

Implementing Strand Space Algebras

John D. Ramsdell

The MITRE Corporation

October 2009

Strand Spaces

Message: element of initial algebra \mathfrak{A}_Σ over signature Σ

Event: transmission $(+t)$ or reception $(-t)$, $t \in \mathfrak{A}_\Sigma$

Trace: non-empty sequence of events $(\pm\mathfrak{A}_\Sigma)^+$
(a sequence of length n is a map from \mathbb{Z}_n)

Strand Space: strand set Θ and trace mapping $tr: \Theta \rightarrow (\pm\mathfrak{A}_\Sigma)^+$

Nodes

Nodes of (Θ, tr) : $\{(s, p) \mid s \in \Theta, 0 \leq p < |tr(s)|\}$

Event at node: $evt(s, p) = tr(s)(p)$

Strand succession: $\{(s, p - 1) \Rightarrow (s, p) \mid s \in \Theta, 0 < p < |tr(s)|\}$

Bundles

Bundle $\mathcal{B}(\Theta, tr, \rightarrow)$: a directed acyclic graph such that

Vertices: nodes of (Θ, tr) [a finite set]

Edges: communication (\rightarrow) and strand succession (\Rightarrow)

- $n_0 \rightarrow n_1$ implies $evt(n_0) = +t$ and $evt(n_1) = -t$
- for each reception node n_1 , there is a unique transmission node n_0 with $n_0 \rightarrow n_1$

Roles and Protocols

Role variables: variable set X

Role message: element of free algebra $\mathfrak{A}_\Sigma(X)$

- generated by variable set X

Role: non-empty sequence of events $(\pm\mathfrak{A}_\Sigma(X))^+$

Protocol: set of roles with pairwise disjoint variable sets

Runs of Protocols

A bundle $\mathcal{B}(\Theta, tr, \rightarrow)$ is a run of a protocol P if there is a role mapping $rl: \Theta \rightarrow P$ such that:

- $s \in \Theta$ implies $|tr(s)| \leq |rl(s)|$
- $s \in \Theta, 0 \leq p < tr(s)$ implies $tr(s)(p) = \sigma(rl(s)(p))$
for some Σ -homomorphism $\sigma: \mathfrak{A}_\Sigma(X) \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_\Sigma$,
where X is the union of the protocol's role variable sets

Free Algebras

Let \mathcal{K} be a class of Σ -algebras. The Σ -algebra \mathcal{A} is called *free in \mathcal{K} with generating set X* iff

- \mathcal{A} is generated by $X \subseteq \mathcal{A}$,
- $\mathcal{A} \in \mathcal{K}$, and
- for every Σ -algebra \mathcal{B} in \mathcal{K} , every mapping $\sigma: X \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$ can be extended to a homomorphism $\hat{\sigma}: \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{B}$.

— Baader and Nipkow, “Term Rewriting and All That”, 1998

Strand Spaces Over Free Algebras

- Protocols mention few constants used in a run
- So use Σ' which is Σ without the constants ignored by roles
- Consider strand spaces and bundles over free algebra $\mathfrak{A}_{\Sigma'}(Y)$

Algebra \mathfrak{A}_{Σ}

- *satisfies* $\mathcal{B}(\Theta, tr, \rightarrow)$ over algebra $\mathfrak{A}_{\Sigma'}(Y)$
- *with* Σ -homomorphism $\sigma: \mathfrak{A}_{\Sigma'}(Y) \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_{\Sigma}$
- because $\mathcal{B}(\Theta, \sigma \circ tr, \rightarrow)$ is a bundle over algebra \mathfrak{A}_{Σ}

Interpreting Received Messages

Pair (M, N) : receiver may extract both M and N

Encryption $\{M\}_N$: receiver may extract M
if decryption key possessed

Inverse asymmetric key M^{-1} : receiver may never extract M

The implementation uses sorts and sort sensitive predicates on terms to correctly interpret received messages.

