

Special topics in Logic and Security I

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Formal analysis of security protocols

- In formal analysis we define and analyze a protocol within a consistent mathematical theory.
- One studies abstract versions of real protocols (for example the (real, computer-network authentication) protocol Kerberos is based on the (academic) protocol Needham-Schroeder.
- Verification based on:
 - epistemic logics, for example [BAN logic, 1990](#)
 - model-checking tools: Proverif, AVISPA, Scyther, Tamarin, ...
 - ...

In the following we shall present the *operational semantics approach* from [\[OSVSP\]](#):

- Cremers C. and Mauw S. Operational Semantics and Verification of Security Protocols. Springer, 2012.
- Cremers, C. J. F. (2006). Scyther : semantics and verification of security protocols Eindhoven: Technische Universiteit Eindhoven DOI: 10.6100/IR614943

Operational semantics for programming languages

- Formal programming languages semantics:
 - natural language,
 - axiomatic,
 - denotational,
 - operational
- The operational semantics represents the execution of a program as a sequence of computational steps, formally defined by a transition system between configurations

$$\langle code, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle code, \sigma' \rangle$$

where σ and σ' are states. For a simple programming language, states are defined as partial functions from variables to values:

$$\begin{aligned}\sigma &: Var \rightarrow Int \\ \sigma = x_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, x_n \mapsto v_n\end{aligned}$$

Operational semantics for programming languages

- Language

$E ::= n \mid x \mid E + E$

$C ::= x=E; \mid C \mid C \mid$
 $\{ C \} \mid \{ \}$

$P ::= \text{int } x = n ; P \mid C$

- Rules for transitions:

$\langle \text{int } x = i; p, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle \text{int } p, \sigma_{x \leftarrow i} \rangle$

$$\frac{\langle e_1, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle e'_1, \sigma \rangle}{\langle e_1 + e_2, \sigma \rangle \rightarrow \langle e'_1 + e_2, \sigma \rangle}$$

- The program execution is a sequence of transitions:

$\langle x = 0; x = x + 1; , \perp \rangle \rightarrow \langle x = x + 1; , x \mapsto 0 \rangle$
 $\rightarrow \langle x = 0 + 1; , x \mapsto 0 \rangle$
 $\rightarrow \langle x = 1; , x \mapsto 0 \rangle$
 $\rightarrow \langle \{ \} , x \mapsto 1 \rangle$

Formal analysis of security protocols

- A formal approach should:
 - specify the security protocol,
 - provide a model for agents,
 - provide a model for communication,
 - provide a threat model,
 - express the security requirements.
- In the following, we shall use a *many-sorted language*:
 - the roles and the messages are represented by terms,
 - a protocol is defined by specifying each role,
 - when a protocol is executed, an agent can play any role, one or more times,
 - a single execution of a role is called a run,
 - the (adversary) knowledge is derived using a deduction system,
 - the security properties are formally defined and analyzed.

The operational semantics of a security protocol is defined as a
(complex) transition system.

Example: Simple Protocol

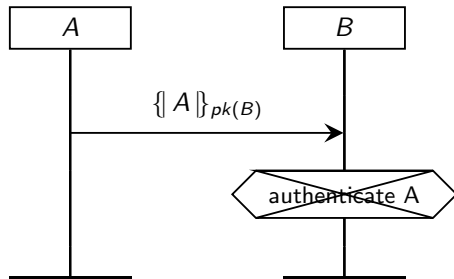
What does **authentication** mean?

"In its most basic form, authentication is a simple statement about the existence of communication partner.

[...]

Aliveness is a form of authentication that aims to establish that an intended communication partner has executed some event."

$sk(A), pk(B)$
 $sk(B), pk(A)$



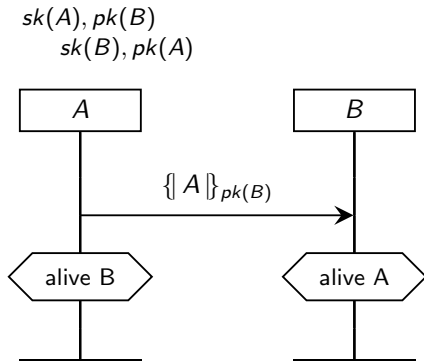
[OVSP] Cremers C. and Mauw S. Operational Semantics and Verification of Security Protocols. Springer, 2012.

