

P-Congruences as Noninterference for the π -Calculus

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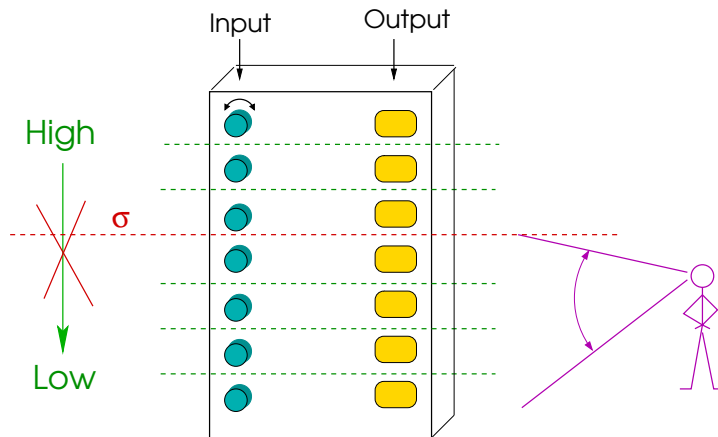
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Noninterference



Noninterference

information does not flow from **high** to **low**
if the high behavior has no effect on
what can be observed at low level.

INGREDIENTS:

- ▶ something to modify the high behaviour: *attackers affecting high components*
- ▶ something that observes: *contexts affecting low components*
- ▶ something to compare behaviours: *behavioral equivalence*

Noninterference in π -calculus

- ▶ $h().l() \mid \bar{h}\langle \rangle$ is insecure

Noninterference in π -calculus

▶ $h().\ell() \mid \bar{h}\langle \rangle$ is insecure

▶ $\bar{h}\langle n \rangle \mid \bar{h}\langle m \rangle \mid h(x).\text{if } x = n \text{ then } \bar{\ell}_1\langle \rangle \text{ else } \bar{\ell}_2\langle \rangle$

An attack can destroy the nondeterminism causing an interference.

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An attack can destroy the nondeterminism causing an interference.
- ▶ $P = (\nu \ell) (\bar{\ell}_1\langle \ell \rangle.\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.P?)$ and $Q = (\nu \ell) (\bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle.\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.Q?)$
The security of P/Q depends on that of $P? / Q? ??$

$$P = (\nu \ell) \bar{\ell}_1\langle \ell \rangle.\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.P? \xrightarrow{(\nu \ell)\bar{\ell}_1\langle \ell \rangle} \bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.P? \xrightarrow{\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle} P?$$

$$Q = (\nu \ell) \bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle.\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.Q? \xrightarrow{(\nu \ell)\bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle} \bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.Q? \xrightarrow{\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle} Q?$$

The **low** observer will be able to observe $P?$, which must be secure.
However, it will not learn ℓ , hence it will never observe $Q?$

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The low observer will be able to observe $P?$, which must be secure.

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► $(\nu h)(\bar{h} \mid !h.(\bar{k} \mid \bar{h}) \mid k.\bar{\ell})$ is it secure??

Noninterference in π -calculus

We provide a semantic characterization of noninterference
in terms of the process behavior.

- ▶ Our characterizations of secure processes admit **effective proof techniques** (for finite state processes)
- ▶ Use a **lightweight type system to avoid explicit flows**: no safety theorem.
- ▶ Our framework also consider a **declassification** mechanism.

π-calculus

Prefixes

$\pi ::= \bar{a}\langle \tilde{b} \rangle$ output
 | $a(\tilde{x}:\tilde{T})$ input

Processes

$P ::= \pi.P$ prefix
 | if $a = b$ then P else P matching
 | $P \mid P$ parallel
 | $(\nu n : T)P$ restriction
 | $!P$ replication
 | $\mathbf{0}$ inactive

Types

$T ::= \delta[]$
 | $\delta[\tilde{T}]$

(EMPTY TYPE)

$\frac{}{\vdash \delta[]}$

(CHANNEL TYPE)

