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# Hide and New in the $\pi$ -calculus

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In this paper, we enrich the  $\pi$ -calculus with an operator for confidentiality (*hide*), whose main effect is to restrict the access to the *object of the communication*, thus representing confidentiality in a natural way. The *hide* operator is meant for local communication, and it differs from *new* in that it forbids the extrusion of the name and hence has a static scope. Consequently, a communication channel in the scope of a *hide* can be implemented as a dedicated channel, and it is more secure than one in the scope of a *new*. To emphasize the difference, we introduce a *spy* context that represents a side-channel attack and breaks some of the standard security equations for *new*. To formally reason on the security guarantees provided by the *hide* construct, we introduce an observational theory and establish stronger equivalences by relying on a proof technique based on bisimulation semantics.

## 1 Introduction

The restriction operator is present in most process calculi. Its behaviour is crucial for *expressiveness* (e.g., for specifying unbounded linked structures, nonce generation and locality). In the  $\pi$ -calculus [18], it plays a prominent role: It provides for the generation and extrusion of unique names. In CCS [17], it is also fundamental but it does not provide for name extrusion: It limits the interface of a given process with its external world. In this paper we shall extend the  $\pi$ -calculus with a hiding operator, called *hide*, that behaves similarly to the CCS restriction. The motivation for our work comes from the realm of *secrecy* and *confidentiality*: we shall argue that *hide* allows us to express and guarantee secret communications.

**Motivation.** Secrecy and confidentiality are major concerns in most systems of communicating agents. Either because some of the agents are untrusted, or because the communication uses insecure channels, there may be the risk of sensitive information being leaked to potentially malicious entities. The price to pay for such security breaches may also be very high. It is not surprising, therefore, that secrecy and confidentiality have become central issues in the formal specification and verification of communicating systems.

The  $\pi$ -calculus and especially its variants enriched with mechanisms to express cryptographic operations, the spi calculus [5] and the applied  $\pi$ -calculus [3], have become popular formalisms for security applications. They all feature the operator *new* (restriction) and make crucial use of it in the definition of security protocols. The prominent aspects of *new* are the capability of creating a new channel name, whose use is restricted within a certain scope, and the possibility of enlarging its scope by communicating it to other processes. The latter property is central to the most interesting feature of the  $\pi$ -calculus: the *mobility* of the communication structure.

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Although in principle the restriction aspect of new should guarantee that the channel is used for communication within a secure environment only, the capability of extruding the scope leads to security problems. In particular, it makes it unnatural to implement the communication using dedicated channels, and non-dedicated channels are not secure by default. The spi calculus and the applied  $\pi$ -calculus do not assume, indeed, any security guarantee on the channel, and implement security by using cryptographic encryption.

Let us illustrate the problem with an example. The following  $\pi$ -calculus process describes a protocol for the exchange of a confidential information:

$$P = \bar{s}\langle \text{CreditCard} \rangle \mid s(x).\text{if } x = \text{OwnerCard} \text{ then } (\bar{p}\langle \text{Ok} \rangle \mid \bar{p}\langle s \rangle) \quad p \neq s$$

In this specification, the thread on the left sends a credit card number over the channel  $s$  to the thread on the right which is waiting for an input on the same channel. If the received card number is the expected one, then the latter both sends an ack and forwards the communication channel  $s$  on a public channel  $p$ . The problem is that, while the confidentiality of the information would require the context to be unable to interfere with the protocol and to steal the credit card number, in fact this is not guaranteed in the  $\pi$ -calculus where interaction with a parallel process waiting for input on channel  $s$  is allowed.

To amend this problem, the idea is to let the channel for the exchange of the secret information available only to the process  $P$ , restricting its scope to  $P$  with the declaration:  $(\text{new } s)P$ . The  $\pi$ -calculus semantics makes the exchange invisible to the context. This is formalized by the following observational equation stating that no  $\pi$ -calculus context can tell apart  $P$  from its continuation:

$$(\text{new } s)P \cong_{\pi}^{\text{obs}} (\text{new } s)\text{if } \text{CreditCard} = \text{OwnerCard} \text{ then } (\bar{p}\langle \text{Ok} \rangle \mid \bar{p}\langle s \rangle) \quad (1)$$

Unfortunately, to preserve such behavioral equations when processes are deployed in untrusted environments is difficult, since, as explained above, we cannot rely on dedicated channels for communication on names created by the new operator. One natural approach to cope with this problem is to map the private communication within the scope of the new into open communications protected by cryptography.

For instance, the process  $(\text{new } s)P$  could be implemented in the spi calculus protocol  $\llbracket (\text{new } s)P \rrbracket$  below by using a public-key crypto-scheme. In this implementation the creation of a  $\pi$ -calculus channel  $s$  is mapped into the creation of a couple of spi calculus keys: a public key  $s^+$  and a private key  $s^-$ . The receiver performs decryption of the crypto-packet  $\{\text{CC}\}_{s^+}$  with the private key  $s^-$ ; the operation assigns the card number to the variable in the conditional test.