Scyther: Simple Protocol

```
protocol simple(I,R)
{
  role I
  {
    send_1(I,R, {I}pk(R) );

    claim(I,Alive);
  }
  role R
  {
    recv_1(I,R, {I}pk(R));

    claim(R,Alive);
  }
}
```



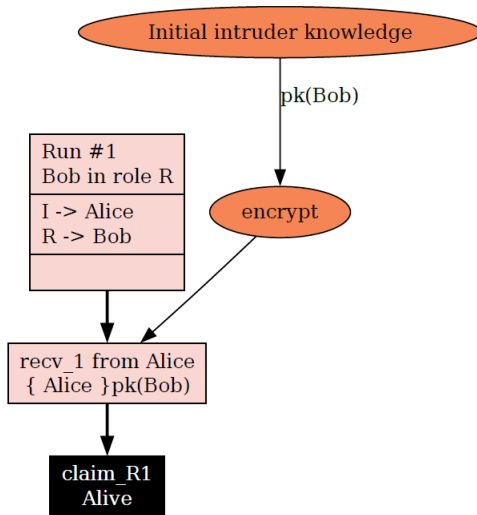
The claims are locally analyzed!

Scyther: Simple Protocol

```
protocol simple(I,R)
{role I
  {send_1(I,R, {I}pk(R) );
   claim(I,Alive);}
role R
  {recv_1(I,R, {I}pk(R));
   claim(R,Alive);
  }}
```

Scyther results : verify							
Claim				Status		Comments	Pattern
simple	I	simple,I1	Alive	Fail	Falsified	Exactly 1 attack.	1 attack
	R	simple,R1	Alive	Fail	Falsified	Exactly 1 attack.	1 attack
Done.							

Scyther: Simple Protocol



[Id 2] Protocol simple, role R, claim type Alive

Scyther: Simple Protocol

```
protocol simple(I,R)
{role I
  {send_1(I,R, {I}sk(I) );
   claim(I,Alive);}
role R
  {recv_1(I,R, {I}sk(I));
   claim(R,Alive);
  }}
```

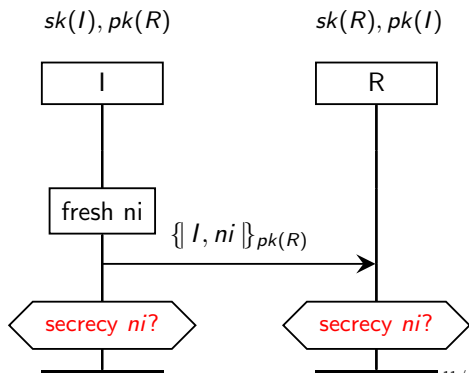
Scyther results : verify							
Claim				Status		Comments	Pattern
simple	I	simple,I1	Alive	Fail	Falsified	Exactly 1 attack.	1 attack
	R	simple,R1	Alive	Ok	Verified	No attacks.	
Done.							

Example: OSS Protocol

One-Sided Secrecy Protocol (OSS)

$I \longrightarrow R : \{ \{ I, ni \} \}_{pk(R)}$

What does **secrecy** mean?

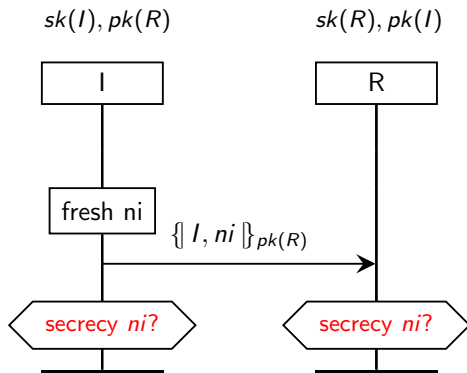


Example: OSS Protocol

What does **secrecy ni** mean?

