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Information Flow Model for Commercial Security

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Information Flow Model for Commercial Security

Final Writing Project

Presented to

The Faculty of the Department of Computer Science

San Jose State University

In Partial Fulfillment

of the Requirements for the Degree

Master of Science

by

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Dr. Howard Ho, IBM Corporation Date

Abstract

Information flow in Discretionary Access Control (DAC) is a well-known difficult problem. This paper formalizes the fundamental concepts and establishes a theory of information flow security. A DAC system is information flow secure (IFS), if any data never flows into the hands of owner's enemies (explicitly denial access list.)

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1. Introduction

Computer technology has been advanced greatly in the recent years. With technology growth, faster and cheaper computers are widely available to the users. Needless to say, these big leaps in technology have greatly improved our efficiency and effectiveness; nonetheless, they also pose a serious challenge in maintaining adequate data security.

Commercial security systems take the following view: A system is considered to be “secure” if an individual user has the authority to allow or deny access to the data that he owns. Its formal model is the so-called the discretionary access control model (DAC). In this model, users are called subjects, and data are called objects.

However, it has been known for a long time that access control of information on Discretionary Access Control system is a difficult problem. A discretionary access control (DAC) model is, well, at the discretion of the owner of data. An object’s owner has discretionary authority over who else may access that object. DAC, however, does not deal with information flow, and discretionary usually means anyone with access can propagate information. With this model, it is often criticized that discretionary access control cannot prevent the illegitimate propagation once access is granted.

In this report, we will formalize the fundamental concepts and establish the theory of information flow security on discretionary access control system. As a consequence we have solved information propagation via granular computing.

2. Concept of security

Common definition of computer security is: a system is secure if it adequately protects information that it processes against the followings:

- a. Unauthorized disclosure
- b. Unauthorized modification
- c. Deny of service

In this report, we are addressing information flow security. So, item a is the only relevant one.

In military security, the department of the defense (DoD) is the sole agent who decides the authorization. However, in UNIX, the owner of the data is the agent to authorize who can access his data; for simplicity, we shall call those

who have been authorized the friends (access control list with abbr. ACL). In practice, by default, those who are not in ACL are enemies.

In this paper, we will sharpen the relevant concepts. An enemy is the one to whom the owner has absolute objection for accessing his data. In military security, enemy list is the so-called explicitly denied access list. The concept of enemy list is stronger than the default in UNIX SYSTEM. So, we will discuss three lists for each user

- 1) E-list: enemy list
- 2) F-list: friend list
- 3) MF-list: the complement of E-list

By definition, E-list and F-list are disjoint, and F-list is subset of MF-list. Theoretically, we deal with MF-list. The closest concept to the UNIX's friend list (ACL) is F-list

3. Concept of Granular computing

Informally, Granular computing (GrC) is a computing theory based on granulation; A classical granulation is partition:

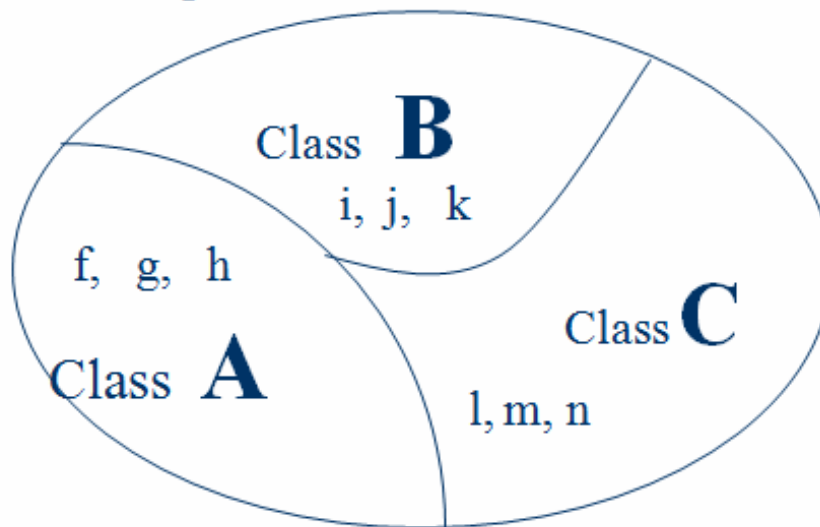


Figure 1. Partition is a very neat granulation

The term granular computing (GrC) was coined by Dr. Lin and Zadeh in Fall, 1996 [59]. However the idea can be traced back to [39]. Both Zadeh and Lin have basically adopted mathematical approach to GrC. Zadeh stated [58]: "Basically, TFIG... its foundation and methodology are mathematical in nature". The word "TFIG", abbreviation of theory of fuzzy information granulation, is precisely the granular computing (GrC).

Having adopted incremental approach, Dr. Lin has accumulated nine GrC models. They are:

- First GrC Model (Local Granular Model)
- Second GrC Model (Global Granular Model)
- Third GrC Model (Binary Granular Model)
- Fourth GrC Model (Multi-Binary Granular or Binary Granular Data Model)
- Fifth GrC Model (Relational Granular Model)
- Sixth GrC Model
- Seventh GrC Model
- Eighth GrC Model (Categorical Granular Model)
- Ninth GrC Model

In these nine models, the Eighth GrC Model, with its higher level view, is considered as the formal model of granulation, and the rest of them are basically “convenient models” as they all can be derived from the Eighth by specifying the general category to various special cases.

We would like to quote the informal definition and formal definition from [57].

Zadehs informal definition:

“information granulation involves partitioning a class of objects (points) into granules, with a granule being a clump of objects (points) which are drawn together by some constraints or forces, such as ‘indistinguishability, similarity or functionality’. “Intuitively, a class of objects that are drawn by some constraints forms a tuple with these constraints as the schema of the tuple. Let CAT be a given category

Lin’s formal definition on Category Theory Based GrC Model:

1. Let $C = \{C_j^h \mid h \in H \text{ and } j \in J_h\}$ be a family of objects in the Category CAT; it is called the universe (of discourse).
2. Consider a family Π of product objects in C
3. Consider a family β of relation objects, which are subobjects of Π .

Then the pair (C, β) is the “final” Formal GrC Model that has been called the Category Theory Based GrC Model (also 8th GrC Model).

Remark: Note that if CAT is the category of sets, then we can regard C as the union of these sets C_j^h . “

From the Eighth model, if we specify the category to the category of sets, we have the Fifth model. This model is a collection of n-relations or n-tuples in the view of relational database schema. From this model, the First and Fourth models are formed if the product objects are limited to be the product of 2 objects. The First model is referred to neighborhood system (NS), and the Fourth is a multi-binary model. If all n-ary relations in the Fifth model are

symmetric, the Second model is formed. However, a granule in the Second model has to be a set, and a granule in the Fifth model can be a tuple and may not be a set. The Third model is built if the number of binary relations is reduced to be one. This model is referred to be binary neighborhood (BNS). Because BNS is a special case of NS, the Third model is a special case of the First model. The Sixth, the Seventh, and the Ninth are derived directly from the Eighth model depending on how the category is taken category. If category is taken to be the category of fuzzy sets, functions, random variables and generalized functions, we form the Sixth model. If category is taken to be the category of Turing machines, we form the Seventh model. If category is taken to be the category of qualitative fuzzy sets, we form The Ninth model.

In this report, we only concern with the Third model, binary neighborhood system (BNS). As BNS is special case of NS (neighborhood system), we shall discuss the First model (Local GrC) and Third (Binary GrC) model in more details.

3.1 First Model (Local GrC Model - Neighborhood System)

“The theory of neighborhood systems is abstracted from the geometric notion of ‘near’ or ‘negligible distances’.” [16]. For each point p in the universe U , one associates with it a family of subsets. This family may or may not be empty, and each subset in the family is $NS(p)$ and is called a neighborhood system at p or a neighborhood at p respectively. A neighborhood system of the universe U , denoted as $NS(U)$, is the collection β of that kind of a family at every element or point p of the universe. In granular computing, Neighborhood and neighborhood system are called granule and the granular structure respectively. Let β be NS, the pair (U, β) will be a local granular model as each granule is associated with some points. We use Dr. Lin’s words to give the formal definition for this model [57]

Definition “First GrC Model: The 3-tuple (V, U, β) is called Local GrC Model, where β is a neighborhood system (NS). If $V = U$, the 3-tuple is reduced to a pair (U, β) . In addition, if we require NS to satisfy the topological axioms, then it becomes a TNS.”

3.2 Third Model (Binary GrC Model – Binary Neighborhood System)

The type of neighborhood system arises from binary relation is called binary neighborhood system.

Let U and V be the two classical sets. With a subset R of Cartesian product $V \times U$ is a binary relation, we will re-express R by binary granulation [17].

A binary relation defines a mapping B , called binary granulation for each p of the set V as:

$$B : V \rightarrow 2^U : p \rightarrow B(p), \text{ where } B(p) = \{u \mid (p, u) \in R\}$$

Conversely, given B , we can define the binary relation R , which is a set of ordered pairs (p, u) from a set Bp , a power set of the set U , to a set V as:

$$R = \{(p, u) \mid u \in Bp \forall p \in V\}$$

The defining of $B(p) = \{u \mid (p, u) \in R\}$ is a right neighborhood, and the collection B of $B(p)$ at each p of V is the (right) binary neighborhood system (BNS). Similarly, a left version is defined as: a left neighborhood system L is defined by the set of $L(p)$ where $L(p) = \{u \mid (u, p) \in R\}$ at every p of V .

The Third model is the pair (U, β) where β is R or right (left) neighborhood system. This model arises from a binary relation, so it is called a binary granular model. Dr. Lin gives the definition for the model as follows: [57]

Definition: “3rd GrC model is the three-tuple (U, V, β) , where β is a BNS. It may be referred to as a binary GrC model. If $U = V$, then the three-tuple is reduced to a pair (U, β) .”

Observe that BNS is equivalent to a BR:

$$BR = \{(p, Y) \mid Y \in B(p) \text{ and } p \in V\}.$$

Conversely, a BR defines a (right) BNS as follows:

$$p \rightarrow B(p) = \{Y \mid (p, Y) \in BR\}$$

So both modern examples give rise to BNS, which was called a binary GrS in Lin (1998a). We would like to note that based on this (right) BNS, the (left) BNS can also be defined:

$$D(p) = \{Y \mid p \in B(Y) \text{ for all } p \in V\}.$$

In computer security, Discretionary Access Control Model (DAC) assigns each user p a family of users, $Y_i, i = 1, 2, 3, \dots$, who can access p 's data. In other words, each p is assigned a granule of friends. To formalize DAC model, let U and V be two classical sets. Each $p \in V$ is assigned a subset $B(p)$ of “basic knowledge”. This knowledge is a set of friends or a “neighborhood” of positions.

$$p \rightarrow B(p) = \{Y_i, i = 1, 2, \dots\} \subseteq U$$

In this model, such a set $B(p)$ is called a right binary neighborhood, and the collection $\{B(p) \mid \forall p \in V\}$ is called the binary neighborhood system (BNS)

In granular computing point of view, DAC is a binary neighborhood system. We will examine DAC in more details in section 4.

