

# Analysis of security properties

MPRI — Cours 2.6 “Interprétation abstraite :  
application à la vérification et à l’analyse statique”

Xavier Rival

INRIA

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# Security

What does “**security**” mean ?

There are many examples of “**potential security issues**”:

- **Leakage of sensitive information:**  
an unauthorized user is able to retrieve or even just guess critical information
- **Code injection:**  
a user succeeds in getting malicious code executed with a high privilege (and can corrupt data or take control of the system)
- **Authentication breach:**  
a malicious user pretends to be another user

**“Security” is a rather general and vague term.  
We need to be more specific on what it means.**

**Rough intuition:**

- **safety issue**, e.g., runtime error: failure in presence of just the environment
- **security issue**: failure resulting from (malicious) **deliberate user action**

# Objectives of this course

## 1 Understand the difficulty inherent in security properties:

In general, security properties are significantly harder to reason about than safety properties

## 2 Introduce hyperproperties:

A **more general framework** than the trace properties we are used to, which can express many relevant program properties

## 3 Describe a few abstractions for security:

- ▶ extension of abstractions for safety
- ▶ specific abstractions

In one class, we can only provide an introduction to the field.  
Our goal is to understand the main problems.

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Non-interference**
- 3 Specificities of security properties
- 4 Hyperproperties
- 5 Dependence analysis for non-interference
- 6 Relational reasoning over non-interference
- 7 Conclusion

# Notations

We focus on imperative programs viewed as **transition systems**:

- set of **control states**:  $\mathbb{L}$  (program points)
- set of **variables**:  $\mathbb{X}$  (all assumed globals)
- set of **values**:  $\mathbb{V}$
- set of **memory states**:  $\mathbb{M}$
- set of **states**:  $\mathbb{S} = \mathbb{L} \times \mathbb{M}$  and **initial states**  $\mathbb{S}_i \subseteq \mathbb{S}$
- **transition relation**:  $(\rightarrow) \subseteq \mathbb{S} \times \mathbb{S}$ , assumed deterministic

## Semantics:

- **reachable states**:  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq \mathbb{S}$
- **finite execution traces**:  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \subseteq \mathbb{S}^*$
- **denotational semantics**:  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}} : \mathbb{S} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S})$

where  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}}(s) = \{s' \in \mathbb{S} \mid s \rightarrow^* s'\}$

Given  $\ell, \ell' \in \mathbb{L}$ , we also let  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell, \ell']} : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{M})$  be defined by  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell, \ell']}(m) = \{m' \in \mathbb{M} \mid (\ell, m) \rightarrow^* (\ell', m')\}$ .

For us today, most of the time we use the **denotational semantics**.

# Non-interference

Among the many possible security properties, we choose one, that is very representative.

It describes the fact that **some secret information should not be guessed (directly or indirectly) by any unauthorized user.**

## Non-interference (informal definition)

Notations:

- $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}$ : **public variables**, observed by anybody (also called “low”, *i.e.*, it requires only a low authorization)
- $\mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}$ : **secrete variables**, should not be observed by anybody, save authorized users (also called “high”, *i.e.*, high authorization)

We say that a program  $P$  satisfies the **non-interference** property defined by  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}$  if and only if any execution of the program where one can only observe the values of the variables in  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}$  does not allow to derive any information about the values of the variables in  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}$ .

This definition is quite informal, and we will make it precise and formal later.

## Example of program violating non-interference

Let us consider the program below:

```
int s; // private variable, should be secure
int i; // public variable, can be seen by anybody

s = private_computation( ); // should remain secret

i = s + 8;
// anyone can observe i here!
```

We should let:

- $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}} = \{i\}$
- $\mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}} = \{s\}$  (for readability we will write  $s$  for the private variable that should remain secure)

This program **clearly violates non-interference**.

**If we know the final value of  $i$  we can subtract 8 and derive the value of  $s$**

## Example of program satisfying non-interference

We now consider the program below, with the same  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}$ :

```
int s; // private variable, should be secure
int i; // public variable, can be seen by anybody

s = private_computation( ); // should remain secret

i = user_input( ) + 8;
// anyone can observe i here!
```

This program **satisfies non-interference**.

**The final value of  $i$  is computed in a way that is never influenced by that of  $s$  (the user input ignores the value of  $s$  at this point).**



## A few more subtle cases

We use the **same conventions** (with variables  $i, s$ ).

### Program 1: non-interference **violated**

```
// ... as before, s stores the secret
if( s == 7 )
    i = 1;
else
    i = -1;
```

There is an **implicit information flow**. If we observe that  $i$  is 1, we know exactly what  $s$  is.

### Program 2: non-interference **violated**

```
s = 8 / s;
i = 5;
```

Again, there is an **implicit information flow**. If we observe a crash (no value for  $i$ ), we know that  $s = 0$ .

### Program 3: non-interference **satisfied**

```
i = 0 * s;
```

There is **no information flow**. Indeed,  $i$  is 0 regardless...

In the following, we need to **formalize and characterize non-interference** before we can actually reason about it.

# Non-interference

A couple of **caveats**:

- **termination** may change observation (though we cannot positively observe non-termination)
- **errors** may change observation too

For the sake of simplicity, we **ignore** these and consider **termination insensitive non-interference** and do not consider errors. In the following, we still call this notion **non-interference**.

**Observation point**: we search whether **public variables observed at end point**  $\ell_+$  reveal anything about **private variables observed at entry point**  $\ell_-$ .