[OSVSP]

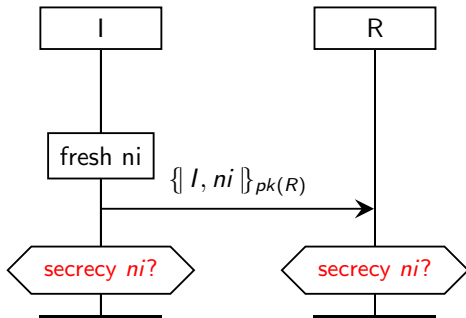
We say that the claim **secrecy ni** holds *for a role* whenever a run of the role is completed with trusted communication partners and the nonce *ni* generated in the run does not become known to the intruder



Scyther: OSS Protocol

```
protocol oss(I,R)
{role I
{fresh ni: Nonce;
send_1(I,R, {I,ni}pk(R) );
claim(I,Secret,ni);}

role R
{var ni: Nonce;
recv_1(I,R, {I,ni}pk(R) );
claim(R,Secret,ni);
}}
```



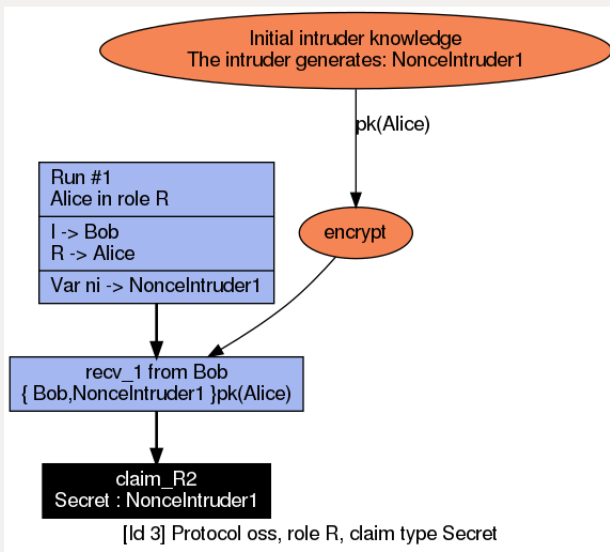
Scyther: OSS Protocol

```
protocol oss(I,R)
{role I
{fresh ni: Nonce;
send_1(I,R, {I,ni}pk(R) );
claim(I,Secret,ni);}
```

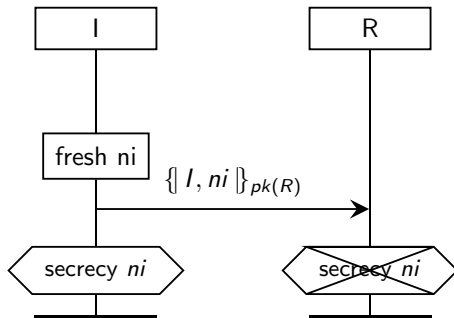
```
role R
{var ni: Nonce;
recv_1(I,R, {I,ni}pk(R));
claim(R,Secret,ni);
}}
```

Scyther results : verify							
Claim				Status		Comments	Pattern
oss	I	oss,I1	Secret ni	Ok	Verified	No attacks.	
	R	oss,R1	Secret ni	Fail	Falsified	Exactly 1 attack.	1 attack
Done.							

Scyther: OSS Protocol



Scyther: OSS Protocol



Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

Step 1. $A \longrightarrow B : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}$
Step 2. $B \longrightarrow S : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, M, A, B\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 3. $S \longrightarrow B : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, K_{AB}\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 4. $B \longrightarrow A : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}$

```
protocol otwayrees(I,R,S)
role I
  {fresh Ni : Nonce;
   fresh M : String;
   var Kir : SessionKey;

   send_1(I,R, M,I,R,{Ni,M,I,R}k(I,S) );
   recv_4(R,I, M,{Ni,Kir}k(I,S) );

   claim_I1(I, Secret,Kir);
   claim_I2(I, Nisynch);}

```

Nisynch means that everything happens as it should (in one round).

Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

Step 1. $A \longrightarrow B : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}$
Step 2. $B \longrightarrow S : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, M, A, B\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 3. $S \longrightarrow B : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, K_{AB}\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 4. $B \longrightarrow A : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}$

protocol otwayrees(I,R,S)

role R

```
{  var M : String;
    fresh Nr : Nonce;
    var Kir : SessionKey;
    var T1,T2: Ticket;

    recv_1(I,R, M,I,R, T1 );
    send_2(R,S, M,I,R, T1, { Nr,M,I,R }k(R,S) );
    recv_3(S,R, M, T2, { Nr,Kir }k(R,S) );
    send_4(R,I, M, T2 );

    claim_R1(R, Secret,Kir);
    claim_R2(R, Nisynch);
}
```

Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

Step 1. $A \longrightarrow B : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}$
Step 2. $B \longrightarrow S : M, A, B, \{N_A, M, A, B\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, M, A, B\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 3. $S \longrightarrow B : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}, \{N_B, K_{AB}\}_{K_{BS}}$
Step 4. $B \longrightarrow A : M, \{N_A, K_{AB}\}_{K_{AS}}$

```
protocol otwayrees(I,R,S)
role S
{
  var Ni,Nr : Nonce;
  var M : String;
  fresh Kir : SessionKey;

  recv_2(R,S, M,I,R, { Ni,M,I,R}k(I,S), { Nr,M,I,R }k(R,S) );
  send_3(S,R, M, { Ni,Kir }k(I,S) , { Nr,Kir }k(R,S) );
}
```

Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

```
role I
{fresh Ni : Nonce; fresh M : String; var Kir : SessionKey;

  send_1(I,R, M,I,R,{Ni,M,I,R}k(I,S) );
  recv_4(R,I, M,{Ni,Kir}k(I,S) );

  claim_I1(I, Secret,Kir); claim_I2(I, Nisync)}

role R
{ var M : String; fresh Nr : Nonce; var Kir : SessionKey; var T1,T2: Ticket;

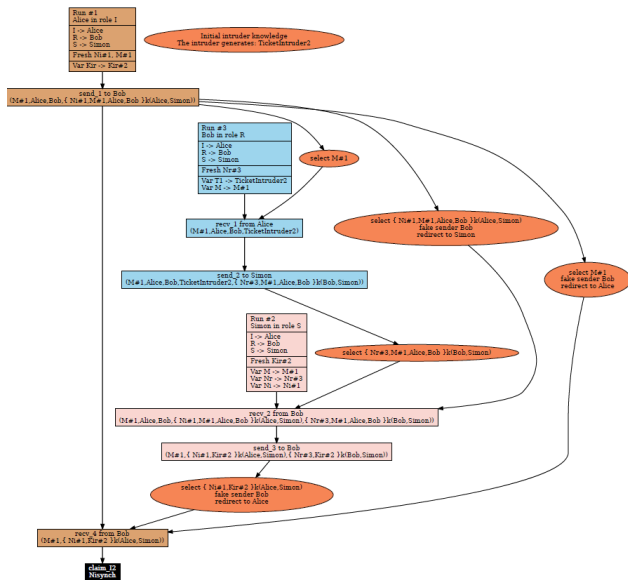
  recv_1(I,R, M,I,R, T1 );
  send_2(R,S, M,I,R, T1, { Nr,M,I,R }k(R,S) );
  recv_3(S,R, M, T2, { Nr,Kir }k(R,S) );
  send_4(R,I, M, T2 );

  claim_R1(R, Secret,Kir); claim_R2(R, Nisynch); }
```

Scyther results : verify										x
Claim				Status		Comments		Patterns		
otwayrees	I	otwayrees,I1	Secret Kir	Ok		No attacks within bounds.				
		otwayrees,I2	Nisynch	Fail	Falsified	At least 1 attack.		1 attack		
	R	otwayrees,R1	Secret Kir	Ok		No attacks within bounds.				
		otwayrees,R2	Nisynch	Fail	Falsified	At least 1 attack.		1 attack		
Done										

