

A weakest precondition approach to active attacks analysis

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Security Background

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Goal: Protect data confidentiality from malicious attackers.

System data:

- **H** stands for private, unmodifiable
- **L** stands for public, modifiable

Standard Non Interference

Aims to protect private inputs. ($H \not\leftrightarrow L$)

$$\forall l \in \mathbb{V}^L, \forall h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{V}^H. \llbracket P \rrbracket(h_1, l)^L = \llbracket P \rrbracket(h_2, l)^L$$

PROBLEM



Real systems release private information intentionally.

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Solution



Declassified Non Interference

$\phi(H)$: declassified private property ($\phi(H) \rightsquigarrow L$)

$$\forall l \in \mathbb{V}^L, \forall h_1, h_2 \in \mathbb{V}^H. \\ \phi(h_1) = \phi(h_2) \Rightarrow \llbracket P \rrbracket(h_1, l)^L = \llbracket P \rrbracket(h_2, l)^L$$

No property stronger than $\phi(H)$ can be disclosed.

[Myers and Liskov 1997, Sabelfeld and Myers 2003]

Robustness [Myers et al. 2004]

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Goal: Active attacks vs Passive attacks power.

- Additional integrity level.
- **Active attackers:** Can modify data in fixed points called **holes** $[\bullet]$.
- Security type: LL, LH, HL and HH (**confidentiality, integrity**)

$$c[\bullet] ::= \mathbf{skip} \mid x := e \mid c_1; c_2 \mid \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ c_1 \ \mathbf{else} \ c_2 \mid \mathbf{while} \ e \ \mathbf{do} \ c \mid [\bullet]$$

- **Fair attacks:** Programs on **LL** variables.

Robustness

$P[\bullet]$ is **robust** if no active **fair** attack can disclose more private information than a passive attacker.

Robustness [Myers et al. 2004]

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- **Fair attacks:** Programs on **LL** variables.

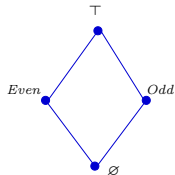
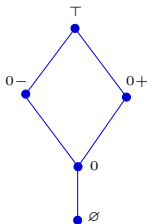
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Abstract Interpretation [Cousot and Cousot '77,'79]

Abstract Interpretation:

A general theory of sound approximation of program semantics.



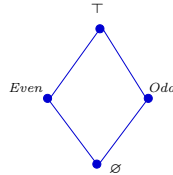
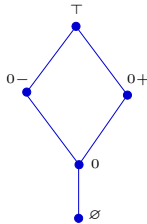
$$\text{sum}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x + y \quad \rightsquigarrow$$

- $\text{sum}^*(+, +) = +$
- $\text{sum}^*(-, -) = -$
- $\text{sum}^*(+, -) = \top$
- $\text{sum}^*(\text{even}, \text{even}) = \text{even}$
- $\text{sum}^*(\text{odd}, \text{odd}) = \text{even}$
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Declassification by Wlp [Banerjee et al. 2007]

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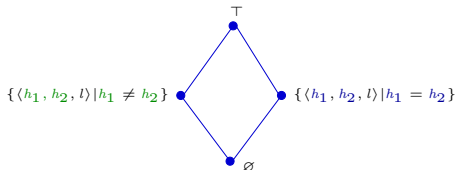
Wlp :

Greatest set of input states leading to a given output observation.

$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{if} (h_1 = h_2) \mathbf{then} l := 0; \mathbf{else} l := 1;$

$Wlp(P, l = a) = (h_1 = h_2 \wedge a = 0) \vee (h_1 \neq h_2 \wedge a = 1)$

\Downarrow Maximal information released



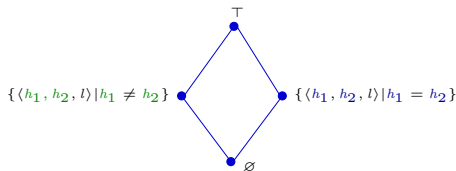
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Wlp :

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From non-interference point of view

$$h_1 = 0, h_2 = 0, l = 0 \rightsquigarrow l = 0$$

$$h_1 = 1, h_2 = 0, l = 0 \rightsquigarrow l = 1$$

Maximal release by active attackers

Goal:

Compute the maximal information disclosed by active attackers.

