

V-Research

Research & Development for Cybersecurity Engineering

The Etiology of Cybersecurity

The Science Club

knowledgezero@v-research.it

Dissemination level: Public

Confidentiality level: unencrypted

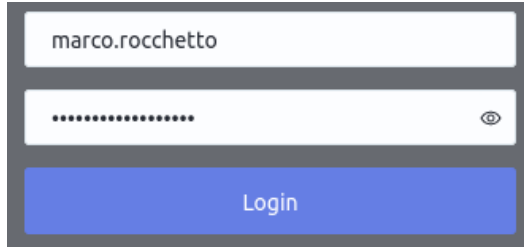
ECCN: NSR

<https://v-research.it>

Agenda

1. The problem in the Method
2. Cybersecurity Hypothesis
3. Risk Assessment Prototype

Necessary Cybersecurity Requirements



A login form with a text input field containing 'marco.rocchetto', a password input field with masked characters and an eye icon, and a blue 'Login' button.

Jacob Nielsen (usability expert)

Usability suffers if users only get a row of bullets when they type their password.

Password Masking doesn't even increase security but cost you business due to login failures

Bruce Schneier (security expert)

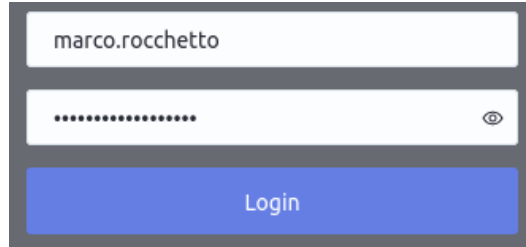
[June 26, 2009] "I agree with this"

Epic flame-war

[July 3, 2009] "So was I wrong? Maybe. Okay, probably"

So, is this secure? More secure?

Necessary Cybersecurity Requirements



marco.rocchetto

.....

Login

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Bruce Schneier (security expert)

[June 26, 2009] "I agree with this"

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[July 3, 2009] "So was I wrong? Maybe. Okay, probably"

So, is this secure? More secure?

Is there a propriety P of a system S such that S is a secure system?

What is P? Confidentiality?
Confidentiality=security?
(it's tautological - it does what it does)
Security is something else



Unfalsifiability of security claims

Cormac Herley^{a,1}

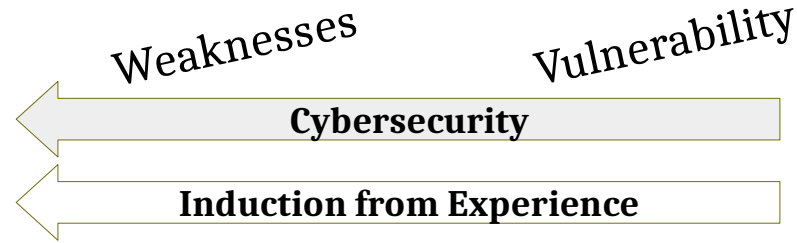
^aMicrosoft Research, Redmond, WA 98052

There is an inherent asymmetry in computer security: Things can be declared insecure by observation, but not the reverse. There is no observation that allows us to declare an arbitrary system or technique secure. We show that this implies that claims of necessary

Theory

Reality

Errors

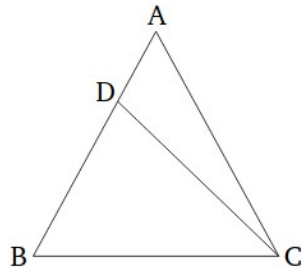


System
under
attack

Theory

Reality

Errors



If a triangle has two angles equal to one another
the sides subtending the equal angles
will also be equal to one another.