4. Discretionary Access Control (DAC)

We will formulate UNIX's ACL based on BN's language. In 1989, Brewer and Nash (abbreviated, BN) proposed a very interesting security policy, called Chinese wall security policy [2]. The paper essentially addresses the information flow problem on DAC. So we will use its notations and language, to formulate the idea of UNIX-permission-bits in terms of the concepts of information flow on DAC.

A user in UNIX is the owner of an account. Without the loss of generality, we will refer the files in an account that have the same permission bits as the dataset of the account, owned by a company. BN referred the dataset of a company as an object. So the UNIX-permission-bits essentially specify a group of users who can access the information of an object, say X. Here the access means to read and may be to save the information of X to the datasets of this group. We will abstract such an access to a concept of information flow. We say information in object X has flowed into an object Y when this type of an access occurs. Here, Y is a generic object in the group.

We have taken pains to abstract the UNIX files into objects. However, the notion of objects shall not be restricted to UNIX. Abstractly, an object consists of information (dataset) and its container (the account). So, information in a DAC can flow from an object and can be received by objects. Following BN, we will denote the collection of all those objects to be the set O. Therefore, the permission bits are abstracted to the following:

To each object, say $X \in O$, we associate a group $F(X) = \{Y_j, j = 1, 2, \dots\}$ of objects who may receive information from X. In other words, information in X may flow into any object $Y_j, j = 1, 2, \dots$. The set $F(X)$ is often referred to as the access control list (ACL). We will call it the friend-list of X.

Similarly, the enemy-list of X, denoted by $E(X)$, consists of a group of objects, to which no information of X can be flowed to or from X directly. This list has been referred to as explicitly denied list [23].

Definition 1 *Discretionary Access Control Model (DAC) is a map*

$$F : O \rightarrow 2^O : X \rightarrow F(X).$$

that associates each object of O with a group of friends, called friend-list. 2^O , known as the power set of O, denotes the collection of all subsets of O. In this report, we will denote this DAC by F-DAC. Here, F is used to emphasize that the information is flowed into friends' datasets.

By analogy, we can define the following:

Definition 2 *E-DAC model is a map*

$$E : O \rightarrow 2^O : X \rightarrow E(X).$$

that associates each object of set O with a group of enemies, called an enemy-list. Such a list has been called explicitly denied list [23].

Abstractly, the friend-list $F(X)$ and the enemy-list $E(X)$ concern the "same" concept (see the geometric discussions below.) Let Y be an object that information of X is allowed to flow into, in other words, $Y \in F(X)$. We will denote this permissibility by $X \Rightarrow Y$. Observe that the collection of the pairs (X, Y) related by $X \Rightarrow Y$ is a subset of Cartesian product $O \times O$. Hence, a binary relation is defined.

Definition 3 *The set $\{(X, Y) \mid Y \in F(X)\}$ is a binary relation, denoted by F or more graphically \Rightarrow . This binary relation is called Direct Information Flow Model (DIF).*

Similarly, $\{(X, Y) \mid Y \in E(X)\}$ is a binary relation, denoted by E .

From these definitions, it is clear that we have the following proposition.

Proposition 1 *F-DAC and F are equivalent. Similarly, E-DAC and E are equivalent.*

By abuse of notations, F and E will denote both F-DAC and E-DAC and the respectively corresponding binary relations.

4.1 Geometric Views of DAC

The concept of $F(X)$ and $E(X)$ can be viewed geometrically: Let U be a set and p be a point in U . Here, U is a geometric view of O . We shall consider the geometric abstraction of F-DAC or E-DAC. Namely,

Definition 1 *Geometric abstraction of F-DAC (or E-DAC) is a map*

$$B : U \rightarrow 2^U : p \rightarrow B(p)$$

that associates each point p of U with a subset $B(p)$. This map is called a binary neighborhood system (BNS) or a binary granulation. $B(p)$, called a neighborhood, is the geometric abstraction of $F(X)$. By abuse of language, we will also call the collection $\{B(p) \mid p \in U\}$ a BNS.

Definition 2 Let O be the set of all objects, and X an object.

$T(X) = F(X) \cup F[F(X)] \cup F[F[F(X)]] \dots$ (transfinitely many) is called the trajectory of information flows from X.

5. Information Flow Security on DAC

The nature of the information flow is "continuously flowing." So we need to trace its trajectories, namely, we have to apply \Rightarrow repeatedly to the objects. So we define:

Definition 1 Information Flow from X to Y is defined to be the compositions of finite sequences of \Rightarrow (Direct information flow):

$$X = \{X_0 \Rightarrow X_1 \Rightarrow X_2 \dots \Rightarrow X_n = Y\}$$

Here, n varies through integers. Note that this includes the case, $X \Rightarrow X$. The collection of such (X, Y) is a reflexive binary relation, denoted by C and called Information Flow Model.

Corollary 1 C is the transitive closure of F.
The following corollary is immediate from the definition.

Corollary 2 $T(X) = \{Y \mid (X, Y) \in C\}$
Intuitively, T(X) consists of all possible points that the information flows are allowed to reach.

The central theme of this report is to discuss: How the DAC can be designed properly so that

Main Theme

Information flows can never flow into enemies' hands. Formally, we say $T(X) \cap E(X) = \emptyset \ \forall X \in O$.

Definition 2 The requirement that information flows will never flow into enemy list is called information flow security policy (IFSP).

As a result, if T(X) meets IFSP, we will denote such T(X) as ST(X) and call it the secure trajectory information flows from X. We have $ST(X) = MF(X)$, and $F(X) \subseteq ST(X)$ if F(X) is not maximal.

5.1 Illustrations

Let us illustrate the concept by examples:

Example 1 (Positive example): Assume we have a set O that contains five objects A, B, C, D, E and their E -DAC is given below:

$A \rightarrow E \{\}$

$B \rightarrow E \{A\}$

$C \rightarrow E \{A, B\}$

$D \rightarrow E \{A, B, C\}$

$E \rightarrow E \{A, B, C, D\}$

By default, we assume the complement of each friend-list is an enemy-list. Therefore, each friend-list (F) is also its maximal friend-list (MF) and F -DAC is:

$A \rightarrow \{A, B, C, D, E\}$

$B \rightarrow \{B, C, D, E\}$

$C \rightarrow \{C, D, E\}$

$D \rightarrow \{D, E\}$

$E \rightarrow \{E\}$

In this example, the F -DAC is secure in the sense that no information of an object X may flow into its enemies' objects. Let us look at the trajectory of each object

$A \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow C \Rightarrow D \Rightarrow E$

$T(A) = \{A, B, C, D, E\}$ does not meet $E(A) = \{\}$

$T(A)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(A) = ST(A)$

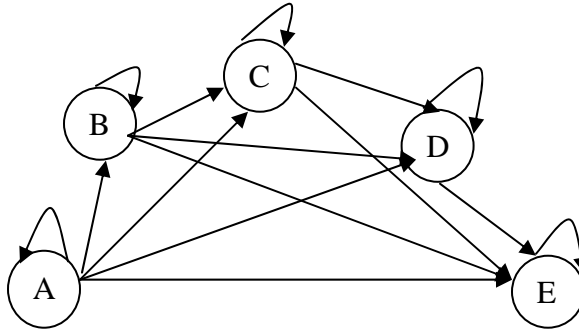


Figure 2. Trajectory of object A, $T(A)$

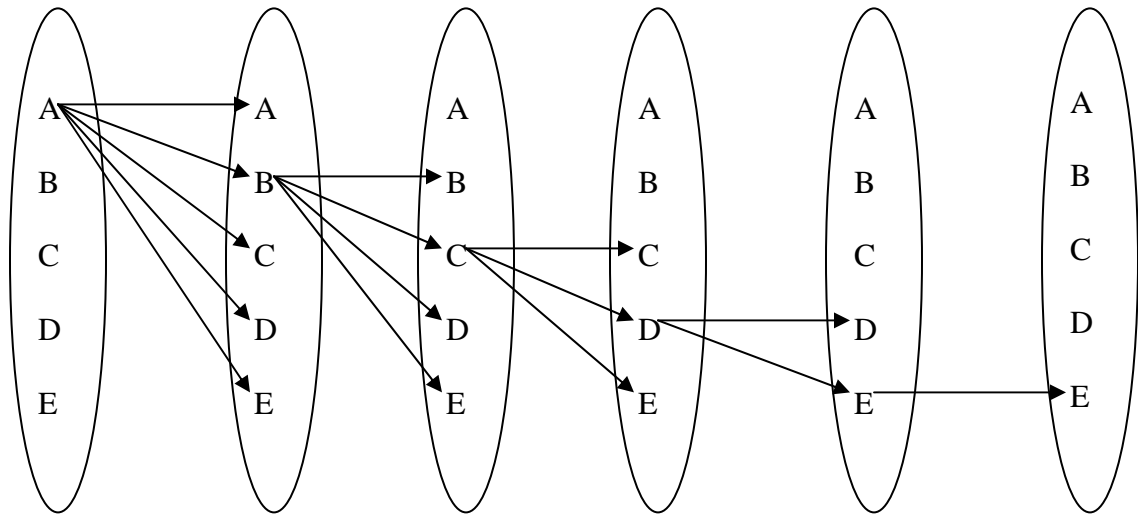


Figure 3. Geometric view of $T(A)$

$B \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow C \Rightarrow D \Rightarrow E$

$T(B) = \{B, C, D, E\}$ does not meet $E(B) = \{A\}$

$T(B)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(B) = ST(B)$

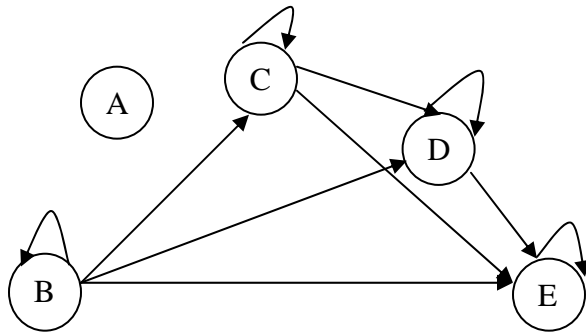


Figure 4. Trajectory of object B, $T(B)$

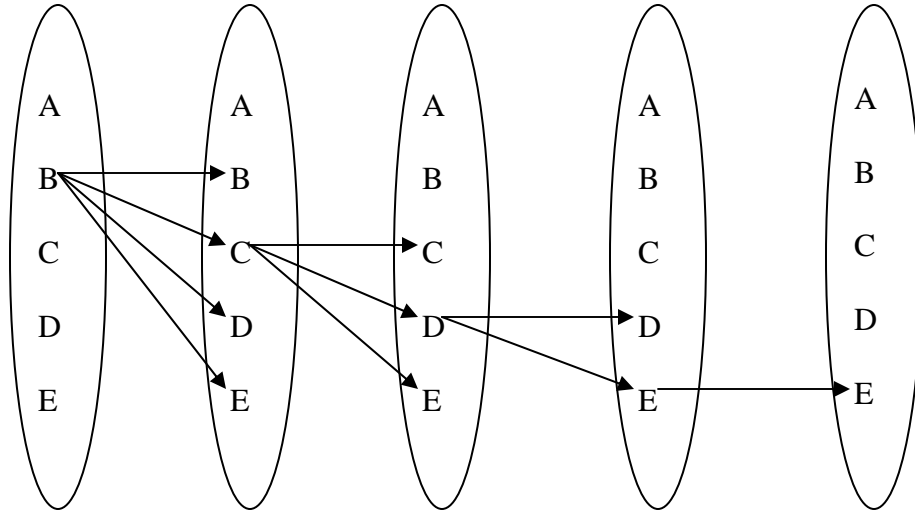


Figure 5. Geometric view of $T(B)$

$C \Rightarrow C \Rightarrow D \Rightarrow E$
 $T(C) = \{C, D, E\}$ does not meet $E(C) = \{A, B\}$
 $T(C)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(C) = ST(C)$

