

# Noninterference and Policy Composition

## Chapter 9

# Overview

- Problem
  - Policy composition
- Noninterference
  - HIGH inputs affect LOW outputs
- Nondeducibility
  - HIGH inputs can be determined from LOW outputs
- Restrictiveness
  - When can policies be composed successfully

# Composition of Policies

- Two organizations have two security policies
- They merge
  - How do they combine security policies to create one security policy?
  - Can they create a coherent, consistent security policy?

# The Problem

- Single system with 2 users
  - Each has own virtual machine
  - Holly at system high, Lara at system low so they cannot communicate directly
- CPU shared between VMs based on load
  - Forms a *covert channel* through which Holly, Lara can communicate

# Example Protocol

- Holly, Lara agree:
  - Begin at noon
  - Lara will sample CPU utilization every minute
  - To send 1 bit, Holly runs program
    - Raises CPU utilization to over 60%
  - To send 0 bit, Holly does not run program
    - CPU utilization will be under 40%
- Not “writing” in traditional sense
  - But information flows from Holly to Lara

# Policy vs. Mechanism

- Can be hard to separate these
- In the abstract: CPU forms channel along which information can be transmitted
  - Violates \*-property
  - Not “writing” in traditional sense
- Conclusion:
  - Bell-LaPadula model does not give sufficient conditions to prevent communication, *or*
  - System is improperly abstracted; need a better definition of “writing”

# Composition of Bell-LaPadula

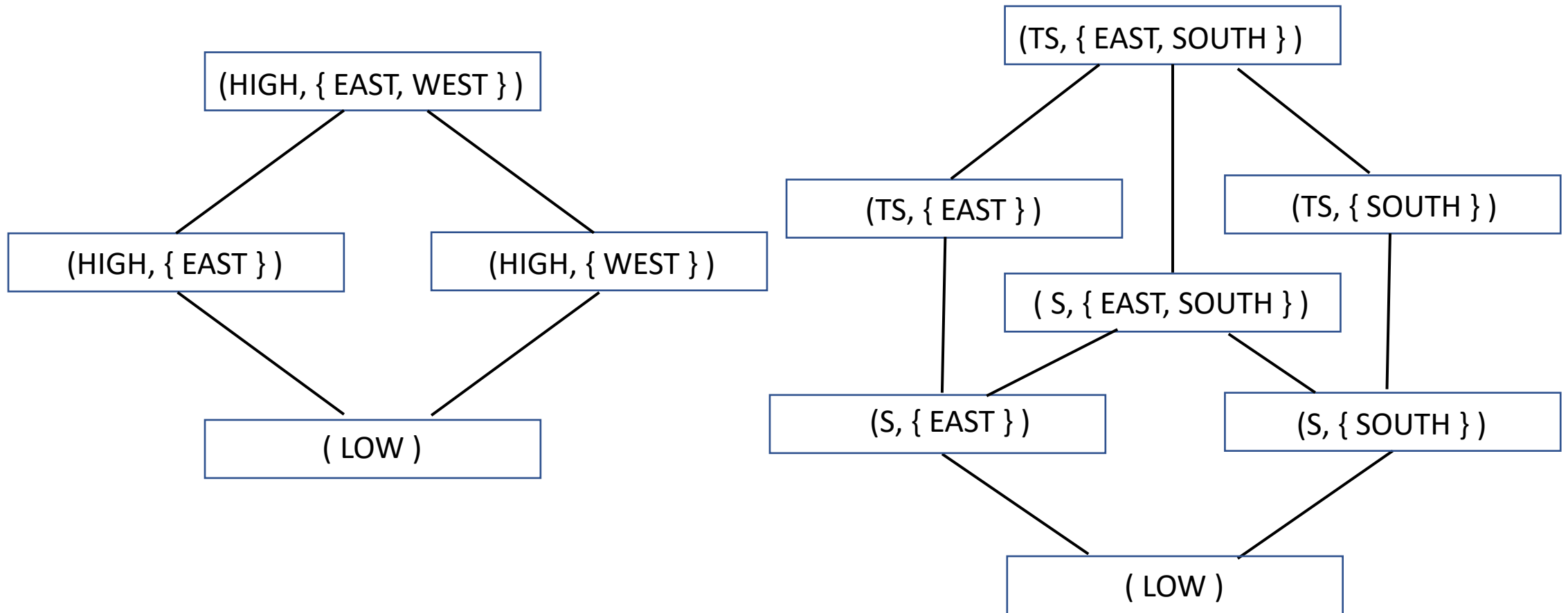
- Why?
  - Some standards require secure components to be connected to form secure (distributed, networked) system
- Question
  - Under what conditions is this secure?
- Assumptions
  - Implementation of systems precise with respect to each system's security policy

# Issues

- Compose the lattices
- What is relationship among labels?
  - If the same, trivial
  - If different, new lattice must reflect the relationships among the levels



# Example



# Analysis

- Assume  $S < HIGH < TS$
- Assume SOUTH, EAST, WEST different
- Resulting lattice has:
  - 4 clearances ( $LOW < S < HIGH < TS$ )
  - 3 categories (SOUTH, EAST, WEST)

# Same Policies

- If we can change policies that components must meet, composition is trivial (as above)
- If we *cannot*, we must show composition meets the same policy as that of components; this can be very hard

# Different Policies

- What does “secure” now mean?
- Which policy (components) dominates?
- Possible principles:
  - Any access allowed by policy of a component must be allowed by composition of components (*autonomy*)
  - Any access forbidden by policy of a component must be forbidden by composition of components (*security*)

# Implications

- Composite system satisfies security policy of components as components' policies take precedence
- If something neither allowed nor forbidden by principles, then:
  - Allow it (Gong & Qian)
  - Disallow it (Fail-Safe Defaults)

# Example

- System X: Bob can't access Alice's files
- System Y: Eve, Lilith can access each other's files
- Composition policy:
  - Bob can access Eve's files
  - Lilith can access Alice's files
- Question: can Bob access Lilith's files?

# Solution (Gong & Qian)

- Notation:
  - $(a, b)$ :  $a$  can read  $b$ 's files
  - $AS(x)$ : access set of system  $x$
- Set-up:
  - $AS(X) = \emptyset$
  - $AS(Y) = \{ (Eve, Lilith), (Lilith, Eve) \}$
  - $AS(X \cup Y) = \{ (Bob, Eve), (Lilith, Alice), (Eve, Lilith), (Lilith, Eve) \}$

# Solution (Gong & Qian)

- Compute transitive closure of  $AS(X \cup Y)$ :
  - $AS(X \cup Y)^+ = \{ (Bob, Eve), (Bob, Lilith), (Bob, Alice), (Eve, Lilith), (Eve, Alice), (Lilith, Eve), (Lilith, Alice) \}$
- Delete accesses conflicting with policies of components:
  - Delete (Bob, Alice)
- (Bob, Lilith) in set, so Bob can access Lilith's files



