

# Modelling and verifying e-voting protocols in applied-pi calculus

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LSV, ENS Cachan & CNRS & INRIA Saclay Île-de-France,

Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September

**Lecture 1:** Introduction to protocol analysis in applied pi  
→ today

**Lecture 2:** Formalisation and verification of security properties

**Part I:** Privacy-type properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan)

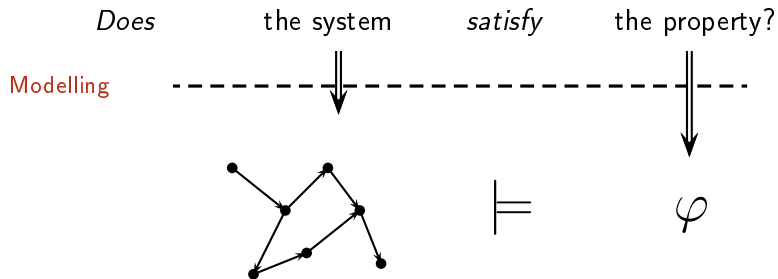
**Part II:** Verifiability properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan and B. Smyth)

→ on Friday

# Part I

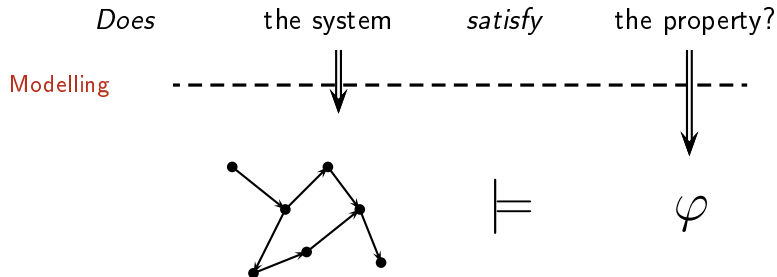
## Formal methods and security protocols

# Formal methods for system verification



Major successes: formal methods in hardware design, software model-checking of drivers, static analysis of large scale embedded systems, ...

# Formal methods for system verification



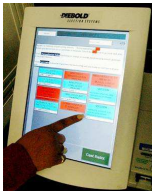
## 2007 Turing award for Computer aided verification

To Clarke, Emerson and Sifakis: *For their role in developing Model-Checking into a highly effective verification technology, widely adopted in the hardware and software industries.*

# Cryptographic protocols everywhere!



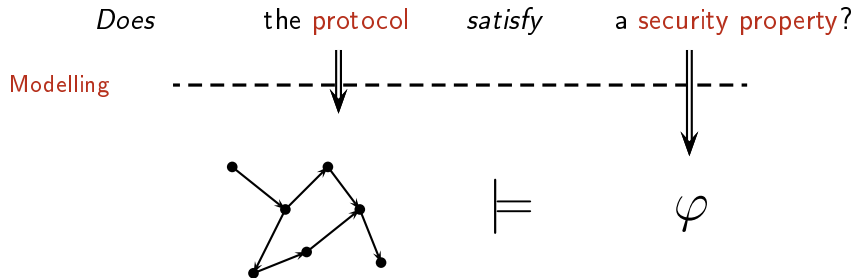
Indicates  
Secure  
Session



Cryptographic protocol:

a **distributed** program which uses **cryptographic primitives** (e.g. encryption, digital signatures, ...) to ensure a **security property** (e.g. confidentiality, authentication, anonymity, ...)

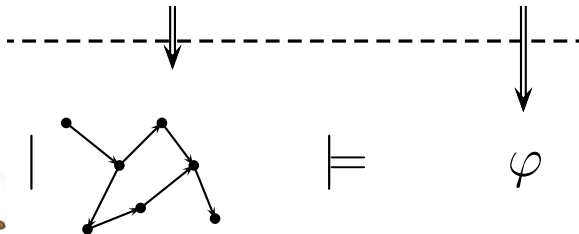
# Formal methods for protocol verification



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Does the protocol satisfy a security property?

Modelling



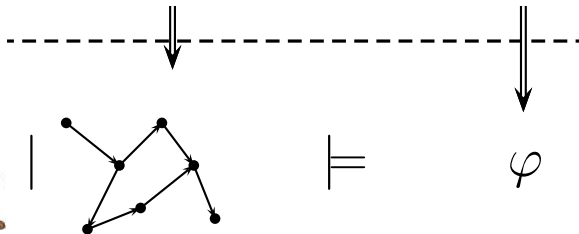
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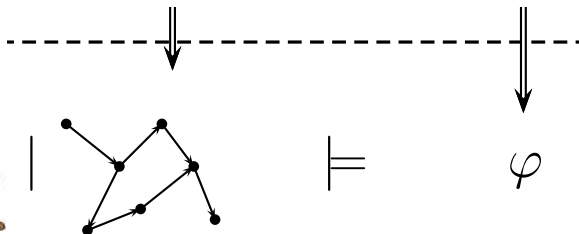


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- in this talk: protocols are modelled in the **applied pi calculus**

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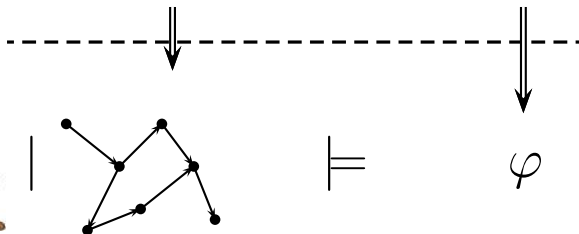


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- attackers are **any process** which can be written in the applied pi calculus

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Does the protocol satisfy a security property?

Modelling



- protocol is executed in **adversarial environment**
- in this talk: protocols are modelled in the **applied pi calculus**
- attackers are **any process** which can be written in the applied pi calculus
- partial automation using the verification tool **ProVerif**

# The Needham-Schroeder public key protocol (1978)



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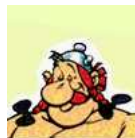
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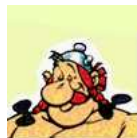
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*INIT*  $\hat{=}$

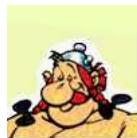
$\text{in}(c, xpkb). \nu na.$   
 $\text{out}(c, \text{aenc}(\langle \text{pk}(ska), na \rangle, xpkb)).$   
 $\text{in}(c, x).$   
if  $\text{fst}(\text{adec}(x, ska)) = na$  then  
let  $xnb = \text{snd}(\text{adec}(x, ska))$  in  
 $\text{out}(c, \text{aenc}(xnb, xpkb)).0$

*RESP*  $\hat{=}$

$\text{in}(c, y)$   
let  $ypka = \text{fst}(\text{adec}(y, skb))$  in  
let  $yna = \text{snd}(\text{adec}(y, skb))$  in  
 $\nu nb. \text{out}(c, \text{aenc}(\langle yna, nb \rangle, ypka))$   
 $\text{in}(c, z).$   
if  $\text{adec}(z, skb) = nb$  then  $P$

$NSPK \hat{=} \nu ska. \text{out}(\text{pk}(ska)). !INIT \quad | \quad \nu skb. \text{out}(\text{pk}(skb)). !RESP$

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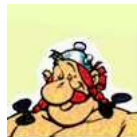

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## Questions

- Is  $N_b$  a shared secret between  $A$  and  $B$ ?
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An **attack** was found **17 years** after its publication!

