



ProVerif, restrictions, equivalence... what could go wrong?

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Opening remarks

- ▶ this talk does not necessarily follow ProVerif notations
- ▶ what is written is not necessarily formally correct
- ▶ this talk is about ProVerif v2.05 (unless specific comment)

Modelling protocols

$P, Q := 0$
| new n ; P
| in(c, x); P
| out(c, u); P
| let $u = v$ in P else Q
| insert $tbl(u)$; P
| get $tbl(x)$ suchthat ϕ in P else Q
| ($P \mid Q$)
| $!P$
| event $e(u_1, \dots, u_n)$; P

ProVerif before v2.02

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| in(c, x); P
| out(c, u); P
| let $u = v$ in P else Q
| insert $tbl(u)$; P
| get $tbl(x)$ suchthat ϕ in P else Q
| (P | Q)
| ! P
| event $e(u_1, \dots, u_n)$; P

ProVerif before v2.02

+

Restrictions:

$\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \dots F_n \ \&\& \Rightarrow H$



“Consider only traces that satisfy
 ρ , i.e. $tr \vdash \rho$ ”

ProVerif since v2.02

Example

Evoting: **ballot weeding**

```
Server =  
  ! (  
    in(c, x);  
    in(cell, xtoken);  
    get BB(y) suchthat  $x = y$  in  
      out(cell, xtoken) (* ballot already accepted *)  
    else  
      insert BB(x);  
      out(cell, xtoken);  
      ...  
  )
```

Example

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Server =  
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    in(c, x);  
    in(cell, x_token);  
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    else  
      insert BB(x);  
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      ...  
  )
```

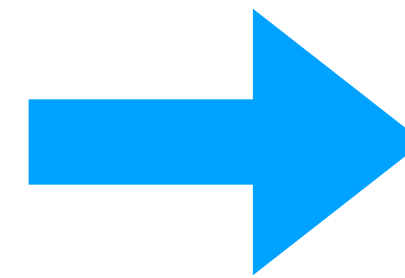


You may have troubles with
else branches and **cells** ...

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      ...  
  )
```



```
Server =  
  ! (  
    in(c, x);  
    new st; event Inserted(st, x);  
    insert BB(x);  
    ...  
  )  
  +  
Restriction:  
  event(Inserted(st1, x))  
  && event(Inserted(st2, x)) ⇒ st1 = st2.
```



You may have troubles with
else branches and **cells** ...

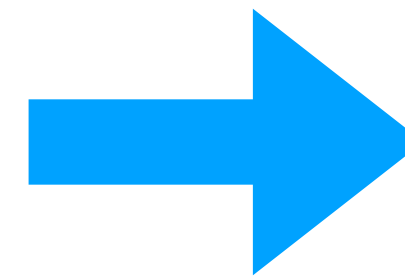
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You may have troubles with
else branches and **cells** ...



```
Server =  
  ! (  
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    insert BB(x);  
    ...  
  )  
  +  
  Restriction:  
  event(Inserted(st1, x))  
  && event(Inserted(st2, x)) ⇒ st1 = st2.
```



No cell, no else branch

Other examples

- ▶ Ballot weeding in evoting protocols
- ▶ Key updates / key revocations
- ▶ Model protocol assumptions (e.g., audits)
- ▶ Easily bound the number of executions
- ▶ Abstract e.g. arithmetic properties
- ▶ ...

$\text{event}(\text{Inserted}(st_1, x)) \ \&\& \ \text{event}(\text{Inserted}(st_2, x)) \Rightarrow st_1 = st_2$

$\text{event}(\text{Use}(k_1)) \ \&\& \ \text{event}(\text{Inserted}(k_2)) \ \&\& \ \text{subterm}(k_1, k_2) \Rightarrow \text{false}$

$\text{event}(\text{PublishedOnBB}(b)) \Rightarrow \phi(b)$

$\text{event}(\text{Iteration}(n)) \Rightarrow n < 2$

See [Cortier et. al. - CCS'21]

How does it work?

(simplified)

$$\frac{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \rightarrow C\} \quad (\bigwedge_{i=1}^n F_i \Rightarrow \psi) \in \mathcal{R} \quad \text{For all } i, F_i\sigma \in H}{\mathbb{C} \cup \{R = H \wedge \psi\sigma \rightarrow C\}}$$

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It is just a matching!

