

Quantifying Voter-controlled Privacy

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- PhD from TU/e, UL
 - TU/e: Formal Methods group (Baeten)
 - UL: Security and Trust of Software Systems group (Mauw)
 - Focusing on privacy in voting, DRM systems

- organised VoteID2009 in Luxembourg



privacy = tricky



Dutch elections

Dutch ballot:

| | | |
|----------------------------------|-----|------------------------------------|
| 1. CDA | ... | 18. SGP |
| 1-1. X <input type="checkbox"/> | ... | 18-1. X' <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| 1-13. Y <input type="checkbox"/> | | 18-13. Y' <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ⋮ | ⋮ | |
| 1-45. Z <input type="checkbox"/> | ... | |

Parties: CDA, VVD, PvdA, SP, Groenlinks, Wilders, LPF, Christenunie, SGP, ...



- Privacy is more than “for whom you voted”.



Luxembourgian elections

Luxembourgian ballot:

| | | |
|---|-----|---|
| 1. ADR | ... | 7. KPL |
| 1-1. J. Henckes <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | ... | 7-1. P. Back <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |
| ⋮ | ⋮ | ⋮ |
| 1-21. F. Zeutzius <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | ... | 7-21. M. Tani <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |



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- voter marks 21 boxes.



Luxembourgian elections

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| 1. ADR | ... | 7. KPL |
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■ voter marks 21 boxes.



Luxembourgian elections

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| 1-21. F. Zeutzius <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> | ... | 7-21. M. Tani <input type="checkbox"/> <input type="checkbox"/> |

- voter marks 21 boxes.
- pick 2. That leaves $\binom{292}{19} = 314,269,098,408,967,151,724,980,483,800$ ways to fill in ballot.



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- Privacy depends on all knowledge you have.





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⇒ quantify privacy



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 - ⇒ quantify privacy
 - ⇒ base privacy on intruder knowledge



- Privacy is more than “for whom you voted”.
- Privacy depends on all knowledge you have.
- Subjects may seek to reduce/renounce privacy.
 - ⇒ quantify privacy
 - ⇒ base privacy on intruder knowledge
 - ⇒ take conspiring voters into account



Preliminaries

-who am I

-motivation

-outline

-setting

Syntax

Semantics

Privacy

Attacking privacy

Wrapping up

- Model systems in process algebra
- Determine system behaviour
- Determine privacy of behaviour



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Note

conspiring behaviour is trivially distinguishable from non-conspiring behaviour



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- 1 voter, 1 vote.
- every vote has equal weight.
- election process is phased.
- voter's vote is independent of voting system.

- voters $v \in \mathcal{V}$, candidates $c \in \mathcal{C}$
- choice function $\gamma: \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}$
- $\text{var} \in \text{Vars}$, $k \in \text{Keys}$, $n \in \text{Nonces}$
- pairing, encryption

Terms: $\varphi ::= \text{var} \mid c \mid n \mid k \mid (\varphi_1, \varphi_2) \mid \{\varphi\}_k$.

matching:

$$\text{match}(\varphi_{cl}, \varphi_o, \sigma) \equiv \sigma(\varphi_o) = \varphi_{cl} \wedge \text{dom}(\sigma) = \text{fv}(\varphi_o).$$

Phases, communication of terms:

$$\begin{aligned}
 Ev = \{ & s(a, a', \varphi), r(a, a', \varphi), \\
 & as(a, a', \varphi), ar(a', \varphi), \\
 & us(a, a', \varphi), ur(a, a', \varphi), \\
 & ph(i) \\
 & | a, a' \in Agents, \varphi \in Terms, i \in \mathbb{N} \}.
 \end{aligned}$$

Process:

$$P ::= \delta \mid ev.P \mid P_1 + P_2 \mid \\ P_1 \triangleleft \varphi_1 = \varphi_2 \triangleright P_2 \mid ev.X(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n).$$

where $X(\text{var}_1, \dots, \text{var}_n) = P.$

Process:

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where $X(\text{var}_1, \dots, \text{var}_n) = P$.

