

Models and Techniques for Symbolic Analysis of Security Protocols

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All documents (slides, useful links, etc) available here :
<https://members.loria.fr/VCortier/school-2017/>

Summer School : Models and Tools for Cryptographic Proofs

1. LORIA, CNRS - INRIA Pesto project, Université de Lorraine 

Outline of the course

Part 1 Protocols

Part 2 Model : the applied-pi calculus
→ The ProVerif tool

Part 3 Analysis : protocols as Horn clauses

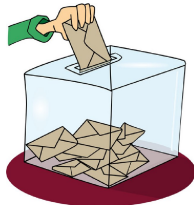
Part 1

Protocols

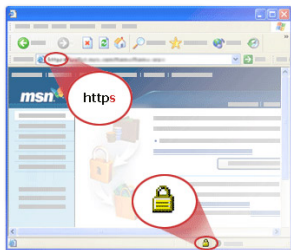
Context : cryptographic protocols

Cryptographic protocols are widely used in everyday life.

→ They aim at securing communications over public or insecure networks.



Example : HTTPS



- ▶ TLS : Transport Security Layer, depuis 1994
- ▶ various implementations : OpenSSL, SecureTransport, JSSE, ...
- ▶ Lots of bugs and attacks, with fixes every month



Memory overflow

Go to fail

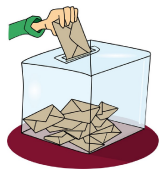
Missing checks
(MACs, signatures, ...)

FREAK attack - February 2015

Bhargavan et al.



Electronic voting



- ▶ The result corresponds to the votes.
- ▶ Each vote is confidential.
- ▶ No partial result is leaked before the end of the election
- ▶ Only voters can vote and at most once
- ▶ Coercion resistance

Security goals

Cryptographic protocols aim at

- ▶ **preserving confidentiality** of data
(e.g. pin code, medical files, ...)
- ▶ **ensuring authenticity**
(Are you really talking to your bank??)
- ▶ **ensuring anonymous communications**
(for e-voting protocols, ...)
- ▶ **protecting against repudiation**
(I never sent this message!!)
- ▶ ...

⇒ Cryptographic protocols vary depending on the application.

How does this work ?

How does this work ?

Protocol : describes how each participant should behave in order to get e.g. a common key.

Cryptography : makes uses of cryptographic primitives

- ▶ encryption
- ▶ signature
- ▶ hash
- ▶ ...



How to exchange a secret with commutative encryption

First : a small challenge for your nephews / nieces / cousins / children.

A completely fictitious town

Two types of inhabitants :

Sedentary inhabitants stay at their home

Post office workers deliver boxes between sedentary inhabitants

A completely fictitious town

Two types of inhabitants :

Sedentary inhabitants stay at their home

Post office workers deliver boxes between sedentary inhabitants

Axiom 1 Post office workers may steal any unlocked box
(**Reminder : this scenario is entirely fictitious!**)

Axiom 2 The content of locked boxes CANNOT be stolen.

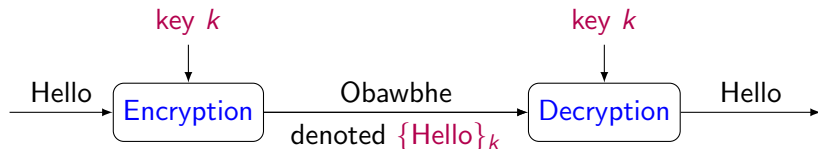


Challenge

How Alice (sedentary) can send a gift to Bob (also sedentary)?

Commutative Symmetric encryption

Symmetric encryption, denoted by $\{m\}_k$



The same key is used for **encrypting** and **decrypting**.

Commutative (symmetric) encryption

$$\{\{m\}_{k_1}\}_{k_2} = \{\{m\}_{k_2}\}_{k_1}$$

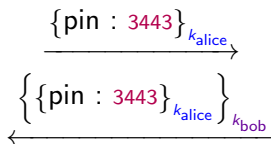
Exchanging a secret with commutative encryption (RSA)



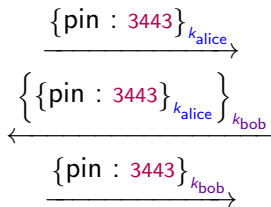
$\{\text{pin} : 3443\}_{k_{\text{alice}}}$
→



Exchanging a secret with commutative encryption (RSA)

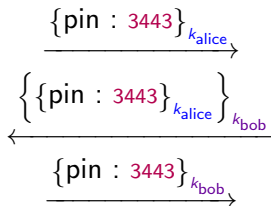


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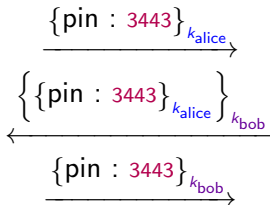
$$\text{Since } \left\{ \left\{ \text{pin} : 3443 \right\}_{k_{\text{alice}}} \right\}_{k_{\text{bob}}} = \left\{ \left\{ \text{pin} : 3443 \right\}_{k_{\text{bob}}} \right\}_{k_{\text{alice}}}$$

