

Secure Compilation: Formal Foundations and (Some) Applications



Marco Patrignani

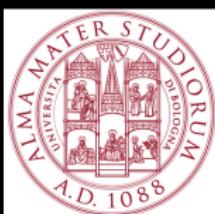


UNIVERSITÀ
DI TRENTO

03 April 2024

Who Am I ?

Marco Patrignani



Bsc, Msc



Postdoc



JRGL



PhD



VAP

Asst. Prof.



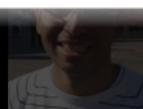
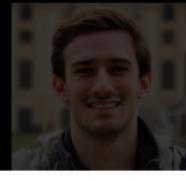
Special Thanks to:

(wrt the contents of this talk)



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(wrt the contents of this talk)



Special Thanks to:

(wrt the contents of this talk)



for offline questions: I leave tomorrow



Foundations of Secure Compilation

Programming Languages: Pros and Cons

Good PLs (, , , , ...) provide:

- helpful **abstractions** to write **secure** code

Programming Languages: Pros and Cons

Good PLs (, , , , ...) provide:

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but

- when compiled (`[[·]]`) and **linked** with adversarial target code

Programming Languages: Pros and Cons

Good PLs (, , , , ...) provide:

- helpful **abstractions** to write **secure** code

but

- when compiled (`[[·]]`) and **linked** with adversarial target code
- these abstractions are **NOT** enforced

Secure Compilation: Example

ChaCha20

Poly1305

...

F*

HAACL*. Zinzindohouè *et al.*, CCS'17

Asm

[[ChaCha20]]

[[Poly1305]]

[[...]]

Secure Compilation: Example

ChaCha20

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[[ChaCha20]]

[[Poly1305]]

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160x C/C++ code (unsafe)

Secure Compilation: Example

Preserve the security of

ChaCha20

Poly1305

...

F*

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Asm

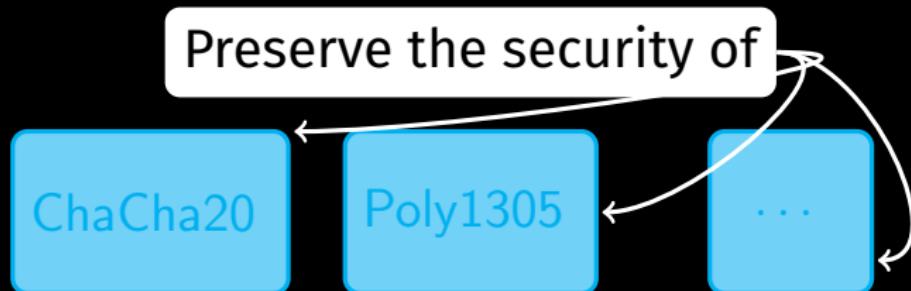
[[ChaCha20]]

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[[...]]



Secure Compilation: Example



F*
HACL*. Zinzindohouè et al., CCS'17

Asm



when interoperating with

Secure Compilation: Example

Correct compilation

ChaCha20

Poly1305

...

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[[ChaCha20]]

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[[...]]

Secure Compilation: Example

Secure compilation

ChaCha20

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[[ChaCha20]]

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Secure Compilation: Example

Enable source-level security reasoning

ChaCha20

Poly1305

...

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[[ChaCha20]]

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Quest for Foundations

What does it mean
for a compiler to
be secure?

Quest for Foundations

What does it mean
for a compiler to
be secure?

Analogous questions are answered for type
systems, correct compilation, ...

Once Upon a Time in Process Algebra

Secure Implementation of Channel Abstractions

Martín Abadi

ma@pa.dec.com

Digital Equipment Corporation
Systems Research Center

Cédric Fournet

Cedric.Fournet@inria.fr

INRIA Rocquencourt

Georges Gonthier

Georges.Gonthier@inria.fr

INRIA Rocquencourt

Abstract

Communication in distributed systems often relies on useful abstractions such as channels, remote procedure calls, and remote method invocations. The implementations of these abstractions sometimes provide security properties, in particular through encryption. In this

spaces are on the same machine, and that a centralized operating system provides security for them. In reality, these address spaces could be spread across a network, and security could depend on several local operating systems and on cryptographic protocols across machines.

For example, when an application requires secure

Challenge: define that their implementation of secure channels via **cryptography** was secure

Once Upon a Time in Process Algebra

Fully Abstract Compilation (FAQ)

Theorem 1 *The compositional translation is fully-abstract, up to observational equivalence: for all join-calculus processes P and Q ,*

$$P \approx Q \quad \text{if and only if} \quad \mathcal{E}\text{nv}[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \approx \mathcal{E}\text{nv}[\llbracket Q \rrbracket]$$

C

useful abstractions such as channels, remote procedure calls, and remote method invocations. The implementations of these abstractions sometimes provide security properties, in particular through encryption. In this

scenario, the execution of processes could be spread across a network, and security could depend on several local operating systems and on cryptographic protocols across machines.

For example, when an application requires secure

Challenge: define that their implementation of secure channels via **cryptography** was secure

Fully Abstract Compilation Influence

ACM CSUR'19

Fully Abstract Compilation to JavaScript

J.-Chen¹, Pierre-Evariste Dagand², Pierre-Yves Strub¹, Benj¹,
... and MSR-INRIA¹

Secure Implementations for Typed Session Abstraction

Ricardo Corin^{1,2,3}, Pierre-Malo Deniéou^{1,2}, Cédric Fournet^{1,2},
Karthikeyan Bhargavan^{1,2}, James Leifer¹

Amal Ahmed¹, Matthias Blume²,
Toyota Technological Institute at Chicago
[amal.blume@ttic.org](mailto:{amal.blume}@ttic.org)

Authentication primitives and their compilation

Martín Abadi^{*}
Bell Labs Research
Lucent Technologies

Cédric Fournet
Microsoft Research

Georges G.
INRIA Roc

On Protection by Layout Randomization

MARTÍN ABADI¹, Microsoft Research, Silicon Valley,
Santa Cruz; Collège de France
GORDON D. PLOTKIN²,
University of Edinburgh

Beyond Good and Evil

Formalizing the Security Guarantees of Compartmentalizing Compilation

Yannis Juglani^{1,2}, Cătălin Hritcu¹, Arthur Azevedo de Amorim⁴, Boris Eng^{1,3}, Benjamin C. Pierce⁴
¹Inria Paris, ²Université Paris Diderot (Paris 7), ³Université Paris 8, ⁴University of Pennsylvania

A Secure Compiler for ML Modules

Marco Patrignani, Dave Clarke, and Frank Piessens^{*}

iMinds-DistriNet, Dept. Computer Science
{first.last}@mim.distrinet.be

An Equivalence-Preserving CPS Translation
via Multi-Language Semantics*

Secure Compilation to Protected Module Architectures
Marco Patrignani¹, Julian Rathke², Corin Pitcher³,
University of Southampton, ... and Raoul Strackx and Bart Jacobs,¹
... and iMinds-D

Amal Ahmed

Matthias Blume
Google
blume@google.com

Fully Abstract Compilation via Universal Embedding*

Marco Patrignani
Dept. Computer Science
and Dave C

On Modular and Fully-Abstract Compilations
Dominique Devriese¹, Marco Patrignani², Frank Piessens³
¹iMinds-DistriNet, Computer Science dept., KU Leuven
{first.last}@cs.kuleuven.be

Fully Abstract

- FAC: useful for **language expressiveness**
but complex and with an unclear security implication

CSUR'19

Typed Closure

Authentication

Martín Abadi^{*}
Bell Labs Research
Lucent Technologies

Secure
of Object-C
o Protected

Marco Patrignani,

iMinds-DistriNet, L

{first, last}arr

ion Abstraction

Cédric Fournet^{1,2}
James Leifer¹

³ University of T

x-Translation

Pierce⁴
sylvania

LL Modules

and Dave Clark

Local Memory via Layout
Corin Pitcher
Julian Rathke
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Fully Abstract

- FAC: useful for **language expressiveness**
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- **Challenge:** easier/more efficient/more precise alternatives

CSUR'19

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Fully Abstract Compilation via Universal Embedding*

On Modular and Fully-Abstract Compil.

7/35

Fully Abstract

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preserve classes of
(hyper)properties

