

# Secure Information Flow Analysis Using the PRISM Model Checker

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# Contents

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-  **Introduction**
-  Background
-  Related work
-  The proposed approach
-  Experimental evaluation
-  Conclusion





# Introduction

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Secure information flow





# Introduction

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## Information flow

secret variables



public variables





# Introduction

---

## Information flow

$l := h$

100% leakage





# Introduction

---

## Information flow

```
if h>0 then l:=-5 else l:=5 fi
```

1 bit leakage





# Introduction

---

Secure information flow analysis

Program model

Security property

Verification method





# Introduction

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Security property for concurrent programs

Observational determinism







# Introduction

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Challenges of existing definitions of observational determinism

Scheduler-independent

Imprecise





# Introduction

---

Verifying observational determinism

Type systems

Logics

Algorithmic verification





# Introduction

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Challenges of OD verification methods

Restrictive

Not extensible

Non-automated

Not scalable





# Contributions

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Proposing an approach for analyzing  
secure information flow of concurrent programs





# Contributions

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- Formally modeling concurrent programs  
by Markov processes and probabilistic schedulers
- A formal definition of observational determinism
- Algorithms to verify observational determinism
- An automated tool PRISM-Leak



# Contents

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 **Background**
- 3 Related work
- 4 The proposed approach
- 5 Experimental evaluation
- 6 Conclusion

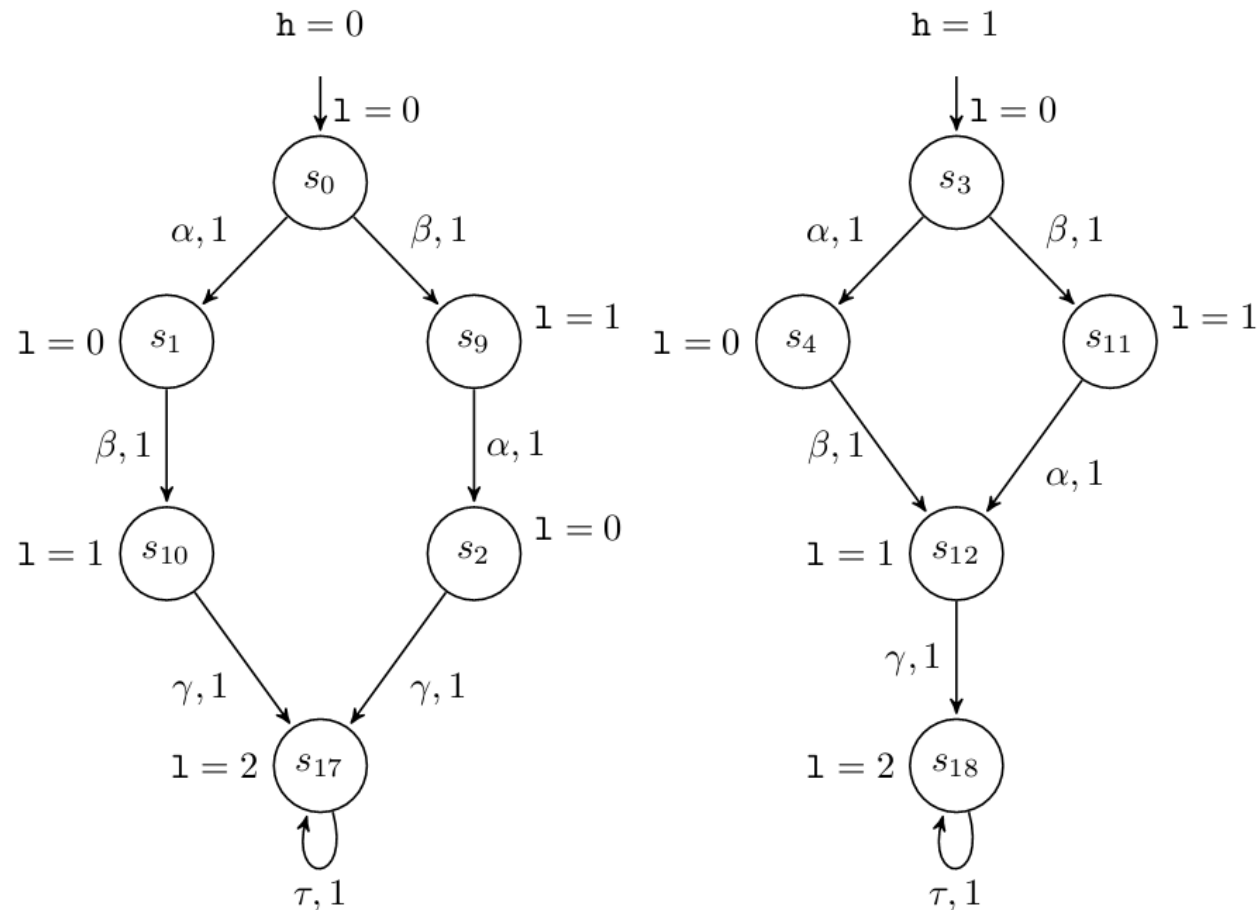




# Background

Markov Decision Process

$$\mathcal{M}^P = (S, Act, \mathbf{P}, \zeta, Val_L, V_L)$$





# Background

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Memoryless probabilistic scheduler