$\vdash T_i \quad \Lambda(T_i) \preceq \delta$

$\frac{}{\vdash \delta[\tilde{T}]}$

← absence of explicit flows

High and Low Contexts

- ▶ P is a σ -low level source in Γ , denoted $\Gamma \vdash_{\sigma} P$, if $\Gamma \vdash P$ and $\forall m \in \text{fn}(P)$ it holds $\Lambda(\Gamma(m)) \preceq \sigma$.
- ▶ P is a σ -high level source in Γ , denoted $\Gamma \vdash^{\sigma} P$, if for all names a used in P as a subject in an input or an output prefix, $\Lambda(\Gamma(a)) \not\preceq \sigma$.

$$C[\cdot_{\Gamma}] ::= [\cdot_{\Gamma}] \mid (\nu n:T)C[\cdot_{\Gamma}] \mid C[\cdot_{\Gamma}] \mid P \mid P \mid C[\cdot_{\Gamma}]$$

$C[\cdot_{\Gamma}]$ is a σ -low (resp. σ -high) context if it is a (Γ'/Γ) -context generated by the grammar above where $\Lambda(T) \preceq \sigma$ (resp. $\Lambda(T) \not\preceq \sigma$) and $\Gamma' \vdash_{\sigma} P$ (resp. $\Gamma' \vdash^{\sigma} P$).

$(\nu h)(\bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle \mid [\cdot_{\Gamma}])$ is a σ -high context whereas

$(\nu h)(\bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle \mid h(x).\bar{x}\langle \rangle) \mid [\cdot_{\Gamma}]$ is a σ -low context.

Reduction barbed congruence $\Gamma \vDash P \cong Q$

The largest type-indexed relation over processes which is symmetric,

reduction closed:

if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P'$ then

$\exists Q'$ such that $Q \Longrightarrow Q'$ and $\Gamma \vDash P' \mathcal{R} Q'$,

barb preserving:

if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $\Gamma \vDash P \downarrow_n$ then $\Gamma \vDash Q \downarrow_n$.

Where $\Gamma \vDash P \downarrow_n$ means $P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} .$

*It captures
the behaviour
of processes*

contextual:

if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $\Gamma' \vdash C[\cdot_\Gamma]$ then

$\Gamma' \vDash C[P] \mathcal{R} C[Q]$ for all typed contexts $C[\cdot_\Gamma]$.

σ -Reduction barbed congruence $\Gamma \vDash P \dot{\cong}_\sigma Q$

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if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P'$ then

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σ -barb preserving:

if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $\Gamma \vDash P \downarrow_n^\sigma$ then $\Gamma \vDash Q \Downarrow_n^\sigma$.

$\Gamma \vDash P \downarrow_n^\sigma$ when $P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} \text{ with } \Lambda(\Gamma(n)) \preceq \sigma$.