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket (\text{new } s)P \rrbracket &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } s^+, s^-) (\overline{\text{net}}\langle \{\text{CC}\}_{s^+} \rangle . \mathbf{0} \mid \text{net}(y).\text{decrypt } y \text{ as } \{x\}_{s^-} \text{ in } Q) \\ Q &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{if } x = \text{OC} \text{ then } \overline{\text{net}}\langle \{\text{Ok}\}_{p^+} \rangle \mid \overline{\text{net}}\langle \{s^+, s^-\}_{p^+} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Unfortunately, the naive protocol above suffers from a number of problems, among which the most serious is the lack of forward secrecy [1]: this property would guarantee that if keys are corrupted at some time  $t$  then the protocol steps occurred before  $t$  do preserve secrecy. In particular, forward secrecy requires that the content of the packet  $\{\text{CC}\}_{s^+}$ , which is the credit card number, is not disclosed if at some step of the computation the context gains the decryption key  $s^-$ . Stated differently, the implementation  $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket$  should preserve the semantics of equation (1): that is, it should be fully abstract. It is easy to see that this is not the case since a spi calculus context can first buffer the encrypted packet and subsequently, whenever it enters in posses of the decryption key, retrieve the confidential information; this breaks equation (1). While a solution to recover the behavioral theory of  $\pi$ -calculus is available [11], the price to pay is a complex cryptographic protocol that relies on a set of trusted authorities acting as proxies.

Based on these considerations, in this paper we argue that the restriction operator of  $\pi$ -calculus does not adequately ensure confidentiality. To tackle this problem, we introduce an operator to program explicitly secret communications, called *hide*. From a programming language point of view, the envisaged use of the operator is for declaring secret a medium used for *local* inter-process communication; examples include pipelines, message queues and IPC mechanisms of microkernels. The operator is static: that is, we assume that the scope of hidden channels can not be extruded. The motivation is that all processes using a private channel shall be included in the scope of its *hide* declaration; processes outside the scope represent another location, and must not interfere with the protocol. Since the *hide* cannot extrude the scope of secret channels, we can use it to directly build specifications that preserves forward secrecy. In contrast, we regard the restriction operator of the  $\pi$ -calculus, *new*, as useful to create a new channel for message passing with scope extrusion, and which does not provide secrecy guarantees.

To emphasize the difference between *hide* and *new*, we introduce a *spy* context that represents a side-channel attack on the non-dedicated channels. In practice, *spy* is able to detect whether there has been a communication on one of the channels not protected by a *hide*, but is not able to retrieve its content.

**Contributions.** We introduce the *secret*  $\pi$ -calculus as an extension of the  $\pi$ -calculus with an operator representing confidentiality (*hide*). We develop its structural operational semantics and its observational theory. In particular, we provide a reduction semantics, a labelled transition semantics and an observational equivalence. We show that the observational equivalence induced by the reduction semantics coincides by the labelled transition system semantics. To illustrate the difference between *hide* and *new*, we shall also consider a distinguished process context, called *spy*, representing a side-channel attack.

**Plan of the paper** In the next section we introduce the syntax and the reduction semantics of the secret  $\pi$ -calculus. In Section 3 we present the observational equivalence, and a characterization based on labelled transition semantics, that we show sound and complete. In Section 4 we introduce the *spy* process, and we extend the reduction semantics and bisimulation method accordingly. In Section 5 we discuss some algebraic equalities and inequalities of the secret  $\pi$ -calculus, and we analyze some interesting examples, notably an implementation of name matching, and a deployment of mandatory access control. Finally, Section 6 presents related work and concludes.

## 2 Secret $\pi$ -calculus

This section introduces the syntax and the semantics of our calculus, the *secret*  $\pi$ -calculus. The syntax of the processes in Figure 1 extends that of the  $\pi$ -calculus by: (1) We consider two binding operators: *new*, which – as we will argue – does not offer enough security guarantees, and *hide*, which serves to program secrecy. (2) We use two forms of restricted pattern matching in input, so that we can deny a process to receive a (possibly empty) set of channels, or we can enforce a process to receive only trusted channels. When in the first form the set of channels is empty we have the standard input of  $\pi$ -calculus. We use an infinite set of names  $\mathcal{N}$ , ranged over by  $a, b, \dots, x, y, z$ , to represent channel names and parameters, i.e. the subjects and the objects of communication, respectively. We let  $A, B$  range over subsets of  $\mathcal{N}$ .

A process of the form  $x(y \div B).P$  represents an input where the name  $x$  is the input channel name,  $y$  is a formal parameter which can appear in the continuation  $P$ , and  $B$  is the set of *blocked* names that the process cannot receive. On contrast, an input process of the form  $x[y : A].P$  declares the object names that the process can *accept*: that is, the process accepts in input a name  $z$  only if  $z \in A$ . This permits to program security protocols where only trusted names can be received. The free and the bound names of such process are defined as follows:  $\text{fn}(x[y \div B].P) = (\text{fn}(P) \setminus \{y\}) \cup \{x\} \cup B$  and  $\text{bn}(x[y \div B].P) = \{y\} \cup \text{bn}(P)$ ,  $\text{fn}(x[y : A].P) = (\text{fn}(P) \setminus \{y\}) \cup \{x\} \cup A$  and  $\text{bn}(x[y : A].P) = \{y\} \cup \text{bn}(P)$ .

$P, Q ::=$		Processes:		
$x(y \div B).P$		input	$(\text{new } x)(P)$	restriction
$x[y : A].P$		trusted input	$[\text{hide } x][P]$	secrecy
$\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.P$		output	$\mathbf{0}$	inaction
$P \mid Q$		composition	$!P$	replication

Figure 1: Syntax of the secret  $\pi$ -calculus

Processes  $\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.P$ ,  $(\text{new } x)(P)$ ,  $P \mid Q$ ,  $!P$ , and  $\mathbf{0}$  are the pi calculus operators respectively describing an output of a name  $y$  over channel  $x$ , restriction of  $x$  in  $P$ , parallel composition, replication and inaction; see [20] for more details.