**If the clause is not instantiated enough (e.g. noselect)
the restriction will not be applied!**

Usual issues

Given the process $P := \text{event}(E1); \text{event}(E2); \text{event}(E3)$

and the restriction $\rho := \text{event}(E1) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E2)$, **is event($E3$) reachable?**

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No!

Restrictions have the same semantics as queries

Usual issues

Given the process $P := \text{event}(E1); \text{event}(E2); \text{event}(E3)$

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No!

Restrictions have the same semantics as queries

Given the process $P := (\text{event}(E1); \text{event}(E2)) \mid \text{event}(E3)$

and the restriction $\rho := \text{event}(E3) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E2)$,

is ProVerif able to prove $\rho' := \text{event}(E3) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E1)$?

```

adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example4.pv
Process 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
  {1}event E1;
  {2}event E2
) | (
  {3}event E3
)

-- Restriction event(E3) ==> event(E2) in process 0.
-- Query event(E3) ==> event(E1) in process 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Completing...
Starting query event(E3) ==> event(E1)
goal reachable: b-event(E2) -> event(E3)

Derivation:

1. Event E3 may be executed at {3}.
event(E3).

2. By 1, event(E3).
The goal is reached, represented in the following fact:
event(E3).

A more detailed output of the traces is available with
set traceDisplay = long.

event E3 at {3} (goal)

The event E3 is executed at {3}.
A trace has been found.

The attack trace does not satisfy the following restriction, declared at File "example4.pv", line 16, characters 13-35:
event(E3) ==> event(E2)
RESULT event(E3) ==> event(E1) cannot be proved.

```


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No...

$\Rightarrow \text{event}(E3)$

$\xrightarrow{\text{apply } \rho}$

$\text{event}(E2) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E3)$

Not enough to

conclude... 🤔

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No...

$\Rightarrow \text{event}(E3)$

apply ρ

$\text{event}(E2) \Rightarrow \text{event}(E3)$

Not enough to

conclude... 🙄



You can use the development branch `improve-scope-lemma` to make it prove

**What about
equivalence properties?**



Reminder

- ▶ ProVerif proves equivalence of processes that differ only by terms
- ▶ ProVerif internally proves diff-equivalence

Definition - “A biprocess P is in diff-equivalence if $traces(P) \Downarrow \Uparrow$ i.e., for all traces of P , the first and the second projections **progress in the same way.**”

$$P[a_1, \dots, a_n] \approx P[b_1, \dots, b_n]$$



$$P[diff[a_1, b_1], \dots, diff[a_n, b_n]] \Downarrow \Uparrow$$

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$(\text{let } x = v \text{ in } P \text{ else } Q) \mid \mathcal{P} \longrightarrow P\{x \mapsto diff[M^L, M^R]\} \mid \mathcal{P} \quad \text{if } fst(v) \Downarrow = M^L \text{ and } snd(v) \Downarrow = M^R$

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$$(\text{in}(c, x); P) \mid (\text{out}(c', u); Q) \mid \mathcal{P} \longrightarrow P\{x \mapsto u\} \mid Q \mid \mathcal{P} \quad \text{if } fst(c) = fst(c') \text{ and } snd(c) = snd(c')$$

...

Reminder

Theorem [Blanchet et. al. 2006]

Given a biprocess P , $traces(P) \downarrow \uparrow \Rightarrow fst(P) \approx snd(P)$

where \approx denotes the observational equivalence relation.

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```
adebant@macbook-pro-de-alexandre-2 proverif-examples % proverif example1.pv
Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
  {1}new n: bitstring;
  {2}new m: bitstring;
  {3}out(cpriv, choice[n,m])
) | (
  {4}in(cpriv, x: bitstring);
  {5}out(cpub, x)
)

-- Observational equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
Completing...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
RESULT Observational equivalence is true.

-----
Verification summary:

Observational equivalence is true.