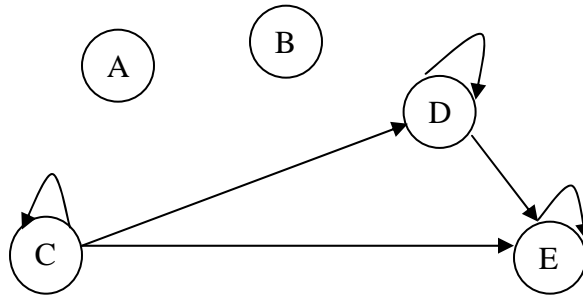


Figure 6. Trajectory of object C, $T(C)$

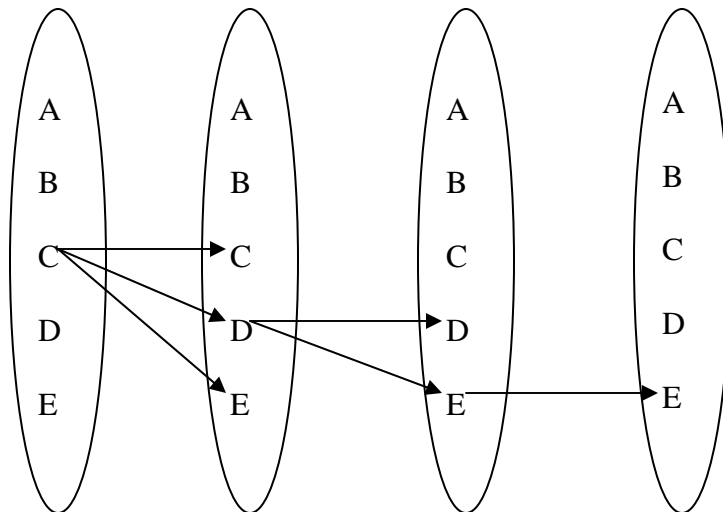


Figure 7. Geometric view of $T(C)$

$D \Rightarrow D \Rightarrow E$
 $T(D) = \{D, E\}$ does not meet $E(D) = \{A, B, C\}$
 $T(D)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(D) = ST(D)$

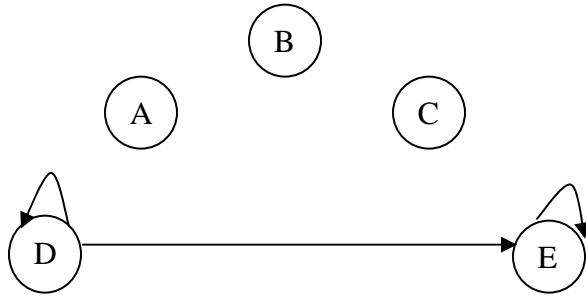


Figure 8. Trajectory of object D, $T(D)$

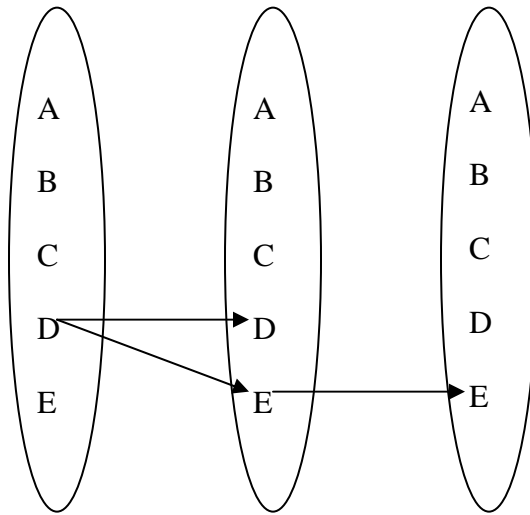


Figure 9. Geometric view of $T(D)$

$E \Rightarrow E$
 $T(E) = \{E\}$ does not meet $E(E) = \{A, B, C, D\}$
 $T(E)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(E) = ST(E)$

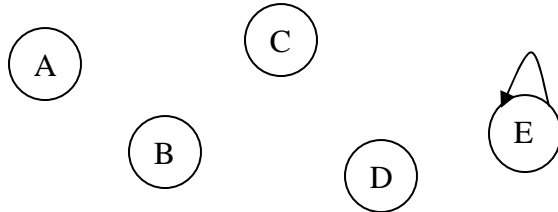


Figure 10. Trajectory of object E, $T(E)$

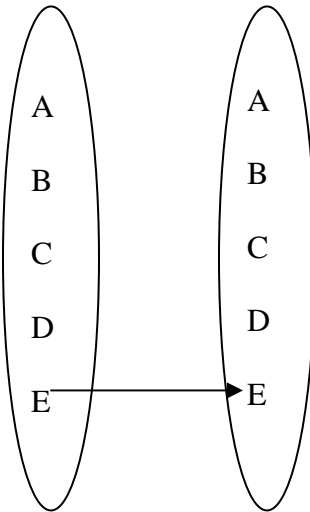


Figure 11. Geometric view of $T(E)$

So information in every object can never flow into the enemies.

```

Example1_outputResult.dat - WordPad
File Edit View Insert Format Help

FINAL RESULT OF THE ANALYSIS FOR ALL DATA SETS IN INPUT FILE

Total number of objects in system = 5
Total number of data sets examined = 5
Total number of secure data sets = 5
Total number of insecure data sets = 0
PASS SECURITY

Detail on each data set of each object as follow:

Object A
MF(A) = {A, B, C, D, E}
All trajectory paths of object A
  Object A --> A --> B --> C --> D --> E
  Object B --> B --> C --> D --> E
  Object C --> C --> D --> E
  Object D --> D --> E
  Object E --> E
T(A) = {A, B, C, D, E}
E(A) = {}
E(A) ^ T(A) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object B
MF(B) = {B, C, D, E}
All trajectory paths of object B
  Object B --> B --> C --> D --> E
  Object C --> C --> D --> E
  Object D --> D --> E
  Object E --> E
T(B) = {B, C, D, E}
E(B) = {A}
E(B) ^ T(B) = {} --> This data set is secure

For Help, press F1
NUM

```

Figure 12. Screen 1 of Programmatic view of example 1

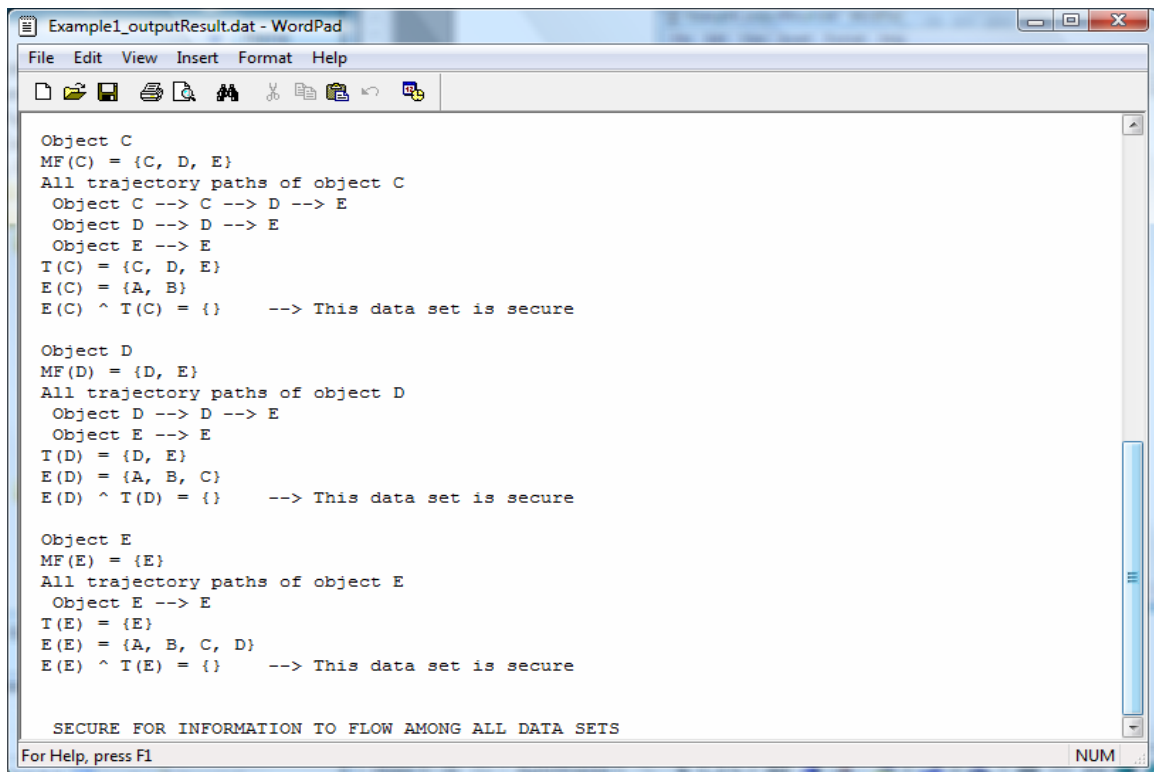


Figure 13. Screen 2 of Programmatic view of example 1

Next, let us look at a negative example.