# Idea

- Composition of policies allows accesses not mentioned by original policies
- Generate all possible allowed accesses
  - Computation of transitive closure
- Eliminate forbidden accesses
  - Removal of accesses disallowed by individual access policies
- Everything else is allowed
- Note: determining if access allowed is of polynomial complexity

# Interference

- Think of it as something used in communication
  - Holly/Lara example: Holly interferes with the CPU utilization, and Lara detects it — communication
- Plays role of writing (interfering) and reading (detecting the interference)

# Model

- System as state machine
  - Subjects  $S = \{ s_i \}$
  - States  $\Sigma = \{ \sigma_i \}$
  - Outputs  $O = \{ o_i \}$
  - Commands  $Z = \{ z_i \}$
  - State transition commands  $C = S \times Z$
- Note: no inputs
  - Encode either as selection of commands or in state transition commands

# Functions

- State transition function  $T: C \times \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$ 
  - Describes effect of executing command  $c$  in state  $\sigma$
- Output function  $P: C \times \Sigma \rightarrow O$ 
  - Output of machine when executing command  $c$  in state  $\sigma$
- Initial state is  $\sigma_0$

# Example: 2-Bit Machine

- Users Heidi (high), Lucy (low)
- 2 bits of state,  $H$  (high) and  $L$  (low)
  - System state is  $(H, L)$  where  $H, L$  are 0, 1
- 2 commands:  $xor0$ ,  $xor1$  do xor with 0, 1
  - Operations affect *both* state bits regardless of whether Heidi or Lucy issues it

# Example: 2-bit Machine

- $S = \{ \text{Heidi, Lucy} \}$
- $\Sigma = \{ (0,0), (0,1), (1,0), (1,1) \}$
- $C = \{ \text{xor0, xor1} \}$

		Input States ( $H, L$ )			
		(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
<i>xor0</i>		(0,0)	(0,1)	(1,0)	(1,1)
	<i>xor1</i>	(1,1)	(1,0)	(0,1)	(0,0)

# Outputs and States

- $T$  is inductive in first argument, as
 
$$T(c_0, \sigma_0) = \sigma_1; T(c_{i+1}, \sigma_{i+1}) = T(c_{i+1}, T(c_i, \sigma_i))$$
- Let  $C^*$  be set of possible sequences of commands in  $C$
- $T^*: C^* \times \Sigma \rightarrow \Sigma$  and
 
$$c_s = c_0 \dots c_n \Rightarrow T^*(c_s, \sigma_i) = T(c_n, \dots, T(c_0, \sigma_i) \dots)$$
- $P$  similar; define  $P^*: C^* \times \Sigma \rightarrow O$  similarly

# Projection

- $T^*(c_s, \sigma_i)$  sequence of state transitions
- $P^*(c_s, \sigma_i)$  corresponding outputs
- $proj(s, c_s, \sigma_i)$  set of outputs in  $P^*(c_s, \sigma_i)$  that subject  $s$  authorized to see
  - In same order as they occur in  $P^*(c_s, \sigma_i)$
  - Projection of outputs for  $s$
- Intuition: list of outputs after removing outputs that  $s$  cannot see



# Purge

- $G \subseteq S$ ,  $G$  a group of subjects
- $A \subseteq Z$ ,  $A$  a set of commands
- $\pi_G(c_s)$  subsequence of  $c_s$  with all elements  $(s,z)$ ,  $s \in G$  deleted
- $\pi_A(c_s)$  subsequence of  $c_s$  with all elements  $(s,z)$ ,  $z \in A$  deleted
- $\pi_{G,A}(c_s)$  subsequence of  $c_s$  with all elements  $(s,z)$ ,  $s \in G$  and  $z \in A$  deleted

# Example: 2-bit Machine

- Let  $\sigma_0 = (0,1)$
- 3 commands applied:
  - Heidi applies *xor0*
  - Lucy applies *xor1*
  - Heidi applies *xor1*
- $c_s = ( (Heidi, xor0), (Lucy, xor1), (Heidi, xor1) )$
- Output is 011001
  - Shorthand for sequence  $(0,1) (1,0) (0,1)$

# Example

- $proj(\text{Heidi}, c_s, \sigma_0) = 011001$
- $proj(\text{Lucy}, c_s, \sigma_0) = 101$
- $\pi_{\text{Lucy}}(c_s) = (\text{Heidi}, xor0), (\text{Heidi}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{\text{Lucy}, xor1}(c_s) = (\text{Heidi}, xor0), (\text{Heidi}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{\text{Heidi}}(c_s) = (\text{Lucy}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{\text{Lucy}, xor0}(c_s) = (\text{Heidi}, xor0), (\text{Lucy}, xor1), (\text{Heidi}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{\text{Heidi}, xor0}(c_s) = \pi_{xor0}(c_s) = (\text{Lucy}, xor1), (\text{Heidi}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{\text{Heidi}, xor1}(c_s) = (\text{Heidi}, xor0), (\text{Lucy}, xor1)$
- $\pi_{xor1}(c_s) = (\text{Heidi}, xor0)$

# Noninterference

- Intuition: If set of outputs Lucy can see corresponds to set of inputs she can see, there is no interference
- Formally:  $G, G' \subseteq S, G \neq G'; A \subseteq Z$ ; users in  $G$  executing commands in  $A$  are *noninterfering* with users in  $G'$  iff for all  $c_s \in C^*$ , and for all  $s \in G'$ ,

$$\text{proj}(s, c_s, \sigma_i) = \text{proj}(s, \pi_{G,A}(c_s), \sigma_i)$$

- Written  $A, G :| G'$

# Example: 2-Bit Machine

- Let  $c_s = ( (Heidi, xor0), (Lucy, xor1), (Heidi, xor1) )$  and  $\sigma_0 = (0, 1)$ 
  - As before
- Take  $G = \{ Heidi \}$ ,  $G' = \{ Lucy \}$ ,  $A = \emptyset$
- $\pi_{Heidi}(c_s) = (Lucy, xor1)$ 
  - So  $proj(Lucy, \pi_{Heidi}(c_s), \sigma_0) = 0$
- $proj(Lucy, c_s, \sigma_0) = 101$
- So  $\{ Heidi \} :| \{ Lucy \}$  is false
  - Makes sense; commands issued to change  $H$  bit also affect  $L$  bit

# Example

- Same as before, but Heidi's commands affect  $H$  bit only, Lucy's the  $L$  bit only
- Output is  $0_H 0_L 1_H$
- $\pi_{\text{Heidi}}(c_s) = (\text{Lucy}, \text{xor1})$ 
  - So  $\text{proj}(\text{Lucy}, \pi_{\text{Heidi}}(c_s), \sigma_0) = 0$
- $\text{proj}(\text{Lucy}, c_s, \sigma_0) = 0$
- So  $\{ \text{Heidi} \} : | \{ \text{Lucy} \}$  is true
  - Makes sense; commands issued to change  $H$  bit now do not affect  $L$  bit

# Security Policy

- Partitions systems into authorized, unauthorized states
- Authorized states have no forbidden interferences
- Hence a *security policy* is a set of noninterference assertions
  - See previous definition

