

Security Analysis of Electronic Exams

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Eurecom, 25th February 2016



Filippo Galanti (Sora in Caserta 1852 - Buenos Aires 1953)

Traditional Exam





Information technology for the assessment of knowledge and skills.

coursera

U
UDACITY

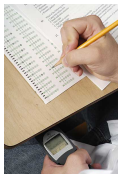
edX

IELTSTM
English for International Opportunity



TOEFL[®]**iBT**

Threats...



- ▶ Candidate cheating
- ▶ Bribed, corrupted or unfair examiners
- ▶ Outside attackers
- ▶ ...

... and their Mitigation

Most existing e-exam systems assume **trusted authorities** and focus on **student cheating**:

- ▶ Exam centers
- ▶ Software solutions, e.g. ProctorU



... and their Mitigation

Most existing e-exam systems assume **trusted authorities** and focus on **student cheating**:

- ▶ Exam centers
- ▶ Software solutions, e.g. ProctorU



Yet also the **other threats** are real:

- ▶ Atlanta Public Schools cheating scandal (2009)
- ▶ Turkish Public Personnel Selection Exam (2010)
- ▶ UK student visa tests fraud (2014)

... and their Mitigation

Most existing e-exam systems assume **trusted authorities** and focus on **student cheating**:

- ▶ Exam centers
- ▶ Software solutions, e.g. ProctorU



Yet also the **other threats** are real:

- ▶ Atlanta Public Schools cheating scandal (2009)
- ▶ Turkish Public Personnel Selection Exam (2010)
- ▶ UK student visa tests fraud (2014)

So what about **security** of **e-exams**?

Our Results

Secrypt'14 **Authentication Properties:** Mark Authenticity, Answer Origin Authentication, Form Authorship, Form Authenticity.

Privacy Properties: Anonymous Marking, Question Indistinguishability, Anonymous Examiner, Mark Privacy, Mark Anonymity

ISPEC'15 **Individual Verifiability:** Question Validity, Marking Correctness, Exam-Test Integrity, Exam-Test Markedness, Marking Integrity, Marking Notification Integrity

Universal Verifiability: Eligibility (Registration), Marking Correctness Exam-Test Integrity, Exam-Test Markedness, Marking Integrity.

RV'15 **How can we use previous results on real e-exam?**
Monitoring of real e-exams.

Plan

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- Authentication Properties

- Privacy Properties

- Huszti & Pethő's Protocol

- Remark! Protocol

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- Grenoble Exam

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E-exam: Players and Organization

Three Roles:

Candidate



Examination Authority



Examiner



E-exam: Players and Organization

Three Roles:

Candidate



Examination Authority



Examiner



Four Phases:

1. Registration
2. Examination
3. Marking
4. Notification

- ▶ **Processes** in the applied π -calculus [AF01]
- ▶ Annotated using **events**
- ▶ **Authentication** properties as **correspondence** between events
- ▶ **Privacy** properties as **observational equivalence** between instances
- ▶ **Automatic** verification using ProVerif [Bla01]

Model



Model



1. Registration




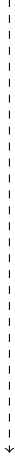
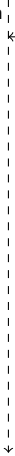
Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```




Model



1. Registration

Register

register()