*It captures the
 σ -low behaviour
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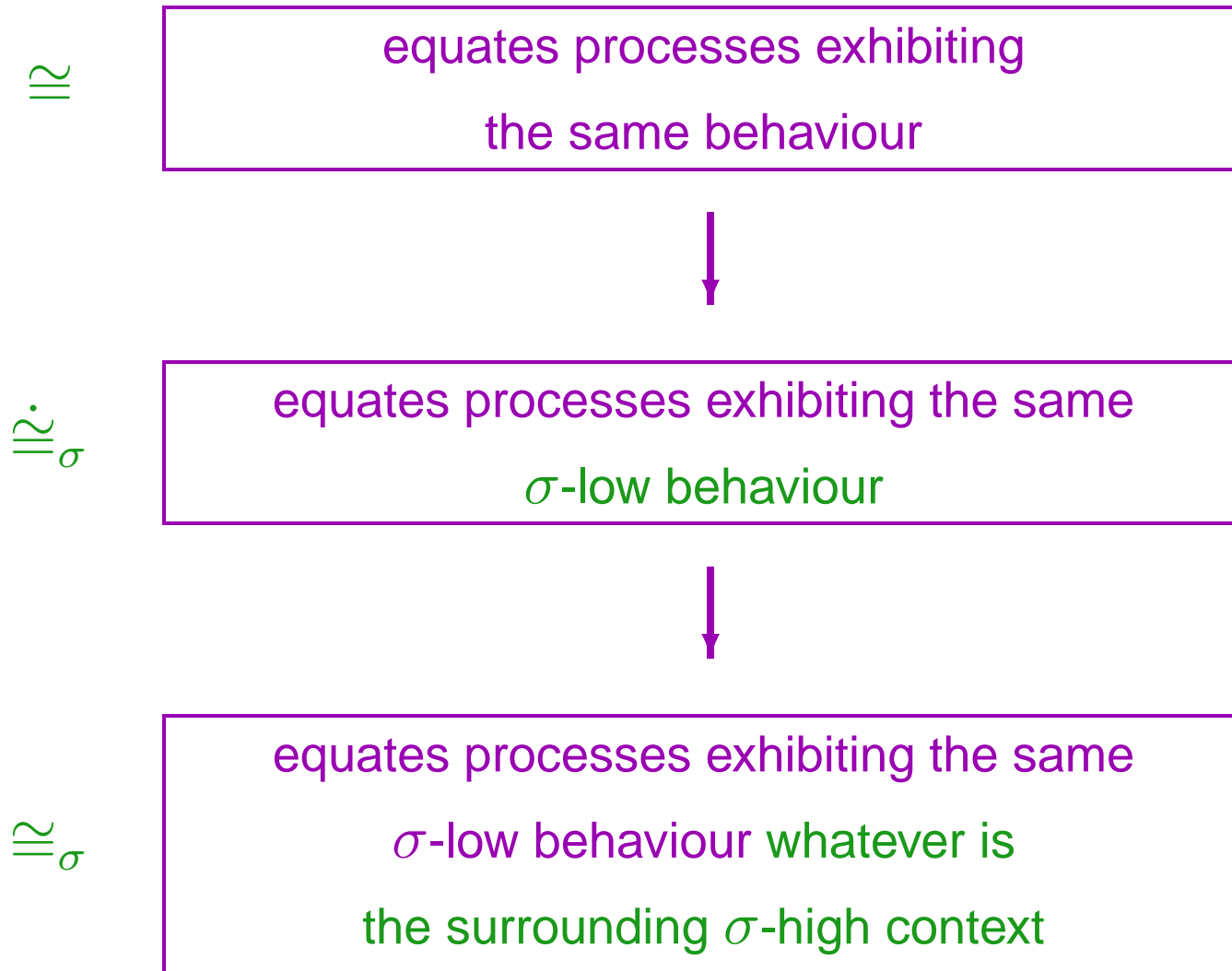
σ -contextual:

if $\Gamma \vDash P \mathcal{R} Q$ and $\Gamma' \vdash C[\cdot]_\Gamma$ then

$\Gamma' \vDash C[P] \mathcal{R} C[Q]$ for all σ -low contexts $C[\cdot]_\Gamma$

(interacting with the hole just through σ -channels).

σ -reduction barbed **P-congruence** $\Gamma \models P \cong_{\sigma} Q$



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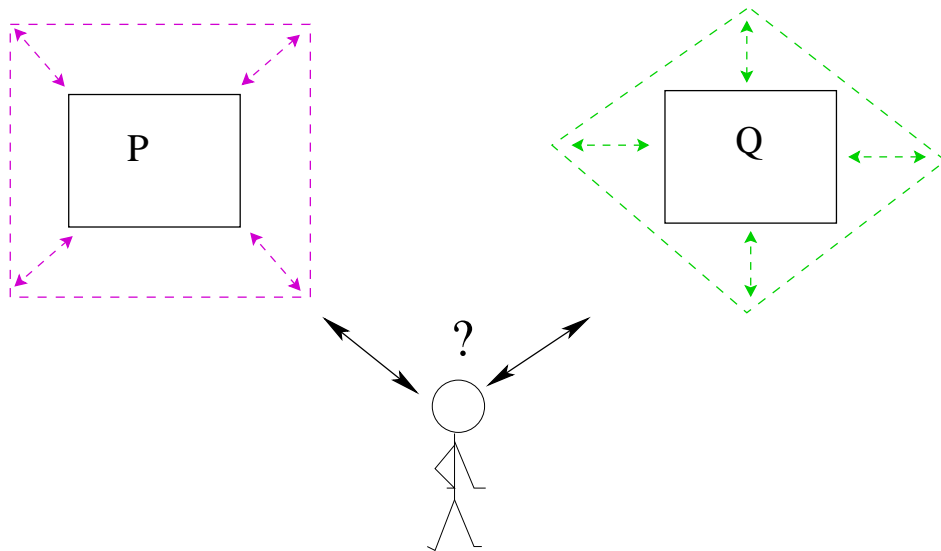
The largest type-indexed relation over processes which is symmetric,