Clarkson & Schneider JCS '10

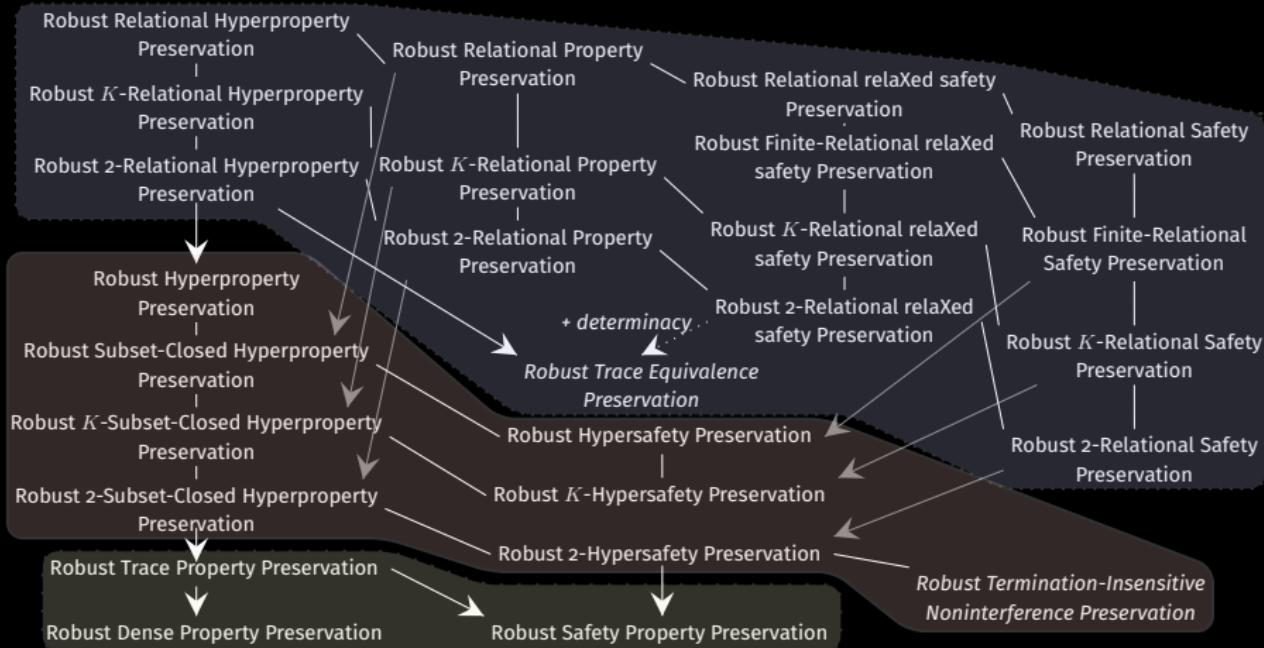
Robust Compilation (RC) Criteria

CSF'19, ESOP'20, Toplas'21

Relational
Hyperproperties

Hyperproperties

Trace
Properties



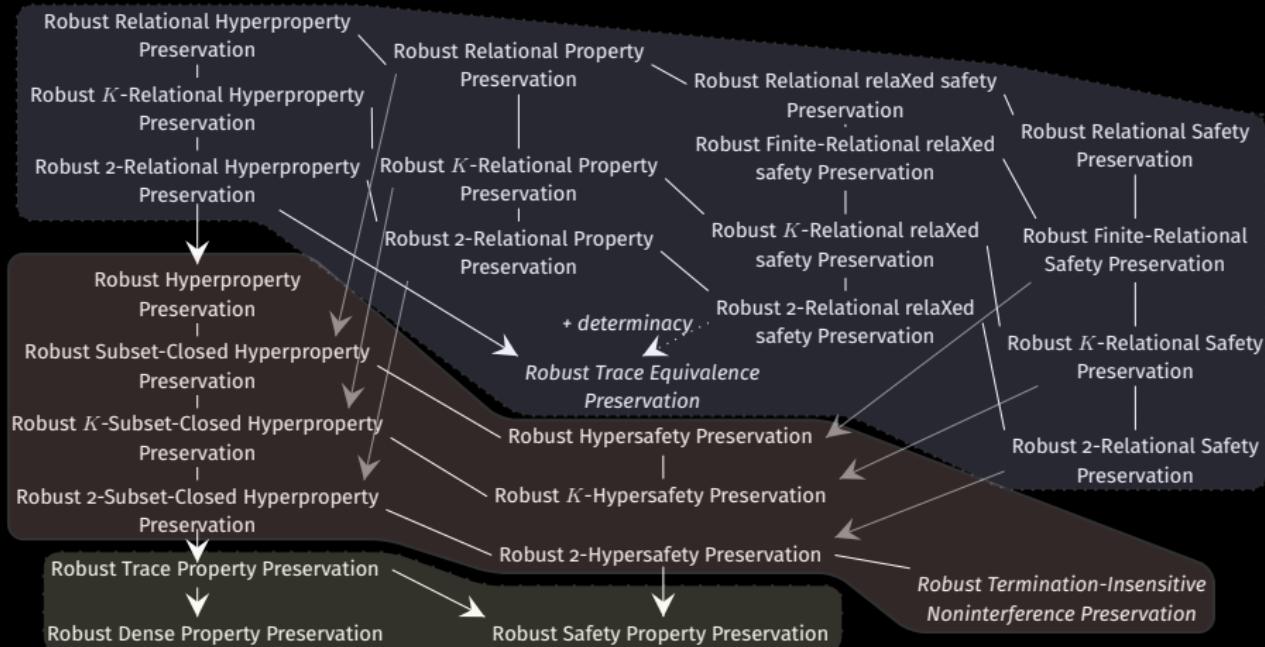
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Tradeoffs for code efficiency, security guarantees, proof complexity

Robust Compilation (RC) Criteria

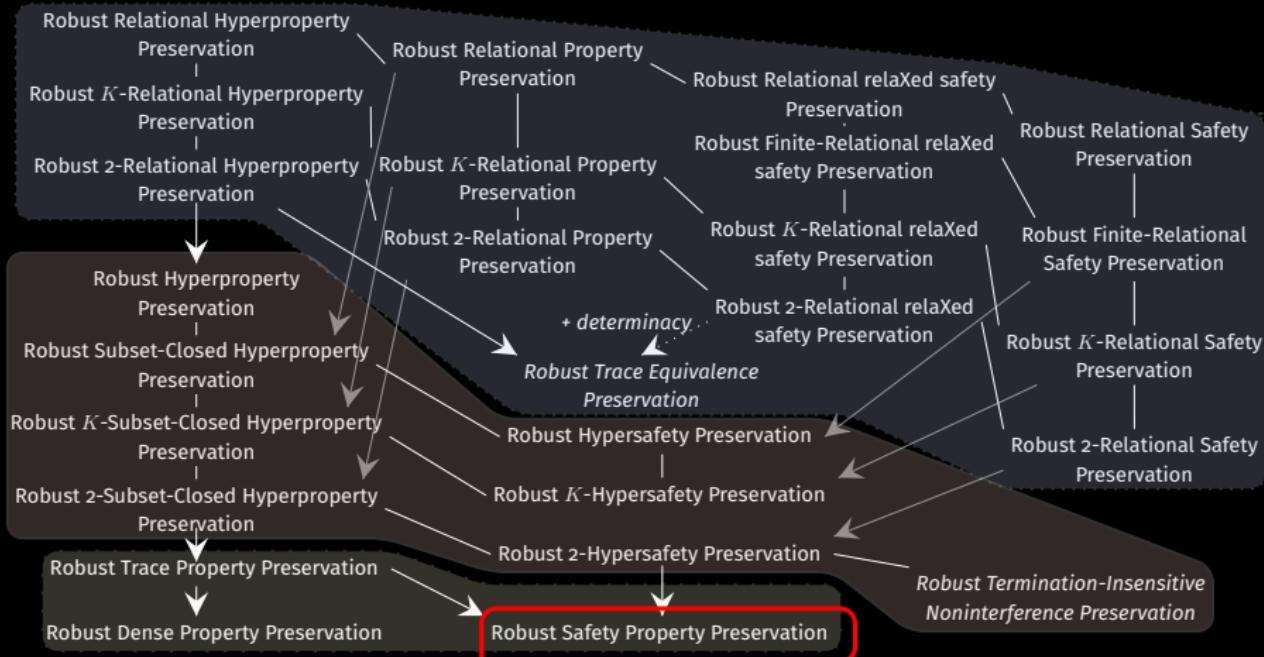
CSF'19, ESOP'20, Toplas'21

Relational

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Trace Properties



Tradeoffs for code efficiency, security guarantees, proof complexity

Robust Criteria: Intuition

Each point has two **equivalent** criteria:

- **Property – ful :**
 - + clearly tells what class it preserves

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Each point has two **equivalent** criteria:

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- **Property – free :**
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Robust Criteria: Intuition

Each point has two **equivalent** criteria:

- **Property – ful :**
 - + clearly tells what class it preserves
 - harder to prove
- **Property – free :**
 - + **easier** to prove
 - unclear what security classes are preserved

In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket = \text{compiler}$ $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : \text{RSP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$

In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket = \text{compiler}$ $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : \text{RSP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \pi \approx \pi \in \text{Safety}.$
 $\pi / \pi = \text{set of traces}$

In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

$$[\![\cdot]\!]: \text{RSP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \pi \approx \tau \in \text{Safety}. \ \forall P.$$

$[\![\cdot]\!]$ = compiler

π / τ = set of traces

P = partial program

In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

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π / π = set of traces

P = partial program

A / A = attacker

t / t = trace of events

$\text{if } (\forall A, t.$

In Depth Example: RSC

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$[\cdot]$ = linking

$\rightsquigarrow / \rightsquigarrow$ = trace semantics

$\text{if } (\forall A, t. A[P] \rightsquigarrow t$

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$$\text{if } (\forall A, t. A[P] \rightsquigarrow t \Rightarrow t \in \pi)$$

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In Depth Example: RSC

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$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$ = compiler

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$[\cdot]$ = linking

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$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : \text{RSP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \textcolor{teal}{\pi} \approx \textcolor{brown}{\pi} \in \textit{Safety}. \forall P.$

$\text{if } (\forall A, t. A[P] \rightsquigarrow t \Rightarrow t \in \pi)$

$\text{then } (\forall A, t. A[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \rightsquigarrow t \Rightarrow t \in \pi)$

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In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$ = compiler

π / π' = set of traces

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$\rightsquigarrow / \rightsquigarrow'$ = trace semantics

m / m' = prefix of a trace

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : RSP \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \pi \approx \pi' \in Safety. \forall P.$

if ($\forall A, t. A[P] \rightsquigarrow t \Rightarrow t \in \pi$)

then ($\forall A, t. A[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \rightsquigarrow t \Rightarrow t \in \pi$)

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : RSC \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall P, A, m.$

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then $\exists A,$

In Depth Example: RSC

ESOP'19, TOPLAS'21

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if $A[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \rightsquigarrow m$

then $\exists A, m \approx m.$

In Depth Example: RSC

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$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : RSC \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall P, A, m.$

if $A[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \rightsquigarrow m$

then $\exists A, m \approx m'. A[P] \rightsquigarrow m$

Secure Compilation Threat Model

- robust, active attacker ($\forall A$)

robust safety works, e.g., Swasey *et al.* OOPSLA'17, Sammler *et al.* POPL'20

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- in-language expressible attacker
- trace-based security behaviour (m/m)

Secure Compilation Threat Model

- robust, active attacker ($\forall A$)

What can we do with these foundations?

