

# Formalizing Provable Anonymity in Isabelle/HOL

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**Abstract.** We formalize in a theorem prover the notion of provable anonymity. Our formalization relies on inductive definitions of message distinguishing ability and observational equivalence on traces observed by the intruder. Our theory differs from its original proposal and essentially boils down to the inductive definition of distinguishing messages with respect to a knowledge set for the intruder. We build our theory in Isabelle/HOL to achieve a mechanical framework for the analysis of anonymity protocols. Its feasibility is illustrated through two case studies of the Crowds and Onion Routing protocols.

**Keywords:** Anonymity, security protocols, theorem proving, inductive methods.

## 1. Introduction

With the rapid growth of the Internet community and the rapid advances in technology over the past decades, people are getting used to carry out their daily activities through networked distributed systems providing electronic services to users. In these systems, people become more and more concerned about their privacy and how their personal information have been used. Typically, anonymity is a desired property of such systems, referring to the ability of a user to own some data or take some actions without being tracked

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down. This property is essential in systems that involve sensitive personal data, like electronic auctions, voting, anonymous broadcasts, file-sharing and etc. For example, users want to keep anonymous when they visit a particular website or post their political opinions on a public bulletin board.

Due to its subtle nature, anonymity has also been the subject of many theoretical studies [39, 24, 23, 4, 21, 35, 37] and formal verification. The proposed definitions aim to capture either possibilistic [39, 24, 21, 35] or probabilistic [23, 4, 14] aspects of anonymity, and formal verification treats systems in different application domains, such as electronic voting systems [28, 13, 25], electronic cash protocols [32], file sharing [43, 11], and electronic healthcare [17, 18], etc. However, automatic approaches to the formal verification of anonymity have mostly focused on the model checking approach on systems with fixed configurations, e.g., [39, 40, 12, 14], while theorem proving is a more suitable approach when dealing with general systems of infinite state spaces [26]. We address this situation by investigating the possibility of using a powerful general-purpose theorem prover, Isabelle/HOL [33], to semi-automatically verify anonymity properties. In this paper, we focus on the framework of provable anonymity [21] and build a mechanical proof method for the analysis of anonymity protocols.

The starting point of the provable anonymity approach is the idea that various information hiding properties can best be expressed in the language of epistemic logic. This makes it possible to reason not only about the messages in a trace, but also about the knowledge agents gain from these messages. For instance, sender anonymity can typically be formulated as the receiver not knowing who sent a certain message. Central in the epistemic framework is the notion of observational equivalence of runs — a property holds for a protocol if it is true on every run which is indistinguishable for the intruder. The distinguishing ability of the intruder is formalized as the ability to distinguish two messages, which is in turn based on message structures and relations between random messages. In the framework proposed by Garcia et al. [21], observational equivalence is actually constructed via the *reinterpretation function*. Proving two traces equivalent essentially boils down to the existence of such a reinterpretation function. Within their framework, based on observational equivalence Garcia et al. define a few epistemic operators and use them to express information hiding properties such as *sender anonymity* and *unlinkability*.

Although provable anonymity provides an elegant framework of anonymity in a uniform fashion, a deep gap exists between a pen-and-paper provable anonymity theory and a mechanized theory library. To the best of our knowledge, so far no one has formalized observational equivalence in the provable anonymity framework and the construction of this relation mechanically. Our work is essential not only to bridge this gap, but also to provide a mechanized proving methodology for anonymity protocols on the groundwork of provable anonymity theory.

**Our contribution.** The main contribution of this paper is twofold: an inductive theory of provable anonymity and its formalization in a theorem prover. We briefly discuss the novelties of our work below:

- We introduce an inductive definition of message distinguishability, which is believed to be a fundamental concept. More precisely, the intruder can uniquely identify any plain-text message. Furthermore, the intruder can distinguish any encrypted message for which he has the decryption key, or which he can construct himself. The observational equivalence between two messages, which can be then lifted to traces inductively, is naturally defined as the negation of message distinguishability. Namely, two messages are observationally equivalent for an agent if he cannot distinguish them according to his own knowledge. In [21], the notion of observational equivalence is proposed without formalization in mind. Our proposal is a necessary step for its mechanical formalization.
  - We propose the notion of *alignment* between two message sequences. Intuitively, alignment requires that the relation, composed of the corresponding message pairs of the two message sequences, should be *single\_valued*. Furthermore, the single\_valued requirement should remain valid after applying the analyzing and synthesizing operations pairwise to the message pairs in the relation. Combining the alignment requirement with the observational equivalence between two messages, we propose an (adapted) definition of observational equivalence between two traces. Thus, our framework can naturally incorporate the concept of reinterpretation function which is extensively used in [21].
- As mentioned before, in [21] no mechanical way is provided to construct a reinterpretation function. By our inductive approach to construct the alignment between the message sequences, we can construct such a reinterpretation function if it does exist. Furthermore, our work demonstrates that observational equivalence between traces cannot be obtained by simply lifting the message equivalence to the traces. Alignment between message sequences is required to make the constructed relation to be a bijection.

- We proceed to formalize anonymity properties in an epistemic logic framework as in [21]. Box and diamond operators are formalized at first, then sender anonymity and unlinkability are defined accordingly.
- We inductively define the semantics of anonymity protocols, e.g., Crowds and Onion Routing, as a set of traces, and the relaying mechanism of the protocol is formally defined as a set of inductive rules. Furthermore, we formally prove that the protocol realizes anonymity properties such as sender anonymity and unlinkability under some circumstance by providing a method to construct an observationally equivalent trace for a given trace via a method called *swap* messages. Formalizing the *swap* method and the corresponding proof techniques are novel in the sense that they give us a generally applicable way to construct an observationally equivalent trace.
- We build our theory in Isabelle/HOL [33] to have a mechanical framework for the analysis of anonymity protocols. We illustrate the feasibility of the mechanical framework through cases studies on Crowds [38] and Onion Routing [22, 41]. Based on our framework, we can inductively model an anonymity protocol, use epistemic operators to define anonymity properties, and follow the proof method to prove that the anonymity protocol under study satisfies the desired anonymity properties.

There are two guiding principles for us to choose Isabelle to formalize our anonymity theory. Firstly our induction techniques should be conveniently implemented by Isabelle/HOL. Isabelle/HOL is appropriate for this task because of its support for inductively defined sets and its automatic tool support. Secondly, our mechanized proofs correspond to their pen-and-paper counterparts as closely as possible. This means that for a user who has completed his proofs manually, little extra effort is required in order to let Isabelle/HOL check them.<sup>1</sup>

Note that this article is a revised and extended version of [30] that appears in the proceedings of the 6th International Conference on Availability, Reliability and Security. In this paper, we have developed a new notion of alignment between two message sequences. Combining the alignment requirement with the observational equivalence between two messages, we have proposed an improved definition of observational equivalence between two traces, which in turn leads to a revised formalization of provable anonymity in Isabelle/HOL. Thus, our framework can incorporate the concept of reinterpretation function which is extensively used in [21]. We have extended the case study on Onion Routing accordingly, and conducted a new case study on Crowds. As a consequence of the new notion of alignment, we also devote an additional subsection to prove the alignment requirement on observational equivalence between traces in the case study on Onion protocols. One of our previous work [31] also adopts an inductive approach to formalizing the strand space theory and implements the mechanical proof framework in Isabelle/HOL. More specifically, the semantics of a protocol session is inductively formalized as a bundle in a strand space in [31], and classic trace properties such as secrecy and authentication are studied. In this work, the semantics of a protocol session is inductively formalized as a trace as well. Different from [31], our inductive approach is further developed to decide observational equivalence according to the adversary’s knowledge obtained in two separate sessions, which is essential for defining anonymity properties.

**Presentation of the paper.** In this paper, we assume readers have some knowledge with Isabelle/HOL syntax. Therefore, we present our formalization directly without elaborated explanation. Notably, a function in Isabelle/HOL syntax is usually defined in a curried form instead of a tuple form, that is, we often use the notation  $f\ x\ y$  to stand for  $f(x, y)$ . We also use the notation  $\llbracket A_1; A_2; \dots; A_n \rrbracket \Longrightarrow B$  to mean that with assumptions  $A_1, \dots, A_n$ , we can derive a conclusion  $B$ . Here, we briefly introduce some functions on lists, which will be used in later sections of the paper:  $x\#\ xs$  for the list that extends  $xs$  by adding  $x$  to the front of  $xs$ ,  $[x_1, ..x_n]$  for a list  $x_1\#\dots\#x_n\#\ []$ ,  $xs@ys$  for the result list by concatenating  $xs$  with  $ys$ ,  $xs!i$  for the  $i^{th}$  element of the list  $xs$  (counting from 0 as the first element),  $\text{set}\ xs$  for the set of all the elements in  $xs$ ,  $\text{length}\ xs$  for the length of the list  $xs$ ,  $\text{last}\ xs$  for the last element of the list  $xs$ ,  $\text{zip}\ xs\ ys$  for the functions which zips two lists  $xs$  and  $ys$  to generate a list of pairs, and  $\text{map}\ f\ xs$  for the function which applies  $f$  to each element in  $xs$ . More information on our choices of notations can be found in the appendix.

**Structure of the paper.** Sect. 2 summarizes related papers in the literature. Sect. 3 provides a preliminary introduction to notations and terminologies. Distinguishability and observational equivalence of messages are formally defined in Sect. 4. Then we introduce the notion of alignment for two sequences of messages in Sect. 5.

<sup>1</sup> Isabelle/HOL offers the Isar proof language [42], which is the abbreviation of the phrase “Intelligible semi-automated reasoning”. Isar is an alternative proof language interface layer beyond traditional tactical scripts and readable for human beings.

Observational equivalence of traces is formally defined in Sect. 6. Epistemic operators and formalization of anonymity properties are presented in Sect. 7. We model and analyze Crowds and Onion Routing in Sect. 8 and Sect. 9, respectively. We conclude the paper in Sect. 10.

## 2. Related work

In this section, we summarize existing papers which are mostly related to our work. Besides the inherence and extension from the work on provable anonymity, our work is related to the work by Abadi and Cortier [2]. They introduce a notion of pattern equivalence which is also inductively defined to identify the observational equivalence between messages w.r.t. a set of keys. Furthermore, the equivalence corresponds to computationally indistinguishable ensembles. This definition is somehow restricted as the set of keys is only allowed to be symmetric, mainly because they focus on the computational soundness of the symbolic verification.

Another similar but more general, notion of message indistinguishability is static equivalence introduced in the applied pi calculus [3, 1]. Cryptographic primitives can be modeled using equational theory, thus more primitives can be incorporated in the framework, such as digital signature, XOR, etc. However this scheme is based on the applied pi calculus and cannot be easily formalized in a theorem prover.

More recently, the paper [10] studies process equivalence with length tests with respect to both passive and active intruders. A tool is developed for proving trace equivalence between two processes for a bounded number of sessions, based on the decision procedure of [9]. In addition, the tool ProVerif [5] can check observational equivalence defined in the applied pi calculus automatically [6, 8] with respect to active intruders. But it is not guaranteed to terminate and poses some restriction on the structure of processes.

In the literature, a proof method for checking branching bisimilarity [19, 20] is formalized in the theorem prover PVS. But this approach cannot be directly applied for security protocol analysis (see e.g., [34]) as it does not deal with message indistinguishability. Trace anonymity [39] is formalized using I/O automaton and the Larch prover is employed for check trace anonymity [26]. An anonymous fair exchange e-commerce protocol that is claimed to satisfy customer's anonymity is analyzed by the OTS/CafeOBJ method [27] following the approach proposed in [26]. However, these two works only consider a weaker intruder, which does not have the same ability to distinguish message sequences as we consider in this paper.

## 3. Preliminaries

### 3.1. Agents, messages and events

Agents send or receive messages. There are three kinds of agents: the server, the honest agents, and the spy. Formally the type of `agent` is defined as follows:

$$\text{agent} ::= \text{Server} \mid \text{Friend } N \mid \text{Spy}$$

We use `bad` to denote the set of intruders, which at least includes the agent `Spy`. If an agent  $A$  is not in `bad`, then  $A$  is honest.

The set of messages is defined using the following BNF notation:

$$h ::= \text{Agent } A \mid \text{Nonce } N \mid \text{Key } k \mid \text{MPair } h_1 h_2 \mid \text{Crypt } k h$$

where  $A$  is an element from agents,  $N$  and  $k$  from natural. We use  $k^{-1}$  to denote the inverse key of  $k$  for brevity. `MPair`  $h_1 h_2$  is called a composed message. `Crypt`  $k h$  represents the encryption of message  $h$  with  $k$ .

In an asymmetric key protocol model, an agent  $A$  has a public key `pubK`  $A$ , which is known to all agents, and a private key `priK`  $A$ . `pubK`  $A$  is the inverse key of `priK`  $A$ , and vice versa. In a symmetric key model, each agent  $A$  has a long-term symmetric key `shrK`  $A$ . The inverse key of `shrK`  $A$  is itself. We also assume that (1) asymmetric keys and symmetry keys are disjoint; (2) the functions `shrK`, `pubK` and `priK` are injective, e.g., if `shrK`  $A = \text{shrK}$   $A'$  then  $A = A'$ . In the following, we abbreviate `Crypt`  $k h$  as  $\{h\}_k$ , and `MPair`  $h_1 \dots \text{MPair}$   $h_{n-1} h_n$  as  $\{h_1, \dots, h_{n-1}, h_n\}$ . Such abbreviations are supported in Isabelle/HOL by syntax translation [33].