# Alternative Development

- System  $X$  is a set of protection domains  $D = \{ d_1, \dots, d_n \}$
- When command  $c$  executed, it is executed in protection domain  $dom(c)$
- Give alternate versions of definitions shown previously



# Security Policy

- $D = \{ d_1, \dots, d_n \}$ ,  $d_i$  a protection domain
- $r: D \times D$  a reflexive relation
- Then  $r$  defines a security policy
- Intuition: defines how information can flow around a system
  - $d_i r d_j$  means info can flow from  $d_i$  to  $d_j$
  - $d_i r d_i$  as info can flow within a domain

# Projection Function

- $\pi'$  analogue of  $\pi$ , earlier
- Commands, subjects absorbed into protection domains
- $d \in D, c \in C, c_s \in C^*$
- $\pi'_d(v) = v$
- $\pi'_d(c_s c) = \pi'_d(c_s) c$  if  $dom(c)rd$
- $\pi'_d(c_s c) = \pi'_d(c_s)$  otherwise
- Intuition: if executing  $c$  interferes with  $d$ , then  $c$  is visible; otherwise, as if  $c$  never executed

# Noninterference-Secure

- System has set of protection domains  $D$
- System is *noninterference-secure with respect to policy  $r$*  if

$$P^*(c, T^*(c_s, \sigma_0)) = P^*(c, T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_0))$$

- Intuition: if executing  $c_s$  causes the same transitions for subjects in domain  $d$  as does its projection with respect to domain  $d$ , then no information flows in violation of the policy

# Output-Consistency

- $c \in C, dom(c) \in D$
- $\sim_{dom(c)}$  equivalence relation on states of system  $X$
- $\sim_{dom(c)}$  *output-consistent* if

$$\sigma_a \sim_{dom(c)} \sigma_b \Rightarrow P(c, \sigma_a) = P(c, \sigma_b)$$

- Intuition: states are output-consistent if for subjects in  $dom(c)$ , projections of outputs for both states after  $c$  are the same

# Lemma

- Let  $T^*(c_s, \sigma_0) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_0)$  for  $c \in C$
- If  $\sim^d$  output-consistent, then system is noninterference-secure with respect to policy  $r$

# Proof

- $d = \text{dom}(c)$  for  $c \in C$
- By definition of output-consistent,

$$T^*(c_s, \sigma_0) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_0)$$

implies

$$P^*(c, T^*(c_s, \sigma_0)) = P^*(c, T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_0))$$

- This is definition of noninterference-secure with respect to policy  $r$

# Unwinding Theorem

- Links security of sequences of state transition commands to security of individual state transition commands
- Allows you to show a system design is multilevel-secure by showing it matches specs from which certain lemmata derived
  - Says *nothing* about security of system, because of implementation, operation, *etc.* issues

# Locally Respects

- $r$  is a policy
- System  $X$  locally respects  $r$  if  $dom(c)$  being noninterfering with  $d \in D$  implies  $\sigma_a \sim^d T(c, \sigma_a)$
- Intuition: when  $X$  locally respects  $r$ , applying  $c$  under policy  $r$  to system  $X$  has no effect on domain  $d$



# Transition-Consistent

- $r$  policy,  $d \in D$
- If  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$  implies  $T(c, \sigma_a) \sim^d T(c, \sigma_b)$ , system  $X$  is *transition-consistent* under  $r$
- Intuition: command  $c$  does not affect equivalence of states under policy  $r$

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- Intuition: applying  $c$  under policy  $r$  to system  $X$  has no effect on domain  $d$  when  $X$  locally respects  $r$

# Transition-Consistent

- $r$  policy,  $d \in D$
- If  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$  implies  $T(c, \sigma_a) \sim^d T(c, \sigma_b)$ , system  $X$  transition-consistent under  $r$
- Intuition: command  $c$  does not affect equivalence of states under policy  $r$

# Theorem

- $r$  policy,  $X$  system that is output consistent, transition consistent, and locally respects  $r$
- Then  $X$  noninterference-secure with respect to policy  $r$
- Significance: basis for analyzing systems claiming to enforce noninterference policy
  - Establish conditions of theorem for particular set of commands, states with respect to some policy, set of protection domains
  - Noninterference security with respect to  $r$  follows

# Proof

Must show  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b \Rightarrow T^*(c_s, \sigma_a) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_b)$

- Induct on length of  $c_s$
- Basis: if  $c_s = v$ , then  $T^*(c_s, \sigma_a) = \sigma_a$  and  $\pi'_d(v) = v$ ; claim holds
- Hypothesis: for  $c_s = c_1 \dots c_n$ ,  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b \Rightarrow T^*(c_s, \sigma_a) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_b)$

# Induction Step

- Consider  $c_s c_{n+1}$ . Assume  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$  and look at  $T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b)$
- 2 cases:
  - $dom(c_{n+1})rd$  holds
  - $dom(c_{n+1})rd$  does not hold

# $dom(c_{n+1})rd$ Holds

$$T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b) = T^*(\pi'_d(c_s) c_{n+1}, \sigma_b) = T(c_{n+1}, T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_b))$$

- By definition of  $T^*$  and  $\pi'_d$

$$\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b \Rightarrow T(c_{n+1}, \sigma_a) \sim^d T(c_{n+1}, \sigma_b)$$

- As  $X$  transition-consistent

$$T(c_{n+1}, T^*(c_s, \sigma_a)) \sim^d T(c_{n+1}, T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_b))$$

- By transition-consistency and IH

$$T(c_{n+1}, T^*(c_s, \sigma_a)) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b)$$

- By substitution from earlier equality

$$T^*(c_s c_{n+1}, \sigma_a) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b)$$

- By definition of  $T^*$

proving hypothesis



# $dom(c_{n+1})rd$ Does Not Hold

$$T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b) = T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_b)$$

- By definition of  $\pi'_d$

$$T^*(c_s, \sigma_a) = T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b)$$

- By above and IH

$$T(c_{n+1}, T^*(c_s, \sigma_a)) \sim^d T^*(c_s, \sigma_a)$$

- As  $X$  locally respects  $r$ ,  $\sigma \sim^d T(c_{n+1}, \sigma)$  for any  $\sigma$

$$T(c_{n+1}, T^*(c_s, \sigma_a)) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s c_{n+1}), \sigma_b)$$

- Substituting back

proving hypothesis

# Finishing Proof

- Take  $\sigma_a = \sigma_b = \sigma_0$ , so from claim proved by induction,

$$T^*(c_s, \sigma_0) \sim^d T^*(\pi'_d(c_s), \sigma_0)$$

- By previous lemma, as  $X$  (and so  $\sim^d$ ) output consistent, then  $X$  is noninterference-secure with respect to policy  $r$

# Access Control Matrix

- Example of interpretation
- Given: access control information
- Question: are given conditions enough to provide noninterference security?
- Assume: system in a particular state
  - Encapsulates values in ACM

# ACM Model

- Objects  $L = \{ l_1, \dots, l_m \}$ 
  - Locations in memory
- Values  $V = \{ v_1, \dots, v_n \}$ 
  - Values that L can assume
- Set of states  $\Sigma = \{ \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma_k \}$
- Set of protection domains  $D = \{ d_1, \dots, d_j \}$