Exchanging a secret with commutative encryption (RSA)

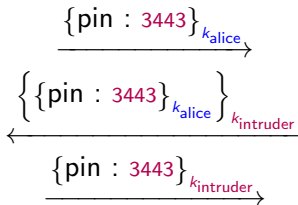


→ It does not work! (Authentication problem)

Exchanging a secret with commutative encryption (RSA)



→ It does not work! (Authentication problem)



Another example

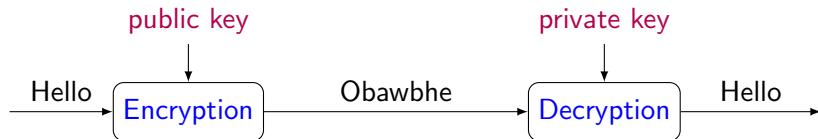
The “famous” Needham-Schroeder public key protocol

(and its associated **Man-In-The-Middle Attack**)

Public key encryption

Public key : $pk(A)$

Encryption : $\{m\}_{pk(A)}$



Encryption with the **public key** and decryption with the **private key**.

Invented only in the late 70's!

Needham-Schroeder public key protocol

N_a Random number (called nonce) generated by A.

N_b Random number (called nonce) generated by B.



- $A \rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$
 $B \rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)}$
 $A \rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$



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Questions :

- ▶ Is N_b secret between A and B ?
- ▶ When B receives $\{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$, does this message really come from A ?

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Questions :

- ▶ Is N_b secret between A and B ?
- ▶ When B receives $\{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$, does this message really come from A ?

→ An attack was discovered in 1996, 17 years after the publication of the protocol !

Man in the middle attack



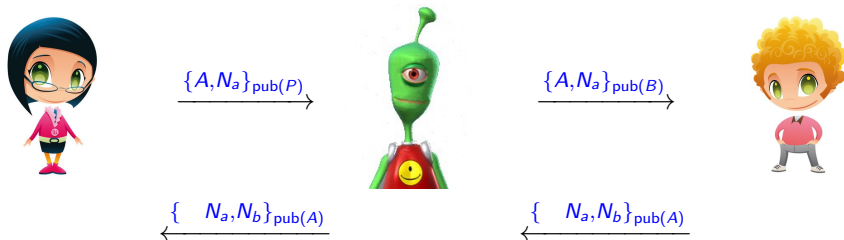
$\{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(P)}$



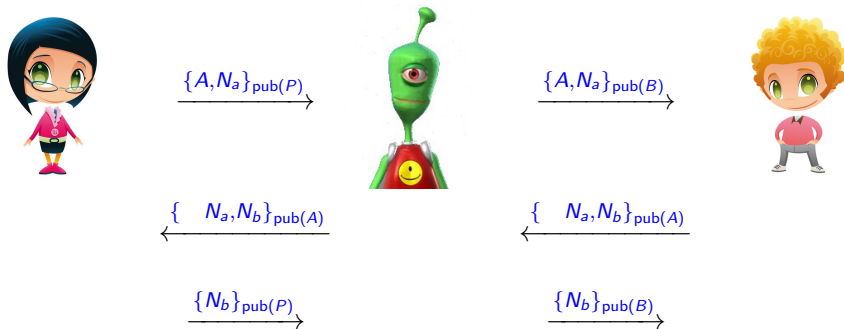
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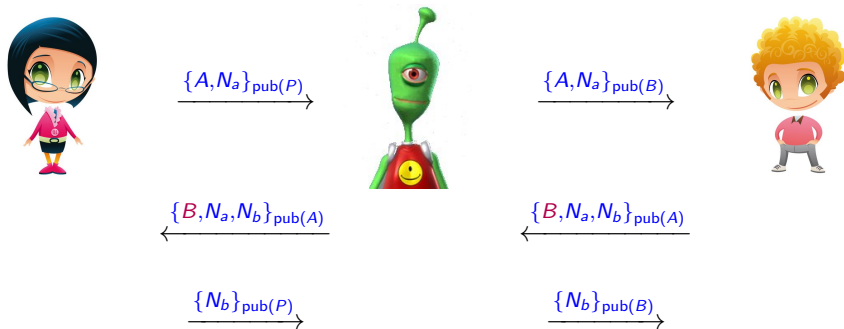
Man in the middle attack



Man in the middle attack



Man in the middle attack



Fixing the flaw : add the identity of B .

A symmetric key protocol

The Wide Mouthed Frog protocol (a variant)

Assumption : Each participant X shares a long term symmetric key K_{xS} with a server S .

Protocol :

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow S : A, \{B, K_{ab}\}_{K_{as}} \\ S &\rightarrow B : B, \{A, K_{ab}\}_{K_{bs}} \end{aligned}$$

Security Goal : A and B share a secret symmetric key K_{ab} .

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Security Goal : A and B share a secret symmetric key K_{ab} .