-----
```


Equivalence with restrictions

► We can write restrictions, e.g.

$$\rho := \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x^L, x^R], \text{diff}[y^L, y^R])) \Rightarrow x^L = y^L \ \&\& \ x^R = y^R$$



Equivalence with restrictions

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$$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y \not\equiv \rho \quad \text{👹}$$

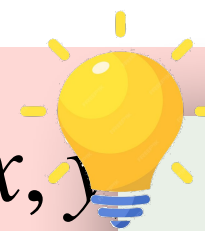
$$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \Rightarrow x = y \equiv \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x, x], \text{diff}[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$$

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$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y))$



Always define restrictions with explicit

***diff*[· , ·] operators!**

$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \rightarrow x = y = \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x, x], \text{diff}[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$

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Always define restrictions with explicit

$\text{diff}[\cdot, \cdot]$ operators!

$\rho' := \text{event}(E(x, y)) \rightarrow x = y = \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x, x], \text{diff}[y, y])) \Rightarrow x = y$

Definition - A biprocess P is in diff-equivalence for the restrictions \mathcal{R} , if $\text{traces}_{|\mathcal{R}}(P) \downarrow \uparrow$ i.e., for all traces tr of P that satisfy \mathcal{R} , $\forall \rho \in \mathcal{R}, tr \vdash \rho$ the first and the second projections progress in the same way.

Relation with observational equivalence

Definition - Let P^L, P^R be two processes and $\mathcal{R}^L, \mathcal{R}^R$ be two sets of restrictions. Observational equivalence is extended with restrictions as expected (i.e. considering only traces that satisfy restrictions 😊) and denoted $(P^L, \mathcal{R}^L) \approx (P^R, \mathcal{R}^R)$

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New-theorem?

Given a biprocess P , and a set of restrictions \mathcal{R} ,

$$\text{traces}_{|\mathcal{R}}(P) \downarrow \uparrow \Rightarrow (\text{fst}(P), \text{fst}(\mathcal{R})) \approx (\text{snd}(P), \text{snd}(\mathcal{R})).$$

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FALSE

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New-theorem?

Given a biprocess

traces



```
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Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
  {1}new n: bitstring;
  {2}new m: bitstring;
  {3}out(cpriv, choice[n,m])
) | (
  {4}in(cpriv, x: bitstring);
  {5}out(cpub, x)
)

-- Restriction not event(E(x_1)) encoded as not event2(E(x_1),E(x_1)) in biprocess 0.
-- Diff-equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
Selecting 0
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
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Completing...
Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v_2,v) && attacker2(v_2,v_1) -> bad
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Termination warning: v ≠ v_1 && attacker2(v,v_2) && attacker2(v_1,v_2) -> bad
Selecting 0
RESULT Diff-equivalence is true.

-----
Verification summary:

Query(ies):
- Diff-equivalence is true.
Associated restriction(s):
- Restriction not event(E(x_1)) encoded as not event2(E(x_1),E(x_1)) in biprocess 0.

-----
```

FALSE

Why is it false?

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Strange restrictions

$$\rho := \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x^L, x^R])) \Rightarrow x^L = x^R$$

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✗ $\text{fst}(\rho)$ is not properly defined!

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A bi-restriction impact both sides of the equivalence

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A bi-restriction impact both sides of the equivalence

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P = (  
  new n; new m;  
  out(cpriv1, diff[n, n]);  
  out(cpriv2, diff[n, m]);  
) | (  
  in(cpriv1, x);  
  in(cpriv, y);  
  event E(x, y);  
  out(cpub, ok)  
)
```

Restriction: $\rho := \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x^L, x^R], \text{diff}[y^L, y^R])) \Rightarrow x^R = y^R$

Why is it false?