# Functions

- *value*:  $L \times \Sigma \rightarrow V$ 
  - returns value  $v$  stored in location  $l$  when system in state  $\sigma$
- *read*:  $D \rightarrow 2^V$ 
  - returns set of objects observable from domain  $d$
- *write*:  $D \rightarrow 2^V$ 
  - returns set of objects observable from domain  $d$

# Interpretation of ACM

- Functions represent ACM
  - Subject  $s$  in domain  $d$ , object  $o$
  - $r \in A[s, o]$  if  $o \in read(d)$
  - $w \in A[s, o]$  if  $o \in write(d)$

- Equivalence relation:

$$[\sigma_a \sim^{dom(c)} \sigma_b] \Leftrightarrow [ \forall l_i \in read(d) [ value(l_i, \sigma_a) = value(l_i, \sigma_b) ] ]$$

- You can read the *exactly* the same locations in both states

# Enforcing Policy $r$

- 5 requirements
  - 3 general ones describing dependence of commands on rights over input and output
    - Hold for all ACMs and policies
  - 2 that are specific to some security policies
    - Hold for *most* policies

# Enforcing Policy $r$ : General Requirements

- Output of command  $c$  executed in domain  $dom(c)$  depends only on values for which subjects in  $dom(c)$  have read access
  - $\sigma_a \sim^{dom(c)} \sigma_b \Rightarrow P(c, \sigma_a) = P(c, \sigma_b)$
- If  $c$  changes  $l_i$ , then  $c$  can only use values of objects in  $read(dom(c))$  to determine new value
  - $[ \sigma_a \sim^{dom(c)} \sigma_b \wedge (value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_a) \vee value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_b)) ] \Rightarrow value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) = value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b))$
- If  $c$  changes  $l_i$ , then  $dom(c)$  provides subject executing  $c$  with write access to  $l_i$ 
  - $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_a) \Rightarrow l_i \in write(dom(c))$



# Enforcing Policies $r$ : Specific to Policy

- If domain  $u$  can interfere with domain  $v$ , then every object that can be read in  $u$  can also be read in  $v$ ; so if object  $o$  cannot be read in  $u$ , but can be read in  $v$  and object  $o'$  in  $u$  can be read in  $v$ , then info flows from  $o$  to  $o'$ , then to  $v$

$$[ u, v \in D \wedge urv ] \Rightarrow read(u) \subseteq read(v)$$

- Subject  $s$  can write object  $o$  in  $v$ , subject  $s'$  can read  $o$  in  $u$ , then domain  $v$  can interfere with domain  $u$

$$[ l_i \in read(u) \wedge l_i \in write(v) ] \Rightarrow vru$$

# Theorem

- Let  $X$  be a system satisfying these five conditions. Then  $X$  is noninterference-secure with respect to  $r$
- Proof: must show  $X$  output-consistent, locally respects  $r$ , transition-consistent
  - Then by unwinding theorem, this theorem holds

# Output-Consistent

- Take equivalence relation to be  $\sim^d$ , first condition *is* definition of output-consistent

# Locally Respects $r$

- Proof by contradiction: assume  $(dom(c), d) \notin r$  but  $\sigma_a \sim^d T(c, \sigma_a)$  does not hold
- Some object has value changed by  $c$ :

$$\exists l_i \in read(d) [ value(l_i, \sigma_a) \neq value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) ]$$

- Condition 3:  $l_i \in write(d)$
- Condition 5:  $dom(c)rd$ , contradiction
- So  $\sigma_a \sim^d T(c, \sigma_a)$  holds, meaning  $X$  locally respects  $r$

# Transition Consistency

- Assume  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$
- Must show  $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) = value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b))$  for  $l_i \in read(d)$
- 3 cases dealing with change that  $c$  makes in  $l_i$  in states  $\sigma_a, \sigma_b$ 
  - $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_a)$
  - $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_b)$
  - Neither of the above two hold

# Case 1: $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_a)$

- Condition 3:  $l_i \in write(dom(c))$
- As  $l_i \in read(d)$ , condition 5 says  $dom(c)rd$
- Condition 4:  $read(dom(c)) \subseteq read(d)$
- As  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$ ,  $\sigma_a \sim^{dom(c)} \sigma_b$
- Condition 2:  $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) = value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b))$
- So  $T(c, \sigma_a) \sim^{dom(c)} T(c, \sigma_b)$ , as desired

## Case 2: $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b)) \neq value(l_i, \sigma_b)$

- Condition 3:  $l_i \in write(dom(c))$
- As  $l_i \in read(d)$ , condition 5 says  $dom(c)rd$
- Condition 4:  $read(dom(c)) \subseteq read(d)$
- As  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$ ,  $\sigma_a \sim^{dom(c)} \sigma_b$
- Condition 2:  $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) = value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b))$
- So  $T(c, \sigma_a) \sim^{dom(c)} T(c, \sigma_b)$ , as desired

# Case 3: Neither of the Previous Two Hold

- This means the two conditions below hold:
  - $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_a)) = value(l_i, \sigma_a)$
  - $value(l_i, T(c, \sigma_b)) = value(l_i, \sigma_b)$
- Interpretation of  $\sigma_a \sim^d \sigma_b$  is:
  - for  $l_i \in read(d)$ ,  $value(l_i, \sigma_a) = value(l_i, \sigma_b)$
- So  $T(c, \sigma_a) \sim^d T(c, \sigma_b)$ , as desired

In all 3 cases,  $X$  transition-consistent



# Policies Changing Over Time

- Problem: previous analysis assumes static system
  - In real life, ACM changes as system commands issued
- Example:  $w \in C^*$  leads to current state
  - $cando(w, s, z)$  holds if  $s$  can execute  $z$  in current state
  - Condition noninterference on  $cando$
  - If  $\neg cando(w, Lara, \text{"write } f\text{"})$ , Lara can't interfere with any other user by writing file  $f$

# Generalize Noninterference

- $G \subseteq S$  set of subjects,  $A \subseteq Z$  set of commands,  $p$  predicate over elements of  $C^*$
- $c_s = (c_1, \dots, c_n) \in C^*$
- $\pi''(v) = v$
- $\pi''((c_1, \dots, c_n)) = (c_1', \dots, c_n')$ , where
  - $c_i' = v$  if  $p(c_1', \dots, c_{i-1}')$  and  $c_i = (s, z)$  with  $s \in G$  and  $z \in A$
  - $c_i' = c_i$  otherwise

# Intuition

- $\pi''(c_s) = c_s$
- But if  $p$  holds, and element of  $c_s$  involves both command in  $A$  and subject in  $G$ , replace corresponding element of  $c_s$  with empty command  $\nu$ 
  - Just like deleting entries from  $c_s$  as  $\pi_{A,G}$  does earlier