Example 2 (Negative example): The enemy lists are:

$A \rightarrow E \{B, D, E\}$

$B \rightarrow E \{D\}$

$C \rightarrow E \{A, B, D, E\}$

$D \rightarrow E \{A, B, C, E\}$

$E \rightarrow E \{B, C, D\}$

By default, the friend-lists (F) again same as maximal friend-lists (MF) are:

$A \rightarrow \{A, C\}$

$B \rightarrow \{A, B, C, E\}$

$C \rightarrow \{C\}$

$D \rightarrow \{D\}$

$E \rightarrow \{A, E\}$

Now, observe that the trajectories are:

$A \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow C$

$T(A) = \{A, C\}$ does not meet $E(A) = \{B, D, E\}$

$T(A)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(A) = ST(A)$

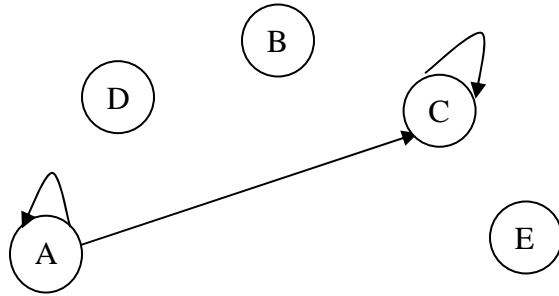


Figure 14. Trajectory of object A, $T(A)$

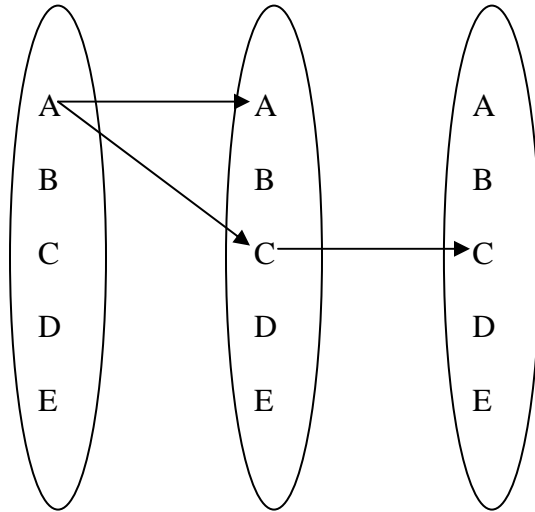


Figure 15. Geometric view of $T(A)$

$B \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow C \Rightarrow E$
 $T(B) = \{A, B, C, E\}$ does not meet $E(B) = \{D\}$
 $T(B)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(B) = ST(B)$

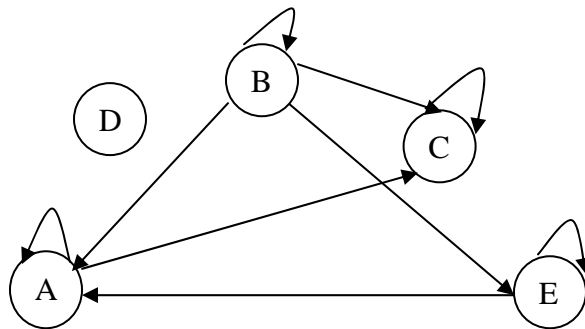


Figure 16. Trajectory of object B, $T(B)$

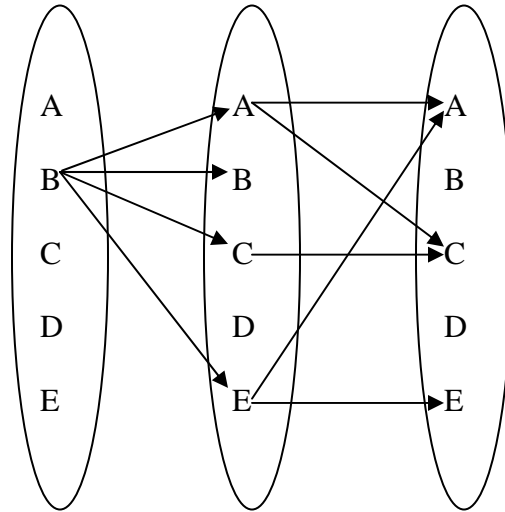


Figure 17. Geometric view of $T(B)$

$C \Rightarrow C$

$T(C) = \{C\}$ does not meet $E(C) = \{A, B, D, E\}$

$T(C)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(C) = ST(C)$

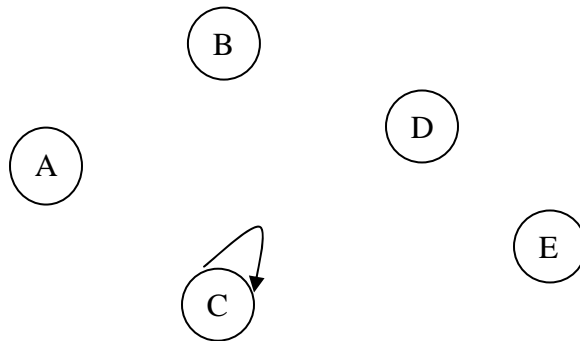


Figure 18. Trajectory of object C, $T(C)$

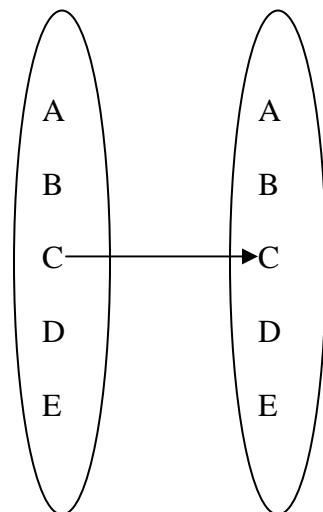


Figure 19. Geometric view of $T(C)$

$D \Rightarrow D$

$T(D) = \{D\}$ does not meet $E(D) = \{A, B, C, E\}$

$T(D)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(D) = ST(D)$

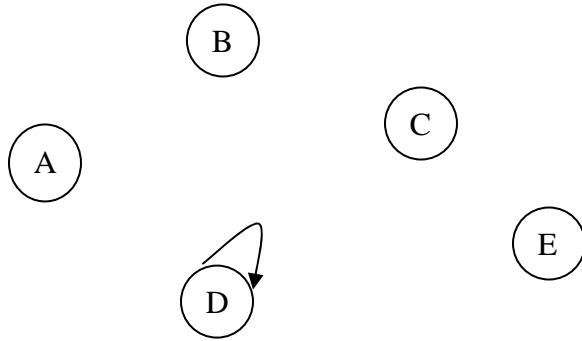


Figure 20. Trajectory of object D, $T(D)$

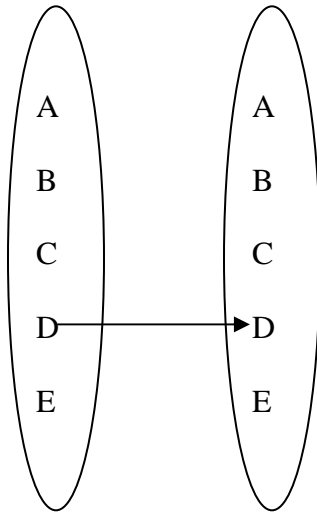


Figure 21. Geometric view of $T(D)$

$E \Rightarrow E \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow C$

$T(E) = \{A, C, E\}$ does meet $E(E) = \{B, C, D\}$

$T(E)$ does not meet IFSP; therefore, $T(E) \neq ST(E)$

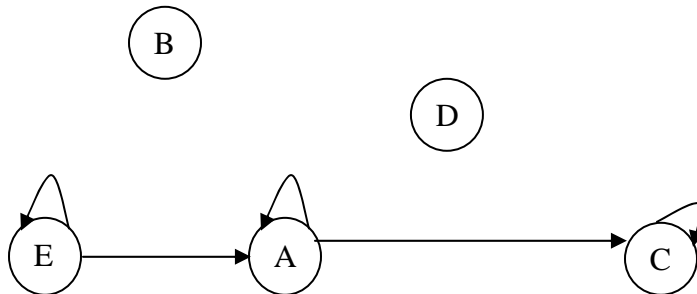


Figure 22. Trajectory of object E, $T(E)$

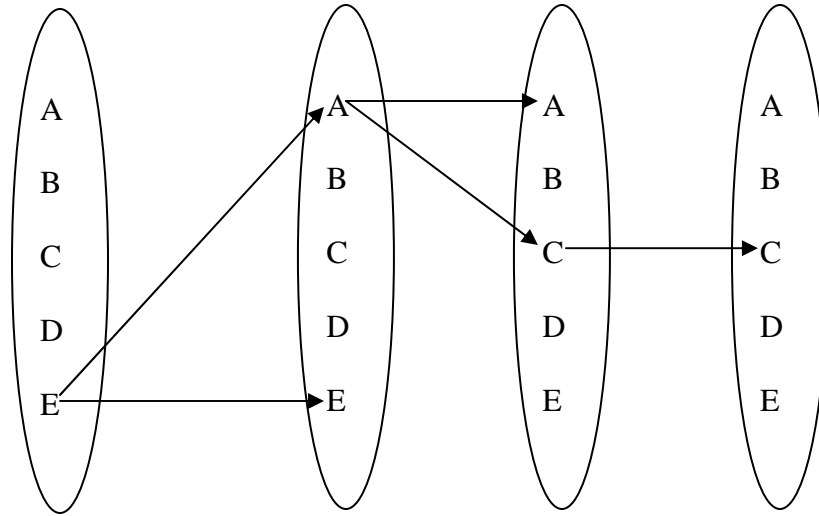


Figure 23. Geometric view of $T(E)$

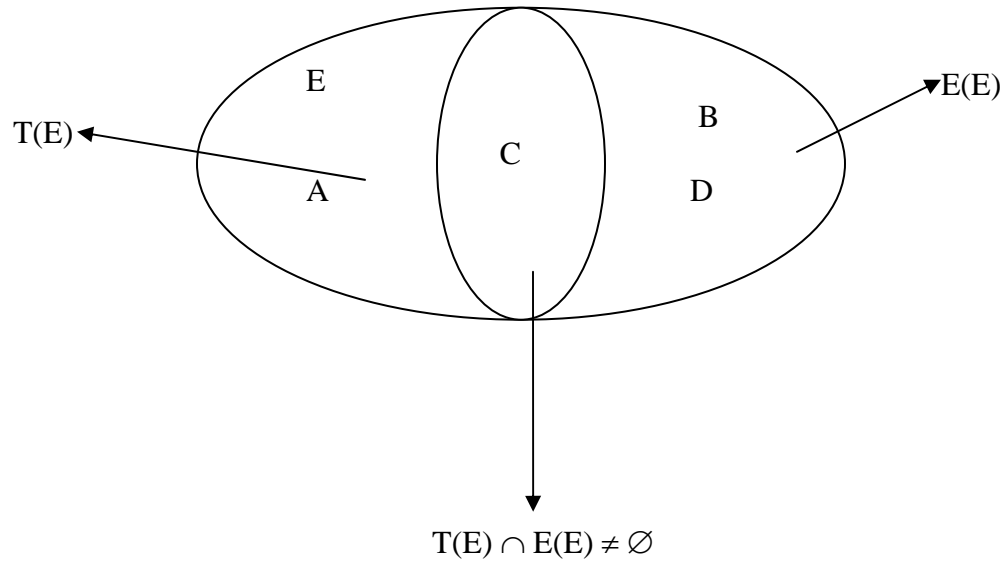


Figure 24. The failure of Information Flow Security Policy of object E

These phenomena occur because *F-DAC* does not satisfy the Information Flow Security conditions.


```

Example2_outputResult.dat - WordPad
File Edit View Insert Format Help

FINAL RESULT OF THE ANALYSIS FOR ALL DATA SETS IN INPUT FILE

Total number of objects in system = 5
Total number of data sets examined = 5
Total number of secure data sets = 4
Total number of insecure data sets = 1
FAIL SECURITY

Detail on each data set of each object as follow:

Object A
MF(A) = {A, C}
All trajectory paths of object A
  Object A --> A --> C
  Object C --> C
T(A) = {A, C}
E(A) = {B, D, E}
E(A) ^ T(A) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object B
MF(B) = {A, B, C, E}
All trajectory paths of object B
  Object B --> A --> B --> C --> E
  Object A --> A --> C
  Object C --> C
  Object E --> A --> E
T(B) = {A, B, C, E}
E(B) = {D}
E(B) ^ T(B) = {} --> This data set is secure

For Help, press F1
NUM

