

Department of Computer Science, Institute of Systems Architecture, Operating Systems Group

Distributed Operating Systems Lecture

Security: Foundations, Security Policies, Capabilities

2015

Marcus Völp / Hermann Härtig



- ... to protect your privacy / credentials / valuable data?
- ... to grant only trusted programs access to your data?
- ... to grant access to your data if / when and only if / when a trusted program needs it?



- ... to protect your privacy / credentials / valuable data?
- ... to grant only trusted programs access to your data?
- ... to grant access to your data if / when and only if / when a trusted program needs it?
 - How you can trust your system.
 - How you can assure that your system is trustworthy.



- trust developer / company
 - reputation
 - "I know the company so I can sue them if things go wrong"
- quality assuring processes
 - e.g., independent test and development team, documentation, ...
- certification
 - trust them because some experts said they are trustworthy
 - experts ensure that the company did their testing, ...
 - Examples:
 - ISO 9000
 - Common Criteria Security Evaluation
 - Arinc / DO 178b
- (formal verification)
 - mathematical proof of correctness
 - required as part of Common Criteria for EAL 7 (in parts), old BSI GISA



- Common Criteria (EAL 7)
 - Formal top level specification
 - Informal (through tests) correspondence of
 - source code to abstract specification
- GISA IT Security Evaluation Criteria (Q7) (old proposal for CC-EAL 7 from 1989)

"The machine language of the processor used shall to a great extent be formally defined."

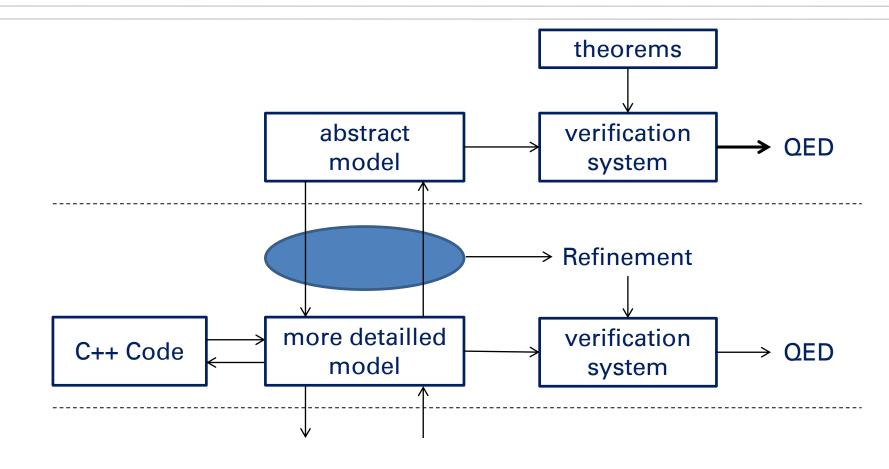
"The consistency between the lowest specification level and the source code shall be formally verified."

"The source code will be examined for the existence of covert channels, applying formal methods. It will be checked that all covert channels detected which cannot be eliminated are documented. [...]"



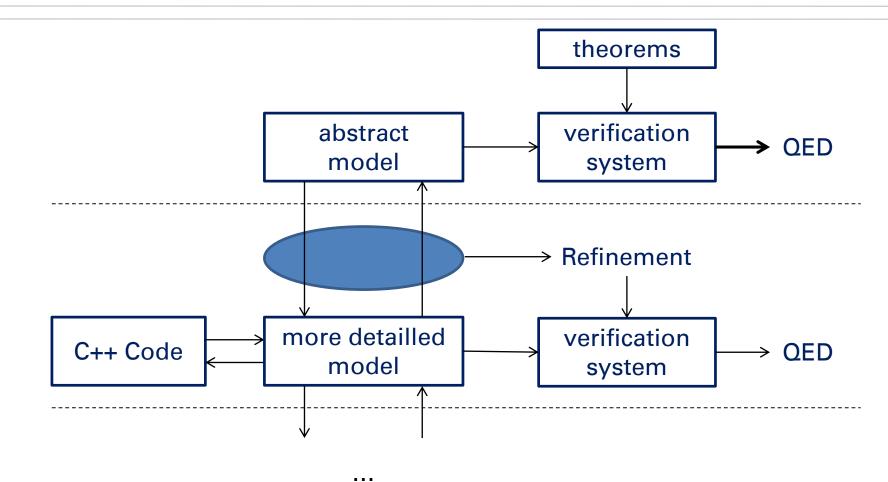
- Introduction
- Example Proof
- Security Policies
- Policy Enforcement Mechanisms
- Undecidability of Leakage
- Take-Grant Protection Model



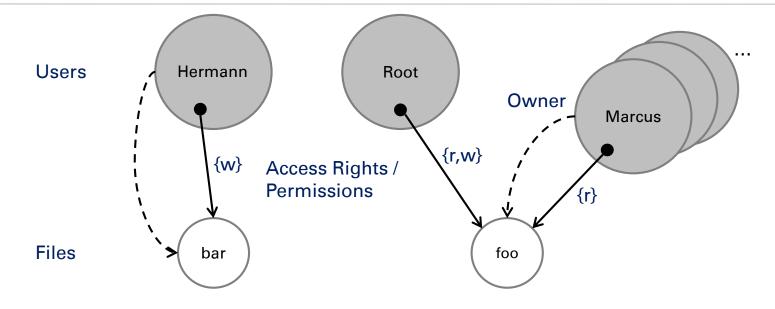


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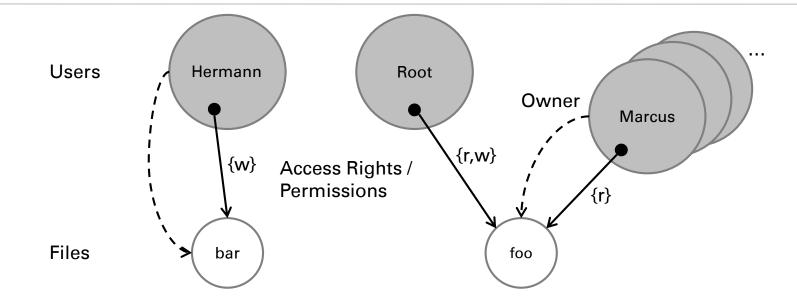




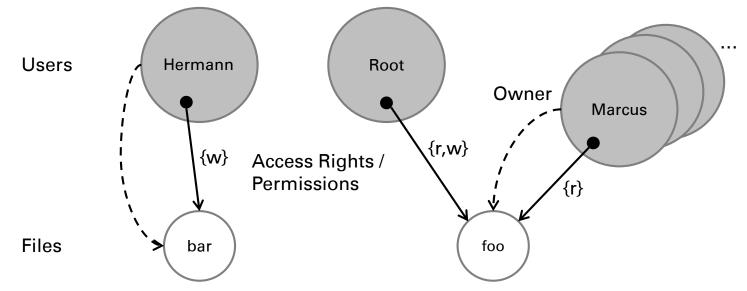
11 PY to verify a 10KLOC microkernel (seL4)



Operations: read, write, create / delete file, create / delete user, chmod

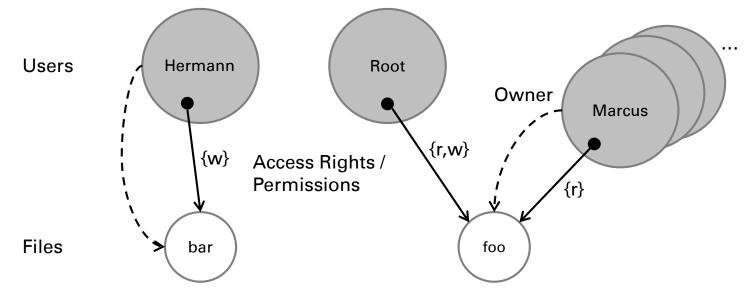


"Only the owner of a file or root shall obtain write permissions to a file."