2. Examination



Model



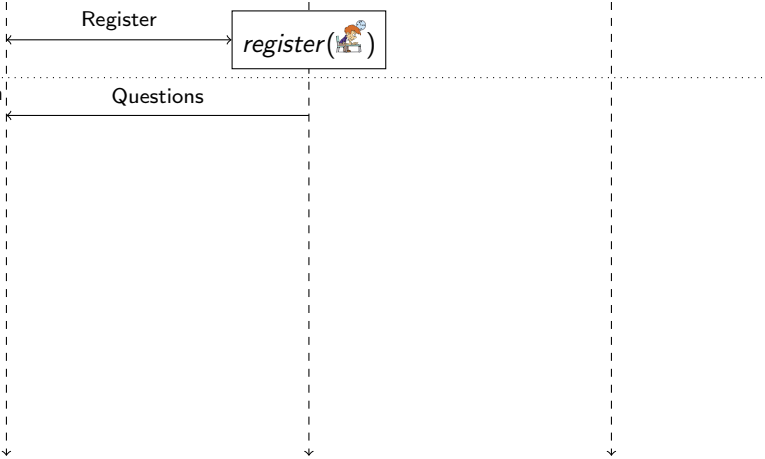
1. Registration

Register



2. Examination

Questions



Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

Questions

```
submit(, , )
```

Answer

```
accept(, , )
```



Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

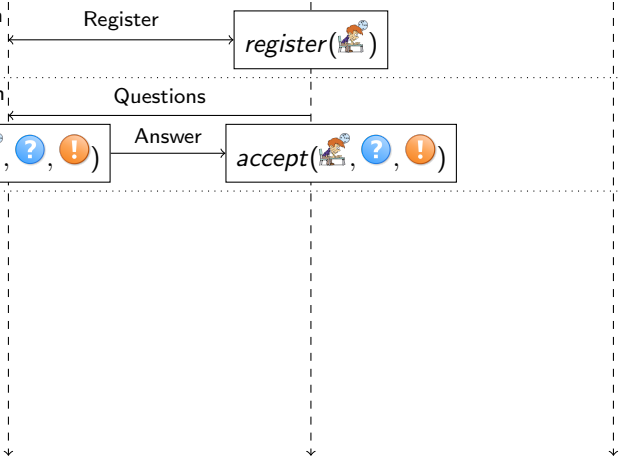
Questions

```
submit(, , )
```

Answer

```
accept(, , )
```

3. Marking



Model



1. Registration

Register

register()

2. Examination

Questions

submit(, , )

Answer

accept(, , )

3. Marking

distrib(, , , , )


Form

Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

Questions

```
submit(, , )
```

Answer

```
accept(, , )
```

3. Marking

Form

```
distrib(, , , , )
```

Mark

```
mark(, , , , )
```

Model



1. Registration

Register

register()

2. Examination

Questions

submit(, , )

Answer

accept(, , )

3. Marking

distrib(, , , , )

Form

Mark

mark(, , , , )

4. Notification

Model



1. Registration

Register

register()

2. Examination

Questions

submit(, , )

Answer

accept(, , )

3. Marking

distrib(, , , , )

Form

Mark

mark(, , , , )

4. Notification

Mark

notified(, )

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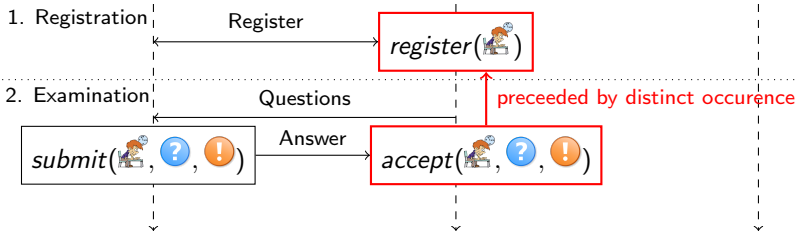
Conclusion

Answer Origin Authentication

All collected answers originate from registered candidates, and only one answer per candidate is accepted.

Definition:

On every trace:

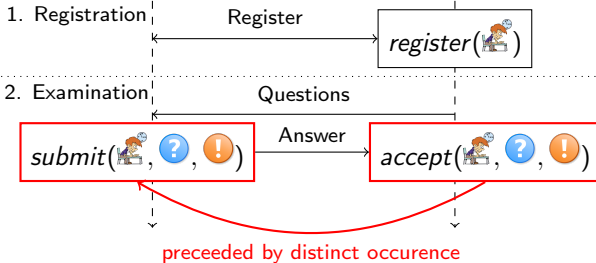


Form Authorship

Answers are collected as submitted, i.e. without modification.

Definition:

On every trace:

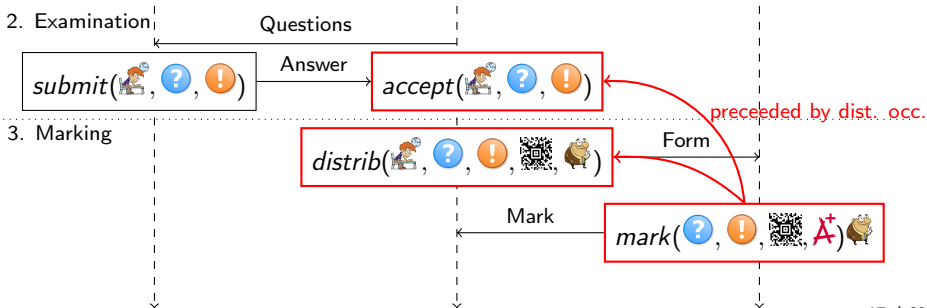


Form Authenticity

Answers are marked as collected.