State of agent is knowledge + process:

$$Agstate = \mathcal{P}(Terms) \times Processes.$$

Definition 1 (voting system) *A voting system $\mathcal{VS} \in \text{VotSys}$ specifies the state of each agent:*

$$\text{VotSys} = \text{Agents} \rightarrow \text{Agstate}.$$

Instantiation of a voting system $\mathcal{VS} \in \text{VotSys}$ with choice function γ is denoted as \mathcal{VS}^γ .

$$\mathcal{VS}^\gamma(a) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{VS}(a) & \text{if } a \notin \mathcal{V} \\ (\pi_1(\mathcal{VS}(a)), \sigma_a(\pi_2(\mathcal{VS}(a)))) & \text{if } a \in \mathcal{V} \end{cases}$$

where $\sigma_a = \text{vc} \mapsto \gamma(a)$.

- agent semantics \implies system semantics
- system semantics \implies LTS
- paths in LTS \implies traces
- set of traces specifies the behaviour of the system

$$State = \mathcal{P}(Terms) \times (Agents \rightarrow Agstate).$$

Agent state: (K_I, knw_a, P_a) .

Initial system state: $(K_I^0, \mathcal{VS}^\gamma)$.

Preliminaries

Syntax

Semantics

-approach

-readability

-agent (1)

-agent (2)

-agent (3)

-system semantics

-traces

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Readability of terms:

$$\text{Rd}(knw_a, \varphi_{cl}, \varphi_o, \sigma) \equiv \text{match}(\varphi_{cl}, \varphi_o, \sigma) \wedge \\ \forall \varphi' \sqsubseteq \varphi_o : knw_a \cup \{\varphi_{cl}\} \vdash \sigma(\varphi').$$

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Deconstruction of terms:

$$\varphi \sqsubseteq \varphi$$

$$\varphi_1 \sqsubseteq (\varphi_1, \varphi_2)$$

$$\varphi \sqsubseteq \{\varphi\}_k$$

$$\varphi_2 \sqsubseteq (\varphi_1, \varphi_2)$$

$$k^{-1} \sqsubseteq \{\varphi\}_k$$



agent semantics (1)

■ send:

$$\frac{knw_a \vdash \varphi \quad \text{fv}(\varphi) = \emptyset}{(K_I, knw_a, s(a, x, \varphi).P) \xrightarrow{s(a, x, \varphi)} (K_I \cup \{\varphi\}, knw_a, P)}$$



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■ receive:

$$\frac{K_I \vdash \varphi' \quad \text{fv}(\varphi') = \emptyset \quad \text{Rd}(knw_a, \varphi', \varphi, \sigma)}{(K_I, knw_a, r(x, a, \varphi).P) \xrightarrow{r(x, a, \varphi')} (K_I, knw_a \cup \{\varphi'\}, \sigma(P))}$$

■ send:

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■ anonymous receive:

$$\frac{K_I \vdash \varphi' \quad \text{fv}(\varphi') = \emptyset \quad \text{Rd}(knw_a, \varphi', \varphi, \sigma)}{(K_I, knw_a, ar(a, \varphi).P) \xrightarrow{ar(a, \varphi')} (K_I, knw_a \cup \{\varphi'\}, \sigma(P))}$$

■ send:

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■ untappable receive:

$$\frac{\text{fv}(\varphi') = \emptyset \quad \text{Rd}(knw_a, \varphi', \varphi, \sigma)}{(K_I, knw_a, ur(x, a, \varphi).P) \xrightarrow{ur(x, a, \varphi')} (K_I, knw_a \cup \{\varphi'\}, \sigma(P))}$$

- non-deterministic choice:

$$\frac{(K_I, knw_a, P_1) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P'_1)}{(K_I, knw_a, P_1 + P_2) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P'_1)}$$

- non-deterministic choice:

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- conditional choice:

$$\frac{(K_I, knw_a, P_2) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P'_2) \quad \varphi_1 \neq \varphi_2 \quad \text{fv}(\varphi_1) = \text{fv}(\varphi_2) = \emptyset}{(K_I, knw_a, P_1 \triangleleft \varphi_1 = \varphi_2 \triangleright P_2) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P'_2)}$$

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- guarded recursion:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (K_I, knw_a, \sigma(P)) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P') \\ X(\text{var}_1, \dots, \text{var}_n) = P \quad \sigma = \text{var}_1 \mapsto \varphi_1 \circ \dots \circ \text{var}_n \mapsto \varphi_n \end{array}}{(K_I, knw_a, X(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n)) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P')}$$