$$\delta : S \rightarrow \mathcal{D}(\text{Act})$$

$$\delta(s) \in \mathcal{D}(\text{Act}(s)) \text{ for all } s \in S$$

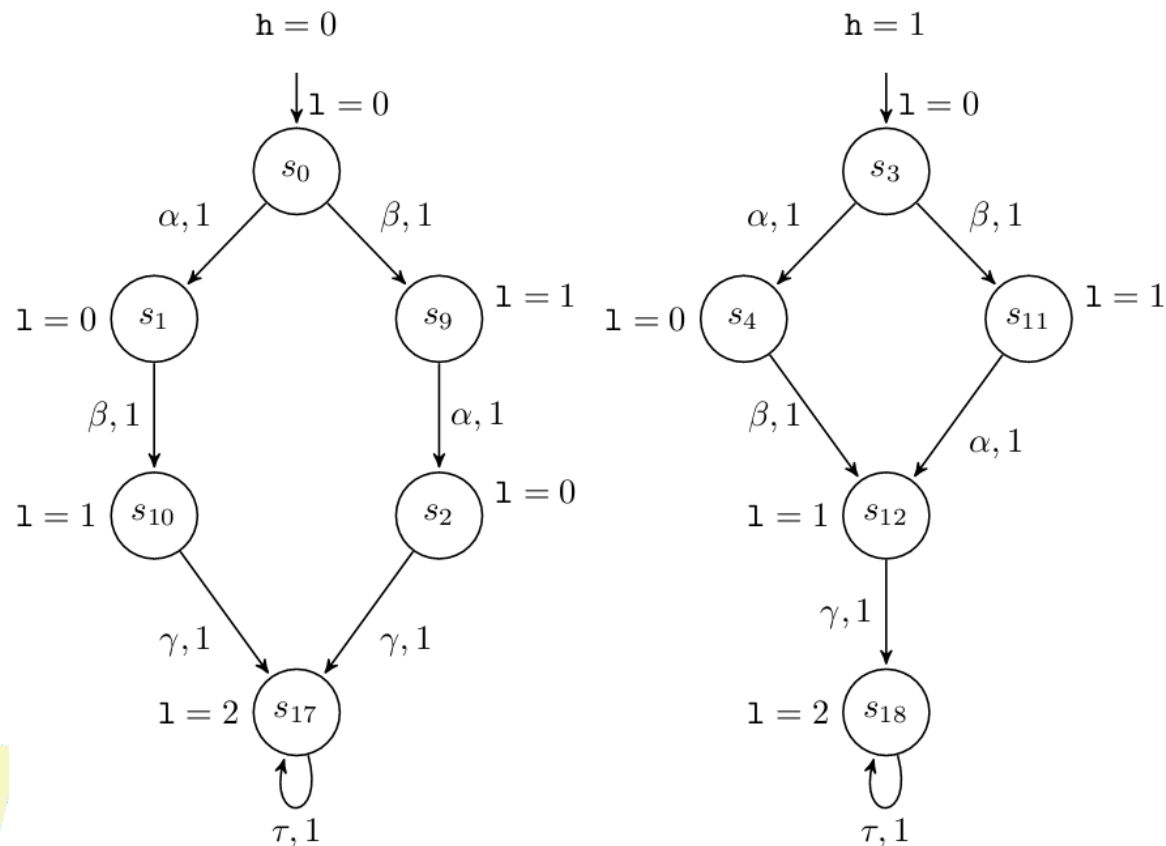






# Background

Memoryless probabilistic scheduler  $\delta$



$$\delta(s_0) = \{\alpha \mapsto \frac{1}{2}, \beta \mapsto \frac{1}{2}\}$$

$$\delta(s_1) = \{\beta \mapsto 1\}$$

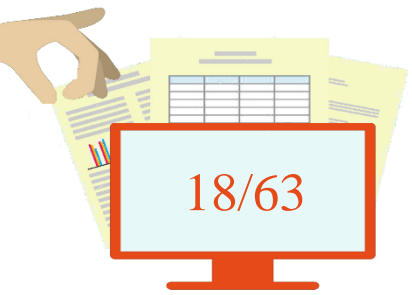
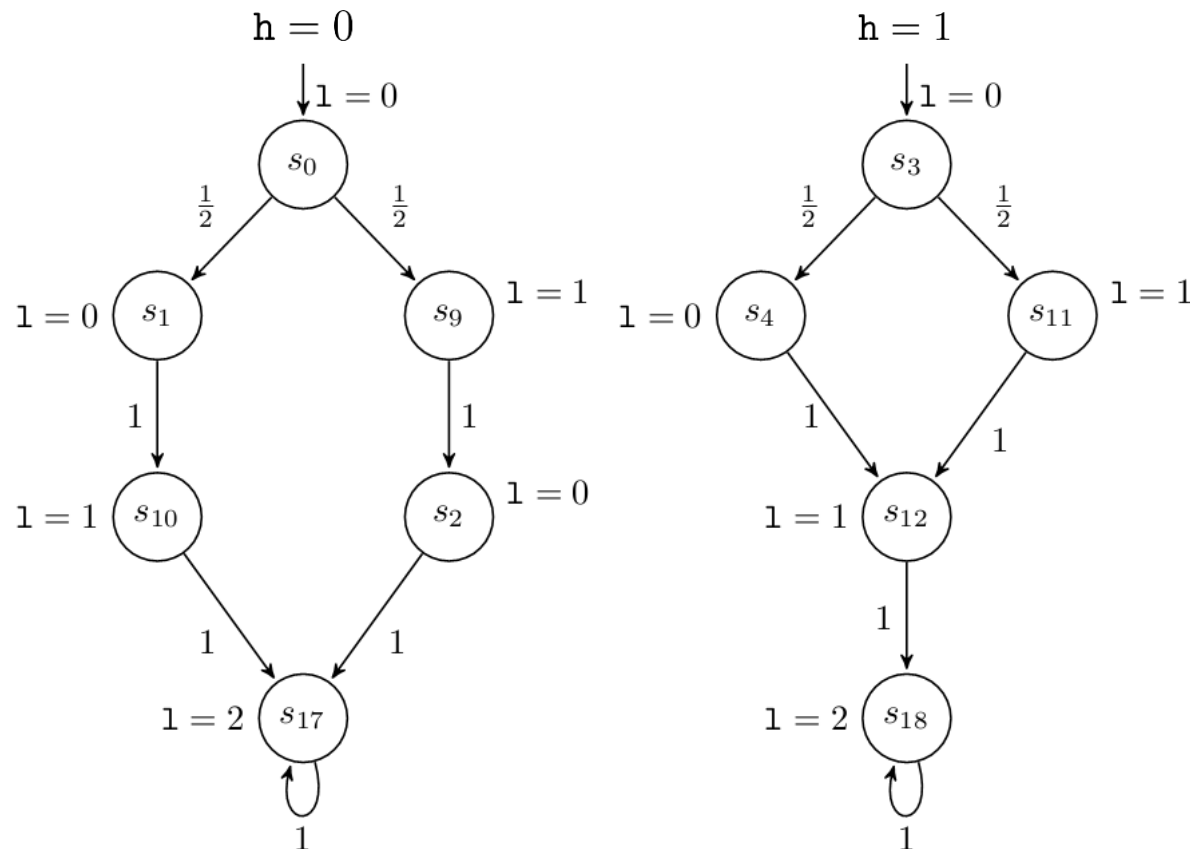




# Background

Markov Chain

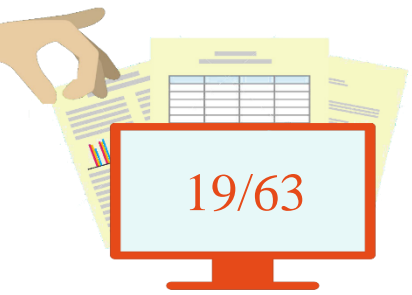
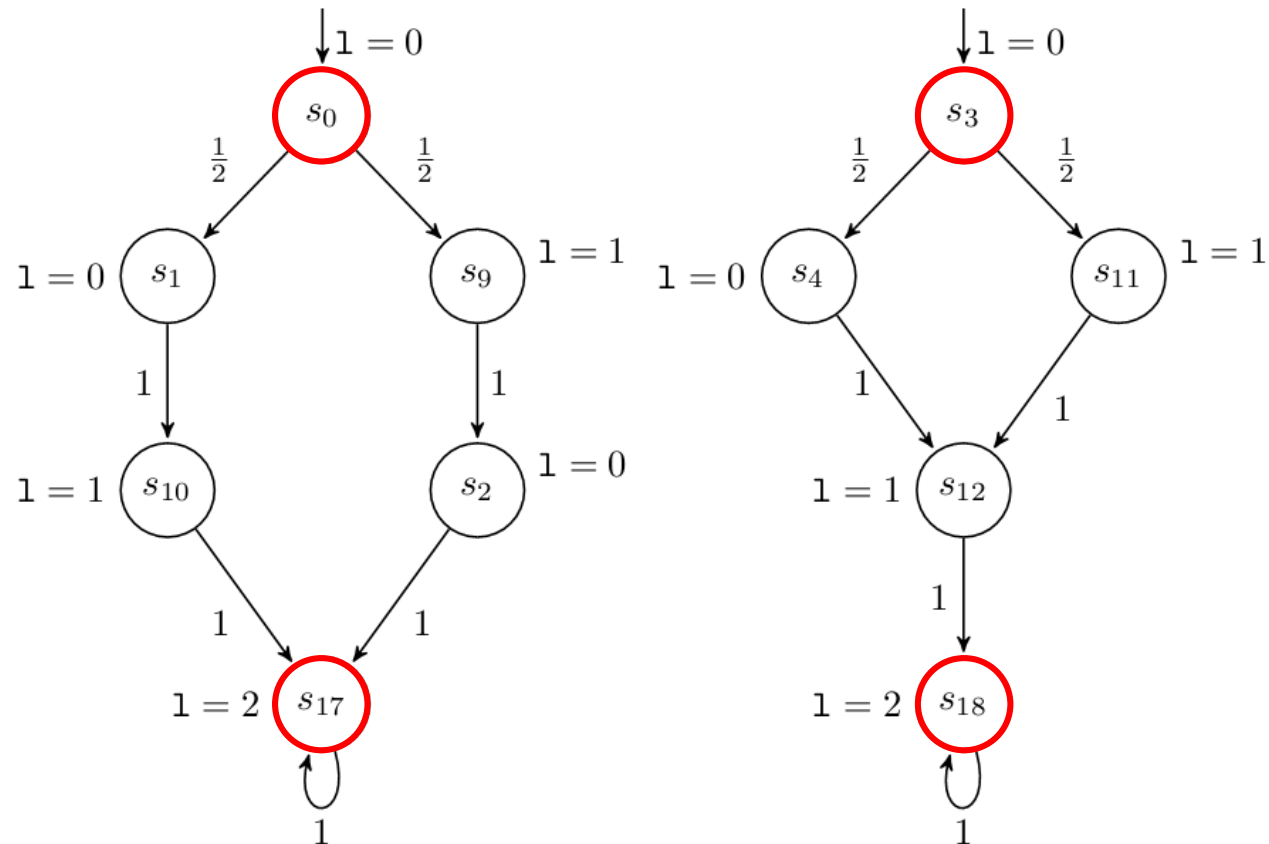
$$\mathcal{M}_\delta^P = (S, \mathbf{P}_\delta, \zeta, Val_L, V_L)$$