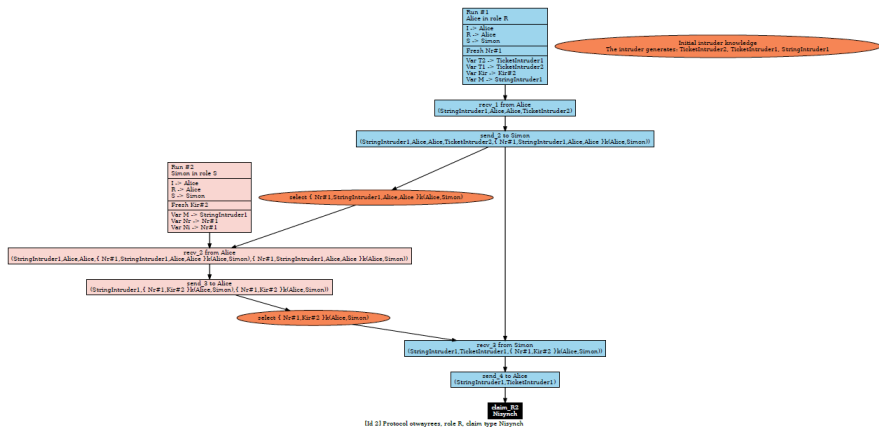
Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

Protocol otwayrees, role I, claim type Nisynch



Scyther: Otway-Rees Protocol

Protocol otwayrees, role R, claim type Nisynch



Protocol specification

Basic elements

- There are few types of variables and constants:
 - *Var* : V, X, Y, Z, \dots (variables for messages),
 - *Fresh* : $ni, nr, sessionkey, \dots$ (local constants, freshly generated for each instance of a role),
 - *Role* : i, r, s, \dots (variables for roles: initiator, respondent, server etc.)
- *Func* is a set of function symbols
 - each symbol has a fixed arity;
 - the global constants are functions of arity zero;
 - example: hash functions.

Terms: *RoleTerm*

We use *role terms* to specify: *messages, nonces, roles, keys*.

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{RoleTerm} \quad ::= \quad & \textit{Var} \mid \textit{Fresh} \mid \textit{Role} \\ & \mid \textit{Func}(\textit{RoleTerm}^*) \\ & \mid (\textit{RoleTerm}, \textit{RoleTerm}) \\ & \mid \{\!\{ \textit{RoleTerm} \}\!\}_{\textit{RoleTerm}} \\ & \mid \textit{sk}(\textit{RoleTerm}) \mid \textit{pk}(\textit{RoleTerm}) \mid \textit{k}(\textit{RoleTerm}, \textit{RoleTerm}) \end{aligned}$$

We denote $\{\!\{(t_1, t_2)\}\!\}$ by $\{\!\{t_1, t_2\}\!\}$.

The inverse function. Encryption

$$^{-1} : \textit{RoleTerm} \rightarrow \textit{RoleTerm}$$

- for any term $rt \in \textit{RoleTerm}$ we define the inverse $rt^{-1} \in \textit{RoleTerm}$ as follows:

$$rt^{-1} = \begin{cases} sk(t) & \text{if } rt = pk(t) \text{ for some } t \in \textit{RoleTerm} \\ pk(t) & \text{if } rt = sk(t) \text{ for some } t \in \textit{RoleTerm} \\ rt & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

We further assume that sk and pk are the secret and, respectively, the public key for asymmetric encryption, while k defines a symmetric key.

Example: digital signature

Assume that $m \in \text{RoleTerm}$ is a message and $R \in \text{Role}$ is a role.

- $\{ \{ m \} \}_{sk(R)}$ is the encryption of m with the secret key of R
- a digitally signed message is a pair

$$(m, \{ \{ h(m) \} \}_{sk(R)})$$

where

- $h(m)$ is the message digest, computed using the hash function h ,
 - $\{ \{ h(m) \} \}_{sk(R)}$, the signed message digest, is computed with the signer's private key $sk(R)$,
 - the message in plain text together with the signed message digest form the digitally signed message.
- One can verify the digital signature, in order to prove who the signer was and the integrity of the document: find the message digest using the signer's public key and compare the message digest with the result obtained by applying the hash function to the plain message.