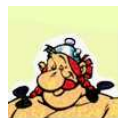
# A Man-in-the-middle attack



Agent A



Intruder I



Agent B

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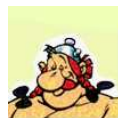


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$\{N_a, A\}_{\text{pub}(I)}$



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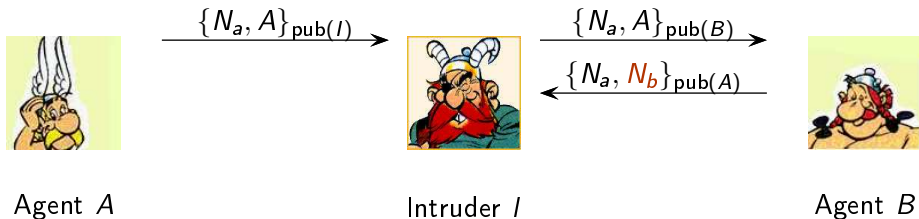
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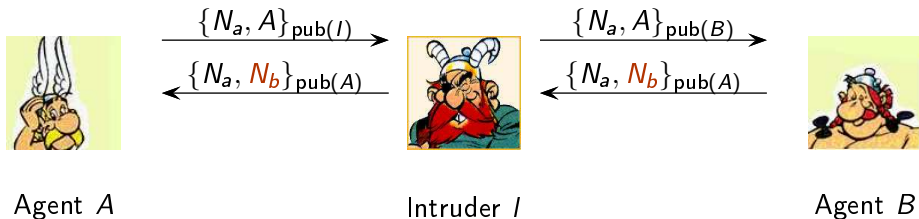
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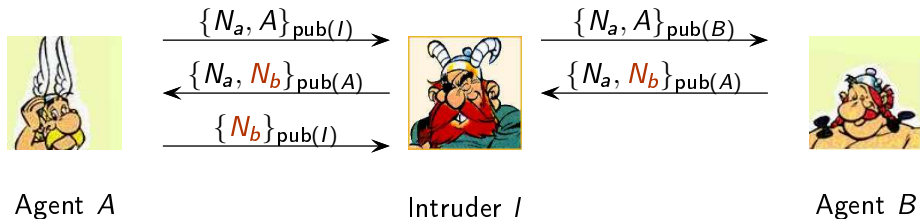
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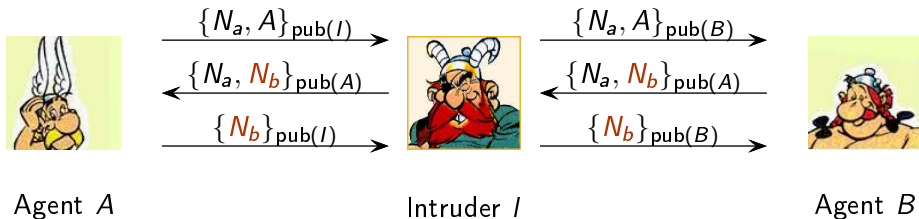
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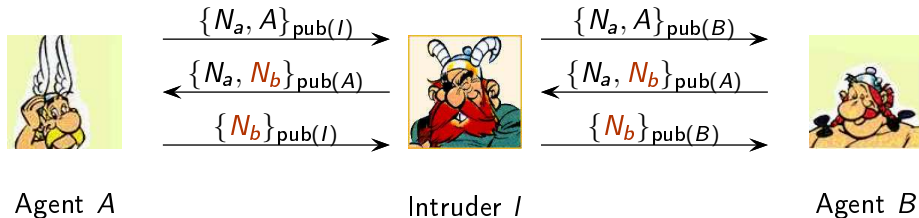
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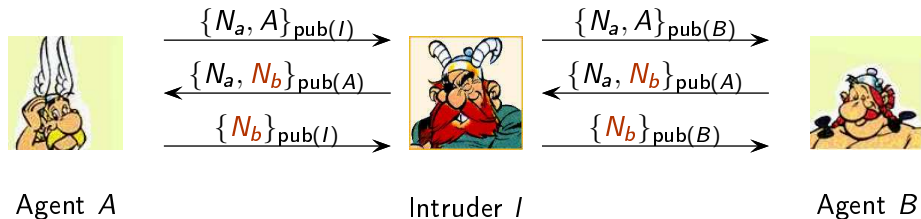
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## Answers

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↪ No

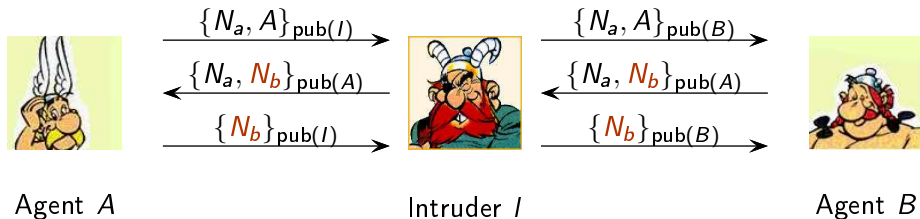
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**Remark :** Crypto has not been broken  
↪ Attack on the protocol logic

## Part II

# The applied pi calculus

# Motivation for using the applied $\pi$ -calculus

Applied pi-calculus: [Abadi & Fournet, 01]

basic programming language with constructs for **concurrency** and **communication**

- based on the  $\pi$ -calculus [Milner *et al.*, 92]
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Advantages:

- allows us to model **less classical** cryptographic **primitives**
- both **reachability** and **equivalence**-based specification of properties
- **automated proofs** using ProVerif tool [Blanchet]
- **powerful proof techniques** for hand proofs
- successfully used to analyze a **variety** of security protocols

# Modelling messages as terms

**First order terms** built over a **signature**  $\mathcal{F}$  (finite set of function symbols), an infinite set of **names** and an infinite set of **variables**

$t$	$::=$	term
	$x$	variable $x$
	$n$	name $n$
	$f(t_1, \dots, t_k)$	application of symbol $f \in \mathcal{F}$

**Example:** Let  $\mathcal{F} = \{\text{enc}(\cdot, \cdot), \text{dec}(\cdot, \cdot), \langle \cdot, \cdot \rangle, \pi_1(\cdot), \pi_2(\cdot)\}$ .

