# Flow Control

Marco Vassena





Sensitive Data









Sensitive Data Devices



Sensitive Data



Sensitive Data





































#### Information Flow Control

Do not restrict data access, restrict **where** data can flow!



#### Information Flow Control

Do not restrict data access, restrict **where** data can flow!



#### Information Flow Control

Do not restrict data access, restrict where data can flow!



"Public" and "Secret"

"Public" and "Secret"



"Public" and "Secret"



"Public" and "Secret"



"Public" and "Secret"



"Public" and "Secret"





"Public" and "Secret"



"Public" and "Secret"



Overview of different language-based IFC approaches

• Non Interference

Overview of different language-based IFC approaches

**Confidentiality & Integrity** 

Non Interference

Overview of different language-based IFC approaches

**Confidentiality & Integrity** 

- Non Interference
- 4 IFC Languages

Overview of different language-based IFC approaches

**Confidentiality & Integrity** 

- Non Interference
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	Static	Dynamic
Fine-grained	λSFG	λ <b>DFG</b>
Coarse-grained	λscg	λ <b>dcg</b>
Which data flows are allowed

Which data flows are allowed



Which data flows are allowed



Which data flows are allowed



Which data flows are allowed















"Dual" lattice for **integrity**:

#### Untrusted

**1**□

Trusted

"Untrusted inputs cannot flow to Trusted outputs"































General lattice for principals **P**:

General lattice for principals P: P =

#### **P** = {Alice, Bob, Charlie}

General lattice for principals P:  $P = \{Alice, Bob, Charlie\}$ 












In general we work with an **abstract lattice** with standard properties

$$\mathscr{L} = (L, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup)$$

⊑ is reflexive, transitive, and antisymmetric.

⊔ is idempotent, commutative, and associative.

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$$\mathscr{L} = (L, \sqsubseteq, \sqcup)$$

⊑ is reflexive, transitive, and antisymmetric.

⊔ is idempotent, commutative, and associative.

 $\perp$  element:









# Non-Interference

Public outputs must not depend on secret inputs.



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```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
output<sup>H</sup>(l + h)
```

```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
output<sup>H</sup>(l + h)
```

```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
flow to secret data can
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h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
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```

```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
output<sup>L</sup>(h + 1)
```

Do the following programs satisfy non-interference?

h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
flow to secret data can
flow to secret outputs

h := input<sup>H</sup>() output<sup>L</sup>(h + 1)

Do the following programs satisfy non-interference?

h := input<sup>H</sup>()
l := input<sup>L</sup>()
output<sup>H</sup>(l + h)
Public and secret data can
flow to secret outputs

h := input<sup>H</sup>() output<sup>L</sup>(h + 1) Secret data must not flow to public outputs





```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
if h
output<sup>L</sup>(0)
```

```
h := input<sup>H</sup>()
if h
output<sup>L</sup>(0)
```





Do the following programs satisfy non-interference?



h := input<sup>H</sup>()
output<sup>L</sup>(h − h)

















## Outline

Overview of different language-based IFC approaches

- Non Interference
- 4 IFC Languages

	Static	Dynamic
Fine-grained	λSFG	λ <b>DFG</b>
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#### **Dynamic Semantics** $e \downarrow^{\theta} v$



#### **Dynamic Semantics**

e ↓θ v

Standard: no security checks!



Standard: no security checks!