# Noninterference

- $G, G' \subseteq S$  sets of subjects,  $A \subseteq Z$  set of commands,  $p$  predicate over  $C^*$
- Users in  $G$  executing commands in  $A$  are *noninterfering with users in  $G'$*  under condition  $p$  iff, for all  $c_s \in C^*$  and for all  $s \in G'$ ,  $proj(s, c_s, \sigma_i) = proj(s, \pi''(c_s), \sigma_i)$ 
  - Written  $A, G :| G'$  if  $p$

# Example

- From earlier one, simple security policy based on noninterference:

$$\forall (s \in S) \forall (z \in Z) [ \{z\}, \{s\} : | S \text{ if } \neg \text{cando}(w, s, z) ]$$

- If subject can't execute command (the  $\neg \text{cando}$  part) in any state, subject can't use that command to interfere with another subject

# Another Example

- Consider system in which rights can be passed
  - $pass(s, z)$  gives  $s$  right to execute  $z$
  - $w_n = v_1, \dots, v_n$  sequence of  $v_i \in C^*$
  - $prev(w_n) = w_{n-1}; last(w_n) = v_n$

# Policy

- No subject  $s$  can use  $z$  to interfere if, in previous state,  $s$  did not have right to  $z$ , and no subject gave it to  $s$

$\{ z \}, \{ s \} : | S$

**if** [  $\neg cando(prev(w), s, z) \wedge [ cando(prev(w), s', pass(s, z)) \Rightarrow$   
 $\neg last(w) = (s', pass(s, z)) ] ]$

# Effect

- Suppose  $s_1 \in S$  can execute  $pass(s_2, z)$
- For all  $w \in C^*$ ,  $cando(w, s_1, pass(s_2, z))$  holds
- Initially,  $cando(v, s_2, z)$  false
- Let  $z' \in Z$  be such that  $(s_3, z')$  noninterfering with  $(s_2, z)$ 
  - So for each  $w_n$  with  $v_n = (s_3, z')$ ,  $cando(w_n, s_2, z) = cando(w_{n-1}, s_2, z)$



# Effect

- Then policy says for all  $s \in S$

$$\text{proj}(s, ((s_2, z), (s_1, \text{pass}(s_2, z)), (s_3, z'), (s_2, z)), \sigma_i) =$$

$$\text{proj}(s, ((s_1, \text{pass}(s_2, z)), (s_3, z'), (s_2, z)), \sigma_i)$$

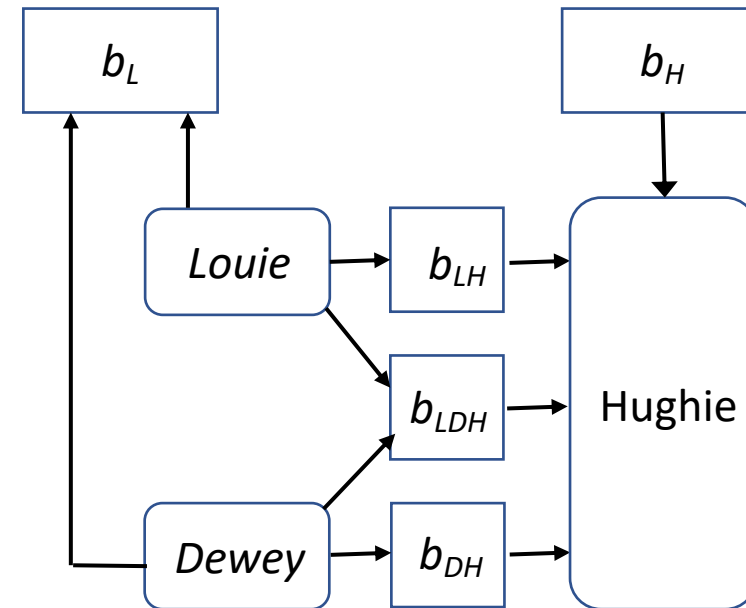
- So  $s_2$ 's first execution of  $z$  does not affect any subject's observation of system

# Policy Composition I

- Assumed: Output function of input
  - Means deterministic (else not function)
  - Means uninterruptability (differences in timings can cause differences in states, hence in outputs)
- This result for deterministic, noninterference-secure systems

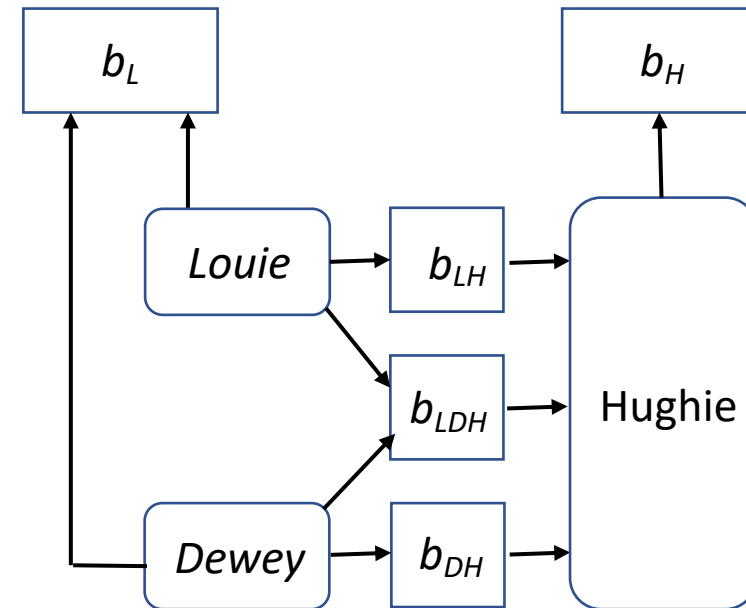
# Compose Systems

- Louie, Dewey LOW
- Hughie HIGH
- $b_L$  output buffer
  - Anyone can read it
- $b_H$  input buffer
  - From HIGH source
- Hughie reads from:
  - $b_{LH}$  (Louie writes)
  - $b_{LDH}$  (Louie, Dewey write)
  - $b_{DH}$  (Dewey writes)



# Systems Secure

- All noninterference-secure
  - Hughie has no output
    - So inputs don't interfere with it
  - Louie, Dewey have no input
    - So (nonexistent) inputs don't interfere with outputs



# Security of Composition

- Buffers finite, sends/receives blocking: composition *not* secure!
  - Example: assume  $b_{DH}$ ,  $b_{LH}$  have capacity 1
- Algorithm:
  1. Louie (Dewey) sends message to  $b_{LH}$  ( $b_{DH}$ )
    - Fills buffer
  2. Louie (Dewey) sends second message to  $b_{LH}$  ( $b_{DH}$ )
  3. Louie (Dewey) sends a 0 (1) to  $b_L$
  4. Louie (Dewey) sends message to  $b_{LDH}$ 
    - Signals Hughie that Louie (Dewey) completed a cycle

# Hughie

- Reads bit from  $b_H$ 
  - If 0, receive message from  $b_{LH}$
  - If 1, receive message from  $b_{DH}$
- Receive on  $b_{LDH}$ 
  - To wait for buffer to be filled

# Example

- Hughie reads 0 from  $b_H$ 
  - Reads message from  $b_{LH}$
- Now Louie's second message goes into  $b_{LH}$ 
  - Louie completes setp 2 and writes 0 into  $b_L$
- Dewey blocked at step 1
  - Dewey cannot write to  $b_L$
- Symmetric argument shows that Hughie reading 1 produces a 1 in  $b_L$
- So, input from  $b_H$  copied to output  $b_L$

# Nondeducibility

- Noninterference: do state transitions caused by high level commands interfere with sequences of state transitions caused by low level commands?
- Really case about inputs and outputs:
  - Can low level subject deduce *anything* about high level outputs from a set of low level outputs?



