

Analysing routing protocols: four nodes topologies are sufficient

Véronique Cortier, Jan Degrieck, and [Stéphanie Delaune](#)

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

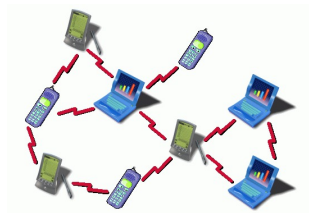
Thursday, January 19th, 2012

networks with no *a priori* infrastructure

—→ nodes have to communicate **to establish routes** and allow the transfer of data from one node to another.

networks with no *a priori* infrastructure

—> nodes have to communicate **to establish routes** and allow the transfer of data from one node to another.



Some applications:

- military operations, and emergency disaster relief;
- self-organizing wireless sensor networks;
- vehicular ad hoc networks;
- wireless public access for dense urban areas.

Routing protocols

Protocols series of rules describing how each participant should behave in order to achieve a common goal

Routing goal allowing distant nodes to communicate

Routing protocols

Protocols series of rules describing how each participant should behave in order to achieve a common goal

Routing goal allowing distant nodes to communicate

Two main families:

- table routing protocols, *e.g.* AODV (1999):
→ each node knows the following node on the route towards a destination. This information is stored in **routing tables**.
- source routing protocol, *e.g.* DSR (2001):
→ the source node provides the entire route that the messages have to follow.

Routing protocols

Protocols series of rules describing how each participant should behave in order to achieve a common goal

Routing goal allowing distant nodes to communicate

Two main families:

- table routing protocols, *e.g.* AODV (1999):
→ each node knows the following node on the route towards a destination. This information is stored in **routing tables**.
- source routing protocol, *e.g.* DSR (2001):
→ the source node provides the entire route that the messages have to follow.

Routing is fundamental service in any kind of networks

Secure versions of routing protocols

Goal: provide some guarantees even in an adversarial setting.

Examples: SAODV (2002), SRP applied on DSR (2002)

Secure versions of routing protocols

Goal: provide some guarantees even in an adversarial setting.

Examples: SAODV (2002), SRP applied on DSR (2002)

They rely on some **security mechanisms**:

- **cryptographic primitives:** *e.g.* signatures, encryptions, hash functions, MAC, ...
- **neighborhood tests** implemented using secure neighborhood discovery protocols *e.g.* NDP protocol, SEND protocol, ...

Secure versions of routing protocols

Goal: provide some guarantees even in an adversarial setting.

Examples: SAODV (2002), SRP applied on DSR (2002)

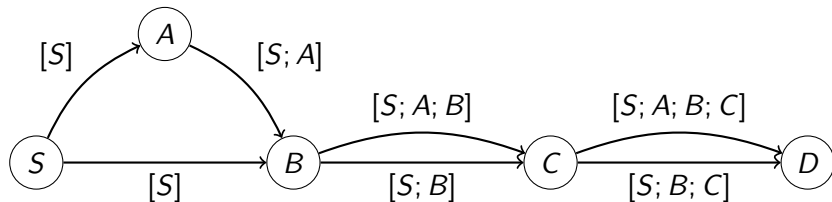
They rely on some **security mechanisms**:

- **cryptographic primitives:** *e.g.* signatures, encryptions, hash functions, MAC, ...
- **neighborhood tests** implemented using secure neighborhood discovery protocols *e.g.* NDP protocol, SEND protocol, ...

→ We will model those mechanisms in an abstract way.

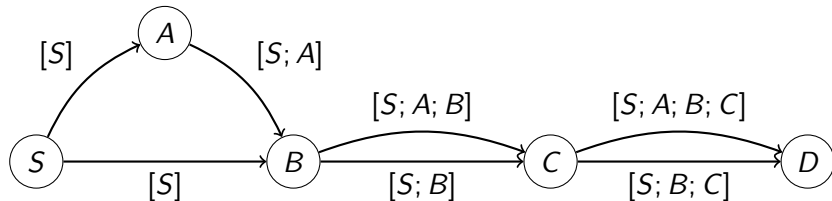
Example: SRP applied on DSR (1/2)

Request phase:



Example: SRP applied on DSR (1/2)

Request phase:



For security purposes:

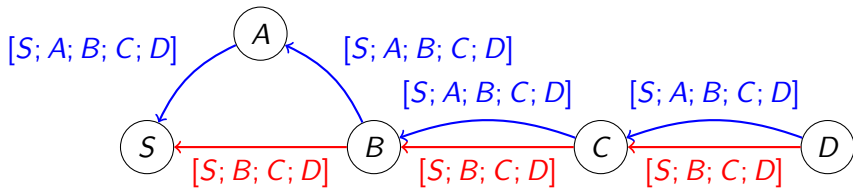
- the request contains in addition a **mac** built by the source:

$$mac(\langle req, S, D, id \rangle, shk(S, D))$$

- each intermediate node checks that the received request is **locally correct** before adding its name and relaying it over the network.