## Non-interference (formal definition)

We say that a program  $P$  satisfies the **non-interference** property defined by  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}/\ell_+, \mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}/\ell_-$  if and only if for all memory states  $m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{M}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 & (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, m_0(\mathbf{x}) = m_1(\mathbf{x})) \\
 & \implies (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_+, \ell_-]}(m_0)(\mathbf{x}) = \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_+, \ell_-]}(m_1)(\mathbf{x}))
 \end{aligned}$$

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# Semantics

We have seen three semantics, **that are comparable**:

- **trace semantics** is the most precise and informative  
*i.e.*, the denotational semantics can be computed from it
- then **denotational semantics** is more precise than reachable states  
*i.e.*, the reachable states semantics can be computed from it

Before we formalize and study non-interference,  
we recall a few important points about trace properties.

To study hierarchies of properties, the most expressive semantics is more adapted.

**Recall:**

- **finite traces semantics**  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^*} \subseteq \mathbb{S}^*$   
expressed as a least fixpoint
- **infinite traces semantics**  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^\omega} \subseteq \mathbb{S}^\omega$   
expressed as a greatest fixpoint
- **all traces semantics**  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega} = \mathbb{S}^* \uplus \mathbb{S}^\omega$   
( $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} = \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^*} \uplus \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^\omega}$ )  
can also be expressed as a fixpoint, by fixpoint combination technique

# Semantic properties as sets of behaviors

We consider the following model:

- a semantic property is describes by the set of behaviors that are compliant with
- a program satisfies such a property if and only if all the behaviors of the program are compliant with the property, *i.e.*, are elements of the set describing the property

Direct formalization:

## Definition: semantic property (or verification goal)

Assuming **program behaviors** range in set  $\mathcal{S}$ , a **semantic property** is a set  $G \subseteq \mathcal{S}$ .

Given program  $P$ , then  $P$  satisfies  $G$  if and only if:

$$\forall b \in \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{S}}, b \in G$$

or equivalently,

$$\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{S}} \subseteq G$$

Let us see some examples...

# Examples

## Unreachability of certain states $S \subseteq \mathbb{S}$ :

- set property  $\mathbb{S} \setminus S$   
*i.e.*, we want to show  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq \mathbb{S} \setminus S$
- trace property  $(\mathbb{S} \setminus S)^{* \omega}$   
*i.e.*, we want to show  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{* \omega}} \subseteq (\mathbb{S} \setminus S)^{* \omega}$
- classical case 1:  $S$  corresponds to error states or dangerous states (**absence of runtime errors**)
- classical case 2:  $S$  corresponds to exit state that violate some exit condition (**partial correctness**)

## Termination:

- trace property  $(\mathbb{S})^*$   
*i.e.*, we want to show  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{* \omega}} \subseteq (\mathbb{S})^*$   
 or, equivalently that  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{\omega}} \subseteq \emptyset$  (*i.e.*,  $P$  has no infinite trace)

Depending on property kinds, specific **proof methods/analysis methods** apply...

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# Safety properties

Informal definition:

A **safety property** is a semantic property such that, when it does not hold, it admits a **finite counter-example trace**

Intuitively, we can **test** a safety property on a trace and be able to say after a finite session whether this trace is a counter-example or not.

## Definition: safety property

A trace property  $S \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}$  is a **safety property** if and only if:

$$\forall T \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, T \not\subseteq S \implies \exists \sigma \in \mathbb{S}^*, \exists \sigma' \in \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, \sigma \cdot \sigma' \in T, \wedge \forall \sigma'' \in \mathbb{S}^*, \sigma \cdot \sigma'' \notin S$$

If we let  $T = \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}}$ , we recover the informal definition.

## Remarks:

- infinite traces do not matter, thus we can consider  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^*}$  instead of  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}}$ ;
- if we could enumerate all finite traces of  $P$  we can decide whether it satisfies safety property  $S$ .



# Examples of safety properties

## State properties are safety properties:

- let us consider  $G \subseteq \mathbb{S}$  and state property  $G$
- then if we consider traces,

$$\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{R}} \subseteq G \iff \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^*} \subseteq G^* \quad \text{which is safety}$$

proof left as exercise

- **consequence:**  
absence of runtime errors and functional correctness are safety

## But **many interesting safety properties are *not* state properties:**

- let  $s \in \mathbb{S}$
- consider  $S$  defined by  $\langle s_0, \dots, s_n \rangle \in S \iff \mathbf{Card}(\{i \in \mathbb{N} \mid s_i = s\}) \leq 1$   
*i.e.*, a trace is correct if and only if it cannot visit  $s$  twice
- we can show that  $S$  is a safety property
- based on the states it visits, one cannot say whether a trace meets it

# Proof method for safety

We consider a program  $P$  with initial states  $\mathbb{S}_i$  and transition relation  $\rightarrow$ :

## Principle of invariance proofs

Let  $\mathbb{I}$  be a set of finite traces; it is said to be an **invariant** if and only if:

- $\forall s \in \mathbb{S}_I, \langle s \rangle \in \mathbb{I}$
- $\forall \langle s_0, \dots, s_n \rangle \in \mathbb{I}, \forall s_{n+1} \in \mathbb{S}, s_n \rightarrow s_{n+1} \implies \langle s_0, \dots, s_{n+1} \rangle \in \mathbb{I}$

It is stronger than  $S$  if and only if  $\mathbb{I} \subseteq S$ .

The **“by invariance”** proof method is based on finding an invariant that is stronger than  $\mathcal{T}$ .