Weaknesses

Vulnerability

Cybersecurity

Induction from Experience

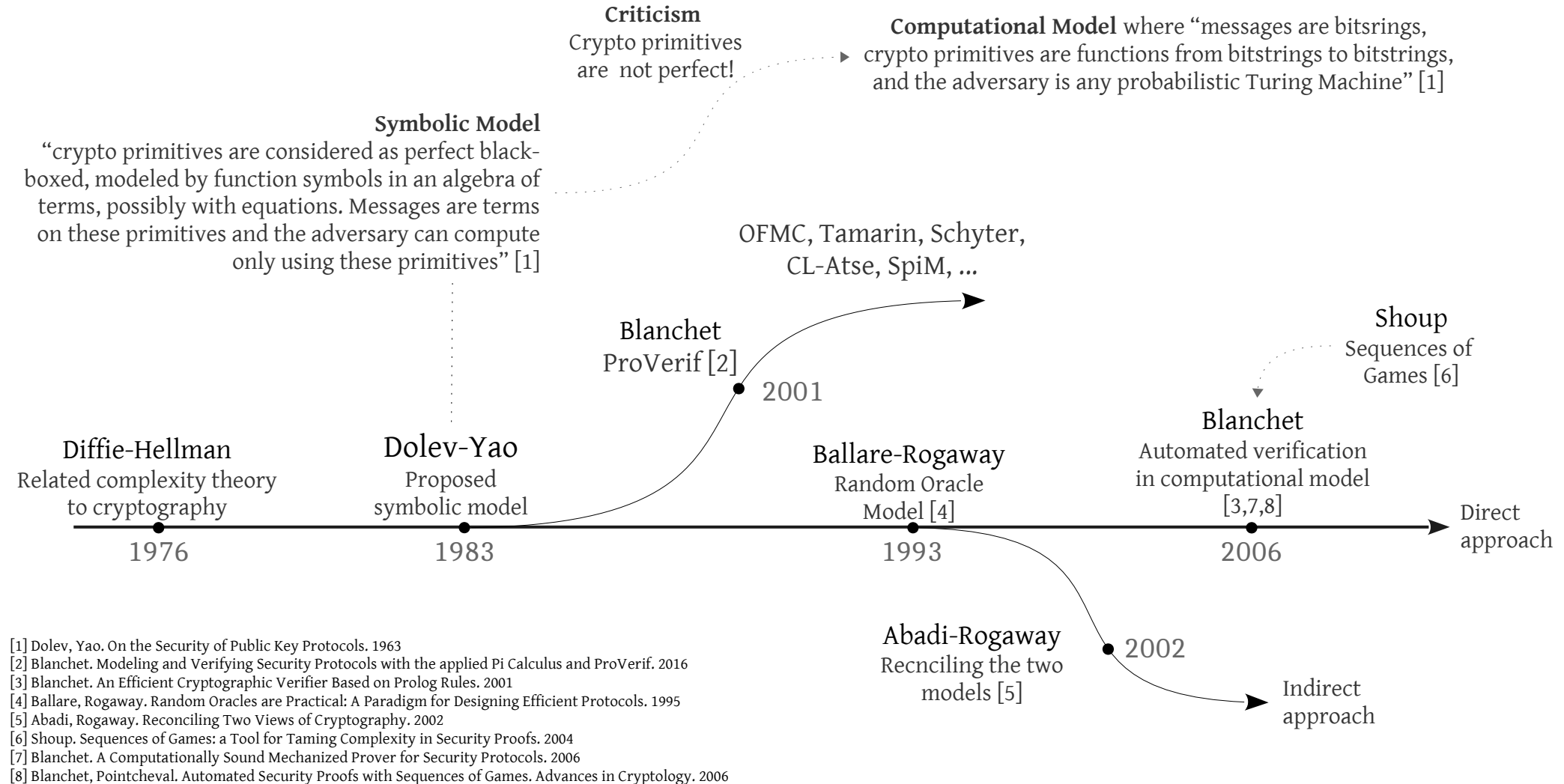
Euclid & The scientific method

Deduction/Predictions

System
under
attack



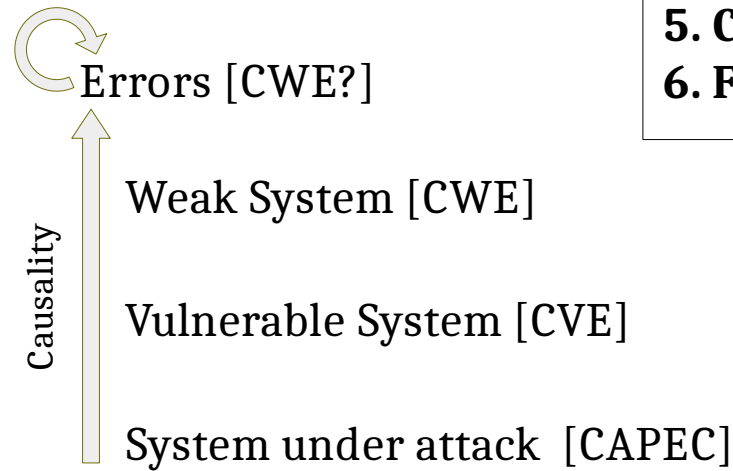
We Are Aware of Cybersecurity Theories



Agenda

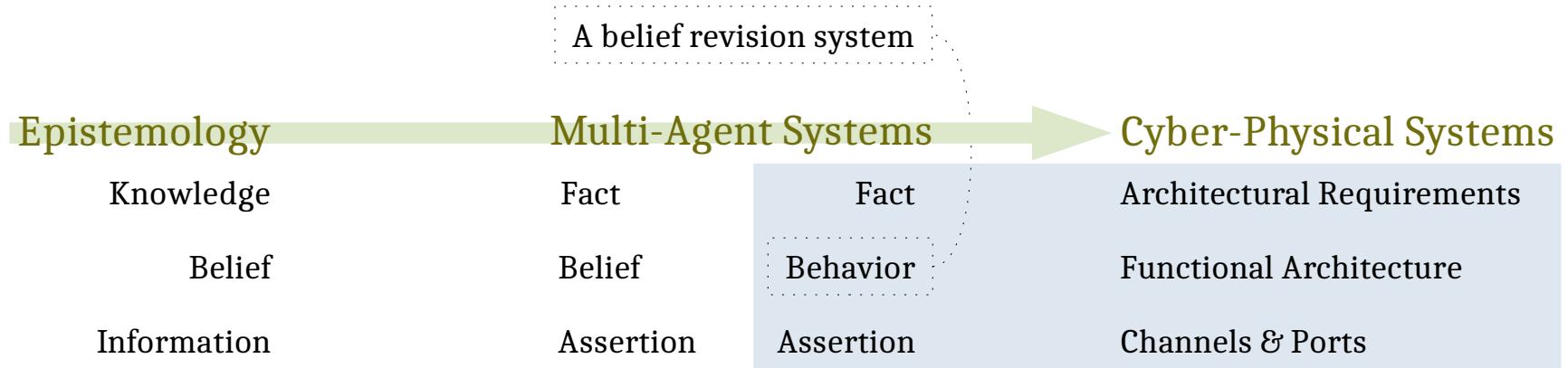
1. The problem in the Method
- 2. Cybersecurity Hypothesis**
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Cybersecurity Hypothesis



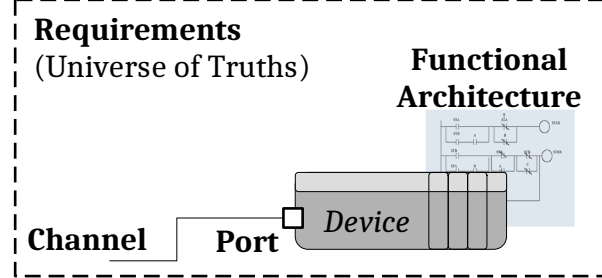
- 1. Claim:** insecurity is generated by attacks
- 2. Claim:** attacks are (caused) made possible by errors
- 3. Def:** security is achieved when no attacks are possible
- 4. Hyp:** a *theory on system errors* should predict insecurity
- 5. Challenge:** how can we define a theory of errors?
- 6. First step:** start from a theory of systems

What is a system?