-

- trace-based security behaviour (m/m)

20

Talk Outline

Robust Memory Safety

POPL'23

Robust Cryptographic Constant Time

(wip)

Micro-architectural Attacks (Spectre)

CCS'21

Security Architectures

(e.g., Cheri/ARM Morello, Sancus/Intel SGX, ...) Toplas'15, CSF'21, ...

Mechanise Cryptographic Proofs

CSF'24 + wip

Conclusion

Robust Memory Safety

POPL'23

Memory Safety (Untyped, Intra-Object)

Memory Safety (Untyped, Intra-Object)

- add **colours+shades** to pointers & memory

Memory Safety (Untyped, Intra-Object)

- add **colours+shades** to pointers & memory
- **check colour+shade** when using pointers

Memarian *et al.* POPL'19, Azevedo de Amorim *et al.* POST'18

Memory Safety (Untyped, Intra-Object)

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Memarian *et al.* POPL'19, Azevedo de Amorim *et al.* POST'18

F	F	F	F	F	F	F
---	---	---	---	---	---	---

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Memarian *et al.* POPL'19, Azevedo de Amorim *et al.* POST'18

alloc(4)

F	F	F	F	F	F	F
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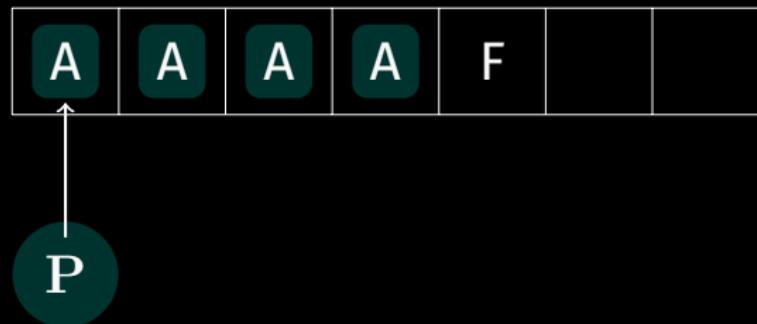


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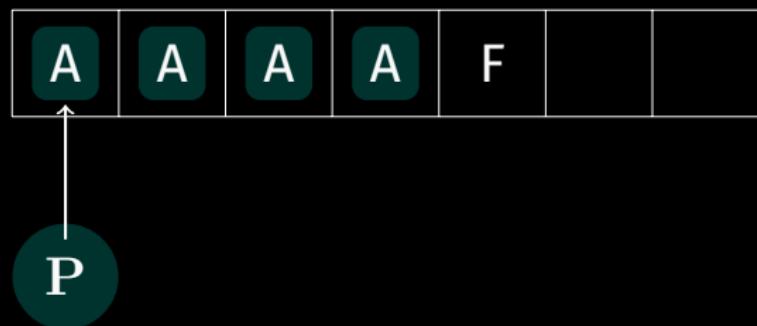


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Memarian *et al.* POPL'19, Azevedo de Amorim *et al.* POST'18

```
alloc(4)
alloc(1+1)
```

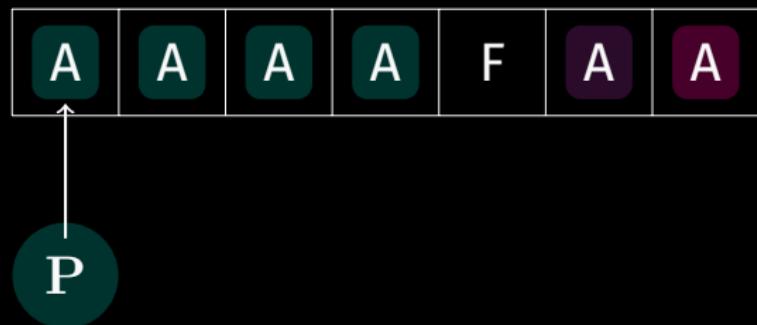


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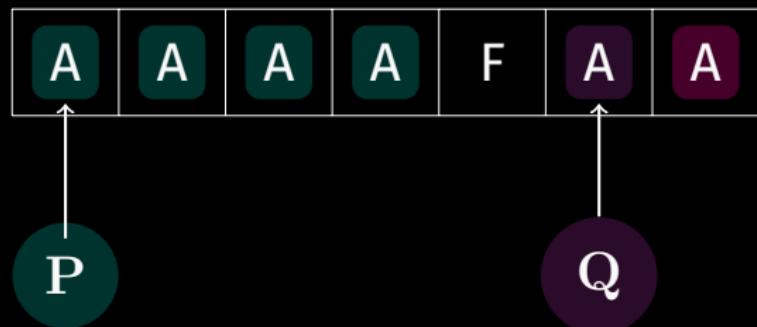


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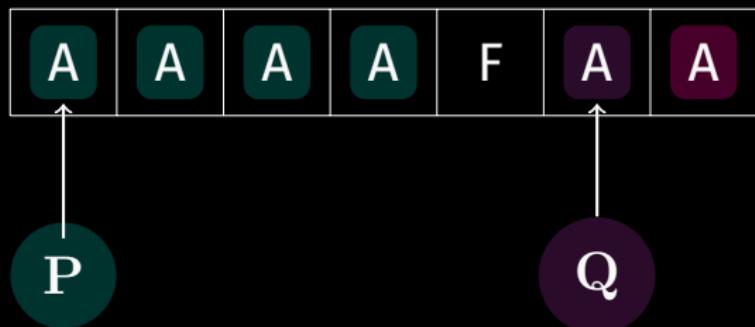


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```
alloc(4)
alloc(1+1)
read(P)
```



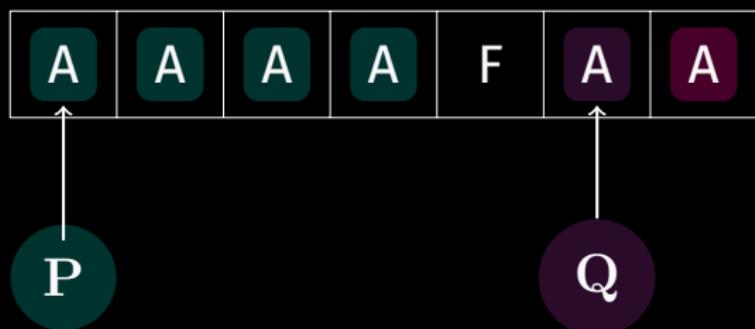
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ok

```
alloc(4)  
alloc(1+1)  
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Memory Safety (Untyped, Intra-Object)

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Memarian *et al.* POPL'19, Azevedo de Amorim *et al.* POST'18

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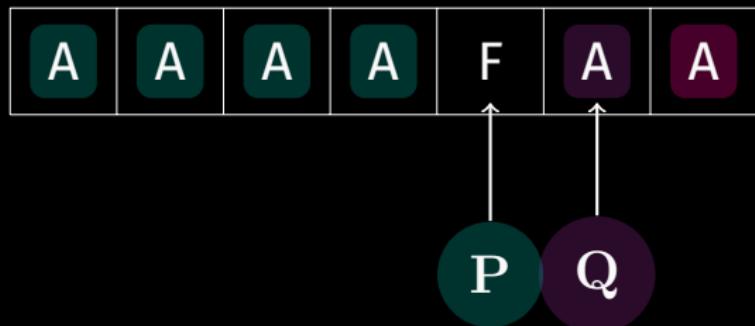
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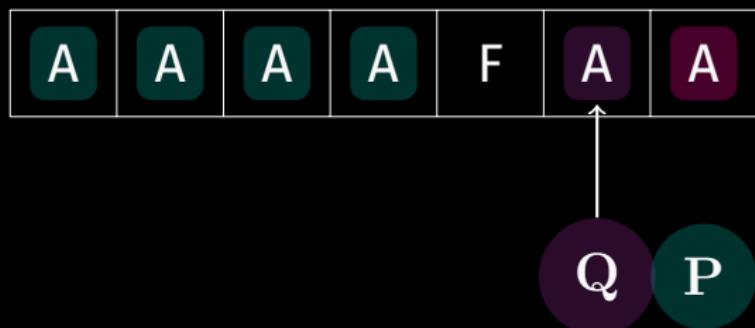


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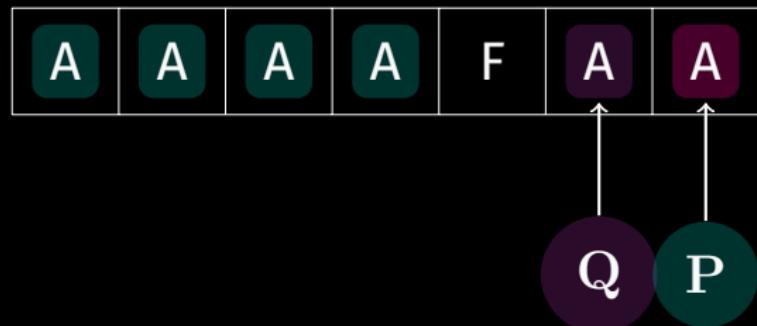
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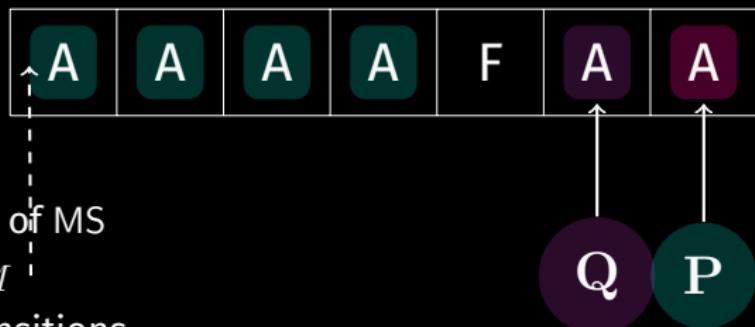
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Monitor encoding of MS
with state M
and actions for transitions