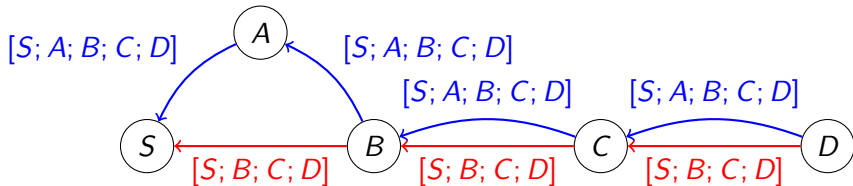
Example: SRP applied on DSR (2/2)

Reply phase:



Example: SRP applied on DSR (2/2)

Reply phase:



For security purposes:

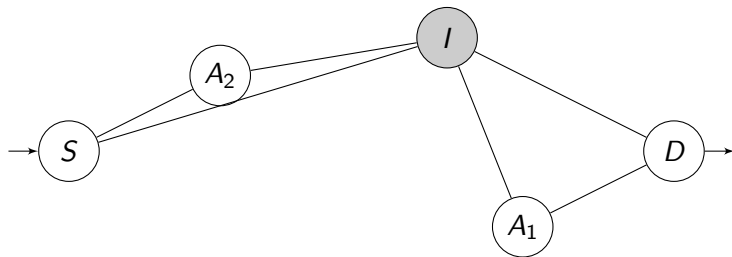
- the reply contains in addition a **mac** built by the destination:

$$mac(\langle rep, D, S, id, route \rangle, shk(S, D))$$

- each intermediate node checks that the received reply is **locally correct** before forwarding it to the next hop.

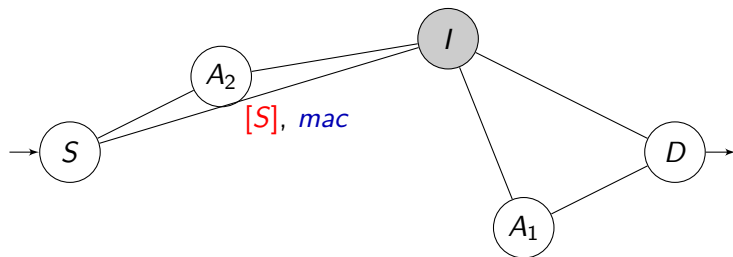
Attack on SRP applied on DSR

[Buttyán & Vajda, 2004]



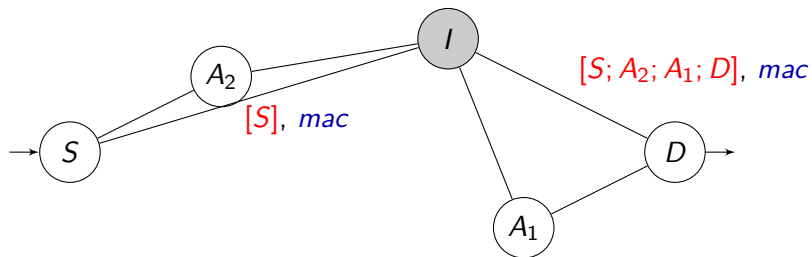
Attack on SRP applied on DSR

[Buttyán & Vajda, 2004]



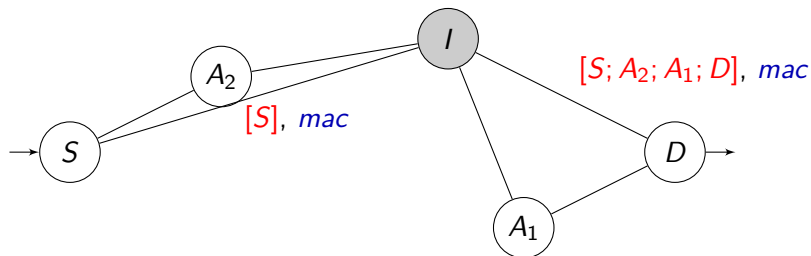
Attack on SRP applied on DSR

[Buttyán & Vajda, 2004]



Attack on SRP applied on DSR

[Buttyán & Vajda, 2004]



Reply phase:

- 1 D accepts the request and sends

$rep, S, D, id, I_{route}, mac(\langle rep, S, D, id, I_{route} \rangle, shk(S, D))$

- 2 I simply forwards this message to S .