Basic Crypto Signature

Sort symbols: mesg, name, text, data, skey, akey

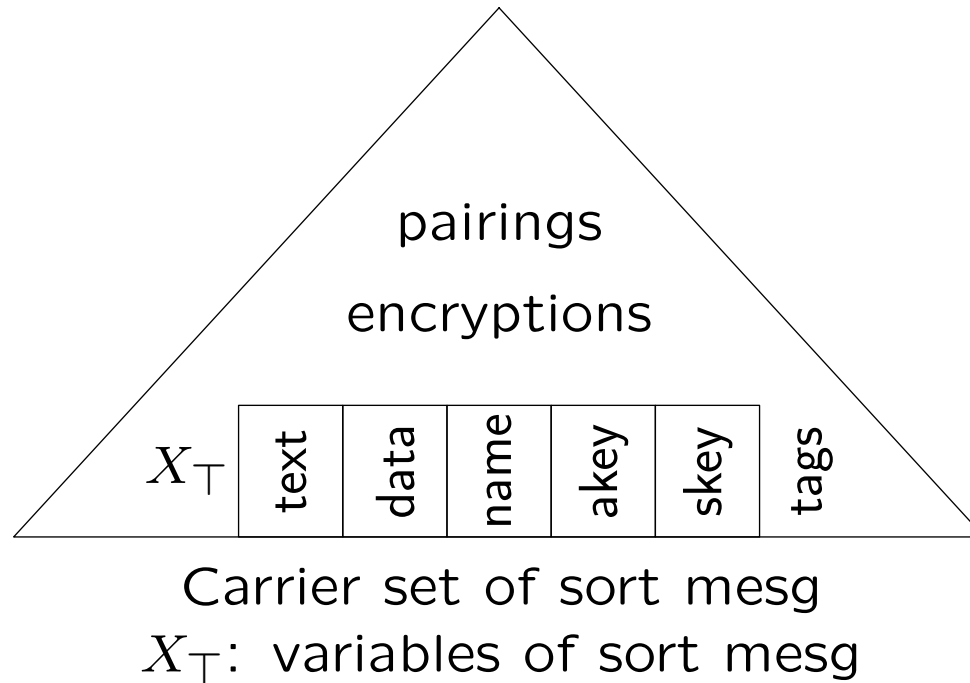
Subsorts: name, text, data, akey, skey < mesg

| | | |
|-----------------------|--|---------------------------|
| $\{\cdot\}_{(\cdot)}$ | $\text{mesg} \times \text{mesg} \rightarrow \text{mesg}$ | Encryption |
| (\cdot, \cdot) | $\text{mesg} \times \text{mesg} \rightarrow \text{mesg}$ | Pairing |
| "..." | mesg | Tag constants |
| $K_{(\cdot)}$ | $\text{name} \rightarrow \text{akey}$ | Public key of name |
| $(\cdot)^{-1}$ | $\text{akey} \rightarrow \text{akey}$ | Inverse of asymmetric key |
| ltk | $\text{name} \times \text{name} \rightarrow \text{skey}$ | Long term shared key |

Identity: $(x^{-1})^{-1} = x$ for $x: \text{akey}$

For pairing, parentheses are omitted when the context permits, and comma is right associative. Sort T is an alias for mesg.

Carrier Sets of Basic Crypto Algebra $\mathfrak{A}_\Sigma(X)$



Base sort: a subsort of mesg, e.g. akey

Atom: an element of the carrier set of a base sort, e.g. M^{-1}

Inverse Key

The decryption key of encryption $\{\{t_0\}\}_{t_1}$ is $inv(t_1)$, where

$$inv(t) = \begin{cases} invk(t) & \text{if } t: \text{akey} \\ \text{undefined} & \text{if } t \text{ is a variable of sort mesg} \\ t & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Interpreting Role Messages

- Roles abstract programs, strands abstract their runs
- Consider a role with reception event $-\{\{M\}_N$
- What program is specified by this event in a role?
 - Use decryption key associated with N to extract M , or
 - Test if $\{\{M\}_N$ is equal to a known message

Interpretations of a Role

- Given an initial set of messages, what programs are associated with a trace?
- Use ternary relations $T_0, C \triangleright T_1$ and $T_0, \pm t \triangleright T_1$, where $T_0, C \triangleright T_1$ asserts $t \in T_1$ is available after a run of C starting with messages T_0 and

$$T, \langle \rangle \triangleright T \quad \frac{T_0, \pm t \triangleright T \quad T, C \triangleright T_1}{T_0, \langle \pm t \rangle \frown C \triangleright T_1}$$

where \frown denotes sequence concatenation

Interpretations of a Transmission

- A message can be sent if it is known

$$\frac{t \in T}{T, +t \triangleright T}$$

- A message can be sent if it can be constructed

$$\frac{T, \langle +t_0, \dots, +t_{n-1} \rangle \triangleright T}{T, +f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \triangleright T} \quad [f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \text{ not an atom}]$$