Deduction on *RoleTerm*

$$\vdash \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\text{RoleTerm}) \times \text{RoleTerm}$$

$M \vdash t$ means that t can be deduced knowing M

\vdash is the least relation with the following properties:

- if $t \in M$ then $M \vdash t$
- if $M \vdash t_1$ and $M \vdash t_2$ then $M \vdash (t_1, t_2)$
- if $M \vdash (t_1, t_2)$ then $M \vdash t_1$ and $M \vdash t_2$
- if $M \vdash t$ and $M \vdash k$ then $M \vdash \{ t \}_k$
- if $M \vdash \{ t \}_k$ and $M \vdash k^{-1}$ then $M \vdash t$
- if $M \vdash t_1$ and \dots and $M \vdash t_n$ then $M \vdash f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$
where n is the arity of $f \in \text{Func}$.

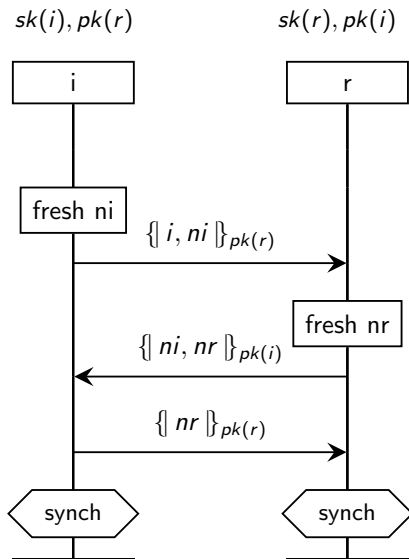
Notation: $\text{Cons}(M) = \{ t \in \text{RoleTerm} \mid M \vdash t \}$

Exercise: Prove that $\{ \{ m \}_k, \{ k^{-1} \}_{pk(b)}, sk(b) \} \vdash \{ m \}_{sk(b)}$.

Protocol specification

Informally, in order to specify a protocol we have to describe each role, i.e.

- we define the initial knowledge of an agent playing that role as a set of *RoleTerms*
 - for example, the set $\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), sk(r)\}$ defines the initial knowledge of i
- we define the actions of an agent playing that role using a sequence of *RoleEvents*



Terms: *RoleEvent*

We use *role events* to specify protocol actions and claims.

- Given two disjoint sets:
 - *Label* : 1, 2, 3, ... (labels)
 - *Claim* : *secret*, *alive*, ... (denotations for security properties)

and $R \in \textit{Role}$ we define

$$\begin{aligned} \textit{RoleEvent}_R \quad ::= \quad & \textit{send}_{\textit{Label}}(R, \textit{Role}, \textit{RoleTerm}) \\ & \mid \textit{recv}_{\textit{Label}}(\textit{Role}, R, \textit{RoleTerm}) \\ & \mid \textit{claim}_{\textit{Label}}(R, \textit{Claim}[, \textit{RoleTerm}]) \end{aligned}$$

$$\textit{RoleEvent} = \bigcup_{R \in \textit{Role}} \textit{RoleEvent}_R$$

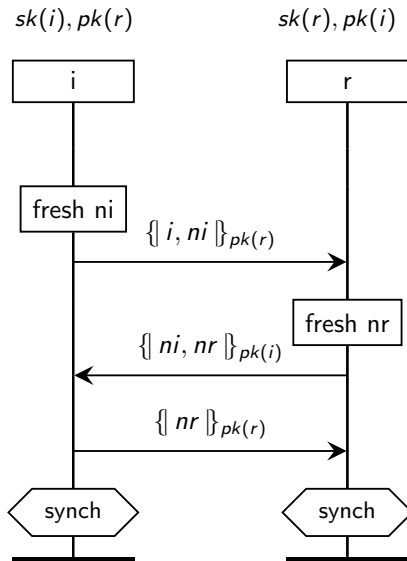
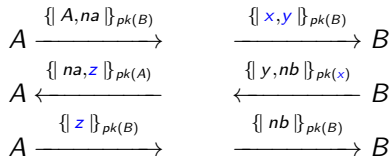
Termeni: *RoleEvent*

$$\begin{aligned} \text{RoleEvent}_R \quad ::= & \text{send}_{\text{Label}}(R, \text{Role}, \text{RoleTerm}) \\ & | \text{recv}_{\text{Label}}(\text{Role}, R, \text{RoleTerm}) \\ & | \text{claim}_{\text{Label}}(R, \text{Claim}[, \text{RoleTerm}]) \end{aligned}$$