This proof method always works (theorem proof left as an exercise):

## Theorem: soundness and completeness

A safety property holds if and only if there exists an invariant stronger than it

**But**, finding a suitable invariant  $\mathbb{I}$  is often **very difficult** (especially automatically)

# Liveness properties

Informal definition, a form of dual of safety:

A **liveness property** is a semantic property such that any finite execution may be extended into a correct one; thus, it has **no finite counter-example**

Canonical example: **termination**

- after finitely many steps of an unfinished execution, we cannot say for sure whether the program **is about to terminate** or **will never terminate...**
- **consequence**: testing will **not** produce counterexample for termination  
*hack*: search for repeating states in finite executions  
 but this is changing the problem and will not capture all cases of NT

## Definition: liveness property

A trace property  $L \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}$  is a **liveness property** if and only if:

$$\forall \sigma \in \mathbb{S}^*, \exists \sigma' \in \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, \sigma \cdot \sigma' \in L$$

## Termination:

$L = \mathbb{S}^*$ , i.e., there should be no infinite trace

## Proof method for liveness

There exists also a **proof method for liveness properties**, which is also sound and complete.

We only sketch the **case of termination** since the general proof principle is long to describe and similar in spirit...

### Definition: ranking function

A **ranking function** for program  $P$  is a function  $\phi : \mathbb{S}^* \rightarrow E$ , where  $E$  with partial order  $\preceq$  is a **well-founded ordering** (no infinite decreasing chains) and the **ranking property** below holds:

$$\forall \langle s_0, \dots, s_n \rangle, \forall s_{n+1} \in \mathbb{S}, \\ s_n \rightarrow s_{n+1} \implies \phi(\langle s_0, \dots, s_{n+1} \rangle) \prec \phi(\langle s_0, \dots, s_n \rangle)$$

This is the basis for proof methods that reduce the **search of a variant** (like a ranking function) to that of an **invariant**, but **for a different program**.

# Decomposition of trace properties

## Theorem: decomposition (Alpern & Schneider 88)

Let  $T \subseteq \mathbb{S}^*\omega$ ; it can be decomposed into the **conjunction** of a **safety property**  $S$  and a **liveness property**  $L$ :

$$T = S \cap L$$

### Proof:

- it is actually **systematic** and **constructive**  
i.e., it describes precisely how both  $S$  and  $L$  can be defined
- see the paper for details (part of recommended reading assignment)

### Application: how to verify any trace property $T$

- 1 **decompose** it into  $T = S \cap L$  where  $S$  is a safety property and  $L$  a liveness property
- 2 **search for an invariant** to prove  $S$
- 3 **search for a variant** to prove  $L$

### Example: total correctness

$S$ : absence of crashes + partial correctness and  $L$ : termination

# Status so far

## Trace properties

total correctness

### Safety properties

never reach  $s_0$  before  $s_1$

### State properties

absence or runtime errors  
partial correctness

### Liveness properties

termination

- actually there is a small interaction between safety and liveness
- proof methods exist for all these
- we can search for invariants by static analysis...

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# Refinement: monotonicity over behaviors and properties

## Monotonicity over properties

Let  $T_0, T_1$  be two trace properties such that  $T_0 \subseteq T_1$ .

Let  $P$  be a program. Then:

**If  $P$  satisfies  $T_0$ , then  $P$  satisfies  $T_1$ .**

- obvious consequence of the definition using  $\subseteq$
- intuitively, a property that consist of fewer behaviors is **stronger**

## Monotonicity over program behaviors

Let  $P_0, P_1$  be two programs such that  $\llbracket P_0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^* \omega} \supseteq \llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^* \omega}$ .

Let  $T$  be a trace property. Then:

**If  $P_0$  satisfies  $T$ , then  $P_1$  satisfies  $T$ .**

- again, obvious consequence of the definition using  $\subseteq$
- intuitively, a program with fewer behaviors **satisfies more properties**.

Monotonicity over program behaviors also holds if we consider  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{R}}$  or  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\cdot, \cdot]}$  instead of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^* \omega}$



# Two (contrived) examples programs and non-interference

A few **simplifying assumptions** (it is hard to do simpler...):

- only two variables  $s, x$ , with  $s$  private and  $x$  public  
thus  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}} = \{x\}$  and  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}} = \{s\}$
- only two values  $\mathbb{V} = \{0, 1\}$
- for clarity we write  $(m(s), m(x))$  for the memory state  $m$

We consider  $P_0, P_1$  with the denotational semantics below

$$\begin{array}{ll} \llbracket P_0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_+, \ell_-]} : & (0, 0) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \\ & (0, 1) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \\ & (1, 0) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \\ & (1, 1) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \end{array} \quad \llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_+, \ell_-]} : \begin{array}{ll} (0, 0) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \\ (0, 1) \mapsto \mathbb{M} \\ (1, 0) \mapsto \{(1, 1)\} \\ (1, 1) \mapsto \{(1, 1)\} \end{array}$$

## Observations:

- $P_0$  **satisfies non-interference**:  
whatever the private input, the public output is always 1, thus there is no way to learn anything about the secret
- $P_1$  **violates non-interference**:  
when the public output is 0, we know the private input **cannot be 1**

# Non interference is not a trace property

Let us put it all together:

- $P_0$  has more behaviors than  $P_1$
- $P_0$  satisfies non-interference
- thus, if non-interference was a trace property then  $P_1$  should satisfy non-interference
- but  $P_1$  violates non-interference

Conclusion:

**Non-interference is not a trace property.**

*i.e.*, we cannot characterize non-interference by a set of “non-interfering” executions...