# Example: 2-Bit System

- *High* operations change only *High* bit
  - Similar for *Low*
- $\sigma_0 = (0, 0)$
- Sequence of commands:
  - (Heidi, *xor1*), (Lara, *xor0*), (Lara, *xor1*), (Lara, *xor0*), (Heidi, *xor1*), (Lara, *xor0*)
  - Both bits output after each command
- Output is: 00101011110101

# Security

- Not noninterference-secure w.r.t. Lara
  - Lara sees output as 0001111
  - Delete *High* outputs and she sees 00111
- But Lara still cannot deduce the commands deleted
  - Don't affect values; only lengths
- So it is deducibly secure
  - Lara can't deduce the commands Heidi gave

# Event System

- 4-tuple  $(E, I, O, T)$ 
  - $E$  set of events
  - $I \subseteq E$  set of input events
  - $O \subseteq E$  set of output events
  - $T$  set of all finite sequences of events legal within system
- $E$  partitioned into  $H, L$ 
  - $H$  set of *High* events
  - $L$  set of *Low* events

# More Events ...

- $H \cap I$  set of *High* inputs
- $H \cap O$  set of *High* outputs
- $L \cap I$  set of *Low* inputs
- $L \cap O$  set of *Low* outputs
- $T_{Low}$  set of all possible sequences of *Low* events that are legal within system
- $\pi_L: T \rightarrow T_{Low}$  projection function deleting all *High* inputs from trace
  - *Low* observer should not be able to deduce anything about *High* inputs from trace  $t_{Low} \in T_{Low}$

# Deducibly Secure

- System deducibly secure if for all traces  $t_{LOW} \in T_{LOW}$ , the corresponding set of high level traces contains every possible trace  $t \in T$  for which  $\pi_L(t) = t_{LOW}$ 
  - Given any  $t_{LOW}$ , the trace  $t \in T$  producing that  $t_{LOW}$  is equally likely to be *any* trace with  $\pi_L(t) = t_{LOW}$

# Example: 2-Bit Machine

- Let  $xor0$ ,  $xor1$  apply to both bits, and both bits output after each command
- Initial state: (0, 1)
- Inputs:  $1_H 0_L 1_L 0_H 1_L 0_L$
- Outputs: 10 10 01 01 10 10
- Lara (at *Low*) sees: 001100
  - Does not know initial state, so does not know first input; but can deduce fourth input is 0
- Not deducibly secure

# Example: 2-Bit Machine

- Now  $xor0$ ,  $xor1$  apply only to state bit with same level as user
- Inputs:  $1_H 0_L 1_L 0_H 1_L 0_L$
- Outputs: 101111011
- Lara sees: 01101
- She cannot deduce *anything* about input
  - Could be  $0_H 0_L 1_L 0_H 1_L 0_L$  or  $0_L 1_H 1_L 0_H 1_L 0_L$  for example
- Deducibly secure

# Security of Composition

- In general: deducibly secure systems not composable
- *Strong noninterference*: deducible security + requirement that no *High* output occurs unless caused by a *High* input
  - Systems meeting this property *are* composable



# Example

- 2-bit machine done earlier does not exhibit strong noninterference
  - Because it puts out *High* bit even when there is no *High* input
- Modify machine to output only state bit at level of latest input
  - *Now* it exhibits strong noninterference

# Problem

- Too restrictive; it bans some systems that are *obviously* secure
- Example: System *upgrade* reads *Low* inputs, outputs those bits at *High*
  - Clearly deducibly secure: low level user sees no outputs
  - Clearly does not exhibit strong noninterference, as no high level inputs!

# Remove Determinism

- Previous assumption
  - Input, output synchronous
  - Output depends only on commands triggered by input
    - Sometimes absorbed into commands ...
  - Input processed one datum at a time
- Not realistic
  - In real systems, lots of asynchronous events

# Generalized Noninterference

- Nondeterministic systems meeting noninterference property meet *generalized noninterference-secure property*
  - More robust than nondeducible security because minor changes in assumptions affect whether system is nondeducibly secure

# Example

- System with *High* Holly, *Low* Lucy, text file at *High*
  - File fixed size, symbol ✧ marks empty space
  - Holly can edit file, Lucy can run this program:

```

while true do begin
    n := read_integer_from_user;
    if n > file_length or char_in_file[n] = ✧ then
        print random_character;
    else
        print char_in_file[n];
    end;

```

# Security of System

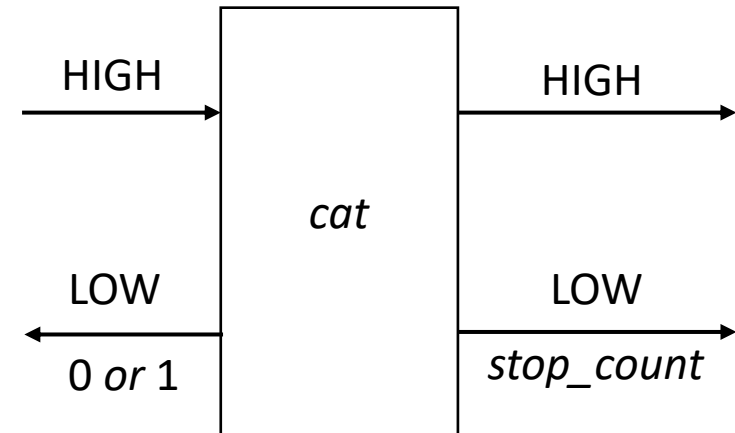
- Not noninterference-secure
  - High level inputs—Holly’s changes—affect low level outputs
- *May* be deducibly secure
  - Can Lucy deduce contents of file from program?
  - If output meaningful (“This is right”) or close (“Thes is right”), yes
  - Otherwise, no
- So deducibly secure depends on which inferences are allowed

# Composition of Systems

- Does composing systems meeting generalized noninterference-secure property give you a system that also meets this property?
- Define two systems (*cat*, *dog*)
- Compose them

# First System: *cat*

- Inputs, outputs can go left or right
- After some number of inputs, *cat* sends two outputs
  - First *stop\_count*
  - Second parity of *High* inputs, outputs