```

```

Example2_outputResult.dat - WordPad
File Edit View Insert Format Help

Object C
MF(C) = {C}
All trajectory paths of object C
  Object C --> C
T(C) = {C}
E(C) = {A, B, D, E}
E(C) ^ T(C) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object D
MF(D) = {D}
All trajectory paths of object D
  Object D --> D
T(D) = {D}
E(D) = {A, B, C, E}
E(D) ^ T(D) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object E
MF(E) = {A, E}
All trajectory paths of object E
  Object E --> A --> E
  Object A --> A --> C
  Object C --> C
T(E) = {A, C, E}
E(E) = {B, C, D}
E(E) ^ T(E) = {C} --> This data set is not secure

NOT SECURE FOR INFORMATION TO FLOW AMONG ALL DATA SETS

For Help, press F1
NUM

```

The intersection of E (E) and T (E) is not empty indicates that the information of object E can flow to E's enemies hands. As a result, the dataset is not secure

Figure 25. Programmatic view of example 2

5.2 Main Theorems

Let us recall some definitions

1. A symmetric binary relation B is a binary relation such that for every $(u, v) \in B$ implies $(v, u) \in B$.
2. $B' = V \times V \sim B$, which is the complement set of B , defines the complement binary relation (CBR).
3. A binary relation B is anti-reflexive if B is non-empty and no pair (v, v) is in B . Observed that B is anti-reflexive iff (if and only if) B' is reflexive.
4. A binary relation B is anti-transitive if B is non-empty and if (u, v) belongs to B implies that for all w either (u, w) , (w, v) or both belongs to B . Observed that B is anti-transitive iff B' is transitive.

Let us examine the main theorem, which can be viewed as a generalization of Chinese wall security theorem [22].

Theorem 1 *Information Flow Security Theorem.*

E -DAC enforces information flow security policy if E -DAC is anti-transitive

This will follow directly from the following corollary.

Proposition *Information Flow Security Theorem.*

Let F -DAC be the complement of E -DAC, then E -DAC enforces information flow security policy if F -DAC is transitive

Observe that since F -DAC is transitive, the trajectories stay in $F(X)$. So, $T(X)$ is disjoint from $E(X)$, and hence it satisfies IFSP.

Next we re-state the Chinese Wall Security Theorem in terms of IFSP.

We quote two important statements from BN:

1. "The Chinese wall security policy combines commercial discretion with legally enforceable mandatory controls . . . , perhaps, as significant to the financial world as Bell-LaPadula's policies are to the military." See for Bell-LaPadula's policies
2. "People are only allowed access to information which is not held to conflict with any other information that they already possess." See [2], Section "Simple Security", p. 207.

Simple Chinese wall security policy implies that F -DAC is an equivalence relation:

1. We observe that if two datasets are accessible by the same agent, we should conclude that the information of two datasets can be flowed into each others
2. From the second assertion of BN, we conclude that an agent can access any information that is not in conflict with the information they already possess. So in $F(X)$, which is outside of $E(X)$, all information can flow into each other. Hence $F-DAC$ is an equivalence relation.

So we define:

Definition

1. Simple Chinese wall security policy (SCWSP) means $F-DAC$ is an equivalence relation.
2. Aggressive Chinese wall security policy (ACSWP) means C is an equivalence relation.

Theorem 2 Chinese Wall Security Theorem.

Simple Chinese wall security policy implies Aggressive Chinese wall security policy.

This is immediate: C is an equivalence relation if and only if F is.

Corollary Simple Chinese Wall Security Policy (SCWSP) implies IFSP.

This is immediate: since equivalence relation is transitive.

Equivalence relation is a special case of binary relation. $F-DAC$ in the Third GrC model is a binary relation, and $F-DAC$ in Chinese wall model is an equivalence relation. Therefore, Chinese wall model is a special case of Information flow model.

5.2.1 Example

Example 3 Assume we have a set O with five objects A, B, C, D, E and their $E-DAC$ is given below:

$A \rightarrow E \{B, D, E\}$

$B \rightarrow E \{A, C, E\}$

$C \rightarrow E \{B, D, E\}$

$D \rightarrow E \{A, C, E\}$

$E \rightarrow E \{A, B, C, D\}$

By default, we assume the complement of each friend-list is an enemy-list. Therefore, each friend-list (F) is also its maximal friend-list (MF) and $F-DAC$ is:

$A \rightarrow \{A, C\}$

$B \rightarrow \{B, D\}$

$C \rightarrow \{A, C\}$

$D \rightarrow \{B, D\}$

$E \rightarrow \{E\}$

In this example, the *F-DAC* is secure in the sense that no information of an object *X* may flow into enemies' objects. Let us look at the trajectory of each object

$A \Rightarrow C \Rightarrow A$

$T(A) = \{A, C\}$ does not meet $E(A) = \{B, D, E\}$

$T(A)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(A)$ is $ST(A)$

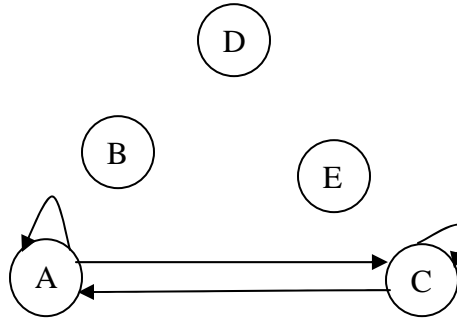


Figure 26. Trajectory of object A

$B \Rightarrow D \Rightarrow B$

$T(B) = \{B, D\}$ does not meet $E(B) = \{A, C, E\}$

$T(B)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(B)$ is $ST(B)$

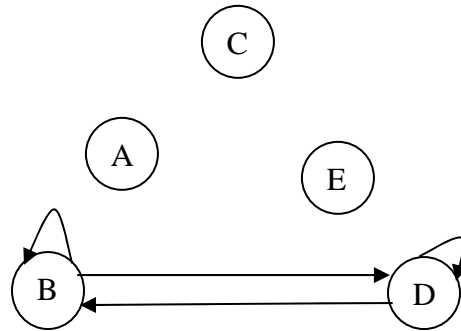


Figure 27. Trajectory of object B

$C \Rightarrow A \Rightarrow C$

$T(C) = \{A, C\}$ does not meet $E(C) = \{B, D, E\}$

$T(C)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(C)$ is $ST(C)$

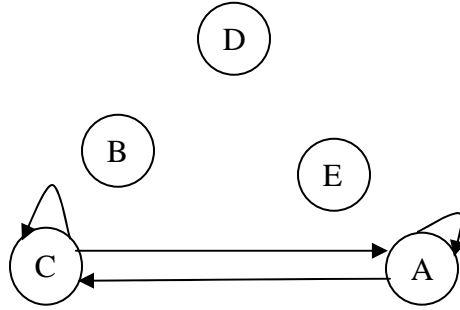


Figure 28. Trajectory of object C

$D \Rightarrow B \Rightarrow D$
 $T(D) = \{B, D\}$ does not meet $E(D) = \{A, C, E\}$
 $T(D)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(D)$ is $ST(D)$

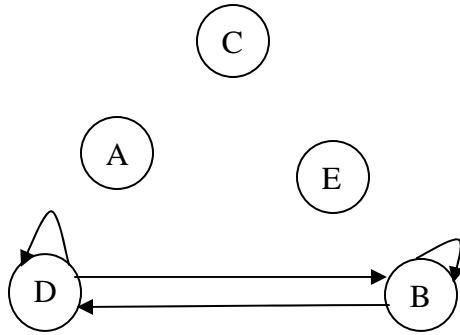


Figure 29. Trajectory of object D

$E \Rightarrow E$
 $T(E) = \{E\}$ does not meet $E(E) = \{A, B, C, D\}$
 $T(E)$ meets IFSP; therefore, $T(E)$ is $ST(E)$

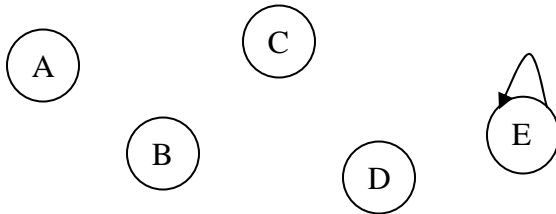


Figure 30. Trajectory of object E

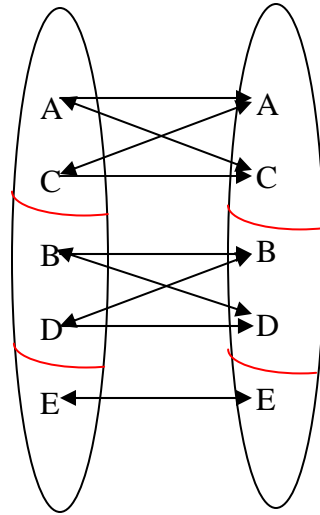


Figure 31. A Geometric view of all 5 objects in set O

So, information in every object can never flow into the enemies. In the above graph, the double arrow line connecting a pair of different objects indicates symmetry. For example, a symmetry is between A and C, and other is between B and D. The red lines on the graph divide the set O into 3 disjoint subsets $\{A, C\}$, $\{B, D\}$, and $\{E\}$. This partition represents an equivalence relation, which is a special case of binary relation.

5.3 Chinese wall security policy (CWSP)

This model was proposed by Brewer and Nash in 1989. Intuitively, Chinese Wall Security Policy (CWSP) is a very intriguing commercial security model. The basis idea of CWSP is to build the walls between datasets in the same “conflict of interest class”, and people are only allowed to access to information in the same side of the wall. In other words, they are not allowed to access information that is in the same “conflict of interest class”.

All company data are stored in a hierarchical filing system. This filing system contains three levels:

- a. At the lowest level, we deal with individual items of information, each concerning a single company. We shall refer to the files in which such information is stored as objects.
- b. At the intermediate level, all objects concerning the same company are grouped together into what is called a company dataset.

- c. At the highest level, all company datasets whose companies are in competition are grouped together into what is called a conflict of interest class.

This policy combines commercial discretion with legally enforcement mandatory controls. There is no information flow from X to Y if and only if X and Y belong to the same “conflict of interest class”, or equivalently, information flows from X to Y if and only if X and Y are not in the same “conflict of interest class”.

For example, there are two “conflict of interest” classes on business about oil and bank. The first class contains four oil companies which are Oil-A, Oil-B, Oil-C, and Oil-D; the second contains three banks which are Bank-A, Bank-B, and Bank-C. As there is no conflict of interest between bank dataset and oil dataset, a user A, who has accessed to Bank-A dataset, can only request access to the dataset of an oil company, such as Oil-A, Oil-B, Oil-C, or Oil-D. He no longer has access to the dataset of either Bank-B or Bank-C since they are in same “conflict of interest” as Bank A. Similarly, once he gains access to an oil company, say Oil-A, he would no longer has access to any bank or oil company other than Bank-A and Oil-A.