**Consequences:**

- we cannot decompose it into safety/liveness and apply existing proof methods, and apply directly previously shown static analysis methods
- we **need to study different techniques**

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## Moving to sets of sets of behaviors

We first search for **how to characterize** non-interference (and related security properties):

### Definition: semantic hyperproperty

Assuming **program behaviors** range in set  $\mathcal{S}$  a **semantic hyperproperty**, a semantic property is a set of sets  $\mathcal{G} \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S})$ .

Given program  $P$ , then  $P$  satisfies  $\mathcal{G}$  if and only if:

$$\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{S}} \in \mathcal{G}$$

**Important differences** with everything we have seen so far:

- **all** executions of the program are considered **at once**  
i.e., adding or removing one trace may invalidate the property of the **whole** set
- known proof methods/static analysis techniques **break**  
i.e., we cannot check execution traces one by one (by testing)  
i.e., we cannot rely on an over-approximation of  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{S}}$   
(that could be computed by static analysis)

# Properties as hyperproperties

## Lemma

**Any trace property can be described by a semantically equivalent hyperproperty.**

Indeed, let  $T \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}$  be a trace property and  $P$  a program. Then:

$$\begin{aligned}
 P \text{ satisfies } T &\iff \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \subseteq T \\
 &\iff \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \in \mathcal{P}(T)
 \end{aligned}$$

Thus **property**  $T$  describes the same program as **hyperproperty**  $\mathcal{P}(T)$  (powerset induces a downwards closure on hyperproperties).

Note that:

- the monotonicity results **do not hold for hyperproperties**
- for specific pairs of hyperproperties, we may of course observe a monotone behavior, e.g. for hyperproperties induced by properties.

# Non-interference

To express non-interference on traces we need to **abstract traces into input-output functions**:

$$\begin{aligned} \Phi : \mathcal{S}^{*\omega} &\longrightarrow (\mathbb{M} \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{M})) \\ T &\longmapsto \lambda m \cdot \{m' \in \mathbb{M}, \langle (l_{\vdash}, m), \dots, (l_{\vdash}, m') \rangle \in T\} \end{aligned}$$

We can now define **non-interference** as an **hyperproperty**:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{N} = \{ T \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{S}^{*\omega}) \mid & \\ \forall m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{M}, (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, m_0(\mathbf{x}) = m_1(\mathbf{x})) & \\ \implies \forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \Phi(T)(m_0)(\mathbf{x}) = \Phi(T)(m_1)(\mathbf{x}) & \end{aligned}$$

This definition captures the non-interference property:  
 whenever two initial memories agree on public variables  
 then corresponding final states should agree on private variables.

**Examples** (continued):

- $\llbracket P_0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \in \mathcal{N}$
- $\llbracket P_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{T}^{*\omega}} \notin \mathcal{N}$

# Average execution time

We temporarily make a few **limiting assumptions** on programs:

- we consider **only terminating programs**
- we consider **only programs with finitely many complete executions**  
complete executions: from entry control state  $l_+$  to exit control state  $l_-$

Given a set of traces  $T \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^*)$ , we define:

$$\text{Avg\_len}(T) = \frac{1}{|T|} \sum_{\sigma \in T} \mathbf{length}(\sigma)$$

where **length** returns the length of a trace.

**Average execution time lower than  $k \in \mathbb{N}$**  (clearly not a trace property):

$$\mathcal{A}_k = \{T \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^*) \mid \text{Avg\_len}(T) \leq k\}$$

**Generalization:**

- with some **measure theory**, we can extend similar properties to **infinite sets of program traces**
- we can also **let programs have some infinite traces**, and consider only the finite ones

# Interesting families of hyperproperties

## Can we divide the set of hyperproperties in interesting sub-classes ?

Hierarchy inspired by the **safety/liveness** division,  
and more precisely **how can a hyperproperty be disproved**:

- **hypersafety**:  
can always be disproved using a **finite** set of **finite** traces
- **$k$ -safety**:  
can always be disproved using a set of **at most  $k$  finite** traces  
clearly:
  - $k$ -safety hyperproperties are also  $k + 1$ -safety
  - $k$ -safety hyperproperties are also hypersafety
- **hyperliveness**:  
disproving them requires looking at **infinite traces** or **infinite sets of traces**

We now formalize some of these sets more in detail...



# Hypersafety

The idea is to extend safety, except that the observation is limited to finite sets finite traces, instead of just finite traces.

## Extension of an observation:

Given  $T, T' \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}$ , we say that  $T'$  extends  $T$  and note  $T \leq T'$  if and only if:

$$\forall \sigma \in T, \exists \sigma' \in \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, \sigma \cdot \sigma' \in T'$$

## Definition: hypersafety

Let  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega}))$  be a hyperproperty. Then, we say that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a **hypersafety** property if and only if for all  $T \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega})$ , if  $T$  does not satisfy  $\mathcal{G}$ , then

$$\exists M \subseteq \mathbb{S}^*, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M \text{ is a finite set} \\ \wedge M \leq T \\ \wedge \forall T' \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, M \leq T' \implies T' \notin \mathcal{G} \end{array} \right.$$

## Examples:

- absence of runtime errors (counter-example: one crashing trace)
- non-interference (counter-example: two traces revealing leak)

# $k$ -safety

Hypersafety is **not very specific**, as counter-examples can be **arbitrarily large**.  
 Additional (parametric) restriction: the number of traces in the counter-example.