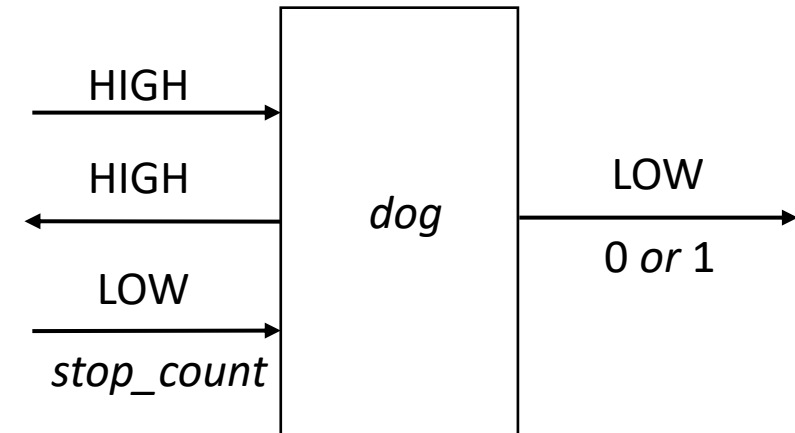


# Noninterference-Secure?

- If even number of *High* inputs, output could be:
  - 0 (even number of outputs)
  - 1 (odd number of outputs)
- If odd number of *High* inputs, output could be:
  - 0 (odd number of outputs)
  - 1 (even number of outputs)
- High level inputs do not affect output
  - So noninterference-secure

# Second System: *dog*

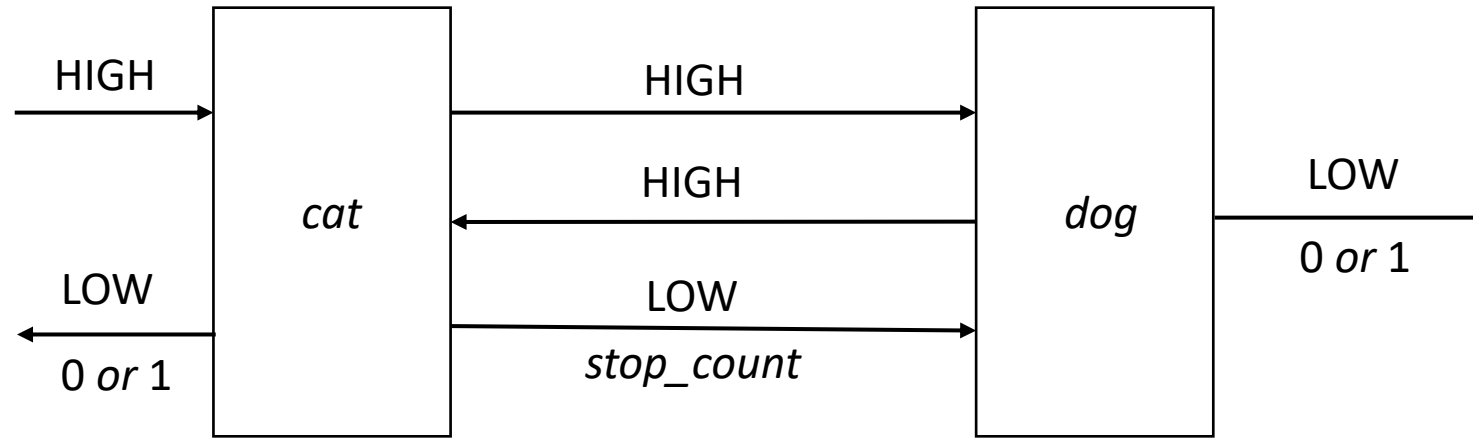
- High outputs to left
- Low outputs of 0 or 1 to right
- *stop\_count* input from the left
  - When it arrives, *dog* emits 0 or 1



# Noninterference-Secure?

- When *stop\_count* arrives:
  - May or may not be inputs for which there are no corresponding outputs
  - Parity of *High* inputs, outputs can be odd or even
  - Hence *dog* emits 0 or 1
- High level inputs do not affect low level outputs
  - So noninterference-secure

# Compose Them



- Once sent, message arrives
  - But *stop\_count* may arrive before all inputs have generated corresponding outputs
  - If so, even number of *High* inputs and outputs on *cat*, but odd number on *dog*
- Four cases arise

# The Cases

- *cat*, odd number of inputs, outputs; *dog*, even number of inputs, odd number of outputs
  - Input message from *cat* not arrived at *dog*, contradicting assumption
- *cat*, even number of inputs, outputs; *dog*, odd number of inputs, even number of outputs
  - Input message from *dog* not arrived at *cat*, contradicting assumption

# The Cases

- cat, odd number of inputs, outputs; dog, odd number of inputs, even number of outputs
  - dog sent even number of outputs to cat, so cat has had at least one input from left
- cat, even number of inputs, outputs; dog, even number of inputs, odd number of outputs
  - dog sent odd number of outputs to cat, so cat has had at least one input from left

# The Conclusion

- Composite system *catdog* emits 0 to left, 1 to right (or 1 to left, 0 to right)
  - Must have received at least one input from left
- Composite system *catdog* emits 0 to left, 0 to right (or 1 to left, 1 to right)
  - Could not have received any from left (i.e., no HIGH inputs)
- So, *High* inputs affect *Low* outputs
  - Not noninterference-secure

# Feedback-Free Systems

- System has  $n$  distinct components
- Components  $c_i, c_j$  are *connected* if any output of  $c_i$  is input to  $c_j$
- System is *feedback-free* if for all  $c_i$  connected to  $c_j, c_j$  not connected to any  $c_i$ 
  - Intuition: once information flows from one component to another, no information flows back from the second to the first



# Feedback-Free Security

- *Theorem:* A feedback-free system composed of noninterference-secure systems is itself noninterference-secure

# Some Feedback

- *Lemma*: A noninterference-secure system can feed a HIGH output  $o$  to a HIGH input  $i$  if the arrival of  $o$  at the input of the next component is delayed until *after* the next LOW input or output
- *Theorem*: A system with feedback as described in the above lemma and composed of noninterference-secure systems is itself noninterference-secure

# Why Didn't They Work?

- For compositions to work, machine must act same way regardless of what precedes LOW input (HIGH, LOW, nothing)
- *dog* does not meet this criterion
  - If first input is *stop\_count*, *dog* emits 0
  - If high level input precedes *stop\_count*, *dog* emits 0 or 1

# State Machine Model: 2-Bit Machine

Levels *High, Low*, meet 4 properties:

1. For every input  $i_k$ , state  $\sigma_j$ , there is an element  $c_m \in C^*$  such that  $T^*(c_m, \sigma_j) = \sigma_n$ , where  $\sigma_n \neq \sigma_j$

$T^*$  is total function, inputs and commands always move system to a different state

# Property 2

2. There is an equivalence relation  $\equiv$  such that:
  - a. If system in state  $\sigma_i$  and HIGH sequence of inputs causes transition from  $\sigma_i$  to  $\sigma_j$ , then  $\sigma_i \equiv \sigma_j$ 
    - 2 states equivalent if either reachable from the other state using only HIGH commands
  - b. If  $\sigma_i \equiv \sigma_j$  and LOW sequence of inputs  $i_1, \dots, i_n$  causes system in state  $\sigma_i$  to transition to  $\sigma_i'$ , then there is a state  $\sigma_j'$  such that  $\sigma_i' \equiv \sigma_j'$  and inputs  $i_1, \dots, i_n$  cause system in state  $\sigma_j$  to transition to  $\sigma_j'$ 
    - States resulting from giving same LOW commands to the two equivalent original states have same LOW projection