# Background

Initial and final states

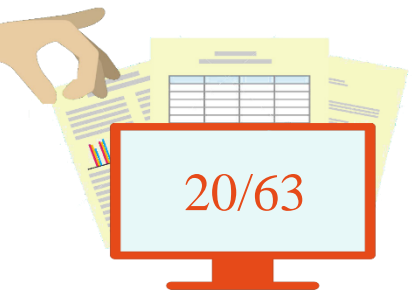
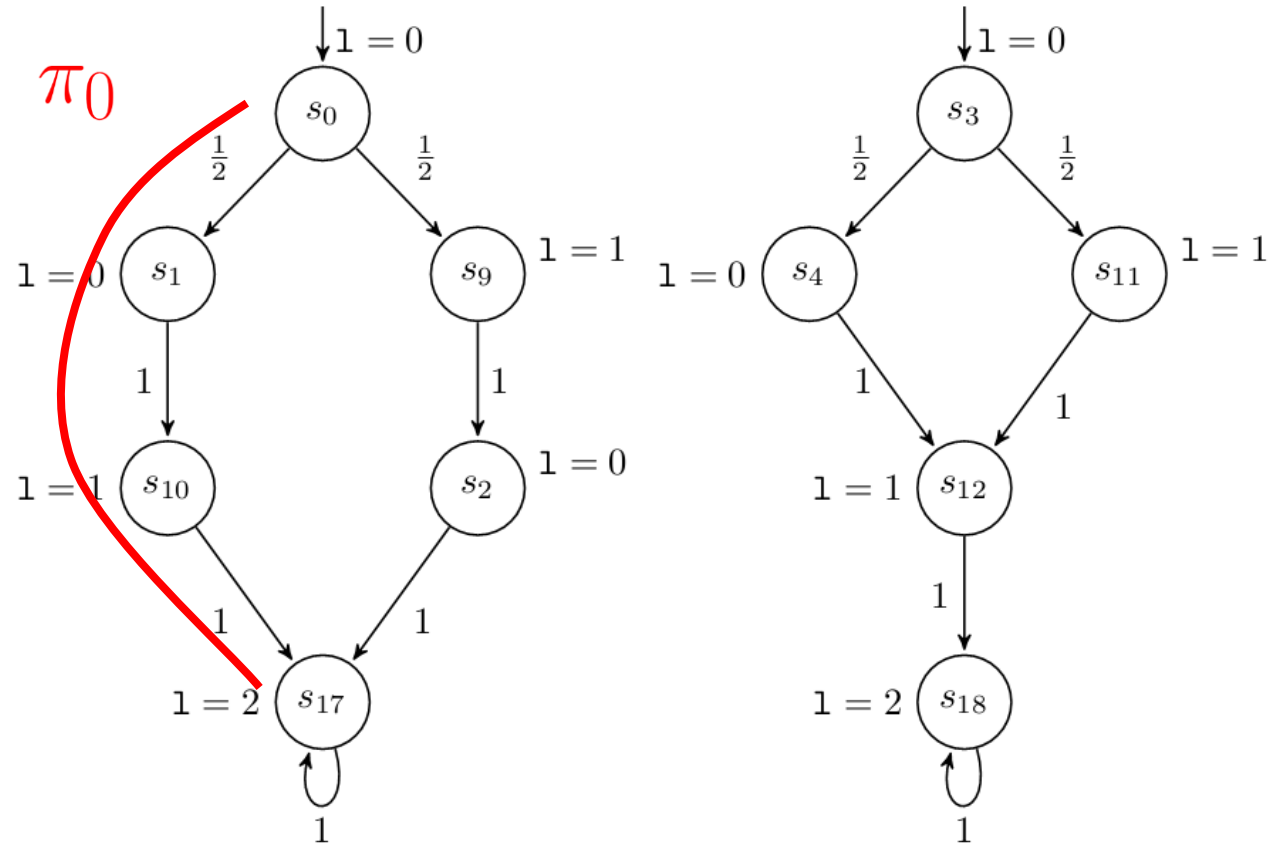




# Background

## Path

$$\pi_0 = s_0 s_1 s_{10} s_{17}$$





# Background

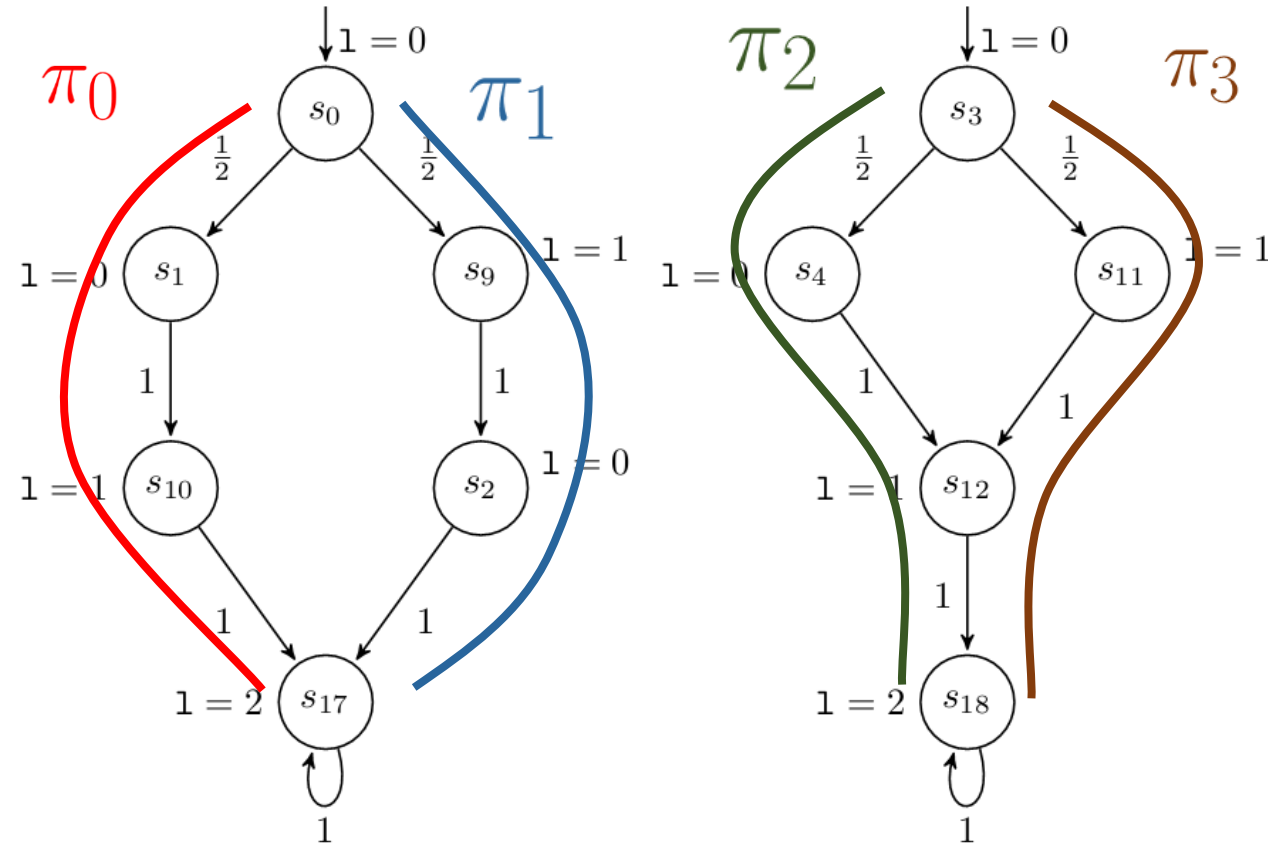
## Path

$$\pi_0 = s_0 s_1 s_{10} s_{17}$$

$$\pi_1 = s_0 s_9 s_2 s_{17}$$

$$\pi_2 = s_3 s_4 s_{12} s_{18}$$

$$\pi_3 = s_3 s_{11} s_{12} s_{18}$$

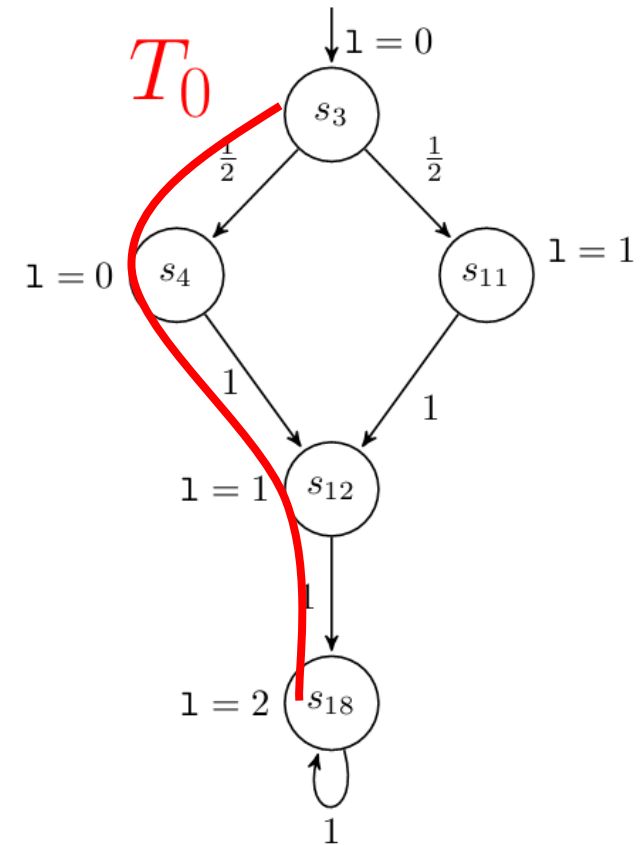
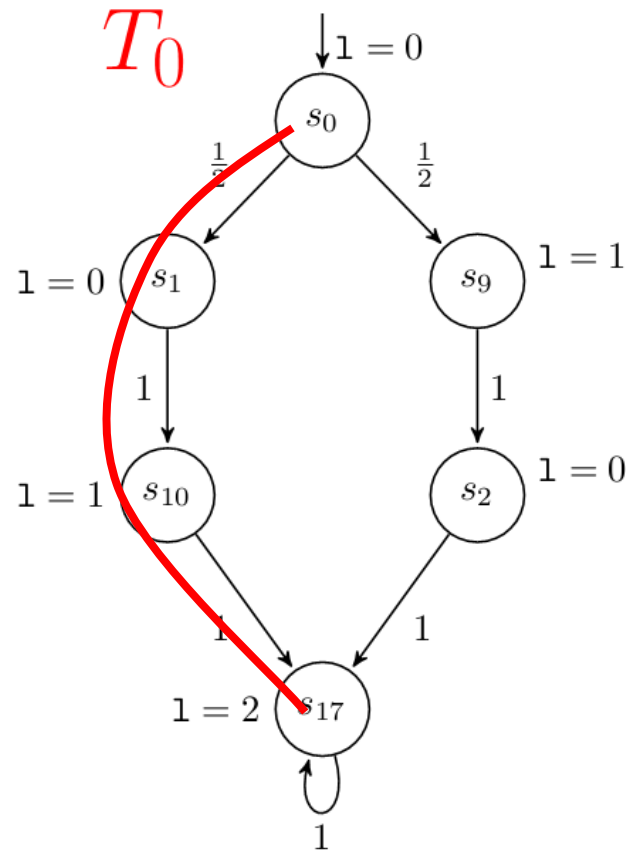