The process  $[\text{hide } x][P]$  represents a process  $P$  in which the name  $x$  is regarded as *secret*, and should not be accessible to any process external to  $P$ .  $[\text{hide } x][P]$  binds the occurrence of  $x$  in  $P$ :  $\text{fn}([\text{hide } x][P]) = \text{fn}(P) \setminus \{x\}$ , and  $\text{bn}([\text{hide } x][P]) = \{x\} \cup \text{bn}(P)$ .

Contexts are processes containing a hole  $-$ . We write  $C[P]$  for the process obtained by replacing  $-$  with  $P$  in  $C[-]$ .

$$C[-] ::= - \mid C[-] \mid P \mid P \mid C[-] \mid (\text{new } x)[-] \mid [\text{hide } x][-] \quad \text{contexts}$$

We write  $x(y).P$  as a short of  $x(y \div \emptyset).P$ , and omit curly brackets in  $x(y \div \{b\}).P$  and  $x[y : \{a\}].P$ . When no ambiguity is possible, we will remove scope parentheses in  $(\text{new } x)(P)$  and  $[\text{hide } x][P]$ . We will often avoid to indicate trailing  $\mathbf{0}$ s.

The combination of the accept and the block construct permits to design processes which are not subject to interference attacks from the context. We note that their role is dual: the accept operator prevents the reception (intrusion) of untrusted names from the environment, and its use is specified by the programmer. The block mechanism prevents another process from sending (extruding) a secret name, and it is inserted automatically by the system to ensure the protection of such names. One may wonder whether we could have used just one form of (trusted) input, and declare the names to be blocked by accepting all names in  $\mathcal{N}$  but the intended ones. The main reason that guided our choice is that we believe that our form of input with blocked names can be effectively implemented, for instance by using blacklists. Also, we think that there is a nice symmetry among processes  $x(y \div B).P$  and  $(\text{new } x)P$ , and among processes  $x[y : A].P$  and  $[\text{hide } x]P$ .

We embed the block mechanism in the rules for structural congruence through the operation  $\uplus$  defined in Figure 2. *Blocked* names could indeed be introduced both statically and dynamically, i.e. when structural congruence is performed during the computation. We leave the time when the system blocks explicitly the name in components as an implementation detail. Note that in the second rule of the first line the name  $b$  is guaranteed to be different from all the names in  $A$ , because in the congruence rule for hide (cfr same Figure) the free names of  $Q$  are required to be different from the name we want to hide, so the alpha conversion should be applied.

Following standard lines, we define the semantics of our calculus via a reduction relation, also specified in Figure 2. We assume a capture-free substitution operation  $\{z/y\}$ : the process  $P\{z/y\}$  is obtained from  $P$  by substituting all the free occurrences of  $y$  by  $z$ . As usual, we use a structural congruence  $\equiv$  to rearrange processes. Such congruence includes the equivalence induced by alpha-conversion, and the relations defined in Figure 2. The rules for the  $\pi$ -calculus operators (first line) are the standard ones.

*Rules for blocking a name*

$$\begin{aligned}
(x(y \div B).P) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x(y \div B \cup \{b\}).(P \uplus b) & (x[y : A].P) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x[y : A].(P \uplus b) \\
((\text{new } x)(P)) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } x)(P \uplus b)^* & ([\text{hide } x][P]) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } x][P \uplus b]^* \quad (*) b \neq x \\
(\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.P) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bar{x}\langle y \rangle.(P \uplus b) & (P \mid Q) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P \uplus b \mid Q \uplus b \\
(!P) \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} !(P \uplus b) & \mathbf{0} \uplus b &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathbf{0}
\end{aligned}$$

*Rules for structural congruence*

$$\begin{aligned}
P \mid Q &\equiv Q \mid P & (P \mid Q) \mid J &\equiv P \mid (Q \mid J) & !P &\equiv P \mid !P \\
(\text{new } x)(\mathbf{0}) &\equiv \mathbf{0} & [\text{hide } x][\mathbf{0}] &\equiv \mathbf{0} \\
(\text{new } x)(P) \mid Q &\equiv (\text{new } x)(P \mid Q) & x &\notin \text{fn}(Q) \\
[\text{hide } x][P] \mid Q &\equiv [\text{hide } x][P \mid Q \uplus x] & x &\notin \text{fn}(Q) \\
(\text{new } x)([\text{hide } y][P]) &\equiv [\text{hide } y][(\text{new } x)(P)] & x &\neq y
\end{aligned}$$

*Reduction rules*

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{z \notin B}{x(y \div B).P \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q \rightarrow P\{z/y\} \mid Q} \quad \text{[R-COM]} \\
\frac{z \in A}{x[y : A].P \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q \rightarrow P\{z/y\} \mid Q} \quad \text{[R-T-COM]} \\
\frac{P \rightarrow P'}{(\text{new } x)(P) \rightarrow (\text{new } x)(P')} \quad \frac{P \rightarrow P'}{[\text{hide } x][P] \rightarrow [\text{hide } x][P']} \quad \text{[R-NEW],[R-HIDE]} \\
\frac{P \rightarrow P'}{P \mid Q \rightarrow P' \mid Q} \quad \frac{P \equiv Q \quad Q \rightarrow Q' \quad Q' \equiv P'}{P \rightarrow P'} \quad \text{[R-PAR],[R-STRUCT]}
\end{array}$$

Figure 2: Reduction semantics

The rules for inaction under a binder follow (second line). We recall that the scope extrusion rule for new (third line) permits to enlarge the scope of a name and let a process receive it. In contrast, the scope extrusion rule for hide (fourth line) permits to enlarge the scope of a name, but at the same time it sets the name to *blocked* for the process which are being included in the scope, thus preventing them to receive the name. The last rule (fifth line) permits to swap the two binders.