1st ingredient: abstract system model

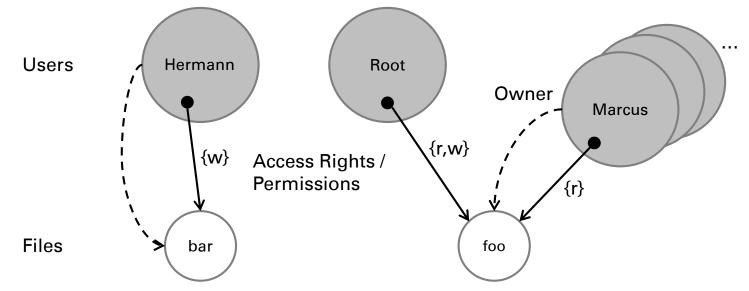
- captures the details that are relevant for the theorem
- abstracts away all other details
- often characterized as states + state transitions



1st ingredient: abstract system model

- states:
 - $\Sigma := \{ (U_{life}, F_{life}, owner, rights) \}$
- $\begin{aligned} \sigma &\in \Sigma := (\{\text{root, hermann, marcus}\}, \{\text{foo, bar}\}, \\ &\{(\text{bar, hermann}), (\text{foo, marcus})\}, \\ &\{(\text{hermann, bar, }\{w\}), (\text{root, foo, }\{r,w\}), (\text{marcus, foo, }\{r\})\}) \end{aligned}$

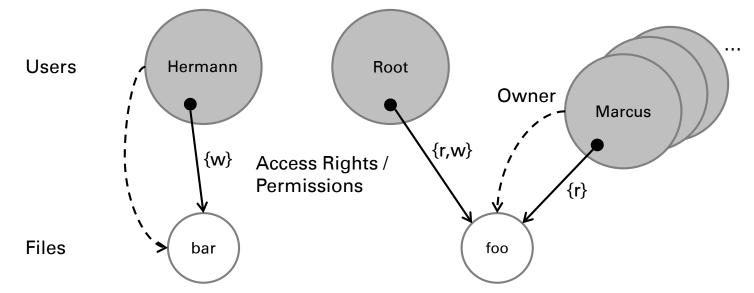
 $\begin{array}{l} // \ \mathsf{F}_{\text{life}} \rightarrow \mathsf{U}_{\text{life}} \\ // \ \mathsf{F}_{\text{life}} \ x \ \mathsf{U}_{\text{life}} \rightarrow \mathsf{2^R} \end{array}$



1st ingredient: abstract system model

 $\mathsf{C} := \Sigma \to \Sigma$

read: $\sigma \rightarrow \sigma$



1st ingredient: abstract system model

```
- state transitions:
```

 $\mathsf{C} := \Sigma \to \Sigma$

```
read: \sigma \rightarrow \sigma
```

```
u.delete(bar) : \sigma \rightarrow if u = root v u = \sigma.owner(bar) then

({root, hermann, marcus}, {foo, bar}, {(bar, hermann), (foo, marcus)},

{(hermann, bar, {w}), (root, foo, {r,w}), (marcus, foo, {r})})

else \sigma endif
```



2nd ingredient: theorem

"Only the owner of a file or root shall obtain write permissions to a file."

VS.

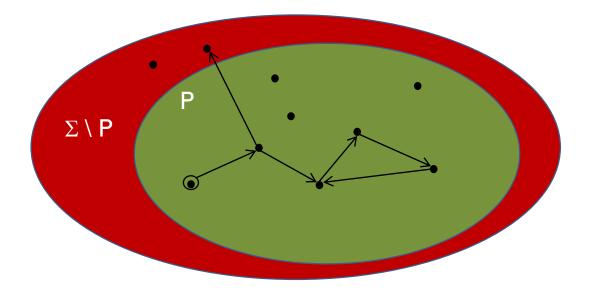
"Information in a file shall origin only from the owner of a file or from root."

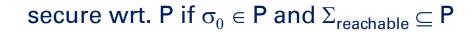


2nd ingredient: theorem

"Only the owner of a file or root shall obtain write permissions to a file."

 $P: \Sigma \rightarrow \{true, false\}$



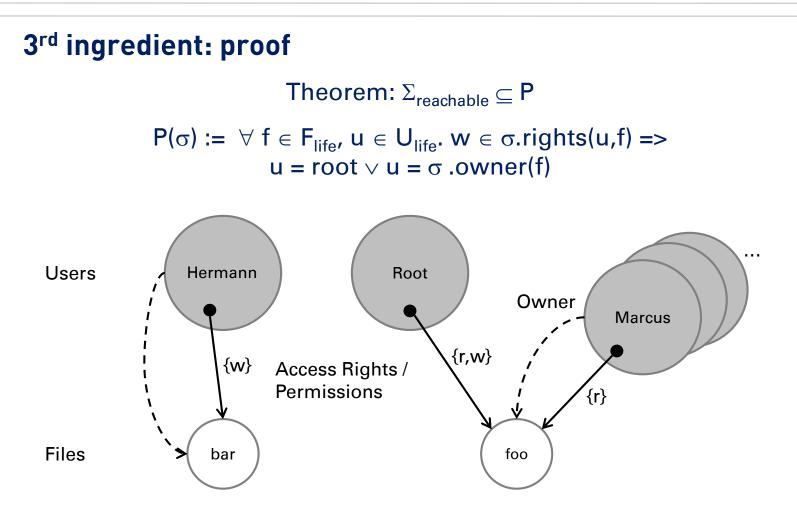




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Operations: read, write, create / delete file, create / delete user, chmod

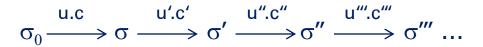
3rd ingredient: proof

Theorem: $\Sigma_{\text{reachable}} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$

 $\begin{array}{ll} \mathsf{P}(\sigma) \mathrel{\mathop:}= \ \forall \ f \in \mathsf{F}_{\mathsf{life}}, \ u \in \mathsf{U}_{\mathsf{life}}. \ w \in \sigma.\mathsf{rights}(\mathsf{u},\mathsf{f}) \mathrel{=>} \\ u \mathrel{=} \mathsf{root} \lor u \mathrel{=} \sigma \ .\mathsf{owner}(\mathsf{f}) \end{array}$

Proof:

by induction over all traces



Operations: read, write, create / delete file, create / delete user, chmod



3rd ingredient: proof

Theorem: $\Sigma_{\text{reachable}} \subseteq \mathbf{P}$

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Proof: by induction over all traces

 $\sigma_0 \xrightarrow{u.c} \sigma \xrightarrow{u'.c'} \sigma' \xrightarrow{u''.c''} \sigma'' \xrightarrow{u'''.c'''} \sigma''' \dots$

Operations: read, write, create / delete file, create / delete user, chmod

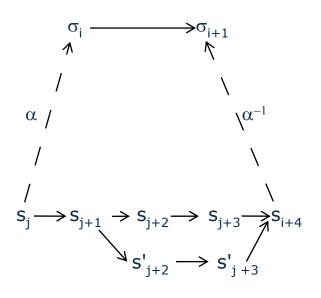
induction step succeeds for read, ..., delete user

but chmod(Marcus, bar, {w})



4th ingredient: refinement

```
chmod(u, f, R)(\sigma) :=
          if u = root v owner(f, u) then
                    \sigma with rights (u, f) := R
          else
                     σ
          endif
sys_chmod:
  parse_parameters();
          owner = file.owner;
          if (current_thread->user == root ||
     current_thread->user == owner)
 {
          file->set_acl(user, rights);
 }
```





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DI Security Policies - Definition

[Bishop: Computer Security Art and Science]

• Security Policy

A security policy P is a statement that partitions the states S of a system into a set of authorized (or secure) states (e.g., $\Sigma_{sec} := \{ \sigma \in \Sigma \mid P(\sigma) \}$) and a set of unauthorized (or non-secure) states.