What if we consider another variant?

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow S : A, \{B\}_{K_{as}}, \{K_{ab}\}_{K_{as}} \\ S &\rightarrow B : B, \{A\}_{K_{bs}}, \{K_{ab}\}_{K_{bs}} \end{aligned}$$

Part 2

Model : the applied-pi calculus

Messages

Messages are abstracted by terms.

Agents : a, b, \dots

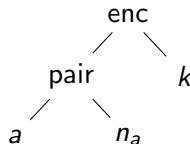
Nonces : n_1, n_2, \dots

Keys : k_1, k_2, \dots

Cyphertext : $\text{enc}(m, k)$ Concatenation : $\text{pair}(m_1, m_2)$

Example : The message $\{A, N_a\}_K$ is represented by :

$\text{enc}(\text{pair}(A, N_a), K)$



Intuition : only the structure of the message is kept.

Encryption-Decryption properties

$$\text{dec}(\text{enc}(x, y), y) = x$$

$$\pi_1(\langle x, y \rangle) = x$$

$$\pi_2(\langle x, y \rangle) = y$$

$$\text{deca}(\text{enca}(x, \text{pub}(y)), y) = x$$

Equational theory

More generally, the cryptographic primitives are modeled by an **equational theory**.

Definition

An equational theory $=_E$ is a relation on terms that is closed under substitutions of terms for variables and closed by context.

- ▶ $u =_E v$ implies $u\sigma =_E v\sigma$ (for any σ)
- ▶ $u_1 =_E v_1, \dots, u_n =_E v_n$ implies $f(u_1, \dots, u_n) =_E f(v_1, \dots, v_n)$ (for any $f \in \mathcal{F}$)

Other examples of theories

EXclusive Or

$$\begin{aligned}x \oplus (y \oplus z) &= (x \oplus y) \oplus z & x \oplus y &= y \oplus x \\x \oplus x &= 0 & x \oplus 0 &= x\end{aligned}$$

Diffie-Hellmann

$$\exp(\exp(z, x), y) = \exp(\exp(z, y), x)$$

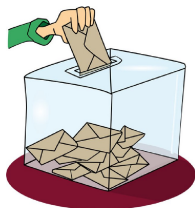
Public key encryption in ProVerif

```
fun pk(skey) : pkey.
```

```
fun aenc(bitstring, pkey) : bitstring.
```

```
reduc forall x : bitstring, y : skey ; adec(aenc(x,pk(y)),y) = x.
```

E-voting protocols



First phase :

$$V \rightarrow A : \text{sign}(\textit{blind}(\textit{vote}, r), V)$$

$$A \rightarrow V : \text{sign}(\textit{blind}(\textit{vote}, r), A)$$

Voting phase :

$$V \rightarrow C : \text{sign}(\textit{vote}, A)$$

...

Equational theory for blind signatures

[Kremer Ryan 05]

$$\begin{aligned}\text{checksign}(\text{sign}(x, y), \text{pk}(y)) &= x \\ \text{unblind}(\text{blind}(x, y), y) &= x \\ \text{unblind}(\text{sign}(\text{blind}(x, y), z), y) &= \text{sign}(x, z)\end{aligned}$$

Syntax for processes

The grammar of **processes** is as follows :

$$\begin{aligned} P, Q, R := & \\ & 0 \\ & \text{if } M_1 = M_2 \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \\ & \text{let } x = \text{Min } P \\ & \text{in}(c, x).P \\ & \text{out}(c, N).P \\ & \nu n.P \\ & P \mid Q \\ & !P \end{aligned}$$

Inspired from the applied-pi calculus [Abadi-Fournet]

Example : Needham-Schroeder protocol

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \\ B &\rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)} \\ A &\rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \end{aligned}$$

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We need to model **two** processes :

- ▶ one corresponding to the role of A
- ▶ one corresponding to the role of B

Role of A

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$$P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}_B, A, B, N_A) :=$$

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 $\text{in}(c, x).$

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if $N_A = \pi_1(z)$ then let $y = \pi_2(z)$ in

out(c , enca(y , pub_B))

Role of B

$A \rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$B \rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)}$

$A \rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}_A, A, B, N_B) :=$
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Role of B

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$\text{in}(c, z).$

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 $\text{out}(c, \text{enca}(\text{pair}(y, N_B), \text{pub}_A)).$

$\text{in}(c, z).$

if $\text{deca}(z, \text{priv}_B) = N_B$ then 0 else 0

Complete process

Then, the complete process representing the Needham-Schroeder protocol is :

$$P :=$$
$$\begin{aligned} &!(\nu N_A.P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_B), A, B, N_A)) \mid \\ &!(\nu N_B.P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A), A, B, N_B)) \end{aligned}$$

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$$P := \nu \text{priv}_A . \nu \text{priv}_B . \\ \text{out}(c, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A)).\text{out}(c, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_B)). \\ !(\nu N_A . P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_B), A, B, N_A)) \mid \\ !(\nu N_B . P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A), A, B, N_B))$$

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satisfied ?