Strange restrictions

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)
```

```
T := out(cpriv1, n) . in(cpriv1, n) .  
      out(cpriv2, n) . in(cpriv2, n) .  
      event(E(n, n)) . out(cpub, ok)
```

$T \in \text{traces}(\text{fst}(P))$ and $T \vdash \text{true} = \text{fst}(\rho)$

But $\text{event}(E(n, m))$ cannot be executed in $\text{snd}(P)$ while satisfying $\text{snd}(\rho)$

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```

$T \in t$ $(\text{fst}(P), \emptyset) \not\approx (\text{snd}(P), \text{snd}(\rho))$

But $\text{event}(E(n, m))$ cannot be executed in $\text{snd}(P)$ while satisfying $\text{snd}(\rho)$

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Why is it false?

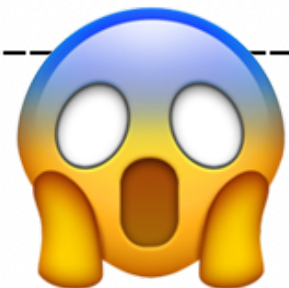
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Biprocess 0 (that is, the initial process):
(
  {1}new n: bitstring;
  {2}new m: bitstring;
  {3}out(cpriv1, n);
  {4}out(cpriv2, choice[n,m])
) | (
  {5}in(cpriv1, x: bitstring);
  {6}in(cpriv2, y: bitstring);
  {7}event E(x,y);
  {8}out(cpub, choice[ok,ko])
)

-- Restriction event(E(choice[xL,xR],choice[yL,yR])) ==> xR = yR encoded as event2(E(xL,yL),E(xR,yR)) ==> xR = yR in biprocess 0.
-- Diff-equivalence in biprocess 0.
Translating the process into Horn clauses...
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- Diff-equivalence is true.