- [23] Jaakko Hintikka. "Knowledge and Belief: An Introduction to the Logic of the Two Notions". In: *Studia Logica* 16 (1962), pp. 119–122.
- [24] Jakko Hintikka. "On proper (popper?) and improper uses of information in epistemology". In: *Theoria*. Wiley Online Library, 1993, pp. 158–165. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1755-2567.1993.tb00867.x>.

On Etiology of Cybersecurity



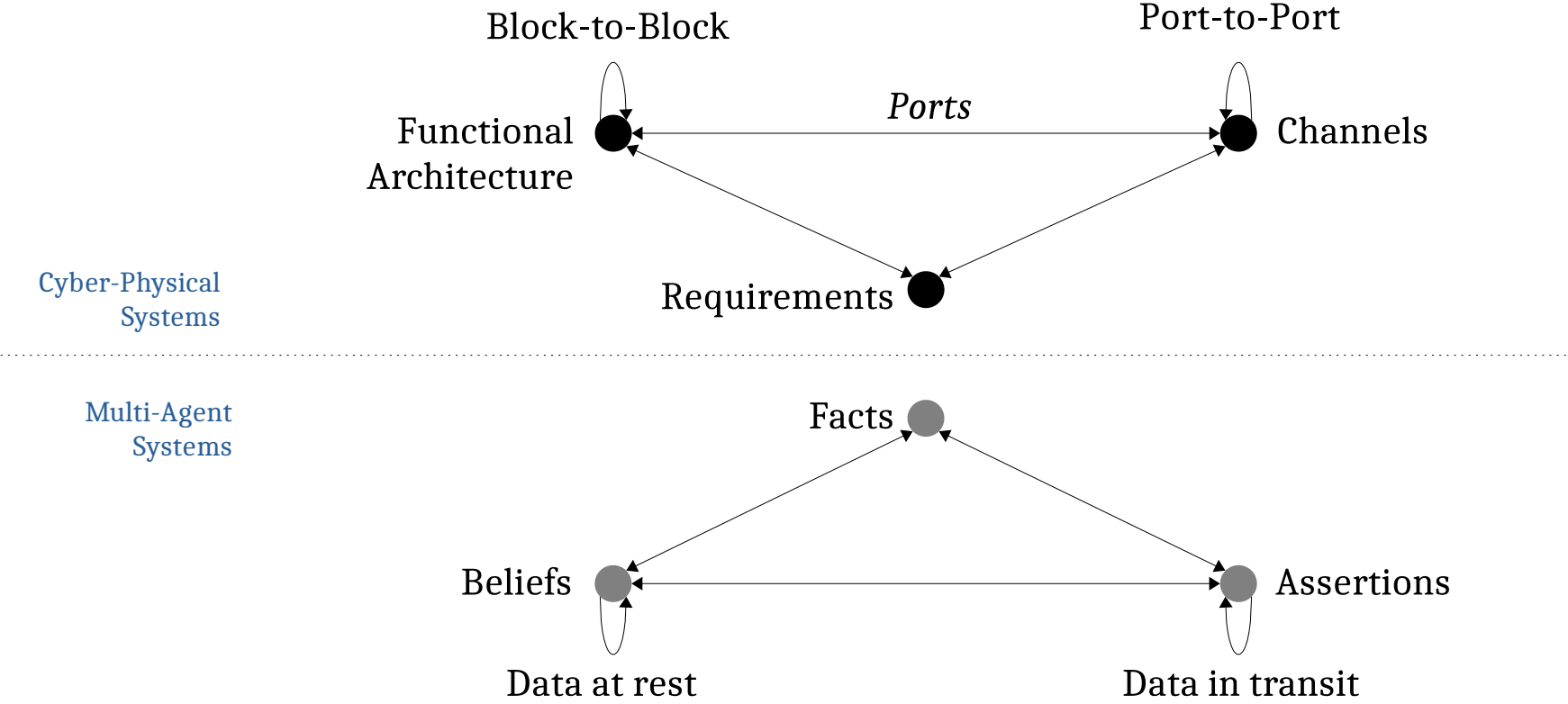
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A Topological Categorization of Agents for the
Definition of Attack States in Multi-agent Systems

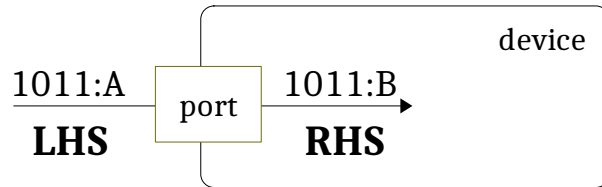
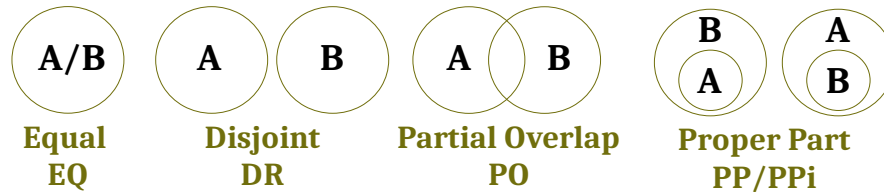
ABF-Framework for System Design



Cybersecurity Weakness Prediction (RIDI-Hypothesis)