Complete process - continued

Better :

$P :=$

$$\begin{aligned} & \nu \text{priv}_A . \nu \text{priv}_B . \nu \text{priv}_C . \\ & \text{out}(c, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A)).\text{out}(c, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_B)).\text{out}(c, \text{priv}_C). \\ & \quad !(\nu N_A . P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_B), A, B, N_A)) \mid \\ & \quad !(\nu N_A . P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_C), A, C, N_A)) \mid \\ & \quad !(\nu N_B . P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A), A, B, N_B)) \mid \\ & \quad !(\nu N_B . P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_C), C, B, N_B)) \end{aligned}$$

Complete process - continued

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and also

$$\begin{aligned} & !(\nu N_A . P_A(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_A), B, A, N_A)) \mid \\ & !(\nu N_A . P_A(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}(\text{priv}_C), B, C, N_A)) \mid \\ & \dots \end{aligned}$$

What to remember when modeling a protocol?

1. A process for each role of the protocol
 - ▶ identify the initial knowledge of the agent
(here, N_A , priv_A , pub_B , A , ...)
 - ▶ identify the values learned during the protocol, modeled with variables

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 - ▶ identify the public data, **should be sent to the network**
 - ▶ identify the private data of the corrupted agents

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 - ▶ identify the values learned during the protocol, modeled with variables

Don't think you're done !

2. Initial knowledge of the intruder
 - ▶ identify the public data, [should be sent to the network](#)
 - ▶ identify the private data of the corrupted agents
3. Finally, the complete process
 - ▶ put all the roles together
 - ▶ don't forget roles where an honest agent talks with a corrupted one !

How to express that a protocol is secure? (in ProVerif)

Secrecy

Pretty simple :

query attacker(s)

How to express authentication ?

→ a **correspondence property** : if B finishes a session, thinking he has talked to A with session nonce N_b , then A has also finished a session, thinking she has talked to B with session nonce N_b .

Syntax - enriched

$P, Q, R := 0$
if $M_1 = M_2$ then P else Q
 $\text{in}(c, x).P$
 $\text{out}(c, N).P$
 $\nu n.P$
 $!P$
 $\text{event}(p(u_1, \dots, u_n)).P$

where p is a predicate of arity n .

Example : Needham-Schroeder (continued)

Role of A - with events

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \\ B &\rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)} \\ A &\rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \end{aligned}$$

$P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}_B, A, B, N_A) :=$

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$\text{in}(c, x).$

$\text{let } (= N_A, y) = \text{deca}(x, \text{priv}_A) \text{ in}$
 $\text{out}(c, \text{enca}(y, \text{pub}_B))$

Role of A - with events

$$\begin{aligned} A &\rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \\ B &\rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)} \\ A &\rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)} \end{aligned}$$

$P_A(\text{priv}_A, \text{pub}_B, A, B, N_A) :=$

BeginA(A, B, N_A)

out(c, enca(pair(A, N_A), pub_B)).

in(c, x).

let (= N_A, y) = deca(x, priv_A) in

out(c, enca(y, pub_B))

EndA(A, B, y)

Role of B

$A \rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$B \rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)}$

$A \rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}_A, A, B, N_B) :=$

$\text{in}(c, x).$

$\text{let } (= A, y) = \text{deca}(x, \text{priv}_B) \text{ in}$

$\text{out}(c, \text{enca}(\text{pair}(y, N_B), \text{pub}_A)).$

$\text{in}(c, z).$

$\text{if } \text{deca}(z, \text{priv}_B) = N_B$

$\text{then } 0 \text{ else } 0$

Role of B

$A \rightarrow B : \{A, N_a\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$B \rightarrow A : \{N_a, N_b\}_{\text{pub}(A)}$

$A \rightarrow B : \{N_b\}_{\text{pub}(B)}$

$P_B(\text{priv}_B, \text{pub}_A, A, B, N_B) :=$

in(c, x).

let ($= A, y$) = deca(x, priv_B) in

BeginB(A, B, N_B)

out($c, \text{enca}(\text{pair}(y, N_B), \text{pub}_A)$).

in(c, z).

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Role of B

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Authentication properties :

$$\begin{aligned} \forall x \text{ EndB}(A, B, x) &\Rightarrow \text{BeginA}(A, B, x) \\ \forall x \text{ EndA}(A, B, x) &\Rightarrow \text{BeginB}(A, B, x) \end{aligned}$$

Part 3

Analysis : protocols as Horn clauses

How to analyse security protocols ?



