new location attacks

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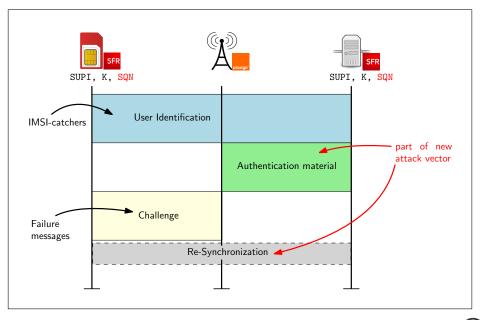
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Privacy Threat? Maybe...

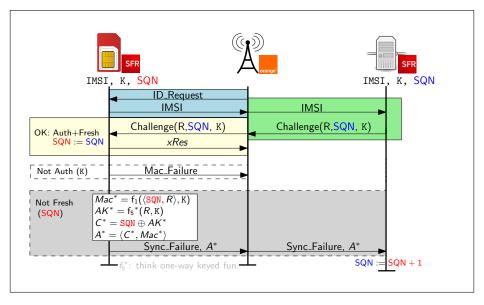
In practice: BSs in subway stations, shops, work places, etc. ~> "sporadic" 🤯

- VIP targets (embassy, journalists): phone has been switched off?, detect the use of multiple SIM cards, typical usage per SIM card?
 when at home, during business trips, etc.
- work places: activity out of work, use different SIM cards?
- shop greedy about your data: mobile consumption patterns (e.g. Navizon)

Re-Synchronization



Re-Synchronization



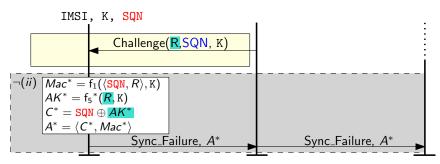


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Attack Vector

Attack vector = combination of:

- 1. requests of challenges are not authenticated
- 2. injections of the same (unfresh) challenge \rightsquigarrow same conceal factor AK^*

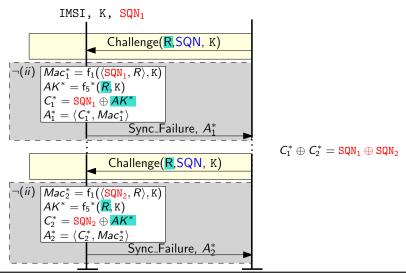




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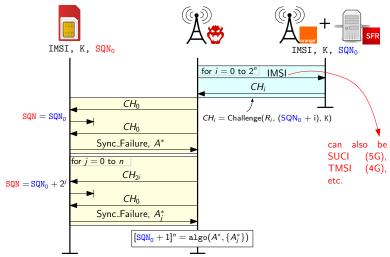


Lucca Hirschi

Security and Privacy of 5G vs. Formal Methods

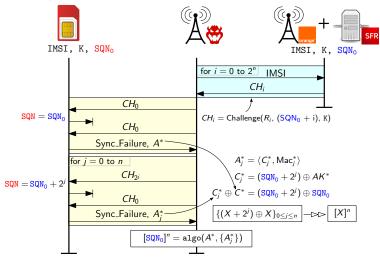
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Breaking SQN Confidentiality



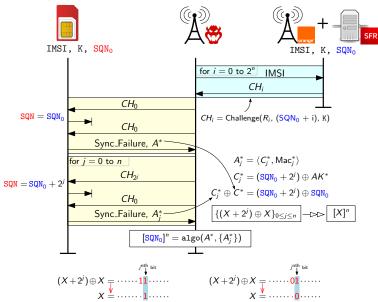


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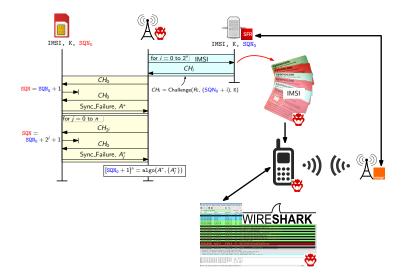