Operators `parts`, `analz`, and `synth` are inductively defined on a message set  $H$ . Their definitions are taken from [36] and tailored for our purposes. Usually,  $H$  contains a penetrator's initial knowledge and all messages

sent by regular agents. The set  $\text{parts } H$  is obtained from  $H$  by repeatedly adding the components of compound messages and the bodies of encrypted messages. Formally,  $\text{parts } H$  is the least set including  $H$  and closed under projection and decryption.

```

inductive_set parts:: "msg set⇒msg set"
  for H:: "msg set" where
    Inj [intro]: "x∈ H ⇒ x∈ parts H"
  |Fst: "{x,y} ∈ parts H ⇒ x∈ parts H"
  |Snd: "{x,y} ∈ parts H ⇒ y∈ parts H"
  |Body: "Crypt k x∈ parts H ⇒ x∈ parts H"

```

The  $\text{parts}$  operator can be used to define the subterm relation  $\sqsubset$ :  $h_1 \sqsubset h_2 \equiv h_1 \in \text{parts}\{h_2\}$ . Note that  $k$  is not considered as occurring in  $\{g\}_k$  unless  $k$  is a part of  $g$ .

Similarly,  $\text{analz } H$  is defined to be the least set including  $H$  and closed under projection and decryption by known keys. Note that we use  $\text{invKey } k$  to formally denote the inverse key of  $\text{Key } k$  in our formalization.

```

inductive_set analz:: "msg set⇒msg set"
  for H :: "msg set" where
    Inj [intro,simp] : "x∈ H ⇒ x∈ analz H"
  |Fst: "{x,y} ∈ analz H ⇒ x∈ analz H"
  |Snd: "{x,y} ∈ analz H ⇒ y∈ analz H"
  |Decrypt [dest]: "[Crypt k x∈ analz H;
    Key (invKey k)∈analz H]⇒x∈ analz H"

```

The set  $\text{synth } H$  models the messages a spy could build up from elements of  $H$  by repeatedly adding agent names, forming compound messages and encrypting with keys contained in  $H$ .  $\text{synth } H$  is defined to be the least set that includes  $H$ , agents, and is closed under pairing and encryption.

```

inductive_set synth:: "msg set⇒msg set"
  for H :: "msg set" where
    Inj [intro,simp] : "x∈ H ⇒ x∈ synth H"
  |Fst: "[x∈ synth H; y∈ synth H ]⇒ {x,y} ∈ synth H"
  |Encrypt [dest]: "[k∈ synth H;
    x∈synth H]⇒Crypt k x∈ synth H"

```

A protocol's behavior is specified as the set of possible traces of events. A trace model is concrete and easy to explain. A trace is a sequence of events. An event is of the form:  $\text{Says } A \ B \ m$ , which means that  $A$  sends  $B$  the message  $m$ . For an event  $ev = \text{Says } A \ B \ m$ , we define  $\text{msgPart } ev \equiv m$ ,  $\text{sender } ev \equiv A$ ,  $\text{receiver } ev \equiv B$  to represent the message, sender and receiver of the event  $ev$ , respectively. Function  $\text{initState } A$  specifies agent  $A$ 's initial knowledge. Typically, an agent's initial knowledge consists of its private key and the public keys of all agents.

The function  $\text{knows } A \ tr$  describes the set of messages which  $A$  can observe from the trace  $tr$  in addition to his initial knowledge. Formally,

```

knows A [] = initState A
knows A ((Says A' B m)#evs) =
  if (A=Spy) ∨ (A'=A) ∨ (A=B)
  then {m} ∪ knows A evs
  else knows A evs

```

The set used  $evs$  formalizes the notion of freshness. The set includes the set of the parts of the messages sent in the network as well as all messages held initially by any agent.

```

used [] = ∪ B. parts (initState B)
used ((Says A B m)#evs) = parts{m} ∪ used evs

```

The function  $\text{noncesOf } msg \equiv \{m.\exists n.m \sqsubset msg \wedge m = \text{Nonce } n\}$  defines the set of nonces occurring in the message  $msg$ . The formula  $\text{originates } A \ m \ tr$  means that  $A$  originates a fresh message  $m$  in the trace  $tr$ .

```
originates A m [] = False
originates A m ((Says A' B' msg)#evs) =
  if (originates A m evs)
  then True
  else if (m ⊑ msg ∧ A=A') then True
  else False
```

The predicate  $\text{sends } A \ m \ tr$  means that  $A$  sends a message  $m$  in an event of the trace  $tr$ . Formally,

```
sends A m [] = False
sends A m ((Says A' B' msg)#evs) =
  if (m ⊑ msg ∧ A=A') then True
  else sends A m evs
```

We define  $\text{regularOrig } m \ tr$  to represent that a message  $m$  is originated by an honest agent. Formally,  $\text{regularOrig } m \ tr \equiv \forall A.\text{originates } A \ m \ tr \longrightarrow A \notin \text{bad}$ . The predicate  $\text{nonceDisj } m \ tr$  specifies that the nonces of message  $m$  are disjoint with any other messages occurring in the trace  $tr$ . Namely, if nonces of any message  $m'$  are not disjoint with those of  $m$ , then  $m = m'$ .

```
definition nonceDisj::"msg ⇒ trace ⇒ bool"
  where nonceDisj m tr ≡ ∀ A M m'.
    Says A M m' ∈ (set tr)
    ∧ (noncesOf m' ∩ noncesOf m ≠ ∅) ⟶ m'=m
```

We define  $\text{single\_valued } r$  as  $\forall x y. (x, y) \in r \longrightarrow (\forall z. (x, z) \in r \longrightarrow y = z)$ . Obviously, if  $\text{single\_valued } r$ , then a function  $f$  from the domain of  $r$  to range of  $r$  can be derived by  $f \ x = y$  if  $(x, y) \in r$ ; otherwise  $f \ x = x$ . If  $\text{single\_valued } r^{-1}$  also holds, then such  $f$  is a bijection.

Next we define a set of special lists:  $\text{distinctList}$ . If  $tr \in \text{distinctList}$ ,  $i, j < \text{length } tr$ , and  $i \neq j$ , then we have  $tr_i \neq tr_j$ . Here,  $tr_i$  is the  $i$ -th element of the list  $tr$ . Namely, two elements of  $tr$  are different.

```
inductive_set distinctList::('a list) set where
  nilDiff: "[] ∈ distinctList"
| consDiff: "[|tr ∈ distinctList;
  ∀ l. l ∈ (set tr) ⟶ l ≠ a|] ⟹ (a#tr) ∈ distinctList"
```

### 3.2. Intruder model

We discuss anonymity properties based on observations of the intruder. In this section, we explain our intruder model. Dolev-Yao intruder model [16] is considered standard in the field of formal symbolic analysis of security protocols. In this model the network is completely under the control of the intruder: all messages sent on the network are read by the intruder; all received messages on the network are created or forwarded by the intruder; the intruder can also remove messages from the network. However, in the analysis of anonymity protocols, often a weaker attacker model is assumed – the intruder is *passive* in the sense that he observes all network traffic, but does not actively modify the messages or inject new messages. Therefore, we only need one kind of event  $\text{Says } A \ B \ x$  in our theory, which means that  $A$  sends a message  $x$  to  $B$ , and  $B$  receives the message. This semantics is subtly different from [36], where  $A$  intends to send a message  $x$  to  $B$ , but  $B$  does not necessarily receive the message. Besides, the intruder can analyze the messages that he has observed, which is modeled by the operator  $\text{analz}$ . In the later sections on case studies, we will point out that some anonymity properties cannot be kept if we have the Dolev-Yao intruder model instead.

Contrary to the intruder, the regular agents are not necessarily aware of all the events. We adopt the

convention that they only see the events in which they are involved as either sender or receiver. According to the above arguments, we can formalize the notion of visible part of a trace.

```

view A [] = []" |
view A ((Says A' B x)#evs) =
  if A = Spy then (Says A' B x)# evs
  else if (A'=A ∨ B=A) then ((Says A' B x) # (view A evs))
  else (view A evs)

```

#### 4. Message Distinguishability

In this section, we focus on modeling the ability for an agent to distinguish two received messages based on his knowledge. In principle, an agent can uniquely identify any plain-text message he observes. Furthermore, an agent can distinguish any encrypted message for which he possesses the decryption key, or which he can construct himself. Formally, if  $m$  and  $m'$  are of different type of messages, for instance, if  $m = \text{Agent } A$  and  $m' = \text{Nonce } n$ , the agent can immediately tell the difference. If both  $m$  and  $m'$  are composed messages, namely,  $m = \{m_1, m_2\}$  and  $m' = \{m'_1, m'_2\}$ , the agent can distinguish  $m$  and  $m'$  if he either distinguishes  $m_1$  from  $m'_1$  or  $m_2$  from  $m'_2$ . If  $m = \{x\}_{k_1}$  and  $m' = \{y\}_{k_2}$ , then the agent must use the knowledge  $Kn$  he possesses to decide whether the two messages are different. There are five cases as shown below:

1. Both  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are in  $Kn$ ,  $x$  and  $y$  are in  $Kn$  as well, and the agent can distinguish  $x$  and  $y$ , then he can tell the difference between  $m$  and  $m'$  as he knows that  $m$  and  $m'$  are different encrypted messages containing different plain texts.
2. Both  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  are in  $Kn$ ,  $x, y$  are in  $Kn$  as well, and the agent can distinguish  $k_1$  and  $k_2$  but not  $x$  and  $y$ , then he also can tell the difference between  $m$  and  $m'$  as he knows that  $m$  and  $m'$  are different messages encrypted by different keys.
3. Both  $x$  and  $k_1$  are in  $Kn$ , and the agent knows that he can construct  $m$  from  $x$  and  $k_1$ . However, either  $y$  or  $k_2$  is *not* in  $Kn$ . The agent can also tell the difference between  $m$  and  $m'$  as  $m$  can be constructed by himself, but  $m'$  cannot be constructed by himself.
4. If  $k_1^{-1}, k_2^{-1} \in Kn$ , and the agent can distinguish  $x$  and  $y$ , then he also can tell the difference between  $m$  and  $m'$  as he knows that  $m$  and  $m'$  can be decrypted into different messages by using  $k_1^{-1}$  and  $k_2^{-1}$ .
5. If  $k_1^{-1}$  is in  $Kn$ , and  $k_1^{-1} \neq k_2^{-1}$ , then there are two subcases, (1) either  $k_2^{-1} \in Kn$ , thus the agent can tell the difference between them as he knows that the two messages can be decrypted by using different keys; (2) or  $k_2^{-1} \notin Kn$ , thus the agent can also tell the difference between them as he knows that  $m$  can be decrypted but  $m'$  cannot be decrypted.

We capture the above ideas by the following formalization in Isabelle/HOL.

```

definition basicDiff:: "msg⇒msg⇒bool"
where "basicDiff m m' ≡
  case m of (Agent a) ⇒ m ≠ m'
  | (Number n) ⇒ m ≠ m'
  | (Nonce n) ⇒ m ≠ m'
  | (Key k) ⇒ m ≠ m'
  | (MPair m1 m2) ⇒ ∀ m1' m2' . m' ≠ (MPair m1' m2')
  | (Crypt k n) ⇒ ∀ k' n' . m' ≠ (Crypt k' n')
inductive_set Diff:: "msg set ⇒ (msg×msg) set"
for Kn:: "msg set" where
basic:"[x∈Kn; y∈Kn; basicDiff x y]
⇒ (x,y)∈ Diff Kn"
| MPLDiff:"[w∈Kn; z∈Kn; (x,y)∈Diff Kn]
⇒ (MPair x w, MPair y z)∈Diff Kn"
| MPRDiff:"[w∈Kn; z∈Kn; (x,y)∈Diff Kn]
⇒ (MPair w x, MPair z y)∈Diff Kn"
| CryptDiff1:"[(Key k1∈Kn); (Key k2∈Kn); (x,y)∈Diff Kn]
⇒ (Crypt k1 x, Crypt k2 y)∈Diff Kn"
| CryptDiff2:"[x∈Kn; y∈Kn; (Key k1,Key k2)∈Diff Kn]
⇒ (Crypt k1 x, Crypt k2 y)∈Diff Kn"
| CryptDiff3:"[y∉Kn∨Key k2 ∉ Kn; x∈Kn; Key k1 ∈ Kn; Crypt k2 y∈Kn]
⇒ (Crypt k1 x, Crypt k2 y)∈Diff Kn"
| CryptDiff4:"[y∉Kn∨Key k2 ∉ Kn; x∈Kn; Key k1 ∈ Kn; Crypt k2 y∈Kn]
⇒ (Crypt k2 y, Crypt k1 x)∈Diff Kn"
| DeCryptDiff1:"[(Crypt k1 x)∈Kn; (Crypt k2 y)∈Kn;
(Key (invKey k1)∈Kn); (Key (invKey k2)∈Kn); (x,y)∈Diff Kn]
⇒ (Crypt k1 x, Crypt k2 y)∈Diff Kn"
| DeCryptDiff2:"[(Crypt k1 x)∈Kn; (Crypt k2 y)∈Kn;
(Key (invKey k1)∈Kn; (Key (invKey k1))≠(Key (invKey k2)))]
⇒ (Crypt k1 x, Crypt k2 y)∈Diff Kn"
| DeCryptDiff3:"[(Crypt k1 x)∈Kn; (Crypt k2 y)∈Kn;
(Key (invKey k1)∈Kn; (Key (invKey k1))≠(Key (invKey k2)))]
⇒ (Crypt k2 y, Crypt k1 x)∈Diff Kn"

```

Note that rules `CryptDiff3` and `CryptDiff4` are two symmetric subcases of case 3, and rules `DeCryptDiff2` and `DeCryptDiff3` are two subcases of case 5.