Methodology

1. Proposing accurate models
 - ▶ symbolic models
 - ▶ cryptographic/computational models
2. Proving security
 - ▶ decidability/undecidability results
 - ▶ tools

Difficulty

Presence of an **attacker**

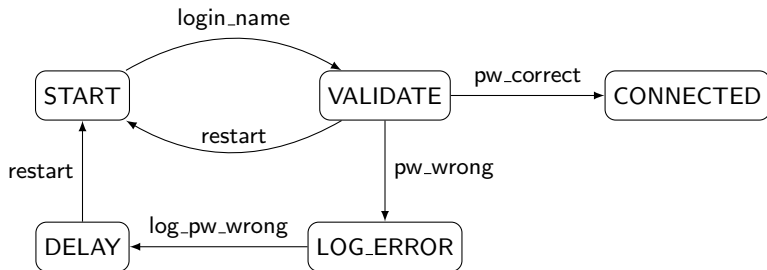
- ▶ may **read** every message sent on the net,
- ▶ may **intercept and send** new messages.

⇒ The system is infinitely branching

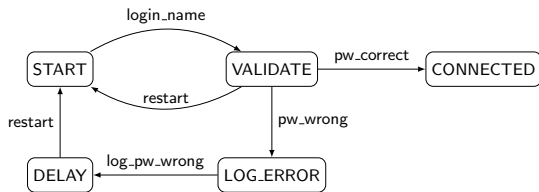


A first approach

Why not modeling security protocol using a (possibly extended) automata ?



How to model a security protocol ?



- ▶ The output of each participant **strongly depends on the data received inside the message.**
- ▶ At each step, a malicious user (called the adversary) may **create arbitrary messages.**
- ▶ The output of the adversary **strongly depends on the messages sent on the network.**

→ It is important to have a tight modeling of the messages.

Messages

Messages are abstracted by terms.

Agents : a, b, \dots

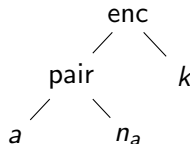
Nonces : n_1, n_2, \dots

Keys : k_1, k_2, \dots

Cyphertext : $\text{enc}(m, k)$ Concatenation : $\text{pair}(m_1, m_2)$

Example : The message $\{A, N_a\}_K$ is represented by :

$\text{enc}(\text{pair}(A, N_a), K)$



Intuition : only the structure of the message is kept.

A simple protocol



$\langle Alice, k \rangle$
→
 $\langle Bob, enc(s, k) \rangle$
←



A simple protocol



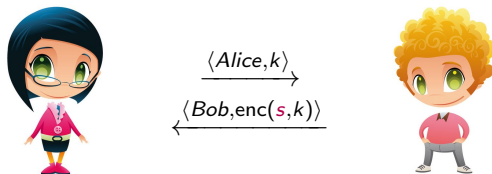
$\langle Alice, k \rangle$
 $\langle Bob, enc(s, k) \rangle$



Question?

Can the attacker learn the secret s ?

A simple protocol



Question ?

Can the attacker learn the secret s ?

Answer : Of course, **Yes** !

$$\frac{\frac{\langle Bob, enc(s, k) \rangle}{enc(s, k)}}{\frac{\langle Alice, k \rangle}{k}} = s$$

Intruder abilities

Composition rules

$$\frac{u \quad v}{\text{pair}(u, v)} \quad \frac{u \quad v}{\text{enc}(u, v)} \quad \frac{u \quad v}{\text{enca}(u, v)}$$



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Decomposition rules

$$\frac{- u \in T}{u} \quad \frac{\text{pair}(u, v)}{u} \quad \frac{\text{pair}(u, v)}{v}$$
$$\frac{\text{enc}(u, v) \quad v}{u} \quad \frac{\text{enca}(u, \text{pub}(v)) \quad \text{priv}(v)}{u}$$

Deducibility relation

Deducibility relation

A term u is **deducible** from a set of terms T , denoted by $T \vdash u$, if there exists a proof tree witnessing this fact.

Examples

$$S = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{enc}(\text{pair}(\text{pair}(a, k_3), k_4), \text{pair}(k_1, k_2)), \\ a, \\ k_1, \\ \text{enc}(k_3, \text{pair}(k_1, k_1)) \end{array} \right\}$$

$$S \stackrel{?}{\vdash} k_1,$$

Examples

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$$\frac{\frac{k_1 \quad k_1}{\text{pair}(k_1, k_1)} \quad \text{enc}(k_3, \text{pair}(k_1, k_1))}{k_3}}$$

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Examples

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Decision of the intruder problem

Given A set of messages S and a message m

Question Can the intruder learn m from S that is $S \vdash m$?

This problem is decidable in polynomial time. (left as exercise)

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If there is a proof of $S \vdash m$ then there is a proof that only uses the subterms of S and m .

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Induction hypothesis : If there is a (length minimal) proof of $S \vdash m$ then there is a proof that only uses the subterms of S and m ,

Moreover

If there is a (length minimal) proof of $S \vdash m$ that ends with a **decomposition rule** then there is a proof that only uses the subterms of S .

How to decide security in the active case?

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Easily encode two-counters machines, Post correspondence problem, etc (even for a passive adversary)

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 - ▶ tools : Avispa, Scyther (bounded and unbounded), ...
- ▶ **Unbounded number of sessions**
How to circumvent undecidability ?

How to model an unbounded number of sessions?