Associated restriction(s):
- Restriction event(E(choice[xL,xR],choice[yL,yR])) ==> xR = yR encoded as event2(E(xL,yL),E(xR,yR)) ==> xR = yR in biprocess 0.
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Restriction: $\rho := \text{event}(E(\text{diff}[x^L, x^R], \text{diff}[y^L, y^R])) \Rightarrow x^R = y^R$

What can I do now...?
I don't know what I'm proving...



Solution 1

Trust yourself 🙌

It's the most often used technique... 🙈

Solution 2

**Do a paper proof to
justify each restriction...**



Solution 3

Let ProVerif do the proof for you



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Let ProVerif do the proof for you



Methodology - Given a biprocess P , and a restriction $\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \dots \ \&\& \ F_n \Rightarrow H^L \ \&\& \ H^R$ such that:

- $\text{vars}(H^L) \subseteq \text{vars}(\text{fst}(\rho))$ and $\text{vars}(H^R) \subseteq \text{vars}(\text{snd}(\rho))$
- $\text{vars}(\text{fst}(\rho)) \cap \text{vars}(\text{snd}(\rho)) = \emptyset$

Let ProVerif prove that: for all $tr \in \text{traces}(P)$, $tr \vdash \overline{\text{fst}(\rho)}$ implies $tr \vdash \overline{\text{snd}(\rho)}$ and conversely.

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Add $\text{diff}[\cdot, \cdot]$ each time it is necessary
with fresh variables on the right side