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Watson et al. S&P'15

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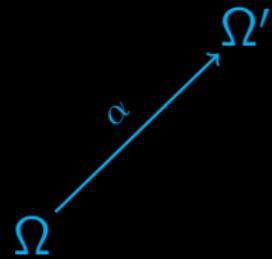
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Compiler Properties

Ω = source state

α/α = trace action

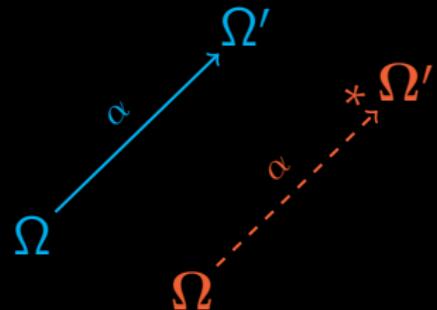


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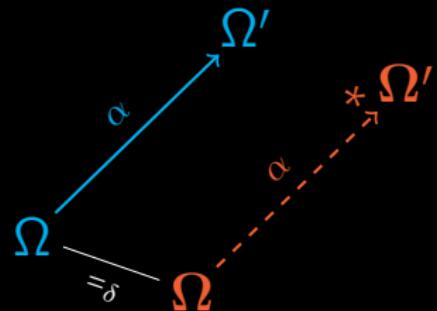
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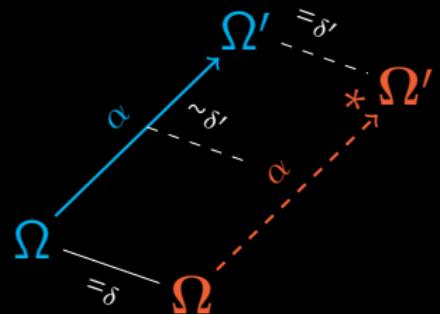
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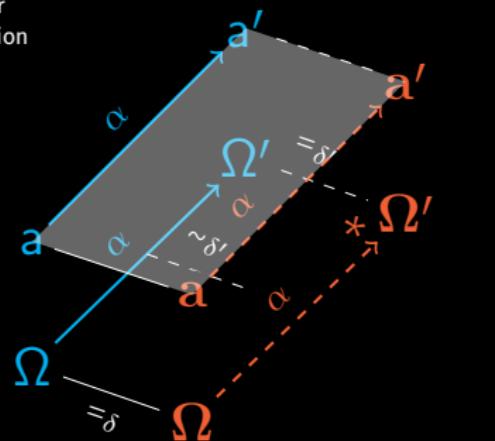
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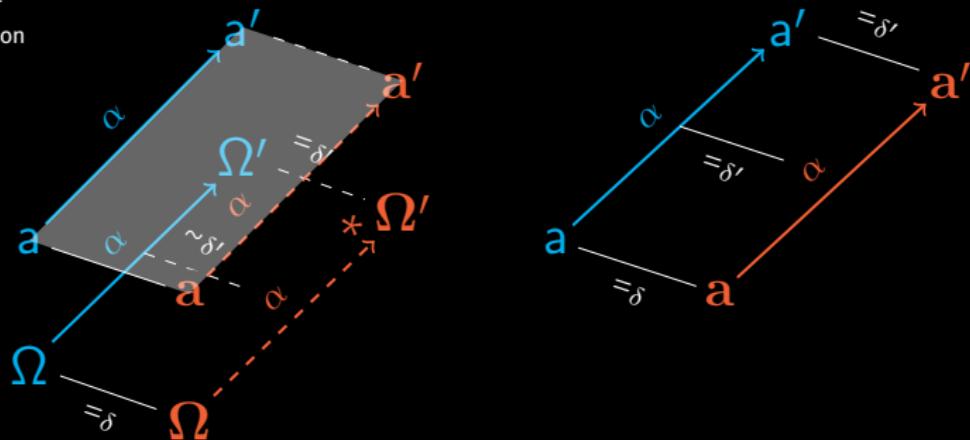
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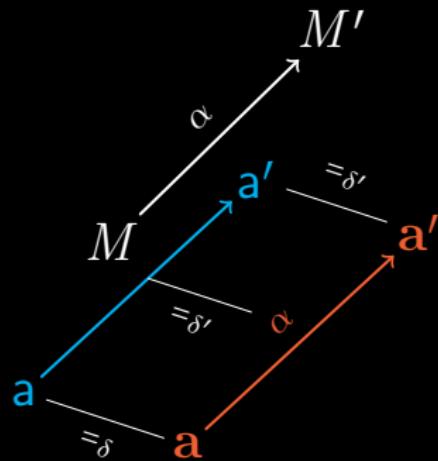
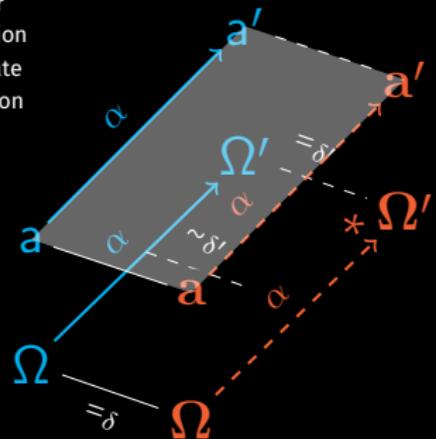
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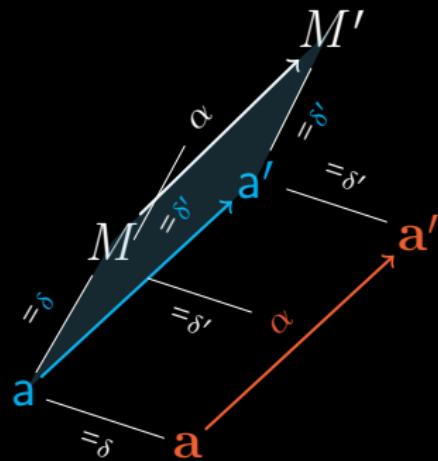
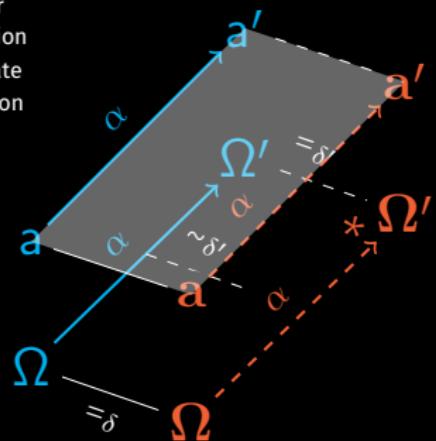
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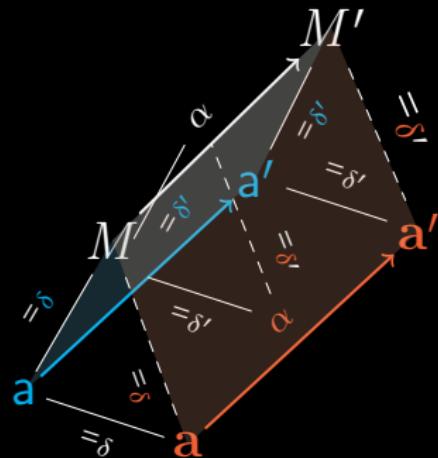
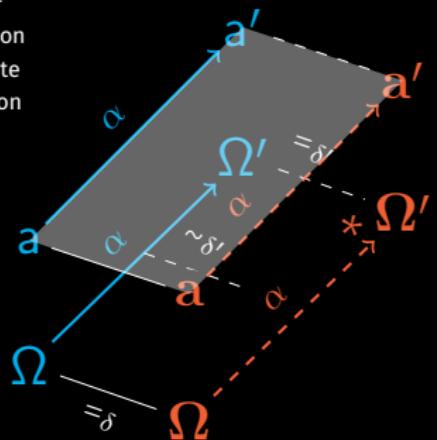
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Challenge: how to ensure A actions do not affect MS?

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Robust Cryptographic Constant Time

(wip)

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no secret-dependent operations

Bernstein '15, Barbosa *et al.* S&P'21

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- **Solution:** use a compiler that preserves RCT

Micro-architectural Attacks (Spectre)