Some automatic verification tools

- **AVISPA platform** [Armando *et al.*, 2005]
→ state-of-the-art for bounded verification
- **ProVerif** [Blanchet *et al.*, 2001]
→ quite flexible to analyse security properties and to deal with various cryptographic primitives

Some automatic verification tools

- **AVISPA platform** [Armando *et al.*, 2005]
→ state-of-the-art for bounded verification
- **ProVerif** [Blanchet *et al.*, 2001]
→ quite flexible to analyse security properties and to deal with various cryptographic primitives

Specificities of routing protocols

- **topology**: communication, the power of the attacker, security property, neighborhood checks, ...
- an **arbitrary number of agents** can be involved in one session;
- they use lists and may perform some **recursive operations**.

Difficulties of the verification

Some automatic verification tools

- **AVISPA platform** [Armando *et al.*, 2005]
→ state-of-the-art for bounded verification
- **ProVerif** [Blanchet *et al.*, 2001]
→ quite flexible to analyse security properties and to deal with various cryptographic primitives

Specificities of routing protocols

- **topology**: communication, the power of the attacker, security property, neighborhood checks, ...
- an **arbitrary number of agents** can be involved in one session;
- they use lists and may perform some **recursive operations**.

None of the existing tools are well-suited to analyse routing protocols

Some related work

Case studies using some automatic tools

For instance, some case studies (*e.g.* ARAN, endairA) have been carried out using the AVISPA platform considering some **arbitrary fixed topologies**.
[Benetti *et al*, 2010]

General frameworks

Several frameworks have been proposed to model secure routing protocols.
e.g. [S. Nanz & C. Hanking, 2006] [G. Àcs, 2009]

Some related work

Case studies using some automatic tools

For instance, some case studies (*e.g.* ARAN, endairA) have been carried out using the AVISPA platform considering some **arbitrary fixed topologies**.
[Benetti *et al.*, 2010]

General frameworks

Several frameworks have been proposed to model secure routing protocols.
e.g. [S. Nanz & C. Hanking, 2006] [G. Àcs, 2009]

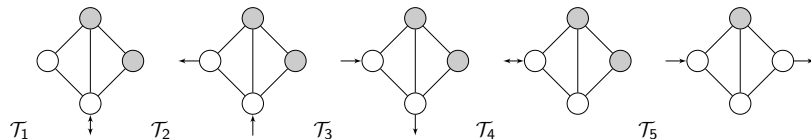
Decision procedures for a bounded number of sessions and **arbitrary topologies**, but no implementation exist.
[Arnaud *et al.*, 2010]

Recently, a **reduction result** obtained by taking advantages of symmetries have been proposed.
[Andel *et al.*, 2011]

→ *However, the number of topologies is still infinite or really large even when considering a bounded number of nodes.*

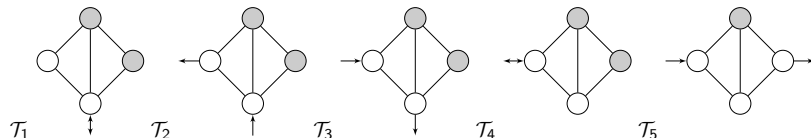
Our contributions

Reduction result: only **5 topologies** are sufficient !



Our contributions

Reduction result: only **5 topologies** are sufficient !



→ very **general model** encompassing many families of routing protocols with **recursive tests/operations**, various cryptographic primitives, various kind of neighbourhood checks.

Case studies: We use the tool ProVerif to analyse the SRP/DSR and the SDMSR protocols.