The first rule for reduction, [R-COM], says that an input process of the form  $x(y \div B).P$  is allowed to synchronize with an output process  $\bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q$  and receive the name  $z$  provided that  $z$  is not *blocked* ( $z \notin B$ ). The result of the synchronization is the progression of both the receiver and the sender, where the formal parameter in the input's continuation is replaced by the name  $z$ . Note that whenever  $B = \emptyset$  we have the standard communication rule of the  $\pi$ -calculus. The main novelty is represented by the rule for trusted communication [R-T-COM]. This rule says that an output process can send a name  $z$  over  $x$  to a parallel process waiting for input on  $x$ , provided that  $z$  is explicitly declared as accepted ( $z \in A$ ) by the receiver. If this is the case, the name will replace the occurrence of the formal parameter in the input's continuation. Rules [R-NEW] and [R-HIDE] are for new and for hide respectively, and follow the same schema. The rules for parallel composition, replication and incorporating structural congruence are standard.

We let  $P \Rightarrow P'$  whenever either (a)  $P \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow P'$ , or (b)  $P' = P$ .

**Example 2.1.** We show how `hide` can be used to prevent the extrusion of a secret. Consider the process:

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } z][\bar{x}\langle v \rangle] \quad x \neq z$$

The process  $\bar{x}\langle v \rangle$  can be interpreted as an internal attacker trying to leak the name  $v$  to a context  $C[-] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} - \mid x(y).\overline{\text{leak}}\langle y \rangle$ . By using the structural rule for enlarging the scope of `hide` in Figure 2 we infer that  $C[P] \equiv [\text{hide } z][\bar{x}\langle v \rangle \mid x(y \div z).\overline{\text{leak}}\langle y \rangle]$ . Whenever the name  $v$  is not declared secret, that is whenever  $v \neq z$ , the leak cannot be prevented: by applying [R-COM], [R-HIDE], and [R-STRUCT] we have  $C[P] \rightarrow \overline{\text{leak}}\langle v \rangle$ . Conversely, when the name  $v$  is protected by `hide`, that is  $v = z$ , we do not have any interaction and secrecy is preserved.

**Example 2.2.** The combined use of the accept and block sets permits to avoid interference with the context. Consider the process below, where  $n > 0$ :

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } z_1] \cdots [\text{hide } z_n][\cdots [x[y : Z].P \mid \bar{x}\langle z_i \rangle] \cdots] \quad Z \subseteq \{z_1, \dots, z_n\}, i \in \{1, \dots, n\}$$

Take a context  $C[-] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} - \mid (\text{new } y)!\bar{x}\langle y \rangle \mid !x(w)$ . Such context is unable to send the fresh name  $y$  to  $P$ , because the input process in  $P$  is programmed to accept only trusted names protected by `hide`. Dually, the context cannot receive the protected name  $z_i$ . Therefore  $C$  and  $P$  cannot interact:  $C[P] \rightarrow Q$  implies that a)  $Q \equiv C[[\text{hide } z_1] \cdots [\text{hide } z_n][\cdots [P\{z_i/y\}] \cdots]]$  or b)  $Q \equiv C[P]$ .

### 3 Observational equivalence

In this section we define a notion of behavioral equivalence based on observables, or barbs. As the reader will notice, a distinctive feature of our observational theory is that trusted inputs are visible only under certain conditions, namely that the context knows at least a name that is declared as accepted. Conversely, processes trying to send a name protected by an `hide` declaration are not visible at all. The choice to work in a synchronous setting permits us to emphasize the differences among our theory and that of  $\pi$ -calculus. However, the same results would hold for a secret asynchronous  $\pi$ -calculus, while the contrast would be less explicit as input barbs would not be observable.

We say that a name  $x$  is bound in  $P$  if  $x \in \text{bn}(P)$ . An occurrence of  $y$  is hidden in  $P$  if such occurrence of  $y$  appears in the scope of a `hide` operator in  $P$ .

**Definition 3.1** (Barbs). We define:

- $P \downarrow_x$  whenever  $P \equiv C[x[y : A].Q]$  with  $x$  not bound in  $P$  and  $A \cap \text{bn}(P) \neq A$ , or whenever  $P \equiv C[x(y \div B).Q]$  with  $x$  not bound in  $P$ .
- $P \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  whenever  $P \equiv C[\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.Q]$  with  $x$  not bound in  $P$  and  $y$  not hidden in  $P$ .

Based on this definition, we have that  $P_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } x]z[y : x].Q$ ,  $P_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } x)x(y \div B).Q$ , and  $P_3 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} z[y : \emptyset].Q$  do not exhibit a barb  $z$ , written  $P_i \not\downarrow_z$  for  $i = 1, 2, 3$ . In contrast, when  $x \neq z$  and  $A \cap \{x\} \neq \emptyset$  we have that  $(\text{new } x)z[y : A].P \downarrow_z$ , and when  $x \neq z$  we have  $[\text{hide } x]z(y \div B).P$ . Whenever  $P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } y]\bar{x}\langle v \rangle.Q$  with  $y \neq x$ , we have  $P \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  if  $y \neq v$ , and  $P \not\downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  otherwise. Weak barbs are defined by ignoring reductions. We let  $P \Downarrow_x$  whenever  $P \Rightarrow P'$  and  $P' \downarrow_x$ ; similarly  $P \Downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  whenever  $P \Rightarrow P'$  and  $P' \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$ .

Following the standard definition of observational equivalence, we are aiming at an equivalence relation that is sensitive to the barbs, is closed under reduction, and is preserved by certain contexts.