Definition:

On every trace:



Mark Authenticity

The candidate is notified with the mark associated to his answer.

Definition:

On every trace:



3. Marking



Form

4. Notification



Mark



Mark

preceded by distinct occurrence

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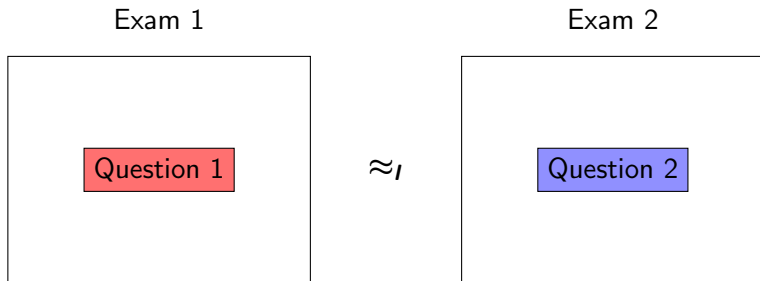
Conclusion

Question Indistinguishability

No premature information about the questions is leaked.

Definition:

Observational equivalence of two instances up to the end of registration phase:

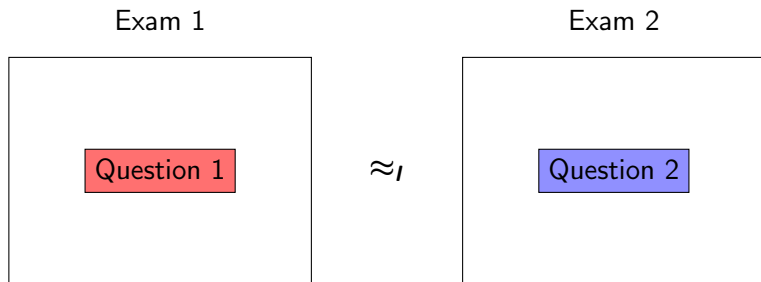


Question Indistinguishability

No premature information about the questions is leaked.

Definition:

Observational equivalence of two instances up to the end of registration phase:



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates.

Anonymous Marking

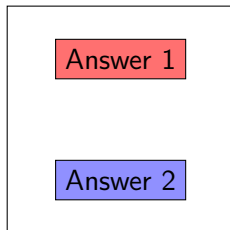
An examiner cannot link an answer to a candidate.

Definition:

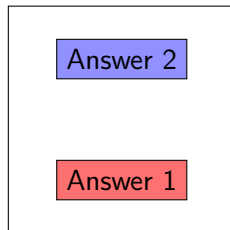
Up to the end of marking phase:

Exam 1

Exam 2



\approx



Anonymous Marking

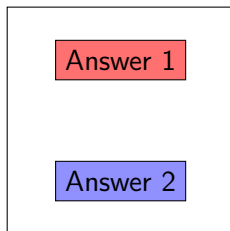
An examiner cannot link an answer to a candidate.

Definition:

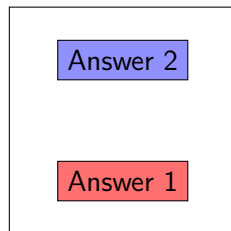
Up to the end of marking phase:

Exam 1

Exam 2



\approx

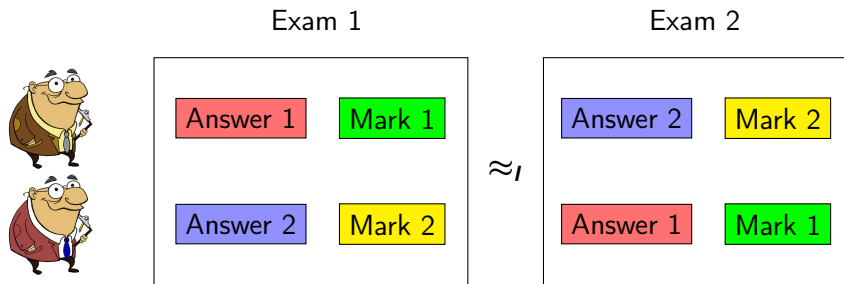


Can be considered with or without dishonest examiners and authorities.