## Definition: $k$ -safety

Let  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}))$  be a hyperproperty. Then, we say that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a  **$k$ -safety** property if and only if for all  $T \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega})$ , if  $T$  does not satisfy  $\mathcal{G}$ , then

$$\exists M \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, \left\{ \begin{array}{l} M \text{ has at most } k \text{ elements} \\ \wedge M \leq T \\ \wedge \forall T' \subseteq \mathbb{S}^{*\omega}, M \leq T' \implies T' \notin \mathcal{G} \end{array} \right.$$

## Interesting examples:

- **all safety properties** are **1-safety**  
*i.e.*, counter-examples consist only of one offending finite trace this includes the absence of runtime errors
- **non-interference**:  
*i.e.*, by the definition a counter-example is made of two finite traces

# Hyperliveness

Intuition behind liveness: finite observations are not counter-examples.

We can extend this intuition here, except that a finite observation is now any finite set of finite execution traces:

## Definition: hyperliveness

Let  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}))$  be a hyperproperty. Then, we say that  $\mathcal{G}$  is a **hyperliveness** property if and only if

$$\forall T \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega}), T \text{ finite} \implies \exists T' \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega}), \begin{cases} T \leq T' \\ T' \in \mathcal{G} \end{cases}$$

## Example:

the average run-time is less than  $N$  steps

Indeed, any finite set of executions may be extended with enough short ones to bring down the average.

# Decomposition of hyperproperties

We can also extend the **Alpern & Schneider decomposition theorem**:

## Decomposition theorem

Let  $\mathcal{G} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{S}^{*\omega}))$  be a hyperproperty. Then, there exist

- a hypersafety property  $\mathcal{S}$  and
- a hyperliveness property  $\mathcal{L}$

such that:

$$\mathcal{G} = \mathcal{S} \cap \mathcal{L}$$

In the following of this class, though **2-safety is enough**.

# Outline

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Non-interference
- 3 Specificities of security properties
- 4 Hyperproperties
- 5 Dependence analysis for non-interference**
- 6 Relational reasoning over non-interference
- 7 Conclusion

# From traces to sets of traces in the semantics

## Observations so far:

- typical semantics describe **sets of behaviors** and are based on **fixpoint definitions**
- abstract interpretation builds upon abstraction and fixpoint definition hence, it allows to over-approximate **sets of behaviors**
- in the case of non-interference, **over-approximating sets of behaviors** is **not useful**  
the same goes for any hyperproperty that is not a trace property...

**We need a technique to conservatively reason over hyperproperties**

We are going to consider **two approaches**:

- 1 **lifting the semantics** to sets of sets of traces
- 2 **re-expressing** the hyperproperties that we are interested in

# A very basic language

In the following, we study a very basic imperative language, to describe a static analysis based on a semantics defined in terms of sets of sets:

- as before, we assume finitely many variables  $\mathbb{X}$  and a set set of base type values  $\mathbb{V}$
- **expressions:**

$e$	$::=$	$v$	base type value
		$x$	variable
		$e_0 \oplus e_1$	binary operation $\oplus$

- **commands:**

$s$	$::=$	$x := e$	assignment
		<b>skip</b>	do nothing
		$s_0; s_1$	sequence
		<b>if</b> ( $e_0$ ) $s_1$ <b>else</b> $s_2$	condition
		<b>while</b> ( $e_0$ ) $s_1$	loop

- non-determinism occurs **only at the beginning of program execution**  
once the initial state is set up, no non-determinism occurs

# Base semantics: function over sets of relations

We are interested in **input-output** relations:

- **standard approach**: map input memory state into output memory state
- to obtain **more general statements**: functions over such pairs
  - 1  $\llbracket P \rrbracket_{\text{rel}}$  inputs  $(m_0, m_1)$ , assumes that a previous run from  $m_0$  led to  $m_1$
  - 2 it computes the effect of  $P$  from there, we assume the result is  $m_2$
  - 3 then, it returns the new pair  $(m_0, m_2) \in \mathbb{F} = \mathbb{M} \times \mathbb{M}$

**Semantics of expressions** ( $\llbracket e \rrbracket : \mathbb{M} \rightarrow \mathbb{V}$ ):

$$\llbracket v \rrbracket(m) = v \quad \llbracket x \rrbracket(m) = m(x) \quad \llbracket e_0 \oplus e_1 \rrbracket(m) = \llbracket e_0 \rrbracket(m) \oplus \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket(m)$$

**Semantics of commands** ( $\llbracket s \rrbracket : \mathbb{F} \uplus \{\perp\} \rightarrow \mathbb{F} \uplus \{\perp\}$ ):

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket s \rrbracket(\perp) &= \perp \\ \llbracket x := e \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) &= (m_0, m_1[x \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1)]) \\ \llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) &= (m_0, m_1) \\ \llbracket s_0; s_1 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) &= \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket \circ \llbracket s_0 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) \\ \llbracket \text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else } s_2 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) &= \begin{cases} \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) & \text{if } \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) = \text{true} \\ \llbracket s_2 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) & \text{if } \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) = \text{false} \end{cases} \\ \llbracket \text{while}(e_0) s_1 \rrbracket(m_0, m_1) &= \text{lfp } G \\ &\quad \text{where } G \text{ is left as an exercise} \end{aligned}$$



# Non-interference

We can express **non-interference** directly.

Assumption:  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}$  are given.