5.4 Programmatic illustration

To analyze the security of information flow for each object in the system, we build a window application to validate whether the system satisfies IFSP. The system is considered to be secure if every object in the system satisfies IFSP, i.e., the intersection of its E list and its T list equals to an empty set.

This application works as follows:

- a. Input:
The application will read the E-DAC in the system from an input file. The file contains many rows. Each row in the file describes the E list of an object in the system.
- b. Process:
The application will compute the friend lists (denoted as MF lists). The MF notation is used to indicate the complement of E list and is the maximal friend list. The trajectory lists (denoted as T lists) will then be generated from MF lists for each object in the system. Based on T list and E list of an object, the application then validates whether the dataset of this object is satisfied the IFSP. The system is secure if the datasets of all objects in the system meet IFSP.
- c. Output:

The application will write the result of the analysis to an output file.

The program takes $O(n^3)$ with the main design as follows:

5.4.1 Structure

Input file:

The input file describes the E-DAC for all objects in the system. Each row of the input file describes an E list of an object. Each row has the following format:

$E(A) = \{ B, D, E \}$

This row defines the E list of object A to be the set containing objects B, D, and E.

Sample input file:

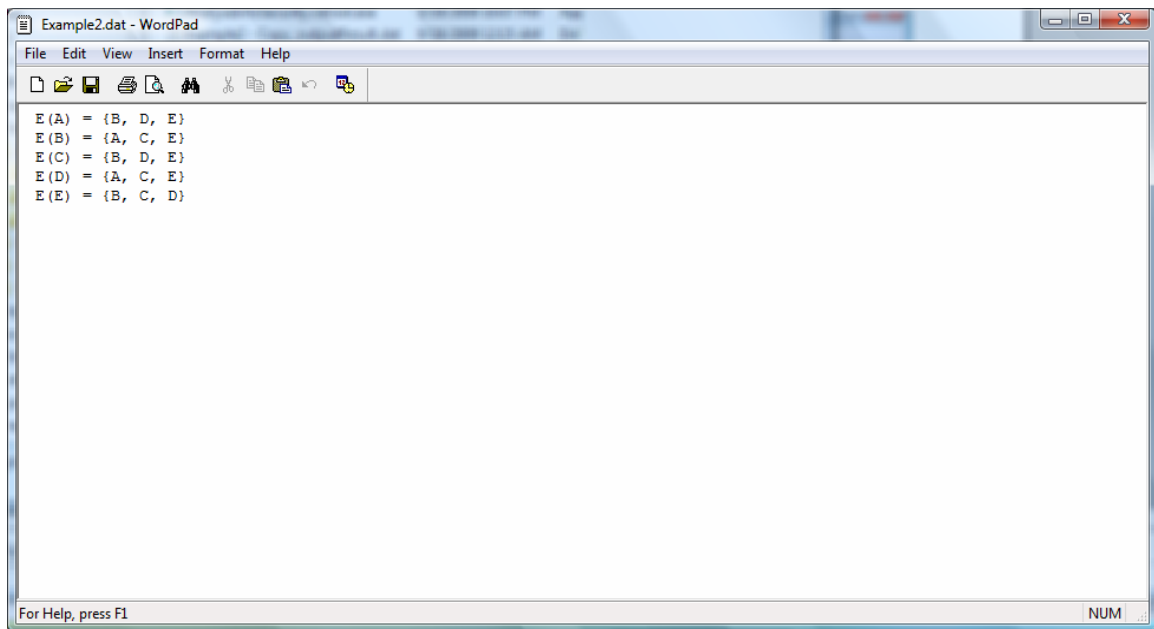


Figure 32. Input file

Data structure:

Each object of the system has the following attributes:

- ID: a unique identifier, which identifies each object in the system.
- enemyString: this is the enemy list of the object, described in a string. A comma separates each enemy. This is basically the same format as the row in the input file.
- E list: this is a hash table, which contains the entire enemy list of the object. Each entry in the hash table has a (key, value) pair. The key is an enemy object ID, and the value is a reference to an enemy object.

- d. MF list: this is a hash table, which stores the complement of E list. Similarly, each entry in the hash table has a (key, value) pair.
- e. T list: this is a hash table, which stores the trajectory list of the object. Similarly, each entry in the hash table has a (key, value) pair.
- f. I list: this is a linked list, which stores $E \cap T$

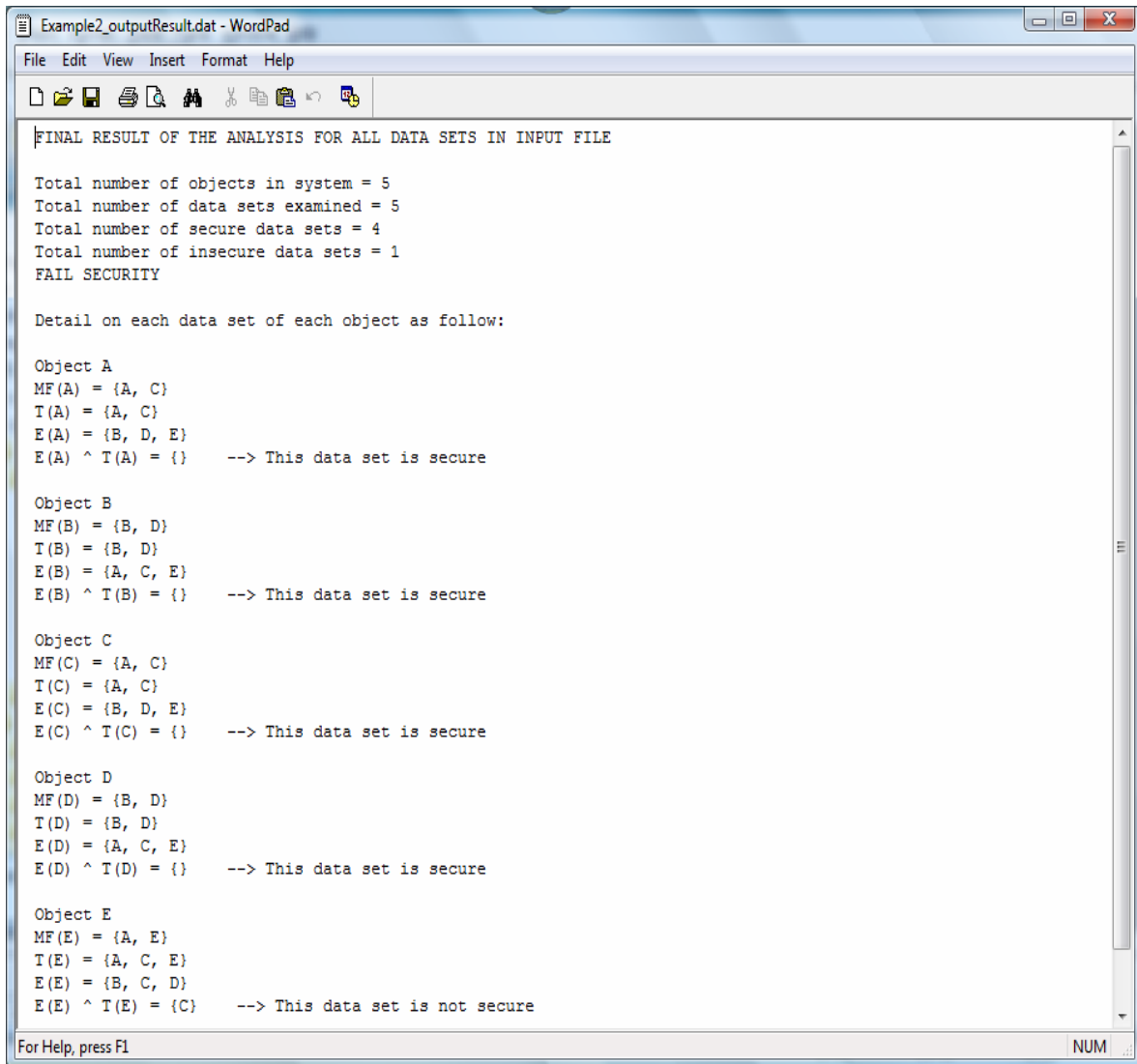
We will use a hash table to store all the objects in the system. Each entry in the hash table has a (key, value) pair. The key stores the object ID. The value stores the reference to the object itself. To make it easy to refer to this hash table later on, we will call this hash table the allObjects hash table.

Output file:

The output file contains the result of our analysis. It contains the following sections:

- a. Summary of the result of the analysis.
- b. Each object's MF list, T list, I list, and whether its dataset is secure.

Sample output file:



```

Example2_outputResult.dat - WordPad
File Edit View Insert Format Help

FINAL RESULT OF THE ANALYSIS FOR ALL DATA SETS IN INPUT FILE

Total number of objects in system = 5
Total number of data sets examined = 5
Total number of secure data sets = 4
Total number of insecure data sets = 1
FAIL SECURITY

Detail on each data set of each object as follow:

Object A
MF(A) = {A, C}
T(A) = {A, C}
E(A) = {B, D, E}
E(A) ^ T(A) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object B
MF(B) = {B, D}
T(B) = {B, D}
E(B) = {A, C, E}
E(B) ^ T(B) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object C
MF(C) = {A, C}
T(C) = {A, C}
E(C) = {B, D, E}
E(C) ^ T(C) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object D
MF(D) = {B, D}
T(D) = {B, D}
E(D) = {A, C, E}
E(D) ^ T(D) = {} --> This data set is secure

Object E
MF(E) = {A, E}
T(E) = {A, C, E}
E(E) = {B, C, D}
E(E) ^ T(E) = {C} --> This data set is not secure

For Help, press F1
NUM

```

Figure 33. Output file

5.4.2 Algorithm

Step 1: Initialize allObjects hash table from input file.

- Read input file, row by row
- Construct an object, and parse each row to obtain the ID, the enemyString for that object.
- Store the object to allObjects hash table.

At the end of step 1, the allObjects hash table will contain all objects in the system.

Step 2: Build E list

The E list of each object X is built as follows:

```
function buildEList()
{
    Parse enemyString into a temporary array of object IDs, tmpIDarray.
    Traverse tmpIDarray {
        - Obtain a reference to an enemy object by looking up allObjects
          hash table, using the object ID as key.
        - Put this reference to the E list hash table of object X.
    }
}
```

Step 3: Build MF list

The MF list of each object X is built as follows:

```
Function buildMFList()
{
    - Make a copy of allObjects hash table called MF list
    - Traverse object X's E list
    - Remove objects found in X's E list from that MF list
}
```

Step 4: Build T list

The T list of each object X is built as follows:

```
function buildTList()
{
    Object X: the examined object for which its T list is built
    Queue q: a temporary queue to hold all possible objects of T list
    Object curObject: an object in the queue q to be examined.

    // Observe: the maximum length of queue q is n for n objects or users.
    // Queue q only stores distinct objects or users.

    while (there is an item in the queue)
    { //The loop cannot be looped more than the total number of distinct
      objects

        curObject := dequeue the 1st item in the queue q;

        foreach (object o in curObject's MF list)
        {
            if (o is not in X's T-list)
```

```

        { // This condition keeps q to store only distinct objects or
          users

          Add object o to X's T list;
          If o is not curObject: enqueue to place o into queue q
        }
      }
    }
  }
}

```

Step 5: Build I list

The I list of each object X is built as follows:

```

Function builtIList()
{
    Traverse X's E list
    Add object to X's I list if object is found in X's T list
}

```

Step 4 is the most critical part of the application to achieve $O(n^3)$ performance.