Anonymous Examiner

A candidate cannot know which examiner graded his copy.

Definition:

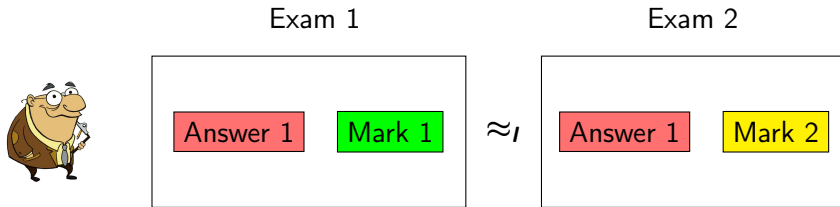


Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates.

Mark Privacy

Marks are private.

Definition:

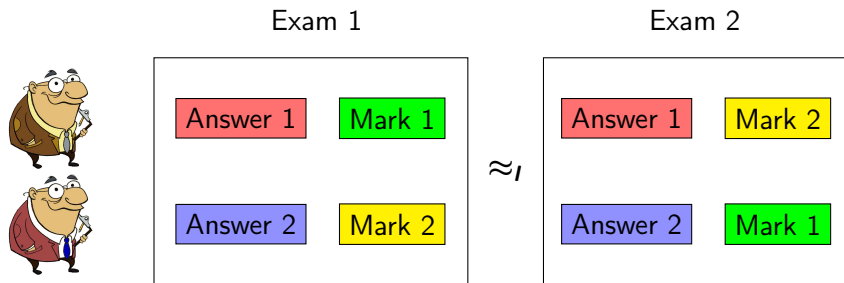


Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates, examiners and authorities.

Mark Anonymity

Marks can be published, but may not be linked to candidates.

Definition:



Can be considered with or without dishonest candidates, examiners and authorities.

Implied by Mark Privacy.

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Application: Huszti & Pethő's Protocol

“A Secure Electronic Exam System” [HP10] using

- ▶ ElGamal Encryption
- ▶ a Reusable Anonymous Return Channel (RARC) [GJ03] for **anonymous communication**
- ▶ a network of servers providing a timed-release service using Shamir's Secret Sharing:
A subset of servers can combine their shares to **de-anonymize a candidate** after the exam

Goal: ensure

- ▶ authentication and privacy

in presence of **dishonest**

- ▶ candidates
- ▶ examiners
- ▶ exam authorities

Formal Verification with ProVerif [Bla01]:

Property	Result	Time
Answer Origin Authentication	×	< 1 s
Form Authorship	×	< 1 s
Form Authenticity	×	< 1 s
Mark Authenticity	×	< 1 s
Question Indistinguishability	×	< 1 s
Anonymous Marking	×	8 m 46 s
Anonymous Examiner	×	9 m 8 s
Mark Privacy	×	39 m 8 s
Mark Anonymity	×	1h 15 m 58 s

Given its security definition, the **RARC**

- ▶ provides anonymity, but not necessarily secrecy
- ▶ does not necessarily provide integrity or authentication
- ▶ is only secure against **passive attackers**

Corrupted parties or active attackers can **break secrecy and anonymity**, as the following attack shows.

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Application: Remark! Protocol

A recent protocol [GLR14] using

- ▶ ElGamal encryption
- ▶ an **exponentiation mixnet** [HS11] to create **pseudonyms** based on the parties' public keys
⇒ allows to encrypt and sign anonymously
- ▶ a public append-only **bulletin board**

Goal: ensure

- ▶ authentication and integrity
- ▶ privacy
- ▶ verifiability

in presence of **dishonest**

- ▶ candidates
- ▶ examiners
- ▶ exam authorities

Formal Verification with ProVerif:

Property	Result	Time
Answer Origin Authentication	✓	< 1 s
Form Authorship	✓	< 1 s
Form Authenticity	✓ ¹	< 1 s
Mark Authenticity	✓	< 1 s
Question Indistinguishability	✓	< 1 s
Anonymous Marking	✓	2 s
Anonymous Examiner	✓	1 s
Mark Privacy	✓	3 m 32 s
Mark Anonymity	✓	- ²

¹after fix

²implied by Mark Privacy

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Exam model

Very abstract model:

▶ Four **sets**:





- ▶ $\{\text{👤}\}$: candidate identities, subset $\{\text{👤}\}_r$ registered candidates
- ▶ $\{?\}$: questions, subset $\{?\}_g$ correct questions
- ▶ $\{!\}$: answers
- ▶ $\{A^+\}$: marks

▶ Three **relations**:

- ▶ Accepted $\subseteq \{\text{👤}\} \times (\{?\} \times \{!\})$
- ▶ Marked $\subseteq \{\text{👤}\} \times (\{?\} \times \{!\}) \times \{A^+\}$
- ▶ Assigned $\subseteq \{\text{👤}\} \times \{A^+\}$
- ▶ A **function** Correct : $(\{?\} \times \{!\}) \rightarrow \{A^+\}$
- ▶ An exam protocol is **X-verifiable**, if we have a **sound** and **complete test** for **X**.

Defining Individual Verifiability

Each candidate knows

- ▶ her identity ,
- ▶ question ,
- ▶ answer ,
- ▶ mark A^+ ,
- ▶ and a log .

Properties:





The candidate can verify that...

- ▶ **Question Validity:** ...she received questions generated by the question committee

$$QV_{IV}(\text{person icon}, \text{blue ? icon}, \text{orange ! icon}, A^+, \text{LOG icon}) \Leftrightarrow (\text{blue ? icon} \in \{\text{blue ? icon}\}_g)$$

Defining Individual Verifiability

Each candidate knows

- ▶ her identity ,
- ▶ question ,
- ▶ answer ,
- ▶ mark A^+ ,
- ▶ and a log .

Properties:

The candidate can verify that...

- ▶ **Question Validity:** ...she received questions generated by the question committee

$$QV_{IV}(\text{person at desk}, \text{blue ?}, \text{orange !}, \text{red } A^+, \text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow (\text{blue ?} \in \{\text{blue ?}\}_g)$$

sound & complete

Defining Individual Verifiability Cont'd

The candidate can verify that...

- ▶ **Marking Correctness:** ...the mark attributed to her answer is correct.

$$MC_{IV}(\text{👤}, \text{?}, \text{!}, \text{A}^+, \text{📄}) \Leftrightarrow (\text{Correct}(\text{?}, \text{!}) = \text{A}^+)$$

- ▶ **Exam-Test Integrity:** ...her answer was accepted and marked as submitted.

$$ETI_{IV}(\text{👤}, \text{?}, \text{!}, \text{A}^+, \text{📄}) \Leftrightarrow ((\text{👤}, (\text{?}, \text{!})) \in \text{Accepted} \wedge \exists m' : (\text{👤}, (\text{?}, \text{!}), m') \in \text{Marked})$$

- ▶ **Exam-Test Markedness:** ...her answer was marked.

$$ETM_{IV}(\text{👤}, \text{?}, \text{!}, \text{A}^+, \text{📄}) \Leftrightarrow (\exists m' : (\text{👤}, (\text{?}, \text{!}), m') \in \text{Marked}))$$

Defining Individual Verifiability Cont'd


The candidate can verify that...

- ▶ **Marking Integrity:** ...her registered mark is the one assigned by the examiner

$$\text{MI}_{\text{IV}}(\text{👤}, \text{?}, \text{!}, \text{A}^+, \text{📄}) \Leftrightarrow \exists m' : ((\text{👤}, (\text{?}, \text{!})), m') \in \text{Marked} \wedge (\text{👤}, m') \in \text{Assigned}$$

- ▶ **Marking Notification Integrity:** ...she received the assigned mark

$$\text{MNI}_{\text{IV}}(\text{👤}, \text{?}, \text{!}, \text{A}^+, \text{📄}) \Leftrightarrow (\text{👤}, \text{A}^+) \in \text{Assigned}$$

An **outside auditor** only has access to some evidence .

The auditor can verify that...

Properties:

- ▶ **Registration:** ...all the accepted answers were submitted by registered candidates.

$$R_{UV}(\text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow \{\text{candidate}\}_r \supseteq \langle i : (i, x) \in \text{Accepted} \rangle$$

- ▶ **Marking Correctness:** ...all the marks were calculated correctly.

$$MC_{UV}(\text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow \forall (i, x, m) \in \text{Marked}, \text{Correct}(x) = m$$

Universal Verifiability Cont'd

The auditor can verify that...