# Background

Trace

$$T_0 = [0, 0, 1, 2^\omega]$$





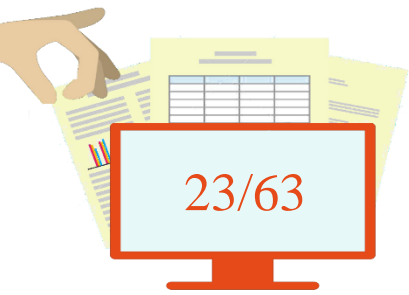
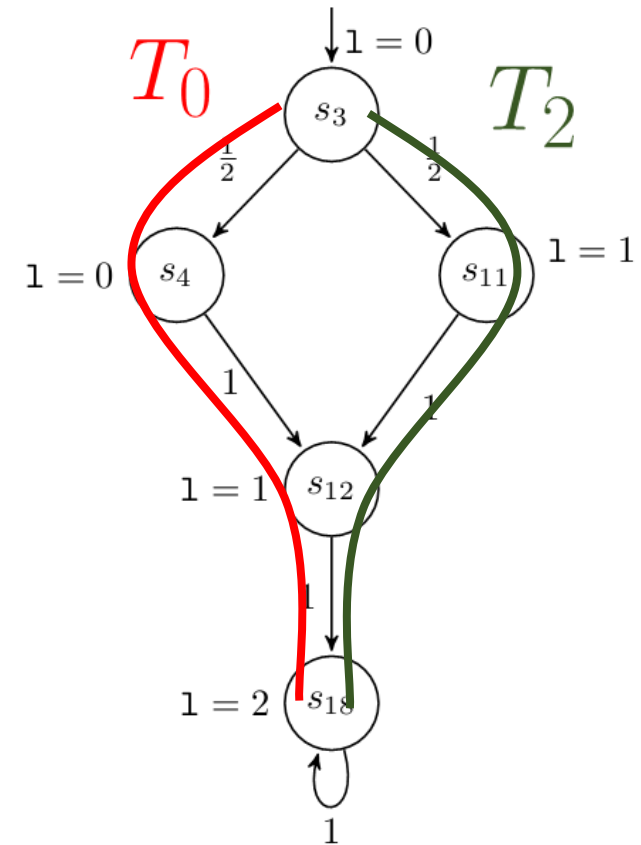
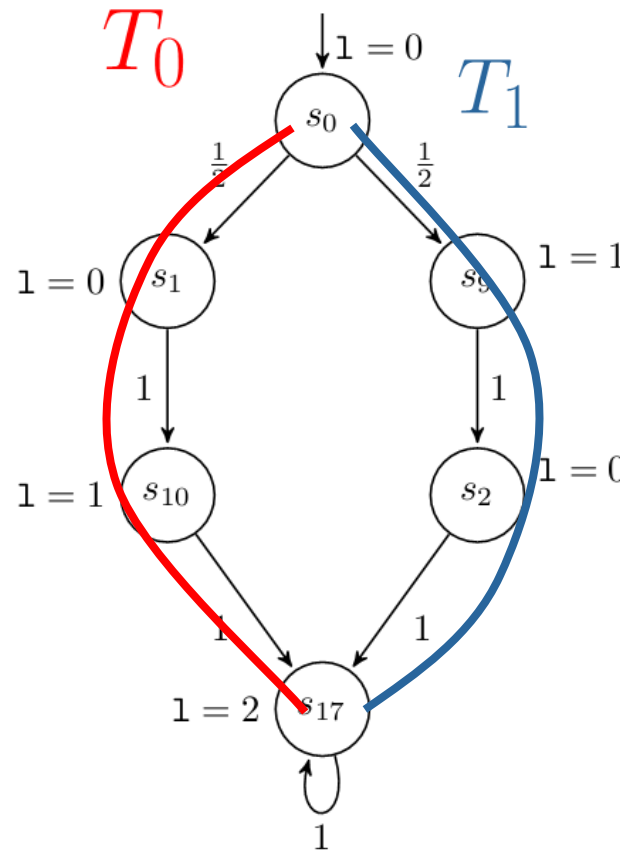
# Background

Trace

$$T_0 = [0, 0, 1, 2^\omega]$$

$$T_1 = [0, 1, 0, 2^\omega]$$

$$T_2 = [0, 1, 1, 2^\omega]$$





# Background

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## Stutter equivalence

$$T_0 = [0, 1, 1, 2^\omega] \longrightarrow T_0^{sf} = [0, 1, 2]$$



$$T_1 = [0, 0, 1, 2, 2^\omega] \longrightarrow T_1^{sf} = [0, 1, 2]$$







# Background

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Stutter and prefix equivalence

$$T_0 = [0, 2, 1, 1, 4, 4^\omega] \longrightarrow T_0^{sf} = [0, 2, 1, 4]$$

$\stackrel{\Delta}{=} p$

prefix

$$T_1 = [0, 0, 0, 2, 1^\omega] \longrightarrow T_1^{sf} = [0, 2, 1]$$

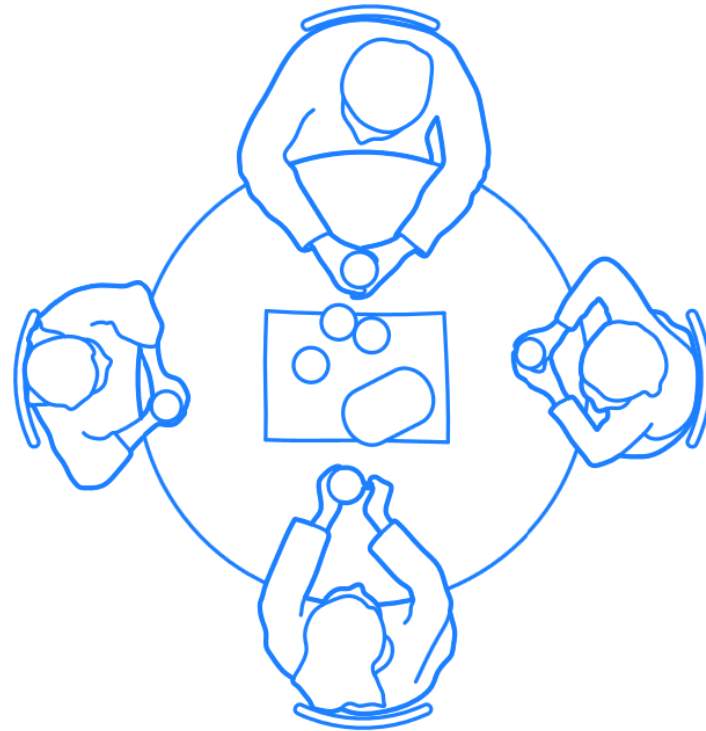




# Background

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## Dining cryptographers protocol