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Example: $\rho := event(E(diff[x^L, x^R], diff[y^L, y^R])) \Rightarrow x^L = y^L \ \&\& \ x^R = y^R$

$\overline{fst(\rho)} := event(E(diff[x^L, x_1], diff[y^L, x_2])) \Rightarrow x^L = y^L$

$\overline{snd(\rho)} := event(E(diff[x_1, x^R], diff[x_2, y^R])) \Rightarrow x^R = y^R$

Solution 3... is not always possible...



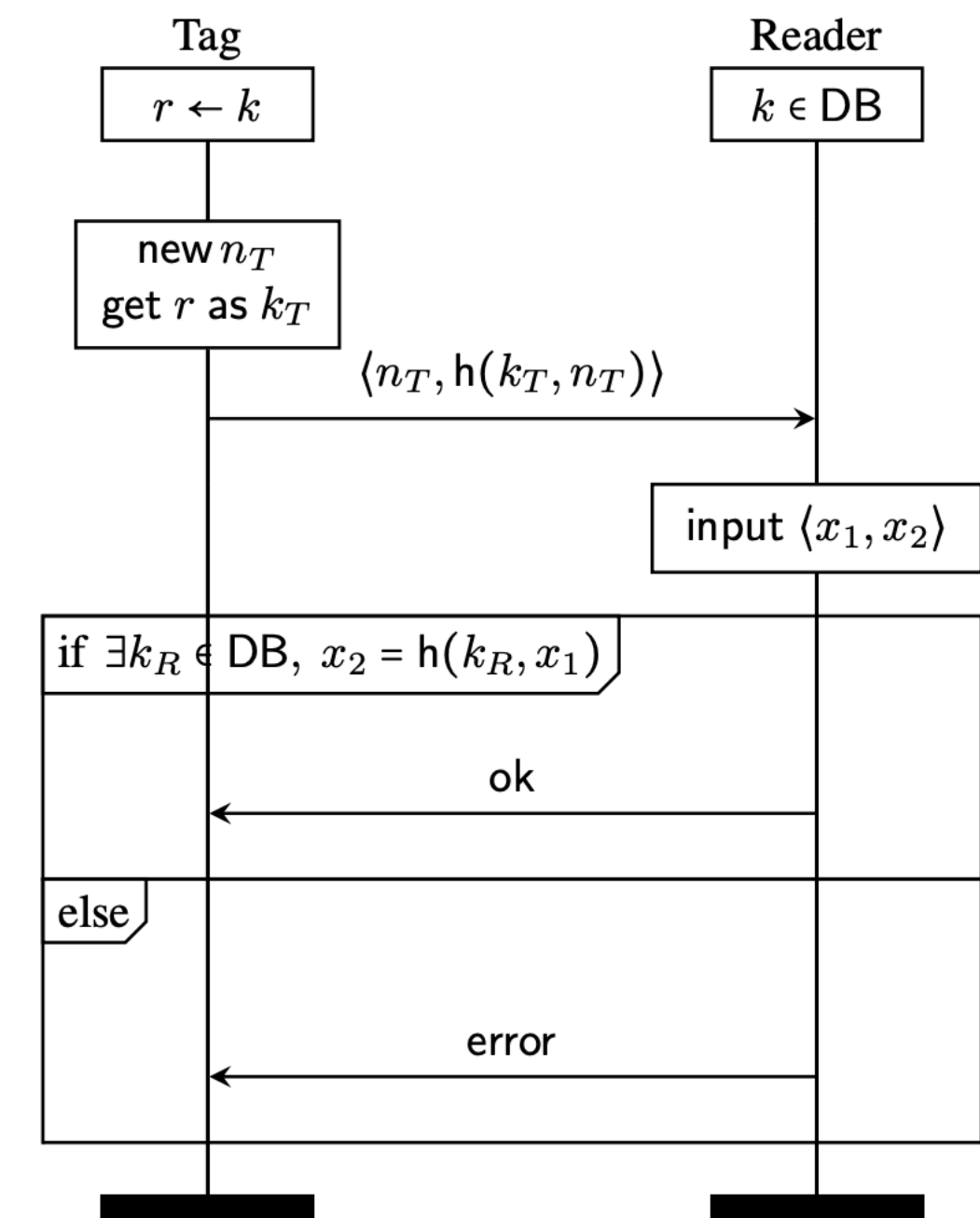
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$P := !Reader \mid !new\ k; !new\ kk; insert\ DB(diff[k, kk]); Tag(diff[k, kk])$



Basic Hash protocol

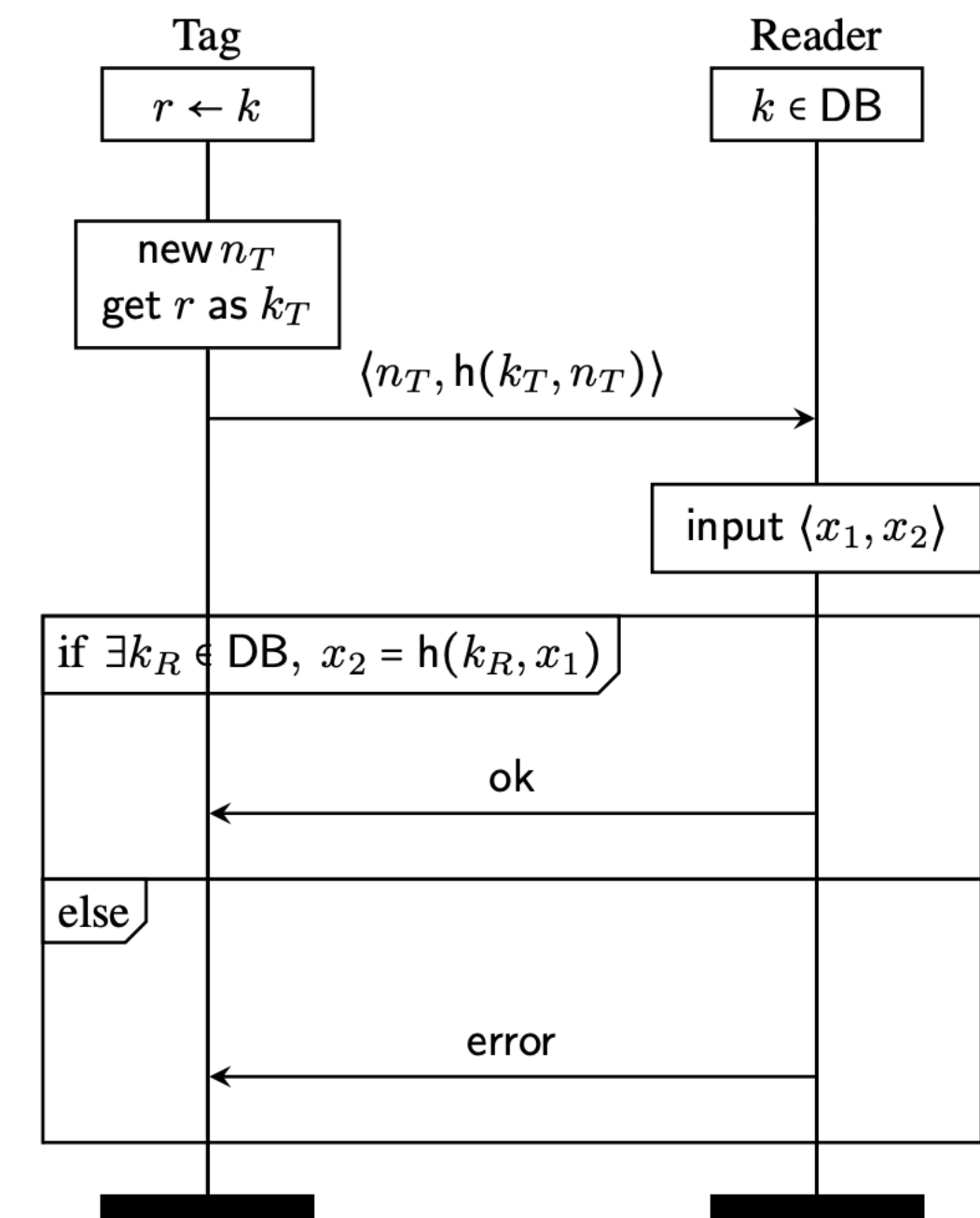
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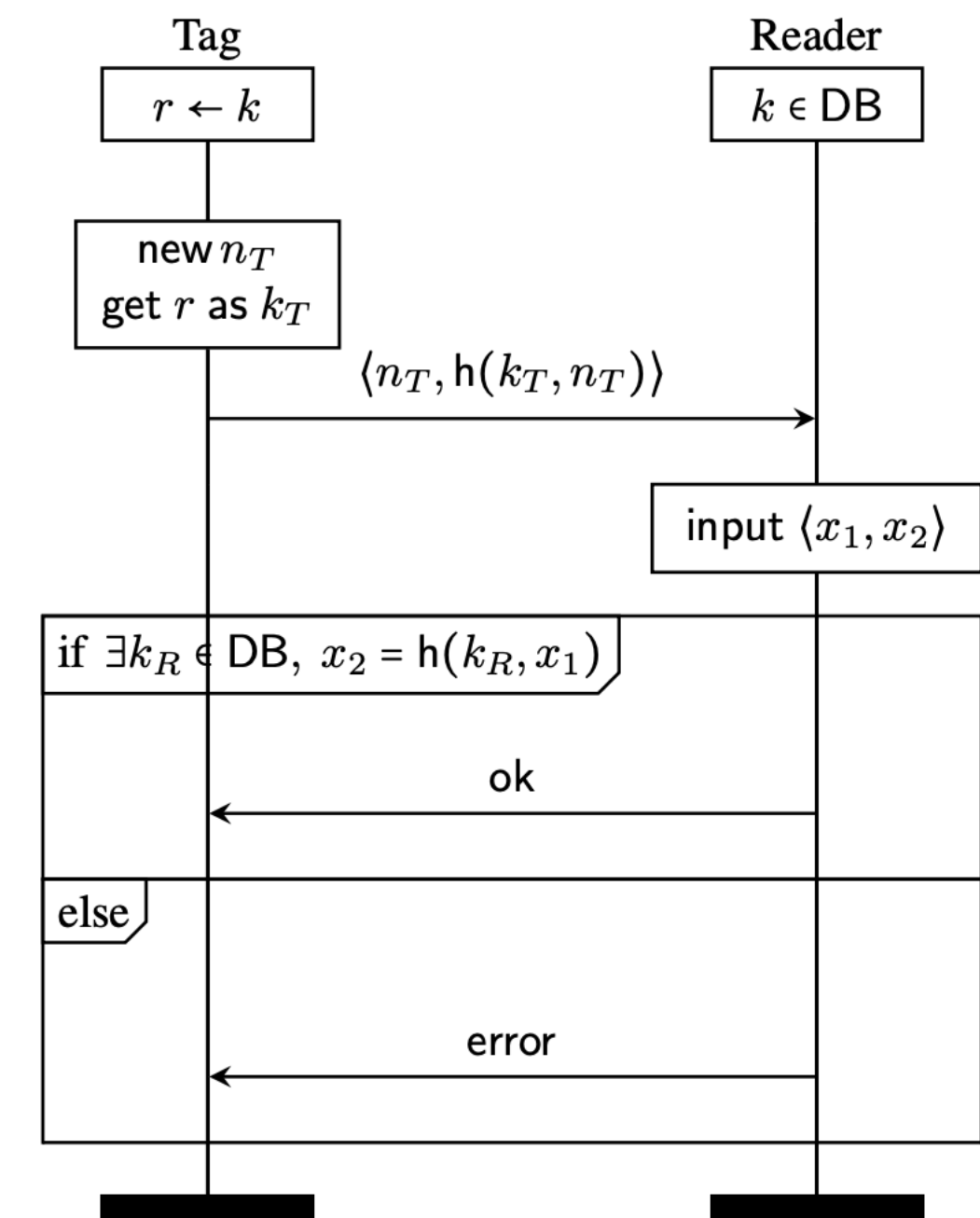


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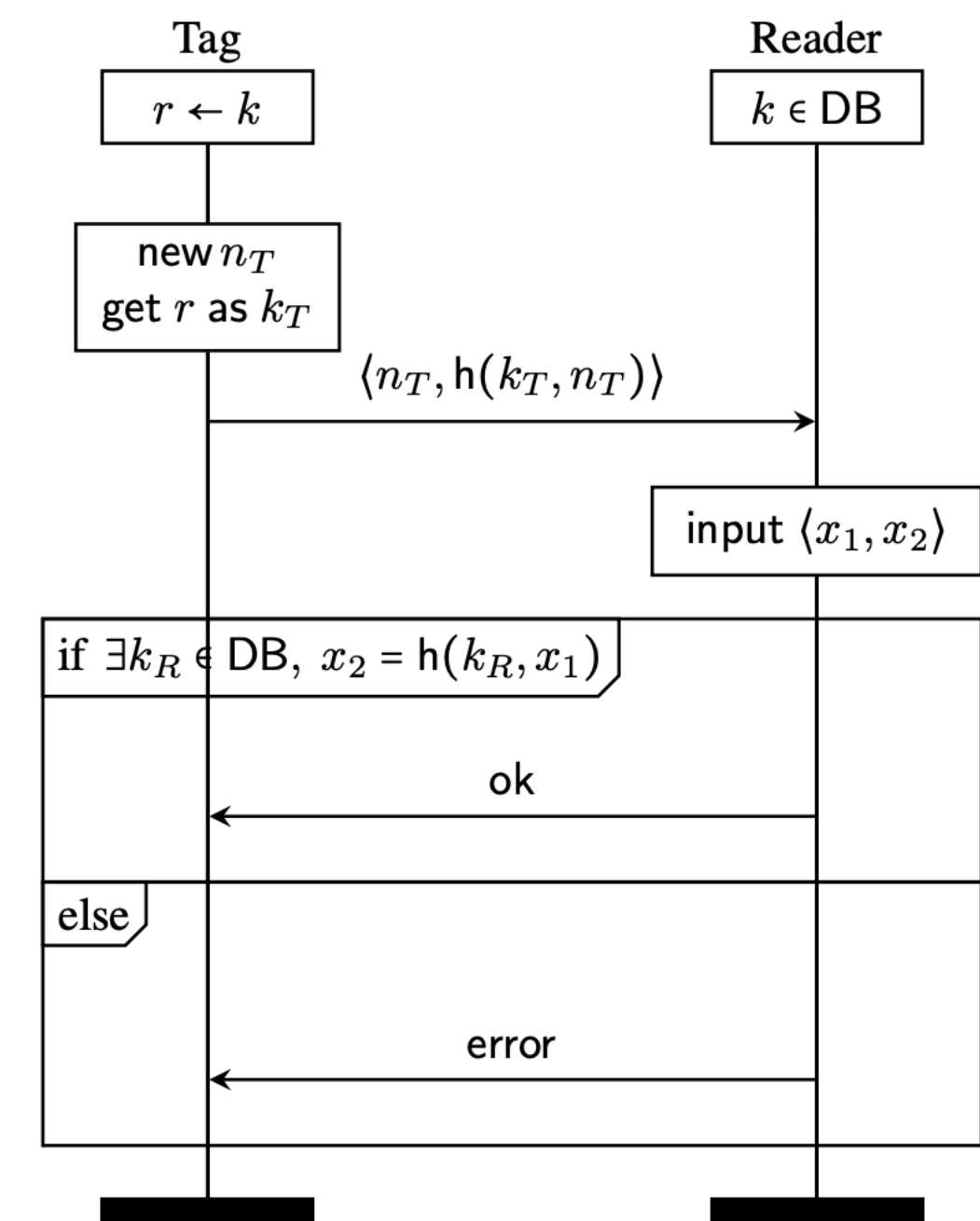
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The previous lemma **does not hold** for traces using the “bad” entries



Basic Hash protocol

Solution 4

(ongoing work with Vincent and Itsaka)



Methodology

1. **reinforce diff-equivalence** to make it even stronger
2. adapt ProVerif procedure to make it sound w.r.t. this new definition
3. build upon Vincent and Itsaka's approach [CSF'23] to **discard false attacks**

Solution 4

(ongoing work with Vincent and Itsaka)



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1. Reinforce diff-equivalence