There exist **3 categories of weaknesses**:

- B/F errors in *behaviors* (functional architecture)
- A/F errors in *communications* (channels)
- A/B errors in *translations* (ports)



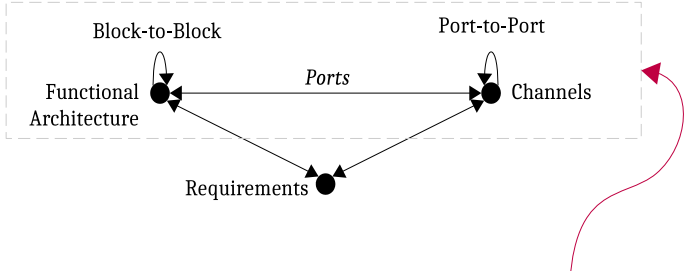
	RCC Calculus	LHS	RHS
nominal	EQ	x	$y = x$
replace	DR	x	$y \neq x$
insert	PP	x	$y = x \cdot x'$
delete	PPi	x	$y \subset x$
inject	PO	x	$y = x' \cdot y', x' \subset x, y' \neq x$

There are other (similar) weaknesses:

- Selective drop
- Selective drop+insert

From Errors to Architectural Weaknesses

quantity



This is general, an application to a specific requirement is provided afterwards

	RCC Calculus	R1	R2
nominal	EQ	x	$y = x$
replace	DR	x	$y \neq x$
insert	PP	x	$y = x \cdot x'$
delete	PPi	x	$y \subset x$
inject	PO	x	$y = x' \cdot y', x' \subset x, y' \neq x$

Quantity: Data Flow between
The input and output of: Channels(A,A);
Ports(B,A); FunctionalBlocks(B,B)

Quality: Requirements (Facts) over
Channel(A,F); Behavior(B,F)

EQ	Expected, Nominal	Expected, Nominal
DR	drops all the inputs and inserts new malicious data	the component never performs/carries the expected behavior/information
PP	selectively drops inputs	part of the expected outputs are not generated in response to the correct inputs
PPi	forwards all the inputs but crafts and inserts new malicious data	the components correctly performs/carries the expected behavior/information when the correct inputs are provided but is subject to input injections
PO	selectively drops inputs and inserts new data	Byzantine behavior - occasionally outputs the expected output given the correct inputs. Not all the inputs are handled properly, nor all the expected outputs are always generated when correct inputs are given

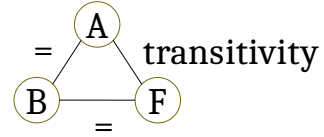
Cybersecurity Quantitative Evaluation

$$\text{Cybersecurity} = 1 - (\text{many} - \text{some})$$

The **secure** configuration where all the components of the system have no errors

All the **insecure** configurations where an error occurs in (at least) one device

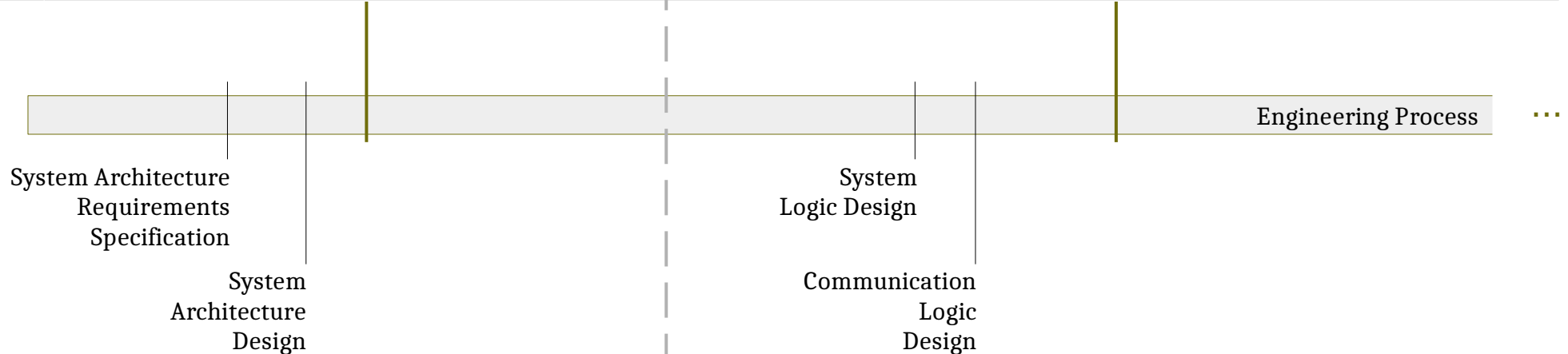
Mathematically, not all the errors may occur simultaneously



This allows us to precisely measure security risks
We have a metric for security

Cybersecurity Abstract Attacks – Not-so-easy Next Steps

	Quantity: Data Flow between The input and output of: Channels(A,A); Ports(B,A); FunctionalBlocks(B,B)	Quality: Requirements (R) over Channel(A,R); Behavior(B,R)
EQ	Expected, Nominal	Expected, Nominal
DR	drops all the inputs and inserts new malicious data	the component never performs/carries the expected behavior/information
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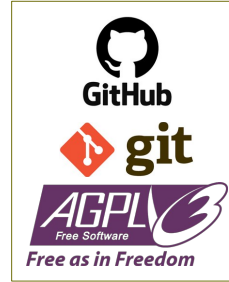
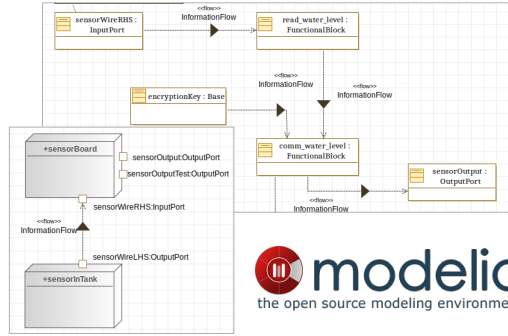


