

02244 Logic for Security

Security Protocols

The Lazy Intruder

Sebastian Mödersheim

February 12, 2024

Dolev-Yao Closure: Summary

Dolev-Yao rules

$$\frac{}{M \vdash m} \text{ if } m \in M \text{ (Axiom)}$$

$$\frac{M \vdash m_1 \quad \dots \quad M \vdash m_n}{M \vdash f(m_1, \dots, m_n)} \text{ if } f/n \in \Sigma_p \text{ (Compose)}$$

$$\frac{M \vdash \langle m_1, m_2 \rangle}{M \vdash m_i} \text{ (Proj}_i\text{)} \quad \frac{M \vdash \{m\}_k \quad M \vdash k}{M \vdash m} \text{ (DecSym)}$$

$$\frac{M \vdash \{m\}_k \quad M \vdash \text{inv}(k)}{M \vdash m} \text{ (DecAsym)} \quad \frac{M \vdash \{m\}_{\text{inv}(k)}}{M \vdash m} \text{ (OpenSig)}$$

The compose rule is for all public functions Σ_p ,
including $\{\cdot\}$, $\{\cdot\}$, $\langle\cdot,\cdot\rangle$

Automating Dolev-Yao

Step 1: Composition only—Solution

Composition Only

$$\frac{}{M \vdash_c m} \text{ if } m \in M \text{ (Axiom)}$$

$$\frac{M \vdash_c m_1 \quad \dots \quad M \vdash_c m_n}{M \vdash_c f(m_1, \dots, m_n)} \text{ if } f \in \Sigma_p \text{ (Compose)}$$

Decision procedure for $M \vdash_c m$

- ① Check if $m \in M$; if so return **yes**.
- ② Otherwise, let $m = f(t_1, \dots, t_n)$
 - ★ If f is not public return **no**.
 - ★ Otherwise recursively check whether:

$$M \vdash_c t_1 \text{ and } \dots \text{ and } M \vdash_c t_n$$

Return **yes** if all these return **yes**, and **no** otherwise.

Automating Dolev-Yao

Step 2: Analysis—solution

Analysis Steps

- If $\{m\}_k \in M$ and $M \vdash_c k$ then add m to M .
- If $\{m\}_k \in M$ and $M \vdash_c \text{inv}(k)$ then add m to M .
- if $\{m\}_{\text{inv}(k)} \in M$ then add m to M .
- If $\langle m_1, m_2 \rangle \in M$ then add m_1 and m_2 to M .
- Repeat until no new messages can be added.

Automating Dolev-Yao

To check $M \vdash m$:

- Perform the Analysis Steps procedure, augmenting M with all derivable messages.
- Now it suffices to check $M \vdash_c m$.

Properties of the algorithm for checking $M \vdash m$:

- Soundness: if algorithm says “yes”, then $M \vdash m$.
- Completeness: if $M \vdash m$, then the algorithm says “yes”.
 - ★ This is quite tricky to prove.
- Termination: the algorithm never runs into an infinite loop.

Automating Dolev-Yao

To check $M \vdash m$:

- Perform the Analysis Steps procedure, augmenting M with all derivable messages.
- Now it suffices to check $M \vdash_c m$.

Properties of the algorithm for checking $M \vdash m$:

- Soundness: if algorithm says “yes”, then $M \vdash m$.
- Completeness: if $M \vdash m$, then the algorithm says “yes”.
 - ★ This is quite tricky to prove.
- Termination: the algorithm never runs into an infinite loop.
 - ★ Procedure for \vdash_c terminates since it goes to smaller terms

Automating Dolev-Yao

To check $M \vdash m$:

- Perform the Analysis Steps procedure, augmenting M with all derivable messages.
- Now it suffices to check $M \vdash_c m$.

Properties of the algorithm for checking $M \vdash m$:

- Soundness: if algorithm says “yes”, then $M \vdash m$.
- Completeness: if $M \vdash m$, then the algorithm says “yes”.
 - ★ This is quite tricky to prove.
- Termination: the algorithm never runs into an infinite loop.
 - ★ Procedure for \vdash_c terminates since it goes to smaller terms
 - ★ Analysis terminates because it only adds proper subterms of an existing term. This cannot go on forever, since there are only finitely many subterms.