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif
- 5 Conclusion

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif
- 5 Conclusion

Messages

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

—→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Example (signature)

- $mac : \text{term} \times \text{term} \rightarrow \text{term},$
- $\langle \rangle : \text{term} \times \text{term} \rightarrow \text{term},$
- $shk : \text{agent} \times \text{agent} \rightarrow \text{term},$
- $:: : \text{agent} \times \text{list} \rightarrow \text{list},$
- $\perp : \rightarrow \text{list},$
- $req, rep : \rightarrow \text{term}.$

Messages

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

—→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Attacker is modeled using a deduction relation defined through an arbitrary **inference system**.

Messages

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Attacker is modeled using a deduction relation defined through an arbitrary **inference system**.

Example (inference system)

$$\frac{y_1 \quad y_2}{\langle y_1, y_2 \rangle} \quad \frac{\langle y_1, y_2 \rangle}{y_1} \quad \frac{\langle y_1, y_2 \rangle}{y_2} \quad \frac{x \quad z}{x :: z} \quad \frac{x :: z}{x} \quad \frac{x :: z}{z} \quad \frac{y_1 \quad y_2}{\text{mac}(y_1, y_2)}$$

Messages

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Attacker is modeled using a deduction relation defined through an arbitrary **inference system**.

Operations on received terms are modeled using **functions over terms**, *i.e.* functions of the form: $f : \text{term} \times \dots \times \text{term} \rightarrow \text{term}$

Messages are represented by **terms** built on a sorted signature.

—→ regarding the sort system, we consider a **special sort agent** that only contains names and variables

Attacker is modeled using a deduction relation defined through an arbitrary **inference system**.

Operations on received terms are modeled using **functions over terms**, *i.e.* functions of the form: $f : \text{term} \times \dots \times \text{term} \rightarrow \text{term}$

Example (function over terms)

- standard application of cryptographic operations:

$$(x, y, z) \mapsto \text{mac}(\langle x, y \rangle, z)$$

- various operations on lists, *e.g.* reversal, concatenation, ...
- recursive operations and recursive tests used in many routing protocols, *e.g.* SMNDP, Ariadne, endairA, ...

Definition

A **routing protocol** is a set of parametrized ground processes.

Definition

A **routing protocol** is a set of parametrized ground processes.

Processes P, Q, R :

$\text{out}(f(u_1, \dots, u_n)).P$	emission
$\text{in}(u).P$	reception
$\text{if } \Phi \text{ then } P$	conditional
$P \mid Q$	parallel composition
$!P$	replication
$\text{new } n.P$	fresh name generation

Definition

A **routing protocol** is a set of parametrized ground processes.

Processes P, Q, R :

$\text{out}(f(u_1, \dots, u_n)).P$	emission
$\text{in}(u).P$	reception
$\text{if } \Phi \text{ then } P$	conditional
$P \mid Q$	parallel composition
$!P$	replication
$\text{new } n.P$	fresh name generation

Formulas Φ, Φ_1, Φ_2 :

$p(u_1, \dots, u_n)$	literal with $p \in \mathcal{P}$
$\Phi_1 \wedge \Phi_2$	conjunction

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Source processes

$$P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D) =$$

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Source processes

$$P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D) = \text{new } id.$$

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Source processes

$$P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D) = \text{new } id. \text{out}(u_1).$$

where

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_1 = \langle req, x_S, x_D, id, [x_S], mac(\langle req, x_S, x_D, id \rangle, shk(x_S, x_D)) \rangle \end{array} \right\}$$

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Source processes

$$P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D) = \text{new } id. \text{out}(u_1). \text{in}(u_2).$$

where

$$\begin{cases} u_1 = \langle req, x_S, x_D, id, [x_S], mac(\langle req, x_S, x_D, id \rangle, shk(x_S, x_D)) \rangle \\ u_2 = \langle rep, x_D, x_S, id, x_L, mac(\langle rep, x_D, x_S, id, x_L \rangle, shk(x_S, x_D)) \rangle \end{cases}$$

→ at the end of the execution, x_L should contain a route from S to D .