**Definition 3.2** (Barb preservation). A relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over processes is barb preserving if  $H \mathcal{R} K$ ,  $H \downarrow_x$  implies  $K \downarrow_x$ , and  $H \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  implies  $K \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{z \notin B}{x(y \div B).P \xrightarrow{x(z)} P\{z/y\}} \quad \frac{z \in A}{x[y : A].P \xrightarrow{x(z)} P\{z/y\}} \quad \text{[L-IN],[L-IN-T]} \\
\\
\frac{}{\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.P \xrightarrow{\bar{x}\langle y \rangle} P} \quad \frac{P \xrightarrow{\bar{x}\langle y \rangle} P' \quad y \neq x}{(\text{new } y)P \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}\langle y \rangle} P'} \quad \text{[L-OUT],[L-OPEN]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{\bar{x}\langle y \rangle} Q'}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid Q'} \quad \text{[L-COM]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}\langle y \rangle} Q' \quad y \notin \text{fn}(P)}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid Q')} \quad \text{[L-CLOSE]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)}{(\text{new } x)P \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\text{new } x)P'} \quad \frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)}{[\text{hide } x]P \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } x]P'} \quad \text{[L-NEW],[L-HIDE]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad \text{bn}(\alpha) \cap \text{fn}(Q) = \emptyset}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \mid Q} \quad \frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'}{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \mid !P} \quad \text{[L-PAR],[L-REPL]}
\end{array}$$

Figure 3: Labelled transition system

The requirement of reduction closure is to ensure that the processes maintain their correspondence through the computation.

**Definition 3.3** (Reduction closure). *A relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over processes is reduction-closed if  $H \mathcal{R} K$  and  $H \rightarrow H'$  implies that  $K \Rightarrow K'$  and  $H' \mathcal{R} K'$ .*

We require contextuality with respect to the parallel composition, the new and the hide operators (cf. Section 2).

**Definition 3.4** (Contextuality). *A relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over processes is contextual if  $H \mathcal{R} K$  implies  $C[H] \mathcal{R} C[K]$ .*

**Definition 3.5** (Observational equivalence). *Observational equivalence, noted  $\cong$ , is the largest symmetric relation over processes which is barb preserving, reduction closed and contextual.*

Observational equivalence is difficult to establish since it requires quantification over contexts. In the next section we will introduce labelled transition semantics for the secret  $\pi$ -calculus, and show that the induced bisimulation coincides with observational equivalence. Besides the theoretical interest, this will be also of help in proving that two processes are observationally equivalent.

### 3.1 Characterization

The characterization relies on labelled transitions of the form  $H \xrightarrow{\alpha} H'$ , where  $\alpha$  is one of the following actions:

$$\alpha = x(z) \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid (z)\bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid \tau$$



We let  $\text{fn}(x(z)) = \{x\}$ ,  $\text{fn}(\bar{x}\langle z \rangle) = \{x, z\}$ , and  $\text{fn}(z)\bar{x}\langle z \rangle = \{x\}$ . We define  $\text{bn}(x(z)) = \{z\}$ ,  $\text{bn}(\bar{x}\langle z \rangle) = \emptyset$  and  $\text{bn}((z)\bar{x}\langle z \rangle) = \{z\}$ . We let  $\text{fn}(\tau) = \emptyset = \text{bn}(\tau)$ .

The transitions are defined by the rules in Figure 3. Action  $x(z)$  represents the receiving of a name  $z$  on a channel  $x$ . In rule [L-IN], a process of the form  $x(y \div B).P$  can receive a value  $z$  over  $x$ , provided that  $z$  is not blocked ( $z \notin B$ ). The received name will replace the formal parameter in the body of the continuation. Rule [L-IN-T] describes a trusted input, that is a process of the form  $x[y : A].P$  that receives a variable  $z$  over  $x$  whenever  $z$  is accepted ( $z \in A$ ); the variable  $z$  will replace all occurrences of  $y$  in  $P$ . The action  $\bar{x}\langle y \rangle$  represents the output of a name  $y$  over  $x$ . This move is performed in [L-OUT] by the process  $\bar{x}\langle y \rangle.P$  and leads to the continuation  $P \triangleright B$ . Communication arises in rule [L-COM] by means of a  $\tau$  action obtained by a synchronization of an  $x(y)$  action with a  $\bar{x}\langle y \rangle$  action. Action  $(y)\bar{x}\langle y \rangle$  is fired when the name  $y$  sent over  $x$  is bound by the new operator and its scope is opened by using rule [L-OPEN]. The scope of the new is closed by using rule [L-CLOSE]. In this rule the scope of a name  $y$  sent over  $x$  is enlarged to include a process which executes a dual action  $x(y)$ , giving rise to a synchronization of the two threads depicted by an action  $\tau$ . Rule [L-NEW] is standard for restriction. Rule [L-HIDE] says that process  $[\text{hide } x]H$  performs an action  $\alpha$  inferred from  $P$ , provided that the  $\alpha$  does not contain  $x$ . Therefore extrusion of hidden channels is not possible, as previously discussed; note indeed that this the unique rule applicable for *hide*. Rule [L-REPL] performs a replication.

We have a standard notion of bisimilarity; in the following, we let  $\xrightarrow{\tau}$  be the reflexive and transitive closure of  $\xrightarrow{\tau}$ .

**Definition 3.6** (Bisimilarity). *A symmetric relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over processes is a bisimulation if whenever  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  and  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  then there exists a process  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} \hat{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'$  and  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$  where  $\hat{\tau}$  is the empty string and  $\hat{\alpha} = \alpha$  otherwise. Bisimilarity, noted  $\approx$ , is the largest bisimulation.*

The following result establishes that bisimilarity can be used as a proof technique for observational equivalence; the proof is contained in Appendix A.