Negative Question

Can we thus **prove** also statements of the form $M \not\vdash m$
... that a m **cannot** be derived from M ?

Example

$$M = \{ k_1, \{ m_1 \}_{k_1}, m_2, \{ m_3 \}_{k_2} \} \not\vdash m_3$$

Negative Question

Can we thus **prove** also statements of the form $M \not\vdash m$
... that a m **cannot** be derived from M ?

Example

$$M = \{ k_1, \{ m_1 \}_{k_1}, m_2, \{ m_3 \}_{k_2} \} \not\vdash m_3$$

- Yes, due to completeness when our algorithm answers “no”, we know there is no derivation for m .

Needham-Schroeder Public-Key Protocol [1978]

Protocol: NSPK

Types: Agent A,B;
Number NA,NB;
Function pk,h

Knowledge: A: A, pk(A), inv(pk(A)), B, pk(B), h;
B: B, pk(B), inv(pk(B)), A, pk(A), h

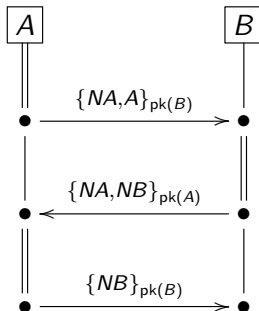
Actions:

A→B: {NA,A}(pk(B)) # A generates NA
B→A: {NA,NB}(pk(A)) # B generates NB
A→B: {NB}(pk(B))

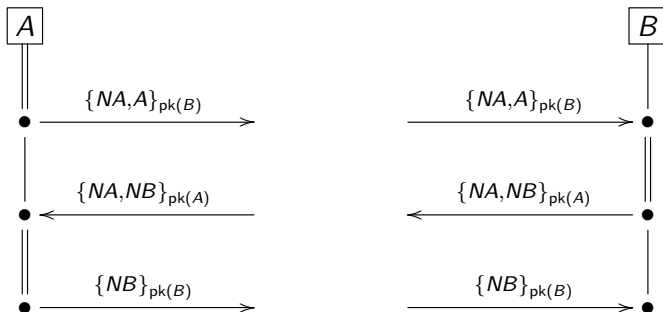
Goals:

h(NA,NB) secret between A,B

NSPK as A Message Sequence Chart

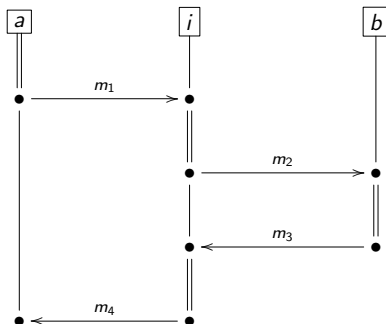


NSPK as Roles / Strands



- For each **Role** of the protocol, a program that sends and receives messages (over possibly insecure network)
- **Strand**: concrete execution of a role: all variables (here A, B, NA, NB) instantiated with concrete values
 - ★ or a prefix thereof (an agent might not finish)

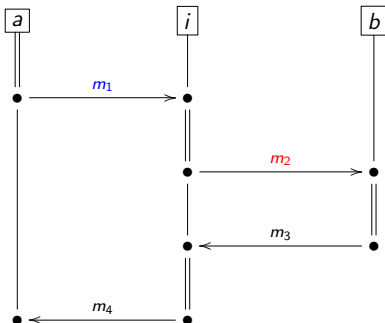
Attacks



An attack is a strand space where the following conditions are met:

- Messages sent by honest agents are received by i
- Messages received by honest agents are sent by i who can compose the message from the messages he has received so far.
- The successful completion violates a goal of the protocol.

