

Secure Compilation as Hyperproperties Preservation

Marco Patrignani Deepak Garg



Max Planck Institute for Software Systems



The problem

What is a secure compiler?

what do you mean by secure?

I don't know

A Declassification Example

Language **S** has Booleans [true] = 1
 Language **T** has Nats [false] = 0

[.] : **S** -> **T** [.] is a Compiler from **S** to **T**

$\lambda x.$
 if interactions < 10
 then x
 else secret

[.]

$\lambda x.$
 if x > 1 then secret
 elif interactions < 10
 then x
 else secret

Is [.] secure?

no (but it is **FAC**!!)

A 2nd Example

What if the compiler produces this:

$\lambda x.$ if x > 1 then *fail*
 elif interactions < 10 then x else secret

Is [.] secure now?

yes

The Definition

Trace
Preserving
Compiler

- on "good" inputs, act "like" **S**

so TPC implies compiler correctness!

- on "bad" ones, act *opaquely (fail)*

fail must not be expressible in **S**

Behaviour in **S** and **T** must be expressed as traces

Why is this secure?

Hyperproperties

Clarkson and Schneider '10

formalise any program property

Interesting subclass: *hypersafety*: "something bad does not happen"

How does this relate to compilation?

First result

TPC preserves *hypersafety*!

If a **S** program has some hypersafety then its compilation also has it.

With a suitable hypersafety translation

We know the precise security implications of TPC!

What about related work?

like fully-abstract compilers

Second result

Most works in compiler security prove compiler full abstraction **FAC**

Abadi '00

T any TPC is **FAC** **F**
P **A**
C Any **FAC** is **TPC** if an extra assumption holds **C**

All existing **FAC** works uphold it!

We know the precise security implications of **FAC**!