$\text{enc}(\langle s_1, a \rangle, k)$     $\text{dec}(\text{enc}(x, y), y)$     $\pi_1(\text{enc}(s, k))$

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Term algebra is equipped with an **equational theory** induced by a finite set of equations

**Example:** Define  $E$  by  $\text{dec}(\text{enc}(x, y), y) = x$ ,  $\pi_1(\langle x, y \rangle) = x$ ,  
 $\pi_2(\langle x, y \rangle) = y$

Then we have that  $\pi_1 \text{dec}(\text{enc}(\langle s_1, a \rangle, k)) =_E s$ .



# The applied $\pi$ -calculus on an example

Syntax:

$$P = \nu s, k. (\text{out}(c_1, \text{enc}(s, k)) \mid \text{in}(c_1, y). \text{out}(c_2, \text{dec}(y, k))).$$

Special processes: active substitutions  $P \mid \{M/x\}$

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Semantics:

- Operational semantics  $\rightarrow$ : closed by **structural equivalence** ( $\equiv$ ) and application of **evaluation contexts** such that

Comm	$\text{out}(a, x).P \mid \text{in}(a, x).Q \rightarrow P \mid Q$
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Example:  $P \rightarrow \nu s, k. \text{out}(c_2, s)$

# The applied $\pi$ -calculus on an example (2)

- Labeled operational semantics  $\xrightarrow{\alpha}$

**Labelled transitions** where  $\alpha$  is either  $\text{in}(c, M)$ ,  $(\nu c').\text{out}(c, c')$  or  $(\nu x).\text{out}(c, x)$

**Example:**

$$\nu a, \nu k.\text{out}(c, \text{enc}(a, k)).P \xrightarrow{\nu x.\text{out}(c, x)} P \mid \{\text{enc}(a, k) / x\}$$

Allows processes to communicate with an unspecified environment

Output is done **by reference** and creates **active substitutions**

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- **Frames**

The **frame** of a process  $\phi(A)$  is build from the process restrictions and active substitutions

Approximation of the process accounting for the static knowledge exposed to the environment

# Deducing secrets

## Frame

A frame is a process of the form  $\nu\tilde{n}.\{\{M_1/x_1\} \mid \dots \mid \{M_n/x_n\}\}$ .

## Example

$$P = \nu s, k.(\text{out}(c_2, s) \mid \{\text{enc}(s, k)/x_1\}) \quad \phi(P) = \nu s, k.\{\text{enc}(s, k)/x_1\}$$

## Deducibility ( $\vdash$ )

$\varphi \vdash s$  when

- there exists  $M$ , such that  $M\sigma =_E t$ , where  $\varphi = \nu\tilde{n}.\sigma$  and  $M$  does not use the names  $\tilde{n}$

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Example 1:  $\nu s, \nu k.(\{\text{enc}(s, k)/x\} \mid \{k/y\}) \vdash s$

as  $\text{dec}(x, y)\sigma = \text{dec}(\text{enc}(s, k), k) =_E s$ .

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Example 2:

$$\nu a.\nu k.\{\text{enc}(a, k)/x\} \not\vdash a$$



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A process  $P$  ensures the secret of  $s$  if for any  $P'$  such that  $P \xrightarrow{(\alpha)} *P'$  we have that  $\phi(P') \not\vdash s$ .

## Static equivalence on frames ( $\approx_s$ )

$\varphi \approx_s \psi$  when

- $dom(\varphi) = dom(\psi)$  (the frames coincide on unrestricted variables),
- for all terms  $U, V$ ,  $(U =_E V)\varphi$  iff  $(U =_E V)\psi$

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**Example 2:**  $\nu k.\{enc(a,k)/x\} \approx_s \nu k.\{enc(b,k)/x\}$

Formalizes the idea that an attacker cannot **distinguish** two frames

# Equivalence of processes

## Testing equivalence ( $P \approx_t Q$ )

for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ , we have that:

$$C[P] \Downarrow c \text{ if, and only if, } C[Q] \Downarrow c.$$

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

Intuition:

An adversary cannot distinguish two processes, even if it can arbitrarily interact with them

Usefull for modelling privacy properties: more on this on Friday in Stéphanie's talk

## Part III

# Analysing the protocol by Fujioka, Okamoto, Ohta

[KremerRyan '05]

- Anonymous channels

- Implemented using MixNets, Onion Routing, ...

- Commitment

- To commit to  $m$ , I invent a new random  $r$  and send you  $\text{commit}(m, r)$ .
- Later, I'll send you  $r$ , which you can use to reveal  $m$ .
- **It is binding**: one cannot find  $r'$ , such that the commitment opens correctly to  $m'$

- Blind signatures

- I want you to sign  $m$  but **I don't want you to see its value**.
- I send you  $\text{blind}(m, r)$ . You sign it.
- I use  $r$  to extract your signature on  $m$ .



## Part 1



Voter V

$$x = \text{commit}(v, r)$$

$$e = \text{blind}(x, b)$$

$$V \longrightarrow A : \sigma_V(e)$$

check V is legitimate

$$A \longrightarrow V : \sigma_A(e)$$

$$\text{unblind}(\sigma_A(e), b) = \sigma_A(x)$$


Admin A

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check V is legitimate

$$A \longrightarrow V : \sigma_A(e)$$

$$\text{unblind}(\sigma_A(e), b) = \sigma_A(x)$$


Admin A

## Part 2



Voter V

$$V \longrightarrow C : \sigma_A(x)$$
enter  $(\ell, \sigma_A(x))$  into list

Collector C

## Part 1



Voter V

$$x = \text{commit}(v, r)$$

$$e = \text{blind}(x, b)$$

$$V \longrightarrow A : \sigma_V(e)$$

check V is legitimate

$$A \longrightarrow V : \sigma_A(e)$$

$$\text{unblind}(\sigma_A(e), b) = \sigma_A(x)$$


Admin A

## Part 2



Voter V

$$V \longrightarrow C : \sigma_A(x)$$
enter  $(\ell, \sigma_A(x))$  into list

Collector C

## Part 3



Voter V

$$V \longrightarrow C$$
publish list  $(\ell_i, \sigma_A(x_i))$ :  $\ell_i, r$ open  $x$  using  $r$ publish  $v$ 

Collector C

# Signature and equational theory

## Signature

<code>commit/2.</code>	<i>commitment</i>
<code>open/2.</code>	<i>open commitment</i>
<code>sign/2.</code>	<i>digital signature</i>
<code>checksign/2.</code>	<i>open digital signature</i>
<code>pk/1.</code>	<i>get public key from private key</i>
<code>host/1.</code>	<i>get host from public key</i>
<code>getpk/1.</code>	<i>get public key from host</i>
<code>blind/2.</code>	<i>blinding</i>
<code>unblind/2.</code>	<i>undo blinding</i>