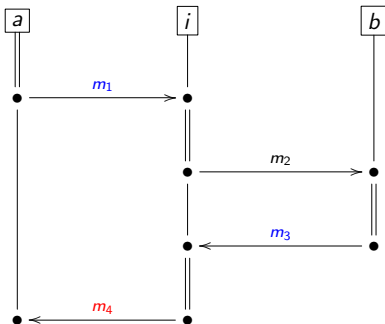
Attacks



An attack is a strand space where the following conditions are met:

- Messages sent by honest agents are received by i
- Messages received by honest agents are sent by i who can compose the message from the messages he has received so far.
 - ★ In the example: $\{m_1\} \vdash m_2$
- The successful completion violates a goal of the protocol.

Attacks



An attack is a strand space where the following conditions are met:

- Messages sent by honest agents are received by i
- Messages received by honest agents are sent by i who can compose the message from the messages he has received so far.
 - ★ In the example: $\{m_1\} \vdash m_2$ and $\{m_1, m_3\} \vdash m_4$.
- The successful completion violates a goal of the protocol.

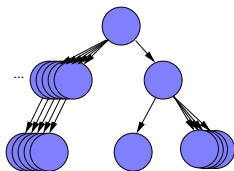
Infinite State Space

Problem 1: at any time, any number of people can run the protocol in parallel. (Think of TLS...)

- For now we **bound the number of sessions**: only finitely many strands of honest agents
- Later: how to verify for unbounded sessions

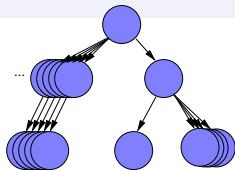
Problem 2: at any time the intruder has an infinite choice of message they can construct and send to an agent.

- We will **solve** this problem with a constraint approach: **the lazy intruder**.



Lazy Intruder: Overview

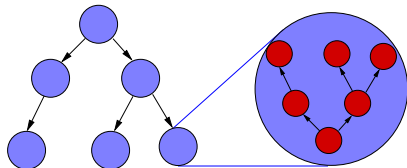
Even for bounded sessions we have an infinite tree of reachable states, i.e., how the intruder can interact with honest agents.



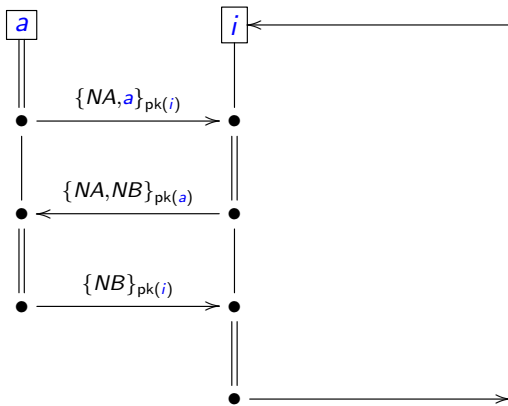
Idea: **symbolic states**

Each state is an attack scenario: a sequence of interactions with honest agents, leaving undetermined what exactly the intruder sends.

- Then each state is a constraint solving problem: “Can the intruder generate all messages that the attack scenario has?”
- This will be a backward search: we start at the complete attack scenario and try to see how the intruder could have constructed this.



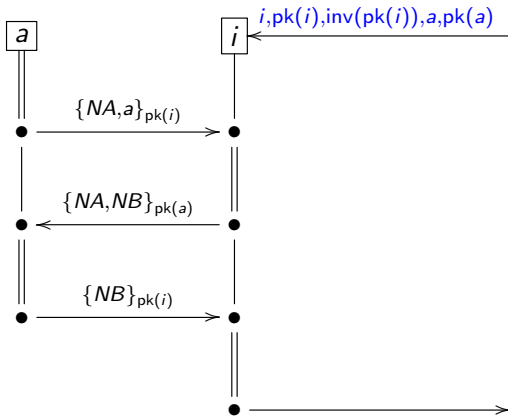
Example: Can the Intruder Play a Protocol Role?