Agenda

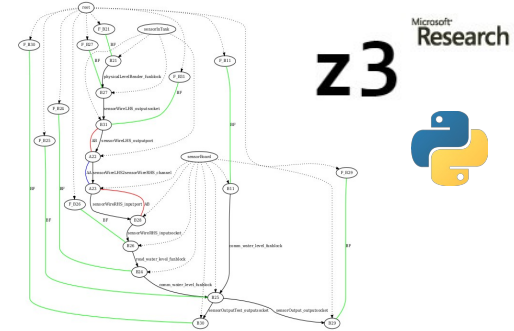
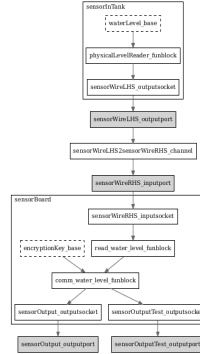
1. The problem in the Method
2. Cybersecurity Hypothesis
3. Risk Assessment Prototype

Automated Cybersecurity Risk Assessment

1. System Engineering



2. Automated Threat Scenario Generation & Reasoning



3. Automated Risk Estimation & Mitigation Suggestions

4. on-the-fly Risk Reduction Based on Mitigation

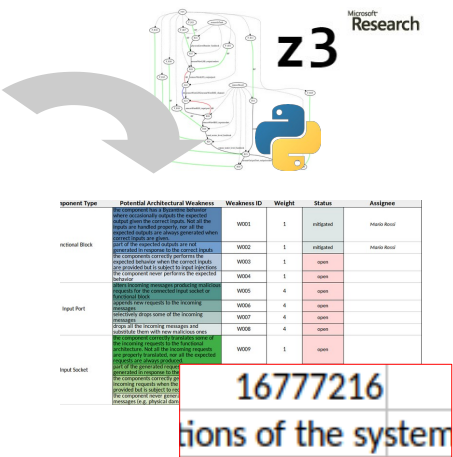
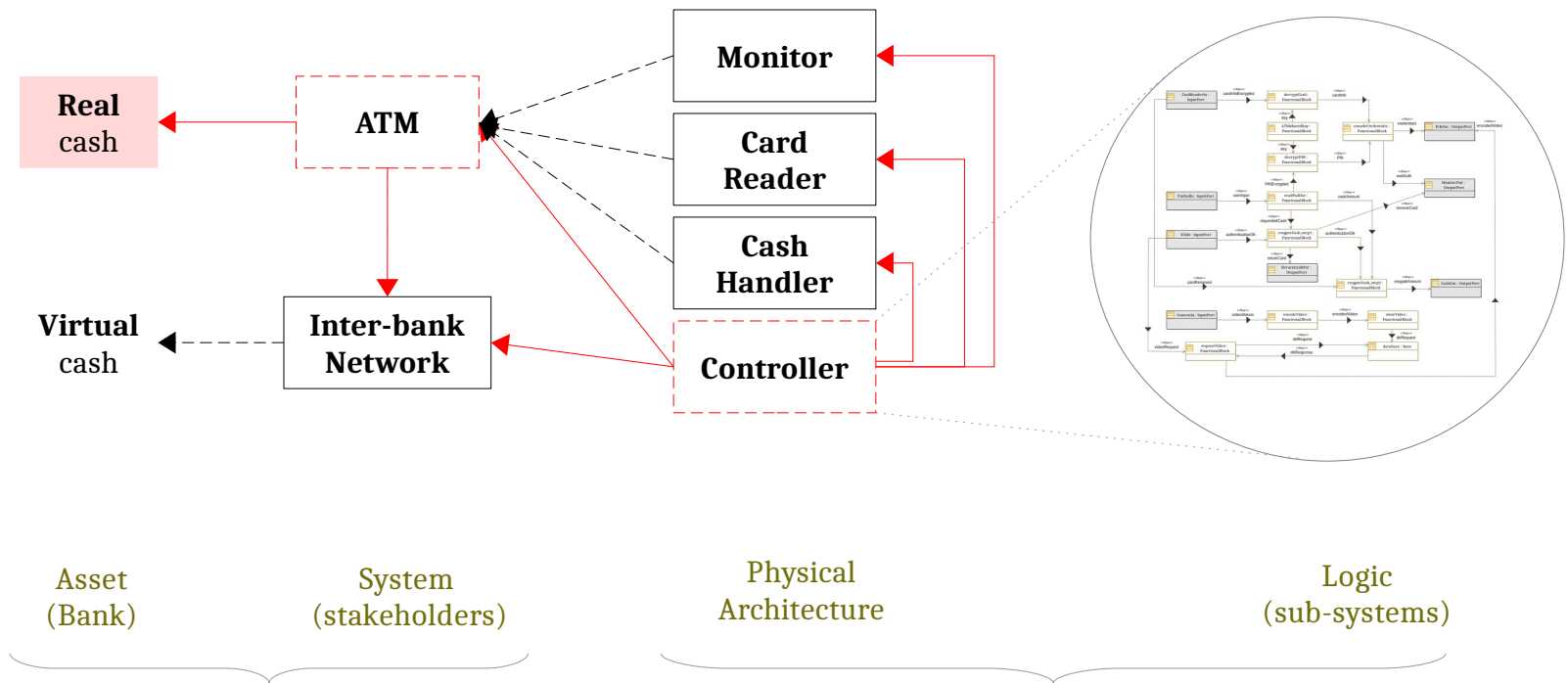
Agent	Component	Comp. Type	Weakness	Status
sensorBoard	sensorWireRHS	inputport	selectively drops inputs and inserts new malicious data	open
root	sensorWireLHS2sensorWireRHS	channel	selectively drops inputs and inserts new malicious data	open
sensorInTank	sensorWireLHS	outputport	selectively drops inputs and inserts new malicious data	open
			the component has a Byzantine behavior where occasionally outputs the expected output given the correct inputs. Not all the inputs are handled properly, nor all the outputs are generated given.	
52	RISK		16777216	
53	The total risk is the total number of configurations of the system			open

V-Research – Risk Assessment Prototype

Complete Prediction of Cybersecurity Flaws Without Databases of Known Attacks!