Example (SRP/DSR)

The routing protocol SRP/DSR can be modeled using the following set of parametrized processes:

$$\{P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D); P_{\text{request}}(x_V); P_{\text{reply}}(x_V); P_{\text{dest}}(x_D)\}.$$

Source processes

$$P_{\text{src}}(x_S, x_D) = \text{new } id. \text{out}(u_1). \text{in}(u_2). \text{if } \Phi_S \text{ then } 0$$

where

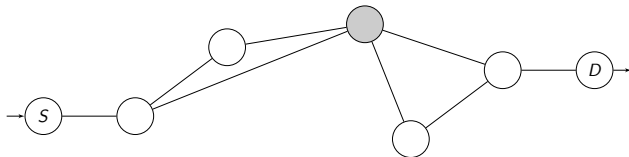
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} u_1 = \langle req, x_S, x_D, id, [x_S], mac(\langle req, x_S, x_D, id \rangle, shk(x_S, x_D)) \rangle \\ u_2 = \langle rep, x_D, x_S, id, x_L, mac(\langle rep, x_D, x_S, id, x_L \rangle, shk(x_S, x_D)) \rangle \\ \Phi_S = \text{checkl}(x_S, x_L) \wedge \text{first}(x_S, x_L) \wedge \text{last}(x_D, x_L) \end{array} \right.$$

→ at the end of the execution, x_L should contain a route from S to D .

Configuration and topology

A *topology* is given by a tuple $\mathcal{T} = (G, \mathcal{M}, S, D)$.

Example

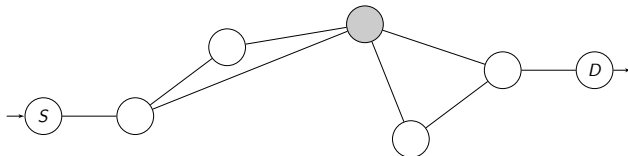


→ the attackers do **not** necessarily **control the entire network**.

Configuration and topology

A *topology* is given by a tuple $\mathcal{T} = (G, \mathcal{M}, S, D)$.

Example



→ the attackers do **not** necessarily **control the entire network**.

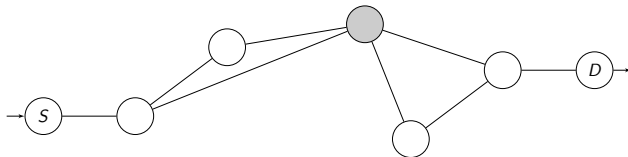
A *configuration* is a pair $(\mathcal{P}; \mathcal{I})$ where:

- \mathcal{P} is a multiset of expressions of the form $[P]_A$;
- \mathcal{I} is a set of terms representing the knowledge of the attackers.

Configuration and topology

A *topology* is given by a tuple $\mathcal{T} = (G, \mathcal{M}, S, D)$.

Example



→ the attackers do **not** necessarily **control the entire network**.

A *configuration* is a pair $(\mathcal{P}; \mathcal{I})$ where:

- \mathcal{P} is a multiset of expressions of the form $[P]_A$;
- \mathcal{I} is a set of terms representing the knowledge of the attackers.

→ the operational semantics is given by a transition system $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{T}}$
(only **local communications** are allowed)

What is an attack?

Security property

Intuitively, a valid route between S and D is a route that represents a path from S to D .

→ **too strong** (e.g. so-called wormhole and hidden channel attacks)

An **admissible path** is a path in which two consecutive nodes that are non-adjacent are both malicious.

What is an attack?

Security property

Intuitively, a valid route between S and D is a route that represents a path from S to D .

→ **too strong** (e.g. so-called wormhole and hidden channel attacks)

An **admissible path** is a path in which two consecutive nodes that are non-adjacent are both malicious.

What is an attack?

→ an attack is modeled as a reachability property

Example: SRP/DSR protocol

$$P_0(x_S, x_D) = \text{new } id. \text{out}(u_1). \text{in}(u_2). \text{if } \Phi_S \text{ then } \text{out}(\text{end}(x_L))$$

Given a topology \mathcal{T} and a configuration K ,

$$K \text{ admits an attack in } \mathcal{T} \text{ if } K \rightarrow_{\mathcal{T}}^* ([\text{out}(\text{end}(l)).P]_A \cup \mathcal{P}; \mathcal{I})$$

where l is **not an admissible path** in \mathcal{T} .

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif
- 5 Conclusion

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result**
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif
- 5 Conclusion

Reduction results

Goal: allow one to analyse the security of a routing protocol considering only some specific and small topologies.

Reduction results

Goal: allow one to analyse the security of a routing protocol considering only some specific and small topologies.