Interpretations of a Reception

- Receive an atom or variable and make it known

$$T, -t \triangleright T \cup \{t\} \quad [t \text{ an atom or a variable}]$$

- Receive an encryption by decrypting it

$$\frac{T_0, + \text{inv}(t_1) \triangleright T_0 \quad T_0, -t_0 \triangleright T_1}{T_0, -\{t_0\}_{t_1} \triangleright T_1 \cup \{\{t_0\}_{t_1}\}}$$

- Receive an encryption ensuring it matches a known message

$$\frac{T, +\{t_0\}_{t_1} \triangleright T}{T, -\{t_0\}_{t_1} \triangleright T}$$

- Receive a message by decomposition

$$\frac{T_0, \langle -t_0, \dots, -t_{n-1} \rangle \circ \pi_n \triangleright T_1}{T_0, -f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \triangleright T_1} \left[\begin{array}{l} \pi_n \text{ is a permutation} \\ f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) \text{ not an atom} \end{array} \right]$$

Role Parameters

- The set of atoms T_0 are *parameters* of trace C if
 - $T_0, C \triangleright T_1$ for some T_1 , and
 - T_0 is minimal, that is for all T'_0 such that $T'_0, C \triangleright T_1$, $T'_0 \not\subseteq T_0$
- Program `cpsaparameters` computes the parameter sets of roles
- Found flaw in CAVES attestation protocol in draft submitted for publication

Hashing and Parameter Sets

- Hashing simulated by encryption
 - Decryption key available to no one
 - Asymmetric key h^{-1} assumed non-originating in roles
- Hashing macro: $\#M \implies \{\text{"hash"}, M\}_h$
 - Tag “hash” ensures hashes are not confused with other encryptions
- Key h^{-1} must not be in every parameter set of some role
 - Was in erroneous version of CAVES

Finding Contractions

- The core operation in CPSA is solving authentication tests
 - A test node has a reception event $-t$
the penetrator cannot construct
 - Penetrator has access to a set of encryptions T_e ,
but not their decryption keys
 - To solve the test, CPSA infers additional regular behavior
- One way to solve a test is to find a contraction, meaning
 - Find a substitution σ such that given $\sigma(T_e)$,
the penetrator can construct $\sigma(t)$
 - Contraction algorithm is tricky—presented next

Positions

- A *position* p is a finite sequence of natural numbers
- The term in t that *occurs at* p , written $t @ p$, is:

$$t @ \langle \rangle = t;$$

$$f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}) @ \langle i \rangle \frown p = t_i @ p \text{ if } i < n$$

- Position p *traverses a key edge* in t if $t @ p_0 = \{t_0\}_{t_1}$ and $p = p_0 \frown \langle 1 \rangle \frown p_1$
- Position p *traverses an atom edge* in t if $t @ p_0 = f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1})$ is an atom and $p = p_0 \frown \langle i \rangle \frown p_1$, where $i < n$
- A position is a *carried position* in t if it traverses no key or atom edge in t

Carried Positions

Given a term t , the set of positions at which t' carries t is $carpos(t, t')$, where

$$carpos(t, t') = \begin{cases} \{\langle \rangle\} & \text{if } t' \equiv t, \text{ else} \\ \{\langle 0 \rangle \frown p \mid p \in carpos(t, t_0)\} & \text{if } t' = \{t_0\}_{t_1}, \text{ else} \\ \{\langle i \rangle \frown p \mid p \in carpos(t, t_i), i < n\} & \text{if } t' = f(t_0, \dots, t_{n-1}), t' \text{ not an atom, else} \\ \{\} & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Note that $carpos(x, invk(inv k(x))) = \{\langle \rangle\}$, not $\{\langle \rangle, \langle 0, 0 \rangle\}$
- Term t' carries t iff $carpos(t, t')$ is non-empty

Carried Only Within

- When $t' = t @ p$, the *ancestors* of t' in t at p are

$$anc(t, p) = \{t @ p' \mid p' \text{ a proper prefix of } p\}$$

- Term t is *carried only within* set T_e in t' , if

$$\forall p \in carpos(t, t'). \exists t_a t_e. t_a \in anc(t', p) \wedge t_e \in T_e \wedge t_a \equiv t_e$$

Note that $|carpos(t, t')|$ equations must be satisfied

- For every test, reception message t' carries a term t such that t is not carried only within T_e in t'

Carried Only Within Solutions

The set S of substitutions is a *carried only within solution* for t , T_e , and t' iff $\sigma \in S$ implies $\sigma(t)$ is carried only within $\sigma(T_e)$ in $\sigma(t')$ and S is a complete set of most general unifiers.