Given a trace T and a well-formed restriction ρ , $T \downarrow \uparrow_\rho$ if $T \downarrow \uparrow$ and for all $T \rightarrow P$ we have:

$$(T \rightarrow P) \vdash \overline{\text{fst}(\rho)} \text{ if and only if } (T \rightarrow P) \vdash \overline{\text{snd}(\rho)}$$

Solution 4

(ongoing work with Vincent and Itsaka)

2. Adapt ProVerif procedure - translation in “Horn” clauses

Given a process P , we note $\mathcal{C}(P)$ the initial set of clauses generated by ProVerif.

Given a well-formed restriction $\rho := F_1 \ \&\& \ \dots \ \&\& \ F_n \Rightarrow H^L \ \&\& \ H^R$, we define:

- $C_\rho^L = F_1 \ \&\& \ \dots \ \&\& \ F_n \ \&\& \ H^L \ \&\& \ \neg H^R \Rightarrow \text{bad}$
- $C_\rho^R = F_1 \ \&\& \ \dots \ \&\& \ F_n \ \&\& \ H^R \ \&\& \ \neg H^L \Rightarrow \text{bad}$

We define $\mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{R}} = \{C_\rho^X \mid \rho \in \mathcal{R}, X \in \{L, R\}\}$

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Lemma [soundness of the set of initial clauses]

Given a process P and a set of well-formed restrictions \mathcal{R} , if $\neg P \downarrow \uparrow_{\mathcal{R}}$ then bad is derivable from $\mathcal{C}(P) \cup \mathcal{C}_{\mathcal{R}}$.

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Once this lemma is proved, the saturation is (almost) let unchanged, and thus its soundness proof too 😊

Solution 4

(ongoing work with Vincent and Itsaka)

3. Build upon Vincent and Itsaka's approach [CSF'23] to **discard false attacks**

[Cheval & Rakotonirina - CSF'23] ==> ProVerif extension to (almost) prove session equivalence

Intuition:

- either the restriction is defined to discard some matchings (e.g. Basic Hash) and they are unnecessary to prove session equivalence
 - ➔ Vincent&Itsaka extension will remove the newly reachable bad
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TODO

- adapt Vincent&Itsaka extension (i.e. adapt all the proofs...)
- extend ProVerif (or find tricks) to support $\neg H^X$ in premise of a clause for any fact H^X

Conclusion



Be careful when you are using restrictions with equivalence queries...

It is not possible to think a bi-restriction as a restriction on the left side and a restriction on the right side

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The manual of ProVerif and the long version of S&P'21 paper describe all the theory

Everything is well-documented. Do not hesitate to open them when you're not sure about what you're proving.

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The `improve-scope-lemma` branch brings many new features

But part of them are under-documented...