► *reduction closed, σ -barb preserving*

► *σ -P-contextual:*

if $P \cong_{\sigma} Q$, then $C_L[C_H^1[P]] \cong_{\sigma} C_L[C_H^2[Q]]$

for all σ -low contexts C_L and for all σ -high contexts C_H^1, C_H^2



It captures the σ -low behaviour whatever is the surrounding σ -high context

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$\implies \quad ?? \quad P \cong_{\sigma} P \quad ??$

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*It captures the σ -low
behaviour whatever is the
surrounding σ -high context*

\implies

**P exhibits the same σ -low
behaviour whatever is the
surrounding σ -high context
when
 P is interference-free**

P-congruences as Noninterference

$$P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$$

iff

$$P \cong_\sigma P$$

iff

$$C_L[C_H^1[P]] \cong_\sigma C_L[C_H^2[P]]$$

for all σ -low contexts C_L and for all σ -high contexts C_H^1, C_H^2

$$\cong_\sigma \not\cong_\sigma (P_1 = h().\ell())$$

$$\cong_\sigma \not\cong_\sigma (P_2 = \ell().h(), P_3 = \ell().k())$$

If $P \cong_\sigma P$ then $\forall Q$ s.t. $P \cong Q$ it holds $Q \cong_\sigma Q \cong_\sigma P$

Examples

For **INSECURE** processes, simply find distinguishing contexts.

Let be $L \preceq H$ and $\sigma = L$,

► $P_2 = h(x : T). \text{ if } x = n \text{ then } \bar{\ell}_1 \langle \rangle \text{ else } \bar{\ell}_2 \langle \rangle$

(the level of n is irrelevant). Then $P_2 \notin \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$ since one can choose

$C_H^1 = \bar{h} \langle n \rangle \mid []$, $C_H^2 = C_L = []$ and observe that

$P_2 \not\equiv_\sigma P_2 \mid \bar{h} \langle n \rangle$.

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- ▶ $P_3 = \bar{h} \langle n \rangle \mid \bar{h} \langle m \rangle \mid h(x). \text{ if } x = n \text{ then } \bar{\ell}_1 \langle \rangle \text{ else } \bar{\ell}_2 \langle \rangle$,
where x can be nondeterministically substituted either with n or m . An external attack can destroy the nondeterminism causing an interference:
let $C_H^1 = h(y).h(z).\bar{h} \langle n \rangle \mid []$, $C_H^2 = C_L = []$, then $P_3 \not\equiv_\sigma P_3 \mid h(y).h(z).\bar{h} \langle n \rangle$. Hence $P_3 \notin \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$.

P-congruences as Noninterference

$$P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$$

iff

$$P \cong_\sigma P$$

iff


$$C_L[C_H^1[P]] \cong_\sigma C_L[C_H^2[P]]$$

for all σ -low contexts C_L and for all σ -high contexts C_H^1, C_H^2

Looking for a proof technique

Define a LTS of *typed actions* over configurations $\Gamma \triangleright P$ (that means $\Gamma \vdash P$)

$$\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\delta} \Gamma' \triangleright P'$$



 action of
 level (at most) δ

(OUT)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash n : \delta_1[T] \quad \delta_1 \preceq \delta}{\Gamma \triangleright \bar{n}\langle m \rangle.P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle}_{\delta} \Gamma \triangleright P}$$

