

# On the Secure Compilation of the Constant-Time Policy

Quantitative Information Flow

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# Side Channels

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- ▶ Outputs of a computer system



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- ▶ Usually unintentional



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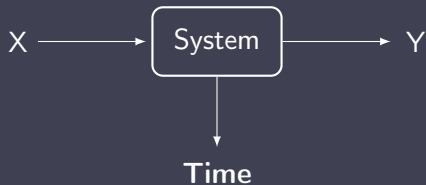
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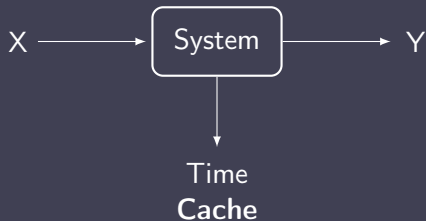
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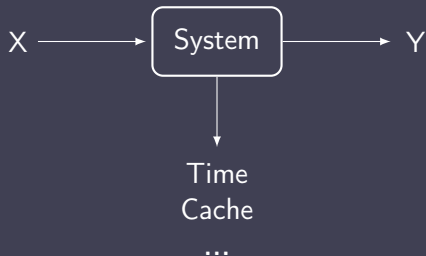
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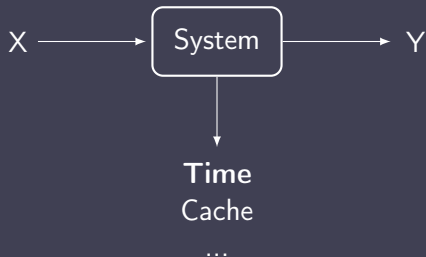
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# Defense Strategy



## Definition 1 (Constant-Time Programming)

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# Password Checker



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*Side channel*

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4   where r = check' g pw == Accept
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- ▶ Corresponds to x86's cmov
- ▶ LLVM's x86-cmov-converter pass replaces cmovs with branches
- ▶ How to prove that the constant-time property is preserved?



# Secure Compilation





- ▶ Barthe, Grégoire, and Laporte, “Secure Compilation of Side-Channel Countermeasures: The Case of Cryptographic “Constant-Time””

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- ▶ **Constant-time simulations**



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$$a \xrightarrow[t]{n} a',$$

where  $a$  and  $a'$  are states,  $t$  is the leakage and  $n$  is the number of steps

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$$a \xrightarrow{t}^n b \wedge a' \xrightarrow{t'}^n b' \wedge a \phi a' \implies t = t' \wedge (b \in \mathcal{S}_f \iff b' \in \mathcal{S}_f).$$

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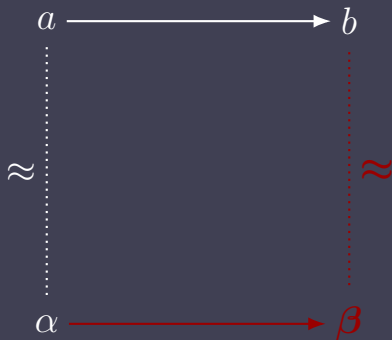
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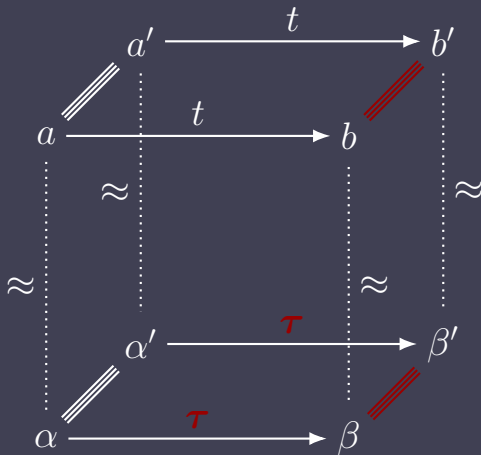
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Constant folding reduces expressions whose operands are known. For example:

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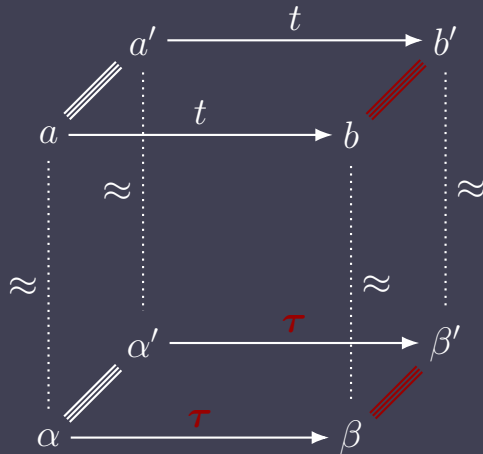
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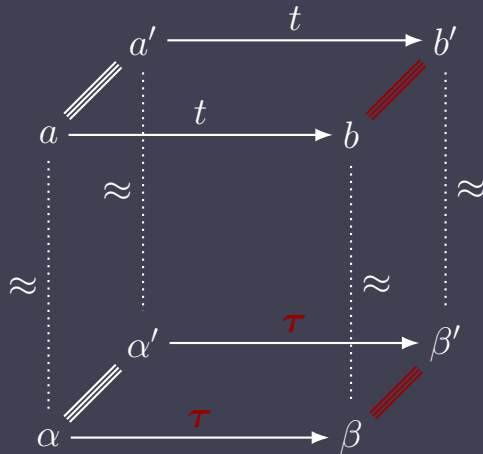


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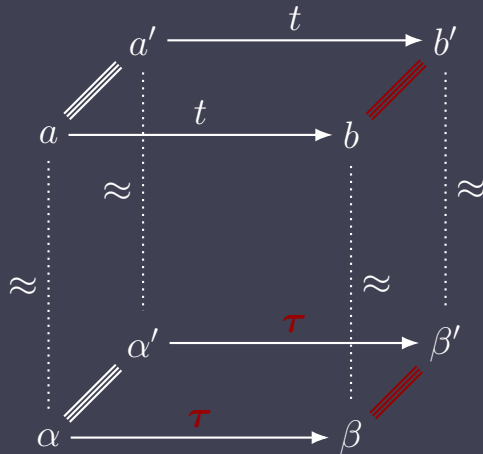
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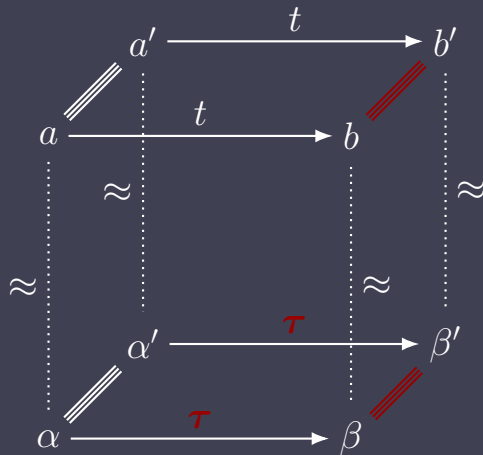
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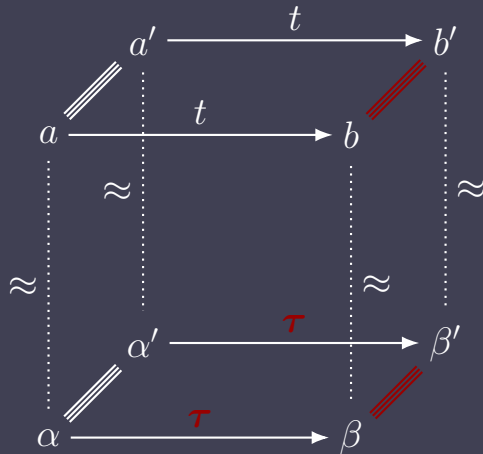
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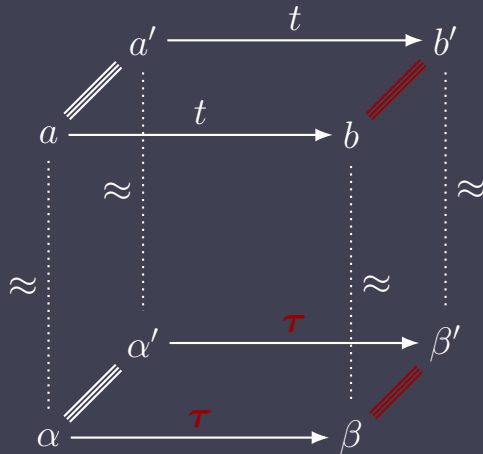
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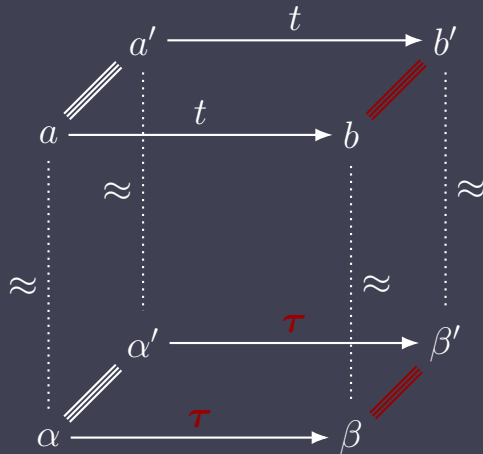
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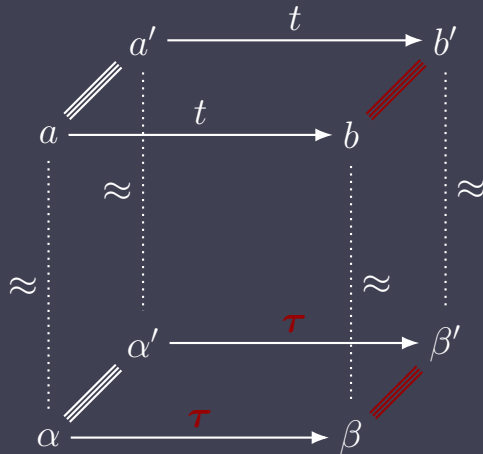
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- ▶  $t = t' \cdot (A, [i]_{\rho_a})$  and  $[i]_{\rho_a} = [i]_{\rho_{a'}}$