**Proposition 3.7** (Soundness). *If  $P \approx Q$  then  $P \cong Q$ .*

To prove the reverse direction, namely that behaviourally equivalent processes are bisimilar, we follow the approach of Hennessy [16] and proceed by co-induction relying on contexts  $C_\alpha$  which emit the desired barbs whenever they interact with a process  $P$  such that  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ , and vice versa. Perhaps interestingly, we can program a context to check if a given name is fresh even if our syntax does not include a matching construct (cf. [16, 8]); we show how this can be accomplished in Section 5.

**Proposition 3.8** (Completeness). *If  $P \cong Q$  then  $P \approx Q$ .*

Full abstraction is obtained by Propositions 3.7 and 3.8.

**Theorem 3.9** (Full Abstraction).  $\cong = \approx$ .

## 4 Distrusting communications protected by restriction

In this section we introduce a *spy* process that represents a side-channel attack against communications that occur on untrusted channels, that is: channels that are not protected by *hide*. We assume that the spy is not able to retrieve the content of an exchange. The spy abstraction models the ability of the context to detect interactions when the processes are implemented by means of network protocols which do not rely on dedicated channels, and therefore require some mechanism to enforce the secrecy of the message (e.g. cryptography). This ability leads to break some of the standard security equations for the new operator,

New rules for blocking a name

$$(\text{spy} : S.P) \uplus b \equiv \text{spy} : S.(P \uplus b)$$

New rules for structural congruence

$$\begin{aligned} (\text{new } x)(P) \mid \text{spy}.R &\equiv (\text{new } x)(P \mid \text{spy} : x.R) && x \notin \text{fn}(\text{spy}.R) \\ (\text{new } x)(P) \mid \text{spy} : y.R &\equiv (\text{new } x)(P \mid \text{spy} : y.R) && x \notin \text{fn}(\text{spy} : y.R) \\ [\text{hide } x][P] \mid \text{spy} : S.R &\equiv [\text{hide } x][P \mid (\text{spy} : S.R) \uplus x] && x \notin \text{fn}(\text{spy} : S.R) \end{aligned}$$

New reduction rules

$$\frac{z \notin B \quad x \in A}{x(y \div B).P \mid \bar{x}(z).Q \mid \text{spy} : x.R \rightarrow P\{z/y\} \mid Q \mid R} \quad \text{[RS-COM]}$$

$$\frac{z \in A \quad x \in A_s}{x[y : A].P \mid \bar{x}(z).Q \mid \text{spy} : x.R \rightarrow P\{z/y\} \mid Q \mid R} \quad \text{[RS-T-COM]}$$

Figure 4: Spied process semantics

which can be recovered by re-programming the protocol and making use of the hide operator. We add to the syntax of the secret  $\pi$ -calculus the following process where we let  $\text{spy}$  be a reserved keyword. We let  $P, Q, R$  to range over *spied processes*.

$$\begin{aligned} P, Q, R &::= \dots \mid \text{spy} : S.P && \text{spied processes} \\ S &::= x \mid \emptyset && \text{spied set} \end{aligned}$$

When in  $\text{spy} : S.P$  the spied set  $S$  is equal to  $\{x\}$ , noted  $\text{spy} : x.P$ , this permits to make explicit which (free) reduction the spy shall observe. Note that listening on multiple names can be easily programmed by putting in parallel several spies. The spy process  $\text{spy} : \emptyset.P$ , noted  $\text{spy}.P$ , will be used to detect reductions protected by restriction. We let the free and bound names of the *spy* be defined as follows:  $\text{fn}(\text{spy} : S.R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} S \cup \text{fn}(R)$  and  $\text{bn}(\text{spy} : S.R) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{bn}(R)$ .

The semantics of spied processes is described by adding the communication rules in Figure 4 to those in Figure 2: The rules describe a form of synchronization among three processes: a sender on channel  $x$ , a receiver on channel  $x$ , and a *spy* on channel  $x$ . More in detail, rule [RS-COM] depicts a synchronization among an input of the form  $x(y \div B).P$ , a sender and a spy, while rule [RS-T-COM] describes a similar three-synchronization but for a trusted input of the form  $x[y : A].P$ .

The definition of observational equivalence for spied processes is obtained by extending Definition 3.5 to the semantics in Figure 4; we indicate the resulting equivalence with  $\overset{\bullet}{\cong}$ . This will permit to study the security of processes in presence of the *spy*. To make the picture clear, in Figure 5 we introduce labelled transition semantics for spied processes. We introduce two new rules for the *spy*, [L-SPY] and [L-SPY-COM], and re-define the rules for restriction, for hide and for communication of Figure 3. We assume the existence of variable  $v \in \mathcal{N}$  that cannot occur in the process syntax, and we use it to signal restricted communications. We consider two new actions  $?x$  and  $!x$  corresponding respectively to the presence of a *spy* and to a signal of communication.

$$\alpha ::= \dots \mid ?x \mid !x$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{\text{spy} : x.P \xrightarrow{?x} P} \quad \frac{}{\text{spy}.P \xrightarrow{?v} P} \quad \text{[L-SPY],[L-SPY-RES]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{\bar{x}(y)} Q'}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{!x} P' \mid Q'} \quad \frac{P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} Q' \quad y \notin \text{fn}(P)}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{!x} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid Q')} \quad \text{[L-COM],[L-CLOSE]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{!x} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{?x} Q'}{P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid Q'} \quad \text{[L-SPY-COM]} \\
\\
\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad x \notin \text{subj}(\alpha)}{(\text{new } x)P \xrightarrow{(\alpha)_x} (\text{new } x)P'} \quad \frac{P \xrightarrow{!x} P' \quad x \notin \text{subj}(\alpha) \cup \text{obj}(\alpha)}{[\text{hide } x]P \xrightarrow{[[\alpha]]_k} [\text{hide } x]P'} \quad \text{[L-NEW],[L-HIDE]}
\end{array}$$