- ▶ **Exam-Test Integrity:** ...all and **only** accepted test answers were marked.

$$ETI_{UV}(\text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow \text{Accepted} = \langle (i, x) : (i, x, m) \in \text{Marked} \rangle$$

- ▶ **Exam-Test Markedness:** ...all accepted test answers were marked.

$$ETM_{UV}(\text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow \text{Accepted} \subseteq \langle (i, x) : (i, x, m) \in \text{Marked} \rangle$$

- ▶ **Marking Integrity:** ...all and **only** the marks assigned to test answers were registered.

$$MI_{UV}(\text{LOG}) \Leftrightarrow \text{Assigned} = \langle (i, m) : (i, x, m) \in \text{Marked} \rangle$$

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Case Study I: Grenoble Exam

- ▶ **Paper-based** exam system at the University Joseph Fourier
- ▶ **Goal:** Privacy (Anonymous Marking)
- ▶ **Special exam paper** with corner that is folded and glued:

The image shows an exam form from the University of Joseph Fourier. The form includes fields for exam session, date, diploma, subject, and appreciation. It also has a section for the exam room and seat number, and a section for the student's name and signature. A red stamp is visible in the 'Note sur 20' field. The bottom of the form contains a warning about academic dishonesty.

UNIVERSITE JOSEPH FOURIER
SCIENCES. TECHNOLOGIE. SANTE

Salle d'examens : _____
N° Place : _____

Session d'examen : _____
Date : _____
Diplôme : _____
Epreuve : _____
Appréciation : _____

Note sur 20 : _____

Numéro de la carte d'étudiant : _____
Nom et prénoms : _____
Signature : _____

"Il est rappelé que l'étudiant pris en flagrant délit de fraude en examen est passible de la Section disciplinaire qui peut prononcer les sanctions suivantes : Blâme - Exclusion de l'Université - Exclusion de tous les établissements d'enseignement supérieur public".

Sujet choisi : _____

Case Study I: Grenoble Exam

- ▶ **Paper-based** exam system at the University Joseph Fourier
- ▶ **Goal:** Privacy (Anonymous Marking)
- ▶ **Special exam paper** with corner that is folded and glued:

GRENOBLE
UNIVERSITE JOSEPH FOURIER
SCIENCES. TECHNOLOGIE. SANTÉ

Salle d'examens : _____
N° Place : _____

Session d'examen : _____
Date : _____
Diplôme : _____
Epreuve : _____
Appréciation : _____

Note sur 20 : _____

"Il est rappelé que l'étudiant pris en flagrant délit de fraude en examen est passible de la Section disciplinaire qui peut prononcer les sanctions suivantes : Blâme - Exclusion de l'Université - Exclusion de tous les établissements d'enseignement supérieur public".

Individual Verifiability:

- ▶ Input: the candidate's values
- ▶ Assumptions: Correct is published after the exam, and candidates can consult their copies
- ▶ Verification using ProVerif:

Property	Sound	Complete
Question Validity	× (EA)	✓
Test Answer Integrity	× (EA, E)	✓
Test Answer Markedness	× (E)	✓
Marking Correctness	✓	✓
Mark Integrity	× (EA, E)	✓
Mark Notification Integrity	× (EA)	✓

- ▶ No guarantee that the records are correct.

Universal Verifiability:

- ▶ Assumption: the auditor gets access to the EA's and Es' records and the function Correct.
- ▶ Verification using ProVerif:

Property	Sound	Complete
Registration	× (EA)	✓
Exam-Test Integrity	× (EA, E)	✓
Exam-Test Markedness	× (EA, E)	✓
Marking Correctness	× (E)	✓
Mark Integrity	× (EA, E)	✓

- ▶ No guarantee that the records are correct, EA and E can make up fake records as long as they are coherent.