## Equational theory

<code>open(commit(m,r),r)</code>	<code>=</code>	<code>m.</code>
<code>getpk(host(pubkey))</code>	<code>=</code>	<code>pubkey.</code>
<code>checksign(sign(m,sk),pk(sk))</code>	<code>=</code>	<code>m.</code>
<code>unblind(blind(m,r),r)</code>	<code>=</code>	<code>m.</code>
<code>unblind(sign(blind(m,r),sk),r)</code>	<code>=</code>	<code>sign(m,sk).</code>

- ascii version of applied  $\pi$ -calculus (input to ProVerif tool)
- Hypothesis: All channels are anonymous, unless identification is explicitly given in the message

```
processV =
new blinder; new r;
let blindedcommittedvote=blind(commit(v,r),blinder) in
out(ch,(hostv,sign(blindedcommittedvote,skv)));
in(ch,m2);
let blindedcommittedvote0=checksign(m2,pka) in
if blindedcommittedvote0=blindedcommittedvote then
let signedcommittedvote=unblind(m2,blinder) in
out(ch,signedcommittedvote);
in(ch,(l,=signedcommittedvote));
out(ch,(l,r)).
```

# The other processes

- Admin and collector processes similar
- Main process puts everything together:

```
new ska; new skv;  
new privCh;  
let pka=pk(ska) in  
let hosta = host(pka) in  
let pkv=pk(skV) in  
let hostv=host(pkv) in  
out(ch,pka); out(ch,hosta);  
out(ch,pkv); out(ch,hostv);  
((out(privCh,pkv); out(privCh,pk(ski))) |  
(!processV) | (!processA) | (!processC))
```

# Blanchet's ProVerif tool

- Designed and implemented by Bruno Blanchet  
<http://www.proverif.ens.fr/>
- Input is given in the **applied  $\pi$ -calculus**
- Expressive: can model **algebraic properties** of the crypto, via rewrite rules and equations
- Analyses **secrecy/reachability properties** of protocols as well as **equivalence properties**
- Applied  $\pi$ -calculus is translated into **Horn clauses**, describing acquisition of knowledge by the attacker
- **Unbounded** number of sessions
- Sound, but not complete (**false attacks** are possible)
- **Termination** not guaranteed

Fairness ensures that you cannot obtain **exit polls**, i.e. **early results**

Can be modeled as a **secrecy property**: the vote of a honest voter stays secret **until the opening phase**

Even a **corrupt administrator** cannot learn votes : modeled by **outputting the admin's private key**

No need for a corrupt collector (collector never uses his private key)

Proofs **automated** by ProVerif



# Fairness using stronger notions of secrecy

Modeling fairness as deducibility may be **too weak**

Only **few possible values** for votes make elections particularly vulnerable to **offline guessing attacks**, aka **dictionary attacks**

**Example:**  $\varphi = \{enc(v, pk) / x\}$  where  $v \in \{0, 1\}$

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**Example:**  $\varphi = \{enc(v, pk) / x\}$  where  $v \in \{0, 1\}$

Offline guessing attacks can be modelled using static equivalence

$$\nu v.(\varphi \mid \{v / x\}) \approx_s \nu v.(\varphi \mid \nu v'.\{v' / x\})$$

**Intuition:**

the attacker cannot distinguish the **right guess**  $v$  from a **wrong guess**  $v'$

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We can verify an even stronger property: **strong secrecy** [Blanchet'04]

$$\forall M, N. \quad P\{M / v\} \approx_o P\{N / v\}$$

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$$\forall M, N. \quad P\{M / v\} \approx_o P\{N / v\}$$

All of these properties have been **automatically checked using ProVerif**

- Only legitimate voters can vote and only once
- Do not register intruder and require to vote a challenge vote

```
Modified collector  
[...]  
new attack;  
if voteV=challengeVote then  
    out(ch, attack)  
else  
    out(ch, voteV).
```

- Proof done by ProVerif
- Corrupt administrator: trivial attack found by Proverif

**Lecture 1:** Introduction to protocol analysis in applied pi  
→ today

**Lecture 2:** Formalisation and verification of security properties

**Part I:** Privacy-type properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan)

**Part II:** Verifiability properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan and B. Smyth)

→ on Friday

## Lecture 2: Formalisation and verification of security properties

Part I: Privacy-type properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan)

Stéphanie Delaune

Part II: Verifiability properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan and B. Smyth)

Steve Kremer

# Privacy-type security properties

**Privacy:** the fact that a particular voter voted in a particular way is not revealed to anyone



**Receipt-freeness:** a voter cannot prove that she voted in a certain way (this is important to protect voters from coercion)

**Coercion-resistance:** same as receipt-freeness, but the coercer interacts with the voter during the protocol, (*e.g.* by preparing messages)



# How can we express privacy?

Classically modeled as an **equivalence** between **two slightly different processes**  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ .

In applied pi calculus, such an equivalence can be:

- 1 Testing equivalence ( $P_1 \approx_t P_2$ )
- 2 Observational equivalence ( $P_1 \approx_o P_2$ )

# Testing equivalence

## Testing equivalence ( $P \approx_t Q$ )

for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ , we have that:

$C[P] \Downarrow c$  if, and only if,  $C[Q] \Downarrow c$ .

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

## Testing equivalence ( $P \approx_t Q$ )

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Example 1:  $\text{out}(a, s) \not\approx_t \text{out}(a, s')$

→  $C[\_] = \text{in}(a, x).\text{if } x = s \text{ then out}(c, \text{ok}) \mid \_$

## Testing equivalence ( $P \approx_t Q$ )

for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ , we have that:

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

Example 2:

$$\begin{aligned} & \nu s. \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k)). \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k')) \\ & \quad \not\approx_t \\ & \nu s, s'. \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k)). \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s', k')) \end{aligned}$$

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for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ , we have that:

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Example 2:

$$\begin{aligned} & \nu s. \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k)).\text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k')) \\ & \quad \not\approx_t \\ & \nu s, s'. \text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s, k)).\text{out}(a, \text{enc}(s', k')) \end{aligned}$$

→  $C[\_] = \text{in}(a, x).\text{in}(a, y).\text{if}(\text{dec}(x, k) = \text{dec}(y, k')) \text{ then } \text{out}(c, \text{ok}) \mid \_$

## Testing equivalence ( $P \approx_t Q$ )

for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ , we have that:

$C[P] \Downarrow c$  if, and only if,  $C[Q] \Downarrow c$ .

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

Example 3:  $\nu s.out(a, s) \approx_t \nu s.\nu k.out(a, enc(s, k))$

## Observational equivalence ( $\approx_o$ )

The largest symmetric relation  $\mathcal{R}$  on processes such that  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  implies

- 1 if  $P \Downarrow c$ , then  $Q \Downarrow c$ ,
- 2 if  $P \rightarrow^* P'$ , then  $Q \rightarrow^* Q'$  and  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$  for some  $Q'$ ,
- 3  $C[A] \mathcal{R} C[B]$  for all closing evaluation contexts  $C[\_]$ .