Figure 5: Labelled transitions for spied processes

It is convenient to define the notion of (free) subject and object of an action. We let  $\text{subj}(\alpha) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{x\}$  whenever  $\alpha = \bar{x}(y), (y)\bar{x}(y), x(y)$ , and be empty otherwise. We define  $\text{obj}(\alpha) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{y\}$  whenever  $\alpha = \bar{x}(y), x(y)$ , and  $\text{obj}(\alpha) = \emptyset$  otherwise.

In rule [L-SPY] in Figure 5 the process  $\text{spy} : S.P$  can fire an action  $?x$  and progress to  $P$ , provided that  $x$  is accepted, or that  $x = v$ . The dual action,  $!x$ , is fired in rules [L-COM] and [L-CLOSE] whenever a communication occurred on a free channel  $x$ . Rule [L-SPY-COM] describes the eaves-dropping of a communication. In rule [L-NEW] we use a partial function  $(\cdot)_x$  to relabel the action fired underneath a restriction: we let  $(\alpha)_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha$  whenever  $x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ ,  $(!x)_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} !v$ ,  $(?x)_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} ?v$ . This will be used to signal restricted communications, as introduced. Differently, in rule [L-HIDE] we use a relabeling partial function  $[\cdot]_x$  that makes invisible communications that occur under *hide*. We let  $[\alpha]_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \alpha$  whenever  $x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ ,  $[!x]_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tau$  and  $[?x]_x \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \tau$ .

**Definition 4.1** (Bisimilarity). *A symmetric relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over spied processes is a bisimulation if whenever  $R_1 \mathcal{R} R_2$  and  $R_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} R'$  then there exists a spied process  $R''$  such that  $R_2 \xrightarrow{\tau} \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} \xrightarrow{\tau} R''$  and  $R' \mathcal{R} R''$  where  $\hat{\tau}$  is the empty string, and  $\hat{\alpha} = \alpha$  otherwise. Bisimilarity, noted  $\dot{\approx}$ , is the largest bisimulation.*

By using the same construction of Section 3.1, we obtain the main result of this section: observational equivalence for spied processes and bisimilarity coincide. As a by-product, we can also use bisimulation as a technique to prove that two processes cannot be distinguished by the *spy*.

**Theorem 4.2** (Full Abstraction).  $\dot{\cong} = \dot{\approx}$ .

## 5 Properties of the secret $\pi$ -calculus

In this section we discuss some algebraic properties of the secret  $\pi$ -calculus, and we show how we can implement the name matching operator. Lastly we provide an example of deployment of a mandatory

access control policy that is inspired by the D-Bus technology [19]. The proofs for this section are contained in Appendix C. In the following, we write  $P \not\stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} Q$  to indicate that  $(P, Q) \notin \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong}$ . We also write  $\bar{x}\langle \rangle$  and omit to indicate the message in output whenever this is irrelevant, and use the notation  $[\text{hide } B]P$  to indicate the process  $[\text{hide } b_1] \cdots [\text{hide } b_n]P$  whenever  $B = \{b_1, \dots, b_n\}$ .

**Algebraic equalities and inequalities** The first inequality illustrates the mechanism of blocked names.

$$x(y \div B).P \not\stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} x(y \div B').P \quad B \neq B' \quad (2)$$

To prove (2) let  $z \in B'$ ,  $z \notin B$  and consider the context  $C[-] = [\text{hide } B, B'][\bar{x}\langle z \rangle. \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid -]$  with  $\omega$  free,  $\omega \notin \text{fn}(P)$ . By applying [R-COM] followed by applications of [R-HIDE] we have that  $C[x(y \div B).P] \rightarrow [\text{hide } B, B'][\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid P\{z/y\}]$ , that is  $C[x(y).P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$ . In contrast, we have that  $C[x(y \div B').P] \not\Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$ , because of  $z \in B'$ . The case  $B' \subseteq B$  is analogous.

The next inequality illustrates the discriminating power of the *spy*.

$$(\text{new } x)(\bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid x(y)) \not\stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} \mathbf{0} \quad (3)$$

To prove (3), consider the context  $C[-] = \text{spy}.\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid -$ . By applying [RS-COM], [R-NEW] and [R-STRUCT] we infer  $C[(\text{new } x)(\bar{x}\langle y \rangle \mid x(y))] \rightarrow \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$ : that is,  $C[(\text{new } x)(\bar{x}\langle y \rangle \mid x(y))] \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$  while  $C[\mathbf{0}] \not\Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$ .