Dynamic Semantics e ↓

**Static Semantics** 

 $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$  where  $\Gamma \in Var \rightarrow LTypes$




**Exercise.** Prove that the following program is **ill-typed**:

```
\Gamma \nvDash if h then l_1 else l_2: Bool
```

with typing environment

 $\Gamma = [h \mapsto Bool^{H}, l_{1} \mapsto Bool^{L}, l_{2} \mapsto Bool^{L}]$ 



where Bool<sup> $\ell$ </sup>  $\triangleq$  (unit<sup>L</sup> + unit<sup>L</sup>)<sup> $\ell$ </sup>

if e then  $e_1$  else  $e_2 \triangleq case(e, \_.e_1, \_.e_2)$ 





**Static Semantics** 

 $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$  where  $\Gamma \in Var \rightarrow LTypes$ 











![](_page_118_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_119_Picture_0.jpeg)

 $\vdash$ 

$$V: \tau < Similar to the rules for expression$$

intro

essions

![](_page_120_Picture_0.jpeg)

![](_page_121_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_122_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_123_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_124_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_125_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_126_Figure_1.jpeg)

![](_page_127_Figure_1.jpeg)

τ <: τ	$\ell_1 \sqsubseteq \ell_2 \qquad S_1 <: S_2$ $S_1^{\ell_1} <: S_2^{\ell_2}$	[Sub-LType]
S <: S	unit <: unit	[Sub-Unit]
⊕ ∈ {+,×}	i ∈ {1,2} $\tau_i <: \tau_i'$ τ <sub>1</sub> ⊕ τ <sub>2</sub> <: τ <sub>1</sub> ' ⊕ τ <sub>2</sub> '	[Sub-Sum] [Sub-Pair]
	$\tau_1' <: \tau_1 \qquad \tau_2 <: \tau_2'$ $\tau_1 \rightarrow \tau_2 <: \tau_1' \rightarrow \tau_2'$	[Sub-Fun]

**Exercise.** Prove that  $Bool^{H} \rightarrow Bool^{L} <: Bool^{L} \rightarrow Bool^{H}$ 

![](_page_129_Figure_1.jpeg)

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

#### x : T ⊢ e : Bool

![](_page_131_Picture_2.jpeg)

![](_page_132_Picture_2.jpeg)

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

![](_page_133_Picture_2.jpeg)

where

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

![](_page_134_Picture_2.jpeg)

where

*l* is the attacker security level

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

![](_page_135_Picture_2.jpeg)

where

*l* is the attacker security level

**t** is **not** observable by the attacker:

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

![](_page_136_Figure_2.jpeg)

where

*I* is the attacker security level

**t** is **not** observable by the attacker:

$$\tau = s^{\ell}$$
 such that  $\ell \not\sqsubseteq L$ 

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

x : T ⊢ e : Bool<sup>L</sup>

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

 $x : \tau \vdash e : Bool^{L}$  $v_1 : \tau$  $v_2 : \tau$ 

$$x : \tau \vdash e : Bool^{L}$$
Any 2 secret
input values
$$v_{1} : \tau$$

$$v_{2} : \tau$$

$$X : \mathbf{\tau} \vdash \mathbf{e} : \mathsf{Bool}^{\mathsf{L}}$$

$$Any 2 \operatorname{secret}_{input values} \lor V_1 : \mathbf{\tau}_{V_2} : \mathbf{\tau}_{V_2} : \mathbf{\tau}_{V_2} : \mathbf{\tau}_{V_2}$$

$$If \quad e \Downarrow [X \mapsto V_1] \lor_{V_2} \\ e \Downarrow [X \mapsto V_2] \lor_{V_1}$$

$$x : \tau \vdash e : Bool^{L}$$
Any 2 secret  
input values
$$v_{1} : \tau$$

$$v_{2} : \tau$$
If
$$e \Downarrow [x \mapsto v_{1}] v$$

$$e \Downarrow [x \mapsto v_{2}] v'$$
then
$$v = v'$$

$$x : \tau \vdash e : Bool^{L}$$
Any 2 secret  
input values
$$v_{1} : \tau$$

$$v_{2} : \tau$$

$$If \quad e \downarrow [x \mapsto v_{1}] \lor \\e \downarrow [x \mapsto v_{2}] \lor'$$

$$Same public output$$

$$then \quad v = v'$$

For all  $\lambda^{SFG}$  types, expressions, and values such that:

$$x : \mathbf{\tau} \vdash \mathbf{e} : \mathsf{Bool}^{\mathsf{L}}$$
Any 2 secret
$$v_1 : \mathbf{\tau}$$

$$v_2 : \mathbf{\tau}$$

$$k \in \mathbb{V}^{[X \mapsto V_1]} \setminus \mathbf{v}$$

$$k \in \mathbb{V}^{[X \mapsto V_2]} \setminus \mathbf{v}$$

$$k \in \mathbb{V}^{[X \mapsto V_2]} \setminus \mathbf{v}$$

"Public outputs do not depend on secret inputs"


