

# Composable security

Supervisor: Markulf Kohlweiss  
Ruxandra Icleanu

University of Edinburgh  
LFCS Summer 2023

# Overview

- Desiderata
- Approaches
- Ex 1: Secure channel & authenticated channel
- Ex 2: Commit reveal
- Other frameworks
- UC?

# Desiderata

We want a framework for analysing the security of cryptographic protocols that would ideally satisfy two properties:

## (1) Composability

If protocols  $P_1$  and  $P_2$  are secure, we want to be able to directly conclude that  $P_1 \circ P_2 = P_3$  is also secure.

Note:

- There are many frameworks for which this does not hold.
- We need to define the composition operation.

## (2) Modularity

It should be enough to prove the security of some 'building blocks'.

# Universally composable security

But don't we already have such a framework?  
UC security (Canetti, 2000)

# Universally composable security

But don't we already have such a framework?

UC security (Canetti, 2000)

(1) ✓

(2) ~

Problem: Proofs are done using interactive Turing machines (ITMs). In practice, it is difficult to use this computation model, and proofs end up being very informal.

# Approaches

What can we do?

# Approaches

What can we do?

- Formalise proofs for a few important protocols

# Approaches

What can we do?

- Formalise proofs for a few important protocols
- Find a model equivalent to ITMs



# Approaches

What can we do?

- Formalise proofs for a few important protocols
- Find a model equivalent to ITMs
- Use a new framework

# Approach 1

[Summer 2023] We wrote pseudocode for UC ideal functionalities in a fashion that is more aligned with game-based techniques.

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

Recall:

- secure channel: the adversary can eavesdrop to the ciphertext, but cannot tamper with it
- authenticated channel: the adversary is able to both eavesdrop and to tamper with it

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

Recall:

- secure channel: the adversary can eavesdrop to the ciphertext, but cannot tamper with it
- authenticated channel: the adversary is able to both eavesdrop and to tamper with it

Assumptions:

- (i) no distinction between environment and adversary (equivalently, the adversary has full capabilities)
- (ii) the adversary can influence if the last message sent will be delivered
- (iii) the length of the message is leaked

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

Recall:

- secure channel: the adversary can eavesdrop to the ciphertext, but cannot tamper with it
- authenticated channel: the adversary is able to both eavesdrop and to tamper with it

Assumptions:

- (i) no distinction between environment and adversary (equivalently, the adversary has full capabilities)
- (ii) the adversary can influence if the last message sent will be delivered
- (iii) the length of the message is leaked

Goals:

- write formal descriptions of the authenticated channel and secure channel models

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

Recall:

- secure channel: the adversary can eavesdrop to the ciphertext, but cannot tamper with it
- authenticated channel: the adversary is able to both eavesdrop and to tamper with it

Assumptions:

- (i) no distinction between environment and adversary (equivalently, the adversary has full capabilities)
- (ii) the adversary can influence if the last message sent will be delivered
- (iii) the length of the message is leaked

Goals:

- write formal descriptions of the authenticated channel and secure channel models
- show that the authenticated channel together with a secret key can be transformed into a secure channel via one-time pad encryption

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

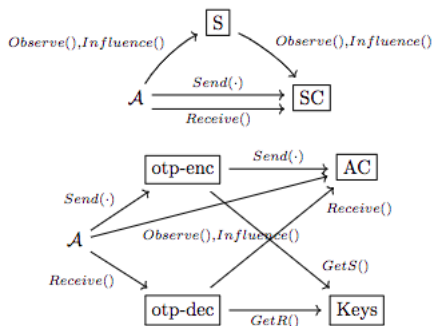


Figure 1: SC and AC models

## Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

SC

```
msg[]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
deliver[]  $\leftarrow \top$ 
ctrS_SC, ctrR_SC  $\leftarrow 0$ 
Send(m)
    msg[ctrS_SC]  $\leftarrow m$ 
    ctrS_SC  $\leftarrow$  ctrS_SC + 1
    return  $\perp$ 
Receive()
    ctrR_SC  $\leftarrow$  ctrR_SC + 1
    if deliver[ctrR_SC - 1] =  $\perp$ 
        return  $\perp$ 
    return msg[ctrR_SC - 1]
Observe()
    return ctrS_SC
Influence()
    deliver[ctrS_SC - 1]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
    return  $\perp$ 
```



## Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

S

```
fakeMsg[]  $\leftarrow \perp$   
Observe()  
    lengthSend  $\leftarrow$  SC.Observe()  
    lengthFaked = fakeMsg.length  
    // length is the largest index with a non  $\perp$  value +1  
    for i in lengthFaked .. lengthSend-1  
        fakeMsg[i]  $\leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$   
    return fakeMsg[] // returns all messages faked so far  
Influence()  
    return SC.Influence()
```

## Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

### Keys

```
keys[]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
ctrS  $\leftarrow 0$ 
ctrR  $\leftarrow 0$ 
keys[]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
GetS()
    keys[ctrS]  $\leftarrow \{0, 1\}^n$ 
    ctrS  $\leftarrow$  ctrS + 1
    return keys[ctrS - 1]
GetR()
    ctrR  $\leftarrow$  ctrR + 1
    return keys[ctrR - 1]
```

# Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

otp-enc

Send(m)

$k \leftarrow \text{GetS}()$

$\text{AC.Send}(m \oplus k)$

return  $\perp$

otp-dec

Receive()

$k \leftarrow \text{GetR}()$

$c \leftarrow \text{AC.Receive}()$

return  $c \oplus k$

## Ex 1: $AC + SK \equiv SC$

$AC_{sid=(i,j,ctr)}$

```
msg[]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
deliver[]  $\leftarrow \top$ 
ctrS_AC, ctrR_AC  $\leftarrow 0$ 

i.Sendsid(m)
    msg[ctrS_AC]  $\leftarrow m$ 
    ctrS_AC  $\leftarrow$  ctrS_AC + 1
    return  $\perp$ 

j.Receivesid()
    ctrR_AC  $\leftarrow$  ctrR_AC + 1
    if deliver[ctrR_AC - 1] =  $\perp$ 
        return  $\perp$ 
    return msg[ctrR_AC - 1]

Observesid()
    return msg[] // returns all messages sent so far

Influencesid()
    deliver[ctrS_AC - 1]  $\leftarrow \perp$ 
    return  $\perp$ 
```

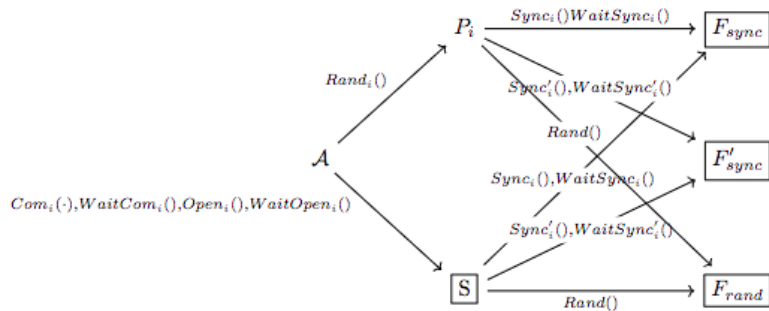
## Ex 2: Commit reveal

- $n$ -party random protocol
- idea: each of the  $n$  parties draws a value uniformly at random, commits to the value and waits for everyone to do so, then opens the value and waits for everyone to do so; the values are then summed up
- the final value is random and unbiased

### Goals:

- describe the real protocol and an ideal protocol + simulator
- understand why the two are equivalent
- motivate our choice of simulator

## Ex 2: Commit reveal



## Ex 2: Commit reveal

We use Lucas Meier's "Towards Modular Protocol Security (and beyond?)" COSIC Seminar talk as a starting point.

We define the real protocol as

$$\mathcal{P}_{rand} = \bigotimes_{i=1}^n P_i \diamond F_{commit}$$

where:

$P_i$

Rand<sub>i</sub>()

$x \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$

Com<sub>i</sub>(x)

WaitCom<sub>i</sub>()

Open<sub>i</sub>()

$\bar{x} \leftarrow \text{WaitOpen}_i()$

return  $\sum_{j=1}^n x_j$

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

$F_{\text{commit}}$

$\text{Com}_i(x)$

```
if  $x_i \neq \perp$   
  return  $\perp$   
yield( $\langle \text{Com}_i() \rangle$ )  
 $x_i \leftarrow x$   
return ()
```

$\text{WaitCom}_i()$

```
wait  $\forall j . x_j \neq \perp$   
return ()
```

$\text{Open}_i()$

```
if  $x_i = \perp$   
  return  $\perp$   
yield( $\langle \text{Open}_i() \rangle$ )  
 $\text{open}_i \leftarrow \top$   
return ()
```

$\text{WaitOpen}_i()$

```
wait  $\forall j . \text{open}_j$   
return  $\overline{x}$ 
```



## Ex 2: Commit reveal

We define the ideal protocol as:

$$\mathcal{P}_{ideal-rand} = P_i \diamond (F_{sync} \otimes F'_{sync} \otimes F_{rand})$$

where:

$P_i$

```
Randi()  
  Synci()  
  WaitSynci()  
  Sync'i()  
  WaitSync'i()  
  return Rand()
```

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

$F_{sync}$

```
synci ← ⊥  
Synci()  
  yield(< Synci() >)  
  synci ← ⊤  
  return ()  
WaitSynci()  
  wait ∀ j . syncj  
  return ()
```

$F'_{sync}$

```
sync'i ← ⊥  
Sync'i()  
  yield(< Sync'i() >)  
  sync'i ← ⊤  
  return ()  
WaitSync'i()  
  wait ∀ j . sync'j  
  return ()
```

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

Notation:  $\mathcal{M}$  = the set of malicious parties

$\mathcal{H} = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\} \setminus \mathcal{M}$  the set of honest parties

We use index  $i$  for an honest party,  
and index  $k$  for a malicious one

S

$\vec{x} \leftarrow \perp$

Com<sub>k</sub>(x)

if  $x_k \neq \perp$   
return  $\perp$

$x_k \leftarrow x$

Sync<sub>k</sub>()

return ()

WaitCom<sub>k</sub>()

return WaitSync<sub>k</sub>()

Open<sub>k</sub>()

if  $x_k = \perp$   
return  $\perp$

return Sync'<sub>k</sub>()

...