We let the following equivalence relation describe **memory agreement** on any given set of variables  $X$ :

- notation:  $m_0 \equiv_X m_1$
- condition:

$$m_0 \equiv_X m_1 \iff \forall x \in X, m_0(x) = m_1(x)$$

## Non-interference (normal) semantics level

Program  $P$  satisfies non-interference if and only if

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \forall m_0, m'_0, m_1, m'_1 \in \mathbb{M}, \\ m_0 \equiv_{\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}} m'_0 \\ \wedge \llbracket P \rrbracket(m_0, m_0) = (m_0, m_1) \\ \wedge \llbracket P \rrbracket(m'_0, m'_0) = (m'_0, m'_1) \end{array} \right\} \implies m_1 \equiv_{\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}} m'_1$$

**Remark:** we could work out similar definitions with full traces rather than relations...

# Towards a non-standard semantics

## Base semantics:

- we have defined  $\llbracket s \rrbracket : \mathbb{F} \uplus \{\perp\} \longrightarrow \mathbb{F} \uplus \{\perp\}$
- let  $\delta_M = \{(m, m) \mid m \in M\}$
- then,  $\llbracket s \rrbracket(\delta_M)$  describes exactly the input/output pairs of  $s$  as observed, over-approximating this set of pairs is of **no use** to prove non-interference, thus we turn to **a new semantics**

## Hypercollecting semantics:

- goal: compute a set of set of pairs...
- thus, we let  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F}))$  and  $\Delta_M = \{\delta_M \mid M \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{M})\}$
- then,  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\Delta_M)$  computes the set of sets of input/output pairs, for any set of inputs

We will set up the definition of  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}$  so as to meet the following two conditions:

- 1 for all  $s$  and for all  $F \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})$ , the definition of  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}$  is such that  $(\llbracket s \rrbracket(F) \cap \mathbb{F}) \in \llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\{F\})$
- 2  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}$  is **adapted for abstract interpretation**, i.e., can be over-approximated in an inductive manner

# Hypercollecting semantics

## Hypercollecting semantics for expressions:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{V})) \\ \mathcal{E} &\longmapsto \{ \{ \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) \mid (m_0, m_1) \in F \} \mid F \in \mathcal{E} \} \end{aligned}$$

## Hypercollecting semantics of tests:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}, \text{test}} : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) \\ \mathcal{E} &\longmapsto \{ \{ (m_0, m_1) \in F \mid \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) = \text{true} \} \mid F \in \mathcal{E} \} \end{aligned}$$

## Hypercollecting semantics of commands:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} : \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) &\longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) \\ \llbracket x := e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{E}) &= \{ \{ (m_0, m_1[x \mapsto v]) \mid (m_0, m_1) \in F \\ &\quad \wedge \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) = v \} \mid F \in \mathcal{E} \} \\ \llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{E}) &= \mathcal{E} \\ \llbracket s_0; s_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{E}) &= \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket \circ \llbracket s_0 \rrbracket(\mathcal{E}) \\ \llbracket \text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else } s_2 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{E}) &= \{ \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket \circ \llbracket e_0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}, \text{test}}(F) \\ &\quad \cup \llbracket s_2 \rrbracket \circ \llbracket \neg e_0 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}, \text{test}}(F) \mid F \in \mathcal{E} \} \\ \llbracket \text{while}(e_0) s_1 \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\mathcal{E}) &= \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}, \text{test}}(\text{lfp}_F G_{\mathcal{H}}) \\ &\quad \text{where } G_{\mathcal{H}} = \llbracket \text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else skip} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} \end{aligned}$$

# Hypercollecting semantics

## Instantiation:

- starting from  $\Delta_{\mathbb{M}} = \{\delta_M \mid M \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{M})\} = \{\{(m, m) \mid m \in M\} \mid M \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{M})\}$
- then,  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\Delta_{\mathbb{M}}) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F}))$  collects the set of **all sets of runs of s**, described by a pair made of an input memory and an output memory
- each of the hypercollecting semantics inputs such a set of sets of pairs

## Induction:

- $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}$  is defined by case analysis of s **but its definition is not exactly done by induction**
- but we can prove **by induction**
  - 1 that it is monotone
  - 2 the inclusion

$$(\llbracket s \rrbracket(F) \cap \mathbb{F}) \in \llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\{F\})$$

- the combination of these properties opens up inductive approximation

# Dependence abstraction

We now set up an abstraction for  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\Delta_{\mathbb{M}}) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F}))$ , that describes **dependences** between inputs and outputs.

**Agreement relation:** if  $X \subseteq \mathbb{X}$ , the equivalence relation  $(\equiv_X) \subseteq \mathbb{M} \times \mathbb{M}$  is defined by

$$m_0 \equiv_X m_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{\iff} \forall x \in X, m_0(x) = m_1(x)$$

## Dependence abstraction

We let the **dependence abstract domain** be  $\mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\sharp} = \mathbb{X} \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$  with the pointwise inclusion ordering, with the **following concretization function**:

$$\begin{aligned} \gamma_{\text{dep}} : \mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\sharp} &\longmapsto \mathcal{P}(\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F})) \\ d &\longrightarrow \{R \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{F}) \mid \forall (m_0, m_1), (m'_0, m'_1) \in R, \\ &\quad \forall x \in \mathbb{X}, m_0 \equiv_{d(x)} m'_0 \implies m_1 \equiv_{\{x\}} m'_1\} \end{aligned}$$

**Contraposition:** when a pair of executions lead to **distinct outputs**, there must be **disagreement in at least some of the dependence inputs**

# Dependence abstraction: example

Back to some examples related to non-interference...

## Program 1:

```
// ... as before, s stores the secret
if( s == 7 )
  i = 1;
else
  i = -1;
```

non-interference: **violated**

## Program 3:

```
i = 0 * s;
```

non-interference: **satisfied**

Dependency:

$$i \mapsto \{s\}$$

Indeed, modifying  $s$  may cause distinct  $i$  outputs

Dependency:

$$i \mapsto \emptyset$$

Indeed,  $s$  ends up being 0 regardless...

## Non-interference

Non-interference holds if and only if no public variable depends on a secret.