In this paper, when we discuss  $\text{Diff } Kn$ , we always assume that  $Kn$  is a closure set under the  $\text{analz}$  and then  $\text{synth}$  operators. Namely,  $Kn = \text{synth}(\text{analz } Kn)$  for some message set  $Kn$  which is directly observed from network traffics.

**Example 1.** Let  $m = \{\{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ , and  $m' = \{\{\text{Nonce } n'\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ , with  $n \neq n'$ . We also assume  $Kn = \text{synth}(\text{analz}\{\text{Key}(\text{priK } B), m, m'\})$ . We have  $(m, m') \in \text{Diff } Kn$  by applying rule `basic` and rule `CryptDiff`.

In Example 1, the two messages  $m$  and  $m'$  are two encrypted messages by the same key  $\text{pubK } B$ , if the key  $\text{pubK } B$  is in  $Kn$ , then the two messages can be decrypted and distinguished.

**Example 2.** Let  $n'_0 \neq n$ ,  $n'_0 \neq n'$ ,  $n \neq n'$ ,  $A \neq B$ ,  $n_0 \neq n$ ,  $n_0 \neq n'$ ,  $m = \{\{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ ,  $m' = \{\{\text{Nonce } n'\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ ,  $m_0 = \{\{m\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ ,  $m'_0 = \{\{m'\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ ,  $m_1 = \{\{\text{Nonce } n_0, m_0\}\}$ ,  $m'_1 = \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0, m'_0\}\}$ ,  $m_2 = \{\{\text{Agent } B, m_1\}_{\text{pubK } A}\}$ ,  $m'_2 = \{\{\text{Agent } B, m'_1\}_{\text{pubK } A}\}$ . If  $Kn = \text{synth}(\text{analz}\{\{m_0, m'_0, m_2, m'_2, \text{Key}(\text{pubK } A), \text{Key}(\text{pubK } B), \text{Key}(\text{priK } B)\})$ , then we have  $(m_2, m'_2) \notin \text{Diff } Kn$ .

In Example 2, as  $\text{priK } B$ ,  $m_0$  and  $m'_0$  are in  $Kn$ , thus  $\text{Nonce } n \in Kn$  and  $\text{Nonce } n' \in Kn$ . The conditions  $n_0 \neq n$  and  $n_0 \neq n'$  eliminate the possibility of the case when  $\text{Nonce } n_0 \in Kn$ . Similarly, we can derive that  $\text{Nonce } n'_0 \notin Kn$ .



**Table 1.** Two non-alignment message sequences

$msgSq$	$msgSq'$
$m$	$m'$
$m$	$m''$

We then introduce the notion of observational equivalence between messages which is naturally defined as the negation of message distinguishability. If an agent cannot distinguish two messages  $m$  and  $m'$ , then the two messages are observationally equivalent to the agent.

```
msgEq: "msg set=>msg=>msg=>bool"
      "msgEq Know m1 m2 ≡ (m1, m2) ∉ Diff Know"
```

Obviously, observational equivalence between messages w.r.t. a knowledge set  $Kn$  is reflexive, symmetric and transitive, which are captured by the following three lemmas.

**Lemma 1.**  $msgEq Kn m m$

**Lemma 2.**  $msgEq Kn m m' \implies msgEq Kn m' m$

**Lemma 3.**  $\llbracket msgEq Kn m_1 m_2; msgEq Kn m_2 m_3 \rrbracket \implies msgEq Kn m_1 m_3$

## 5. Alignment between Message Sequences

An immediate idea is to lift the observation equivalence directly to two message sequences by imposing the requirement that each corresponding message pair in the two sequences should be observationally equivalent. However, it is subtle to define the observational equivalence between two message sequences. For instance, there are two runs  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  of a protocol, as shown in Table 1. Let  $Kn = \text{synth}(\text{anlaz } \{m, m', m''\})$ ,  $m \neq m'$ . Even if we have  $msgEq Kn m m'$  and  $msgEq Kn m m''$ ,  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  should still be different from an observer's view, because the same message  $m$  occurs twice in  $msgSq$  while two different messages  $m'$  and  $m''$  occur in the corresponding positions of  $msgSq'$ .

In order to define observational equivalence between two traces (see Sect. 6), we propose an additional requirement, called “alignment”, on two message sequences. The intuitive idea of our alignment requirement is that the relation, composed of corresponding message pairs in two message sequences, should be single-valued. Alignment requires that a message should have only one interpretation when we map messages from a message sequence to the other message sequence. Furthermore, single-valued requirement should remain valid after applying the analyzing operation (e.g., decryption and separation) and synthesizing operation (e.g., encryption and concatenation) pair-wisely on the message pairs in the two message lists of the two message sequences. This matches well with the reinterpretation function as defined in [21].

From Examples 3 to 5, we use two message sequences  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  to explain the above two requirements. Below  $n_0, n_1, n'_0, n'_1$  are pairwise different nonces.

**Example 3.** If  $\text{priK } B$  and  $\text{priK } B'$  are not compromised, then  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  as shown in Table 2 are different, as the intruder can decrypt the first and second messages and compare them with the third and fourth messages in the above message sequences. (After applying the decryption operation to the first messages pairwise in the two message sequences, the intruder obtains a new pair  $(\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}, \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\})$ . But this pair and  $(\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}, \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\})$  contradicts with the single-valued requirement.)

**Example 4.** If  $\text{priK } B$  and  $\text{priK } B'$  and  $\text{priK } M$  are not compromised, then  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  as shown in Table 3 are different, as the intruder can encrypt the third and fourth messages and compare them with the first and second messages in the above two sequences. (After applying the encryption operation to third messages pairwise in the two message sequences, the intruder obtains a new pair of the following form  $(\{\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}, \{\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\})$ . But this pair and  $(\{\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}, \{\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\})$  contradicts with the single-valued requirement.)

**Table 2.** Two non-alignment message sequences for Example 3

$msgSq$	$msgSq'$
$\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{priK } M}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{priK } M}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}$	$\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{priK } M}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{priK } M}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}$

**Table 3.** Two non-alignment message sequences for Example 4

$msgSq$	$msgSq'$
$\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}$	$\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}$ $\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}$

**Example 5.** If  $\text{priK } B$  and  $\text{priK } B'$  and  $\text{priK } M$  are not compromised,  $msgSq$  and  $msgSq'$  as shown in Table 4 should be equivalent w.r.t. an intruder as all the messages cannot be analyzed and the linkage of messages in a trace cannot be established.

More formally, we first inductively define two more operators `analz_pairs` and `synth_pairs` to formalize the pairwise analyzing and synthesizing operations on the message pairs between two sets of message pairs.

```

inductive_set analz_pairs::"(msg×msg) set⇒msg set⇒(msg×msg) set"
for r ::"(msg×msg) set" and Kn::"msg set"
where rAtom [intro]: "[[x,y]:r]⇒(x,y)∈analz_pairs r Kn"
| MPairL_closure [intro]: "[[({x,y},{x',y'})]∈analz_pairs r Kn]
⇒(x,x')∈analz_pairs r Kn"
| MPairR_closure [intro]: "[[({x,y},{x',y'})]∈analz_pairs r Kn]
⇒(y,y')∈analz_pairs r Kn"
| deCrypt_closure [intro]: "[[(Crypt k x,Crypt k x')∈analz_pairs r Kn;
Key (invKey k)∈Kn] ⇒(x,x')∈analz_pairs r Kn"

```

```

inductive_set synth_pairs::"(msg ×msg) set⇒msg set⇒(msg×msg) set"
for r ::"(msg×msg) set" and Kn::"msg set"
where basicAtom [intro]: "[[x∈Kn; isAtom x]⇒(x,x)∈synth_pairs r Kn"
| rAtom [intro]: "[[(x,y)∈r]⇒(x,y)∈synth_pairs r Kn"
| MPair_closure [intro]: "[[(x,x')∈synth_pairs r Kn;
(y,y')∈synth_pairs r Kn]⇒([x,y],[x',y'])∈synth_pairs r Kn"
| Crypt_closure [intro]: "[[(x,x')∈synth_pairs r Kn; Key k∈Kn]
⇒(Crypt k x, Crypt k x')∈synth_pairs r Kn"

```

**Table 4.** Two alignment message sequences for Example 5

$msgSq$	$msgSq'$
$\{\{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } B, \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n_1, \text{Agent } B', \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}$	$\{\{\text{Nonce } n_1, \text{Agent } B', \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } B, \{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_0\}_{\text{pubK } B}\}$ $\{\{\text{Nonce } n'_1\}_{\text{pubK } B'}\}$

The following lemma gives a sufficient condition for the existence of a function mapping, which is naturally derived from `synth_pairs r Kn` provided that `r` is single-valued.

**Lemma 4.**  $\llbracket \text{single\_valued } r; (x, y) \in (\text{synth\_pairs } r \text{ } Kn); (x', y') \in \text{synth\_pairs } r \text{ } Kn; x = x'; \forall m \ m' \ m''. (m, m'') \in \text{synth\_pairs } r \text{ } Kn \longrightarrow ((m, m') \in r \longrightarrow m' = m'') \rrbracket \implies y = y'$

We cannot establish a similar result for the `analz_pairs` operator. For instance, let  $r = \{(\{\text{Nonce } n, \text{Nonce } n\}, \{\text{Nonce } n, \text{Nonce } n'\})\}$ . It is easy to verify that  $\text{analz\_pairs } r \text{ } Kn = \{(\text{Nonce } n, \text{Nonce } n), (\text{Nonce } n, \text{Nonce } n')\}$ . We have `single_valued r` and  $\forall m \ m' \ m''. (m, m'') \in \text{analz\_pairs } r \text{ } Kn \longrightarrow (m, m') \in r \longrightarrow m' = m''$ . But `analz_pairs r Kn` is not single-valued.

## 6. Observational Equivalence between Traces

Now we can lift observational equivalence to traces with the concepts of observational equivalence between messages and alignment between two message sequences: two sequences of messages in two traces look the same to an observer if a message in one sequence is observationally equivalent to the corresponding message in the other sequence w.r.t. the knowledge which the observer has obtained from the two traces. Besides the requirement on the message parts of the two traces, we require that the sender and receiver of an event in one trace is the same as those of the corresponding event in the other trace. For events  $ev_1$  and  $ev_2$ , we define  $\text{SRMatch } ev_1 \ ev_2 \equiv (\text{sender } ev_1 = \text{sender } ev_2) \wedge (\text{receiver } ev_1 = \text{receiver } ev_2)$ . For two traces  $tr$  and  $tr'$ ,  $\text{SRMatchL } tr \ tr' \equiv \text{length } tr = \text{length } tr' \wedge \forall i. i < \text{length } tr \longrightarrow \text{SRMatch } tr_i \ tr'_i$ . The predicate  $\text{SRMatchL } tr \ tr'$  means that each event  $tr_i$  has the same sender and receiver as its corresponding event  $tr'_i$  and the two traces have the same length.

Two traces  $tr$  and  $tr'$  are observationally equivalent ( $tr \approx_A tr'$ ), if the following conditions are satisfied:

- $tr$  and  $tr'$  have the same length; and for all events in  $tr_i$ , the senders and receivers of  $tr_i$  are the same as those of  $tr'_i$ .
- $\text{msgPart } tr_i$  and  $\text{msgPart } tr'_i$  are observationally equivalent w.r.t. the knowledge obtained after observing the two traces.
- `single_valued r` and `single_valued r-1` guarantee that an agent cannot reinterpret any event differently, where  $r$  ( $r^{-1}$ ) is the sequence of message pairs obtained from  $tr$  and  $tr'$  ( $tr'$  and  $tr$ ) after applying the operations `analz_pairs` and `synth_pairs`.

The corresponding formalization in Isabelle/HOL is given below.

```

definition obsEquiv::"agent⇒trace⇒trace⇒bool"
  where "obsEquiv A tr tr'≡
    let vtr=view A tr in let vtr'=view A tr' in
    let msgSq=map msgPart vtr in let msgSq'=map msgPart vtr' in
    (set msgSq)=(set msgSq') ∧ length vtr=length vtr' ∧ SRMatchL vtr vtr' ∧
    (let H=set (zip msgSq msgSq') in
    let Kn=synth (analz (knows A vtr)) in
    (∀x y. (x,y)∈ H ⟶ msgEq Kn x y) ∧
    (let r=synth_pairs (analz_pairs H Kn) Kn in
    (single_valued r ∧ single_valued (r-1)))")

```

**Remark 1.** In the work of Garcia et al. [21], a reinterpretation function between two message sequences is used as an underlining concept. However, no one has formally argued when such a function exists and how it can be derived. In our work, the alignment requirement between the two message sequences gives a sufficient condition for the existence of a reinterpretation function. Moreover, the two operators `analz_pairs` and `synth_pairs` give a mechanical way to derive such a function. Note that if both `single_valued r` and `single_valued (r-1)`, we can naturally construct a bijection function between the domain of  $r$  to its range.