Secure System

A secure system is a system that starts in an authorized state and that cannot enter an unauthorized state

(i.e., $\Sigma_{\text{reachable}} \subseteq \Sigma_{\text{sec}}$)



Confidentiality

prevent unauthorized disclosure of sensitive information (prevent information leakage).

Definition:

Information or data I is *confidential* with respect to a set of entities X if no member of X can obtain information about I.

Example: the PIN of my EC-Card is XXXX

Integrity

correctness of information or data

Definition 1:

Information I is *integer* if it is current, correct and complete

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Definition 2: (crypto)

Either information is current, correct, and complete (Def 1) or it is possible to **detect** that these properties do not hold.

Integrity

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Either information is current, correct, and complete (Def 1) or it is possible to **detect** that these properties do not hold.

Recoverability

Eventually damaged information can be recovered.

Availability

accessibility of information, services and data

Definition:

A resource I is available with respect to X if all members of X can access I.

in practice, availability has also quantitative aspects:

- real-time systems:

I is available within t milliseconds

- reliability:

the probability that I is not available is less than 10⁻⁶

UNIVERSITAT Security Policies - Classification

Concern

- confidentiality e.g., Bell La Padula (Document Mgmt)
- integrity e.g., Biba (Inventory System)
- availability
- hybrid e.g., Chinese Wall (Clinical Information)

Level of Enforcement

- discretionary

A user can allow or deny access to its objects

- mandatory

System-wide rules control who may access an object

DRESDEN Bell-LaPadula Policy '73 (simple version)

Concern: confidentiality

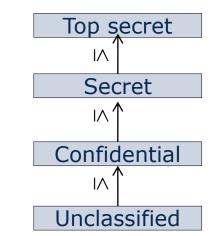
set of secrecy levels: L

higher secrecy level indicates more sensitive information; greater need to keep this information confidential

total order: \leq

domain: Entity -> L

- each subject has a *security clearance:*
- each object has a *security classification:* dom(o) ∈ L



dom(s) \in L

Bell-LaPadula Policy '73 (simple version)

Policy: (L, \leq , dom)

rules for reading / writing

simple security condition

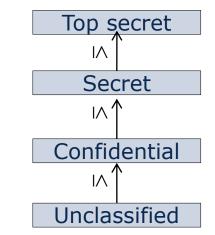
a subject s can read only lower or equally classified objects o

s can read o \leq dom(o) \leq dom(s)

* - property

a subject s can write only higher or equally classified objects o

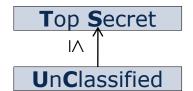
s can write o $\leq dom(s) \leq dom(o)$

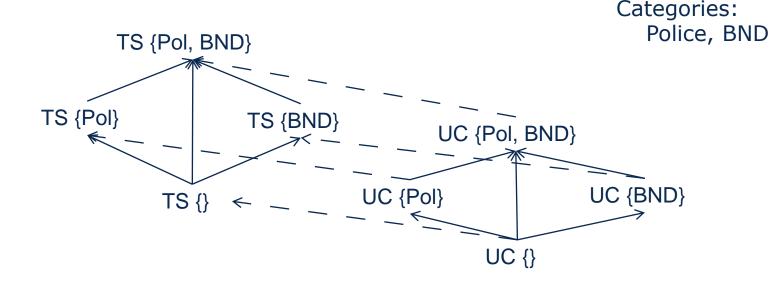


Bell-LaPadula: Multi-Level Security Policy

Policy: (L, ≤, **dom)**

 \leq is a partial order, (L, \leq) form a lattice





Bundesverfassungsschutzgesetz §17 - §26: in general, no information exchange between the BND and the Police

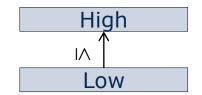


Concern: Integrity (prevent damage)

(L, \leq , dom) dual to MLS

high integrity information must not be tainted with low integrity data.

- s can read o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(s) \leq dom(o)
- s can write o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(o) \leq dom(s)

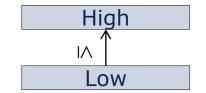


Biba '77 Low Water Mark

• **Concern:** Integrity (prevent damage)

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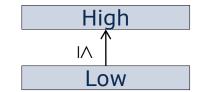
- s can read o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(s) \leq dom(o)
- if s reads o then dom'(s) = min(dom(s), dom(o))
- s can write o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(o) \leq dom(s)

Biba '77 Low Water Mark

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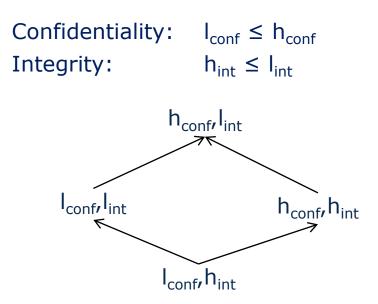


- s can read o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(s) \leq dom(o)
- if s reads o then dom'(s) = min(dom(s), dom(o))
- s can write o $\langle = \rangle$ dom(o) \leq dom(s)
- **Problem:** label creep

subject clearances decrease over time no means to "clean" a tainted subject



Confidentiality and integrity are dual and can be represented in the same lattice:





Concern: Conflict of interest (integrity + confidentiality)

Example: British stock exchange a trader must not represent two competitors

Company Datasets (CD): set of objects (files) related to a company

Conflict of Interest Class (COI): CDs of companies in competition

Sanitized Objects: cleared to the public

Subjects (e.g., the trader)

CD(BMW)



* property

s can write o <=>

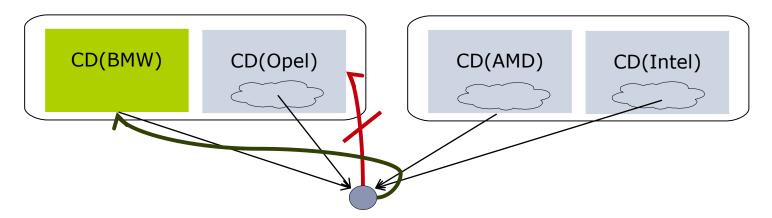
```
s can read o

and

if s can read an unsanitized object o' then o'

must belong to the same company as o
```

i.e., \forall o'. s can read o' => CD(o') = CD(o)





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S
0
$E=S\cupO$
R

Matrix: S x E

SxExR

	0 ₁	0 ₂	S ₁	S ₂
S ₁	r, w	r	r, w	r
S ₂	r, w	-	W	r, w

Operations:

- read / write entity
- create subject / object
- destroy subject / object
- enter / delete R into cell (s,o)



Subjects	S
Objects	0
Entities	$E = S \cup O$
Rights	R

list of S x R tuples stored with every Entity

	O ₁	0 ₂	S ₁	S ₂
S ₁	r, w	r	r, w	r
S ₂	r, w	-	W	r, w

abbreviations:

- owner / group
- e.g., Unix [user; group; all]

• wildcards

e.g., sysadmin_*

conflicts:

e.g., u – r; g + r resolved by order of occurrence / rules



Subjects	S
Objects	0
Entities	$E=S\cupO$
Rights	R

list of E x R tuples stored with every subject

	0 ₁	02	S ₁	S ₂
S ₁	r, w	r	r, w	r
S ₂	r, w	-	W	r, w

more in a few minutes



German: Abschwächung / Verminderung

A subject s must not be able to give away rights that it does not possess

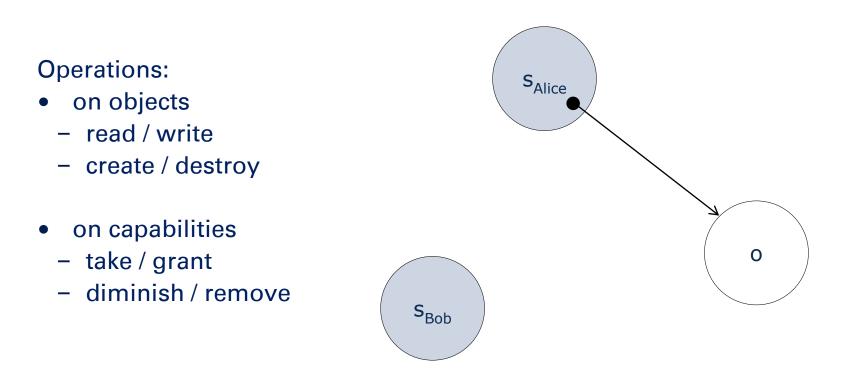


Problem: ACMs cannot enforce the principle of attenuation e.g., s_1 .enter w into (s_2, o_2)

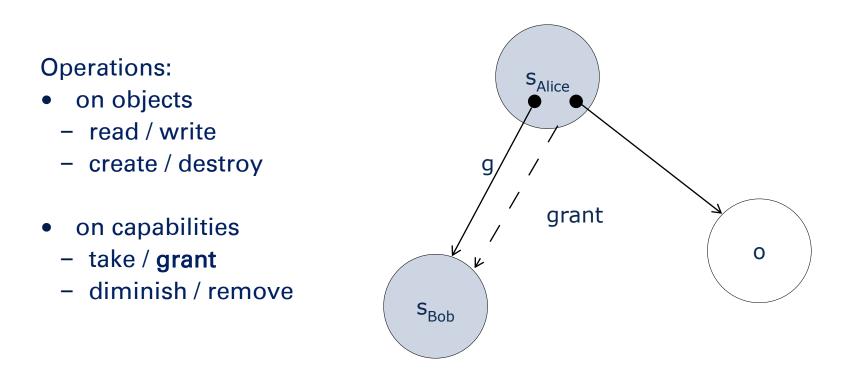
Solution: replace "enter r into (s,o)" with:

s'.grant R into (s,o) := if $R \subseteq$ (s',o) then enter R into (s,o)

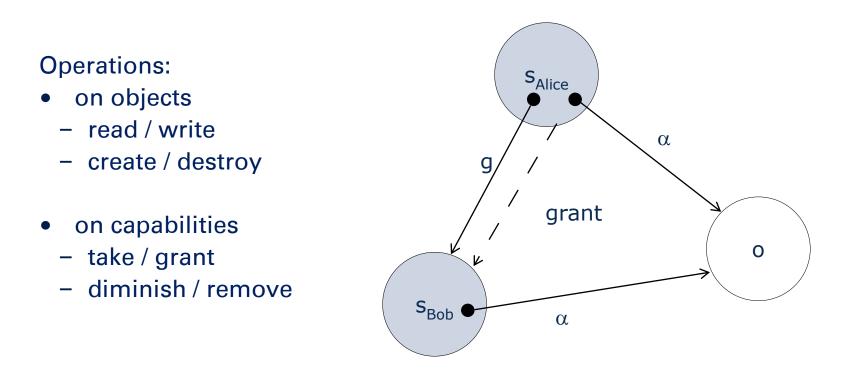




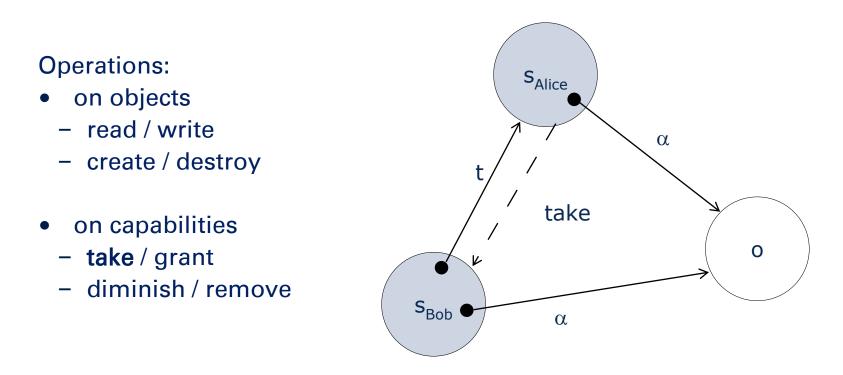




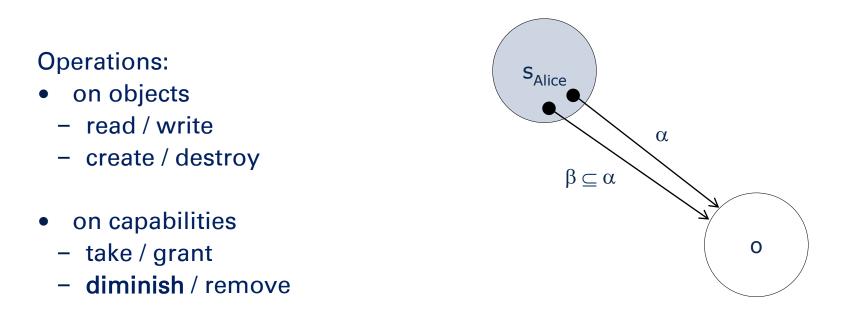




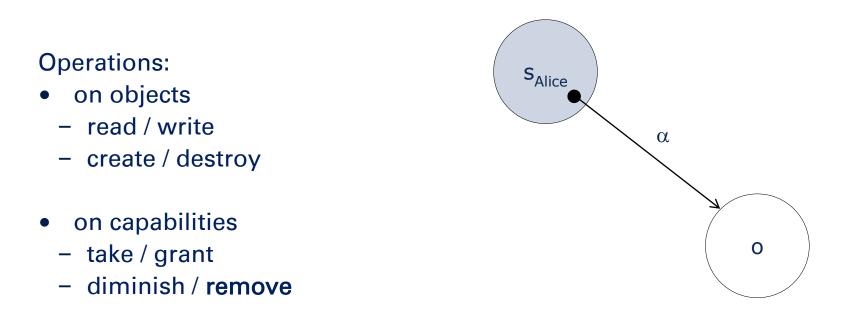




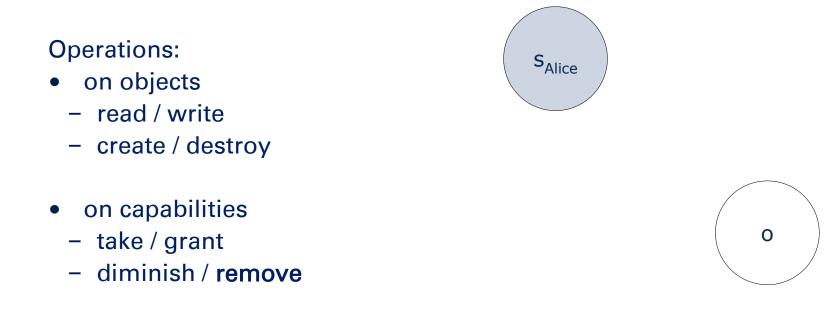














Implementation:

Software:OS protected segment / memory pageHardware:Cambridge CAP / TLBCryptography:Amoeba

Problems:

- How to control the propagation of capabilities?
- How to revoke capabilities?

Propagation of Capabilities

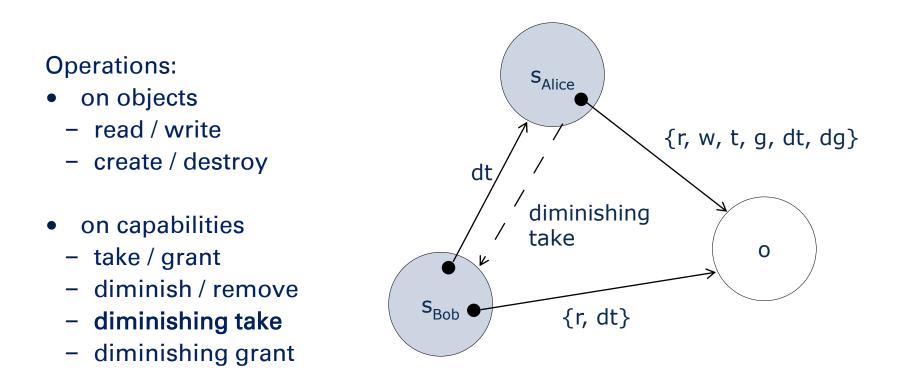
Problem is dual to controlling ACM / ACL modifications

Permissions on channel capabilities: take permission (t); grant permission (g)

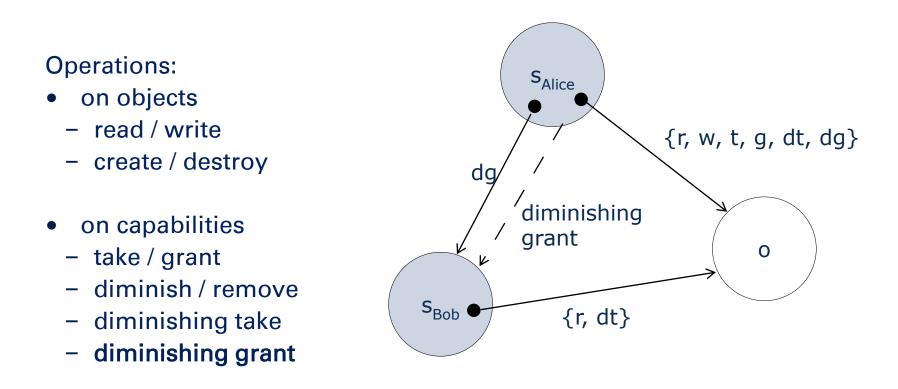
Permission on the capability: copy permission

Right-diminishing channels: extension to the take-grant model by J. Shapiro











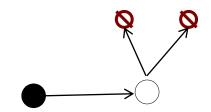
Amoeba: leases - invalid after a certain amount of time

L4: find and invalidate all direct and indirect copies

Eros: indirection objects

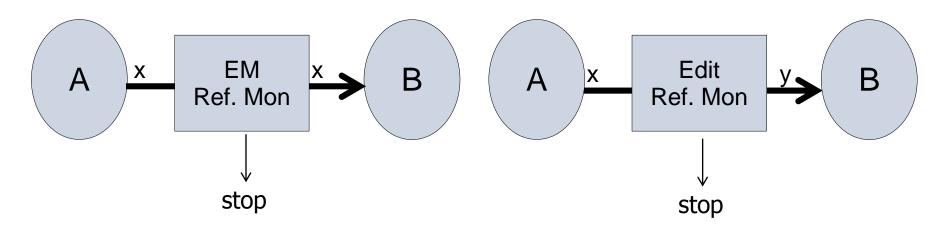
use stored capabilities but no take / grant

revoke by destruction





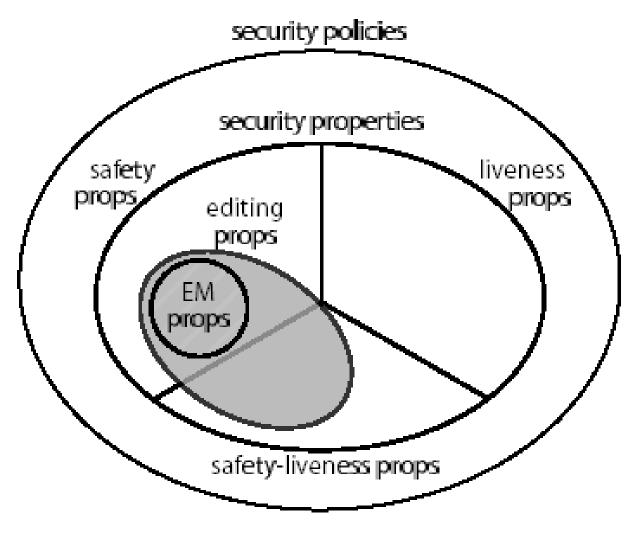
EM: suppress or pass Edit: modify message



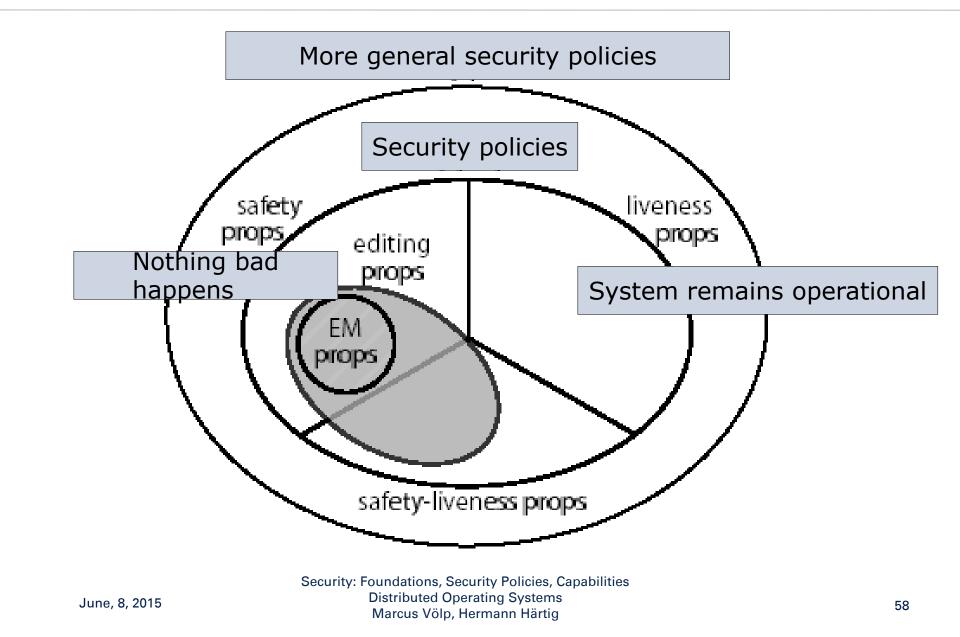
Schneider '98 / Bauer '02: Theoretical results on the set of security policies that are enforceable with EM / Edit automata

III Results are in part based on a different system model III











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UNIVERSITAT Leakage (of Access Rights)

Given a system S and a security policy P, decide whether S can enter a state in which s can access o with right r (i.e., whether access right r is leaked into (s,o)).

