

Compositional Analysis of Protocol Equivalence  
in the Applied  $\pi$ -calculus  
using Quasi-Open Bisimilarity

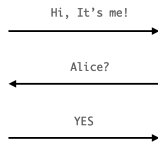
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Sjouke Mauw, Ross Horne, **Semyon Yurkov**

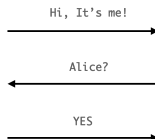
Department of Computer Science, University of Luxembourg

September 6-10, 2021

# Communication protocols



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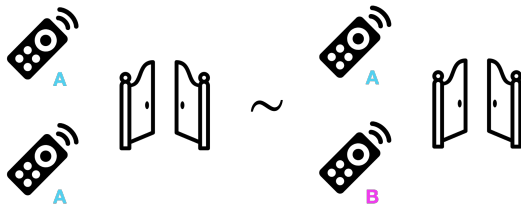


We use **applied  $\pi$ -calculus** to define a protocol as a **process** and security goals as properties of this process.

# Security properties

Secrecy, authentication, **privacy** ...

$P$  satisfies privacy if it **behaves like** the *ideal*, definitely private  $P'$ .



Implementation

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Specification

**Q:** What is  $\sim$  exactly?

# Bisimilarity Zoo

proves privacy properties

early

QUASI - OPEN

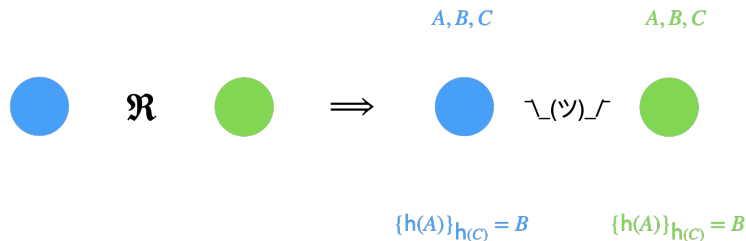
open

congruence

We suggest that  $\sim$  is **quasi-open bisimilarity**.

# We suggest that $\sim$ is quasi-open bisimilarity I (definition)

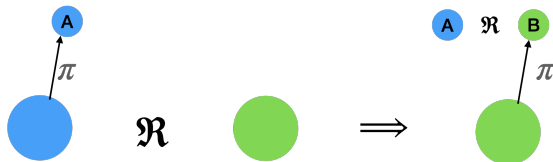
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i. Static equivalence

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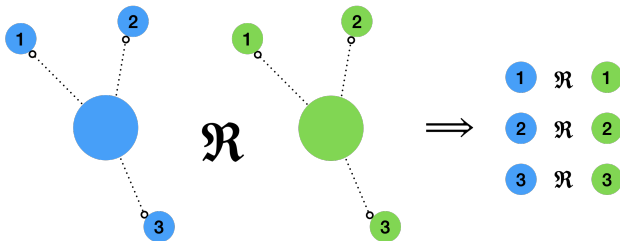
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ii. Matching transitions

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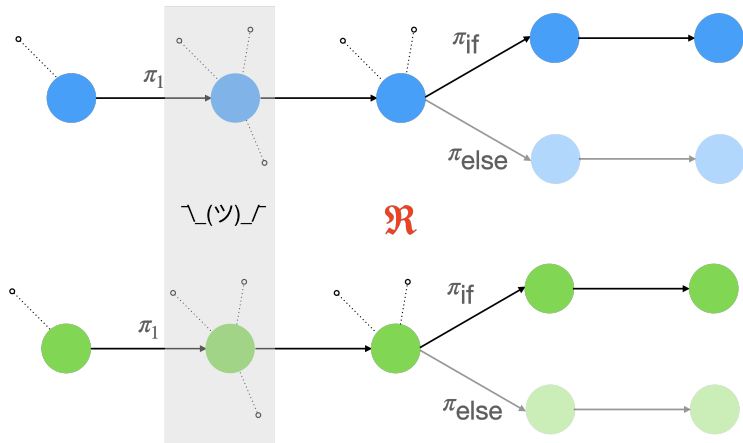
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iii. Reachability



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- ▶  $\sim$  is *complete* with respect to a powerful notion of testing equivalence (open barbed bisimilarity).