“For any x , if the agent A receives $\text{enc}(x, k_a)$ then A responds with x .”

→ Use of first-order logic.

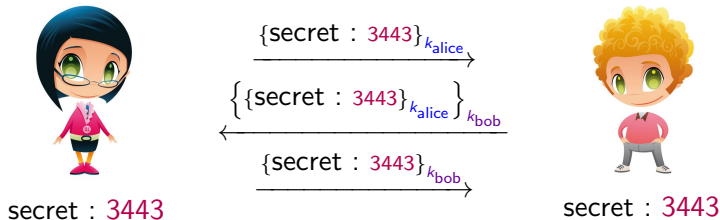
Intruder

Horn clauses perfectly reflects the attacker **symbolic manipulations** on terms.

$\forall x \forall y$	$I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\{x\}_y)$	encryption
$\forall x \forall y$	$I(\{x\}_y), I(y) \Rightarrow I(x)$	decryption
$\forall x \forall y$	$I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle)$	concatenation
$\forall x \forall y$	$I(\langle x, y \rangle) \Rightarrow I(x)$	first projection
$\forall x \forall y$	$I(\langle x, y \rangle) \Rightarrow I(y)$	second projection



Protocol as Horn clauses



Each **action of the protocol** is expressed by a logical implication.

$$\begin{aligned} & \Rightarrow I(\{\text{secret}\}_{k_a}) \\ \forall x \quad I(x) & \Rightarrow I(\{x\}_{k_b}) \\ \forall x \quad I(\{x\}_{k_a}) & \Rightarrow I(x) \end{aligned}$$

Security reduces to consistency



secure?



$$\forall x \forall y \quad I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle)$$

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Security reduces to consistency



secure?



$$\begin{aligned}\forall x \forall y \quad I(x), I(y) &\Rightarrow \neg I(\langle x, y \rangle) \\ \forall x \forall y \quad I(x), I(y) &\Rightarrow I(\{x\}_y) \\ \forall x \forall y \quad I(\{x\}_y), I(y) &\Rightarrow I(x) \\ \forall x \forall y \quad I(\langle x, y \rangle) &\Rightarrow I(x) \\ \forall x \forall y \quad I(\langle x, y \rangle) &\Rightarrow I(y)\end{aligned}$$

Does not yield a
contradiction ?

(i.e. consistent
theory ?)

$$\begin{aligned}\forall x \quad I(x) &\Rightarrow I(\{x\}_{k_a}) \\ \forall x \quad I(\{x\}_{k_a}) &\Rightarrow I(x)\end{aligned}$$

How to know if a set of formula is consistent?

Hilbert's program (1928)
"Entscheidung Problem"



David Hilbert

How to know if a set of formula is consistent ?

Hilbert's program (1928)
"Entscheidung Problem"



David Hilbert

It is undecidable! (1936)

→ There is no algorithm that answers
this question.



Alan Turing

(at a time with no computers)

Back to our business



secure?

All this for nothing?



$\neg I(\text{secret})$

$$\forall x \forall y \quad I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle)$$

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$$\forall x \forall y \quad I(\langle x, y \rangle) \Rightarrow I(y)$$

$$\forall x \quad I(x) \Rightarrow I(\{\text{secret}\}_{k_a})$$

$$\forall x \quad I(x) \Rightarrow I(\{x\}_{k_b})$$

$$\forall x \quad I(\{x\}_{k_a}) \Rightarrow I(x)$$

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(i.e. consistent theory?)

A standard technique : resolution

Idea : add logical consequences ...

$$\forall x P(x) \Rightarrow I(s(x))$$

$$\forall x I(x) \Rightarrow P(s(x))$$

$$P(0)$$

$$\neg I(s(s(s(0))))$$

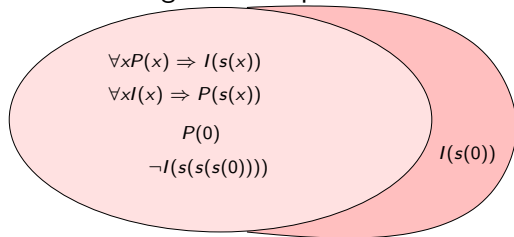
... until a contradiction is found.

We need a method (a strategy) which is :

- ▶ correct : adds formula that are indeed consequences
- ▶ complete : finds a contradiction (if it exists)
- ▶ in a finite number of steps (decidable fragment)

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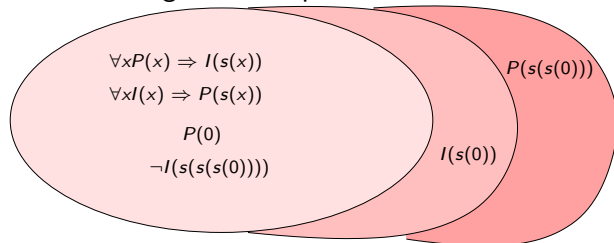
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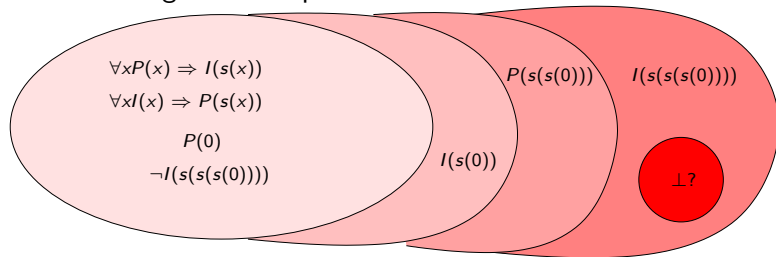
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Binary resolution

A, B are atoms and C, D are clauses.