Theorem:

For a system S with a generic ACM it is in general undecidable whether S leaks r into (s, o).

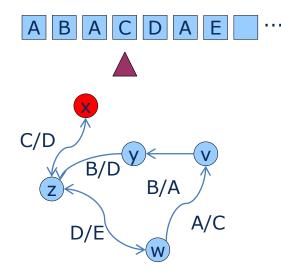
Proof:

by reduction to the halting problem



infinite tape

tape symbols state automaton head M: A, B, C, ... K: x, y, z, ...



Operations:

- read symbol at head
- perform a transition step of the automaton based on this symbol
- write a new symbol to the tape
- move head one step to the left or to the right

$\delta: \mathsf{K} \mathsf{x} \mathsf{M} \to \mathsf{K} \mathsf{x} \mathsf{M} \mathsf{x} \{\mathsf{L}, \mathsf{R}\}$



Given a turing machine TM and a program P, find a program of the TM that decides whether P will terminate (halt)

 $TM \cong universal TM \cong while$

Theorem: the halting problem is undecidable



 $TM \cong universal TM \cong while$

Theorem: the halting problem is undecidable

Proof: by contradiction assume such a program P exists; write two programs:

does_P_terminate_on_input_E (P, E) :=
 if P(E) terminates { return true } else { return false }

test (P) := while (does_P_terminate_on_input_E(P, P))

now, if does_P_terminate_on_input_E(test, test) returns true, test(test) must terminate [*if condition*]

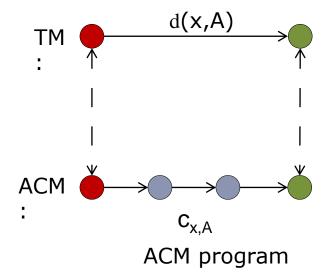
but then the condition of the while loop is true, which means test(test) will not terminate

=> there cannot be a program that decides for all P, E whether P terminates on E

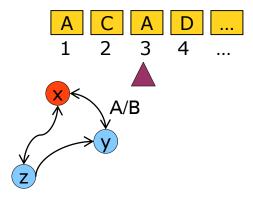
DRESDEN Leakage is Undecidable

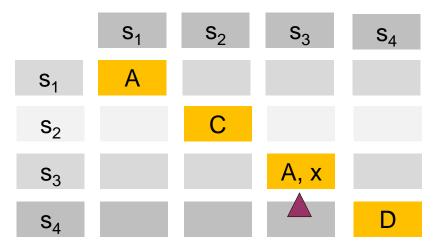
Proof: by reduction to the halting problem

- 1. Simulate a TM with the ACM
- 2. Define a correspondence relation such that
 - r is leaked to (s,o) <=> TM halts
 - => leakage in the ACM could be used to solve the halting problem, which is known to be undecidable
 - => leakage is undecidable

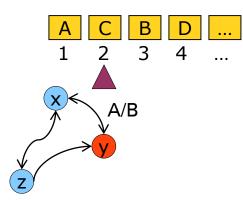








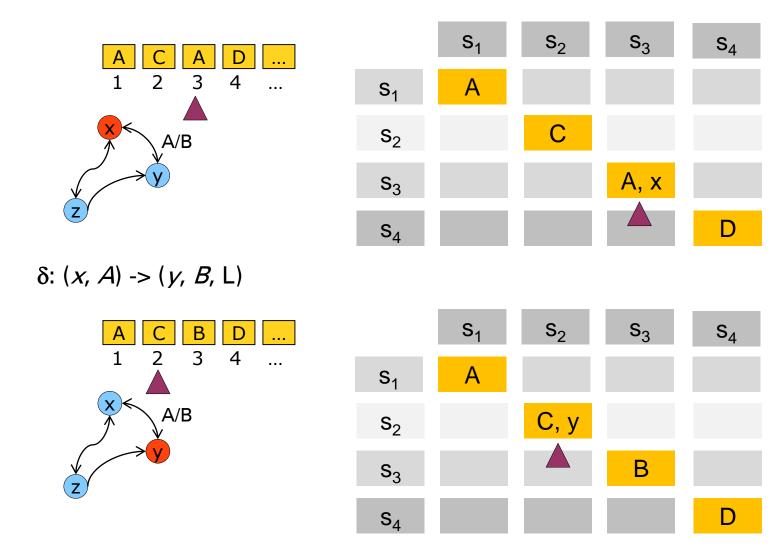
 $\delta: (x, A) \rightarrow (y, B, L)$



ACM Operations:

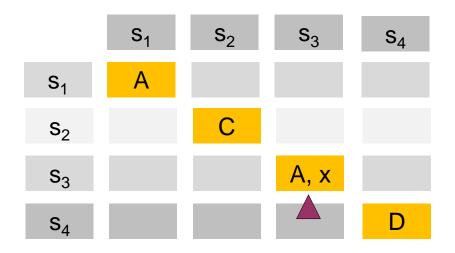
- create subject s
- create object o
- destroy subject s
- destroy object o
- enter r into (s, o)
- delete r from (s, o)

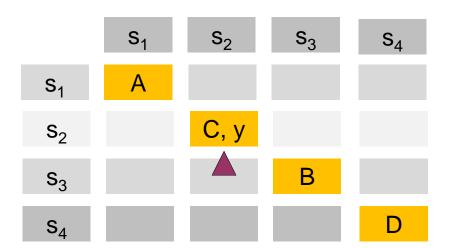




UNIVERSITAT Simulating a TM with an ACM

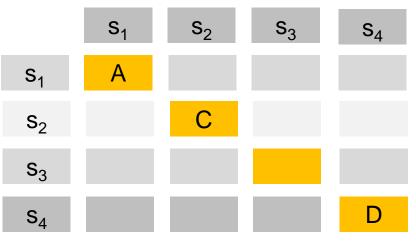
$$\begin{split} \delta: (x, A) &\rightarrow (y, B, L) \\ c_{x,A} (s_{head}, s_{left}) := \\ & \text{if } x \in (s_{head}, s_{head}) \land \\ & A \in (s_{head}, s_{head}) \\ & \text{then} \end{split}$$