To avoid infinitely looping and minimize the run time, we ensure that the MF list of each possible object can only be visited once during the traversal process while building the T list.

For easier understanding, let us go through the buildTList function, steps by steps, to build T list of object E in the following example:

Example: the given enemy list, E-DAC as follows:

```

A → E {B, D, E}
B → E {A, C, E}
C → E {B, D, E}
D → E {A, C, E}
E → E {B, C, D}

```

We will have the complement of E-list, the maximal friend-list MF below:

```

A → {A, C}
B → {B, D}
C → {A, C}
D → {B, D}
E → {E, A}

```

1. Place E in the queue.

2. Enter while loop
 - a. Since the queue contains E, E is dequeued.
 - b. Enter foreach loop
 - i. Since MF list of E contains E and A, we will examine to see whether E's T list contains E and A.
 - ii. Since E's T list is initially empty, it does not contain E. Therefore, E is added to E's T list.
 - iii. E will not be placed in the queue since it is the curObject, and its MF list is currently examined.
 - iv. A is added to E's T list, since E's T list does not contain A.
 - v. A is also enqueued, since A is not the curObject.
 - c. Exit foreach loop. At this point, the queue has one object, which is A.
3. Re-enter while loop
 - a. Since the queue contains A, A is dequeued.
 - b. Enter foreach loop
 - i. Since MF list of A contains A and C, we will examine to see whether E's T list contains A and C.
 - ii. Since E's T list already contains A, nothing happens.
 - iii. C is added to E's T list, since E's T list does not contain C.
 - iv. C is also enqueued, since C is not the curObject.
 - c. Exit foreach loop. At this point, the queue has one object, which is C.
4. Re-enter while loop
 - a. Since the queue contains C, C is dequeued.
 - b. Enter foreach loop
 - i. Since MF list of C contains A and C, we will examine to see whether E's T list contains A and C.
 - ii. Since E's T list already contains A and C, nothing happens.
 - c. Exit foreach loop. At this point, the queue is empty.
5. Exit while loop since the queue is now empty.
6. E's T list is now completely built.

5.4.3 Testing results

We have done the test for all possible cases of 4 and 5 objects. The results are following:

1. Four objects

For IFSP:

Total number of objects = 4

Total number of cases examined = 4096

Total number of 0 object secure = 699

Total number of 1 object secure = 1140

Total number of 2 objects secure = 1098
Total number of 3 objects secure = 804
Total number of secure (all 4 objects are secure) = 355

For ACWSP:

Total number of cases examined = 355
Total number of cases met CWSP requirement = 15

2. Five objects

For IFSP:

Total number of objects = 5
Total number of cases examined = 1048576
Total number of 0 object secure = 412004
Total number of 1 object secure = 336210
Total number of 2 objects secure = 176980
Total number of 3 objects secure = 84720
Total number of 4 objects secure = 31720
Total number of secure (all 5 objects are secure) = 6942

For ACWSP:

Total number of cases examined = 6942
Total number of cases met CWSP requirement = 52

5.4.4 Illustration of application

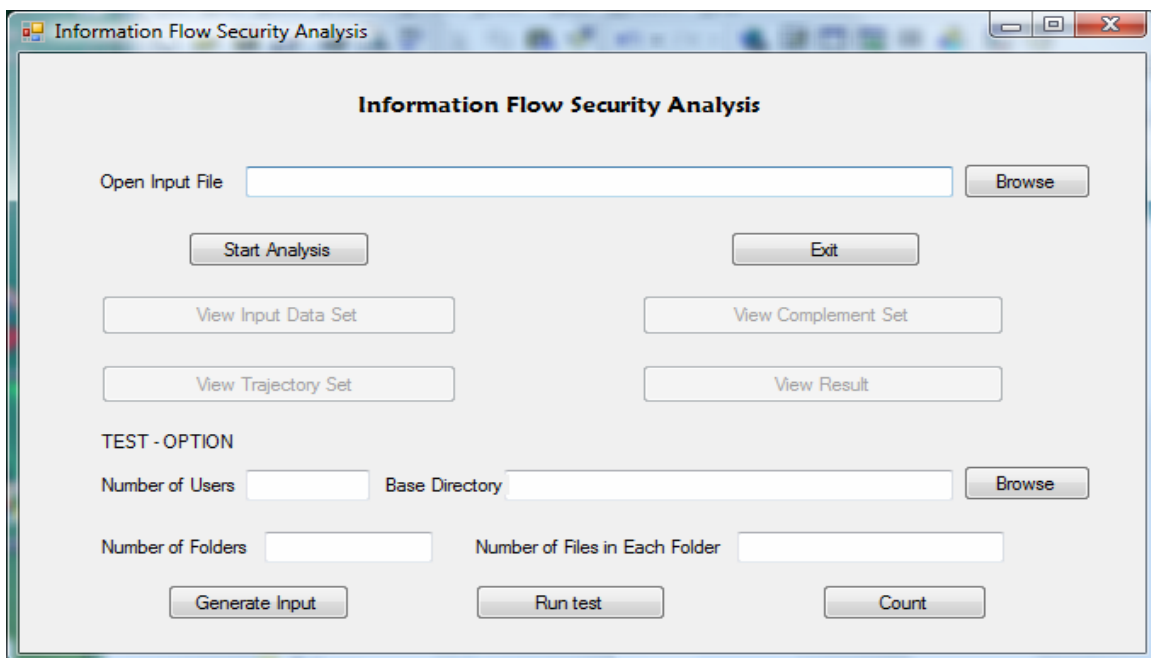


Figure 34. Start application

Import input filename in Open Input File text box

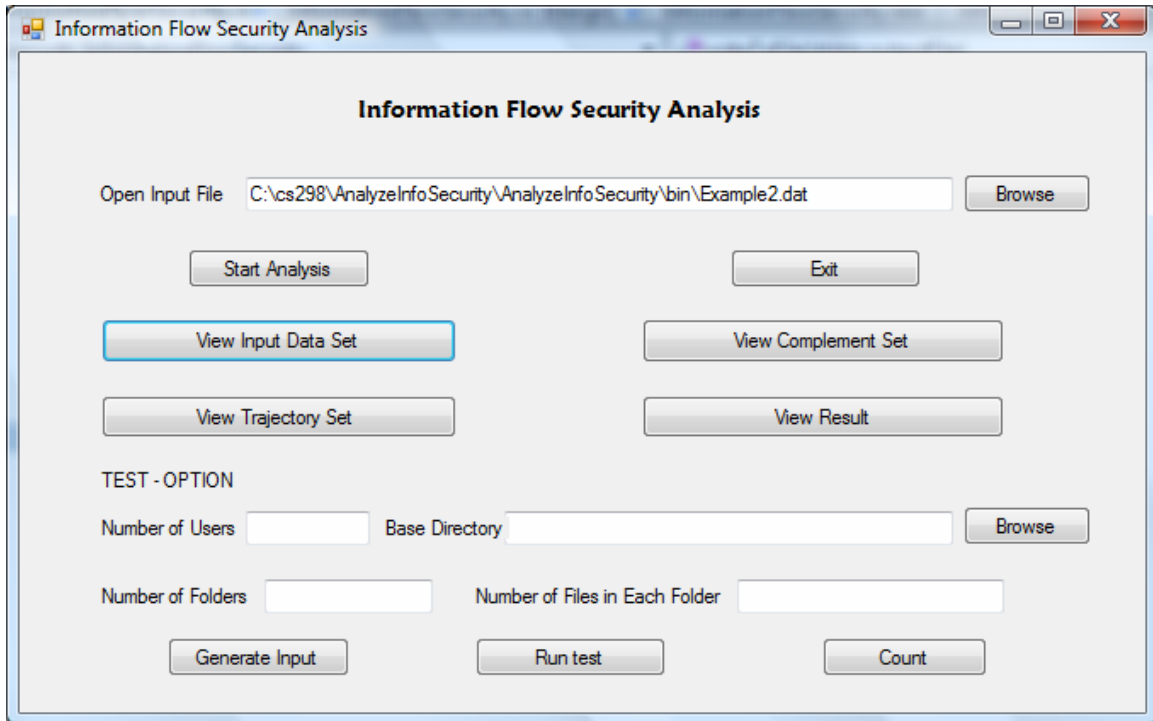


Figure 35. Import Input file

Click on Start Analysis button to run the application. The notification displays when the analysis is completed.

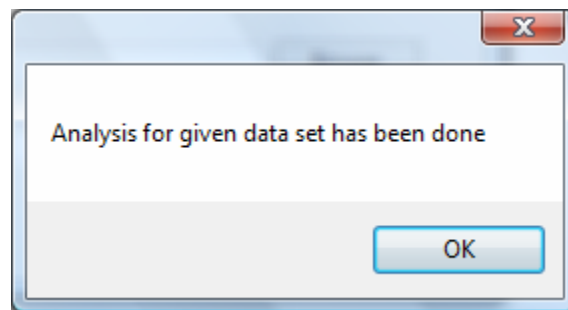


Figure 36. Notification of completion of analyzing process

Click OK button to go back the application

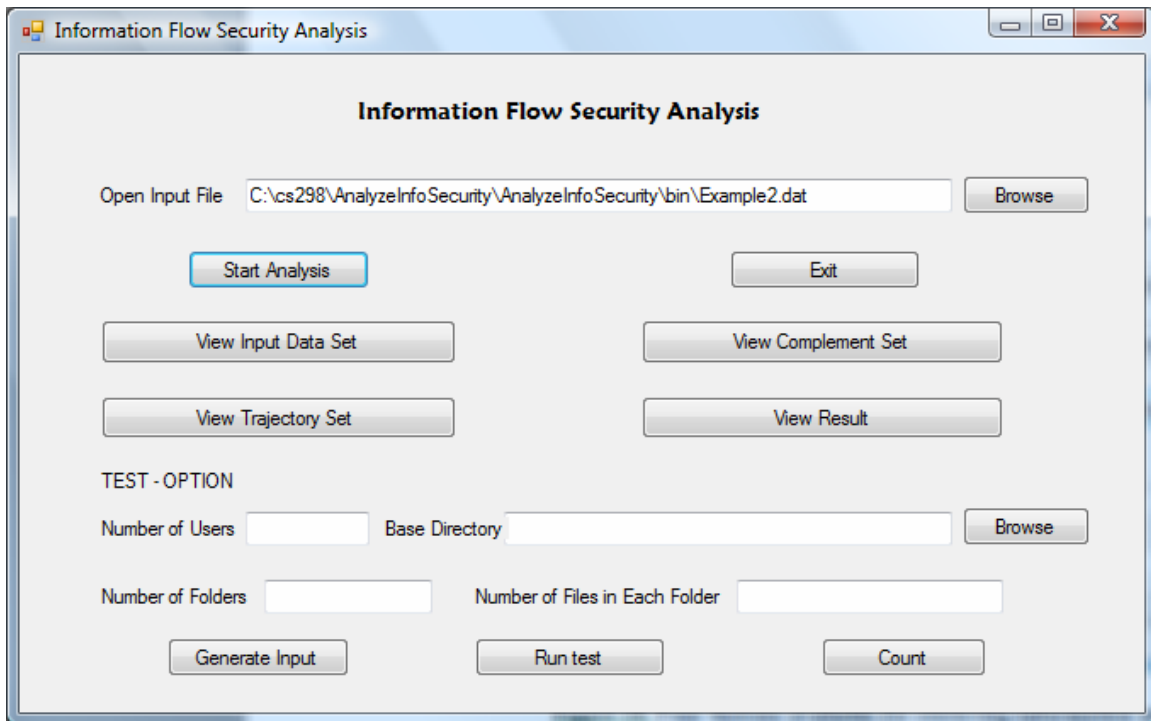


Figure 37. Four buttons available for retrieving information and analysis result

Click on View Input Data Set button to see E list, the content of input file.
For example of section 5.4.2 above, file input should be in the following format.