CCS'21

Speculative Semantics & SNI

Guarnieri et al. S&P'21

```
void f (int x) ↪ if(x < A.size) {y = B[A[x]]}  
run 1: A.size = 16, A[128] = 3
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call f 128

Speculative Semantics & SNI

Guarnieri et al. S&P'21

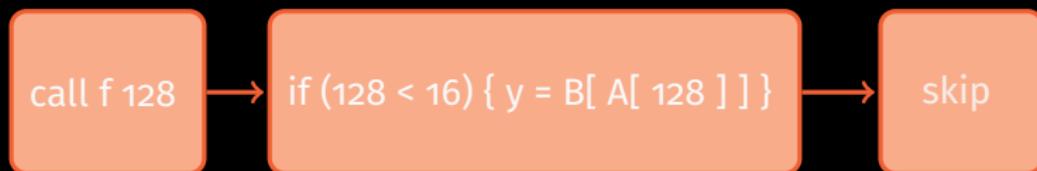
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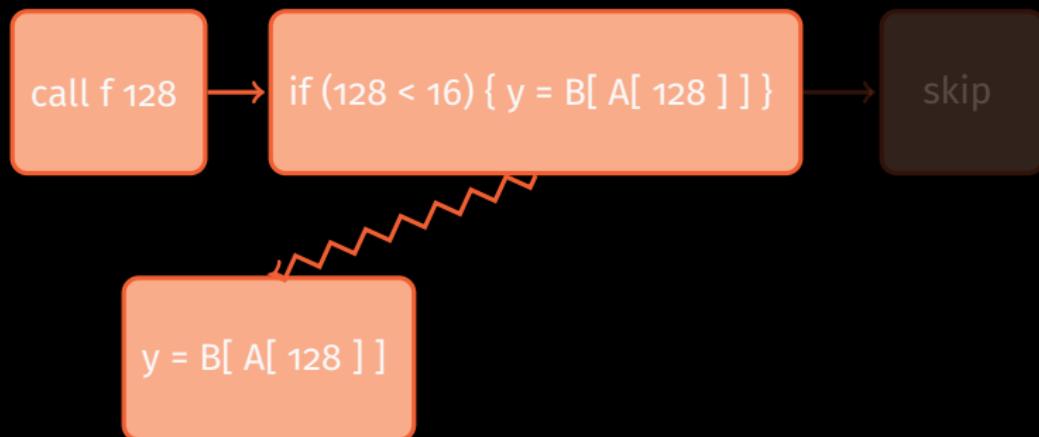
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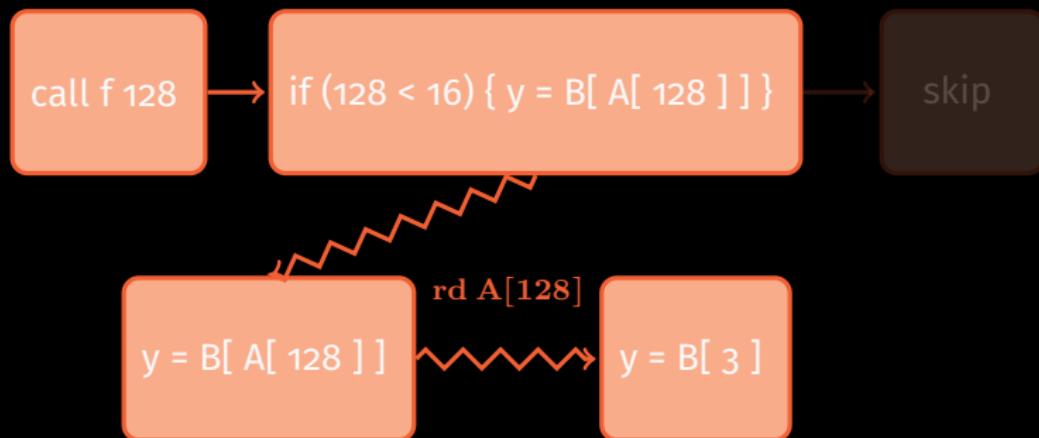
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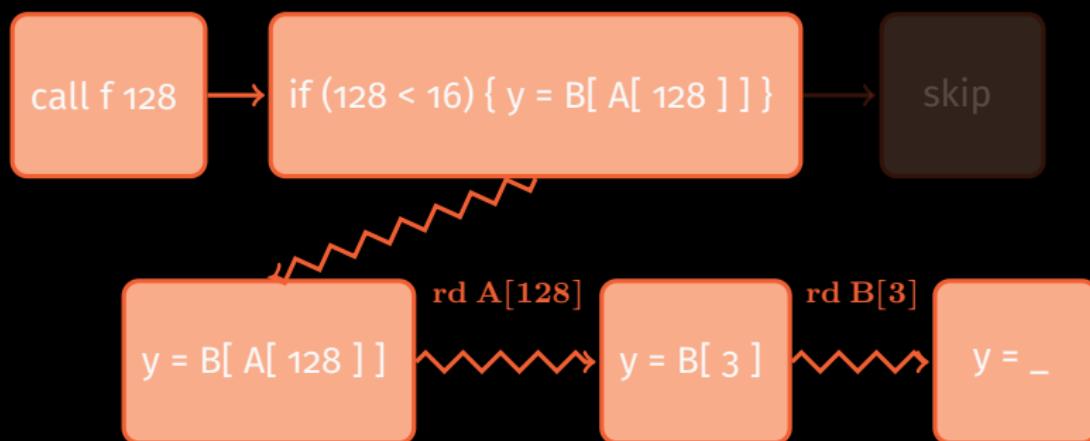
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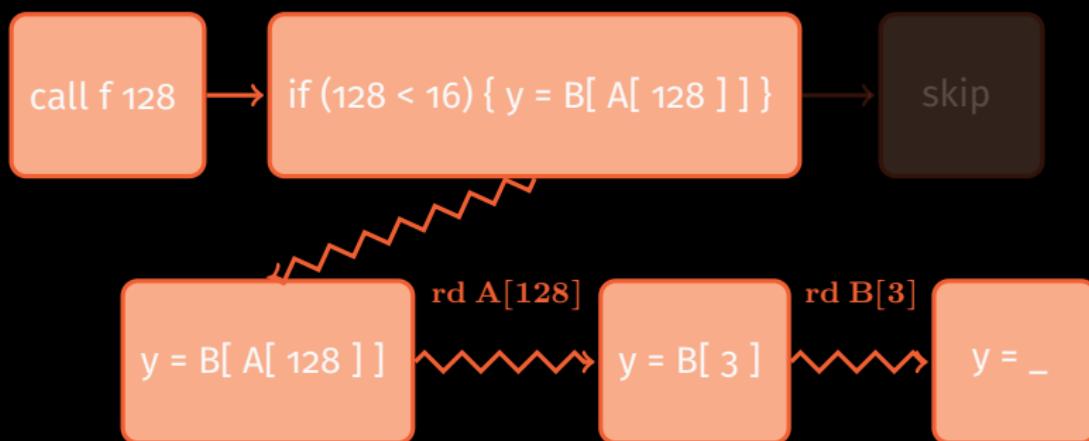
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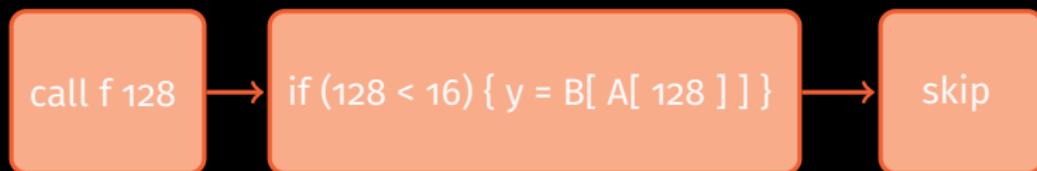
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rd B[7] ⇒ SNI violation

Speculative Semantics & SNI

Guarnieri et al. S&P'21

A program is **SNI** ($\vdash P : \text{SNI}$) if, given two runs from low-equivalent states:

- assuming the non-speculative traces are low-equivalent
- then the **speculative traces are also low-equivalent**

call f

trace 1: rd A[128]
trace 2: rd A[128]

rd B[3] different traces
rd B[7] \Rightarrow SNI violation

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Guarnieri et al. S&P'21

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Problems Problems Problems ...

Problem: Proving compiler preserves SNI is hard

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Solution: overapproximate SNI with a
novel property: speculative safety (SS)

Speculative Safety (SS): Taint Tracking

void f (int x) \mapsto if($x < A.size$) { $y = B[A[x]]$ }

only 1 run needed: $A.size=16$, $A[128]=3$

integrity lattice: $S \subset U \quad S \sqcap U = S \quad U$ does not flow to S