# Dependence analysis of expressions

## Principle of the dependency analysis of expressions:

- to be used for the analysis of commands  
*e.g.*, assignment command  $x = e$   
 new dependency of  $x$ : whatever may change the result of  $e$
- compute an over-approximation of the set of the variables that may make the evaluation result change

**Definition** of  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#} \in \mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\#} \longrightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket v \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) &= \emptyset \\ \llbracket x \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) &= d(x) \\ \llbracket e_0 \oplus e_1 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) &= \llbracket e_0 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) \dot{\cup} \llbracket e_1 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) \end{aligned}$$

It is **approximate**:

- expression  $x * 0$  does not depend on  $x$  in the concrete
- but  $\llbracket x * 0 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#} = \{x\}$

# Soundness of the analysis of expressions

The analysis of expressions is sound in the following sense:

## Soundness of the analysis of expressions

Given an expression  $e$  and an element  $d \in \mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$ , then:

$$\forall R \in \gamma_{\text{dep}}(d), \forall (m_0, m_1), (m'_0, m'_1) \in R, \\ m_0 \equiv_{\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d)} m'_0 \implies \llbracket e \rrbracket(m_1) = \llbracket e \rrbracket(m'_1)$$

- the proof proceeds by **induction** over the syntax of expressions

- example 1:**

let us assume that  $e$  is  $x + y$

and that  $d$  is  $x \mapsto \{x\}, y \mapsto \{x, t\}, t \mapsto \{z\}$ :

then,  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) = \{x, t\}$  (this result is **precise**)

- example 2:**

let us assume that  $e$  is  $0 * x$

and that  $d$  is  $x \mapsto \{x\}, \dots$ :

then,  $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) = \{x\}$  (this result is **imprecise**)



# Dependence analysis of commands

## Principle:

- define a function  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#} : \mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\#} \longrightarrow \mathbb{D}_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$  by induction over the syntax of statements
- ensure **soundness condition**

$$\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \gamma_{\text{dep}} \subseteq \gamma_{\text{dep}} \circ \llbracket s \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$$

- apply  $\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$  to  $d_{\text{id}} = \lambda x \in \mathbb{X} \cdot \{x\}$  (note that  $\Delta_{\text{M}} \subseteq \gamma_{\text{dep}}(d_{\text{id}})$ )

## Analysis of skip commands: $\llbracket \text{skip} \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) = d$

- since the concrete semantics is also the identity function

## Analysis of assignment commands, based on the previously defined $\llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$ :

$$\llbracket x = e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) = \begin{cases} x & \mapsto \llbracket e \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) \\ y \neq x & \mapsto d(y) \end{cases}$$

## Analysis of sequences: $\llbracket s_0; s_1 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d) = \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#} \circ \llbracket s_0 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d_0)$

- since the concrete semantics is also a composition

# Dependence analysis of condition commands

Dependencies induced by **condition command**  $\text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else } s_2$ :

- 1 dependencies in assignments in  $s_1, s_2$  as before
- 2 any variable modified in either  $s_1$  or  $s_2$  **also depends on the condition**  $e_0$

**Modified variables**  $\mathcal{M}(s) \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{X})$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{M}(x := e) &= \{x\} & \mathcal{M}(\text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else } s_2) &= \mathcal{M}(s_0) \cup \mathcal{M}(s_1) \\ \mathcal{M}(\text{skip}) &= \emptyset & \mathcal{M}(\text{while}(e_0) s_1) &= \mathcal{M}(s_1) \\ \mathcal{M}(s_0; s_1) &= \mathcal{M}(s_0) \cup \mathcal{M}(s_1) \end{aligned}$$

**Dependency analysis of condition statement**  $s ::= \text{if}(e_0) s_1 \text{ else } s_2$ :

- we let  $d' = \llbracket s_1 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^\#(d) \dot{\cup} \llbracket s_2 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^\#(d)$  (pointwise union)
- analysis function:

$$\llbracket s \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^\#(d) = \lambda(x \in \mathbb{X}). \begin{cases} d'(x) \cup \llbracket e_0 \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^\#(d) & \text{if } x \in \mathcal{M}(s_1) \cup \mathcal{M}(s_2) \\ d'(x) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

**Case of loops:** apply **standard fixpoint techniques**, left as an exercise

# Soundness of the analysis of commands

## Analysis soundness

For all statement, we have:

❶ **soundness of the abstract semantics:**

$$\llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \gamma_{\text{dep}} \subseteq \gamma_{\text{dep}} \circ \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}$$

❷ **soundness of the analysis:**

$$\llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket(\delta_{\mathbf{M}}) \in \gamma_{\text{dep}} \circ \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d_{\text{id}})$$

❶ proof by induction over the syntax

❷ composing inclusions:

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket(\delta_{\mathbf{M}}) &\in \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\{\delta_{\mathbf{M}}\}) \\ &\subseteq \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}}(\Delta_{\mathbf{M}}) \\ &\subseteq \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\mathcal{H}} \circ \gamma_{\text{dep}}(d_{\text{id}}) \\ &\subseteq \gamma_{\text{dep}} \circ \llbracket \mathbf{s} \rrbracket_{\text{dep}}^{\#}(d_{\text{id}}) \end{aligned}$$

## Dependence analysis: example implicit flows

$$\begin{array}{l}
 \{x \mapsto \{x\}, y \mapsto \{y\}, s \mapsto \{s\}, z \mapsto \{z\}\} \\
 z = y - 1 + x; \\
 \{x \mapsto \{x\}, y \mapsto \{y\}, s \mapsto \{s\}, z \mapsto \{x, y\}\} \\
 x = s * s + 8; \\
 \{x \mapsto \{s\}, y \mapsto \{y\}, s \mapsto \{s\}, z \mapsto \{x, y\}\} \\
 y = x + 1; \\
 \{x \mapsto \{s\}, y \mapsto \{s\}, s \mapsto \{s\}, z \mapsto \{x, y\}\}
 \end{array}$$

## Information flows

- There are **information flows from  $s$  to  $x$  and to  $y$** .
- There is **no information flow from  $s$  to  $z$** .