Breaking SQN Confidentiality

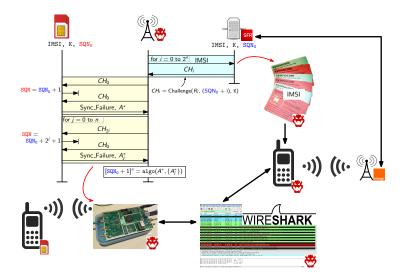


Proof of Concept: it can be exploited (done in 4G)



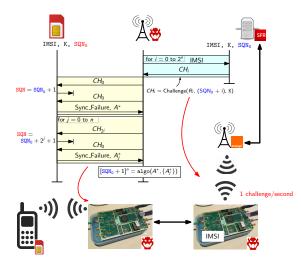


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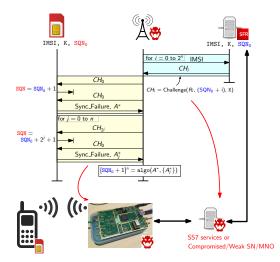


Proof of Concept: it can be exploited (done in 4G) (better)





Proof of Concept: it scales (?)





Practical considerations

On the 3-5G spec → impacts all 3G, 4G devices + 5G devices (if not fixed), as well as variants (e.g. {EAP, EPS}-AKA[′],*, HTTP digest AKA)

Experiments in 4G

- ► Full hardware setup: 1200€ (≈100€ for PoC only), widely available
- Tested on a couple of Europeans TelCo operators
- ▶ Obtained ≈10 bits of SQN in minutes, many ways to improve
- ▶ We did not observe any rate limit at which AKA tokens can be requested

First responsible disclosure to 3GPP SA#3 and GSMA: Spring 2017.





- Fixes based on: asymmetric encryption or random from □ → impractical for 3G, 4G
- We propose instead to use the cipher suite used for the transport mode to encrypt SQN instead of ⊕.
 Problem: encryption is outsourced to phone.





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 Problem: encryption is outsourced to phone.
- Qualcomm Inc. propose instead to use MAC* (based on SQN) in AK*.



Change Request S3-190376 discussed during a 3GPP SA#3 meeting on February 1st, 2019: not pursued (postponed according to Qualcomm).

AT&T supported this change. Apple: we should first investigate whether it is feasible in 5G, and then evaluate the effect and make corresponding enhancement. It was left open to verify what GSMA was doing on this topic.



- Trade-offs are no longer valid almost 25 years (*e.g.* passive attacker only, no fake BSs).
- Mobile devices are still dumb terminals in the architecture
- Unexpected components can put users' privacy at risk
- ► TelCo standardization is rather opaque, patent-driven, slow ~ what to expect from 5G?



Outline

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- I A Formal Analysis of 5G Authentication (CCS'18)
- II New Privacy Vulnerability in 5G (+3G, 4G) (PETS'19)
- III Privacy vs. Formal Methods
- IV Conclusion

Main Questions

(3G,4G,5G) AKA suffer from privacy attacks: location privacy, activity monitoring attacks, etc.

There have been several prior formal analyses focusing on privacy:

- Why haven't they found all those attacks?
- Even *a posteriori*: why is it so hard to find the known attacks?
- How can we quickly evaluate fixes? (e.g. give Qualcomm some feedback about their CR)

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Privacy vs. classical properties:

- \blacktriangleright It worked well and "smoothly" for classical properties $\textcircled{\sc op}$
- ► Not so much for privacy ☺ notoriously harder



Manual Analyses:

- ► Fouque, Onete, Richard. PETS'16. (new location attack, fix, and a computational proof)
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We also tried ourselves (partial results in the 2 papers) but also failed.



What should be analyzed and how:

The threat models have evolved: passive, active, sporadic [™], notion of locality and time (PFS, PCS). → How to model and verify privacy for those different attackers?

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The privacy impact of partially learning SQN was far from being obvious.
Shift from "verifying privacy properties A,B,C modelled as X,Y,Z" to "veryfing the absence of any (symbolic) privacy leak".