⇒ **Unfair attacks:** Programs on **LL** and **HL** variables.

$P ::= l := h; [\bullet]$; with variables $h : \text{HH}$, $l : \text{LL}$ and $k : \text{HL}$.

- $Wlp(l := h; [\textit{skip}], \{l = a\}) = \{h = a\}$
- $Wlp(l := h; [l := k], \{l = a\}) = \{k = a\}$
- $Wlp(l := h; [l := l + k], \{l = a\}) = \{h + k = a\}$

- Active attackers ⇒ Semantic transformation.
- Different attacks ⇒ Different information release.

Active attacks can be potentially infinite!

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Parametric attacks

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Active attack \equiv function on **LL** and **HL** variables.

- Extend the *Wlp* computation parametric on $f(\vec{l})$.
- Analyze the final formula containing f as parameter.

Back to the example

Consider the above example. Represent the possible unfair attacks in $[\bullet]$ with $\langle l, k \rangle := \langle f(l, k), g(l, k) \rangle$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \{f(h, k) = a\} \\ & \quad l := h; \\ & \{f(l, k) = a\} \\ [\langle l, k \rangle := \langle f(l, k), g(l, k) \rangle]; \\ & \quad \{l = a\} \end{aligned}$$

$\Rightarrow \{f(h, k) = a\}$: f “measures” the information of h and k .

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I/O Analysis

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$$\{h_2 \bmod 2 = a\}$$
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Trace Analysis [Mastroeni and Banerjee 2008]

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Maximal release on traces

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If $Holes \subseteq Obs$ then all fair attacks are $\vec{l} := \vec{c}$.



Compute the maximal private information disclosed independently of the active attacker!

```
{((h > 0 ∧ c = a) ∨ (h ≤ 0 ∧ a = 0)) ∧ c = b ∧ d = 0}
  l := 0;
{((h > 0 ∧ c = a) ∨ (h ≤ 0 ∧ a = 0)) ∧ c = b ∧ [l = d]}
  [l := c;]
{((h > 0 ∧ l = a) ∨ (h ≤ 0 ∧ a = 0)) ∧ [l = b]}
  if (h > 0) then skip else l := 0;
  {l = a}
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$$l := 0;$$
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if $(h > 0)$ **then skip** **else** $l := 0;$

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Enforcing robustness

A weakest precondition approach to active attacks analysis

Musard Balliu, Isabella Mastroeni

Goal: Enforce robust programs independently of the attack.

The program ($h : \text{HH}$ and $l, k : \text{LL}$)

```
 $k := h;$   
[•]  
if ( $l = 0$ ) then ( $l := 0; k := 0$ ) else ( $l := 1; k := 1$ );
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```
{(l = 0 ∧ a = 0 ∧ b = 0) ∨ (l ≠ 0 ∧ a = 1 ∧ b = 1)}  
    k := h;  
{(l = 0 ∧ a = 0 ∧ b = 0) ∨ (l ≠ 0 ∧ a = 1 ∧ b = 1)}  
    [skip]  
{(l = 0 ∧ a = 0 ∧ b = 0) ∨ (l ≠ 0 ∧ a = 1 ∧ b = 1)}  
if (l = 0) then (l := 0; k := 0) else (l := 1; k := 1);  
    {l = a ∧ k = b}
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$$\{(l = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (l \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\}$$
$$k := h;$$
$$\{(l = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (l \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\}$$
$$[\text{skip}]$$
$$\{(l = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (l \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\}$$
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Unsuccessful active attacker ($h : \text{HH}$ and $l, k : \text{LL}$)

$$\begin{aligned} & \{(c_1 = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (c_1 \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\} \\ & \quad k := h; \\ & \{(c_1 = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (c_1 \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\} \\ & \quad [l := c_1; k := c_2;] \\ & \{(l = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee (l \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = 1)\} \\ & \quad \mathbf{if} (l = 0) \mathbf{then} (l := 0; k := 0) \mathbf{else} (l := 1; k := 1); \\ & \quad \{l = a \wedge k = b\} \end{aligned}$$