■ phase synchronisation:

$$i \in \mathbb{N}$$

$$Phase \subseteq \{a @ (knw_a, P_a) \in S \mid \exists P'_a : (K_I, knw_a, P_a) \xrightarrow{ph(i)} (K_I, knw_a, P'_a)\}$$

$$Aut \subseteq \{a \in Agents \mid \exists knw_a, P_a : a @ (knw_a, P_a) \in Phase\}$$

$$Phase' = \{a @ (knw_a, P'_a) \mid \exists P_a : a @ (knw_a, P_a) \in Phase \wedge (K_I, knw_a, P_a) \xrightarrow{ph(i)} (K_I, knw_a, P'_a)\}$$

$$(K_I, S) \xrightarrow{ph(i)} (K_I, Phase' \cup S \setminus Phase)$$

■ non-synchronous events:

$$\frac{(K_I, knw_a, P) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, knw'_a, P') \quad ev \in Ev_{nosync} \quad a @ (knw_a, P) \in S}{(K_I, S) \xrightarrow{ev} (K'_I, \{a @ (knw'_a, P')\} \cup S \setminus \{a @ (knw_a, P)\})}$$

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■ untappable communication:

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} (K_I, knw_a, P_a) \xrightarrow{us(a,b,\varphi)} (K_I, knw_a, P'_a) \\ (K_I, knw_b, P_b) \xrightarrow{ur(a,b,\varphi)} (K_I, knw'_b, P'_b) \\ s_0 = \{a @ (knw_a, P_a), b @ (knw_b, P_b)\} \quad s_0 \subseteq S \end{array}}{(K_I, S) \xrightarrow{uc(a,b,\varphi)} (K_I, \{a @ (knw_a, P'_a), b @ (knw'_b, P'_b)\} \cup S \setminus s_0)}$$

$$Tr(\mathcal{VS}^\gamma) = \{ \alpha \in Labels^* \mid \alpha = \alpha_0, \dots, \alpha_{n-1} \wedge \\ \exists s_0, \dots, s_n \in State : s_0 = (K_I^0, \mathcal{VS}^\gamma) \wedge \\ \forall 0 \leq i < n : s_i \xrightarrow{\alpha_i} s_{i+1} \}$$

Traces of \mathcal{VS} :

$$Tr(\mathcal{VS}) = \bigcup_{\gamma \in \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}} Tr(\mathcal{VS}^\gamma)$$



Preliminaries

Syntax

Semantics

Privacy

-how to

-reinterpretation

-distinguishing

-measuring

Attacking privacy

Wrapping up

Can the intruder tell for t , if $t \in Tr(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_1})$ or $t \in Tr(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_2})$?

Our approach: reinterpretation.

Definition 2 (reinterpretation (GHPR05)) *Let ρ be a permutation on the set of terms $Terms$ and let K_I be a knowledge set. The map ρ is a semi-reinterpretation under K_I if it satisfies the following.*

$$\rho(p) = p, \text{ for } p \in \mathcal{C} \cup Keys$$

$$\rho((\varphi_1, \varphi_2)) = (\rho(\varphi_1), \rho(\varphi_2))$$

$$\rho(\{\varphi\}_k) = \{\rho(\varphi)\}_k, \text{ if } K_I \vdash \varphi, k \vee K_I \vdash \{\varphi\}_k, k^{-1}$$

Map ρ is a reinterpretation under K_I iff it is a semi-reinterpretation and its inverse ρ^{-1} is a semi-reinterpretation under $\rho(K_I)$.