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Modeling issues, even for re-finding known attacks:

 Is my equational theory rich enough? Confidentiality of SQN: requires ⊕ but not enough (even if strong secrecy is used). We also need some algebraic relations of + with ⊕ (such that (X + 1) ⊕ X ≁ Y).



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- AKA is stateful (SQN), uses a counter with arithmetic (SQN), uses ⊕, has ≥ 3 parties, is rather large and complex. How to handle all that?
 ~ critical issues: precision (stateful, counter), scope (equational theories), scale (size and complexity).

Privacy evaluation of all pre-authentication protocols (incl. AKA) in X-G.

+ Impact of optional mechanisms and sub-protocols.

- + Explore threat model trade-offs.
- + All generations together.



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Conclusion

Mobile communication:

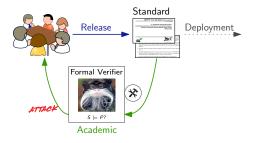
- critical area, yet it does not attract as much attention as it should
- experiments are hard to perform, much details in TelCo walled gardens
- huge specification with a lot of other mechanisms and protocols to analyze
- formal methods and TelCo: far away from IETF's positions (e.g. TLS, MLS) but still positive discussions with Ericsson, Nokia, Vodafone

Formal methods:

- now meet expectations for classical properties: can guide and quickly evaluate design decisions. It should be used more often.
- not really industry-ready for privacy yet: many interesting challenges ahead
- importance of putting formal methods into practice: provides much insights and highlights current limitations

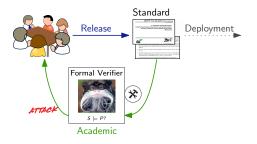


Now:





Now:



Ideally:



Security and Privacy of 5G vs. Formal Methods



Backup Slides

Process



Security Evaluation

Formalization

Goal: build a precise specification of the system (protocol), environment (*e.g.* threat model), and security goals

Example of imprecision in the standard and our interpretation:

Assurance [that the subscriber] is connected to a serving network that is authorized by the home network.

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Subscriber must obtain non-injective agreement on SNname with its Home Network.

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Takeaways

- critical security goals are missing (implicit?): e.g. injective agreement on the key seed
- some stated goals are too weak: no assurance that the authenticated party participated to the current session
- unclear system assumption (e.g. on channels) and threat model (notably for privacy)



Process

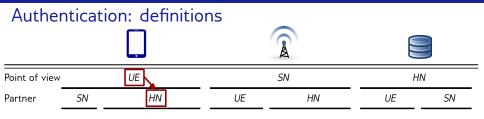


Security Evaluation

Outline



Security Evaluation



Authentication depends on the perspective and the expected agreement: What guarantees does *UE* obtain regarding *HN*?

(HN's identity, HN's view on the session)



Authentication: definitions							
				à			
Point of view	UE		SN		H	HN	
Partner SN		HN	UE	HN	UE	SN	
Weak agree. ?	??	?		[.]		
Authentication depends on the perspective and the expected agreement: What guarantees dœs <i>UE</i> obtain regarding <i>HN</i> ?							
weak agreeme	ent		agree	agreement on <i>HN</i> 's and <i>UE</i> 's ids (mutual auth.)			

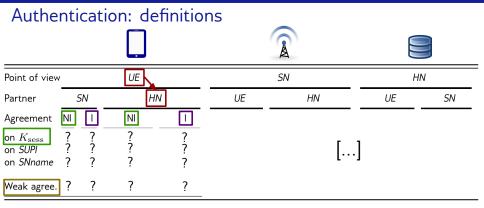


Authentication: definitions								
						X		
Point of view	v		UE			SN	H	IN
Partner		SN	HI	V	UE	HN	UE	SN
Agreement on K _{sess} on SUPI on SNname	NI ? ? ?	 ? ? ?	NI ? ? ?	 ? ? ?		[.]	
Weak agree.	?	?	?	?				