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pc : S

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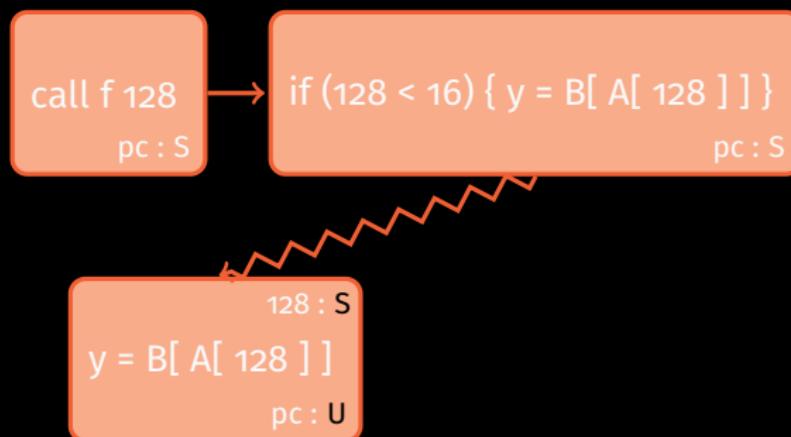


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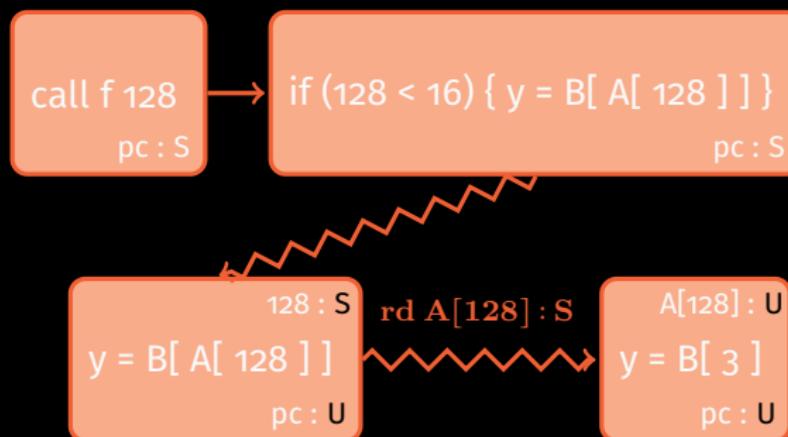


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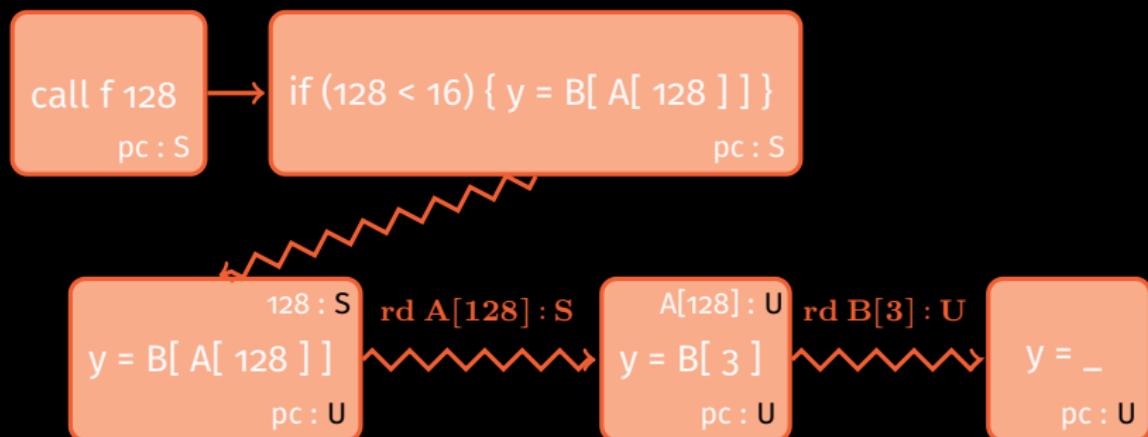


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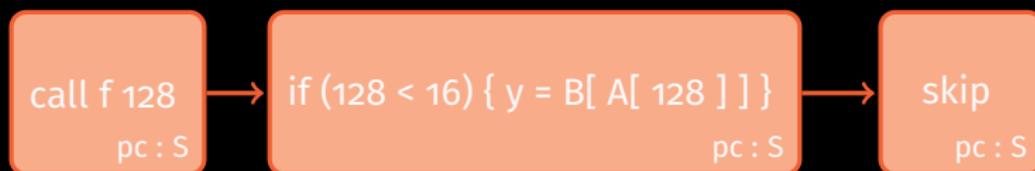


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rd $A[128] : S$

rd $B[3] : U$

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A program is SS ($\vdash P : SS$) if its traces do not contain U actions

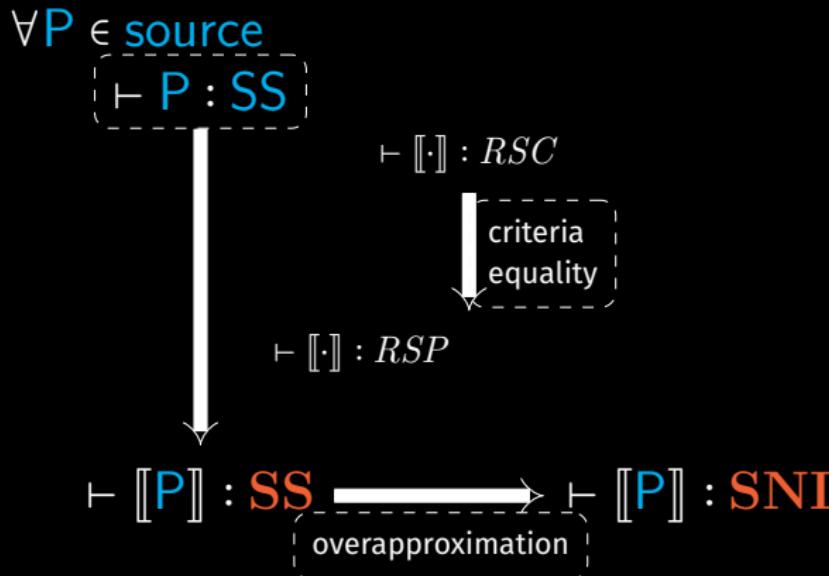
call f 128 → if (128 < 16) { y = B[A[128]] }
pc : S

rd A[128] : S

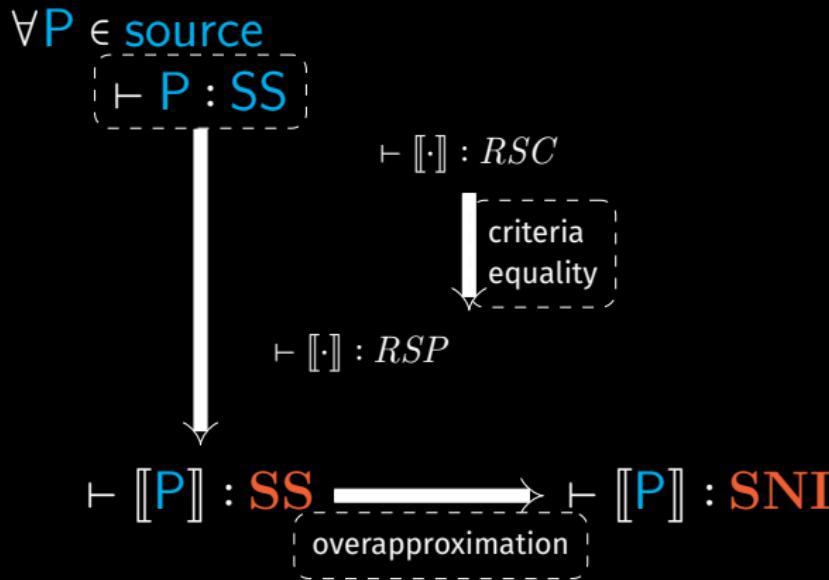
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Secure Compilation Framework for Spectre

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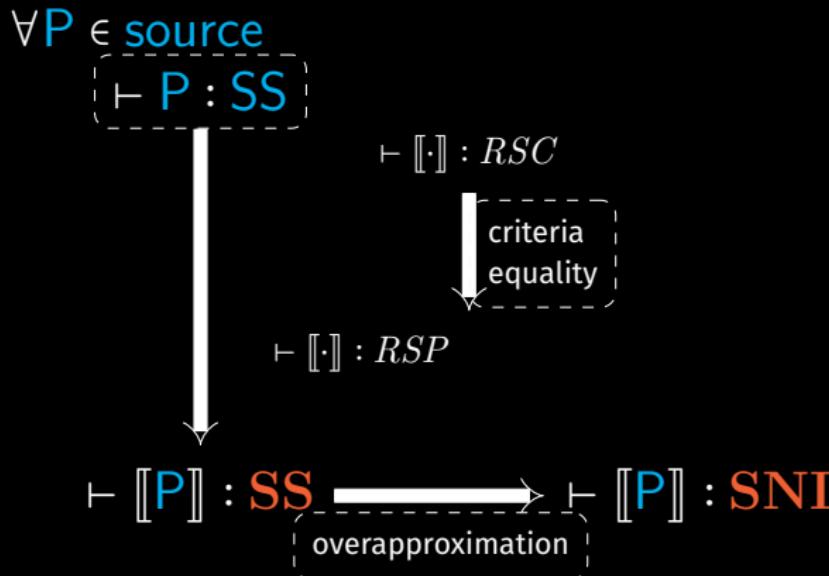


Secure Compilation Framework for Spectre



- dashed premises are already discharged

Secure Compilation Framework for Spectre



- dashed premises are already discharged
- to show security: **simply prove RSC**

RSC for lfence

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void f(int x) ↪ if(x < A.size){y = B[A[x]]}      // A.size=16, A[128]=3  
[.] = void f(int x) ↪ if(x < A.size){lfence; y = B[A[x]]}
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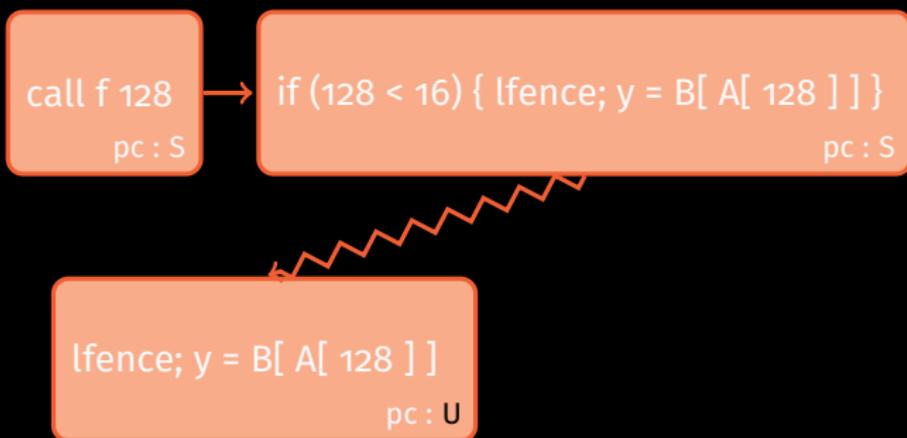
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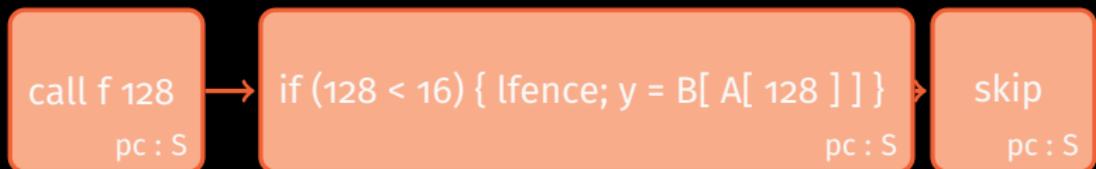
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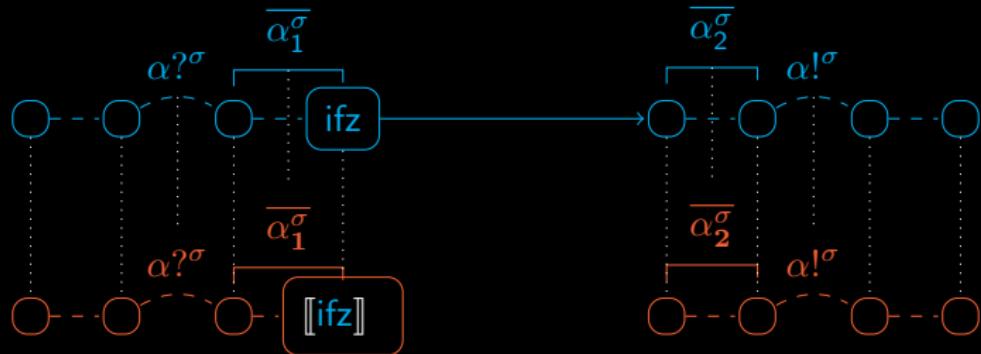
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RSC for lfence