# Observational equivalence

## Observational equivalence ( $\approx_o$ )

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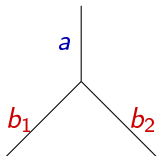
## Lemma

We have that:  $P \approx_o Q \implies P \approx_t Q$

# May testing vs observational equivalence

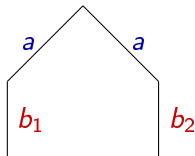
In general, testing equivalence does not imply observational equivalence.

Example:



Process  $P$

$\text{out}(c, a).(\text{out}(c, b_1) + \text{out}(c, b_2))$



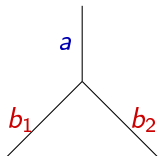
Process  $Q$

$\text{out}(c, a).\text{out}(c, b_1) + \text{out}(c, a).\text{out}(c, b_2)$

# May testing vs observational equivalence

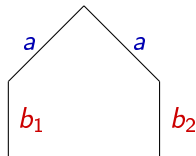
In general, testing equivalence does not imply observational equivalence.

Example:



Process  $P$

$\text{out}(c, a).(\text{out}(c, b_1) + \text{out}(c, b_2))$



Process  $Q$

$\text{out}(c, a).\text{out}(c, b_1) + \text{out}(c, a).\text{out}(c, b_2)$

$\approx_t = \approx_o ?$

On **determinate** processes, the two notions coincide.



## Formalising Privacy

# Formalisation of privacy

Classically modeled as **equivalences** between two slightly different processes  $P_1$  and  $P_2$ , but

- changing the **identity**

$$S[V_A\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V_B\{^a/v\}]$$

does not work, as **identities are revealed**

- changing the **vote**

$$S[V_A\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V_A\{^b/v\}]$$

does not work, as the **votes are revealed** at the end

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- changing the **vote**

$$S[V_A\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V_A\{^b/v\}]$$

does not work, as the **votes are revealed** at the end

## Solution

Consider 2 honest voters and **swap** their votes.

# Formal Definition of privacy

Definition (S. Kremer & M. Ryan, 2005)

A voting protocol respects **privacy** if

$$S[V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^b/v\}] \approx S[V_A\{^b/v\} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}].$$

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A voting protocol respects **privacy** if

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Some remarks

- **robust** in case of an unanimous scrutin
- **flexible** w.r.t. authorities required to be honest

**Limitation:** This definition does not say anything about the privacy of a voter who wants to nullify her vote.



# Example 1

## Voter process

$$V = \text{out}(ch, \{v\}_{\text{pub}(S)})$$

What about **privacy**?

$$V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^b/v\} \stackrel{?}{\approx} V_A\{^b/v\} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}$$

# Example 1

## Voter process

$$V = \text{out}(ch, \{v\}_{\text{pub}(S)})$$

What about *privacy*?

$$V_A\{a/v\} \mid V_B\{b/v\} \stackrel{?}{\approx} V_A\{b/v\} \mid V_B\{a/v\}$$

*i.e.*

$$\text{out}(ch, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \mid \text{out}(ch, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \stackrel{?}{\approx} \text{out}(ch, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \mid \text{out}(ch, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)})$$

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*i.e.*

$$\text{out}(ch, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \mid \text{out}(ch, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \stackrel{?}{\approx} \text{out}(ch, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)}) \mid \text{out}(ch, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)})$$

→ The equivalence **holds**.

Some remarks:

- $ch$  is assumed to be an **anonymous** channel;
- the server is **not** assumed to be **honest**.

## Example 2

### Voter process

$$V(Id) = \text{out}(ch, \langle Id, \{v\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle)$$

What about **privacy** (for someone who does not know  $\text{priv}(S)$ )?

$$V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^b/v\} \stackrel{?}{\approx} V_A\{^b/v\} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}$$

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### Voter process

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*i.e.*

$$\text{out}(ch, \langle A, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \mid \text{out}(ch, \langle B, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \stackrel{?}{\approx}$$

$$\text{out}(ch, \langle A, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \mid \text{out}(ch, \langle B, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle)$$

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### Voter process

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$$V_A\{a/v\} \mid V_B\{b/v\} \stackrel{?}{\approx} V_A\{b/v\} \mid V_B\{a/v\}$$

*i.e.*

$$\text{out}(ch, \langle A, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \mid \text{out}(ch, \langle B, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \stackrel{?}{\approx}$$

$$\text{out}(ch, \langle A, \{b\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle) \mid \text{out}(ch, \langle B, \{a\}_{\text{pub}(S)} \rangle)$$

→ The equivalence **does not hold** (with deterministic encryption).

→ The equivalence **holds** with probabilistic encryption.

# Example: Fujioka *et al.* protocol (1992)

## First Phase:

the voter gets a “token” from the administrator.

1.  $V \rightarrow A$  :  $V, \text{sign}(\text{blind}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), b), V)$
2.  $A \rightarrow V$  :  $\text{sign}(\text{blind}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), b), A)$

## Voting phase:

3.  $V \rightarrow C$  :  $\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), \text{sign}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), A)$
4.  $C \rightarrow$  :  $I, \text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), \text{sign}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), A)$

## Counting phase:

5.  $V \rightarrow C$  :  $I, r$
6.  $C$  publishes the outcome of the vote

What about **privacy**?

$$V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^b/v\} \approx V_A\{^b/v\} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}$$

## Example: Fujioka *et al.* protocol (1992)

**Process synchronisation:** the protocol is divided into 3 phases  
→ synchronisation is **crucial** for privacy to hold.



## Example: Fujioka *et al.* protocol (1992)

**Process synchronisation:** the protocol is divided into 3 phases  
→ synchronisation is **crucial** for privacy to hold.

**Authorities:** privacy holds even if the authorities are **corrupted**

- we do not require any private keys to be secret;
- we have just to ensure that both voters use the **same public key** for the administrator.



## Receipt-freeness: Leaking secrets to the coercer

To model **receipt-freeness** we need to specify that a coerced voter cooperates with the coercer by **leaking secrets** on a channel  $ch$

We denote by  $V^{ch}$  the process built from the process  $V$  as follows:

- $0^{ch} \hat{=} 0$ ,
- $(P \mid Q)^{ch} \hat{=} P^{ch} \mid Q^{ch}$ ,
- $(\nu n.P)^{ch} \hat{=} \nu n.\text{out}(ch, n).P^{ch}$ ,
- $(\text{in}(u, x).P)^{ch} \hat{=} \text{in}(u, x).\text{out}(ch, x).P^{ch}$ ,
- $(\text{out}(u, M).P)^{ch} \hat{=} \text{out}(u, M).P^{ch}$ ,
- ...

We denote by  $V \setminus \text{out}(ch, \cdot) \hat{=} \nu ch.(V \mid \text{in}(ch, x))$ .