## 7. Epistemic Operators and Anonymity Properties

Using the observational equivalence relations over a trace set of possible worlds, we can formally introduce epistemic operators [21] as follows:

```
constdefs box::"agent⇒trace⇒trace set⇒ assertOfTrace⇒bool"
  "box A tr trs Assert≡ ∀tr'.tr'∈trs→obsEquiv A tr tr' →(Assert tr')"

constdefs diamond::"agent⇒trace⇒trace set⇒ assertOfTrace⇒bool"
  "diamond A tr trs Assert≡ ∃tr'.tr'∈trs ∧obsEquiv A tr tr' ∧(Assert tr')"
```

For notation convenience, we write  $tr \models \Box A trs \varphi$  for  $\text{box } A tr trs \varphi$ , and  $tr \models \Diamond A trs \varphi$  for  $\text{diamond } A tr trs \varphi$ . Note that  $\varphi$  is a predicate on a trace. Intuitively,  $tr \models \Box A trs \varphi$  means that for any trace  $tr'$  in  $trs$ , if  $tr'$  is observationally equivalent to  $tr$  for agent  $A$ , then  $tr'$  satisfies the assertion  $\varphi$ . On the other hand,  $tr \models \Diamond A trs \varphi$  means that there is a trace  $tr'$  in  $trs$ ,  $tr'$  is observationally equivalent to  $tr$  for agent  $A$  and  $tr'$  satisfies the assertion  $\varphi$ . Now we can formulate some information hiding properties in our epistemic language. We use the standard notion of an anonymity set: it is a collection of agents among which a given agent is not identifiable. The larger this set is, the more anonymous an agent is.

### 7.1. Sender anonymity

Suppose that  $tr$  is a trace of a protocol in which a message  $m$  is originated by some agent. We say that  $tr$  provides sender anonymity w.r.t. the anonymity set  $AS$  and a set of possible runs in the view of  $B$  if it satisfies the following condition:

```
constdefs senderAnomity::"agent set⇒agent⇒msg⇒ trace⇒trace set⇒bool"
  "senderAnomity AS B m tr trs≡ (∀X.X∈AS→ tr \models\Diamond B trs (originates X m))"
```

Here,  $AS$  is the set of agents who are under consideration, and  $trs$  is the set of all the traces which  $B$  can observe. Intuitively, this definition means that each agent in  $AS$  can originate  $m$  in a trace of  $trs$ . Therefore, this means that  $B$  cannot be sure of anyone who originates this message.

### 7.2. Unlinkability

We say that a trace  $tr$  provides unlinkability for user  $A$  and a message  $m$  w.r.t. the anonymity set  $AS$  if

```
constdefs unlinkability::"agent set⇒agent⇒msg⇒ trace⇒trace set⇒bool"
  "unlinkability AS A m tr trs≡
  (let P= λX m' tr. originates X m' tr in
   (¬(tr \models\Box Spy trs (P A m))) ∧ senderAnomity AS A m tr trs"
```

where the left side of the conjunction means that the intruder is not certain whether  $A$  has sent the message  $m$ , while the right side means that every other user could have sent  $m$ .

All the definitions, lemmas, and proofs in this section are implemented in a formal theory `anonymity.thy`, which provides a mechanized library for anonymity protocol analysis. This theory comprises 2,462 lines. Its execution needs only 40 seconds. We make these Isabelle codes available at [29]. Our experiments are performed on the 64-bit Isabelle-2012 version, which is run on the Sugon 64-bit computing server platform which has a 160-multicore Intel Xeon CPU with 2.40GHz.

## 8. Case Study I: Crowds

The Crowds system [38] is a system for performing anonymous web transactions based on the idea that anonymity can be provided by hiding in a crowd. For simplicity reasons, we only model the request part as

specified in [21]: when an agent wants to send a request to a server, he randomly selects a user from a crowd of users and asks this user to forward the request for him to the server; and this user then either forwards the request to the server, or selects another random user from the crowd to do the forwarding. The specification of Crowds is shown as below:

```

inductive_set Crowds:: trace set where
CrowdsNil: [] ∈ (Crowds)
| CrowdsInit: [[tr∈Crowds; Nonce n∉(used tr);R≠Server; A≠Server]]
    ⇒Says A R {Agent Server, Nonce n}#tr∈Crowds
| CrowdsRelay: [[tr∈Crowds; Says R R' {Agent Server, Nonce n}∈set tr;
    R'≠Server; R''≠Server]]
    ⇒Says R' R'' {Agent Server, Nonce n}#tr∈Crowds
| CrowdsSend: [[tr∈Crowds; Says R R' {Agent Server, Nonce n}∈set tr;
    R'≠Server; ∀R'. Says R' Server (Nonce n)∉set tr ]]
    ⇒Says R' Server (Nonce n)#tr∈Crowds

```

In the above formalization, rule `crowdNil` specifies an empty trace. The other rules specify trace's extension with protocol steps. More precisely,

- rule `CrowdsInit` models that an agent  $A$ , who is not the `Server`, originates a requests. Here, we model new requests as fresh nonces. The agent randomly selects a user  $R$  from a crowd of users and asks this user to forward the request for him to the `Server`;
- rule `CrowdsRelay` specifies that a relay  $R'$  selects another random user  $R''$  again from the crowd to do the forwarding. Here, we simply require that  $R''$  is not the `Server`;
- rule `CrowdsSend` models that a relay  $R'$  forwards the request to the `Server`. Here, the requirement  $\forall R'. \text{Says } R' \text{ Server (Nonce } n) \notin \text{set } tr$  specifies that no other user has sent the request to the `Server` before.

The following lemma simply states the fact that a request forwarded to the server must be initiated by an agent before.

**Lemma 5.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{Crowds}; \text{Says } R \text{ Server (Nonce } n) \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies \exists A B. \text{Says } A B \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \in \text{set } tr$

Suppose that there exists an event  $\text{Says } A B \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$  occurring in a trace  $tr$ , then there exist two subtrace  $tr_1$  and  $tr_2$ , two agents  $A'$  and  $B'$  such that  $tr = tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2)$  and the subtrace  $tr_2$  does not contain any event whose message is of the form  $\{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$ . We can prove it simply by induction on  $tr$ .

**Lemma 6.**  $\llbracket \text{Says } A B \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies \exists tr_1 tr_2 A' B'. tr = tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2) \wedge (\forall A B. \text{Says } A B \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \notin \text{set } tr_2)$

By the above two lemmas, and since  $\{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$  does not occur in  $tr_2$ , thus we can know that the agent  $A'$  originates the nonce  $n$ .

**Lemma 7.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{Crowds}; \text{Says } R \text{ Server (Nonce } n) \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies \exists A. \text{originates } A \text{ (Nonce } n) \text{ } tr$

Assume that  $tr = tr_1 @ \text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2$  is a trace in `Crowds`, and the message  $\{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$  does not occur in  $tr_2$ . Namely,  $A'$  is the agent who originates the request  $\{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$ . We can add a new event  $\text{Says } A A' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \}$  before  $tr_2$ . Then the new trace  $tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# \text{Says } A A' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2)$  is still a valid trace in `Crowds`. This is formulated in the next lemma, which is crucial to prove sender anonymity for agent  $A'$  as another agent  $A$  seems possible for the observer to initiate the request as well. This is due to the fact that the newly constructed trace is valid in the `Crowds` system.

**Lemma 8.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{crowd}; tr = tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2); (\forall A B. \text{Says } A B \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \notin \text{set } tr_2) \rrbracket \implies tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' B' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# \text{Says } A A' \{ \text{Agent Server, Nonce } n \} \# tr_2) \in \text{Crowds}$

Suppose that the **Server** receives a request (identified by a nonce  $\text{Nonce } n$ ), then the **Server** cannot be sure of which agent originates the request. That is to say, the sender anonymity holds for the **Server** w.r.t any anonymity agent set not containing the **Server**.

**Lemma 9.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{Crowds}; \text{Says } R \text{ Server } (\text{Nonce } n) \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies$   
 $\text{senderAnonymity } \{A.A \neq \text{Server}\} \text{ Server } (\text{Nonce } n) \text{ } tr \text{ Crowds}$

*Proof.* By unfolding the definition of `senderAnonymity`, for any agent  $X$  such that  $X \neq \text{Server}$ , we need to find a trace  $tr'$  such that  $tr' \in \text{Crowds}$ ,  $\text{obsEquiv Server } tr \text{ } tr'$  and  $\text{originates } X (\text{Nonce } n) \text{ } tr'$ . By  $\text{Says } R \text{ Server } (\text{Nonce } n) \in \text{set } tr$  and Lemma 7, there exists an agent  $A$  such that  $\text{originates } A (\text{Nonce } n) \text{ } tr$ . There are two cases:

(1)  $A = X$ . Then we simply let  $tr' = tr$ .

(2)  $A \neq X$ . By  $\text{Says } R \text{ Server } (\text{Nonce } n) \in \text{set } tr$ , and Lemma 5, there exist agents  $A$  and  $B$  such that  $\text{Says } A \ B \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \in \text{set } tr$ . Then by Lemma 6, there exist  $tr_1, tr_2, A'$ , and  $B'$  such that  $tr$  can be transformed into  $tr_1 @ \text{Says } A' \ B' \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \# tr_2$ , and we have the fact that  $\forall C \ D. \text{Says } C \ D \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \notin \text{set } tr_2$ . Then we can construct  $tr'$  as  $tr_1 @ \text{Says } A' \ B' \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \ (\text{Says } X \ A' \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\}) \# tr_2$ . By Lemma 8, we have  $tr' \in \text{Crowds}$ . By Lemma 7,  $\text{originates } X (\text{Nonce } n) \text{ } tr'$ . Obviously, from the inductive definition of `Crowds`, we have  $A' \neq \text{Server}$ . It is easy to verify that  $\text{view Server } tr' = \text{view Server } tr$ . Then we can derive  $\text{obsEquiv Server } tr \text{ } tr'$ .  $\square$

The sender anonymity comes from the local view of the agent **Server**, and the nondeterministic choice of a relay who either forwards a request again or directly sends the request to the **Server**. However, for the **Spy**, who observes the global network traffic, the sender anonymity does not hold. Namely, the **Spy** can be sure of the agent who originates a request. This can be formalized and proved as Lemma 10.

**Lemma 10.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{Crowds}; tr = tr_1 @ (\text{Says } A' \ B' \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \# tr_2);$   
 $(\forall A \ B. \text{Says } A \ B \ \{\text{Agent Server, Nonce } n\} \notin \text{set } tr_2) \rrbracket \implies$   
 $\square \text{ Spy } tr \text{ Crowds } (\text{originates } A (\text{Nonce } n))$

Analyzing the `Crowds` system only took us 5 days. The proof script comprises 695 lines, and executes in 20 seconds.

## 9. Case Study II: Onion Routing

Onion Routing [22, 41] provides both sender and receiver anonymity for communication over the Internet and servers as the basis of the Tor network [15]. Its main idea is based on Chaum's mix cascades [7] that messages in Onion Routing have a layered encryption (thus called *onions*) and travel from source to destination via a sequence of proxies (called *onion routers*). Each onion router can decrypt (or peel) one layer of a received message and forward the remainder to the next onion router. In order to disguise the relations between incoming and outgoing messages, an onion router collects incoming messages until it has received  $k$  messages, and then permutes the messages and sends in batch to their intended receivers.

### 9.1. Modeling Onion Routing

In this paper, we model a simplified version of Onion Routing with only one onion router as done in [21]. We assume a set of users  $AS$  and one router  $M$ , with  $M \notin AS$ . We also assume that each agent can send a message before the router  $M$  launches a batch of forwarding process, and the router does not accept any message when it is forwarding.

```

inductive_set oneOnionSession:: "nat⇒agent⇒trace set"
for i::"nat" and M::"agent" where
  onionNil: "[ ] ∈ (oneOnionSession i M)"
  | onionCons1: "[tr ∈ (oneOnionSession i M); X ≠ M; Y ≠ M;
  Nonce n0 ∉ (used tr); Nonce n ∉ (used tr); length tr < i] ⇒
  Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})
  #tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M"
  | onionCons2: "[tr ∈ (oneOnionSession i M); X ≠ M;
  Nonce n ∉ (used tr); length tr < i] ⇒
  Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) (Nonce n)) #tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M"
  | onionCons3: "[tr ∈ (oneOnionSession i M); length tr ≥ i;
  Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)}) ∈ (set tr);
  Says M Y (Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)) ∉ (set tr)] ⇒
  Says M Y (Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)) #tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M"

```

In the above specification of Onion Routing, there are four induction rules. Rule `onionNil` specifies an empty trace. The other rules specify trace's extension with protocol steps. The ideas behind these induction rules (`onionCons1`, `onionCons2`, `onionCons3`) are explained as follows.