$\equiv$  holds if LOW projections of both states are same

- If 2 states equivalent, HIGH commands do not affect LOW projections

# Property 3

- Let  $\sigma_i \equiv \sigma_j$ . If sequence of HIGH outputs  $o_1, \dots, o_n$  indicate system in state  $\sigma_i$  transitioned to state  $\sigma_i'$ , then for some state  $\sigma_j'$  with  $\sigma_j' \equiv \sigma_i'$ , sequence of HIGH outputs  $o_1', \dots, o_m'$  indicates system in  $\sigma_j$  transitioned to  $\sigma_j'$ 
  - HIGH outputs do not indicate changes in LOW projection of states

# Property 4

- Let  $\sigma_i \equiv \sigma_j$ , let  $c, d$  be HIGH output sequences,  $e$  a LOW output. If output sequence  $ced$  indicates system in state  $\sigma_i$  transitions to  $\sigma_i'$ , then there are HIGH output sequences  $c'$  and  $d'$  and state  $\sigma_j'$  such that  $c'ed'$  indicates system in state  $\sigma_j$  transitions to state  $\sigma_j'$ 
  - Intermingled LOW, HIGH outputs cause changes in LOW state reflecting LOW outputs only

# Restrictiveness

- System is *restrictive* if it meets the preceding 4 properties



# Composition

- Intuition: by 3 and 4, HIGH output followed by LOW output has same effect as the LOW input, so composition of restrictive systems should be restrictive

# Composite System

- System  $M_1$ 's outputs are acceptable as  $M_2$ 's inputs
- $\mu_{1i}, \mu_{2i}$  states of  $M_1, M_2$
- States of composite system pairs of  $M_1, M_2$  states  $(\mu_{1i}, \mu_{2i})$
- $e$  event causing transition
- $e$  causes transition from state  $(\mu_{1a}, \mu_{2a})$  to state  $(\mu_{1b}, \mu_{2b})$  if any of 3 conditions hold

# Conditions

1.  $M_1$  in state  $\mu_{1a}$  and  $e$  occurs,  $M_1$  transitions to  $\mu_{1b}$ ;  $e$  not an event for  $M_2$ ; and  $\mu_{2a} = \mu_{2b}$
2.  $M_2$  in state  $\mu_{2a}$  and  $e$  occurs,  $M_2$  transitions to  $\mu_{2b}$ ;  $e$  not an event for  $M_1$ ; and  $\mu_{1a} = \mu_{1b}$
3.  $M_1$  in state  $\mu_{1a}$  and  $e$  occurs,  $M_1$  transitions to  $\mu_{1b}$ ;  $M_2$  in state  $\mu_{2a}$  and  $e$  occurs,  $M_2$  transitions to  $\mu_{2b}$ ;  $e$  is input to one machine, and output from other

# Intuition

- Event causing transition in composite system causes transition in at least 1 of the components
- If transition occurs in exactly 1 component, event must not cause transition in other component when not connected to the composite system

# Equivalence for Composite

- Equivalence relation for composite system

$$(\sigma_a, \sigma_b) \equiv_C (\sigma_c, \sigma_d) \text{ iff } \sigma_a \equiv \sigma_c \text{ and } \sigma_b \equiv \sigma_d$$

- Corresponds to equivalence relation in property 2 for component system

# Theorem

The system resulting from the composition of two restrictive systems is itself restrictive

# Side Channels

A *side channel* is set of characteristics of a system, from which adversary can deduce confidential information about system or a competition

- Consider information to be derived as HIGH
- Consider information obtained from set of characteristics as LOW
- Attack is to deduce HIGH values from LOW values only
- Implication: attack works on systems not deducibly secure

# Types of Side Channel Attacks

- *Passive*: Only observe system; deduce results from observations
- *Active*: Disrupt system in some way, causing it to react; deduce results from measurements of disruption



# Example: Passive Attack

- Fast modular exponentiation:

```
x := 1; atmp := a;  
for i := 0 to k-1 do begin  
    if  $z_i = 1$  then  
        x := (x * atmp) mod n;  
        atmp := (atmp * atmp) mod n;  
end;  
result := x;
```

- If bit is 1, there are 2 multiplications; if it is 0, only one
- Extra multiplication takes time
- Can determine bits of the confidential exponent by measuring computation time

# Example: Active Attack

## Background

- Derive information from characteristics of memory accesses in chip
- Intel x86 caches
  - Each core has 2 levels, L1 and L2
  - Chip itself has third cache (L3 or LLC)
  - These are hierarchical: miss in L1 goes to L2, miss in L2 goes to L3, miss in L3 goes to memory
  - Caches are inclusive (so L3 has copies of data in L2 and L1)
- Processes share pages

# Example: Active Attack

## Phase 1

- Flush a set of bytes (called a *line*) from cache to clear it from all 3 caches
  - The disruption

## Phase 2

- Wait until victim has chance to access that memory line

## Phase 3

- Reload the line
  - If victim did this already, time is short as data comes from L3 cache
  - Otherwise time is longer as memory fetch is required

# Example: Active Attack

## What happened

- Used to trace execution of GnuPG on a physical machine
- Derived bits of a 2048 bit private key; max of 190 bits incorrect
- Repeated experiment on virtual machine
- Error rates increased
  - On one system, average error rate increased from 1.41 bits to 26.55 bits
  - On another system, average error rate increased from 25.12 bits to 66.12 bits

# Model

## Components

- *Primitive*: instantiation of computation
- *Device*: system doing the computation
- *Physical observable*: output being observed
- *Leakage function*: captures characteristics of side channel and mechanism to monitor the physical observables
- *Implementation function*: instantiation of both device, leakage function
- *Side channel adversary*: algorithm that queries implementation to get outputs from leakage function

# Example

- First one (passive attack) divided leakage function into two parts
  - *Signal* was variations in output due to bit being derived
  - *Noise* was variations due to other factors (imprecisions in measurements, etc.)
- Second one (active attack) had leakage function acting in different ways
  - Physical machine: one chip used more advanced optimizations, thus more noise
  - Virtual machine: more variations due to extra computations running the virtual machines, hence more noise

# Example: Electromagnetic Radiation

- CRT video display produces radiation that can be measured
- Using various equipment and a black and white TV, van Eck could reconstruct the images
  - Reconstructed pictures on video display units in buildings
- E-voting system with audio activated (as it would be for visually impaired voters) produced interference with sound from a nearby transistor radio
  - Testers believed changes in the sound due to the interference could be used to determine how voter was voting

# Key Points

- Composing secure policies does not always produce a secure policy
  - The policies must be restrictive
- Noninterference policies prevent HIGH inputs from affecting LOW outputs
  - Prevents “writes down” in broadest sense
- Nondeducibility policies prevent the inference of HIGH inputs from LOW outputs
  - Prevents “reads up” in broadest sense
- Side channel attacks exploit deducability