Definition (S. Delaune, S. Kremer & M. Ryan, 2006)

A voting protocol is **receipt-free** if there exists a process  $V'$ , satisfying

- $V' \setminus \text{out}(chc, \cdot) \approx V_A\{^a/v\}$ ,
- $S[V_A\{^c/v\}^{chc} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V' \mid V_B\{^c/v\}]$ .

## Definition (S. Delaune, S. Kremer & M. Ryan, 2006)

A voting protocol is **receipt-free** if there exists a process  $V'$ , satisfying

- $V' \setminus \text{out}(\text{chc}, \cdot) \approx V_A\{^a/v\}$ ,
- $S[V_A\{^c/v\}^{\text{chc}} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V' \mid V_B\{^c/v\}]$ .

### Limitations:

- This definition does not take into account **randomization** and **forced-abstention attacks**.

# Example 1

## Voter process

$$V = \text{out}(ch, \{v\}_{\text{pub}(S)})$$

What about receipt-freeness?

*i.e.* Does there exist  $V'$  such that

- 1  $V' \setminus \text{out}(ch, \cdot) \approx V_A\{a/v\}$ ,
- 2  $V_A\{c/v\}^{chc} \mid V_B\{a/v\} \approx V' \mid V_B\{c/v\}$ .

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- 2  $V_A\{^c/v\}^{chc} \mid V_B\{^a/v\} \approx V' \mid V_B\{^c/v\}$ .

The process  $V_A\{^a/v\}$  satisfies the two requirements.

- 1  $V_A\{^a/v\} \setminus \text{out}(chc, \cdot) \approx V_A\{^a/v\}$ ,
- 2  $V_A\{^c/v\}^{chc} \mid V_B\{^a/v\} \approx V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^c/v\}$ .

→ Receipt-freeness **holds**.

## Example 2 (with probabilistic encryption)

### Voter process

$$V(Id) = \nu r.out(ch, \langle Id, \{v\}_{pub(s)}^r \rangle)$$

What about receipt-freeness?



## Example 2 (with probabilistic encryption)

### Voter process

$$V(Id) = \nu r. \text{out}(ch, \langle Id, \{v\}_{\text{pub}(S)}^r \rangle)$$

What about receipt-freeness?

→ Receipt-freeness **does not hold**:  $r$  can be used as a receipt.

We have that:

$$V_A\{c/v\}^{chc} = \nu r. \text{out}(chc, r). \text{out}(ch, \langle A, \{c\}_{\text{pub}(S)}^r \rangle).$$

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## Voting phase:

3.  $V \rightarrow C$  :  $\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), \text{sign}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), A)$
4.  $C \rightarrow$  :  $I, \text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), \text{sign}(\text{commit}(\text{vote}, r), A)$

## Counting phase:

5.  $V \rightarrow C$  :  $I, r$
6.  $C$  publishes the outcome of the vote

What about receipt-freeness?

## Example: Fujioka *et al.* protocol (1992)

This protocol is **not receipt-free** and it was not designed with receipt-freeness in mind.

—→ the blinding factor  $b_A$ , the commitment key  $r_A$ , and the private key of the voter can be used as a **receipt**

## Example: Fujioka *et al.* protocol (1992)

This protocol is **not receipt-free** and it was not designed with receipt-freeness in mind.

→ the blinding factor  $b_A$ , the commitment key  $r_A$ , and the private key of the voter can be used as a **receipt**

How can we ensure receipt-freeness ?

- 1 **reencryption** mechanism
- 2 **trapdoor** commitment scheme  
→ not always sufficient to ensure coercion-resistance

## Proposition

If a voting protocol is **receipt-free** then it also respects **privacy** (for the same context  $S$ ).

## Proposition

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**Proof.** By hypothesis, there exists a process  $V'$ , such that

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Apply the evaluation context  $\nu chc.(\_ \mid \text{in}(chc, x))$  on both sides:

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# Receipt-freeness implies privacy

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Thus Privacy holds:  $S[V_A\{^c/v\} \mid V_B\{^a/v\}] \approx S[V_A\{^a/v\} \mid V_B\{^c/v\}]$   $\square$



## Formalising Coercion Resistance

# Coercion-resistance (1)

Leaking secrets to the coercer  $V^{c_1, c_2}$ :

- the coercer will receive the message from the coerced voter  $V$  on  $c_2$ ;
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There exists  $V'$  such that

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Problems:

- This assumes that the coercer will vote  $c$ .
- If the coercer votes  $c' \neq c$ , then the equivalence will not hold.

## First approximation

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To get rid of this problem, two possible solutions:

- add some conditions to ensure that the coercer will vote  $c$ .  
→ our approach (with Steve Kremer and Mark D. Ryan)  
(CSFW'06, Journal of Computer Security'09)
- allow the voter  $V_B$  to adapt his choice to counterbalance the vote done by the coerced voter.  
→ approach followed by Backes et al. (CSF'08). To achieve this, they rely on an extractor process.

## Verification of equivalence-based properties

# How can we establish privacy in e-voting protocols?

→ we have to establish **equivalence** properties between processes

## Main difficulties

- quantification over **all** contexts,
- some **specific features** (anonymous channel, synchronisation phase, bulletin board)
- quite **complex** cryptographic **primitives**  
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- quite **complex** cryptographic **primitives**  
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Manual proofs are quite **error-prone**.

Existing automated tools designed for secrecy and authentication are **not well-suited** for verifying e-voting protocols.

# Static equivalence on frames - passive attacker

→ Intuitively, **static equivalence** formalizes the idea that an attacker **cannot distinguish** two sequences of messages

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**Example:**  $E = \{\text{dec}(\text{enc}(x, y), y) = x\}$

$\phi_1 = \text{yes}, \text{no}, k, \{\text{yes}\}_k$  and  $\phi_2 = \text{yes}, \text{no}, k, \{\text{no}\}_k$

→ **not statically equivalent**, choose  $M = \text{dec}(x_4, x_3)$  and  $N = x_1$

# Results on static equivalence

## Decidability results:

- for the class of **subterm convergent** equational theories;
- for many theories involving an **AC operator**  
→ *e.g.* XOR, Abelian group, ...
- for specific theories used in e-voting, *e.g.* blind signatures, trapdoor bit commitment, re-encryption, ...

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## Existing tools:

- **YAPA** - Yet Another Protocol Analyser  
<http://www.lsv.ens-cachan.fr/~baudet/yapa/>
- **KiSs** - Knowledge In Security protocols  
<http://www.lsv.ens-cachan.fr/~ciobaca/kiss/>

# The ProVerif tool (B. Blanchet)

<http://www.proverif.ens.fr/>

**Input:** processes written in applied pi calculus

## Characteristics

- **unbounded** number of sessions
- primitives given by an **equational theory**
- security properties: (strong) secrecy, correspondence properties, **equivalence properties**
- sound but not complete  
→ sometimes, the tool reports some false attacks

## Limitation

ProVerif tries to establish diff-equivalence (too strong).