# Too coarse equivalence leads to missing attacks

*Unlinkability* = no one can relate two observed protocol sessions.





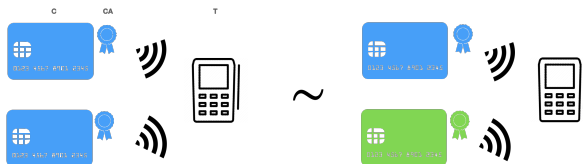
# Too coarse equivalence leads to missing attacks

## ICAO BAC protocol

- ▶ is unlinkable in trace equivalence model: Hirschi, Delaune, Baelde. S&P'16
- ▶ is not unlinkable in bisimilarity model and the attack found is *practical*: Filimonov, Horne, Mauw, Smith. ESORICS'19

# Congruence enables compositional reasoning

**Goal:**  $C$  presents credentials multiple times without the risk of being reidentified.



$Impl \triangleq \nu s.$

$$\left( \begin{array}{l} !\nu a. \\ !\nu ch_c. \overline{c_C} \langle ch_c \rangle. C(s, ch_c, a) \mid \\ \overline{out} \langle pk(s) \rangle. \\ !\nu ch_t. \overline{c_T} \langle ch_t \rangle. T(pk(s), ch_t) \end{array} \right)$$

$Spec \triangleq \nu s.$

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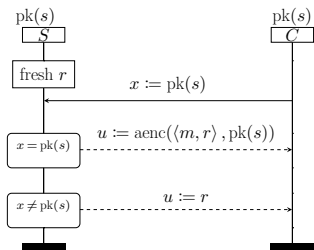
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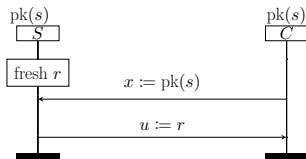
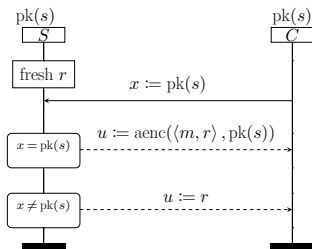
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# Too fine equivalence discovers bogus attacks

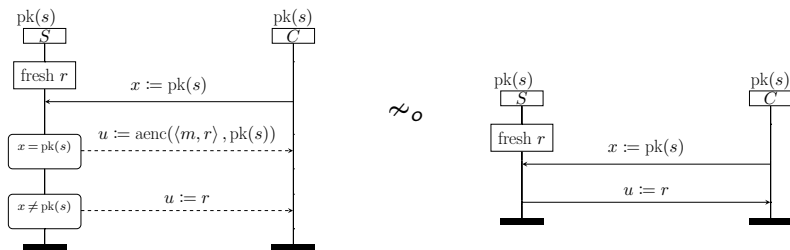


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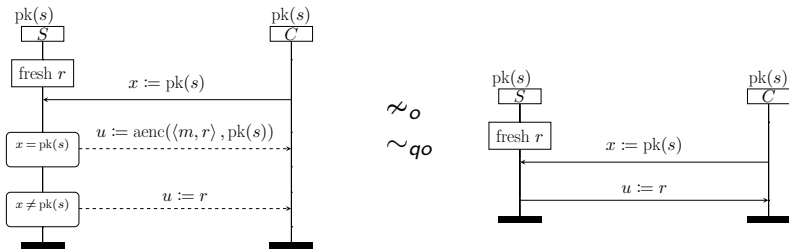
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Quasi-open bisimilarity  $\sim_{qo}$  is the coarsest bisimilarity congruence

# Conclusions

- ▶ Privacy properties are sensitive to equivalence notion.
- ▶ **Quasi-open bisimilarity** is optimal.
  - ▶ **Bisimilarity**  $\Rightarrow$  wide range of practical attacks.
  - ▶ **Congruence**  $\Rightarrow$  compositional reasoning.
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  - ▶ **Canonical**: independent of any internal constraint system.