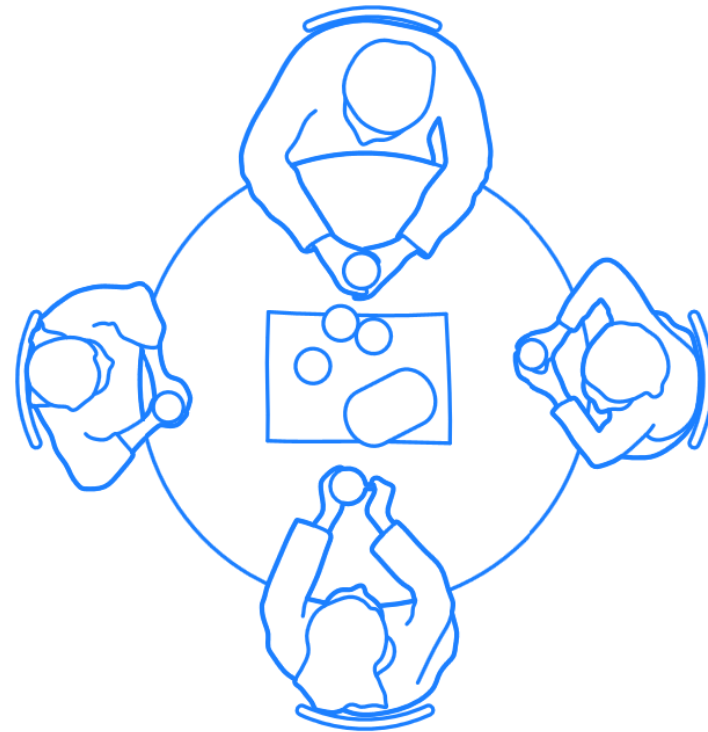




# Background

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## Dining cryptographers protocol

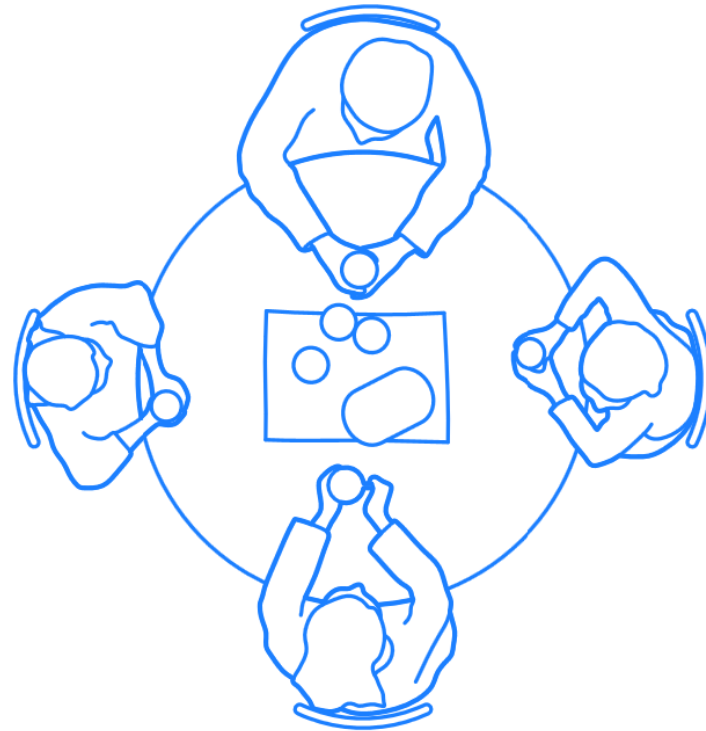




# Background

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## Dining cryptographers protocol

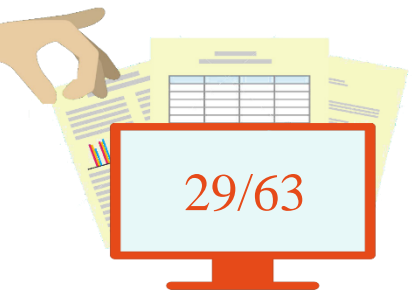
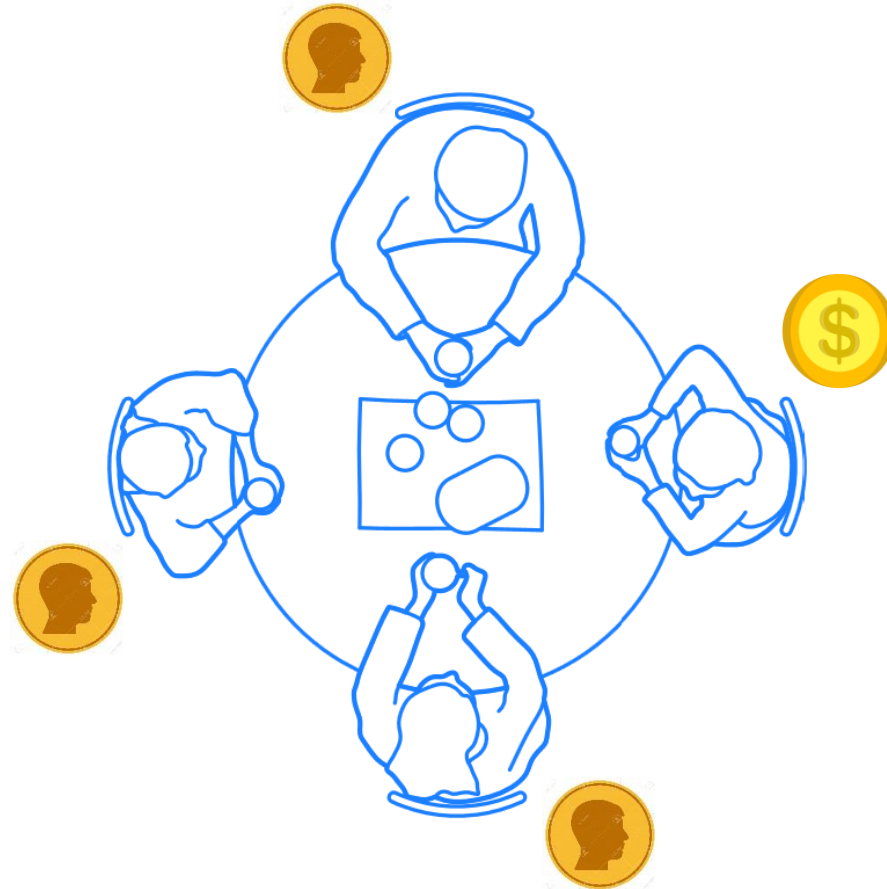




# Background

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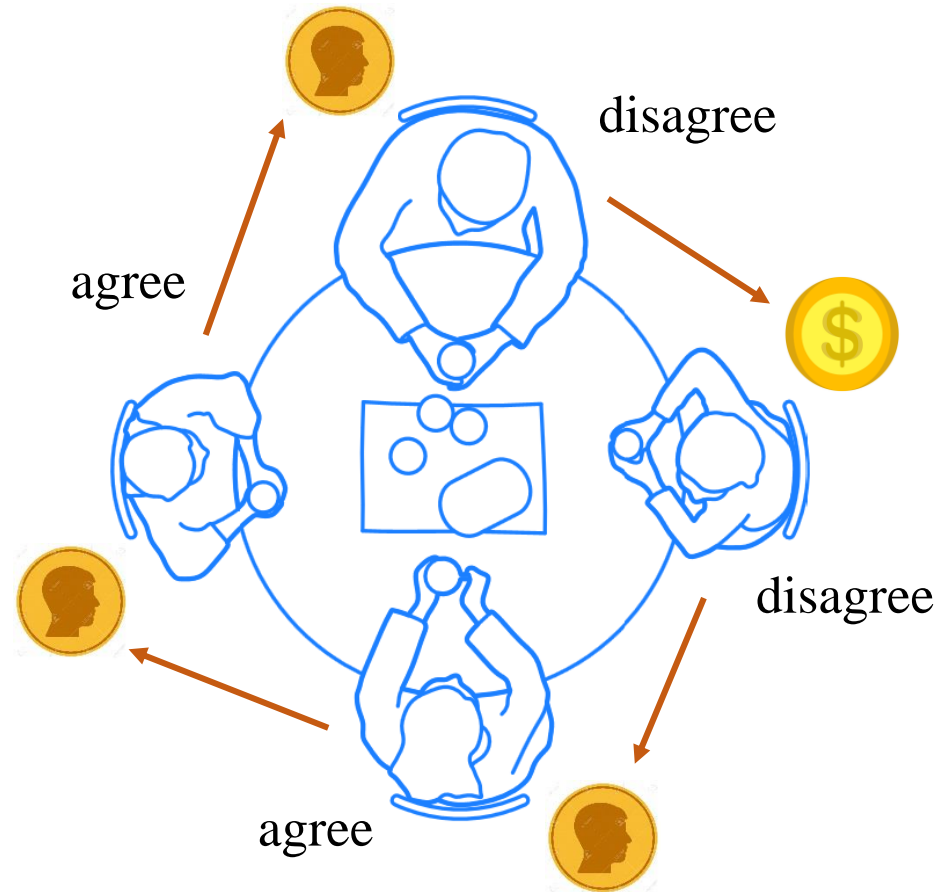
## Dining cryptographers protocol