## Dependence analysis: example implicit flows

```

                                {x ↦ {x}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
x = s * s + 8;
                                {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
if(x > 0) {
    {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
    y = y + 1;
    {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
} else {
    {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
    y = y - 1;
    {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {y}, s ↦ {s}}
}
                                {x ↦ {s}, y ↦ {s, y}, s ↦ {s}}

```

## Information flows

There are **information flows from  $s$  to  $x$  (explicit) and to  $y$  (implicit)**.

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## Another informal proof principle

We look again at the definition of non-interference:

### Non-interference

Program  $P$  satisfies the **non-interference** property defined by  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}/\ell_{\rightarrow}, \mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}}/\ell_{\rightarrow}$  if and only if for all memory states  $m_0, m_1 \in \mathbb{M}$ ,

$$\begin{aligned}
 (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, m_0(\mathbf{x}) = m_1(\mathbf{x})) \\
 \implies (\forall \mathbf{x} \in \mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}}, \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_{\rightarrow}, \ell_{\rightarrow}]}(m_0)(\mathbf{x}) = \llbracket P \rrbracket_{\mathcal{F}[\ell_{\rightarrow}, \ell_{\rightarrow}]}(m_1)(\mathbf{x}))
 \end{aligned}$$

### Intuition:

- we **run the program twice**, with two states that differ only in the value of one secret variable
- **if the outputs agree** for all such pairs of runs, then **non-interference** is satisfied

We can turn this **into a symbolic composition**, to allow for the non-interference to be verified.

# Proof by self-composition

**Notation:** to build self-composition, we need to make variables explicit

- we write  $P[x, y]$  for a program that is defined over variables  $x, y$ , even though it may use only some of these;
- for example, we may let  $P[x, y, z]$  stand for program **while**( $x \leq y$ ){ $x = x + 1$ } ( $z$  is included even though it is not used in the program)

## Definition: proof by self-composition

Let  $P[s_0, \dots, s_k, x_0, \dots, x_l]$  be a deterministic program, where

$\mathbb{X}_{\text{sec}} = \{s_0, \dots, s_k\}$  and  $\mathbb{X}_{\text{pub}} = \{x_0, \dots, x_l\}$ . We let  $s'_0, \dots, s'_k, x'_0, \dots, x'_l$  be **fresh** variables. We let  $Q[s_0, \dots, s_k, x_0, \dots, x_l, s'_0, \dots, s'_k, x'_0, \dots, x'_l]$  be:

$$\begin{aligned} & \mathbf{assume}(x_0 == x'_0); \dots; \mathbf{assume}(x_l == x'_l); \\ & P[s_0, \dots, s_k, x_0, \dots, x_l]; \\ & P'[s'_0, \dots, s'_k, x'_0, \dots, x'_l]; \\ & \mathbf{assert}(x_0 == x'_0); \dots; \mathbf{assert}(x_l == x'_l); \end{aligned}$$

Then,  $P[...]$  **satisfies non-interference if and only if**  $Q[...]$  **satisfies the final assertion.**



# Proof by self-composition

**Principle: reduce a security question to a safety question  
but for a different program**

- initial question: **is  $P$  secure ?**
- reduced question: **is  $Q$  safe ?** (where  $Q$  is defined from  $P$ )
- then, classical analysis techniques for safety apply

**Specific issues:**

- **termination:**  
if  $P$  may not terminate, the observation of termination or non-termination may reveal information on the secret
- **non-determinism:**  
if  $P$  may contain some non-determinism, the final assertion of  $Q$  may fail even when the non-interference is satisfied

Taking these into account **will require more care.**

# Examples

## A simple case:

Initial program:

```
x = 8 * y + 2;
s = x + s;
```

Verification of the assertion by static analysis:

exercise: which abstract domain ?

## A subtle case to rule out **deceptive implicit flows**:

Initial program:

```
if( s == 1 ) x = s;
else x = 1;
```

Transformed program:

```
assume( x0 == x1 );
x0 = 8 * y0 + 2;
s0 = x0 + s0;
x1 = 8 * y1 + 2;
s1 = x1 + s1;
assert( x0 == x1 );
```

```
assume( x0 == x1 );
if( s0 == 1 ) x0 = s0;
else x0 = 1;
if( s1 == 1 ) x1 = s1;
else x1 = 1;
assert( x0 == x1 );
```

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# Main points to remember

Security properties **are a separate class of properties**:

- expressing the property requires **quantifying over pairs of executions**
- **hyperproperties**  $\supset$  hypersafety  $\supset$  **2-safety**  
many important security properties are 2-safety...

**Static analysis** with respect to hyperproperties:

- **dependence analysis** has to be proved with respect to a **specific semantics**, which can talk about pairs of executions
- **deceptive implicit flows**: conditions

**Self-composition**:

technique based on the **reduction** to another property

# Assignment: proofs and paper reading

## **Recognizing Safety and Liveness.**

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In POPL'17, pages 874–887, 2017.

## **Secure Information Flow by Self-Composition.**

Gilles Barthe, Pedro R. D'Argenio, Tamara Rezk.  
In CSFW 2004: 100-114