# Going beyond the ProVerif tool

Let  $P(x_1, x_2) = \text{out}(x_1); \text{synch}; \text{out}(x_2)$ .

$$P(a, b) \mid P(b, a) \approx P(a, a) \mid P(b, b).$$

→ ProVerif **fails** to establish this equivalence.

To overcome this limitation (Joint with M. Ryan and B. Smyth):

- we propose a **transformation** to conclude in more cases;
- Then, using ProVerif on the resulting processes, we propose the **first automated** proof of privacy for the FOO protocol.



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## Still some limitations:

- some primitives can not be handled, *e.g.* reencryption, trapdoor bit commitment, ...
- unable in general to establish receipt-freeness properties.

## Another approach – constraint solving

→ bounded number of sessions (*i.e.* processes without replication)

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**Step 1:** reduction to the problem of checking **symbolic equivalence** between constraint systems.

→ for simple processes

joint work with V. Cortier

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- this reduction is sound but not complete.

**Step 2:** decision procedures for **symbolic equivalence**

→ several procedures already exist for subterm convergent theories

→ we propose another one (for a specific set of primitives) together with an **efficient implementation** (ADECS tool)

joint work with V. Cheval and H. Comon-Lundh

<http://www.lsv.ens-cachan.fr/~cheval/>

# Conclusion for privacy-type properties

## Formalising properties in applied pi

- **Nice definitions.** The quantification on  $V'$  in the receipt-freeness property should not be a problem.
- These definitions can be reused to model similar properties in other applications, *e.g.* privacy in Vehicular Ad-hoc NETwork, privacy-type properties in e-auction, . . . .

## Verification in applied pi (of equivalence-based properties)

- still an active research area;
- existing results and procedure are **quite limited**;
- **Challenge:** a verification tool that performs automated proofs of privacy-type properties in e-voting protocols.

## Lecture 2: Formalisation and verification of security properties

Part II: Verifiability properties  
(based on joint work with M. Ryan and B. Smyth)

Steve Kremer



## Formalising Verifiability

verifiability



verifiability  
auditability

end-to-end {  
verifiability  
auditability

end-to-end { verifiability  
auditability

- Election results can be fully verified by voters/observers
- The software provided by election authorities does not need to be trusted
- The software used to perform the verification can be sourced independently

## Individual verifiability

A voter can check her own vote is included in the tally.

## Universal verifiability

Anyone can check that the declared outcome corresponds to the tally.

## Eligibility verifiability

Anyone can check that only eligible votes are included in the declared outcome.

## Remarks

- Verifiability  $\neq$  correctness
- What system components need to be trusted in order to carry out these checks?

We suppose that the protocol involves

- Voter credentials (typically, a public part and a private part for each voter)
- A bulletin board, on which are placed entries corresponding to voter's outputs.

## Election verifiability

A protocol satisfies *election verifiability* if there are tests  $\phi^{IV}$ ,  $\phi^{UV}$  and  $\phi^{EV}$  satisfying certain acceptability conditions.

# Formalizing voting processes

Voting process specification:  $\langle V, A \rangle$  where

- $V$  plain process without replication (the voter)
- $A$  a closed evaluation context s.t.  $fv(V) = \{v\}$  (the admins)

Voting process

$$VP_n(s_1, \dots, s_n) = A[V\{s_1/v\} \mid \dots \mid V\{s_n/v\}]$$

models  $n$  voters casting votes for  $s_1, \dots, s_n$

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## Voting on Satan's computer

- Extend attacker model to software and hardware, i.e.  $V, A$  only represent the **trusted parts** of the protocol
- Ideally this is only the interaction between the voter and the terminal!
- In practice some parts need to be added, motivated by auditing parts, distributed authorities, ...

# Augmented voting process

We add to the applied pi calculus a  $\text{rec}(r, t)$  construct: adds a special entry  $\{t/r\}$  to frame **not accessible to the attacker**

the process  $R(P)$  is like  $P$  but replaces

- $\nu n$  by  $\nu n.\text{rec}(r, n)$  for some fresh  $r$ ;
- $\text{in}(c, x)$  by  $\nu n.\text{rec}(r, x)$  for some fresh  $r$ .

## Augmented voting process

$$\text{VP}_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n) = A[V_1^+ \mid \dots \mid V_n^+]$$

where  $V_i^+ = R(V)\{s_i/\nu\}\{r_i/r \mid r \in \text{rv}R(V)\}$



## Example: a “raising hands” protocol

**Idea:** Voter simply outputs her signed vote.

**Admin:** generates and distributes keys via a private channel  $d$

$$A \hat{=} \nu d. \nu skA. ( ! \nu skv. out(d, skv). out(c, sign(skA, pk(skv))) \\ | \{pk^{(skA)} / x_{pkA}\} | \_ )$$

**Voter:** received private key and outputs signed vote

$$V \hat{=} in(d, x_{skv}). out(c, \langle pk(x_{skv}), sign(x_{skv}, v) \rangle)$$

We require the existence of tests

$$\phi^{IV}(v, w, \tilde{x}, y, \tilde{r}) \quad \phi^{UV}(\tilde{v}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z}) \quad \phi^{EV}(\tilde{w}, \tilde{x}, \tilde{y}, \tilde{z})$$

where

- $v$  refers to the vote,  $\tilde{v}$  to the declared outcome
- $w$  refers to the public cred.,  $\tilde{w}$  to all voters' public cred.
- $\tilde{x}$  expected to refer to global election values
- $y$  expected to refer to the voter's ballot on the BB,  $\tilde{y}$  to all voters ballots
- $\tilde{r}$  refer to the voter's private data
- $\tilde{z}$  expected to refer to outputs generated for UV and EV

# Individual and universal verifiability

A voting specification  $\langle V, A \rangle$  satisfies **individual and universal verifiability** if  $\exists \phi^{IV}, \phi^{UV}$  s.t.