# Background

## Dining cryptographers protocol



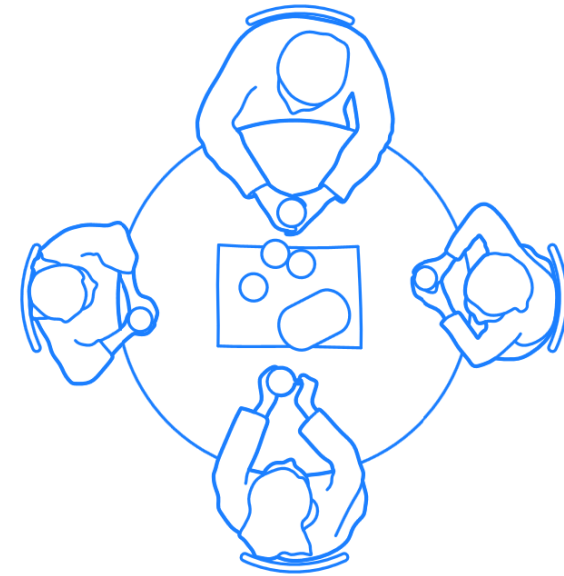


# Background

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## Dining cryptographers protocol

Case 1:  $Val_{payer} = \{c_1, \dots, c_n\}$



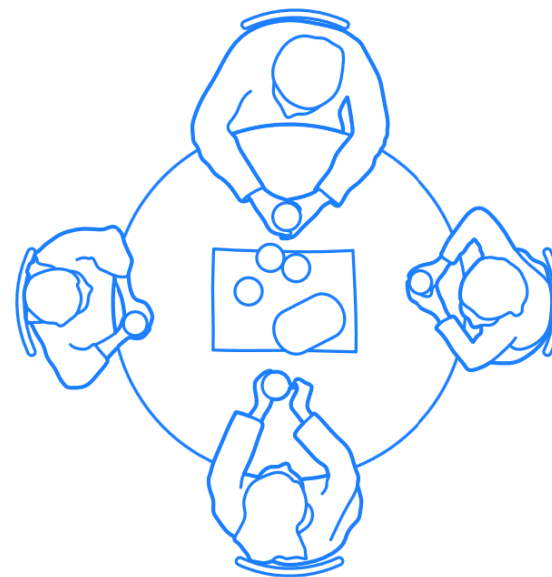
secure 



# Background

## Dining cryptographers protocol

Case 2:  $Val_{payer} = \{m, c_1, \dots, c_n\}$



insecure





# Contents

---

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Background
- 3 **Related work**
- 4 The proposed approach
- 5 Experimental evaluation
- 6 Conclusion





# Related work

---

Observational determinism

Zdancewic and Myers, 2003

$$\forall T, T' \in \text{Traces}(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P), l \in L. T|_l \stackrel{\Delta}{=}_p T'|_l$$

Verification by type systems





# Related work

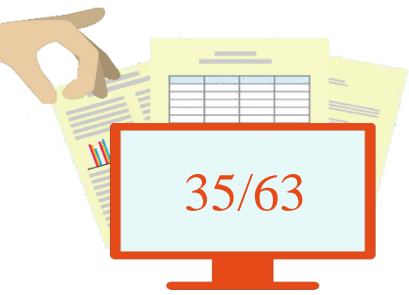
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## Observational determinism

- Huisman and Blondeel, 2012
- Karimpour et al., 2015
- Dabaghchian and Azgomi, 2015

$$\forall T, T' \in \text{Traces}(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P). T|_L \triangleq T'|_L;$$

## Logic-based and algorithmic model checking





# Related work

---

## Observational determinism

Ngo et al., 2014

SSOD-1:  $\forall T, T' \in \text{Traces}(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P), l \in L. T|_l \triangleq T'|_l$

SSOD-2:  $\forall T \in \text{Traces}(s_0), \exists T' \in \text{Traces}(s'_0). T|_L \triangleq T'|_L$

## Algorithmic verification





# Related work

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Observational determinism

Snelting et al., 2015-2019

JOANA tool: LSOD, RLSOD, iRLSOD

Program dependence graph



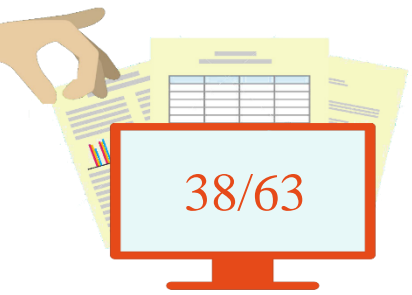


# Related work

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Information leakage tools:

- LeakWatch: [Chothia et al., 2014](#)
- QUAL: [Biondi et al., 2015](#)
- HyLeak: [Biondi et al., 2017](#)



# Contents

---

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Background
- 3 Related work
- 4 **The proposed approach**
- 5 Experimental Evaluation
- 6 Conclusion





# The proposed approach

---

1. Specifying observational determinism
2. Verifying observational determinism







# The proposed approach

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Specifying observational determinism

$$OD_1 : \forall T, T' \in \text{Traces}(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P), l \in L. T|_l \stackrel{\Delta}{=}_p T'|_l,$$

$$OD_2 : \forall T \in \text{Traces}(s_0), \exists T' \in \text{Traces}(s'_0). T|_L \stackrel{\Delta}{=} T'|_L.$$





# The proposed approach

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---

## Algorithm 1 Verifying $OD_1$

---

*Input:* finite MC  $\mathcal{M}_\delta^P$

*Output:* *true* if the program satisfies  $OD_1$ ; otherwise, *false*

---

```
// Consider an empty string as a witness for each public variable
1: for  $l$  in  $L$  do
2:   Let  $witnesses[l]$  be an empty string;
3: Let  $\pi$  be an empty list of states for storing a path;
4: for  $s_0$  in  $Init(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P)$  do
5:    $result = explorePathsOD1(s_0, \pi, witnesses)$ ;
6:   if not  $result$  then
7:     return false;
8: return true;
```

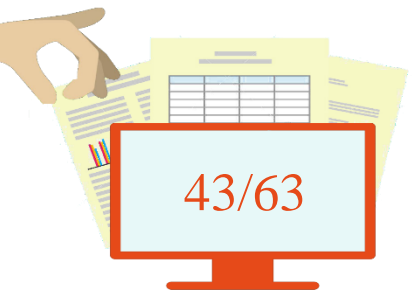
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# The proposed approach