Definition 3 (trace indistinguishability) *Traces t, t' are indistinguishable, $t \sim t'$, iff $\exists \rho$ such that*

$$\text{obstr}(t') = \rho(\text{obstr}(t)) \wedge \overline{K_I^t} = \rho(\overline{K_I^{t'}}).$$

Definition 4 (choice indistinguishability) *For voting system \mathcal{VS} , choice functions γ_1, γ_2 are indistinguishable, $\gamma_1 \simeq_{\mathcal{VS}} \gamma_2$, iff*

$$\begin{aligned} \forall t \in \text{Tr}(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_1}) : \exists t' \in \text{Tr}(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_2}) : t \sim t' \quad \wedge \\ \forall t \in \text{Tr}(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_2}) : \exists t' \in \text{Tr}(\mathcal{VS}^{\gamma_1}) : t \sim t' \end{aligned}$$

Definition 5 (choice group) *The choice group for a voting system \mathcal{VS} and a choice function γ is given by*

$$cg(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma) = \{\gamma' \mid \gamma \simeq_{\mathcal{VS}} \gamma'\}.$$

The choice group for a particular voter v :

$$cg_v(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma) = \{\gamma'(v) \mid \gamma' \in cg(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma)\}.$$



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Attacking privacy

-maintaining privacy

-conspiracy

-event transformation

-process transformation

-conspiracy-resistance

Wrapping up

- secret initial knowledge
- encryption, $\{m\}_k, \{m\}_{pk(A)}$
- *homomorphic encryption*, $\{\{m\}\}_k$
- *blind signatures*, $\llbracket m \rrbracket_k$



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- encryption, $\{m\}_k, \{m\}_{pk(A)}$
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- *blind signatures*, $[[m]]_k$

- privacy-enhancing communication
 - a. public channel
 - b. anonymous channel
 - c. untappable channel
 - authority \rightarrow voter
 - voter \rightarrow authority
 - voter \leftrightarrow authority

Preliminaries

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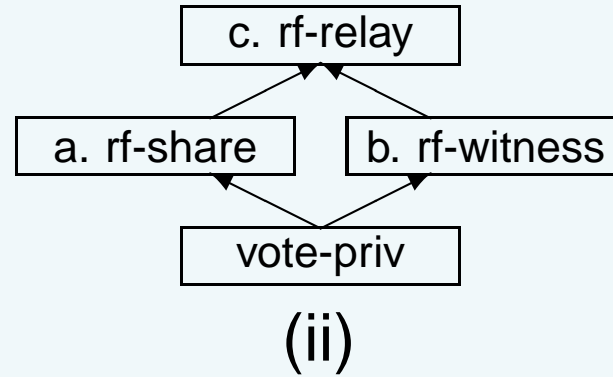
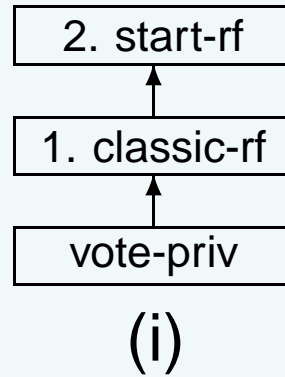
-conspiracy

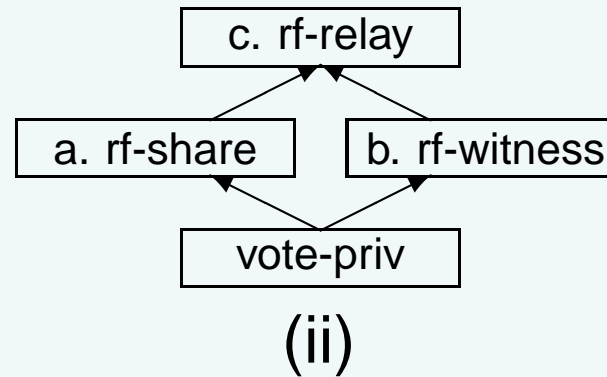
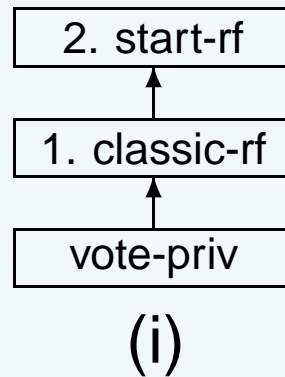
-event transformation