- If the length of the current trace is less than  $i$ , namely,  $M$  is still in the receiving status,  $X$  (or  $Y$ ) and  $M$  are distinct, and both  $n_0$  and  $n$  are fresh, an event `Says X M {Nonce  $n_0$ , Agent  $Y$ , {Nonce  $n$ }pubK Y}pubK M` can be added. This step means that  $X$  sends a message to  $M$  which will later be peeled and forwarded to  $Y$  by  $M$ .
- If the length of the current trace is less than  $i$ ,  $X$  and  $M$  are distinct, and  $n$  is fresh, then we can add an event `Says X M {Nonce  $n$ }pubK M`. This means that  $X$  sends a dummy message to  $M$  which will later be simply discarded.
- If the length of the current trace is greater than or equal to  $i$ , this means that  $M$  is in the forwarding status, and if a received message of the form `{Nonce  $n_0$ , Agent  $Y$ , {Nonce  $n$ }pubK Y}pubK M` has not been forwarded by the router yet, then we can add an event `Says M Y {Nonce  $n$ }pubK Y`. This step means that the router  $M$  forwards the peeled message to  $Y$ .

In our analysis, the intruder is passive in the sense that the spy (intruder) will not modify the network traffic. An active intruder can easily infer the receiver of a message  $m$  forwarded to some agent. He only needs to intercept any other message except for the message  $m$ , and replace them by dummy messages. Because all dummy messages will be discarded by the router, and only  $m$  will be peeled and forwarded to the intended receiver.

## 9.2. An overview our proof strategy

In the following sections, we will formalize and prove the anonymity properties of Onion Routing. Due to the complexity of the epistemic operators in property definitions, the proof is rather complicated. We give an overview of our formalization and the main proof steps.

We will formalize the sender anonymity and unlinkability of Onion Routing in the view of a `Spy` for a trace  $tr$  w.r.t. a set of honest agents and all possible traces. According to the definitions of epistemic operators, which are used in the definition of sender anonymity and unlinkability, we need to construct another trace  $tr'$  which satisfies the following two conditions:

- (1)  $tr'$  is still an Onion Routing trace, namely,  $tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .
- (2)  $tr'$  is observationally equivalent to  $tr$ . That is to say, `obsEquiv Spy tr tr'`. In order to show this, by the definition of `obsEquiv`, we need to prove four conditions. The first two conditions are straightforward, but the latter two are rather difficult: (i) `msgPart tri` and `msgPart tr'i` for any  $i < \text{length } tr$  are observationally equivalent w.r.t. the knowledge obtained after observing the two traces; (ii) the alignment requirements `single_valued r` and `single_valued r-1` where  $r$  is the sequence of message pairs obtained from  $tr$  and  $tr'$  after applying the operations `analz_pairs` and `synth_pairs`.

Sect. 9.4 formally introduces a function `swap ma mb tr`, which serves the purpose of constructing such an equivalent trace  $tr'$ . Here  $ma, mb$  are the messages sent to the router in the trace  $tr$ . Sect. 9.4.1 gives its formal definition and proves simple correspondence properties of the `swap` function. Sect. 9.4.2 proves the first condition (1). Sect. 9.4.3 devotes to the proof of the condition (2-ii), and Sect. 9.4.4 proves the condition (2-i), then completes the proof of (2). In order to prove (2-i), we need to prove properties such as secrecy and correspondence properties of Onion Routing, which are discussed in Sect. 9.3. After these, we finish the proofs of the two anonymity properties in Sect. 9.5.

### 9.3. Properties on protocol sessions

As mentioned before, whether two traces are observationally equivalent for an agent depends on the knowledge of the agent after his observation of the two traces. Therefore, we need to discuss some properties on the knowledge of the intruder. They are secrecy properties, and some regularity on the correspondence of the events in one protocol session of Onion Routing.

#### 9.3.1. Correspondence properties

The following lemma is about the correspondence of two events in a trace  $tr$ . If the router  $M$  forwards a message  $\{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}$ , then there exists an agent  $A$  who has sent  $\{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ .

**Lemma 11.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; \text{Says } M B \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \exists n_0. A.\text{Says } A M \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } M} \in \text{set } tr$

If  $\{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}$  is a submessage of a message which  $A$  sends to the router  $M$ , then  $\{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}$  is originated by  $A$ .

**Lemma 12.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; ma' = \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}; \text{Says } A M ma \in \text{set } tr; ma' \sqsubseteq ma \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{originates } A ma' tr$

#### 9.3.2. Uniqueness properties

Since an agent is required to originate fresh nonces when he sends a message to the router, thus if two events where agents send a message to the router  $M$ , either two events are exactly the same, or nonces used in the two events are disjoint.

**Lemma 13.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; \text{Says } X M ma; \text{Says } Y M mb \rrbracket$   
 $\implies (X = Y \wedge ma = mb) \vee (\text{noncesOf } ma \cap \text{noncesOf } mb) = \emptyset$

From Lemma 13, we can easily derive that once a nonce  $n$  occurs in a message sent by an agent  $X$ , then another agent  $Y$  cannot originate a message containing the same nonce  $n$ .

**Lemma 14.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; \text{Says } X M ma; X \neq Y; \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \sqsubseteq ma \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \neg \text{originates } Y (\{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}) tr$

As a consequence, the message of each event in a trace of the protocol is unique, namely two messages in two events in this trace are different.

**Lemma 15.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M \rrbracket \implies \text{map msgPart } tr \in \text{distinctList}$

With the above lemma, we can derive that the relation  $(\text{zip } (\text{map msgPart } tr) sq)$  must be `single_valued` if  $tr$  is in a trace of Onion Routing. Here, we use  $sq$  to indicate a message sequence of the same length.

**Lemma 16.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M \rrbracket \implies \text{single_valued } (\text{zip } (\text{map msgPart } tr) sq)$

#### 9.3.3. Secrecy properties

First we need to introduce a new predicate:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{nonLeakMsg } m M &\equiv \\ \forall B n_0 n. (m = (\text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } M) \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } B, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } B) (\text{Nonce } n) \}\!\})) & \\ \longrightarrow (B \notin \text{bad} \vee n_0 \neq n) & \end{aligned}$$



Predicate `nonLeakMsg m M` specifies that if a message  $m$  is of the form `Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent B, Crypt (pubK B) (Nonce n)}`, then either  $B \notin \text{bad}$  or  $n_0 \neq n$ . This specifies a non-leakage condition of nonce part  $n_0$  in a message of the form `Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent B, Crypt (pubK B) (Nonce n)}` which is sent to the router even if whose nonce part  $n$  will be forwarded to the intruder. The following lemma will explain the intuition behind this definition.

If both the router  $M$  and an agent  $B$  are honest, and  $B$  sends `{Nonce n0, Agent Y, {Nonce n}_{pubK Y}}_{pubK M}` to  $M$ , and `nonLeakMsg ma M` also holds, then `Nonce n0` cannot be analyzed by the intruder.

**Lemma 17.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; M \notin \text{bad}; B \notin \text{bad}; \text{Says } B M ma \in tr; ma = \{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } Y}\}_{\text{pubK } M}; \text{nonLeakMsg } ma M \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{Nonce } n_0 \notin \text{analz (knows Spy } tr)$

Similarly, provided that both  $M$  and  $B$  are honest, and  $B$  sends a dummy message `{Nonce n0}_{pubK M}` to  $M$ , then the intruder cannot get  $n_0$ .

**Lemma 18.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M; \text{Says } B M \{\text{Nonce } n_0\}_{\text{pubK } M} \in tr; M \notin \text{bad}; B \notin \text{bad} \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{Nonce } n_0 \notin \text{analz (knows Spy } tr)$

## 9.4. Message swapping

By its definition, to prove sender anonymity of an agent  $X$  in a trace  $tr$ , we need to show the existence of an observationally equivalent trace  $tr'$ . In this section, we present a method for the construction of an observationally equivalent trace.

### 9.4.1. The swap function

We first define a function `swap ma mb tr`, which returns another trace  $tr'$  satisfying the following conditions:

- (1) the sender and receiver of any event  $tr'_i$  in trace  $tr'$  are the same as in the corresponding event  $tr_i$  in  $tr$ ;
- (2) the message of any event in  $tr'$  is swapped as  $mb$  if the message of the corresponding event in  $tr$  is  $ma$ ;
- (3) the message of any event in  $tr'$  is swapped as  $ma$  if the message of the corresponding event in  $tr$  is  $mb$ ;
- (4) otherwise the message is kept unchanged.

```

consts swap :: "msg ⇒ msg ⇒ trace ⇒ trace"
primrec "swap ma mb [] = []"
swap ma mb (ev#tr) =
  case ev of Says A0 M0 ma0 ⇒
    (if (ma0=ma)
     then Says A0 M0 mb# swap ma mb tr)
    else if (ma0=mb)
     then Says A0 M0 ma# swap ma mb tr)
    else ev# (swap ma mb tr))

```

For a trace  $tr$  of Onion Routing, Fig. 1 illustrates the correspondence between  $tr$  and the function `swap ma mb tr`. In session 1, agent  $A$  ( $B$ ) communicates with  $C$  ( $D$ ), while agent  $A$  ( $B$ ) communicates with  $D$  ( $C$ ) in session 2. The correspondence between  $tr$  and `swap ma mb tr` is formalized as the lemma below.

**Lemma 19.** Let  $tr$  be a trace.

1.  $\llbracket (m_1, m_2) \in \text{set (zip (map msgPart } tr) (\text{map msgPart (swap } ma mb tr))} \rrbracket$   
 $\implies m_1 = m_2 \vee (m_1, m_2) = (ma, mb) \vee (m_1, m_2) = (mb, ma)$
2. `sendRecvMatchL tr (swap ma mb tr)`
3. `length (swap ma mb tr) = length tr`
4. `set (map msgpart tr) = set (map msgpart (swap mb ma tr))`
5. `swap ma mb tr = swap mb ma tr`
6.  $\llbracket (\text{Says } X M ma \in \text{set } tr) \rrbracket \implies \text{Says } X M mb \in \text{set (swap } ma mb tr)$
7.  $\llbracket (\text{Says } X M mb \in \text{set } tr) \rrbracket \implies \text{Says } X M ma \in \text{set (swap } ma mb tr)$

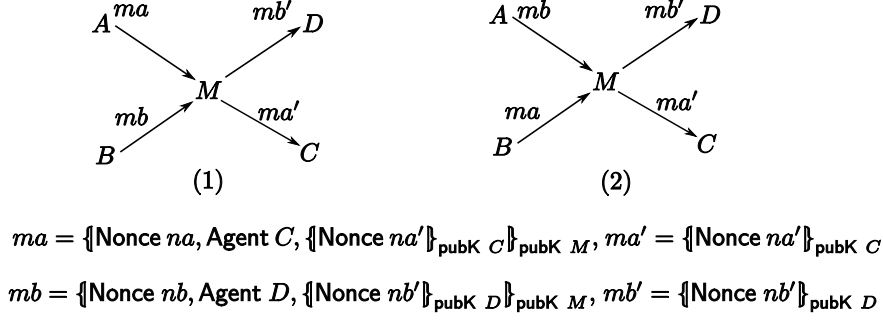


Fig. 1. An illustration of function swap.

8.  $\llbracket m \neq ma; m \neq mb; (\text{Says } X \ M \ m) \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies (\text{Says } X \ M \ m \in \text{set } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))$
9.  $\llbracket m \neq ma; m \neq mb; (\text{Says } X \ M \ m) \notin \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies (\text{Says } X \ M \ m \notin \text{set } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))$
10.  $\llbracket \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in tr; \forall ev. ev \in tr \longrightarrow (\exists A' \ B' \ m. ev = \text{Says } A' \ B' \ m) \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{map msgPart } tr = \text{map msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$
11.  $\llbracket \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in tr; \forall ev. ev \in tr \longrightarrow (\exists A' \ B' \ m. ev = \text{Says } A' \ B' \ m) \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{knows Spy } tr = \text{knows Spy } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$
12.  $\llbracket (\text{noncesOf } ma) \cap (\text{used } tr) = \emptyset; (\text{noncesOf } ma) \cap (\text{noncesOf } mb) = \emptyset; \text{nonceDisj } mb \ tr; \text{noncesOf } ma \neq \emptyset \rrbracket$   
 $\implies (\text{noncesOf } mb) \cap (\text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)) = \emptyset$
13.  $\llbracket (\text{noncesOf } m) \cap (\text{used } tr) = \emptyset; (\text{noncesOf } m) \cap (\text{noncesOf } mb) = \emptyset; (\text{noncesOf } m) \cap (\text{noncesOf } ma) = \emptyset \rrbracket$   
 $\implies (\text{noncesOf } m) \cap (\text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)) = \emptyset$

Let  $tr' = \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . In Lemma 19, part 1 says that the message of the event  $tr_i$  is almost the same as that of  $tr'_i$  except the case when the message is  $ma$  or  $mb$ . If the message sent in  $tr_i$  is  $ma$ , then the counterpart in  $tr'_i$  is  $mb$ , and vice versa. Part 2 says that each sender and receiver of each event  $tr_i$  is the same as those of  $tr'_i$ . Part 3 shows that  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  has the same length as  $tr$ . Part 4 says that messages observed from  $tr$  is the same as those of  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . Part 5 shows that the trace  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  is the same as  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . Part 6, part 7, part 8, and part 9 show some correspondence of an event occurring in  $tr$  and the corresponding one in  $tr'$ . Part 10 and part 11 show that if  $\text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in tr$ , and  $\text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in tr$ , for  $\text{Spy}$ , the set of messages and knowledge obtained from  $tr$  is the same as those from  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . Part 12 says that nonces of  $mb$  will be disjoint from those of  $\text{used } tr'$  if nonces of  $ma$  are disjoint from those of  $mb$ , nonces of  $ma$  are disjoint from  $\text{used } tr$ ,  $\text{nonceDisj } mb \ tr$ , and nonces of  $ma$  are not empty. Part 13 says that nonces of  $m$  will be disjoint from those of  $\text{used } tr'$  if nonces of  $m$  are disjoint from those of  $ma$ , nonces of  $m$  are disjoint from those of  $mb$ , and nonces of  $ma$  are disjoint from  $\text{used } tr$ .