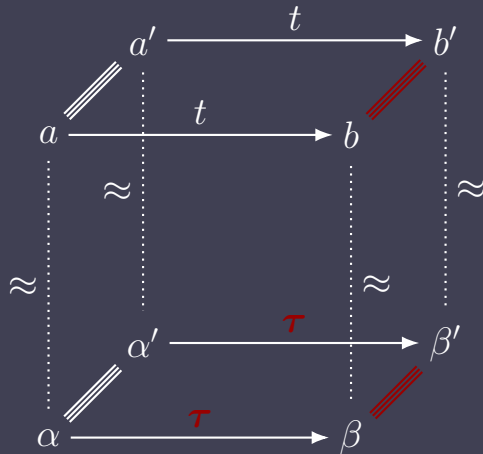
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- ▶ Let  $b.\text{cmd}$  and  $b'.\text{cmd}$  be  $z := x + y$
- ▶ Suppose  $k$  always evaluates to 0
- ▶ Then  $\alpha.\text{cmd}$  and  $\alpha'.\text{cmd}$  are  $y := 0$
- ▶ Similarly,  $\beta.\text{cmd}$  and  $\beta'.\text{cmd}$  are  $z := x$
- ▶  $t = t' \cdot (A, [i]_{\rho_a})$  and  $[i]_{\rho_a} = [i]_{\rho_{a'}}$
- ▶ What is the leakage  $\tau$  and is it the same in both steps?



# Secure Compilation

- ▶ Let  $a.\text{cmd}$  and  $a'.\text{cmd}$  be  $y := A[i] * k$
- ▶ Let  $b.\text{cmd}$  and  $b'.\text{cmd}$  be  $z := x + y$
- ▶ Suppose  $k$  always evaluates to 0
- ▶ Then  $\alpha.\text{cmd}$   $\alpha'.\text{cmd}$  are  $y := 0$
- ▶ Similarly,  $\beta.\text{cmd}$  and  $\beta'.\text{cmd}$  are  $z := x$
- ▶  $t = t' \cdot (A, [i]_{\rho_a})$  and  $[i]_{\rho_a} = [i]_{\rho_{a'}}$
- ▶ What is the leakage  $\tau$  and is it the same in both steps?
- ▶  $\tau = \tau'$





# Relation to QIF







# Relation to QIF



▶ Labelled transitions

▶ Information-theoretic channels





# Relation to QIF



- ▶ Labelled transitions
- ▶ Leakage as a trace of events
- ▶ Information-theoretic channels
- ▶ Leakage as a real number

# Relation to QIF

- ▶ Labelled transitions
- ▶ Leakage as a trace of events
- ▶ Constant-time simulation
- ▶ Information-theoretic channels
- ▶ Leakage as a real number
- ▶ Refinement

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