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(NI) non-injective agreement on $K_{ m sess}$	agreement on HN's and UE's ids and $K_{ m sess}$





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(I) injective agreement on $K_{ m sess}$	NI + uniqueness of <i>HN</i> 's session (no replay)



Authentication: definitions										
Point of view UE						SN	Н	HN		
Partner	5	5N	ΗN	/	UE	HN	UE	SN		
Agreement	NI		NI							
on $K_{ m sess}$	x	X	$\neg K \land k-c$	$\neg K \land k-c$		r	1			
on SUPI wa $ imes$ wa $ imes$										
on <i>SNname</i>	wa	×	[¬ <i>K</i> ∧k-c]	×		L				
Weak agree. $[X]$ $\neg K$										

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Minimal security assumption:

- $\neg K$: no reveal of long-term key
- k-c: requires key-confirmation
- Lucca Hirschi

- Security and Privacy of 5G vs. Formal Methods
- ▶ ¬ch: requires secure channel SN-HN
- (also compromise of $sk_{\rm HN}$, SUPI, SQN)



Authentication: definitions												
							À					
Point of view UE SN HN												
Partner		SN	HN	V	[UE		HN	l	JE	S٨	/
Agreement	NI	Ι	NI	I	NI	I	NI	1	NI	I	NI	I
on $K_{ m sess}$	x	×	$\neg K \land k-c$	$\neg K \land k-c$	x	×	⊸ch	$\neg K \land \neg ch$	$\neg K$	$\neg K$	−ch	ch
on <i>SUPI</i>	wa	×	wa	×	wa	×	[¬ch]	×	wa	×	×	×
on <i>SNname</i>	wa	×	[¬ <i>K</i> ∧k-c]	×	wa	×	wa	×	$[\neg K]$	×	wa	×
Weak agree.		X]	$\neg F$	K	$[\neg k$	(A-ch)		⊸ch	_	K	¬c	h

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Authentication: all results

Point of view UE				SN				HN				
Partner		SN	ΗN	1		UE		HN	l	JE	SN	/
Agreement	NI	Ι	NI	I	NI	Ι	NI	I	NI	Ι	NI	Ι
on $K_{ m sess}$	x	×	$\neg K \land k-c$	$\neg K \land k-c$	x	X	−ch	$\neg K \land \neg ch$	$\neg K$	$\neg K$	−ch	ch
on <i>SUPI</i>	wa	×	wa	×	wa	×	[¬ch]	×	wa	×	×	×
on <i>SNname</i>	wa	×	[¬ <i>K</i> ∧k-c]	×	wa	×	wa	×	$[\neg K]$	×	wa	×
Weak agree.		[X]	$\neg K$	5	$[\neg F$	√∧¬chı		⊸ch	_	K	−C	h

After fixing Attack 1 (binding):

Point of View	L	SN		
Partner	S	UE		
Agreement	NI	Ι	NI	Ι
on K _{SEAF}	$\neg K \land key-conf \land \neg ch$	$\neg K \land \text{key-conf} \land \neg \text{ch}$	$\neg K \land \neg ch$	$\neg K \land \neg ch$
Weak agreement	$[\neg K \land key$	$[\neg K \land$	¬ch]	



Other Results

Secrecy:

Point of view	UE	SN	HN
$K_{\rm sess}$	$\neg K \land \neg ch$	$\neg K \land \neg ch$	$\neg K \land \neg ch$
$PFS(K_{\mathrm{sess}})$	×	X	×
SUPI	$\neg sk_{\mathrm{HN}} \land \neg ch^*$	-	$\neg sk_{\mathrm{HN}} \land \neg ch^*$
K	Ø	Ø	Ø

*: no dishonest SNs (violated otherwise)

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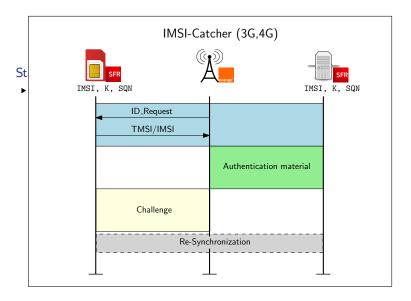
Privacy:

- SUPI remains confidential, even against active attackers and hence also against passive attackers.
- ► 5G AKA thus defeats previous active IMSI-catcher attacks
- We also have modelled a weak, passive attacker and have automatically proven that he cannot trace subscribers.
- active attackers are realistic threats for most use cases. We have (automatically) found that 5G AKA suffers from a traceability attack in that setting.