**Soundness.**  $\forall C, B$  s.t.  $C[\text{VP}_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n)] \xrightarrow{(\alpha)}^* B, \phi(B) \equiv \nu \tilde{n}.\sigma$ :

$$\forall i, j. \phi^{IV}\{s_i / v, \tilde{r}_i / \tilde{r}\}\sigma \wedge \phi^{IV}\{s_j / v, \tilde{r}_j / \tilde{r}\}\sigma \Rightarrow i = j \quad (1)$$

$$\phi^{UV}\sigma \wedge \phi^{UV}\{\tilde{v}' / \tilde{v}\}\sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{v}\sigma \simeq \tilde{v}'\sigma \quad (2)$$

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \phi^{IV}\{s_i / v, \tilde{r}_i / \tilde{r}, y_i / y\}\sigma \wedge \phi^{UV}\sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{s} \simeq \tilde{v}\sigma \quad (3)$$

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**Intuition:** a same BB entry  $y$  cannot validate  $\phi^{IV}$  for two different voters

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**Intuition:** if  $\phi^{IV}$ s hold on votes  $s_1, \dots, s_n$  then  $\phi^{UV}$  can only validate this particular outcome

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Avoids vacuous tests where  $\phi^{IV}, \phi^{UV}$  are false

## Example: “raising hands” verifiability

The expected BB entry should be

$$\langle pk(sk_v), \text{sign}(sk_v, v) \rangle$$

Define the tests

$$\phi^{IV} \hat{=} y =_E \langle pk(r_{sk_v}), \text{sign}(r_{sk_v}, v) \rangle \quad \phi^{UV} \hat{=} \bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \text{getmsg}(\pi_2(y_i)) =_E v_i$$



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Easy proof that individual and universal verifiability hold:

(1) Suppose that  $\phi_i^{IV} \sigma$  and  $\phi_j^{IV} \sigma$  hold, i.e.,

$$y\sigma =_E \langle pk(r_{sk_v; \sigma}), \text{sign}(r_{sk_v; \sigma}, s_i) \rangle \quad y\sigma =_E \langle pk(r_{sk_v; \sigma}), \text{sign}(r_{sk_v; \sigma}, s_j) \rangle$$

Hence,  $r_{sk_v; \sigma} =_E r_{sk_v; \sigma}$ . From the voting process spec. for every reachable  $\sigma$ ,  $i \neq j$  implies that  $r_{sk_v; \sigma} \neq_E r_{sk_v; \sigma}$ .

(2,3) Immediate.

(4) Holds for  $C = \_$ .

# Example: FOO

What are the minimal parts of the protocol to be trusted?

The voting process specification

$$V_{\text{foo}} \hat{=} \nu \text{rnd.out}(c, v).\text{out}(c, \text{rnd}) \quad \text{and} \quad A_{\text{foo}}[\_] \hat{=} \_$$

where  $\text{rnd}$  is intended to be the randomness used for the commitment

The augmented voting process

$$\text{VP}_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n) = \nu \text{rnd.rec}(r_1, \text{rnd}).\text{out}(c, s_1).\text{out}(c, \text{rnd}) \mid \dots \mid \nu \text{rnd.rec}(r_n, \text{rnd}).\text{out}(c, s_n).\text{out}(c, \text{rnd})$$

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where  $\text{rnd}$  is intended to be the randomness used for the commitment

The augmented voting process

$$\text{VP}_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n) = \nu \text{rnd}.\text{rec}(r_1, \text{rnd}).\text{out}(c, s_1).\text{out}(c, \text{rnd}) \mid \dots \mid \nu \text{rnd}.\text{rec}(r_n, \text{rnd}).\text{out}(c, s_n).\text{out}(c, \text{rnd})$$

**Remark:** Other properties need different trust assumptions!

## Example: FOO

The expected BB entry should be

$$\langle r, \text{commit}(r, v) \rangle$$

Define the tests

$$\phi^{IV} \hat{=} y =_E \langle r, \text{commit}(r, v) \rangle \quad \phi^{UV} \hat{=} \bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} v_i =_E \text{open}(\pi_1(y), \pi_2(y))$$

### Theorem

$\langle V_{\text{foo}}, A_{\text{foo}} \rangle$  satisfies individual and universal verifiability.

# Election verifiability

A voting specification  $\langle V, A \rangle$  satisfies **election verifiability** if  $\exists \phi^{IV}, \phi^{UV}, \phi^{EV}$  s.t. additionally

Let  $X = fv(\phi^{EV}) \setminus domVP_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n)$

**Soundness.**  $\forall C, B$  s.t.  $C[VP_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n)] \xrightarrow{(\alpha)^*} B, \phi(B) \equiv \nu \tilde{n}.\sigma$ :

$$\phi^{EV} \sigma \wedge \phi^{EV} \{x'/x \mid x \in X \setminus \tilde{y}\} \sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{w} \sigma \simeq \tilde{w}' \sigma \quad (5)$$

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \phi_i^{IV} \sigma \wedge \phi^{EV} \{\tilde{w}'/\tilde{w}\} \sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{w} \sigma \simeq \tilde{w}' \sigma \quad (6)$$

$$\phi^{EV} \sigma \wedge \phi^{EV} \{x'/x \mid x \in X \setminus \tilde{w}\} \sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{y} \sigma \simeq \tilde{y}' \sigma \quad (7)$$

**Effectiveness.**  $\exists C, B$  s.t.  $C[VP_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n)] \xrightarrow{(\alpha)^*} B, \phi(B) \equiv \nu \tilde{n}.\sigma$ :

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \phi_i^{IV} \{s_i/v, \tilde{r}_i/\tilde{r}, y_i/y\} \{y_i/y\} \sigma \wedge \phi^{UV} \sigma \wedge \phi^{EV} \sigma \quad (8)$$

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**Intuition:** given ballots  $\tilde{y} \sigma$ , provided by the environment,  $\phi^{EV}$  succeeds for a unique list of public credentials

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**Intuition:** if BB contains the ballots of voters with public cred.  $\tilde{w} \sigma$  then  $\phi^{EV}$  only holds on these credentials

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**Intuition:** given a set of credentials  $\tilde{w}$ , only one set of BB entries  $\tilde{y}$  are accepted by  $\phi^{EV}$



# Election verifiability

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$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \phi_i^{IV}\sigma \wedge \phi^{EV}\{\tilde{w}'/\tilde{w}\}\sigma \Rightarrow \tilde{w}\sigma \simeq \tilde{w}'\sigma \quad (6)$$

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**Effectiveness.**  $\exists C, B$  s.t.  $C[VP_n^+(s_1, \dots, s_n)] \xrightarrow{(\alpha)^*} B, \phi(B) \equiv \nu \tilde{n}.\sigma$ :

$$\bigwedge_{1 \leq i \leq n} \phi^{IV}\{s_i/v, \tilde{r}_i/\tilde{r}, y_i/y\}\{y_i/y\}\sigma \wedge \phi^{UV}\sigma \wedge \phi^{EV}\sigma \quad (8)$$

Avoids vacuous tests where  $\phi^{IV}, \phi^{UV}, \phi^{EV}$  are false

## Concluding remarks

Election verifiability may ensure the needed **transparency** for electronic voting to be acceptable

Formal definition of election verifiability as tests with acceptability conditions (generally rather easy to prove)

We have analysed

- **FOO**: individual and universal verifiable, but not election verifiability
- **Helios 2.0**: individual and universal verifiable, but not election verifiability
- **JCJ/Civitas**: verifies election verifiability

Allows for each of the protocols to identify the **trust assumptions**

Detailed analysis available in [Kremer, Ryan, Smyth, ESORICS 2010]

<http://www.bensmyth.com/publications/10tech/CSR-10-06.pdf>