Why are solutions tricky to compute? A solution requires

- solving a system of equations of cardinality $|carpos(\sigma(t), \sigma(t'))|$
- but σ cannot be computed without knowing the equations

Compute by finding a fixed point of a function

Carried Only Within at a Substitution

- A key property of *carpos*

Lemma 1. $carpos(t, t') \subseteq carpos(\sigma(t), \sigma(t'))$

- Term t is *carried only within* T_e in t' at σ if

$$\forall p \in carpos(t, t'). \exists t_a t_e. t_a \in anc(t', p) \wedge t_e \in T_e \wedge \sigma(t_a) \equiv \sigma(t_e)$$

Solving Systems of Equations

- Extending a solution by solving one additional equation

$$\begin{aligned} \text{unify}: \mathfrak{A}_T(X) \times \mathfrak{A}_T(X) \times (X \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_T(X)) &\rightarrow \text{Set}(X \rightarrow \mathfrak{A}_T(X)) \\ \text{unify}(t, t', \sigma) &= \{\sigma' \circ \sigma \mid \sigma' \in \text{unify}(\sigma(t), \sigma(t'), \sigma_{\text{id}})\} \end{aligned}$$

where σ_{id} is the identity substitution

- Extending solutions by solving one extra equation from the cross product

$$\text{solve}(T, T', S) = \{\sigma' \mid t \in T, t' \in T', \sigma \in S, \sigma' \in \text{unify}(t, t', \sigma)\}$$

Carried Only Within at a Substitution Implementation

Find substitutions that solve an equation for each carried position

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fold}(t, T_e, t', S) = \\ \text{fold}_0(t, T_e, t', S, \text{carpos}(t, t')) \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \text{fold}_0(t, T_e, t', S, \{\}) &= S \\ \text{fold}_0(t, T_e, t', S, \{p\} \cup P) &= \\ \text{fold}_0(t, T_e, t', \text{solve}(\text{anc}(t', p), T_e, S), P \setminus \{p\}) \end{aligned}$$

Term t is carried only within T_e in t' at σ iff $\sigma \in \text{fold}(t, T_e, t', \{\sigma_{\text{id}}\})$

Carried Only Within Solutions Implementation

Iterate *fold* to find a fixed point

$$\mathit{cows}(t, T_e, t') = \mathit{cows}_0(t, T_e, t', \sigma_{\text{id}}) \quad \text{— } \sigma_{\text{id}} \text{ is the identity substitution}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \mathit{cows}_0(t, T_e, t', \sigma) = & \\ & \mathbf{if } t \text{ is carried only within } T_e \text{ at } t' \mathbf{ then} \\ & \quad \{\sigma\} \\ & \mathbf{else} \\ & \quad \mathbf{let } S = \mathit{fold}(t, T_e, t', \{\sigma\}) \mathbf{ in} \\ & \quad \bigcup_{\sigma' \in S} \mathit{cows}_0(\sigma'(t), \sigma'(T_e), \sigma'(t'), \sigma') \end{aligned}$$

Correctness

Soundness: $\sigma \in cows(t, T_e, t')$ implies $\sigma(t)$ is carried only within $\sigma(T_e)$ in $\sigma(t')$

Termination: $cows(t, T_e, t')$ terminates on all inputs

Completeness: $\sigma(t)$ is carried only within $\sigma(T_e)$ in $\sigma(t')$ implies there exists a substitution σ' such that $\sigma' \trianglelefteq \sigma$ and $\sigma' \in cows(t, T_e, t')$

Substitution σ_0 is *more general than* σ_1 , written $\sigma_0 \trianglelefteq \sigma_1$, if there exists a substitution σ_2 such that $\sigma_1 = \sigma_2 \circ \sigma_0$

Diffie-Hellman Signature

New base sorts:

base, expn < mesg

New operations:

g: base

Generator

$(\cdot)^{(\cdot)}$: base \times expn \rightarrow base

Exponentiation

$(\cdot\cdot)$: expn \times expn \rightarrow expn

Multiplication

1: expn

Unit

$1/(\cdot)$: expn \rightarrow expn

Reciprocal

New equations:

$$(h^x)^y \approx h^{xy}$$

$$h^1 \approx h$$

$$xy \approx yx$$

Commutativity

$$x(yz) \approx (xy)z$$

Associativity

$$1x \approx x$$

Identity

$$x/x \approx 1$$

Cancellation