#### 9.4.2. $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ is an Onion Routing trace

We first define a predicate  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr$  stating that nonces of  $ma$  are disjoint with any other message occurring in any  $tr'$  such that  $tr'$  is a prefix of the trace  $tr$  with length of  $tr' \leq i$ .

**definition**  $\text{nonceDisjUntil} :: \text{"msg} \Rightarrow \text{trace} \Rightarrow \text{nat} \Rightarrow \text{bool}"$  where  
 $\text{"nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i \equiv \forall tr'. (\text{length } tr' \leq i \wedge tr' \in \text{tails } tr \longrightarrow \text{nonceDisj } ma \ tr')"$

For a trace  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$  and an event  $\text{Says } A \ M \ m$  occurring in  $tr$ , we have  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ tr$ .

**Lemma 20.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ m \in \text{set } tr \rrbracket \implies \text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ tr$

If  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ (ev \# tr)$ , then  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ tr$ . This is easily derived as the following lemma.

**Lemma 21.**  $\llbracket \text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ (ev \# tr) \rrbracket \implies \text{nonceDisjUntil } m \ tr$

The next predicate  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } m \ M$  specifies that  $m$  is a message sent to the router  $M$ . Within this subsection, when we mention  $ma$  and  $mb$  (see lemmas below), we always mean that they satisfy the predicates  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma \ M$  and  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } mb \ M$ .

```

definition isRouterRecvMsg:: "msg ⇒ agent ⇒ bool" where
"isRouterRecvMsg m M ≡ (∃ n. m=Crypt (pubK M) (Nonce n)) ∨
(∃ n0 n Y. Y≠M ∧ m= Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})"

```

The predicate `bothContained` specifies that both  $ma$  and  $mb$  are contained in the messages of  $tr$  if the length of  $tr \geq i$ .

```

definition bothContained:: "trace ⇒ msg ⇒ msg ⇒ nat ⇒ agent ⇒ bool" where
"bothContained tr ma mb i M ≡ length tr ≥ i →
((∃ X . Says X M ma ∈ set tr) ∧ (∃ X. Says X M mb ∈ set tr))"

```

Next lemma specifies an invariant on a trace  $tr$  in `oneOnionSession`  $i$   $M$ , if both  $ma$  and  $mb$  are messages sent to the router  $M$ , nonces of  $ma$  and  $mb$  are disjoint, nonces of  $ma$  ( $mb$ ) are disjoint with any other message in any prefix  $tr'$  of  $tr$  whose length is less than or equal to  $i$ , both  $ma$  and  $mb$  are contained in the messages of  $tr$  with a length  $\geq i$ , then `swap`  $ma$   $mb$   $tr$  is also a trace in `oneOnionSession`  $i$   $M$ .

**Lemma 22.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; (\text{noncesOf } ma) \cap (\text{noncesOf } mb) = \emptyset; \text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma \ M; \text{isRouterRecvMsg } mb \ M \rrbracket \implies \text{bothContained } tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M \longrightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i \longrightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr \ i \longrightarrow \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$

*Proof.* We apply induction to prove the lemma, and four subgoals will be generated. For notational convenience, we define the following abbreviations for the conclusion of this lemma:

$P \equiv \lambda tr. \text{bothContained } tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M \longrightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i \longrightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr \ i \longrightarrow \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M.$

1. Base case `onionNil`: Obviously, `swap`  $ma$   $mb$   $[] = []$ , and  $[]$  is in `oneOnionSession`  $i$   $M$ .
2. Case `onionCons1`: Given a trace  $tr$ , agents  $X, Y$ , nonces  $n_0, n$  such that  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ ,  $X \neq M, Y \neq M$ ,  $\text{Nonce } n_0 \notin \text{used } tr$ ,  $\text{Nonce } n \notin \text{used } tr$ , and  $\text{length } tr < i$ , and the induction hypothesis (abbrv. *IH*)  $P \ tr$ , let  $tr' = \text{Says } X \ M \ \{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n)\}_{(\text{pubK } M)} \# tr$ , now we need to show  $P \ tr'$ . In order to prove this, we only need assume `bothContained`  $tr' \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$ , `nonceDisjUntil`  $ma \ tr' \ i$  and `nonceDisjUntil`  $mb \ tr' \ i$ , then show `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . First, by  $\text{length } tr < i$ , `bothContained`  $tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$  trivially holds. From `nonceDisjUntil`  $ma \ tr' \ i$ , by Lemma 21 we also have `nonceDisjUntil`  $ma \ tr \ i$ . Similarly, we have `nonceDisjUntil`  $mb \ tr \ i$ . With  $P \ tr$ , we have (1) `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . Now we do case analysis on the newly added message  $m' = \{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n)\}_{(\text{pubK } M)}$ , there are three cases in total:
  - (a)  $m' = ma$ . Notice that `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr' = \text{Says } X \ M \ mb \# \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . We can easily show  $\text{nonces } ma \cap \text{used } tr = \emptyset$ , because of  $\text{nonces } ma = \{n, n_0\}$ . With the premises  $(\text{noncesOf } ma) \cap (\text{noncesOf } mb) = \emptyset$ , and `nonceDisjUntil`  $mb \ tr \ i$ , by Lemma 19-(12) we have (2) `used`  $(\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr) \cap \text{nonces } mb = \emptyset$ . From `isRouterRecvMsg`  $mb \ M$ , then we have two sub-cases:
    - (a-1) either  $mb = \{\text{Nonce } n'_0, \text{Agent } Y', \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y') \ (\text{Nonce } n')\}_{(\text{pubK } M)}$  for some  $n'_0, n', Y'$  where  $Y' \neq M$ . From (2), we have  $\text{Nonce } n'_0 \notin \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ ,  $\text{Nonce } n' \notin \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . With (1), by rule `onionCons1`, we can have `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .
    - (a-2) or  $mb = \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } M) (\text{Nonce } n')$  for some  $n'$ . From (2), we have  $\text{Nonce } n' \notin \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . With (1), by rule `onionCons2`, we can have `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .
  - (b)  $m' = mb$ . Similar to Case (a).
  - (c) Neither  $m' = ma$  nor  $m' = mb$ . From the premise `nonceDisjUntil`  $ma \ tr' \ i$ , we have  $(\text{noncesOf } ma) \cap (\text{noncesOf } m') = \emptyset$ . Similarly, we have  $(\text{noncesOf } mb) \cap (\text{noncesOf } m') = \emptyset$ . By Lemma 19-(13), we have  $\text{nonces } m' \cap \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr) = \emptyset$ . From this, we have  $\text{Nonce } n_0 \notin \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ ,  $\text{Nonce } n \notin \text{used } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . With (1), by rule `onionCons1`, we can have `swap`  $ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .
3. Case `onionCons2`: Similar to Case `onionCons1`.

4. Case onionCons3: Given a trace  $tr$ , agents  $X, Y$ , nonces  $n_0, n$  such that  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ ,  $\text{Says } X \ M \ \{\!\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n) \}\!\!\}_{(\text{pubK } M)} \in \text{set } tr$ ,  $\text{Says } M \ Y \ \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n) \notin \text{set } tr$ ,  $i \leq \text{length } tr$ , and induction hypothesis  $P \ tr$ . Now we need to show  $P \ tr'$  where  $tr' = \text{Says } M \ Y \ \{\!\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\!\}_{(\text{pubK } M)} \# tr$ . In order to prove this, we only assume  $\text{bothContained } tr' \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$ ,  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr' \ i$  and  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr' \ i$ , then show  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . Let  $t' = \{\!\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n) \}\!\!\}_{(\text{pubK } M)}$ , and  $t'' = \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } n)$ . Notice that  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma \ M$ , and  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } mb \ M$ , then we have  $t' \neq ma$  and  $t' \neq mb$ . Therefore, (3)  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr' = \text{Says } M \ Y \ t' \# \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . Furthermore from  $t' \neq ma$  and  $t' \neq mb$ , and  $\text{bothContained } tr' \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$ , we can easily have (4)  $\text{bothContained } tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$ . From  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr' \ i$ , by Lemma 21, we have  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i$ . Similarly, we have  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr \ i$ . With  $P \ tr$ , we have (5)  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . Now we perform case analysis on  $t'$ , there are three cases in total:
- (a)  $t' = ma$ . From (4) and  $i \leq \text{length } tr$ , we have  $\text{Says } X' \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr$  for some agent  $X'$ , then by Lemma 19-(7), we have (6)  $\text{Says } X' \ M \ t' \in \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . From  $\text{Says } M \ Y \ t'' \notin \text{set } tr$ , by Lemma 19-(9), we have  $\text{Says } M \ Y \ t'' \notin \text{set } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . With (5) (6), we can easily conclude  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .
  - (b)  $t' = mb$ . Similar to Case (a).
  - (c) Neither  $t' = ma$  nor  $t' = mb$ . With  $\text{Says } X \ M \ t' \in \text{set } tr$ , by Lemma 19-(8), we have  $\text{Says } X \ M \ t' \in \text{set } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . Similar to the argument in case (a), we have  $\text{Says } M \ Y \ t'' \notin \text{set } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . Therefore, with (5) (6), we can easily conclude  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ .

□

Lemma 22 is rather complex, we must consider two cases: (1)  $\text{length } tr < i$ ; or (2)  $\text{length } tr \geq i$ . For cases (1), we mainly need to consider when  $ma$  ( $mb$ ) occurs in trace  $tr$ , then  $mb$  ( $ma$ ) occurs in  $\text{swap } ma \ mb$ . In order to make the  $\text{swap } ma \ mb$  satisfy the rule onionCons1 or onionCons2,  $mb$  ( $ma$ ) should be in a form which is sent to the router  $M$  – these are guaranteed by conditions  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma \ M$  and  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } mb \ M$ . Besides, the nonces created in  $mb$  ( $ma$ ) should be fresh; this is the reason why premises  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i$  and  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr \ i$  are needed. In fact, for case (1), we do not need to require that both  $ma$  and  $mb$  occur in  $tr$ , we can replace  $ma$  with a new message which contains fresh nonces which are disjoint with nonces of  $tr$ . However, for case (2), we have to require that both  $ma$  and  $mb$  should occur in  $tr$ , as  $ma$  occurs in  $tr$  and the peeled messages of  $ma$  and  $ma'$  also occur in  $tr$ . We notice that  $ma'$  also occurs in  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  by the definition of  $\text{swap}$ , in order to make the  $\text{swap } ma \ mb$  satisfy the rule onionCons3. We must require that  $ma$  should also occur in  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ , thus  $mb$  should also occur in  $tr$ .

Based on Lemma 20 and Lemma 22, we conclude an important result: for a trace  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ , if both  $ma$  and  $mb$  are sent to the router  $M$  by some agent, then  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  is still in  $\text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . This lemma accurately captures the intuition of the function  $\text{swap}$  which is explained in Fig. 1.

**Theorem 23.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set}; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set} \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$

*Proof.* From the premises that  $\text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in tr$  and  $\text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in tr$ , it is trivial to prove that the predicate  $\text{bothContained } tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$ . We have that they are both messages sent to the router  $M$ . Thus the messages  $ma$  and  $mb$  satisfy that  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma \ M$  and  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } mb \ M$ . By Lemma 20, we have  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i$  and  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } mb \ tr \ i$ . By Lemma 22, we conclude that  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . □

In fact, initially, we want to directly prove the lemma directly by induction. However, during the proof procedure, we find that we must face the case where only  $ma$  (or  $mb$ ) occurs in  $tr$ , therefore we must strengthen the premises of the lemma, therefore  $\text{Says } A \ M \ ma(mb) \in \text{set } tr$  is replaced by the premises  $\text{isRouterRecvMsg } ma(mb) \ M$  and  $\text{nonceDisjUntil } ma \ tr \ i$ . When  $\text{length } tr \geq i$ , we must require that both  $ma$  and  $mb$  must occur in  $tr$  because the  $\text{swap}$  function will not replace any message which is sent by the router. Therefore premises  $\text{bothContained } tr \ ma \ mb \ i \ M$  is added into premises. These are typical techniques involved when we use induction proof method. We need retune the induction assertion, and the key point is that the returned one can be proved in each induction case.

### 9.4.3. Alignment properties

By Lemma 16, we can show that the relation, composed of two messages sequences of message parts of  $tr$  and  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ , is `single_valued`.