Agent	Component	Component Type	Potential Architectural Weakness	Weakness ID	Weight	Status	Assignee
ATMcontroller	ATMsharedkey	Functional Block	the component has a Byzantine behavior where occasionally outputs the expected output given the correct inputs. Not all the inputs are handled properly, nor all the expected outputs are always generated when correct inputs are given.	W001	1	mitigated	Mario Rossi
			part of the expected outputs are not generated in response to the correct inputs	W002	1	mitigated	Mario Rossi
			the components correctly performs the expected behavior when the correct inputs are provided but is subject to input injections	W003	1	open	
			the component never performs the expected behavior	W004	1	open	
	CameraIn	Input Port	alters incoming messages producing malicious requests for the connected input socket or functional block	W005	4	open	
			appends new requests to the incoming messages	W006	4	open	
			selectively drops some of the incoming messages	W007	4	open	
			drops all the incoming messages and substitute them with new malicious ones	W008	4	open	
		Input Socket	the component correctly translates some of the incoming requests to the functional architecture. Not all the incoming requests are properly translated, nor all the expected requests are always produced.	W009	1	open	
			part of the generated requests are not generated in response to the correct inputs	W010	1	open	
			the components correctly generate the incoming requests when the correct inputs are	W011	1	open	
RISK					16777216		
The total risk is the total number of insecure configurations of the system							

V-Research: Security By Design

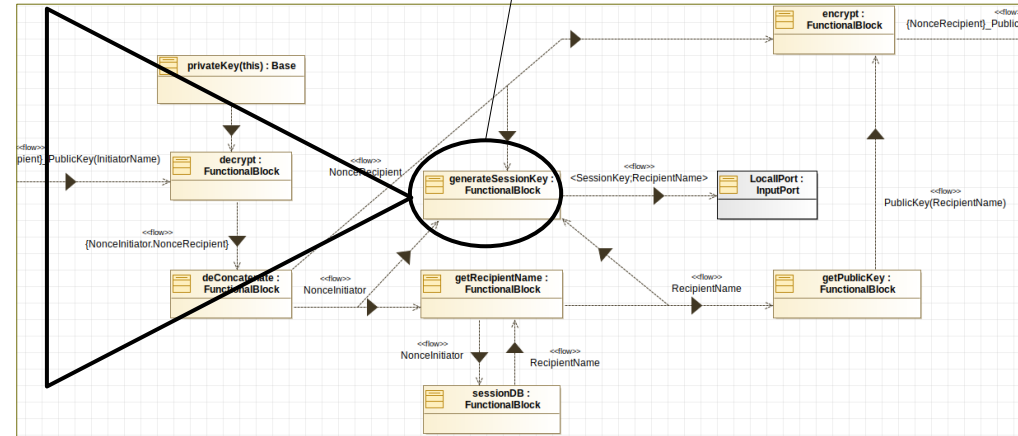
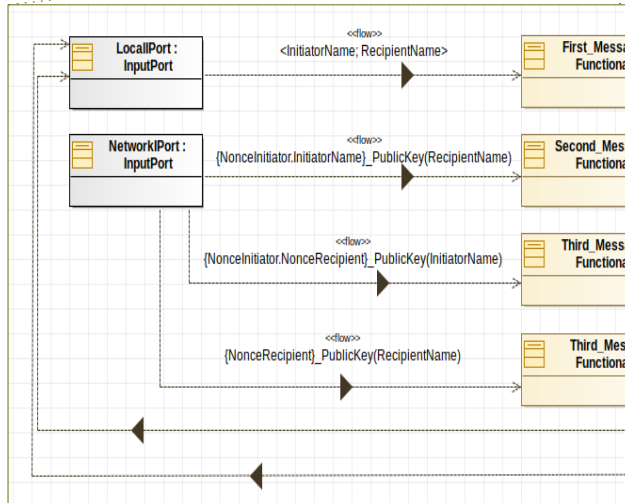