We show that the existence of an attack is preserved

Step 1: when adding edges to the graph, yielding a **quasi-complete** topology;

→ protocols have to be **completion-friendly**, *i.e.*

$$\llbracket p(u_1, \dots, u_k) \rrbracket_G = \text{true} \text{ implies } \llbracket p(u_1, \dots, u_k) \rrbracket_{G^+} = \text{true}$$

Reduction results

Goal: allow one to analyse the security of a routing protocol considering only some specific and small topologies.

We show that the existence of an attack is preserved

Step 1: when adding edges to the graph, yielding a **quasi-complete** topology;

→ protocols have to be **completion-friendly**, *i.e.*

$$\llbracket p(u_1, \dots, u_k) \rrbracket_G = \text{true} \text{ implies } \llbracket p(u_1, \dots, u_k) \rrbracket_{G^+} = \text{true}$$

Step 2: when merging nodes that have the **same neighbourhood** and **same honesty status**, yielding a small graph.

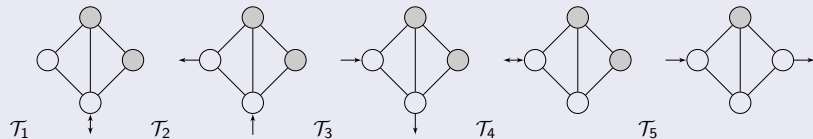
→ protocols have to be **projection-friendly**, *i.e.*

$$\llbracket p(u_1, \dots, u_k) \rrbracket_G = \text{true} \text{ implies that } \llbracket p(u_1\rho, \dots, u_k\rho) \rrbracket_{G\rho} = \text{true}$$
$$f(u_1\rho, \dots, u_k\rho) = f(u_1, \dots, u_k)\rho.$$

Only five topologies are sufficient !

Theorem

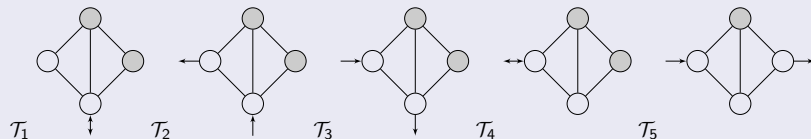
Let $\mathcal{P}_{\text{routing}}$ be a routing protocol that is completion-friendly and projection-friendly. $\mathcal{P}_{\text{routing}}$ admits an attack if, and only if, it admits an attack for one of the topologies below:



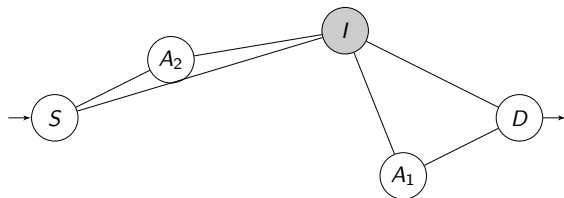
Only five topologies are sufficient !

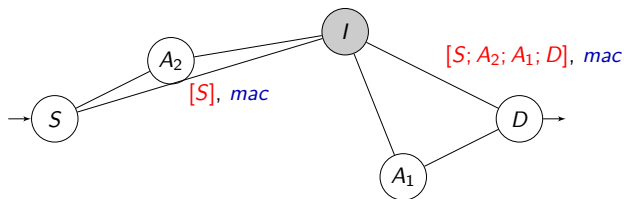
Theorem

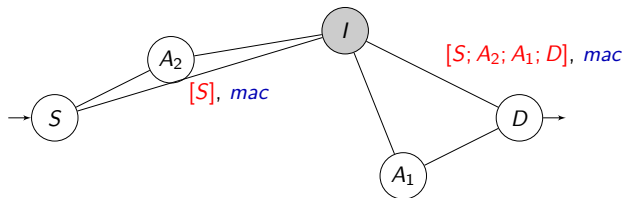
Let $\mathcal{P}_{\text{routing}}$ be a routing protocol that is completion-friendly and projection-friendly. $\mathcal{P}_{\text{routing}}$ admits an attack if, and only if, it admits an attack for one of the topologies below:



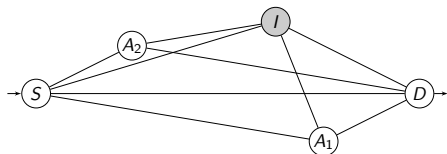
→ very **general model** encompassing many families of routing protocols with **recursive tests/operations**, various cryptographic primitives, various kind of neighbourhood checks.