**Lemma 24.**  $\llbracket tr \in (\text{oneOnionSession } i \ M); r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))) \rrbracket \implies \text{single\_valued } r$

Let  $r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)))$ ,  $Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows Spy } tr))$ . After applying analyzing operations pairwise on  $tr$ , we obtain a relation `analz_pairs`  $tr \ Kn$ . Based on Lemma 24, we show that `analz_pairs`  $r \ Kn$  is `single_valued`.

**Lemma 25.**  $\llbracket r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))); Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows Spy } tr)); r' = \text{analz\_pairs } r \ Kn; M \notin \text{bad}; tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; (m, m') \in r'; (m, m'') \in r' \rrbracket \implies m' = m''$

From Lemma 25, we derive a sufficient condition, as depicted in Lemma 4, in order to prove that `synth_pairs` (`analz_pairs`  $r \ Kn$ ) is `single_valued`.

**Lemma 26.**  $\llbracket r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))); Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows Spy } tr)); r' = \text{analz\_pairs } r \ Kn; M \notin \text{bad}; tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; (m, m') \in r'; (m, m'') \in \text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn \rrbracket \implies m' = m''$

Notice that `nonLeakMsg`  $ma \ M$  and `nonLeakMsg`  $mb \ M$  must be added in Lemma 26. Without the two conditions,  $ma$  ( $mb$ ) can be synthesized from `Nonce`  $n$  if  $ma = \{\{\text{Nonce } n, \text{Agent } \text{Spy}, \{\{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } \text{Spy}}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ . Thus both  $(ma, ma)$  and  $(ma, mb)$  occur in `synth_pairs`  $r' \ Kn$ . By Lemma 25 and Lemma 4, we can conclude that `synth_pairs` (`analz_pairs`  $r \ Kn$ ) is `single_valued`.

**Lemma 27.**  $\llbracket r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))); Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows Spy } tr)); r' = \text{analz\_pairs } r \ Kn; \text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M; M \notin \text{bad}; tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; (m, m') \in \text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn; (m, m'') \in \text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn \rrbracket \implies m' = m''$

Because the corresponding relation between  $tr$  and  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  can guarantee that  $r = r^{-1}$ , and the reflexivity can be kept by the `analz_pairs` and `synth_pairs` operators, then  $(\text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn)^{-1}$  is also `single_valued`.

**Lemma 28.**  $\llbracket r = \text{set } (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr)(\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))); Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows Spy } tr)); r' = \text{analz\_pairs } r \ Kn; \text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M; M \notin \text{bad}; tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; (m, m') \in (\text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn)^{-1}; (m, m'') \in (\text{synth\_pairs } r' \ Kn)^{-1} \rrbracket \implies m' = m''$

### 9.4.4. Observational equivalence between $tr$ and $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$

Let  $r = \text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr) (\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr))$  and  $Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } ((\text{knows Spy } tr)))$ . For a pair  $(ma, mb) \in r$ ,  $ma$  and  $mb$  are observationally equivalent w.r.t.  $Kn$ .

**Lemma 29.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; \text{Says } A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; A \notin \text{bad}; B \notin \text{bad}; M \notin \text{bad}; ma = \text{Crypt } (\text{pubEK } M) \ \{\{\text{Nonce } na_0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubEK } Y) \ (\text{Nonce } na)\}\}; \text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M \rrbracket \implies \text{msgEq } (\text{synth } (\text{analz } ((\text{knows Spy } tr)))) \ ma \ mb$

Notice that conditions `nonLeakMsg`  $ma \ M$  and `nonLeakMsg`  $mb \ M$  guarantee the correctness of  $na_0$  and some nonce part of  $mb$ , which in turn guarantees the observational equivalence between  $ma$  and  $mb$ .

Next we show that  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  is observationally equivalent to  $tr$  if  $tr$  satisfies some constraints. If  $ma = \{\{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } Y}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ ,  $ma$  is sent to the router  $M$  by an honest agent  $A$ , and  $mb$  is also sent to the router  $M$  by an honest agent  $B$ , then  $tr$  is observationally equivalent to  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$  in the view of the `Spy`.

**Lemma 30.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; ma = \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } M};$   
 Says  $A \ M \ ma \in \text{set } tr; \text{Says } B \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr; A \notin \text{bad}; M \notin \text{bad}; B \notin \text{bad};$   
 $\text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M; \text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{obsEquiv Spy } tr \ (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$

*Proof.* By the definition of view, we can have (a) view  $\text{Spy } tr = tr$  from  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . Unfolding the definition of  $\text{obsEquiv}$ , by part 3 in Lemma 19, we can prove (b)  $\text{length } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr) = \text{length } tr$ ; by part 2 in Lemma 19, we also have (c)  $\text{sendRecvMatchL } tr \ (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ ; by part 11 in Lemma 19, we have (d)  $\text{set } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr) = \text{set } ((\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)))$ . Let  $r = (\text{zip } (\text{map } \text{msgPart } tr) (\text{map } \text{msgPart } (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)))$  and  $Kn = \text{synth } (\text{analz } (\text{knows } \text{Spy } tr))$ , we need to prove (e)  $\forall m \ m'. (m, m') \in r \longrightarrow \text{msgEq } Kn \ m \ m'$ . We only need to fix two messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  such that  $(m_1, m_2) \in \text{set } r$ , then prove that  $\text{msgEq } Kn \ m_1 \ m_2$ . By Lemma 1, we have either (1)  $m_1 = m_2$ , (2)  $m_1 = ma$  and  $m_2 = mb$ , or (3)  $m_1 = mb$  and  $m_2 = ma$ . For the first case, by Lemma 1, we have  $\text{msgEq } Kn \ m_1 \ m_2$ ; for case (2) and (3), they can be directly proved by Lemma 29. Let  $r' = \text{synth\_pairs}(\text{analz\_pairs } r \ Kn)$ , by Lemma 27 and 28, we have (f)  $\text{single\_valued } r' \ \text{and } \text{single\_valued } (r')^{-1}$ .

From (a)(b)(c)(d)(e)(f), we conclude  $\text{obsEquiv Spy } tr \ (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ .  $\square$

## 9.5. Proving anonymity properties

Let us give two preliminary definitions: the senders in a trace is defined as  $\text{senders } tr \ M \equiv \{A. \exists m. \text{Says } A \ M \ m \in \text{set } tr\}$ , a predicate  $\text{nonLeakTrace } tr \ M \equiv \forall A \ n_0 \ n \ Y. \text{Says } A \ M \ m \in \text{set } tr \longrightarrow A \notin \text{bad} \longrightarrow \text{nonLeakMsg } m \ tr$  specifying that  $tr$  is a trace where each honest agent sends a message satisfying  $\text{nonLeakMsg } m \ tr$ .

Message  $ma'$  is forwarded to  $B$  by the router  $M$ , and is originated by some honest agent, and the trace satisfies  $\text{nonLeakMsg } m \ tr$ , then  $\text{Spy}$  cannot be sure of the honest agent who originates  $ma'$  if  $\text{Spy}$  is an observer. Namely, the sender anonymity holds for the intruder w.r.t. the honest agents who send messages to  $M$  in the session modeled by  $tr$ .

**Theorem 31.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; ma' = \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y};$   
 Says  $M \ B \ ma' \in \text{set } tr; \text{regularOrig } ma' \ tr; M \notin \text{bad}; \text{nonLeakTrace } tr \ M \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{senderAnomity } (\text{senders } tr \ M - \text{bad}) \ \text{Spy } ma' \ tr \ (\text{oneOnionSession } i \ M),$

*Proof.* By unfolding the definition of the predicate  $\text{senderAnomity}$ , for any agent  $X \in (\text{senders } tr \ M - \text{bad})$ , fix an agent  $X$ , we need to construct a trace  $tr'$  such that  $tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$  and  $\text{obsEquiv Spy } tr \ tr'$  and originates  $X \ ma' \ tr'$ . From  $\text{Says } M \ B \ ma' \in \text{set } tr$ , by Lemma 11, there exists  $A$  and  $n_0$ , such that  $\text{Says } A \ M \ \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } M} \in \text{set } tr$ . By Lemma 12, we have originates  $A \ ma' \ tr$ . Obviously, by the fact  $\text{regularOrig } ma' \ tr$ , we have  $A \notin \text{bad}$ . From the fact  $X \in (\text{senders } tr \ M - \text{bad})$ , by the definition of  $\text{senders}$ , there exists an event  $\text{Says } X \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr$ ,  $X \neq M$ ,  $X \notin \text{bad}$ . Let  $ma = \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y} \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } M}$ . By  $\text{nonLeakTrace } tr \ M \ n$ , we have both  $\text{nonLeakMsg } ma \ M$  and  $\text{nonLeakMsg } mb \ M$ . Let  $tr' = \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ , by Lemma 30, we have  $\text{obsEquiv Spy } tr \ (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ . By Lemma 23, we have  $\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ . From the fact  $\text{Says } X \ M \ mb \in \text{set } tr$ , by part 6 in Lemma 19, we have  $\text{Says } X \ M \ ma \in \text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr$ . By Lemma 12, we have originates  $X \ ma' \ (\text{swap } ma \ mb \ tr)$ .  $\square$

The last result is about the linkability of a sender  $A$  and a peeled onion  $ma$ . Suppose that an honest agent  $A$  sends a message  $m$  to the router  $M$ , and an agent  $B$  receives a message  $ma$  from  $M$ , the intruder cannot link the message  $ma'$  with the agent  $A$  provided that there exists at least one agent  $X$  who is not  $A$  and sends a message to  $M$ .

**Theorem 32.**  $\llbracket tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M; ma' = \{\!\{ \text{Nonce } n \}\!\}_{\text{pubK } Y}; \text{Says } M \ B \ ma' \in \text{set } tr;$   
 $\text{regularOrig } ma' \ tr; \text{Says } A \ M \ m' \in \text{set } tr; A \notin \text{bad}; M \notin \text{bad};$   
 $\exists X, mx. \text{Says } X \ M \ mx \in \text{set } tr \wedge X \neq A \wedge X \notin \text{bad}; \text{nonLeakTrace } tr \ M \rrbracket$   
 $\implies \text{let } AS = \text{senders } tr \ M - \text{bad} \ \text{in } \text{unlinkability } AS \ A \ m \ tr \ (\text{oneOnionSession } i \ M)$

*Proof.* Let  $\text{runs} = \text{oneOnionSession } i \ M$ ,  $AS = \text{senders } tr \ M - \text{bad}$ . By unfolding the definition of the predicate  $\text{unlinkability}$ , we only need to prove that (1)  $tr \models \diamond \text{Spy } \text{runs} \ (\neg \text{originates } A \ ma' \ tr)$  and (2)  $\text{senderAnomity } AS \ \text{Spy } ma' \ tr \ \text{runs}$ . Here (1) is our main goal, and (2) is proved in Lemma 31.

From the premise, there exist  $X$  and  $mx$  such that  $\text{Says } X \ M \ mx \in \text{set } tr$ ,  $X \neq A$ , and  $X \notin \text{bad}$ . From

Says  $M B ma' \in \text{set } tr$ , by Lemma 11, there exists a message  $m$ , an agent  $A'$ , a nonce  $n_0$ , such that  $ma$  has the form of Says  $A' M \{\{\text{Nonce } n_0, \text{Agent } Y, \{\{\text{Nonce } n\}_{\text{pubK } Y}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\} \in \text{set } tr$ . Obviously, by the fact  $\text{regularOrig } ma' tr$ , we have  $A' \notin \text{bad}$ . In order to prove (1), by unfolding the definition of the diamond operator, we only need construct a trace  $tr'$  such that  $\text{obsEquiv } \text{Spy } tr tr'$  and  $\neg \text{originates } A ma' tr$ . Here we do case analysis on  $A'$ .

If  $A' \neq A$ , then (1) can be proved immediately. Obviously  $\text{obsEquiv } \text{Spy } tr tr$ ,  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M$ . By Lemma 14, we have  $\neg \text{originates } A ma' tr$ . Otherwise, from  $A' = A$ , we have  $X \neq A'$ . let  $tr' = \text{swap } ma mx tr$ , by Lemma 30, we have  $\text{obsEquiv } \text{Spy } tr tr'$ . By Lemma 23, we have  $tr' \in \text{oneOnionSession } i M$ . From Says  $X M mx \in \text{set } tr$  and Says  $A M ma \in \text{set } tr$ , by Lemma 6, we have Says  $X M ma \in \text{set } tr'$  and Says  $A M mx \in \text{set } tr'$ . From  $X \neq A$ , by Lemma 14, immediately we have  $\neg \text{originates } A ma' tr'$ .  $\square$

Analyzing the Onion Routing protocol took us about one month's effort. This time is much longer because for this protocol we need more time to figure out a new proof technique. The proof script comprises 5,593 lines and executes in one minute.