```
void f(int x) ↪ if(x < A.size){y = B[A[x]]}      // A.size=16, A[128]=3  
[.] = void f(int x) ↪ if(x < A.size){lfence; y = B[A[x]]}
```



Proofs Insight

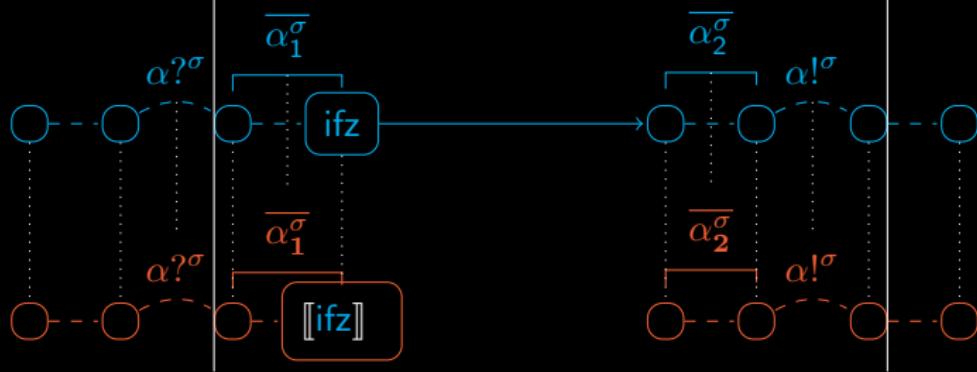


Proofs Insight

$\langle\langle A \rangle\rangle / A$
executes

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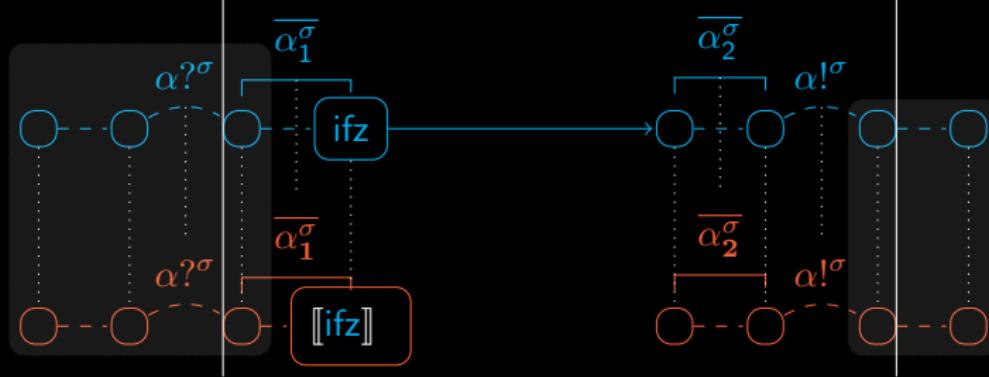


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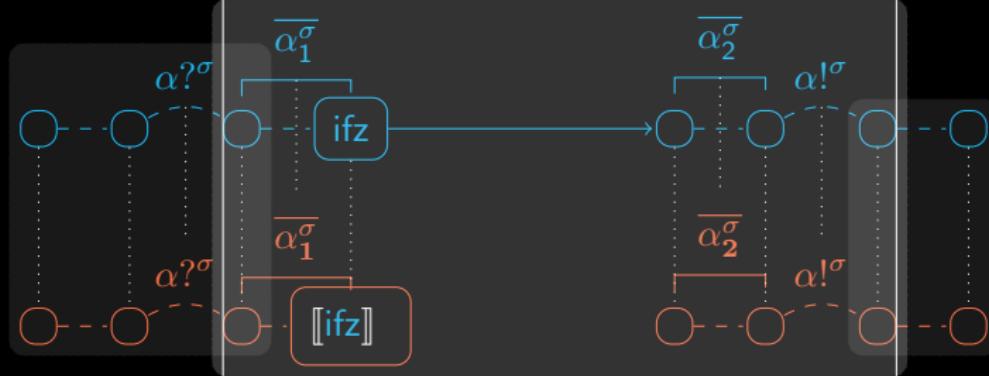


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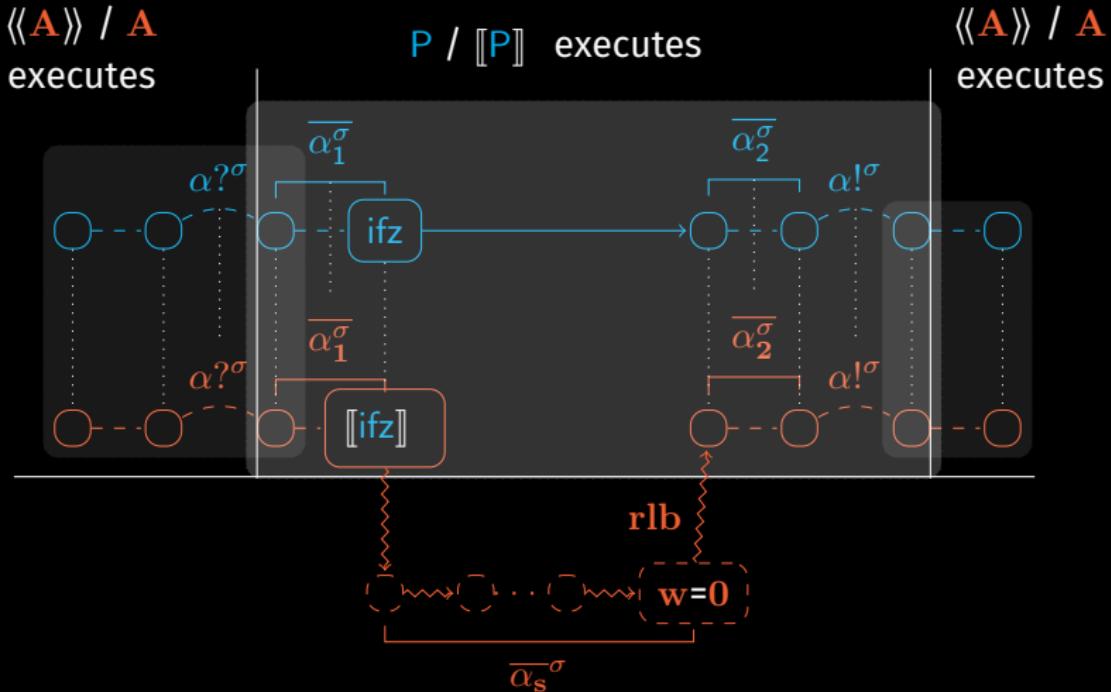
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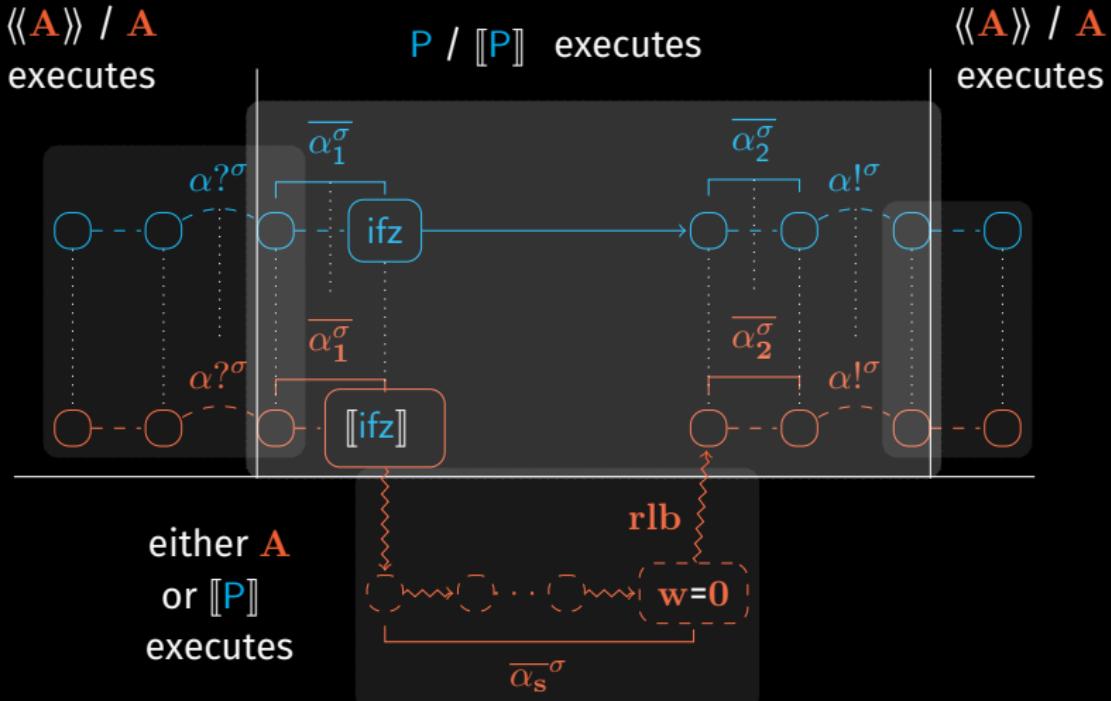
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Proofs Insight



Proofs Insight



What Then?

CCS'22, wip

- SNIv1, SNIv2, SNIv4, SNIv5

Kocher *et al.* S&P'19

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What Then?

CCS'22, wip

- SNIv1, SNIv2, SNIv4, SNIv5

Kocher et al. S&P'19

- Challenge: can the **lfence** compiler “mess” with SNIv2?
- Challenge: can we compose **lfence**(SNIv1) and **retpoline**(SNIv5)?

Security Architectures

(e.g., Cheri/ARM Morello, Sancus/Intel SGX, ...) Toplas'15, CSF'21, ...

Mechanise Cryptographic Proofs

CSF'24 + wip

Robust Hyperproperty Preservation

$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket \vdash \text{RHP} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall P, A. \exists A. \forall t.$

$$A[\llbracket P \rrbracket] \rightsquigarrow t \iff A[P] \rightsquigarrow t$$

Robust Hyperproperty Preservation

$$\begin{array}{ccc} t & & t \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ [[P]] \bowtie A & \iff & P \bowtie A \end{array}$$

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This talk: generic flavour, geared towards the newer theories

- protocols Π (using concrete crypto)

commitment for $b \in \{0, 1\}$ with SID sid:

compute $G_{pk_b}(r)$ for random $r \in \{0, 1\}^n$

set $y = G_{pk_b}(r)$ for $b = 0$, or $y = G_{pk_b}(r) \oplus \sigma$ for $b = 1$

send (Com, sid, y) to the receiver

Upon receiving (Com, sid, y) from P_i, P_j outputs $(\text{Receipt}, sid, cid, P_i, P_j)$

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- **functionalities F** (using abstract notions)

1. Upon receiving a value $(\text{Commit}, sid, P_i, P_j, b)$ from P_i , where $b \in \{0, 1\}$, record the value b and send the message $(\text{Receipt}, sid, P_i, P_j)$ to P_j and \mathcal{S} . Ignore any subsequent Commit messages.

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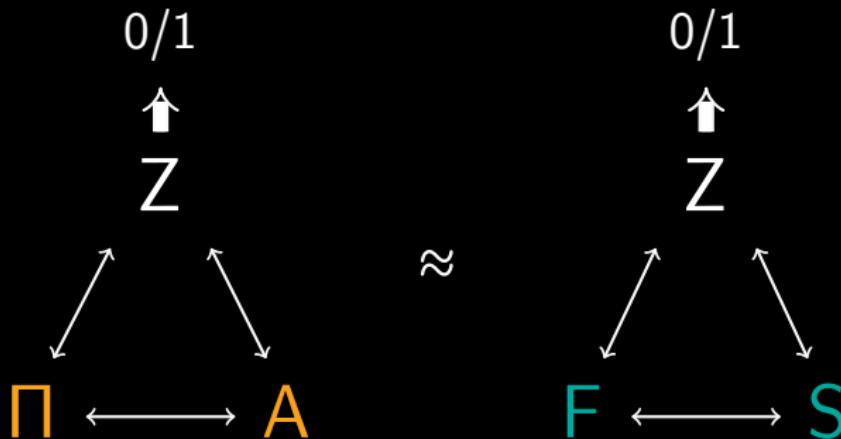
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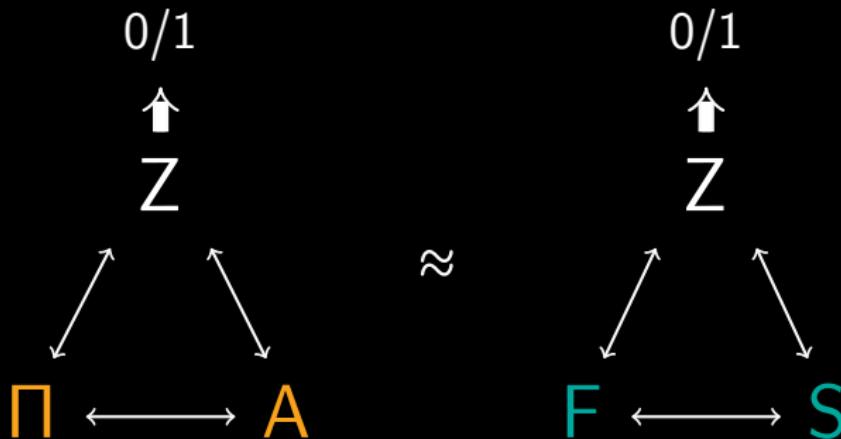
- **attackers A & S** (corrupting parties etc.)
- **environments Z** (objective witness)

UC (**Semi-formally**)



\leftrightarrow represent communication channels

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$$\Pi \vdash_{UC} F \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \forall \text{poly } A, \exists S, \forall Z.$$

$$\text{Exec}[Z, A, \Pi] \approx \text{Exec}[Z, S, F]$$

A Closer Look

$$\forall \text{poly } A, \exists S, \forall Z.$$

\approx

$$\begin{array}{c} 0/1 \\ \uparrow \\ Z \\ \nearrow \quad \nwarrow \\ \Pi \longleftrightarrow A \end{array} \qquad \qquad \begin{array}{c} 0/1 \\ \uparrow \\ Z \\ \nearrow \quad \nwarrow \\ F \longleftrightarrow S \end{array}$$

$$\forall P, A. \exists A. \forall t.$$
$$\begin{array}{c} t \\ \uparrow \\ [[P]] \bowtie A \iff P \bowtie A \\ t \\ \uparrow \end{array}$$

A Closer Look

$$\begin{array}{c} \forall \text{poly } A, \exists S, \forall Z. \\ \begin{array}{ccc} 0/1 & & 0/1 \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ Z & & Z \\ \nearrow & \nwarrow & \nearrow & \nwarrow \\ \Pi & \longleftrightarrow & A & \approx & F & \longleftrightarrow & S \end{array} \end{array} \quad \boxed{\forall P, A. \exists A. \forall t.}$$
$$\begin{array}{ccc} t & & t \\ \uparrow & & \uparrow \\ \llbracket P \rrbracket \bowtie A & \iff & P \bowtie A \end{array}$$

Isabelle'd both perfect and computational UC

Analogy

<i>UC</i>		<i>SC</i>
protocol	Π	compiled program
concrete attacker	A	target context
ideal functionality	F	source program
simulator	S	source context
environment, output	Z, 0/1	trace, semantics
communication	\leftrightarrow	linking
probabilistic equiv.	\approx	trace equality

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probabilistic equiv.	\approx	trace equality
human translation	$\Pi \rightarrow F$	$\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : P \rightarrow P$ compiler
general composition result		...

Analogy Results

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Haagh et al. CSF'18

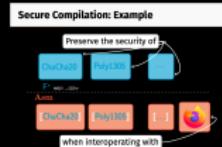
Analogy Results

- transfer UC results from ITMs to any S/T
- mechanise UC results as RHP results known in computer-aided crypto Haagh et al. CSF'18
- Mechanised UC for 1-Bit Commitment in Deepsec submission
- Mechanised UC for 1/2 Wireguard in Cryptoverif CSF'24

Conclusion

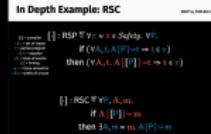
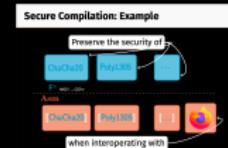
Conclusion

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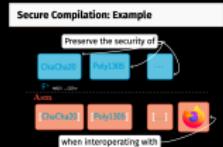
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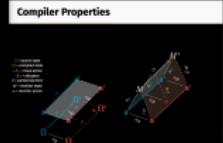
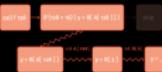
In Depth Example: RSC

$\boxed{1} : \text{RSP} \forall x \in m. S(x), y, VP.$
 If $(VA, t, A[P]) \rightarrow t = e \in v$
 then $(\forall A, t, A[[P]]) \rightarrow t = e \in v$

$\boxed{2} : \text{RSC} \forall y, A, m.$
 If $A[[P]] \rightarrow m$
 then $\exists A, m. A[P] \rightarrow m$