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```
9: function explorePathsOD1( $s, \pi, witnesses$ )
10:    $\pi.add(s)$ ; // add state  $s$  to the current path from the initial state
11:   if  $s$  is a final state then // found a path stored in  $\pi$ 
12:     for  $l$  in  $L$  do
13:        $T_{|l} = trace_{|l}(\pi)$ ;
14:       Remove stutter data from  $T_{|l}$ , yielding stutter-free trace  $T_{|l}^{sf}$ ;
15:        $T_w = witnesses[l]$ ;
16:       if  $length(T_{|l}^{sf}) \leq length(T_w)$  then
17:         if  $T_{|l}^{sf}$  is not prefix of  $T_w$  then
18:           return false;
19:         else
20:           if  $T_w$  is not prefix of  $T_{|l}^{sf}$  then
21:             return false;
22:           else
23:              $witnesses[l] = T_{|l}^{sf}$ ;
24:       else
25:         for  $s'$  in  $Post(s)$  do
26:           result = explorePathsOD1( $s', \pi, witnesses$ );
27:           if not result then
28:             return false;
29:    $\pi.pop()$ ; // done exploring from  $s$ , so remove it from  $\pi$ 
30:   return true;
```



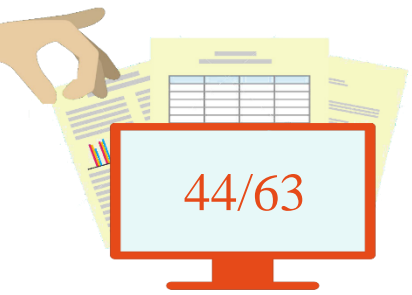
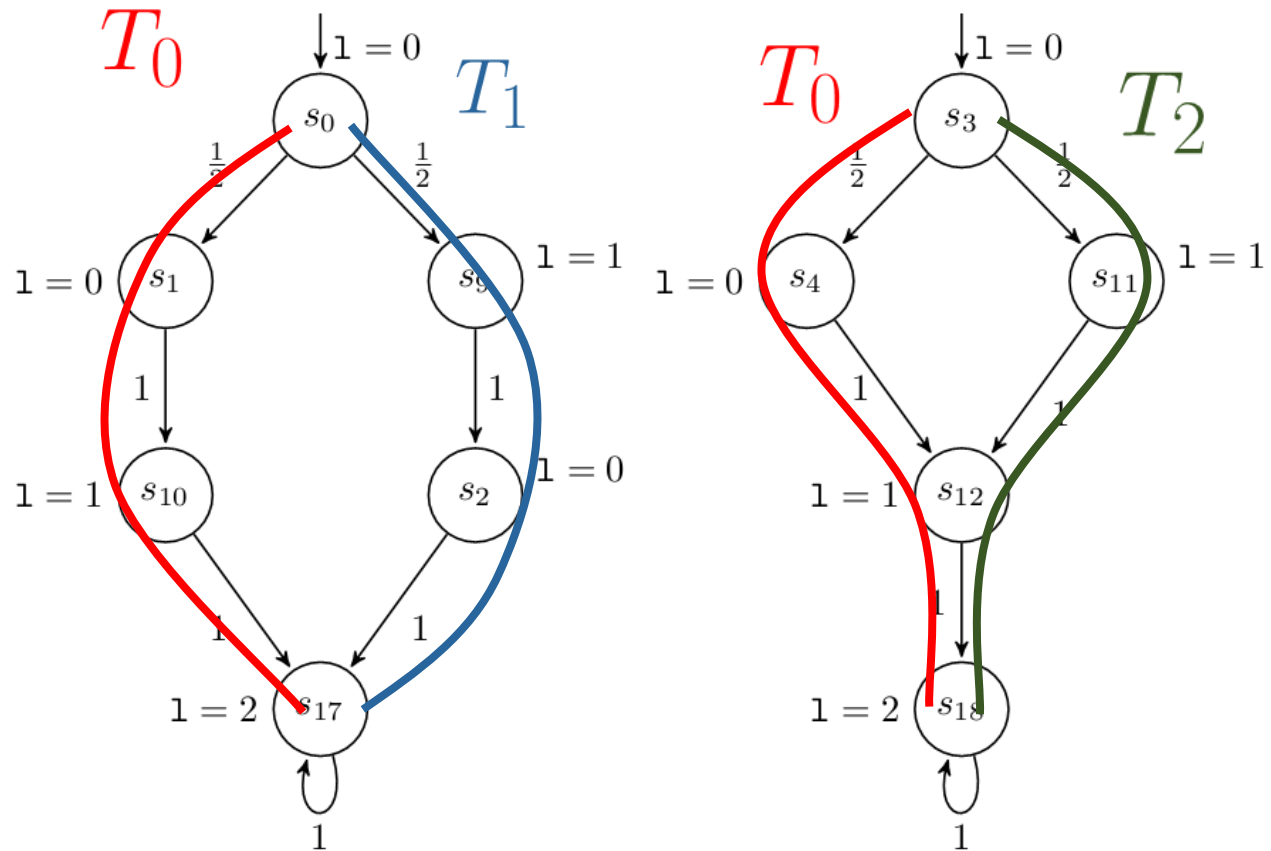


# The proposed approach

$$T_w = T_0$$

$$T_w \stackrel{?}{\underset{p}{\triangle}} T_1$$

$$T_w \stackrel{?}{\underset{p}{\triangle}} T_2$$



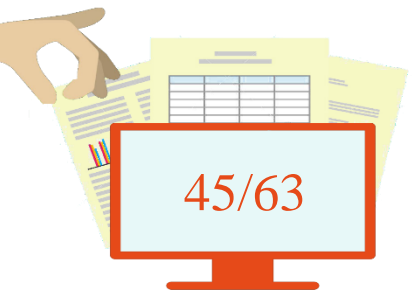


# The proposed approach

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Time complexity of Algorithm 1

$$O(2^n)$$





# The proposed approach

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Verifying  $OD_2$

$$OD_2 : \forall s_0, s'_0 \in \text{Init}(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P). \text{Traces}_{sf}(s_0) = \text{Traces}_{sf}(s'_0).$$





# The proposed approach

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## Algorithm 2 Verifying $OD_2$

---

*Input:* finite MC  $\mathcal{M}_\delta^P$

*Output:* *true* if the program satisfies  $OD_2$ ; otherwise, *false*

---

- 1: Let  $\pi$  be an empty list of states for storing a path;
  - 2: **for**  $s_0$  **in**  $Init(\mathcal{M}_\delta^P)$  **do**  
    *// Consider an empty set of stutter-free traces for each initial state*
  - 3:     Let  $allTraces[s_0]$  be an empty set;
  - 4:      $explorePathsOD2(s_0, \pi, allTraces)$ ;
  - 5: **for** each pair of initial states  $(s_0, s'_0)$  **do**
  - 6:     **if**  $allTraces[s_0] \neq allTraces[s'_0]$  **then**
  - 7:         **return** *false*;
  - 8: **return** *true*;
-



# The proposed approach

---

```
9: function explorePathsOD2( $s$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $allTraces$ )
10:    $\pi.add(s)$ ; // add state  $s$  to the current path from the initial state
11:   if  $s$  is a final state then // found a path stored in  $\pi$ 
12:      $T_{|L} = trace_{|L}(\pi)$ ;
13:     Remove stutter data from  $T_{|L}$ , yielding stutter-free  $T_{|L}^{sf}$ ;
14:      $s_0 = \pi[0]$ ; // initial state of  $\pi$ 
15:      $allTraces[s_0].add(T_{|L}^{sf})$ ;
16:   else
17:     for  $s'$  in  $Post(s)$  do
18:       explorePathsOD2( $s'$ ,  $\pi$ ,  $allTraces$ );
19:    $\pi.pop()$ ; // done exploring from  $s$ , so remove it from  $\pi$ 
20:   return ;
```

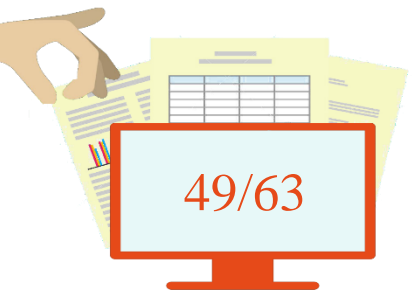
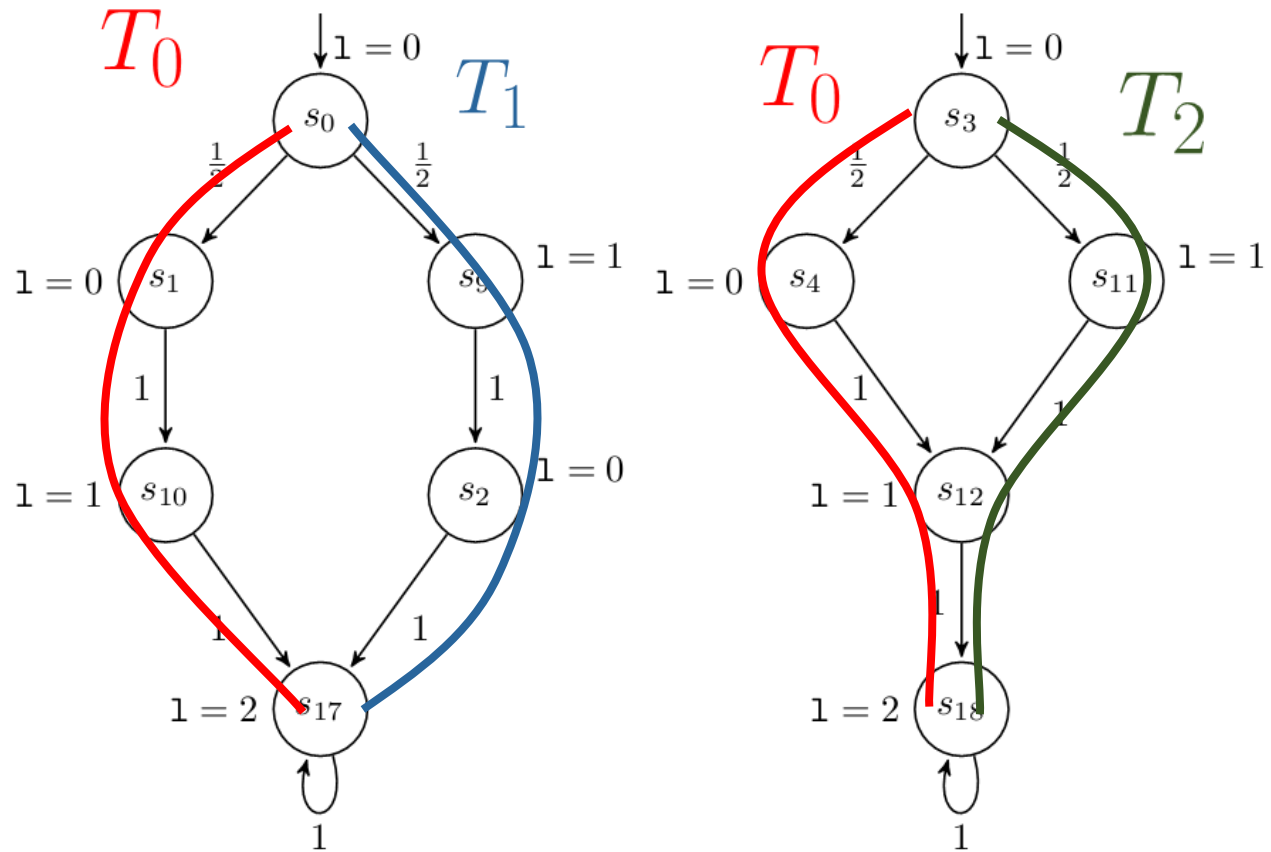






# The proposed approach

$$\{T_0^{sf}, T_1^{sf}\} \stackrel{?}{=} \{T_0^{sf}, T_2^{sf}\}$$





# The proposed approach

---

Time complexity of Algorithm 2

$$O(2^n)$$



# Contents

---

- 1 Introduction
- 2 Background
- 3 Related work
- 4 The proposed approach
- 5 **Experimental evaluation**
- 6 Conclusion





# Experimental evaluation

alioroozi / PRISM-Leak

Watch 1 Star 0 Fork 0

Code Issues 0 Pull requests 0 Projects 0 Security Insights

A tool for evaluating secure information flow of concurrent probabilistic programs

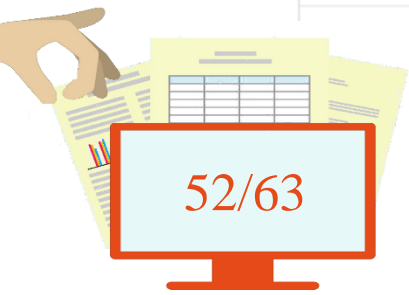
leakage prism information-leakage binary-decision-diagrams prism-language security security-tool concurrent-probabilistic-programs confidentiality

32 commits 2 branches 2 releases 1 contributor GPL-3.0

Branch: master New pull request

Find File Clone or download

alioroozi Update Readme.md	Latest commit e-f4571b on Jul 29
cudd	Version 1.1 last month
prism-leak	Update conditional probabilities last month



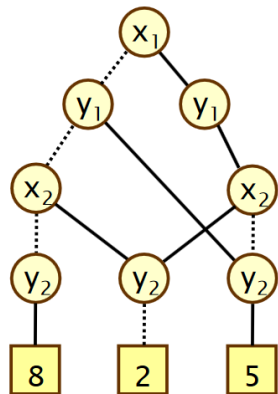
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Secure Information Flow Analysis Using the PRISM Model Checker



# Experimental evaluation

MTBDDs

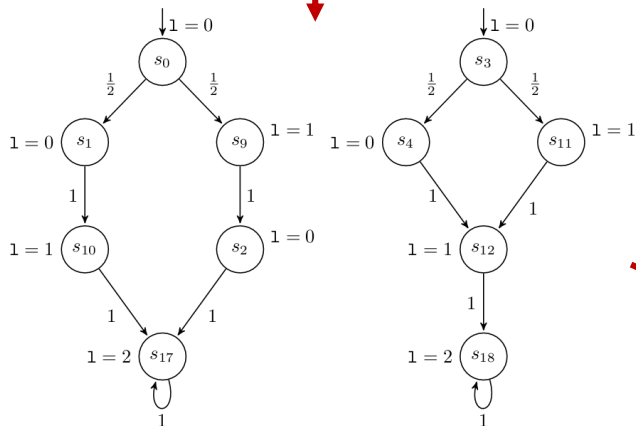