THΛNK YOU

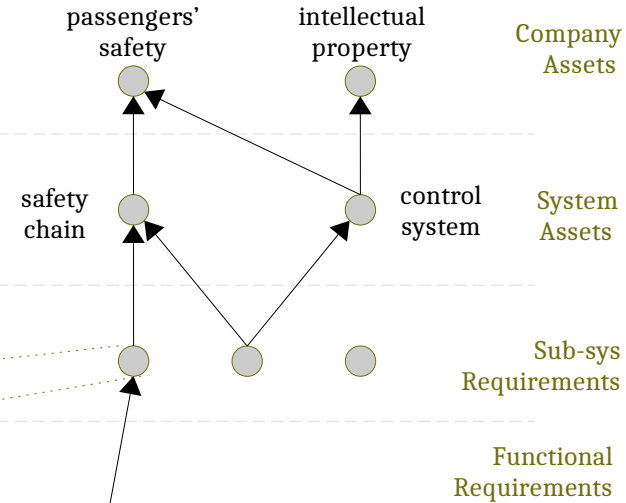
Q&Λ

Cybersecurity Risk Assessment – *Easy* Next Steps

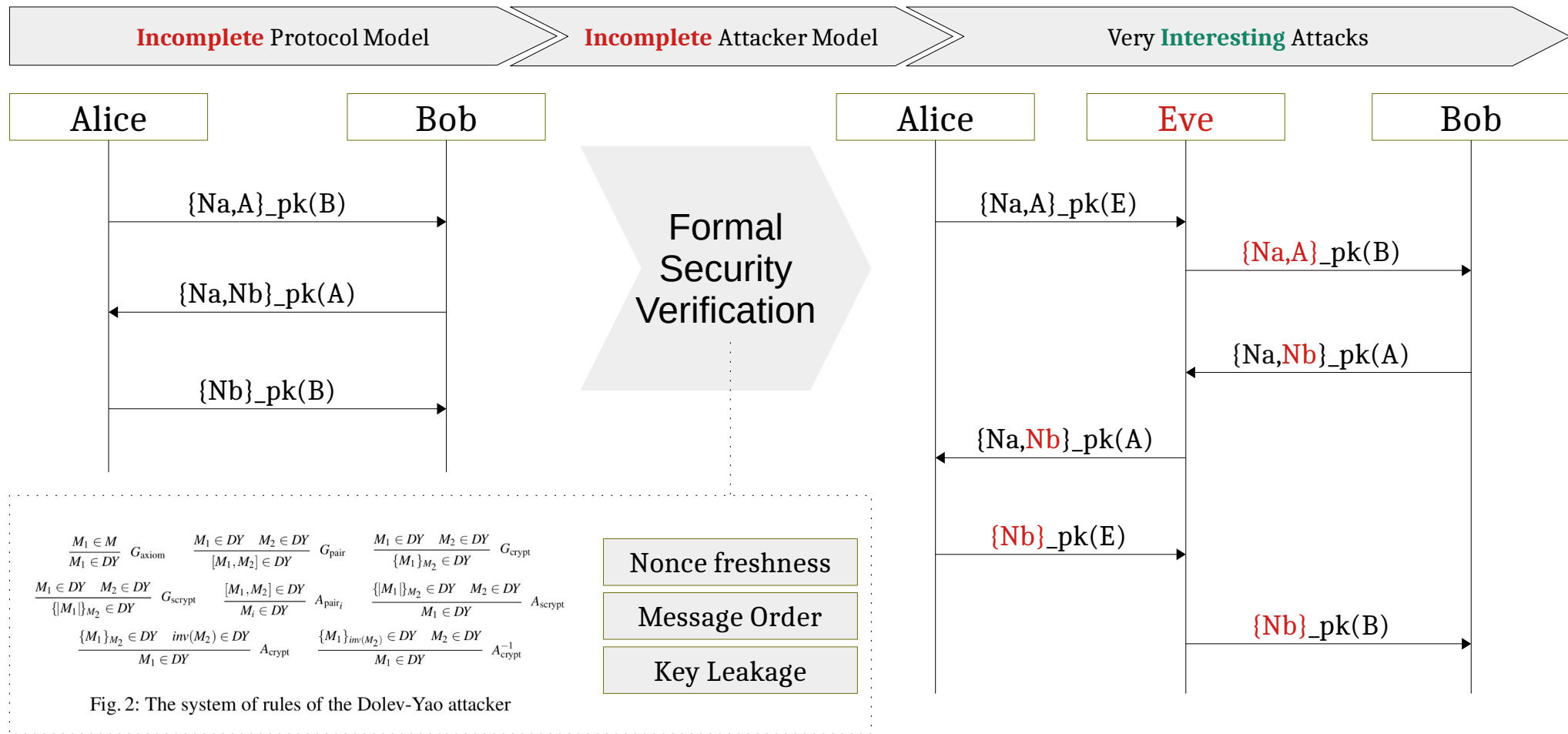
- 1) Asset Diagrams and Cone of Influence (Impact)
- 2) Language Standard Form (SysML-Modelio, SysML-IBM Rational, ...)
- 3) Library (Primitive) Implementation
- 4) Alignment to Cybersecurity Domain-specific Standards and Safety Standards
- 5) Software Engineering & Licensing