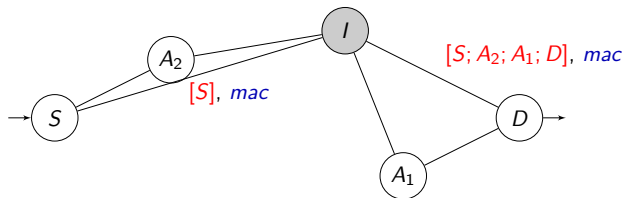
Attack on the topology \mathcal{T} → S accepts $[S; A_2; A_1; D]$ 

Attack on the topology \mathcal{T} $\rightarrow S$ accepts $[S; A_2; A_1; D]$ 

Attack on the topology \mathcal{T} → S accepts $[S; A_2; A_1; D]$ 

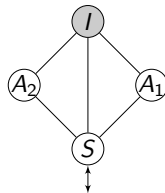
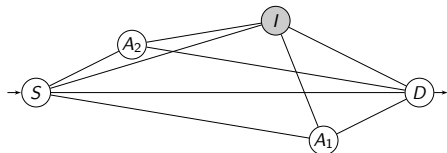
Step 1: Quasi-complete topology



Attack on the topology \mathcal{T} $\longrightarrow S$ accepts $[S; A_2; A_1; D]$ 

Step 1: Quasi-complete topology

Step 2: Reduced topology



Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif**
- 5 Conclusion

Automated protocol verifier mainly developed by [B. Blanchet](#).

`http://www.proverif.ens.fr/`

Automated protocol verifier mainly developed by **B. Blanchet**.

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

Main features

- **unbounded** number of sessions;
- **various** cryptographic primitives modeled using rewriting rules and equations;
→ not arbitrary functions over terms as we did
- an attacker who controls the **entire network**
→ this is not a problem for the 5 topologies we have to analyse
- **various security properties**
→ we can easily encode our security property but also neighbourhood checks by defining predicates using Horn clauses.

Automated protocol verifier mainly developed by **B. Blanchet**.

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

Main features

- **unbounded** number of sessions;
- **various** cryptographic primitives modeled using rewriting rules and equations;
→ not arbitrary functions over terms as we did
- an attacker who controls the **entire network**
→ this is not a problem for the 5 topologies we have to analyse
- **various security properties**
→ we can easily encode our security property but also neighbourhood checks by defining predicates using Horn clauses.

The tool may not terminate or give false attacks. **It works well in practice.**

Some case studies

Two case studies have been performed using ProVerif:

- SRP applied on DSR [Papadimitratos & Haas, 02]
- SDMSR that relies on signatures [Berton *et al.*, 06]

Some case studies

Two case studies have been performed using ProVerif:

- SRP applied on DSR [Papadimitratos & Haas, 02]
- SDMSR that relies on signatures [Berton *et al.*, 06]

Results

	SRP applied on DSR	SDMSR
\mathcal{T}_1	attack found	attack found
\mathcal{T}_2	attack found	attack found
\mathcal{T}_3	no attack found	no attack found
\mathcal{T}_4	no attack found	no attack found
\mathcal{T}_5	no attack found	no attack found

→ the running time of ProVerif was less than a few secondes.

Some case studies

Two case studies have been performed using ProVerif:

- SRP applied on DSR [Papadimitratos & Haas, 02]
- SDMSR that relies on signatures [Berton *et al.*, 06]

Results

	SRP applied on DSR	SDMSR
\mathcal{T}_1	attack found	attack found
\mathcal{T}_2	attack found	attack found
\mathcal{T}_3	no attack found	no attack found
\mathcal{T}_4	no attack found	no attack found
\mathcal{T}_5	no attack found	no attack found

→ the running time of ProVerif was **less than a few secondes**.

All the files for these experiments are available at:

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

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Models for routing protocols
- 3 Reduction result
- 4 Case studies in ProVerif
- 5 Conclusion

Our contribution

We have shown a simple reduction result that allows one to use standard verification tools for analysing routing protocols.

Our contribution

We have shown a simple reduction result that allows one to use standard verification tools for analysing routing protocols.

Some Perspectives:

- our model is very general but we only consider tests that are stable under projection of nodes names
→ e.g. we can not handle **disequality tests**
- our work is limited to a single (crucial) property: the validity of the resulting route
→ Which security properties are relevant for routing protocols?
- we do not model **mobility** during the execution of the protocol.
→ What is the appropriate security property in this case?