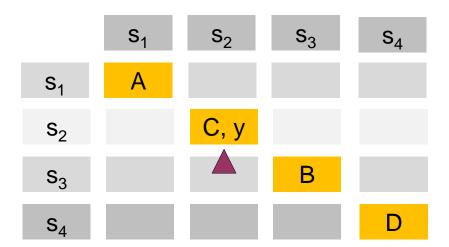




UNIVERSITAT Simulating a TM with an ACM

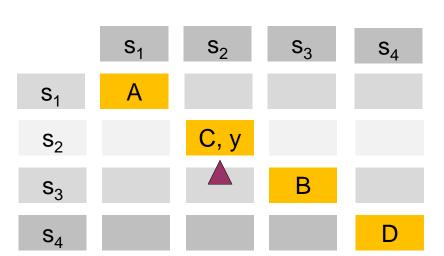
 $\begin{aligned} \delta: (x, A) &\to (y, B, L) \\ c_{x,A} (s_{head}, s_{left}) &:= \\ & \text{if } x \in (s_{head}, s_{head}) \land \\ & A \in (s_{head}, s_{head}) \\ & \text{then} \\ & \text{delete } x, A \text{ from } (s_{head}, s_{head}) \\ & \cdots \end{aligned}$





UNIVERSITAT Simulating a TM with an ACM

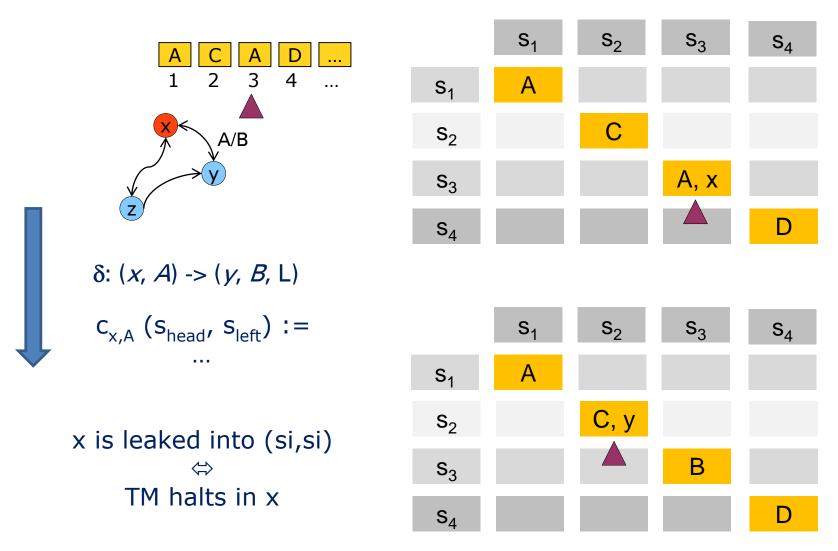
δ: $(x, A) \to (y, B, L)$ S₁ S_2 S_3 $C_{x,A} (S_{head}, S_{left}) :=$ Α S₁ if $x \in (S_{head}, S_{head}) \land$ C,y S_2 $A \in (S_{head}, S_{head})$ then B S_3 delete x,A from (s_{head}, s_{head}) enter B into (s_{head}, s_{head}) S_4 enter y into (s_{left}, s_{left}) ...



Security: Foundations, Security Policies, Capabilities Distributed Operating Systems Marcus Völp, Hermann Härtig S_4

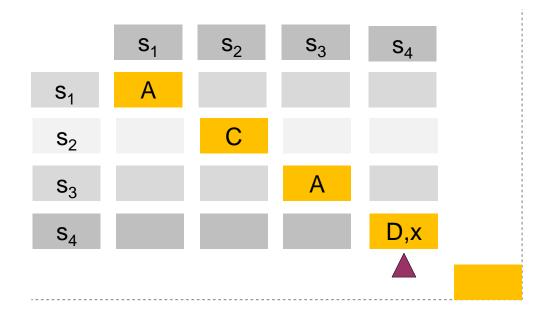
D





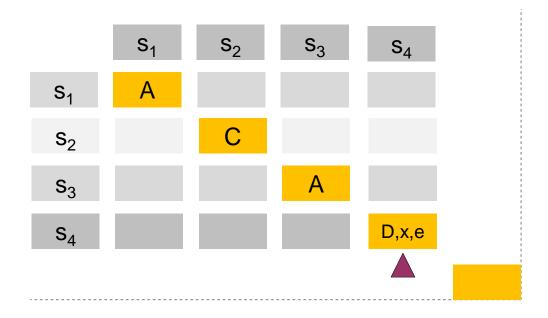
Problem 1:

How to detect if we are at the last cell?



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How to detect if we are at the last cell?

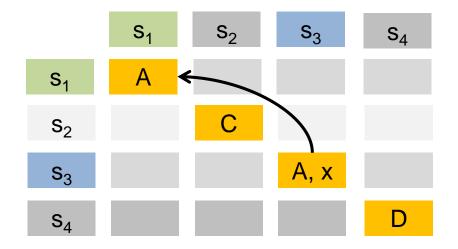


Problem 2:

How do we restrict the ACM to only execute the TM program?

c_{x,A} (s, s') :=

applies to all s, s' pairs; not only neighboring



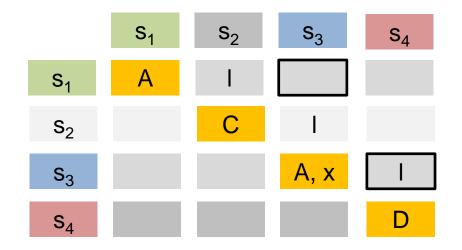
DI Simulating a TM with an ACM

Problem 2:

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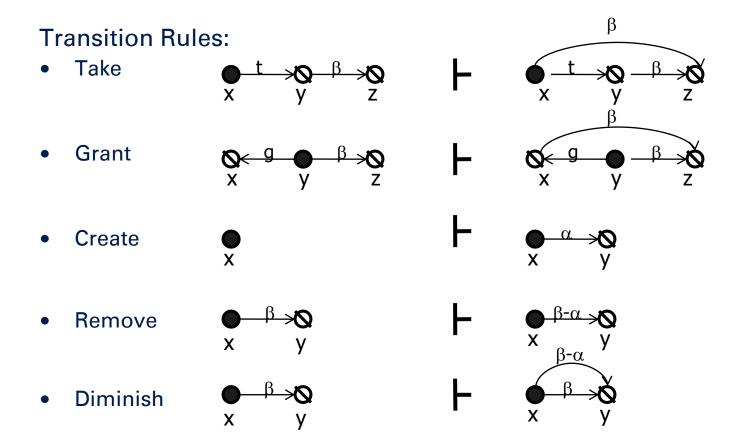




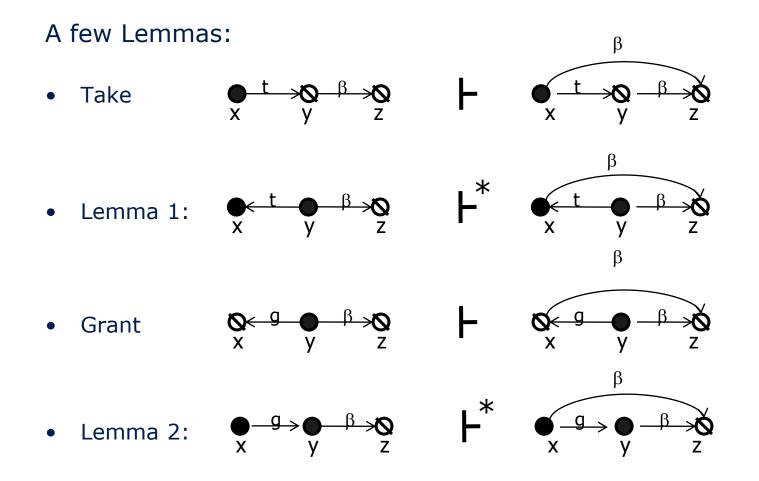
- Introduction
- Example Proof
- Security Policies
- Policy Enforcement Mechanisms
- Undecidability of Leakage
- Take-Grant Protection Model