## 9.6. A weakness of the protocol

Here, we show a weakness of the onion routing protocol, which is hinted by the premise  $\text{nonLeakTrace } tr M$ . Namely, without this condition, the sender anonymity and unlinkability may not hold. For example, consider the session shown in Fig. 1, the trace  $tr$  in (1) is not observationally equivalent to that in (2) when  $C = D = \text{Spy}$ ,  $na = na'$ ,  $nb = nb'$ , and  $na \neq nb$ . Because after the router  $M$  forwards messages  $\{\{\text{Nonce } na\}_{\text{pubK } \text{Spy}}\}$  and  $\{\{\text{Nonce } nb\}_{\text{pubK } \text{Spy}}\}$ , the  $\text{Spy}$  can analyze  $na$  and  $nb$ , respectively, and distinguish the two nonces, then he can distinguish the two messages  $\{\{\text{Nonce } na, \text{Agent } \text{Spy}, \{\{\text{Nonce } na\}_{\text{pubK } \text{Spy}}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$  and  $\{\{\text{Nonce } nb, \text{Agent } \text{Spy}, \{\{\text{Nonce } nb\}_{\text{pubK } \text{Spy}}\}_{\text{pubK } M}\}\}$ .

## 10. Conclusion

We have formalized the notion of provable anonymity in the theorem prover Isabelle/HOL. The inductive approach is one of the most important techniques we adopted. We proposed an inductive definition of message distinguishability based on the observer's knowledge, then defined message equivalence as the negation of message distinguishability. Next, we inductively define the alignment relation between message sequences, which is a key factor to construct a reinterpretation function on which the observational equivalence between traces is based. In the end, we inductively formalize the semantics of Crowds and Onion Routing, and formally prove anonymity properties for the protocols in our formal framework, i.e., sender anonymity for Crowds, sender anonymity and unlinkability for Onion Routing. The inductive approach helps us to define the semantics of observational equivalence, and protocol semantics as well. Correspondingly the inductive proof method is the most effective one to reason about the properties of the inductively defined semantics of anonymity protocols. Therefore, selecting a proper proof assistant is important which has built-in support for the inductive approach, which will make it feasible to mechanize all the theory in the theorem prover. Our choice is Isabelle, which plays a key role in our formalization.

When we prove that anonymity properties, e.g., sender anonymity, hold for a trace under consideration, we need manually to construct the existence of another trace which is observationally equivalent to the given trace, but differs, for example, in the sender of some message. This is the essence of information hiding on the senders or the linkage between a message and its sender, which makes the analysis of anonymity different from analysis on secrecy and authentication. For secrecy and authentication, normally the focus is on individual traces. However, the observer decides whether two traces are observationally equivalent according to his knowledge obtained in two traces, which usually boils down to the secrecy of some terms. Therefore, the induction proof method used in the analysis of secrecy properties can still be applied here.

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## Appendix

We briefly present some Isabelle concepts, notations and commands, and our notation conventions. Readers might find these useful if they want to check our Isabelle proof scripts.

Isabelle’s meta-logic is a fragment of Church’s theory of simple types, which can be used to formalize an object-logic [33]. Normally, we use rich infrastructure of object-logics such as HOL to formalize some theory, which has been provided by the Isabelle system. Important connectives of the meta-logic are as follows: implication ( $\implies$ ) is for separating premises and conclusion of theorems; equality ( $\equiv$ ) definitions; universal quantifier ( $\bigwedge$ ) parameters in goals. In our work, we use the object-logic HOL to formalize the strand space theory. Therefore, we briefly show how to use HOL to formalize a theory.

**Theories.** Working with Isabelle means creating theories. A theory is a file with a named collection of types, functions, and theorems, proofs. The general format of a theory  $T$  is as follows:

```
theory T = B1 + B2 + ... + Bn;
  declarations for types, definitions, lemmas, and proofs
end
```

where  $B_1, B_2, \dots, B_n$  are the names of existing theories that  $T$  is based on. For our purpose, we only need to import HOL library `Main` to write the theory `anonymity.thy`.

**Types.** There are basic types such as `bool`, the type of truth values; `nat`, the type of natural numbers. Function types are denoted by  $\Rightarrow$ , and product types by  $\times$ . Types can also be constructed by type constructors such as `list` and `set`. For instance, `nat list` declares the type of lists whose elements are natural numbers.

**Terms.** Forms of terms used in this paper are rather simple. It is simply a constant or variable identifier, or a function application such as  $f t$ , where  $f$  is a function of type  $\tau_1 \Rightarrow \tau_2$ , and  $t$  is a term of type  $\tau_1$ . Formulas are terms of type `bool`. The type `bool` has two basic constants `True` and `False` and the usual logical connectives (in decreasing order of priority):  $\neg$ ,  $\wedge$ ,  $\vee$ ,  $\longrightarrow$ ,  $\forall$ , and  $\exists$ , all of which (except the unary  $\neg$ ) associate to the right. Note that the logical connectives introduced here are also used in the object-logic HOL.

**Introducing new types.** There are three kinds of commands for introducing new types. `typedecl name` introduces new “opaque” type name without definition; `types name =  $\tau$`  introduces an abbreviation name for type  $\tau$ . `datatype` command can introduce a recursive data type. A general `datatype` definition is of the following form

$$\text{datatype } (\alpha_1, \dots, \alpha_n) = C_1 \tau_{11} \dots \tau_{1k_1} \mid \dots \mid C_m \tau_{m1} \dots \tau_{mk_m}$$

where  $\alpha_i$  are distinct type variables (the parameters),  $C_i$  are distinct constructor names and  $\tau_{ij}$  are types. Note that  $n$  can be 0, i.e., there is no type parameters in `datatype` declaration.

**Definition commands.** `consts` command declares a function's name and type. `defs` gives the definition of a declared function. `constdefs` combines the effect of `consts` and `defs`. Combining the `consts` and `inductive` commands, we can give an inductive definition for a set. An inductively defined set  $S$  is typically of the following form:

```
consts S ::  $\tau$ set inductive S intros
rule1 :  $\llbracket a_{11} \in S; \dots; a_{1k_1} \in S; A_{11}, \dots, A_{1i_1} \rrbracket \implies a_1 \in S$ 
...
rulen :  $\llbracket a_{n1} \in S; \dots; a_{nk_n} \in S; A_{n1}, \dots, A_{ni_n} \rrbracket \implies a_n \in S$ 
```

**Lemmas.** According to Isabelle's style, we use the notation `lemma name :  $\llbracket A_1; A_2; \dots; A_n \rrbracket \implies B$`  to denote that with assumptions  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  we can derive a conclusion  $B$ . Inline with Isar's style, a lemma is written as `lemma name : assumes  $a_1$  : " $A_1$ " and ... and  $a_n$  : " $A_n$ " shows  $B$ .`

**Proof scripts and proof states.** In Isabelle's tactics-based style, a proof script comprises a sequence of applications of tactics: `apply tac1, ..., apply tacn done`. The script will be executed by Isabelle until all subgoals are solved. A typical proof in Isar has a human-readable structure as follows:

```
proof
assume asm0 and ... and asmm
have formula1
  proof ....(*proof script for formula1*) qed
...
have formulan
  proof ....(*proof script for formulan*) qed
have formulan+1
  proof ....(*proof script for formulan+1*) qed
qed
```

where  $asm_0, \dots, asm_m$  are assumptions,  $formula_1, \dots, formula_n$  are intermediate results. From the assumptions and intermediate results, we can show the final goal  $formula_{n+1}$ .

Techniques such as case distinction, induction, calculational reasoning in the Isar language can make our proof structured, which are immensely more readable and maintainable than `apply`-scripts. But the price we pay is that the length of proof in Isar is usually much longer than that of the counterpart in Isabelle tactical style. Therefore, we adopt a mixed style in our formalized proofs: we use commands in the Isar style to decompose a large goal into subgoals to keep our proof with a clear structure; when a subgoal is simple enough, we directly use `apply`-scripts to prove the subgoal, thus we can keep the length of our proof script relatively short. After processing a proof command, Isabelle will display a proof state:

$$\bigwedge x_1, \dots, x_p. \llbracket A_1; A_2; \dots; A_n \rrbracket \implies B$$

where  $x_1, \dots, x_p$  are local constants,  $A_1, \dots, A_n$  are local assumptions, and  $B$  is the actual (sub)goal in this proof state. Note that  $\bigwedge$  is the universal quantifier in the meta-logic, instead of the conjunction operator ( $\wedge$ ) in the object logic HOL.

**Notation conventions.** Throughout this paper, we use the following conventions for meta-variables:

$tr, tr'$	range over traces
$m, ma, mb$	range over messages
$i, j$	range over natural numbers for lengths of traces
$A, B, X, M$	range over agent names
$k_1, k_2$	range over keys
$N, Na, Nb, n, na$	range over nonces
$Kn$	range over message sets which represent knowledge of agents

**A brief view of mechanical rule induction.** Isabelle has built-in support for inductive approaches. After we type an inductive definition `oneOnionSession` as shown in Sect. 9.1, Isabelle will automatically generate an elimination rule `oneOnionSession.induct` as follows:

```

[[ tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M;
  P [];
  ∧ tr X Y n0 n.
  [[ tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M; P tr; X ≠ M; Y ≠ M; Nonce n0 ∉ used tr;
    Nonce n ∉ used tr; length tr < i ]]
  ⇒ P (Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)}) # tr);
  ∧ tr X n.
  [[ tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M; P tr; X ≠ M; Nonce n ∉ used tr; length tr < i ]]
  ⇒ P (Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) (Nonce n)) # tr);
  ∧ tr X n0 Y n.
  [[ tr ∈ oneOnionSession i M; P tr; i ≤ length tr;
    Says X M (Crypt (pubK M) {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)}) ∈ set tr;
    Says M Y (Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)) ∉ set tr ]]
  ⇒ P (Says M Y (Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)) # tr)]]
⇒ P tr

```

`oneOnionSession.induct` formalizes an induction proof method on traces of an Onion Routing protocol. Namely, if we want to prove  $P\ tr$  for any trace  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } M\ i$ . We first need to prove  $P\ []$ ; second we need to prove  $P\ tr \implies P\ (ev\#\tr)$ , where  $ev$  is an event  $ev$  added into the trace  $tr$  which is defined according to the rules `onionCons1-onionCons3`.

In the following discussions, we show how to formally prove Lemma 22 in Isabelle. First we need to write a lemma to specify the proof goal by a lemma command. For Lemma 22, we define it in Isabelle as follows:

```

lemma trace_invariant:
  assumes a1:"tr:oneOnionSession k M" and a2:"(noncesOf ma) ∧ (noncesOf mb) =∅" and
  a3:"isRouterRecvMsg ma M" and a4:"isRouterRecvMsg mb M"
  shows "bothContained tr ma mb k M → nonceDisjUntil ma tr k → nonceDisjUntil mb tr k
  → (swap ma mb tr: oneOnionSession k M)" (is "P tr")

```

After defining the lemma, we need to ask Isabelle to assist us to prove the goal, and use the command `using a1 proof induct` to apply the induction rule `oneOnionSession.induct` to solve the goal. The premise  $tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } k\ M$  will be eliminated. Note that the property  $P$  under consideration in this lemma is " $\lambda tr.\text{bothContained } tr\ ma\ mb\ k\ M \rightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } ma\ tr\ k \rightarrow \text{nonceDisjUntil } mb\ tr\ k \rightarrow \text{swap } ma\ mb\ tr \in \text{oneOnionSession } k\ M$ ". According to the definition of `oneOnionSession.induct`, four proof goals will be automatically generated by Isabelle. Here we only present the second one:

```

2. ∧tr X Y n0 n.
[[tr ∈ oneOnionSession k M; noncesOf ma ∧ noncesOf mb = ∅;
isRouterRecvMsg ma M; isRouterRecvMsg mb M;
bothContained tr ma mb k M → nonceDisjUntil ma tr k → nonceDisjUntil mb tr k
→ swap ma mb tr ∈ oneOnionSession k M;
X≠M; Y≠M; Nonce n0 ∉ used tr; Nonce n ∉ used tr; length tr < k]] ⇒
bothContained(Says X M ({Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})_{(pubK M)} #tr) ma mb k M
→ nonceDisjUntil ma (Says X M {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})_{(pubK M)} #tr) k
→ nonceDisjUntil mb (Says X M {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})_{(pubK M)} #tr) k
→ swap ma mb (Says X M {Nonce n0, Agent Y, Crypt (pubK Y) (Nonce n)})_{(pubK M)} #tr)
∈ oneOnionSession k M

```

Notice that the fifth premise is the induction hypothesis  $P\ tr$ , and the conclusion to be shown is  $P\ (\text{Says } X\ M\ \{\text{Nonce } n0, \text{Agent } Y, \text{Crypt } (\text{pubK } Y)\ (\text{Nonce } n)\}_{(\text{pubK } M)} \#tr)$ . From the above, we can see that this lemma is not trivial, and the proof obligations involved are rather complex. Isabelle can help us in

an induction proof: selecting proper induction rule to execute, generating subgoals for base case and induction steps. It is error-prone for human to perform these tasks. However, Isabelle/Isar can automatically finish these tasks in a mechanical way. After the subgoals are created, our proof structure is naturally decomposed into four parts: one for the base case `onionNil`, the other three for the induction cases: `onionCons1-onionCons3`.

Besides, for the typical proof techniques of using case analysis as shown in the proof of Lemma 22, we use Isar commands for calculational reasoning to perform the proof of all case analysis. Thanks to the Isar proof script language provided by Isabelle, the mechanical proof structure has a similar structure as the one shown in Sect. 9.4.2.