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Successful active attacker ($h : \text{HH}$ and $l, k : \text{LL}$)

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A sufficient condition

Let $P = P_2[\bullet]P_1$ be a program and $\Phi = Wlp(P_1, \Phi_0)$.

$$\mathcal{FV}(\Phi) \cap (\text{LL} \cup \text{HL}) = \emptyset \Rightarrow P \text{ robust wrt unfair attacks}$$

Example $l : \text{LL}, h : \text{HH}$ and $k : \text{HL}$

$$P ::= \left[\begin{array}{l} l := h + l; [\bullet]; l := 1; k := h; \\ \mathbf{while} (h > 0) \mathbf{do} (l := l - 1; l := h); \end{array} \right.$$
$$l, k \notin \left\{ (h \leq 0 \wedge a = 1) \vee (h > 0 \wedge a = 0) \right\}$$
$$l := 1; k := h;$$
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A robustness condition on traces

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Example ($l : \text{LH}$, $k : \text{LL}$ and $h_1, h_2, h_3 : \text{HH}$)

$$\{h_3 \bmod 2 = a \wedge h_3 = b \wedge l = c \wedge h_1 + h_2 = d\}$$

$$k := h_1 + h_2;$$

[skip;]

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Let $P = P_2[\bullet]P_1$, $Holes \subseteq Obs$ and $\Phi = Wlp(P_1, \Phi_0)$.

$\mathcal{FV}(\Phi) \cap LL = \emptyset \Rightarrow P$ robust wrt fair attacks

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Relative Robustness

Let $P[\bullet]$ be a program and \mathcal{A} a set of attacks so that

$$\text{Var}(\mathcal{A}) \subseteq \text{LL} \cup \text{HL}.$$

$P[\bullet]$ relatively robust



$\forall \vec{a} \in \mathcal{A}, P[\vec{a}]$ does not release more than $P[\overrightarrow{\text{skip}}]$.

Robustness wrt unfair (\supseteq fair)

$P ::= l := h; [\bullet]$; with variables $h : \text{HH}$, $l : \text{LL}$ and $k : \text{HL}$.

- $\text{Wlp}(l := h; [\text{skip}], \{l = a\}) = \{h = a\}$
- $\text{Wlp}(l := h; [l := k], \{l = a\}) = \{k = a\}$
- $\text{Wlp}(l := h; [l := l + k], \{l = a\}) = \{h + k = a\}$

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Proposition

Let $P = P_2[\bullet]P_1$ be a program and $\Phi = \text{Wlp}(P_1, \Phi_0)$. P is relatively robust wrt the attacks in \mathcal{A} if

$$\mathcal{FV}(\Phi) \cap \text{Var}(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \mathcal{FV}(\Phi) \cap X = \emptyset \\ \swarrow \quad \downarrow \quad \searrow \\ (\text{LL} \cup \text{HL}) \quad \text{LL} \quad \dots \quad \text{Var}(\mathcal{A}) \end{array}$$

Certifying (relative) robustness

Express the sufficient condition in the opposite direction.

$$\Rightarrow P := P_2[\bullet]P_1 \wedge \Phi = Wlp(P_1, \Phi_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{V} = \{x \mid (x : \text{LL} \vee x : \text{HL}) \wedge x \notin \mathcal{FV}(\Phi)\}$$

\Downarrow

P is **relatively robust** wrt $\{a \mid \text{Var}(a) \subseteq \mathcal{V}\}$

Example $h_1, h_2 : \text{HH}$, $l_1, l_3 : \text{LL}$ and $l_2 : \text{HL}$

P_1

$[\bullet]$

$\{(h_2 > 0 \wedge h_1 \bmod 2 = a \wedge b = 0) \vee (h_2 \leq 0 \wedge l_2 = b = a)\}$
if $(h_2 > 0)$ **then** $l_1 := h_1 \bmod 2; l_3 := 0$ **else** $l_3 := l_2; l_1 := l_3$
 $\{l_1 = a \wedge l_3 = b\}$

P is relatively robust wrt attacks on l_1 and l_3 !