(IN)

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash n : \delta_1[T] \quad \Gamma \vdash m : T \quad \delta_1 \preceq \delta}{\Gamma \triangleright n(x:T).P \xrightarrow{n(m)}_{\delta} \Gamma \triangleright P\{x := m\}}$$

A proof technique for \cong_σ

$$\frac{\Gamma, m : T \triangleright P \xrightarrow{n(m)}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P'}{\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{(\nu m:T) n(m)}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, m:T \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P' \quad m \neq n}{\Gamma \triangleright (\nu m:T)P \xrightarrow{(\nu m:T) \bar{n}\langle m \rangle}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P' \quad \text{bn}(\alpha) \cap \text{fn}(Q) = \emptyset}{\Gamma \triangleright P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P' \mid Q}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\tau} P'}{\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\tau}_\delta \Gamma \triangleright P'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, n:T \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma', n:T \triangleright P' \quad n \notin \text{fn}(\alpha) \cup \text{bn}(\alpha)}{\Gamma \triangleright (\nu n:T)P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright (\nu n:T)P'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P'}{\Gamma \triangleright !P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_\delta \Gamma' \triangleright P' \mid !P}$$

Noninterference through a PER model

Partial bisimilarity on σ -low actions:

it is the largest symmetric relation \approx_{σ} s.t. whenever $P \approx_{\sigma} Q$

▶ on observable (σ -low) actions it behaves as bisimilarity:

if $P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\sigma} P'$, then $\exists Q'$ s.t. $Q \xRightarrow{\hat{\alpha}}_{\sigma} Q'$ with $Q' \approx_{\sigma} P'$.

▶ σ -high actions are simulated by internal transitions:

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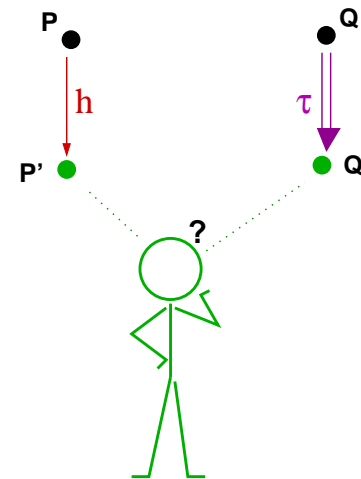
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- ▶ σ -high actions are simulated by internal transitions:

if $\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{\alpha}_{\sigma} \Gamma' \triangleright P'$ with $\alpha \in \{(\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) \bar{n}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle, (\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) n(\tilde{m})\}$

where $\tilde{p} : \tilde{T} = \tilde{p}_1:\tilde{T}_1, \tilde{p}_2:\tilde{T}_2$ such that $\Lambda(\tilde{T}_1) \not\leq \sigma$, and $\Lambda(\tilde{T}_2) \leq \sigma$,

then $\exists Q'$ s. t. $\Gamma \triangleright Q \Longrightarrow \Gamma \triangleright Q'$ with

$\Gamma, \tilde{p}_1:\tilde{T}_1 \vDash Q' \approx_{\sigma} (\nu \tilde{p}_2:\tilde{T}_2)P'$.

$$P_1 = (\nu \ell)(\bar{h}\langle \ell \rangle.\bar{\ell}\langle \rangle.R) \quad P_2 = (\nu k)(\bar{h}\langle k \rangle.\bar{k}\langle \rangle.R)$$

Time for an assessment

P is secure

iff $P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$ iff $P \dot{\approx}_\sigma P$

▶ almost independent of typing constraints

▶ compositionality results:

if $P, Q \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$ then

$P \mid Q \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$, $!P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$, $(\nu n)P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$

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$\mathcal{NI}(\cong_\sigma)$ is a strong security property!!

... well suited in open networks

... but what about the expressivity and flexibility of secure systems?

Declassification

To increase the flexibility of the system, we add a **declassification mechanism** that coerces the security level of (specific) expressions downwards.

By declassifying certain expressions, the programmer may **intentionally violate noninterference**, but **only in a controlled way**.