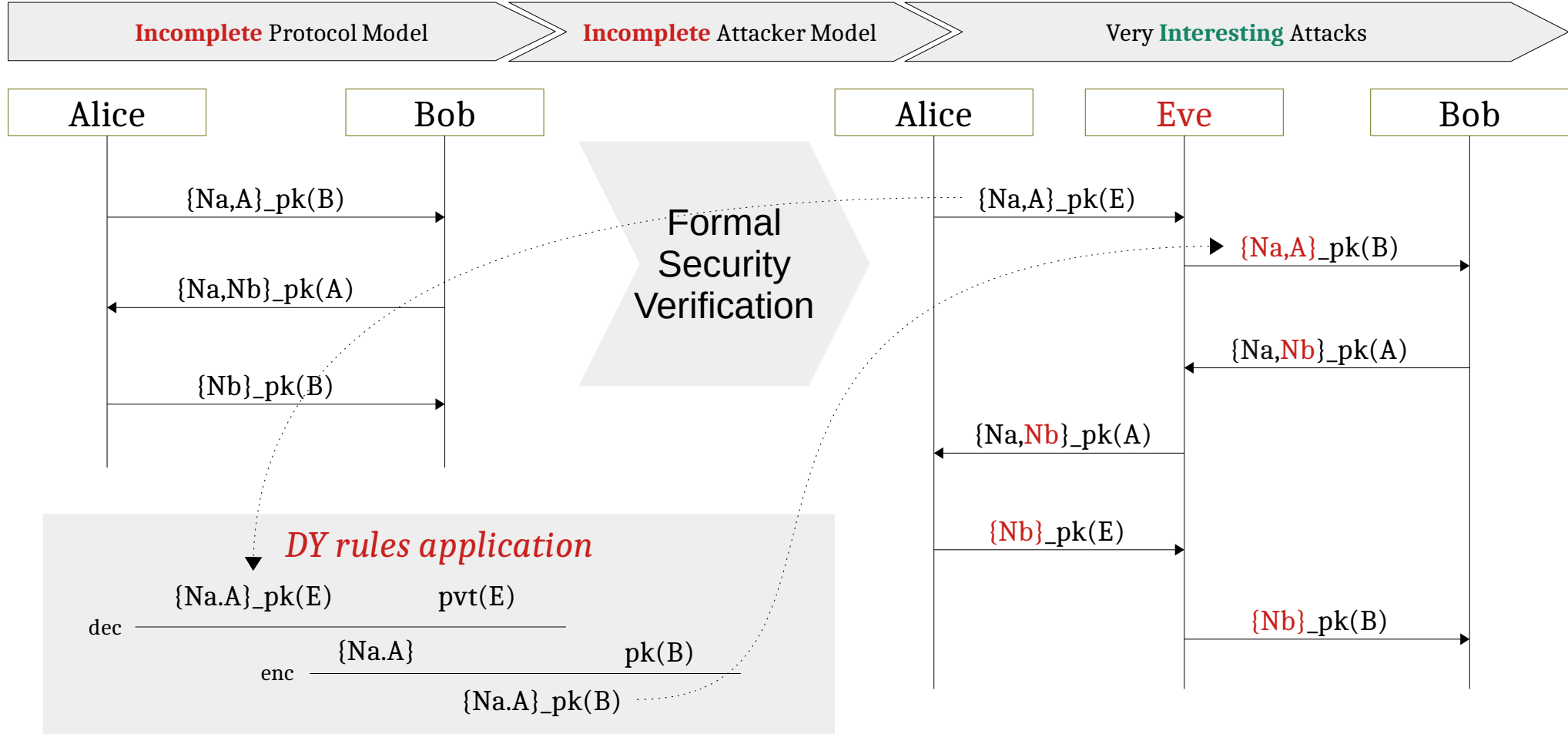
V-Research ~~The CORAS~~ Method



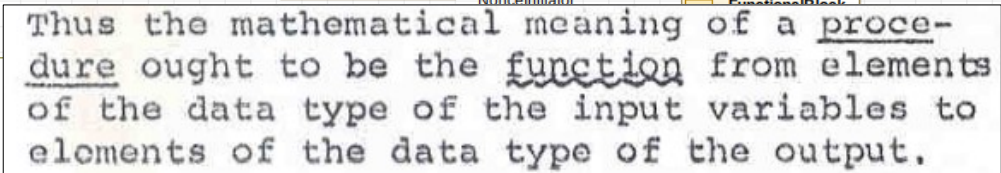
Current Cybersecurity SotA on Protocol Logic



Current Cybersecurity SotA on Protocol Logic



V-Research

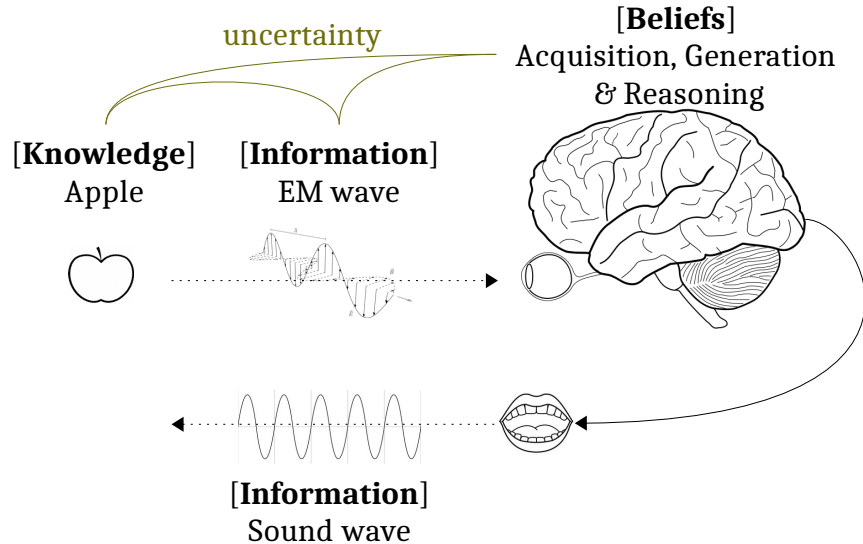


V-Research Cybersecurity Theory

We developed our theory from Jaakko Hintikka's works, mapping epistemological concepts to system engineering

Epistemology

Set of Truths – **Knowledge**
Poorly Justified Statements – **Beliefs** Error?
Transfer of Beliefs – **Information**



Multi-Agent Systems

Facts – Ground Truths/Environment

Behaviors – Agent's thoughts

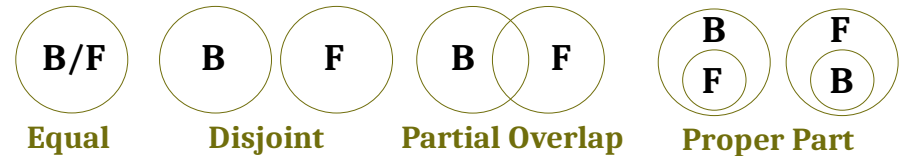
Assertions – Agent's communication

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A Topological Categorization of Agents for the Definition of Attack States in Multi-agent Systems



Given a calculus (RCC5) over a topology

- B/F errors in behaviors
- A/F errors in assertions
- A/B errors in translations