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Remark!: Results

Individual Verifiability:

- ▶ Input: the candidate's values and the messages on the bulletin board
- ▶ Assumption: Correct is published after the exam
- ▶ Verification using ProVerif:

Property	Sound	Complete
Question Validity	✗ (EA)	✓
Test Answer Integrity	✓	✓
Test Answer Markedness	✓	✓
Marking Correctness	✗ (EA)	✓
Mark Integrity	✓	✓
Mark Notification Integrity	✓	✓

Remark!: Results Cont'd

Universal Verifiability:

- ▶ Input: the messages on the bulletin board, the function Correct, as well as **additional data from the EA**
- ▶ Verification using ProVerif:

Property	Sound	Complete
Registration	✓	✓
Exam-Test Integrity	✓	✓
Exam-Test Markedness	✓	✓
Marking Correctness	✗ (EA)	✓
Mark Integrity	✓	✓

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Event Based Model



Event Based Model



1. Registration




Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```



Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination



Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

```
begin()
```




Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

```
begin()
```

Question

```
get(, )
```

Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

```
begin()
```

```
get(, )
```

Question

```
change(, , )
```

Event Based Model




1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

```
begin()
```

```
get(, ?)
```

Question

```
change(, ?, !)
```

```
submit(, ?, !)
```

Answer

```
accept(, ?, !)
```



Event Based Model



1. Registration

Register

```
register()
```

2. Examination

```
begin()
```

```
get(, ?)
```

Question

```
change(, ?, !)
```

```
submit(, ?, !)
```

Answer

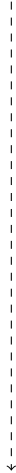
```
accept(, ?, !)
```

```
end()
```

Event Based Model



3. Marking



Event Based Model



3. Marking



```
corr(?, ✓)
```

Correct Answer



Event Based Model



3. Marking

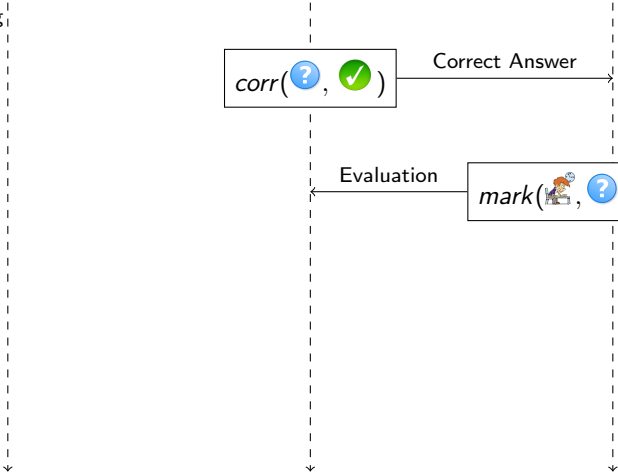


```
corr(?, ✓)
```

Correct Answer

```
mark(student, ?, !, TF)
```

Evaluation



Event Based Model



3. Marking

```
corr(?, ✓)
```

Correct Answer

```
mark(student, ?, !, TF)
```

Evaluation

4. Notification

Event Based Model



3. Marking

```
corr(?, ✓)
```

Correct Answer

```
mark(student, ?, !, TF)
```

Evaluation

4. Notification

Mark

```
assign(student, A+)
```

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Quantified Event Automata (QEAs)

- ▶ Properties expressed as **QEAs**: **event automaton** with quantified variables.
- ▶ An event automaton is a **finite-state machine** with transitions labeled by parametric events.
- ▶ Transitions may include **guards** and **assignments**.
- ▶ We extend the initial definition of QEAs by:
 1. variable declaration and **initialization** before reading the trace
 2. **global variable** shared among all event automaton instances.
 - ▶ $event(parameters) \frac{[guard]}{assignment}$

Candidate Eligibility

No answer is accepted from an unregistered candidate

$$\Sigma = \{register(i), accept(i, q, a)\}$$

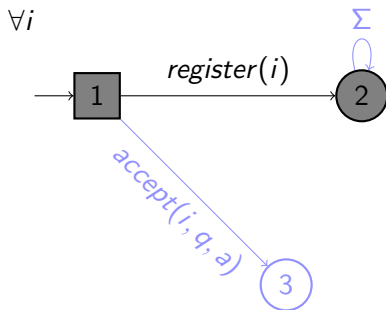
$\forall i$



Candidate Eligibility

No answer is accepted from an unregistered candidate

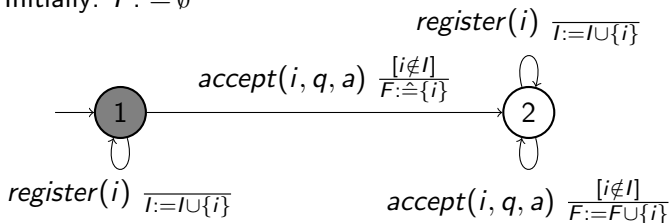
$$\Sigma = \{register(i), accept(i, q, a)\}$$



Candidate Eligibility with Auditing

All candidates that **violates** the requirement are collected in a set F .