Example:

- NSPK with $A = a$ and $B = i$

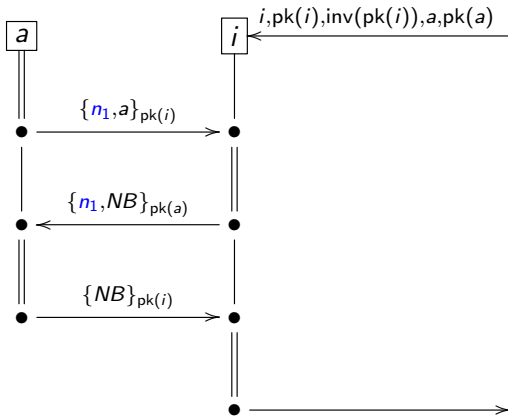
Example: Can the Intruder Play a Protocol Role?



Example:

- NSPK with $A = a$ and $B = i$
- i needs corrs. knowledge of role B : $i, \text{pk}(i), \text{inv}(\text{pk}(i)), a, \text{pk}(a)$

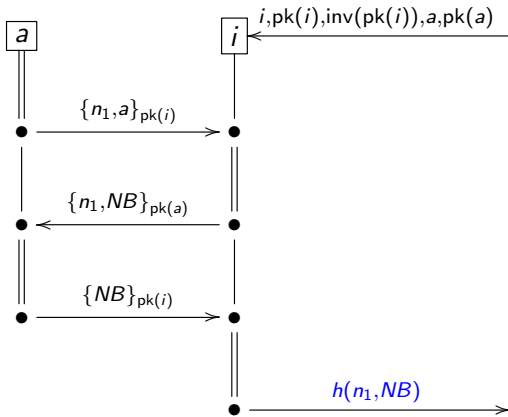
Example: Can the Intruder Play a Protocol Role?



Example:

- NSPK with $A = a$ and $B = i$
- i needs corrs. knowledge of role B : $i, \text{pk}(i), \text{inv}(\text{pk}(i)), a, \text{pk}(a)$
- a uses a fresh $NA = n_1$.

Example: Can the Intruder Play a Protocol Role?

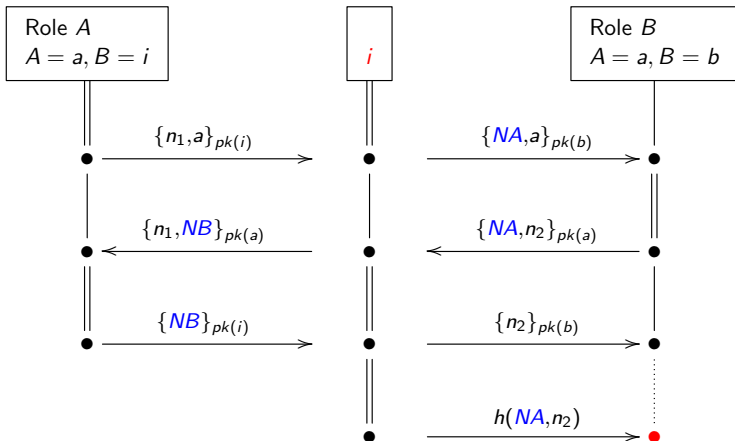


Example:

- NSPK with $A = a$ and $B = i$
- i needs corrs. knowledge of role B : $i, \text{pk}(i), \text{inv}(\text{pk}(i)), a, \text{pk}(a)$
- a uses a fresh $NA = n_1$.
- Afterwards, i should be able to construct the shared key $h(NA, NB) = h(n_1, NB)$

The Lazy Intruder Attacking

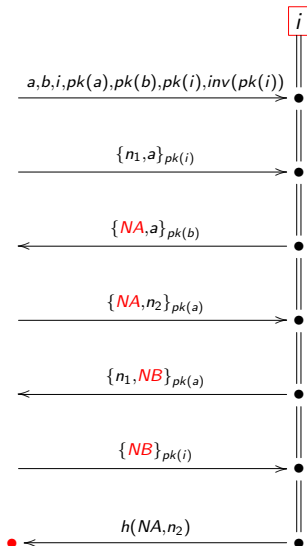
Scenario



The **challenge** labeled \bullet :

- Can the intruder produce the secret session key $h(NA, n_2)$?

Choose and Check



- For simplicity we display here only outgoing and incoming messages of the intruder.