- $\text{send}_l(R, R', rt)$ means that R sends the message rt to R' ,
- $\text{recv}_l(R', R, rt)$ means that R receives the message rt ,
(apparently) sent by R' ,
- $\text{claim}_l(R, c, rt)$ is the security property that should be satisfied after the execution of the role R .
- The labels uniquely identify the events and establish the correspondence between *send* and *receive* events.

Running example

The Needham-Scroeder Public Key Protocol



Protocol specification

Informally, in order to specify a protocol one should describe each role.

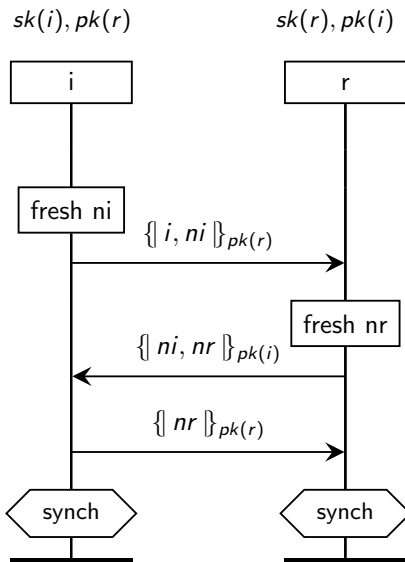
$NS(i) = (\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), pk(r)\},$

$[send_1(i, r, \{ \{ ni, i \}_{pk(r)} \},$

$recv_2(r, i, \{ \{ ni, V \}_{pk(i)} \},$

$send_3(i, r, \{ \{ V \}_{pk(r)} \},$

$claim_4(i, synch)])$



$$NS(i) = (\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), pk(r)\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} & [send_1(i, r, \{\{ni, i\}\}_{pk(r)}), \\ & recv_2(r, i, \{\{ni, V\}\}_{pk(i)}), \\ & send_3(i, r, \{\{V\}\}_{pk(r)}), \\ & claim_4(i, synch)] \end{aligned}$$

- $\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), sk(r)\}$ is the *initial knowledge* of the role i ,
- $s = [send_1(\dots), \dots, claim_4(\dots)]$ is the sequence of events that are executed by i during a protocol session.

Protocol specification

Let P be a protocol and R a role in P .

The specification of the role R in P , denoted $P(R)$, is a pair from $\mathcal{P}(\text{RoleTerm}) \times \text{RoleEvent}_R^*$.

Example: The roles i and r of NSPK are specified as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} NS(i) = & (\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), pk(r)\}, & NS(r) = & (\{i, r, nr, sk(r), pk(r), pk(i)\} \\ & [send_1(i, r, \{ \{ ni, i \} \}_{pk(r)}), & & [recv_1(i, r, \{ \{ W, i \} \}_{pk(r)}), \\ & recv_2(r, i, \{ \{ ni, V \} \}_{pk(i)}), & & send_2(r, i, \{ \{ W, nr \} \}_{pk(i)}), \\ & send_3(i, r, \{ \{ V \} \}_{pk(r)}), & & recv_3(i, r, \{ \{ nr \} \}_{pk(r)}), \\ & claim_4(i, synch))] & & claim_5(r, synch))] \end{aligned}$$