Define a logical relation for programs giving equal public outputs

Define a logical relation for programs giving equal public outputs

```
\mathbf{E}[\boldsymbol{\tau}]^{\mathbf{L}} = \{ ((\mathbf{e}_1, \boldsymbol{\theta}_1), (\mathbf{e}_2, \boldsymbol{\theta}_2)) |
```







Prove the fundamental theorem of logical relations



































**Static Semantics** 

Г⊢<sub>рс</sub>е:т



**Static Semantics** 



**Static Semantics** 

The **pc** label is a **lower bound** on the **write effects** of the program **e** 







**Exercise.** Prove that the following program is **ill-typed**:

Γ ⊬<sub>L</sub> if h then l := true else () : unit<sup>H</sup>



**Exercise.** Prove that the following program is **ill-typed**:

with typing environment

 $\Gamma = [h \mapsto Bool^{H}, l \mapsto (Ref Bool^{L})^{L}]$ 















### Exercise

Find a well-typed program that leaks if we consider references **covariant**:



Find a well-typed program that leaks if we consider references contravariant:












































References are input (read) and output (write) channels!



#### Soundness Proof

Non-Interference for  $\lambda^{SFG}$  with higher-order state

#### Soundness Proof



#### Soundness Proof







See "On the Expressiveness and Semantics of Information Flow Types" by Rajani and Garg

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# **Dynamic Fine-grained IFC** λ**DFG** Syntax Types $\tau ::= unit | \tau \rightarrow \tau | \tau + \tau | \tau \times \tau | Label$









Environments  $\theta \in Var \rightarrow LValue$ 



Environments  $\theta \in Var \rightarrow LValue$ 







#### Semantics

#### Static $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$



#### Semantics

Standard: no security checks!

Static  $\Gamma \vdash e : \tau$ 



#### Semantics



#### **Dynamic** $e \downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} v$







The monitor propagates labels from inputs to outputs

The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.



 $\theta = [x \mapsto true^{H}, y \mapsto true^{L}, z \mapsto false^{L}]$ 

The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.



 $\theta = [x \mapsto true^{H}, y \mapsto true^{L}, z \mapsto false^{L}]$ 

The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.



#### $\theta = [x \mapsto true^{H}, y \mapsto true^{L}, z \mapsto false^{L}]$

The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.



The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.



The semantics tracks control-flow dependencies with the **program counter** label.





#### **Dynamic Semantics** $e \downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} v$


**Dynamic Semantics**  $e \downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \vee$ 

#### Observations

Introduction rules label the result with the program counter

Elimination rules **taint** the result with the intermediate value



#### **label0f**(e) $\downarrow_{pc}^{\theta}$

**label0f**(e)  $\downarrow_{pc}^{\theta}$ 

e 
$$\psi_{pc}^{\theta}$$
 r  $\ell$   
**What is the label of the label itself?**  
**label0f**(e)  $\psi_{pc}^{\theta}$   $\ell$ 

e 
$$\Downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} r\ell$$
  
label0f(e)  $\Downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \ell^{\ell}$ 

e ∜<sup>θ</sup><sub>pc</sub> rℓ

**label0f**(e)  $\downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \ell^{\ell}$ 

The label has the **same sensitivity** of the result!