Which expressions are downgraded?

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Which expressions are downgraded?

- ▶ **downgrade names, or values**, as in imperative languages:

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- ▶ **downgrade process actions:**

$\text{dec } h(x).P$ and $\overline{\text{dec } h}\langle n \rangle.P$ stand for a declassified read/write action over the channel h , which **can still be used as a secret channel!**

Declassifying actions: Dec π -calculus

- ▶ $\text{dec}_\delta n(x).P$ and $\overline{\text{dec}_\delta n}\langle m \rangle.P$ represent “escape hatches” for information release: they allow info arising from these actions to flow down up to level δ .

- ▶ Both users of the channel must agree to downgrade the communication:

$$\text{dec}_\delta n(x).P \mid \overline{\text{dec}_\delta n}\langle m \rangle.Q \longrightarrow P\{m/x\} \mid Q$$

- ▶ Only programmers may enable the downgrading of secret information to an observable level; no external entities can synch on such declassified actions.

Controlled Information Release

The theory of P-congruences scales to the Dec π -calculus:

- ▶ $\cong_{\sigma}^{\text{dec}}$ is the largest relation which is symmetric, reduction closed, σ -barb preserving and σ -contextual, where σ -low and σ -high context cannot fire declassified communications.

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▶ The downgrading does not affect the level of typed actions, it only has an impact on the admissible info flows: $\Gamma \triangleright \overline{\text{dec}_L h} \langle m \rangle . P \xrightarrow{\overline{\text{dec}_L h} \langle m \rangle} \text{H}\Gamma \triangleright P$

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- ▶ $\dot{\approx}_{\sigma}^{\text{dec}}$ scales to Dec π :

- ▶ σ -low actions must be precisely matched
- ▶ σ -high actions must be matched by τ -steps
- ▶ σ -high *declassified* actions need not to be matched by τ -steps since they represent an explicitly allowed info flow.

- ▶ $P \in \mathcal{NI}(\cong_{\sigma}^{\text{dec}})$ iff $P \dot{\approx}_{\sigma}^{\text{dec}} P$

Downgrading

- ▶ $P = \bar{h} \mid h.\ell$ is obviously **insecure**, whereas $P' = \overline{\text{dec } h} \mid \text{dec } h.\ell$ can be shown to be a secure process such that $\Gamma \models P' \cong_{\sigma} \ell$. On the other hand, $P_1 = \bar{k}.\overline{(\text{dec } h \mid \text{dec } h.\ell)}$ is **not secure** since the observable action ℓ depends on the firing of the high action \bar{k} .

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- ▶ $P = \overline{\text{dec } h}.h.\overline{\text{dec } h} \mid \text{dec } h.\bar{\ell}.\bar{h}.\text{dec } h$ is **secure**:
a high channel can be used as a secure channel even after a downgrading,

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a high channel can be used as a secure channel even after a downgrading,
- ▶ $P = h(x).\text{if } x = n \text{ then } \overline{\ell_1}\langle \rangle \text{ else } \overline{\ell_2}\langle \rangle \mid \overline{h}\langle n \rangle \mid \overline{h}\langle m \rangle$ is **insecure**,
but by declassifying the communication on the channel h , we obtain
 $P' = \text{dec } h(x).\text{if } x = n \text{ then } \overline{\ell_1}\langle \rangle \text{ else } \overline{\ell_2}\langle \rangle \mid \overline{\text{dec } h}\langle n \rangle \mid \overline{\text{dec } h}\langle m \rangle$
which is **secure**.

Conclusions

- ▶ a rich and elegant theory of noninterference intrinsic of the π -calculus, where types play a limited role
- ▶ a sound and complete characterization leading to efficient verification techniques.
- ▶ we integrated the π -calculus with a downgrading mechanism that allows a controlled information release which scales to noninterference.