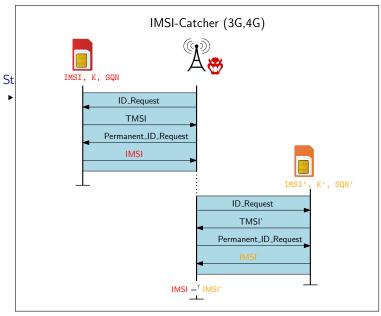


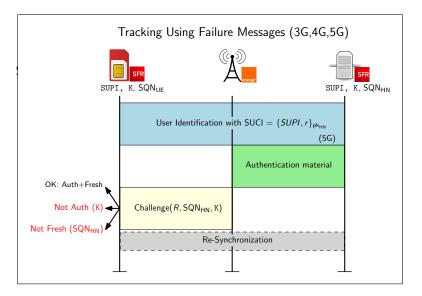
State-of-the-art

- known issues: Location Privacy
 - Can track User Equipments around his fake Base Stations
 - e.g. IMSI leakage, failure messages, etc..

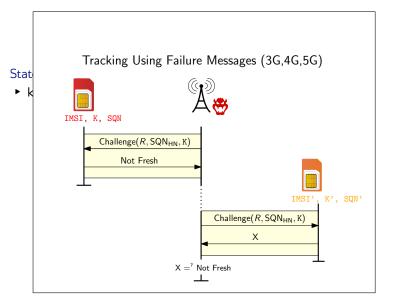














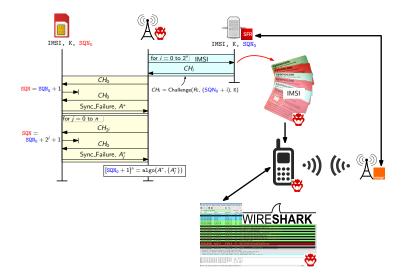
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- known issues: Location Privacy
 - Can track User Equipments around his fake Base Stations
 - e.g. IMSI leakage, failure messages, etc..
- ► 4G: many proposed fixes but devices are still vulnerable
- ► 5G: asymmetric encryption of SUPI ~> promise to protect privacy,

but still vulnerable to location privacy attacks

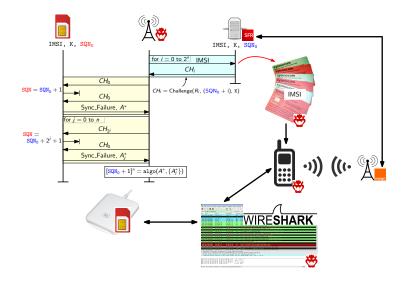


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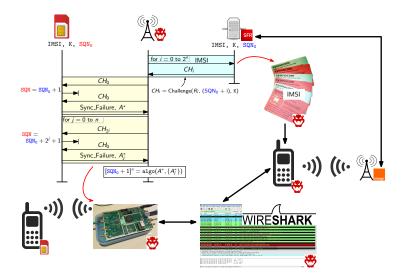


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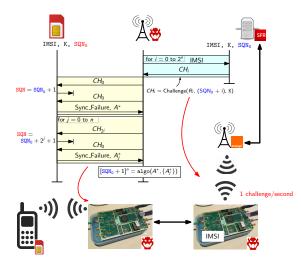


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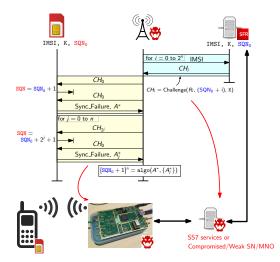


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Proof of Concept: it scales (?)





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