UNIVERSITAT Take Grant Protection Model

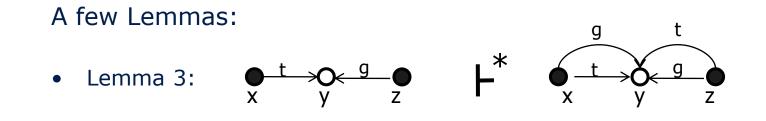
Vertices: O object, \bullet subject (\bigotimes either object or subject) Edges: $\bullet \xrightarrow{r} \bullet O$ subject has capability with r right on object



Security: Foundations, Security Policies, Capabilities Distributed Operating Systems Marcus Völp, Hermann Härtig **UNIVERSITAT Take Grant Protection Model**

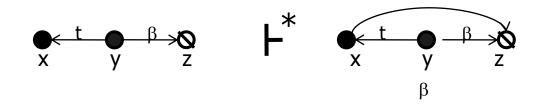








Proof of Lemma 1



x.create	v (tg)
y.take	g on v
y.grant	β on z to v
x.take	β on z from v

Lemmas 2 and 3 are left for the exercises

Take Grant Protection Model

Theorem:

Leakage in the Take-Grant Protection Model is decidable (in linear time)

Proof Sketch:

construct potential access graph G apply take + grant + 3 lemmas until G does not change anymore

r is leaked to (s,o) if s holds (o, r) in the potential G

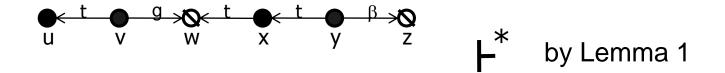
Note:

delete / diminish / remove only reduce access
 => they can be omitted for the construction of G

- create introduces new entities which cannot get more privileged than their creators

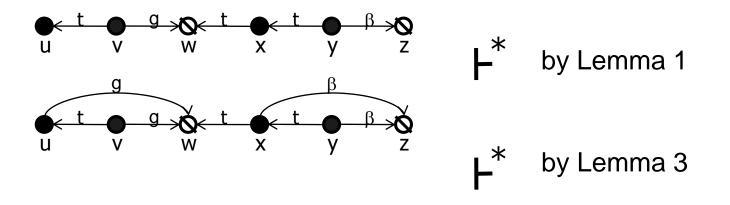


Example:



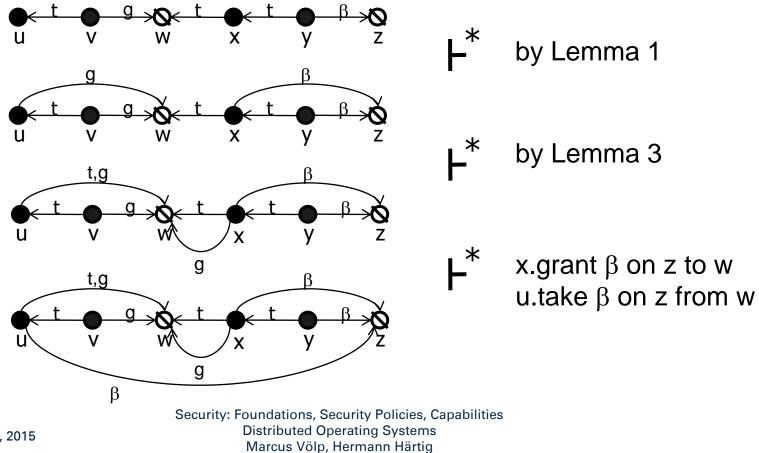


Example:





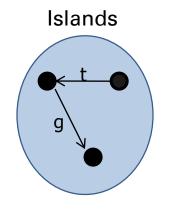
Example:

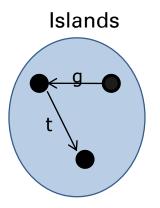


UNIVERSITAT DRESDEN **Take Grant Protection Model**

Islands and bridges: leakage in TG is decidable in linear time

- need to consider only t,g edges for building the graph
- Lemmas 1, 2 => t v g edge between subjects => full rights exchange

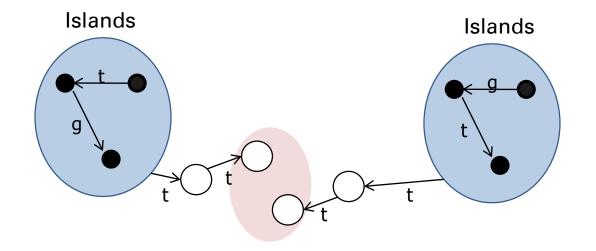




UNIVERSITAT DRESDEN **Take Grant Protection Model**

Islands and bridges: towards deciding leakage in linear time

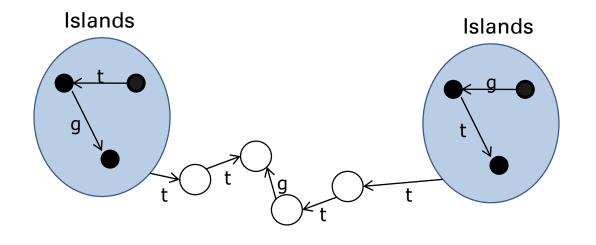
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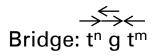


UNIVERSITAT DRESDEN **Take Grant Protection Model**

Islands and bridges: towards deciding leakage in linear time

- need to consider only t,g edges for building the graph
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- Certification
 - Assuring system security
- Verification Example
- Security Policies
 - Confidentiality (MLS), Integrity (Biba), mixed (Chinese Wall)
- Policy Enforcement Mechanisms
 - ACLs, Capabilities, Monitors
- Undecidability of Leakage
 - ACM implements turing machine
- Take-Grant Protection Model
 - Leakage is decidable in linear time

INIVERSITAT DRESDEN References

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- Matt Bishop Text Book:
- P. Gallagher:
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- Karger, Wray:
- Alpern, Schneider 87:
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- Walker, Bauer, Ligatti:
- Osvik, Shamir, Tromer:
- Denning 67:
- Denning:
- Hunt, Sands:
- Volpano, Irvine, Smith:
- Warnier:
- Zheng, Myers:
- Shapiro, Smith, Farber:
- Klein, Heiser +

A note on the confinement problem

- ok: Computer Security Art and Science
 - A Guide to Understanding the Covert Channel Analysis of Trusted Systems [TCSEC CC Guide]
- Architectural Implications of Covert Channels
- Language-based information-flow security
- Storage Channels in Disk Arm Optimizations
 - Recognizing safety and lifeness
 - Enforceable security policies
- i: More enforcable security policies
- omer: Cache Attacks and Countermeasures: the Case of AES
 - A Lattice Model of Secure Information Flow
 - Certification of programs for secure information flow.
 - On flow-sensitive security types
 - th: A sound type system for secure inform. flow analysis
 - Statically checking confidentiality via dynamic labels
 - End-to-End Availability Policies and Noninterference
 - :: EROS: A Fast Capability System
 - seL4: Verifying an Operating System Kernel