

# **Formal Analysis**

**A Brief Introduction** 





What is Formal Analysis?

# Prove that a protocol specification meets its goals



## **Symbolic vs Computational Analysis**

Symbolic analysis:

- Represent protocol algebraically
- Assume cryptographic primitives are perfect
- Prove the protocol meets / doesn't meet its (intended) goals

Computational analysis:

- Represent protocol algebraically
- Use concrete bounds on cryptographic primitives
- Compute an exact security bound for the protocol



## Case Study: TLS 1.3

- Cremers et al. produced a Tamarin model of various drafts of TLS 1.3
- Symbolic analysis
- Highly detailed model capturing virtually all modes and features
- In a single model
- During the standardisation process
- Found and fixed bugs in the design
- Proof very large (> 750k steps)
- Took several days on a 500GB 128 core server



**Needham-Schroeder** 

# $A \to B : \{N_A, A\}_{PK_B}$ $B \to A : \{N_A, N_B\}_{PK_A}$ $A \to B : \{N_B\}_{PK_B}$



#### Attack

 $A \to I: \{N_A, A\}_{PK_I}$  $I_A \rightarrow B : \{N_A, A\}_{PK_B}$  $B \rightarrow I_A : \{N_A, N_B\}_{PK_A}$  $I \to A: \{N_A, N_B\}_{PK_A}$  $A \to I: \{N_B\}_{PK_I}$  $I_A \to B : \{N_B\}_{PK_B}$ 



#### Needham-Schroeder-Lowe

# $A \to B : \{N_A, A\}_{PK_B}$ $B \to A : \{N_A, N_B, B\}_{PK_A}$ $A \to B : \{N_B\}_{PK_B}$



#### Tamarin

```
rule I 1:
let m1 = aenc{'1', ~ni, $I}pkR
 in
  [ Fr(~ni)
   !Pk($R, pkR)
  .
    !Ltk($I, ltkI)
 --[ OUT_I_1(m1)
  |->
   Out( m1 )
    St_I_1($I, ltkI, $R, pkR, ~ni)
```

Cribbed from the examples distributed with Tamarin



# **Tamarin UI**

Fr( ~ni )	!Pk( \$R, pk(~ltkA) )		!Ltk( \$I, ∼ltkA.3 )
#vr.5 : I_1[OUT_I_1( aenc(<'1', ~ni, \$I>, pk(~ltkA)) )]			
Out( aenc(<'1', ~ni, \$I>, pk(~ItkA)) )		St_I_1( \$I, ~ItkA.3, \$R, pk(~ItkA), ~ni )	



```
lemma nonce_secrecy:
 " /* It cannot be that */
  not(
     Fx A B s #i.
     /* somebody claims to have setup a shared secret, */
     Secret(A, B, s) @ i
     /* but the adversary knows it */
     & (Ex #j. K(s) @ j)
     /* without having performed a long-term key reveal. */
     & not (Ex #r. RevLtk(A) @ r)
     & not (Ex #r. RevLtk(B) @ r)
  / "
```







## Conclusions

Formal Analysis:

- can be used to prove that a protocol works as intended
- can be very difficult
- has tooling that mechanises a lot of the drudgery away
- has been used to find and fix bugs in protocols we care about



# Questions?