Q:
Is the protocol itself a public knowledge?
Or how practically we can create this tree

Needham-Schroeder-Lowe [1996]

Protocol: NSL

Types: Agent A,B;
Number NA,NB;
Function pk,h

Knowledge: A: A, pk(A), inv(pk(A)), B, pk(B), h;
B: B, pk(B), inv(pk(B)), A, pk(A), h

Actions:

A→B: {NA,A}(pk(B))

B→A: {NA,NB,B}(pk(A))

Inserted B's name into the message

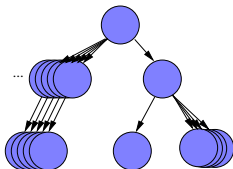
A→B: {NB}(pk(B))

Goals:

h(NA,NB) secret between A,B

Lazy Intruder: Summary

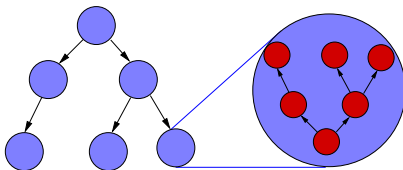
- Without the **lazy** approach, we would get an infinite search tree because the intruder has often an infinite choice of messages to send.



- We avoid this by using the **lazy intruder**:

Layer 1: a symbolic search tree

Layer 2: constraint solving



Lazy Intruder: Summary

Constraint Solving

Go step by step through the constraint.

- For incoming messages: can a decryption rule be applied?
If so, add the decrypted message also as an incoming message
 - ★ When the key contains variables this can be handled by adding the key as an outgoing message, i.e., require that the intruder can produce it.
- For outgoing messages
 - ★ If it is a variable: be **lazy** for now.
 - ▶ If it gets replaced, you need to come back here.
 - ★ Otherwise: check **all** following possibilities (backtracking!):
 - ▶ Compose: can a compose rule be applied?
 - ▶ Axiom: can the axiom rule be applied?
This may require instantiating **variables**

Lazy Intruder: Summary

Theorem (Rusinowitch & Turuani 2001)

Protocol insecurity for a bounded number of sessions is NP-complete.

Proof Sketch.

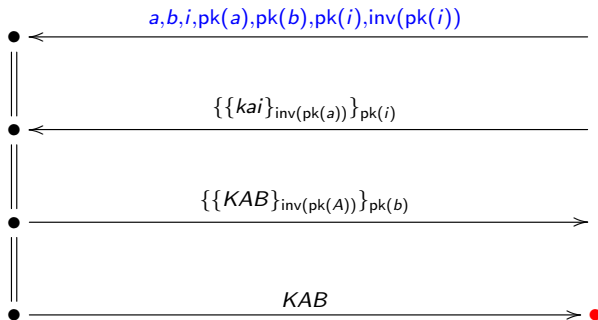
In NP: **Guess** a symbolic attack trace for the given strands and a sequence of reduction steps for the resulting constraints. **Check** that this sequence of reduction steps solves the constraint.

NP-hard: Polynomial reduction for boolean formulae to security protocols such that formula satisfiable iff protocol has an attack. \square

Relevant Research Papers

- David Basin, Sebastian Mödersheim, and Luca Viganò. *OFMC: A symbolic model checker for security protocols*. International Journal of Information Security, 4(3), 2005.
- Gavin Lowe. *Breaking and Fixing the Needham-Schroeder Public-Key Protocol Using FDR*. Software Concepts Tools, 17(3), 1996.
- Jonathan K. Millen and Vitaly Shmatikov. *Constraint solving for bounded-process cryptographic protocol analysis*. Computer and Communications Security, 2001,
- Roger Needham and Michael Schroeder. *Using Encryption for Authentication in Large Networks of Computers*. Communications of the ACM, 21(12), 1978.
- Michaël Rusinowitch and Mathieu Turuani. *Protocol Insecurity with Finite Number of Sessions is NP-complete*. Computer Security Foundations Workshop, 2001.

Exercise



Exercise: show that this constraint has both

- a solution where $A = i$ (i.e., a normal execution)
- a solution where $A = a$ (i.e., an attack)