An intuitive rule

$$\frac{A \Rightarrow C \quad A}{C}$$

In other words

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad A}{C}$$

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Generalizing

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B}{C\theta} \theta = mgu(A, B) \quad (\text{i.e. } A\theta = B\theta)$$

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Generalizing

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B}{C\theta} \theta = mgu(A, B) \quad (\text{i.e. } A\theta = B\theta)$$

Generalizing a bit more

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B \vee D}{C\theta \vee D\theta} \theta = mgu(A, B) \quad \text{Binary resolution}$$

Binary resolution and Factorization

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B \vee D}{C\theta \vee D\theta} \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B) \quad \text{Binary resolution}$$

$$\frac{A \vee B \vee C}{A\theta \vee C\theta} \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B) \quad \text{Factorisation}$$

Theorem (Soundness and Completeness [Robinson 1965])

*Binary resolution and factorisation are **sound and refutationally complete**,*

*i.e. a set of clauses C is **not** satisfiable if and only if \perp (the empty clause) can be obtained from C by binary resolution and factorisation.*

Exercise : Why do we need the factorisation rule?

Example

$$\mathcal{C} = \{ \neg I(s), \quad I(k_1), \quad I(\{s\}_{\langle k_1, k_1 \rangle}), \\ I(\{x\}_y), I(y) \Rightarrow I(x), \quad I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle) \}$$

$$\frac{\frac{I(\{s\}_{\langle k_1, k_1 \rangle}) \quad I(\{x\}_y), I(y) \Rightarrow I(x)}{I(\langle k_1, k_1 \rangle) \Rightarrow s} \quad \frac{I(k_1) \quad I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle)}{I(k_1) \quad I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle k_1, y \rangle)}}{\frac{\neg I(s) \quad I(s)}{\perp}}$$

But it is not terminating!

$$\frac{\frac{\frac{\frac{I(s) \quad I(x), I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle x, y \rangle)}{I(s) \quad I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle s, y \rangle)}}{I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle s, y \rangle)}}{I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle s, y \rangle)} \quad \frac{I(s) \quad I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle s, y \rangle)}{I(\langle s, s \rangle)}}{I(\langle s, \langle s, s \rangle \rangle)} \quad \frac{I(y) \Rightarrow I(\langle s, y \rangle)}{I(\langle s, \langle s, s \rangle \rangle)}}{I(\langle s, \langle s, \langle s, s \rangle \rangle \rangle)} \\ \dots$$

→ This does not yield any decidability result.

Ordered Binary resolution and Factorization

Let $<$ be any order on clauses.

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B \vee D \quad \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B)}{C\theta \vee D\theta} \quad A\theta \not< C\theta \vee D\theta$$

Ordered binary resolution

$$\frac{A \vee B \vee C \quad \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B)}{A\theta \vee C\theta} \quad A\theta \not< C\theta$$

Ordered factorisation

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Ordered binary resolution

$$\frac{A \vee B \vee C}{A\theta \vee C\theta} \quad \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B) \quad A\theta \not< C\theta$$

Ordered factorisation

Theorem (Soundness and Completeness)

Ordered binary resolution and factorisation are sound and refutationally complete provided that $<$ is liftable

$$\forall A, B, \theta \quad A < B \Rightarrow A\theta < B\theta$$

Examples of liftable orders

$$\forall A, B, \theta \quad A < B \Rightarrow A\theta < B\theta$$

First example : subterm order

$P(t_1, \dots, t_n) < Q(u_1, \dots, u_k)$ iff any t_i is a subterm of u_1, \dots, u_k

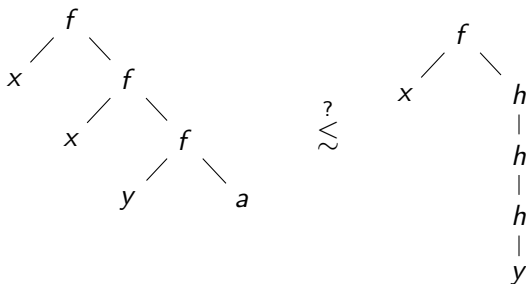
→ extended to clauses as follows : $C_1 < C_2$ iff any literal of C_1 is smaller than some literal of C_2 .

Exercise : Show that \mathcal{C} is not satisfiable by **ordered resolution (and factorisation)**.