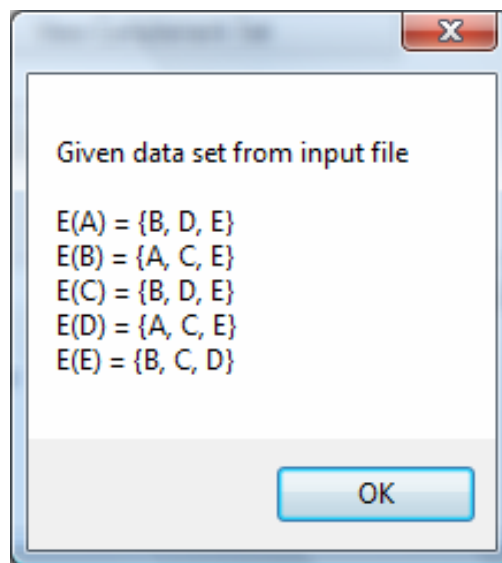


Figure 38. The given E List in input file

Click on View Complement Set button to see MF list, the complement of E list.

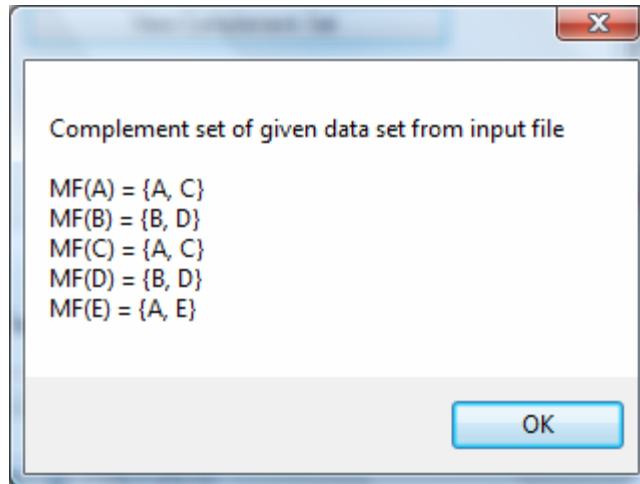


Figure 39. MF List (the complement) of the given E List

Click on View Trajectory Set button to see T list.

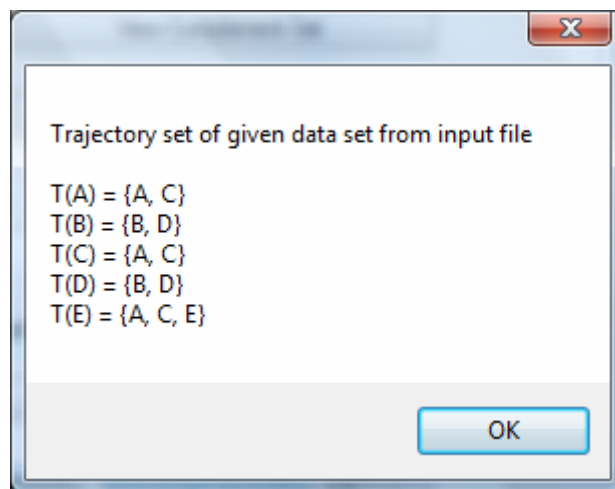


Figure 40. T List of the given E List

Click on View Result button to see the analysis of security state for the given E list.

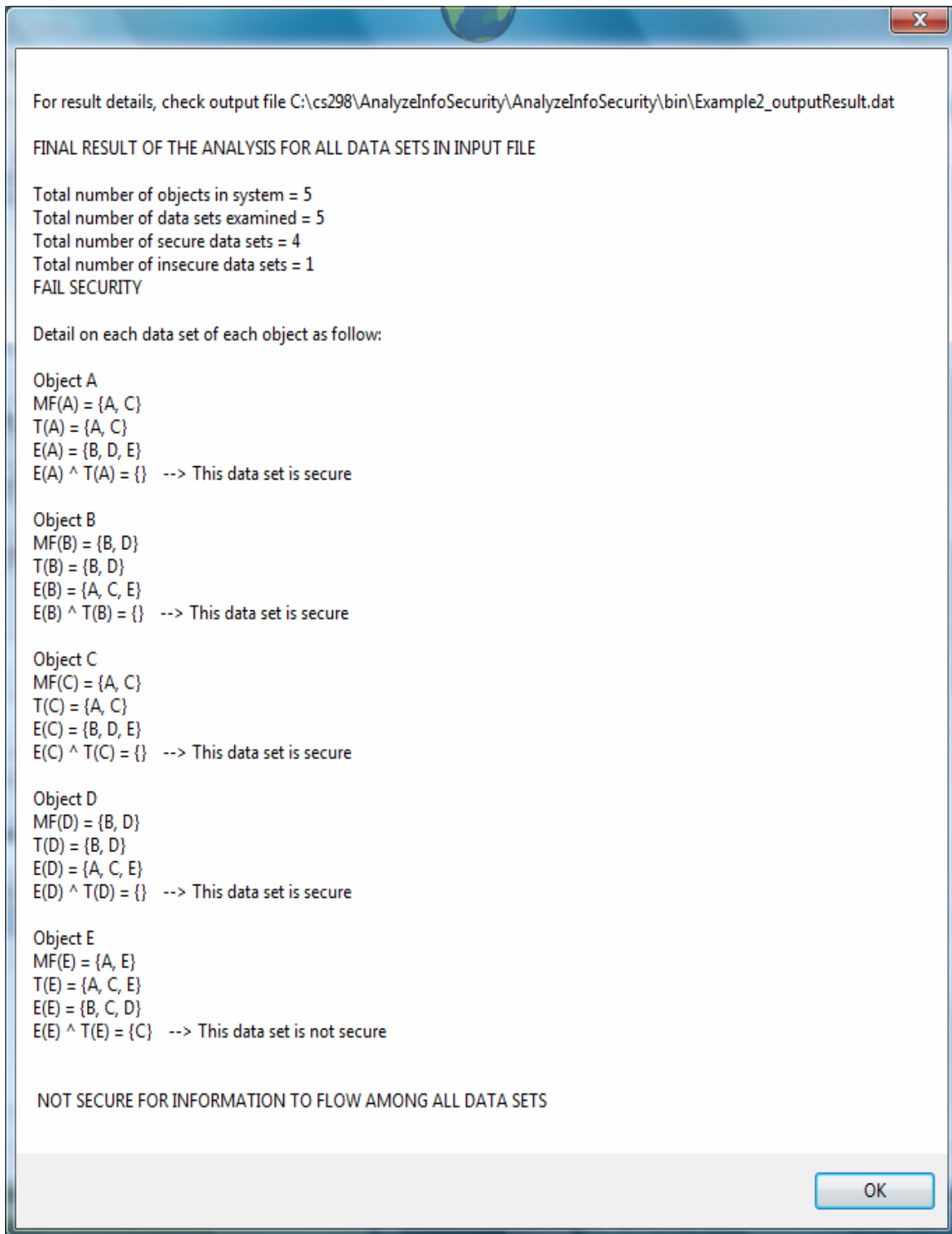


Figure 41. Final result of information flow analysis

6. Conclusion

In this project, we address the most "ancient" problem in computer security. Propagation of information is vulnerable. With the information flow security policy, we are able to state that the propagation under most general theorem for a DAC can be secure.

To ensure a DAC being secure, the minimum requirement of a system is to store not only the access control list (ACL) but also the denial access list. The access control list is considered as F-DAC, and the denial access list is considered as E-DAC.

6.1 *Historical Notes on the methodology*

Let us say few words about the history of the new methodology. The very first idea was started from David Hsiao, who is one of the initial members of the group of doing research on this field. I would like to take this chance to thank him for introducing the great idea of granulation. I would also like to take this opportunity to specially thank Dr. Lin for his guidance though out the course of the project.

Our approach is essential based on a computational theory of granulation, called "granular computing". It has originated from four facets. Let us speak in the chronological order. The first one is David Hsiao. In his attribute based database model, Hsiao clusters the attribute domain into semantically related granules (equivalence classes); Clustering (this is different from the same term in data mining) is a very important technique in database that stores logically related data in physical proximity [7, 8, 5, 15]. The second one, probably the deepest one, is actually buried in the design of fuzzy control systems. The explicit discussion of the concept is in the article [39]; its newest version is in [40]. The third groups are from theory of data. Both Z. Pawlak and T.T. Lee observed independently that attributes of a relation induce partitions on the set of entities [26, 10] and studied the data from such observation. Pawlak called it rough set theory, while Lee named it the algebraic theory of relational databases. The last one comes from approximate retrieval [24, 11, 4]. To develop a theory of approximate retrieval in database, Dr. Lin imported the notion of topology from the continuous world to the discrete world; he has called it neighborhood system, which can be viewed as a geometric (topological) theory of granulations [17, 18]. Having citing so many works, he notes that the notion of partitions (= equivalence relations) is a very ancient notion in mathematics. It can be dated back to Euclid time, for example, the congruence. The notion of infinitesimal granules can be traced back to Archimedes. Here, however, the focus is on the computable side of the notion; so the notion has been called "granular computing". The methodology has been far reaching consequence, for

example, there are applications to the foundation of database mining (e.g., association rules) [20, 21]. In earlier paper, he applies it to security, more precisely, on conflict analysis [27], which is an essential notion in commercial security.

6.2 Future work

There is more work that could be continued on this research to achieve security on the future systems that are developed on DAC model.

- 1) Making minimal change to fulfill the information flow security policy (IFSP) for a given F-DAC that does not meet IFSP.
- 2) Improving efficiency of storing and retrieving large data.
- 3) Resolve the complexity of the process to define and to analyze all possible $2^{(n-1)n}$ cases for n objects in the system.

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