Initially: $I : \hat{=} \emptyset$



Candidate Registration: an **unregistered** candidate **tried** to take the exam.

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Answer Authentication:

- ▶ an **unsubmitted** answer was considered as **accepted**; or
- ▶ **more** than one answer were **accepted** from a candidate.

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Questions Ordering:

- ▶ a candidate got a question **before** validating the **previous** ones.

Properties (continued)

Exam Availability: an answer was accepted **outside** exam time.

Properties (continued)

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- ▶ supports **different** duration and starting time between candidates.

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Properties (continued)

Exam Availability: an answer was accepted **outside** exam time.

Exam Availability with Flexibility:

- ▶ supports **different** duration and starting time between candidates.

Marking Correctness: an answer was marked in a **wrong** way.

Mark Integrity:

- ▶ an accepted **answer was not marked**; or
- ▶ a candidate **was not assigned** the **corresponding mark**.

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Registration:

- ▶ 2 weeks before the exam.
- ▶ Using login/password.



Examination in a supervised room

Authentication and answers questions as follows:

- ▶ In a fixed order.
- ▶ Once validates the current question, he gets the next one.
- ▶ He can change the answer unlimited times before validating.
- ▶ Once he validates, then he cannot go back and change any of the validated answers.

Marking:

- ▶ For each question, the professor specifies the correct answer(s).
- ▶ For each question, all the answers provided by the candidates are collected.
- ▶ Each answer is evaluated by an examiner to 0 or 1.
- ▶ The mark for each candidate is calculated as the summation of all the scores attributed to his answers.

Notification:

- ▶ The marks are notified to the candidates.
- ▶ A candidate can consult his submission and check the marking.

Verification of two real e-exam executions using MarQ tool [RCR15].

From the logs: *register(i)*, *change(i, q, a)*, *submit(i, q, a)*, *accept(i, q, a)*.

4 Properties

- ▶ Candidate Registration
- ▶ Candidate Eligibility
- ▶ Answer Authentication
- ▶ Exam Availability

5 new properties

- ▶ **Answer Authentication** *:
 - ▶ All accepted answers are submitted by candidates.
 - ▶ **Allow the acceptance of the same answer again.**
 - ▶ **But, still forbids the acceptance of a different answer.**

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- ▶ **Question Ordering ***: A candidate cannot changes the answer to a future question before validating the current question.
- ▶ **Acceptance Order**: A candidate has to validate the questions in order, but he can skip some questions.

Results: Exam 1

233 students, 40875 events

Property	Result	Time (ms)
Candidate Registration	✓	538
Candidate Eligibility	✓	517
Answer Authentication	✗	310
Exam Availability	✓	518
Answer Authentication *	✓	742
Answer Authentication Reporting	✗ [1]	654
Answer Editing	✓	641
Question Ordering *	✗	757
Acceptance Order	✓	697

Results: Exam 2

90 students, 4641 events

Property	Result	Time (ms)
Candidate Registration	✓	230
Candidate Eligibility	✓	214
Answer Authentication	✓	275
Exam Availability	✗[1]	237
Answer Authentication *	✓	223
Answer Authentication Reporting	✓	265
Answer Editing	✗	218
Question Ordering *	✗	389
Acceptance Order	✓	294

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- ▶ Formal model for security and verifiability
- ▶ Security Analysis of 2 e-exams and one “real” exam
- ▶ Trust parties are required for verifiability
- ▶ Monitoring analysis of 2 real e-exams at UJF using MarQ tool
- ▶ Discovering some misbehaviours and flaws

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Designing secure protocols is difficult

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Designing secure protocols is difficult

Use formal methods !

- ▶ Analyze more existing e-exams from other universities.
- ▶ Perform on-line verification with our monitors during live e-exams.
- ▶ Study more expressive and quantitative properties that can detect colluded students through similar answer patterns.
- ▶ Automatic transformation from verifiability to monitors.

Thank you for your attention!

Questions?

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