```
void f (int x) { if (x < A.size) { y = D(A[x]);  
sum += A[x]; n++; } }
```



Conclusion

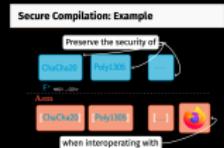
- secure compilation threat model
 - formal foundations: RSC, RHP
 - robust compilation use-cases (MS, CT, SNI)
 - connection with UC

Speculative Semantics & SNI

Speculative reads: A, C, E
Speculative writes: B, D, F
Actual reads: A, C, E, F
Actual writes: B, D, F

A Closer Look

Input I → A, B, C, Y
Input I → S, T, U, Z

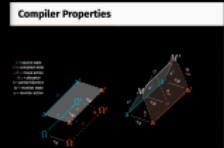


In Depth Example: RSC

$\exists A, m \in \mathbb{N} : RSC(A, m)$



```
void f (int x) {if(x < A.size()) (y = B(A[x]))
```



A Closer Look

Vpoly A, B5, VZ.

Future

- More foundations questions?

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- SC for emerging security archs?

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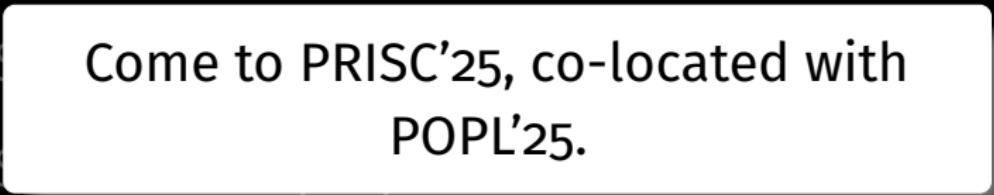
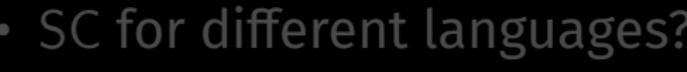
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Future

- More foundations questions?
- Come to PRISC'25, co-located with
POPL'25.
- SC for different languages?
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- More mechanised *UC* protocols?

Questions?