Protocol specification

The roles i and r of NSPK are specified as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} NS(i) = & (\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), pk(r)\}, \quad NS(r) = (\{i, r, nr, sk(r), pk(r), pk(i)\} \\ & [send_1(i, r, \{\{ ni, i \}_{pk(r)}\}, \quad [recv_1(i, r, \{\{ W, i \}_{pk(r)}\}, \\ & recv_2(r, i, \{\{ ni, V \}_{pk(i)}\}, \quad send_2(r, i, \{\{ W, nr \}_{pk(i)}\}, \\ & send_3(i, r, \{\{ V \}_{pk(r)}\}, \quad recv_3(i, r, \{\{ nr \}_{pk(r)}\}, \\ & claim_4(i, synch)]) \quad claim_5(r, synch)]) \end{aligned}$$

Protocol specification

$$NS(i) = (\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), pk(r)\},$$

$$\begin{aligned} &[send_1(i, r, \{\{ni, i\}_{pk(r)}\}, \\ &recv_2(r, i, \{\{ni, V\}_{pk(i)}\}, \\ &send_3(i, r, \{\{V\}_{pk(r)}\}, \\ &claim_4(i, synch)])] \end{aligned}$$

- $\{i, r, ni, sk(i), pk(i), sk(r)\}$ is the *initial knowledge* of the role i ,
- $s = [send_1(\dots), \dots, claim_4(\dots)]$ is the sequence of events that are executed by i during a protocol session,
- The (many-sorted) language associated with NSPK is:

$$\begin{aligned} Role &= \{i, r\}, \text{ Fresh} = \{ni, nr\}, \text{ Func} = \emptyset, \\ Var &= \{V, W\}, \text{ Label} = \{1, 2, 3, 4, 5\}. \end{aligned}$$

If P be a protocol and R a role in P then the specification of the role R in P , denoted $P(R)$, is a pair from

$$\mathcal{P}(\text{RoleTerm}) \times \text{RoleEvent}_R^*$$

Role description

$$P(R) = (KN_0(R), s) \in \mathcal{P}(\text{RoleTerm}) \times \text{RoleEvent}_R^*$$

- $KN_0(R) \subseteq \mathcal{P}(\text{RoleTerm})$ is the initial knowledge of R
- $s \in \text{RoleEvent}_R^*$ is the sequence of events executed by R during a protocol session.

Remarks:

- the initial knowledge contains only terms without elements for Var (message variables);
- the labels are needed in order to disambiguate similar occurrences of an event term; consequently, each term from RoleEvent is unique in a protocol specification;
- the sequence of events might contain message variables from Var , which will be instantiated with concrete messages; within a role specification, the first occurrence of a message variable should be in an *accessible position* of a *receive* event.

Accessibility and well-formed sequences

- The accessibility relation $\sqsubseteq_{acc} \subseteq RoleTerm^2$ is the reflexive and transitive closure of the relation:

$$t_1 \sqsubseteq_{acc} (t_1, t_2), t_2 \sqsubseteq_{acc} (t_1, t_2), t_1 \sqsubseteq_{acc} \{ \} t_1 \} t_2$$

- A sequence of role events $\rho \in RoleEvent^*$ is *well-formed* if the first occurrence of any message variable is in an accessible position of a *receive* event, i.e.

$$\forall V \in vars(\rho) \exists \rho', l, R, R', rt, \rho'' \\ (\rho = \rho' \cdot [recv_l(R, R', rt)] \cdot \rho'') \wedge V \notin vars(\rho') \wedge V \sqsubseteq_{acc} rt$$

where $vars(\rho) \subseteq Var$ denotes the set of all message variables from ρ .

The predicate $wellformed(\rho)$ denotes the fact that the sequence ρ is well-formed.

Protocol specification

- Role specification

$$\begin{aligned} RoleSpec = \{ (kn, s) \mid & kn \in \mathcal{P}(RoleTerm) \wedge \forall rt (rt \in kn \rightarrow vars(rt) = \emptyset) \\ & \wedge s \in RoleEvent^* \wedge wellformed(s) \} \end{aligned}$$

- Protocol specification

$$Protocol = Role \rightarrow RoleSpec$$

$P(R)$ is the specification of the role R for $P \in Protocol$ and $R \in Role$.

A protocol specification is a partial function from roles to role specifications.