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

S

```
...  
WaitOpenk()  
  WaitSync'k()  
  j  $\xleftarrow{\$}$   $\mathcal{H}$  // fix some honest party  
  for i  $\in \mathcal{H} \setminus \{k\}$   
    // need to ensure all parties will have the same vector  $\vec{x}$   
    if  $x_i \neq \perp$   
       $x_i \xleftarrow{\$} \mathbb{Z}/m\mathbb{Z}$   
   $x_j \leftarrow \text{Rand}() - \sum_{i \neq k} x_i$   
  return  $\vec{x}$   
handle yield( $\langle \text{Sync}_i() \rangle$ ; c)  
  yield( $\langle \text{Com}_i() \rangle$ )  
  c()  
handle yield( $\langle \text{Sync}'_i() \rangle$ ; c)  
  yield( $\langle \text{Open}_i() \rangle$ )  
  c()
```

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

Alternative simulators?

- $S'$  in which all honest parties are sampled uniformly at random  
*Problem:* the values in  $\vec{x}$  will not necessarily sum up to the value given by `Rand()`  
*Attack:* on `WaitOpen()`

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

Alternative simulators?

- $S'$  in which all honest parties are sampled uniformly at random  
*Problem:* the values in  $\vec{x}$  will not necessarily sum up to the value given by `Rand()`  
*Attack:* on `WaitOpen()`
- $S''$  which doesn't check that a party has committed to a value before opening the value

## Ex 2: Commit reveal

Alternative simulators?

- $S'$  in which all honest parties are sampled uniformly at random  
*Problem:* the values in  $\vec{x}$  will not necessarily sum up to the value given by `Rand()`  
*Attack:* on `WaitOpen()`
- $S''$  which doesn't check that a party has committed to a value before opening the value
- $S'''$  which doesn't use  $F'_{sync}$

# Other examples

- presence check protocol
- NIZK



## Approach 2: Other frameworks

- Modular Protocol Security (MPS)
  - builds on state-separable proofs
  - two ways of 'combining' protocols: tensoring  $\otimes$  and composition  $\triangleleft$
  - simulation between protocols (instead of simulation between protocol and an ideal functionality)
- Constructive cryptography
- Synthetic cryptography

## Approach 3: UC?

What if we just stay in UC, but find a workaround?

Would want a computational model that is equivalent to ITMs, but easier to use.

- Yanofsky (2022): category of TMs can be shown to be equivalent to the category of computable functions
- Can we extend this idea for ITMs?

## Approach 3: UC?

What if we just stay in UC, but find a workaround?

Would want a computational model that is equivalent to ITMs, but easier to use.

- Yanofsky (2022): category of TMs can be shown to be equivalent to the category of computable functions
- Can we extend this idea for ITMs? Possibly ..

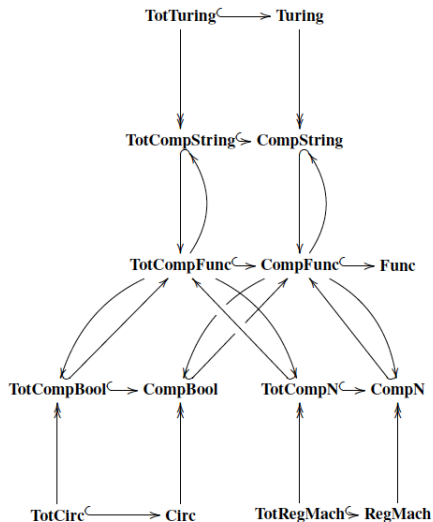


Figure: Big picture of models

(from Yanofsky's "Theoretical Computer Science for the Working Category Theorist")

# References

- [1] Mike Rosulek - *The Joy of Cryptography*
- [2] Lúcas Meier - *Towards Modular Foundations for Protocol Security*
- [3] Noson S. Yanofsky (2022) - *"Theoretical Computer Science for the Working Category Theorist"*
- [4] Chris Brzuska, Antoine Delignat-Lavaud, Cédric Fournet, Konrad Kohbrok, Markulf Kohlweiss - *State separation for code-based game-playing proofs*
- [5] Ran Canetti - *Universally Composable Security: A New Paradigm for Cryptographic Protocols*
- [6] Ueli Maurer - *Constructive Cryptography – A New Paradigm for Security Definitions and Proofs*