```
module M1

  x : [0..2] init 0;

  [] x=0 -> 0.8:(x'=0) + 0.2:(x'=1);
  [] x=1 & y!=2 -> (x'=2);
  [] x=2 -> 0.5:(x'=2) + 0.5:(x'=0);

endmodule
```



Qualitative package

OD-secure

OD-insecure

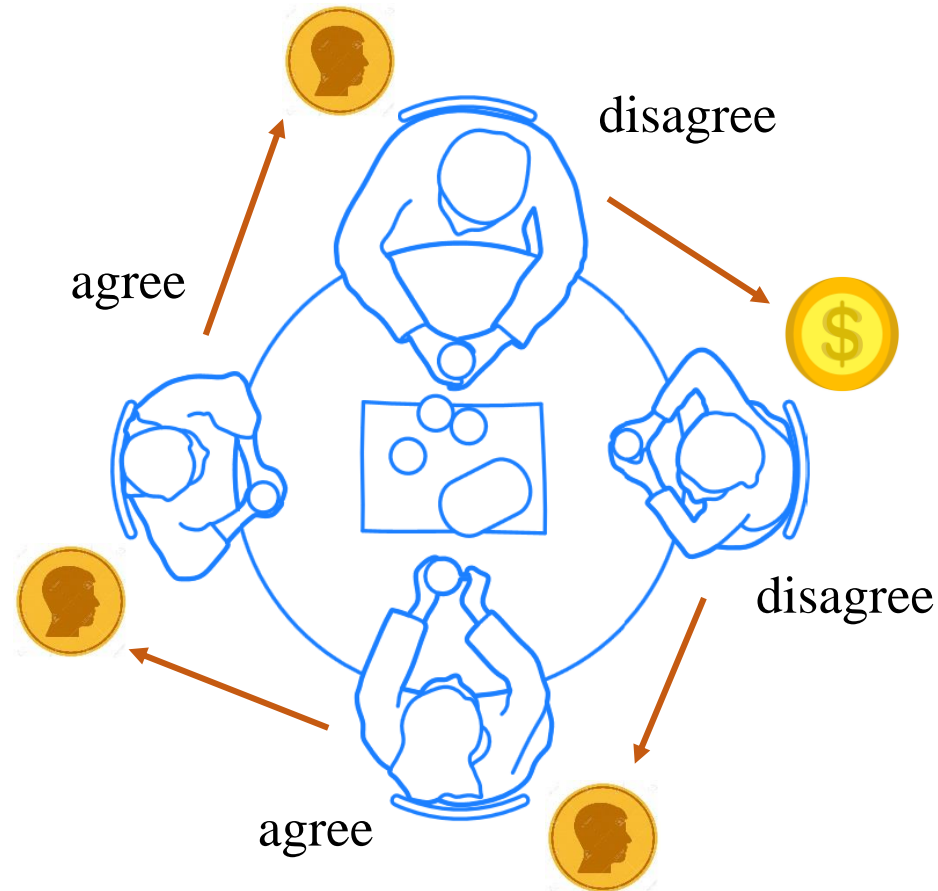
Quantitative package

Information leakage,  
Channel capacity,  
...



# Experimental evaluation

Case study: the dining cryptographers protocol





# Experimental evaluation

Runtime comparison for the 1<sup>st</sup> case of dining cryptographers

$n$	LeakWatch [8]	QUAIL [5]	HyLeak [4]	PRISM-Leak [24]	
				Quantitative method [22]	Observational determinism
7	2	1.8	30.5	0.6	<b>0.7</b>
8	3.7	3.1	39.7	0.8	<b>1.2</b>
9	7.5	6.3	55	1.3	<b>1.9</b>
10	15	12.6	72.2	2.9	<b>3.9</b>
11	32.2	26.5	97	7.3	<b>9.6</b>
12	72.4	62.1	135.4	18.7	<b>25.2</b>
13	150.7	151.6	249.3	49.9	<b>66.7</b>
14	Timeout	Timeout	Timeout	145.7	<b>192.4</b>





# Experimental evaluation

Runtime comparison for the 2<sup>nd</sup> case of dining cryptographers







$n$	LeakWatch [8]	QUAIL [5]	HyLeak [4]	PRISM-Leak [24]	
				Quantitative method [22]	Observational determinism
7	3.1	2.4	30.8	0.6	<b>0.6</b>
8	6	4.5	41.7	1	<b>0.9</b>
9	12.3	9.7	57	1.5	<b>1.4</b>
10	28.2	17.5	75.3	3.5	<b>3.3</b>
11	60.5	35	99.3	7.7	<b>7.4</b>
12	122.1	78.5	144	20.4	<b>20.5</b>
13	Timeout	156.2	277.1	60.5	<b>58.8</b>
14	Timeout	Timeout	Timeout	215	<b>211.8</b>





# Contents

---

-  1 Introduction
-  2 Background
-  3 Related work
-  4 The proposed approach
-  5 Experimental evaluation
-  **6 Conclusion**





# Summary

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A qualitative approach

Formal



Fully-automatic



Scalable



High precision





# Future work

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1. Symbolic model checking for verifying OD
2. OD checking of non-terminating programs
3. Estimating leakage by statistical methods





# References

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# References

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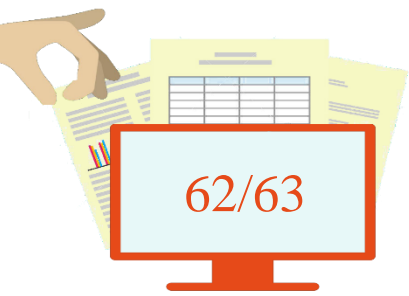
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Thanks for you attention.