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if $(h_2 > 0)$ **then** $l_1 := h_1 \bmod 2$; $l_3 := 0$ **else** $l_3 := l_2$; $l_1 := l_3$

$\{l_1 = a \wedge l_3 = b\}$

P is relatively robust wrt attacks on l_1 and l_3 !

Certifying (relative) robustness

Express the sufficient condition in the opposite direction.

$$\Rightarrow P := P_2[\bullet]P_1 \wedge \Phi = Wlp(P_1, \Phi_0)$$

$$\Rightarrow \mathcal{V} = \{x \mid (x : \text{LL} \vee x : \text{HL}) \wedge x \notin \mathcal{FV}(\Phi)\}$$

\Downarrow

P is relatively robust wrt $\{a \mid \text{Var}(a) \subseteq \mathcal{V}\}$

Example $h_1, h_2 : \text{HH}$, $l_1, l_3 : \text{LL}$ and $l_2 : \text{HL}$

P_1

$[\bullet]$

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Relative VS Decentralized Robustness

A weakest precondition approach to active attacks analysis

Musard Balliu, Isabella Mastroeni

Decentralized Robustness: Principals distrusting each other.

- Analysis and Attacker: Fixes which data principal p believes the attacker q can read or write.
- Robustness: Must hold for all pairs p, q with power $\langle R_{p \rightarrow q}, W_{p \leftarrow q} \rangle$

Relative Robustness: Fixed principals p and q .

- Static confidentiality levels $\mathcal{C}_{p \rightarrow q}$ and integrity levels $\mathcal{I}_{p \leftarrow q}$.
- If $\mathcal{I}_{p \leftarrow q}(x) = \text{L}$ p believes that q can modify x .

$P = P_2[\bullet]P_1$ be a program and $\Phi = \text{Wlp}(P_1, \Phi_0)$. P satisfies decentralized robustness wrt the principals p, q if we have that

$$\mathcal{FV}(\Phi) \cap (\text{LL} \cup \text{HL})_{p \rightarrow q} = \emptyset$$

where $(\text{LL} \cup \text{HL})_{p \rightarrow q} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ x \mid \mathcal{I}_{p \rightarrow q}(x) = \text{L} \}$

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Conclusions:

A weakest precondition approach to active attacks analysis

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- Robustness in language-based security.
- Maximal information released by active attackers.
- Condition to check robust programs.
- Considerations for both I/O and trace semantics.

Future work

- An algorithm for static certification of robust programs.
- Extend this work to deal with abstract active attackers.
- Extend this work to concurrent attackers or other attacker models.
- Relation between relative robustness and decentralized robustness.

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THANK YOU!

Relative robustness dependent on the attack

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Let $P[\bullet]$ be a program and \mathcal{A} a set of attacks so that $|\mathcal{A}| \lesssim \omega$.

↓

- Compute the maximal information disclosed for all attacks.
 - ⇒ Requires a finite number of tests.
- Compare with the passive attacker.
 - ⇒ Check robustness in a finite number of tests.

Example: Holes inside conditionals or loops

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Consider the program P

$$P ::= \left[\begin{array}{l} k := h \bmod 3; \\ \mathbf{if} (h \bmod 2 = 0) \quad \mathbf{then} [\bullet]; l := 0; k := l \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \mathbf{else} \ l := 1; \end{array} \right.$$

where $h : \text{HH}$, $l : \text{LL}$ and $k : \text{LL}$.

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} (h \bmod 2 = 0 \wedge a = 0 \wedge b = 0) \vee \\ (h \bmod 2 \neq 0 \wedge a = 1 \wedge k = b) \end{array} \right\} \\ \mathbf{if} (h \bmod 2 = 0) \quad \mathbf{then} [\bullet]; l := 0; k := l \quad \mathbf{else} \ l := 1; \\ \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \quad \{l = a \wedge k = b\}$$