The label has the **same sensitivity** of the result!

















$$\begin{array}{|c|c|c|c|} \hline \textbf{Dynamic Semantics} \\ \hline & \{\Sigma, e\} \ \Downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \langle \Sigma', v \rangle \\ \hline & \{\Sigma, e\} \ \Downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \langle \Sigma', r^{\ell} \rangle \\ \hline & \{\Sigma, new \ e\} \ \Downarrow_{pc}^{\theta} \langle \Sigma'', (n_{\ell})^{pc} \rangle \end{array} \qquad [New] \end{array}$$

























depend on data above the label of the reference



depend on data above the label of the reference

 $\ell_2 \subseteq \ell$  Must not write data above the label of the reference



 $\ell_1 \sqsubseteq \ell$ The decision of writing **this** reference must not
depend on data above the label of the reference

 $\ell_2 \subseteq \ell$  Must not write data above the label of the reference




 $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are indistinguishable at security level L



 $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are indistinguishable at security level L





 $v_1$  and  $v_2$  are indistinguishable at security level L

Define the low-equivalence relation



**2** Prove that the semantics **preserves** the relation:

$$\left. \begin{array}{l} \theta_{1} \approx \theta_{2} \\ C_{1} \approx C_{2} \end{array} \right\} \quad \begin{array}{l} \text{if} \\ C_{2} \Downarrow \theta_{pc} \\ C_{2} \swarrow \theta_{pc} \\ C_{2} \end{array} \right\}$$

V1 and V2 are indistinguishable at security level L





V1 and V2 are indistinguishable at security level L

Define the **low-equivalence** relation  $V_1 \approx^{\mathsf{T}} V_2$ 



Derive non-interference as a **corollary** 

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#### References

#### Introduction and Surveys

Different Variants of Non-Interference

Language-based information-flow security Andrei Sabelfeld and Andrew C. Myers

A Perspective on Information-Flow Control Daniel Hedin and Andrei Sabelfeld

Dynamic vs Static IFC

From dynamic to static and back:

Riding the roller coaster of information-flow control research Andrei Sabelfeld and Alejandro Russo

#### Fine-Grained IFC



On the Expressiveness and Semantics of Information Flow Types Vineet Rajani and Deepak Garg



Efficient purely dynamic information flow analysis Thomas H. Austin and Cormac Flanagan



Type-Driven Gradual Security with References Matías Toro, Ronald Garcia, Éric Tanter

#### Coarse-Grained IFC

Static

MAC, A Verified Static Information-Flow Control Library Marco Vassena, Alejandro Russo, Pablo Buiras, Lucas Waye



Flexible Dynamic Information Flow Control in Presence of Exceptions Deian Stefan, Alejandro Russo, John Mitchell, and David Mazières



HLIO: Mixing Static and Dynamic Typing for Information-Flow Control in Haskell Pablo Buiras, Dimitrios Vytiniotis, and Alejandro Russo

#### **Covert Channels**

Addressing Covert Termination and Timing Channels in Concurrent Information Flow Systems Deian Stefan, Alejandro Russo, Pablo Buiras, Amit Levy, John C. Mitchell, and David Mazières

#### <u>Securing Concurrent Lazy Programs Against Information Leakage</u> Marco Vassena, Joachim Breitner and Alejandro Russo

<u>Foundations for Parallel Information Flow Control Runtime Systems</u> Marco Vassena, Gary Soeller, Peter Amidon, Matthew Chan, and Deian Stefan

From trash to treasure: timing-sensitive garbage collection Mathias V. Pedersen and Aslan Askarov

<u>A Library For Removing Cache-based Attacks in Concurrent Information Flow Systems</u> Pablo Buiras, Deian Stefan, Amit Levy, Alejandro Russo, and David Mazières

#### **Declassification and Endorsement**

Declassification: Dimensions and principles Andrei Sabelfeld and David Sands

<u>A Semantic Framework for Declassification and Endorsement</u> Aslan Askarov and Andrew C. Myers

> Nonmalleable Information Flow Control Ethan Cecchetti, Andrew C. Myers, Owen Arden