Dec π -calculus

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash \bar{a}\langle \tilde{b} \rangle . P \quad \Gamma \vdash a : \delta_1[\tilde{T}]}{\Gamma \vdash \overline{\text{deca}}\langle \tilde{b} \rangle . P} \quad \delta \prec \delta_1 \qquad \frac{\Gamma \vdash a(\tilde{x} : \tilde{T}) . P \quad \Gamma \vdash a : \delta_1[\tilde{T}]}{\Gamma \vdash \text{deca}(\tilde{x} : \tilde{T}) . P} \quad \delta \prec \delta_1$$

$$\overline{\text{decn}}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle . P \xrightarrow{\overline{\text{decn}}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle} P \qquad \text{decn}(\tilde{x} : \tilde{T}) . P \xrightarrow{\text{decn}(\tilde{m})} P\{\tilde{x} := \tilde{m}\}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{(\nu \tilde{p} : \tilde{T}) \overline{\text{decn}}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle} P' \quad q \neq n \quad q \in \tilde{m}}{(\nu q : T) P \xrightarrow{(\nu q : T)(\nu \tilde{p} : \tilde{T}) \overline{\text{decn}}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle} P'}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{(\nu \tilde{p} : \tilde{T}) \overline{\text{decn}}\langle \tilde{m} \rangle} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{\text{decn}(\tilde{m})} Q' \quad \tilde{p} \cap \text{fn}(Q) = \emptyset}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} (\nu \tilde{p} : \tilde{T})(P' \mid Q')}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash n : \delta_1[\tilde{T}]}{\Gamma \triangleright \overline{\text{dec}_{\delta_2} n \langle \tilde{m} \rangle} . P \xrightarrow{\overline{\text{dec}_{\delta_2} n \langle \tilde{m} \rangle}}_{\delta} \Gamma \triangleright P} \delta_1 \preceq \delta$$

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash n : \delta_1[\tilde{T}] \quad \Gamma \vdash \tilde{m} : \tilde{T}}{\Gamma \triangleright \text{dec}_{\delta_2} n(\tilde{x}:\tilde{T}) . P \xrightarrow{\text{dec}_{\delta_2} n(\tilde{m})}_{\delta} \Gamma \triangleright P\{\tilde{x} := \tilde{m}\}} \delta_1 \preceq \delta$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, q:T \triangleright P \xrightarrow{(\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) \text{dec}_{\delta_1} n(\tilde{m})}_{\delta} \Gamma' \triangleright P' \quad q \neq n, \tilde{p} \quad q \in \tilde{m}}{\Gamma \triangleright P \xrightarrow{(\nu q:T)(\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) \text{dec}_{\delta_1} n(\tilde{m})}_{\delta} \Gamma' \triangleright P'}$$

$$\frac{\Gamma, q:T \triangleright P \xrightarrow{(\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) \overline{\text{dec}_{\delta_1} n \langle \tilde{m} \rangle}}_{\delta} \Gamma' \triangleright P' \quad q \neq n, \tilde{p} \quad q \in \tilde{m}}{\Gamma \triangleright (\nu q:T) P \xrightarrow{(\nu q:T)(\nu \tilde{p}:\tilde{T}) \overline{\text{dec}_{\delta_1} n \langle \tilde{m} \rangle}}_{\delta} \Gamma' \triangleright P'}$$

$$\bar{n}\langle m \rangle.P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} P$$

$$n(x : T).P \xrightarrow{n(m)} P\{x := m\}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{n(m)} Q'}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid Q'}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} P' \quad m \neq n}{(\nu m:T)P \xrightarrow{(\nu m:T)\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} P'}$$

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{(\nu m:T)\bar{n}\langle m \rangle} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{n(m)} Q' \quad m \notin \text{fn}(Q)}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} (\nu m:T)(P' \mid Q')}$$

π -calculus

if $n = n$ then P else $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} P$

if $n = m$ then P else $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q$

(PAR)

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad \text{bn}(\alpha) \cap \text{fn}(Q) = \emptyset}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \mid Q}$$

(RES)

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad n \notin \text{fn}(\alpha) \cup \text{bn}(\alpha)}{(\nu n:T)P \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\nu n:T)P'}$$

(REP-ACT)

$$\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'}{!P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \mid !P}$$