Examples of liftable orders - continued

Second example : $P(t_1, \dots, t_n) \lesssim Q(u_1, \dots, u_k)$ iff

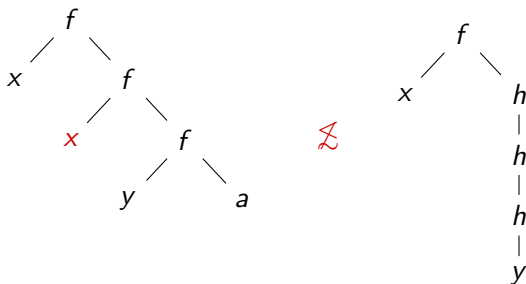
1. $\text{depth}(P(t_1, \dots, t_n)) \leq \text{depth}(Q(u_1, \dots, u_k))$
2. For any variable x ,
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Examples of liftable orders - continued

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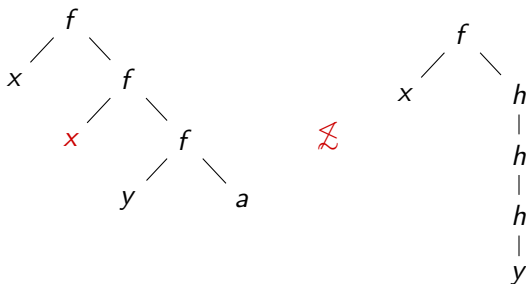
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2. For any variable x ,
 $\text{depth}_x(P(t_1, \dots, t_n)) \leq \text{depth}_x(Q(u_1, \dots, u_k))$



Exercise : Show that $\forall A, B, \theta \quad A \lesssim B \Rightarrow A\theta \lesssim B\theta$

Back to protocols

Intruder clauses are of the form

$$\pm I(f(x_1, \dots, x_n)), \pm I(x_i), \pm I(x_j)$$

Protocol clauses

$$\Rightarrow I(\{\text{pin}\}_{k_a})$$

$$I(x) \Rightarrow I(\{x\}_{k_b})$$

$$I(\{x\}_{k_a}) \Rightarrow I(x)$$

At most one variable per clause!

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Theorem ([Comon, C. 2003])

Given a set \mathcal{C} of clauses such that each clause of \mathcal{C}

- ▶ either contains at most one variable
- ▶ or is of the form $\pm I(f(x_1, \dots, x_n)), \pm I(x_i), \pm I(x_j)$

Then ordered (\lesssim) binary resolution and factorisation is terminating.

Decidability for an unbounded number of sessions

Corollary

For any protocol that can be encoded with clauses of the previous form, then checking secrecy is decidable.

But how to deal with protocols that need more than one variable per clause?

Developed by Bruno Blanchet, Paris, France.

- ▶ No restriction on the clauses
- ▶ Implements a **sound semi-decision procedure** (that may not terminate).
- ▶ Based on a resolution strategy **well adapted to protocols**.
- ▶ **performs very well in practice!**
 - ▶ Works on **most of existing protocols** in the literature
 - ▶ Is also used on **industrial protocols** (e.g. certified email protocol, JFK, Plutus filesystem)

Resolution strategy with selection

Definition

A **selection function** is any function sel such that $sel(H \Rightarrow C) \subseteq H$.

$$\frac{\neg A \vee C \quad B \vee D}{C\theta \vee D\theta} \quad \begin{array}{l} \theta = \text{mgu}(A, B) \\ A \in sel(\neg A \vee C) \text{ or } sel(\neg A \vee C) = \emptyset \\ sel(B \vee D) = \emptyset \end{array}$$

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Theorem ([Bachmair, Ganziger 1992])

Resolution and factorisation with selection are sound and refutationally complete for any selection function.

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which ones?

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False attacks

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Better :

$$\forall x \quad I(x) \Rightarrow I(\{x\}_{k_b(x)})$$

(but still an over-approximation.)

Conclusion

Formal methods form a powerful approach for analyzing security protocols

- ▶ Makes use of classical techniques in formal methods : term algebra, equational theories, clauses and resolution techniques, tree automata, etc.
⇒ Many decision procedures
- ▶ Several automatic tools
 - ▶ For successfully detecting attacks on protocols (e.g. Casper, Avispa)
 - ▶ For proving security for an arbitrary number of sessions (e.g. ProVerif)
- ▶ Provides cryptographic guarantees under classical assumptions on the implementation of the primitives

Some current directions of research

Enriching the symbolic model

- ▶ Considering more equational theories (e.g. theories for e-voting protocols)
- ▶ Adding more complex structures for data (list, XML, ...)
- ▶ Considering recursive protocols (e.g. group protocol) where the number of message exchanges in a session is not fixed
- ▶ Proving more complex security properties like equivalence-based properties (e.g. for anonymity or e-voting protocols)

Some bibliographical references (1/2)

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Formal Models and Techniques for Analyzing Security Protocols.
Cryptography and Information Security Series 5, IOS Press, 2011.

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