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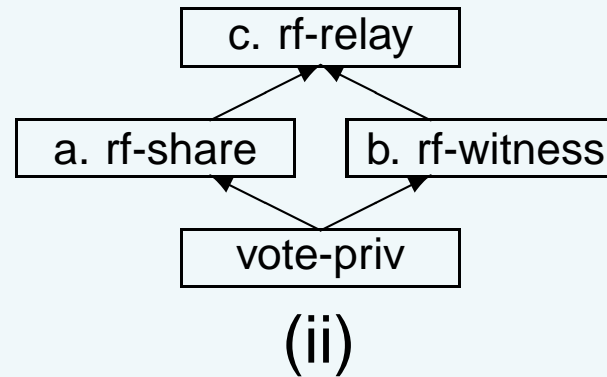
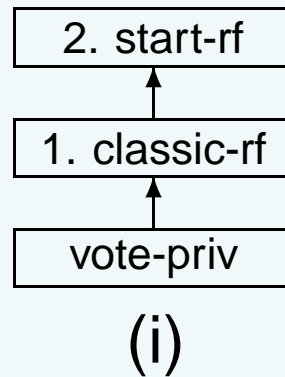
-conspiracy-resistance

Wrapping up





- transform processes using Θ_i , where $i \in \{1, 2, a, b, c\}$.



- transform processes using Θ_i , where $i \in \{1, 2, a, b, c\}$.
- transform events using θ_i

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$$\blacksquare \theta_a(v, ev) = \begin{cases} ur(ag, v, \varphi) . is(v, \varphi) & \text{if } ev = ur(ag, v, \varphi) \\ ev & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\theta_a(v, ev) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} ur(ag, v, \varphi) . is(v, \varphi) & \text{if } ev = ur(ag, v, \varphi) \\ ev & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- $\theta_b(v, ev) =$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{ll} is(v, \text{vars}(v, \varphi)) . ir(v, \text{vars}(v, \varphi')) . us(v, ag, \varphi') & \text{if } ev = us(v, ag, \varphi), \text{ for } \varphi' = \text{freshvars}(v, \varphi) \\ ev & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- $\theta_a(v, ev) =$

$$\begin{cases} ur(ag, v, \varphi) . is(v, \varphi) & \text{if } ev = ur(ag, v, \varphi) \\ ev & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\theta_b(v, ev) =$

$$\begin{cases} is(v, \text{vars}(v, \varphi)) . ir(v, \text{vars}(v, \varphi')) . us(v, ag, \varphi') & \text{if } ev = us(v, ag, \varphi), \text{ for } \varphi' = \text{freshvars}(v, \varphi) \\ ev & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- $\theta_c(v, ev) = \theta_b(v, \theta_a(v, ev))$

$$\Theta_2(v, P) = is(knw_v).P$$

$$\Theta_i(v, P) =$$

 δ

if $i \neq 1 \wedge P = \delta$

 $is(v, knw_v).\delta$

if $i = 1 \wedge P = \delta$

 $\theta_i(v, ev).\Theta_i(v, P)$

if $P = ev.P$

 $\Theta_i(v, P_1) + \Theta_i(v, P_2)$

if $P = P_1 + P_2$

 $\Theta_i(v, P_1) \triangleleft \varphi_1 = \varphi_2 \triangleright \Theta_i(v, P_2)$

if $P = P_1 \triangleleft \varphi_1 = \varphi_2 \triangleright P_2,$

for $\varphi_1, \varphi_2 \in Terms$

 $\theta_i(v, ev).Y(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n), \quad \text{for fresh } Y(\text{var}_1, \dots, \text{var}_n) = \Theta_i(v, P')$

if $P = X(\varphi_1, \dots, \varphi_n) \wedge X(\text{var}_1, \dots, \text{var}_n) = P'$

classical notion:

$$\forall v, \gamma: |cg_v^1(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma)| > 1.$$

improved definition:

Definition 6 (conspiracy-resistance) *We call voting system \mathcal{VS} conspiracy-resistant for conspiring behaviour $i \in \{1, 2, a, b, c\}$ iff*

$$\forall v \in \mathcal{V}, \gamma \in \mathcal{V} \rightarrow \mathcal{C}: cg_v^i(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma) = cg_v(\mathcal{VS}, \gamma).$$



Conclusions:

- we can quantify privacy in voting
- enables detection of new attacks
- lifted notion of anonymity group to voting

Future work:

- consider conspiring authorities
- defense strategies
- automated application
- extend with probabilism (election result)



Thank you for your attention.

Questions?

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-concluding