The invisibility of communications protected by using the *hide* operator is established by means of the equation below, which is proved by co-induction.

$$[\text{hide } x][\bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid x(y).Q] \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} [\text{hide } x][Q\{z/y\}] \quad (4)$$

The last equation states the impossibility of extrusion of hidden channels.

$$[\text{hide } x][\bar{z}\langle x \rangle] \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} \mathbf{0} \quad (5)$$

**Implementing name matching** Name matching is not needed as an operator in our calculus (cf. [12]). We show this by providing a semantics-preserving translation of the if-then-else construct [16]. Consider the process  $\text{if } x = y \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q$  which reduces to  $P$  whenever  $x = y$ , and reduces to  $Q$  otherwise. Let  $Z \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{fn}(\text{if } x = y \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q)$ ; therefore there are names  $z_1, \dots, z_n$ ,  $n \geq 0$ , s.t.  $Z = \{x, z_1, \dots, z_n\}$ . Let  $I = \{1, \dots, n\}$  and assume  $k$  fresh. We define:

$$[\text{if } x = y \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q]_Z \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } k][y[w : k] \mid \bar{x}\langle k \rangle.(P \uplus k) \mid_I \bar{z}_i\langle k \rangle.(Q \uplus k)]$$

Whenever  $x = y$ , we have that the only possible reduction arises among the trusted input  $y[w : k]$  and  $\bar{x}\langle k \rangle.(P \uplus k)$ , leading to  $P' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } k][P \uplus k \mid_I \bar{z}_i\langle k \rangle.(Q \uplus k)]$ . Note that  $P$  and  $P'$  have the same interactions with the context, because  $k$  is blocked in all threads of  $P'$ : therefore  $Q$  cannot be unblocked. Formally, we infer the following equation<sup>1</sup>:

$$[\text{if } x = x \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q]_Z \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} P \quad (6)$$

Consider now the case  $x \neq y$  and let  $y = z_1$ . The matching process reduces to the rearranged process  $[\text{hide } k][\bar{x}\langle k \rangle.(P \uplus k) \mid Q \uplus k \mid_{\{2, \dots, n\}} \bar{z}_i\langle k \rangle(Q \uplus k)]$ , which have the same behaviour of  $Q$ :

<sup>1</sup>Note that observational equivalence is not preserved by input-prefixing; the outlined translation could be indeed sensitive to name aliasing.

$$\llbracket \text{if } x = y \text{ then } P \text{ else } Q \rrbracket_Z \cong Q \quad x \neq y \quad (7)$$

**Modeling dedicated channels** Security mechanisms based on dedicated channels can be naturally modeled in the secret  $\pi$ -calculus. D-Bus [19] is an IPC system for software applications that is used in many desktop environments. Applications of each user share a private bus for asynchronous message-passing communication; a system bus permits to broadcast messages among applications of different users. Versions smaller than 0.36 contain an erroneous access policy for channels which allows users to send and listen to messages on another user's channel if the address of the socket is known. We model this vulnerability by means of an *internal* attacker that leaks the user's channel. In the specification below, two applications of an user  $U_1$  utilize a private bus to exchange a password; in fact, the password can be intercepted by the user  $U_2$  through the malicious code  $!\overline{\text{sys}}\langle c \rangle$  of  $U_1$ , which publishes  $c$  on the system bus.

$$U_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } c)(!\overline{\text{sys}}\langle c \rangle \mid (\text{new } \textit{pwd})(\overline{c}\langle \textit{pwd} \rangle \mid c(x).P) \quad U_2 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \textit{sys}(x).x(y_{\textit{pwd}}).Q \quad (8)$$

The patch released by Fedora restricts the access to the user's bus: only applications with the same user-id can have access. We stress that this policy is mandatory: that is, the user cannot change it. By using the secret  $\pi$ -calculus we can easily patch  $U_1$  by hiding the bus:  $U' \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{hide } c][!\overline{\text{sys}}\langle c \rangle \mid (\text{new } \textit{pwd})(\overline{c}\langle \textit{pwd} \rangle) \mid c(x).P]$ . The following equation, which can be proved co-inductively, states that the policy is fulfilled even in presence of internal attacks:

$$U' \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} [\text{hide } c][(\text{new } \textit{pwd})(P\{ \textit{pwd}/x \})] \quad (9)$$

## 6 Related work

Many analysis and programming techniques for security have been developed for process calculi. Among these, we would mention the security analysis enforced by means of static and dynamic type-checking (e.g. [13, 15, 10]), the verification of secure implementations and protocols that are protected by cryptographic encryption (e.g. [7, 4, 2, 11]), and programming models that consider a notion of location (e.g. [16, 21, 14]).

The paper [13] introduces a type system for a  $\pi$ -calculus with groups that permits to control the distribution of resources: names can be received only by processes in the scope of the group. The intent is, as in our paper, to preserve the accidental or malicious leakage of secrets, even in the presence of untyped opponents. A limitation of [13] is that processes that are not statically type-checked are interpreted as opponents trying to leak secrets. On contrast, our aim is to consider systems where processes could dynamically join the system at run-time; this permits us to analyze the secrecy of protocols composed by trusted sub-systems that can grow in size of the number of the participants. While devising an algorithm for type checking groups can be non-trivial (cf. [22]), we note that actual systems do not often rely on types, even for local communications. For instance D-Bus (cf. Section 5) relies on a mandatory access control policy enforced at the kernel level through process IDs. Our semantics-based approach appears as adequate to describe such low-level mechanisms.

As discussed in the introduction, concrete implementations of  $\pi$ -calculi models do protect communications by means of cryptography. The problem of devising a secure, fully abstract implementation has been first introduced in [1] and subsequently tackled for the join calculus in [4]. The paper [7] introduces a bisimulation-based technique to prove equivalences of processes using cryptographic primitives; this

can be used to show that a protocol does preserve secrecy. We follow a similar approach and devise bisimulation semantics for establishing the secrecy of processes running in an environment where the distribution of channels is controlled. The presence of a spy in our model is reminiscent of the network abstraction of [9]. In that paper, the network provides the low-level counter part of the model where attacks based on bit-string representations, interception, and forward/reply can be formalized.

From the language design point of view, we share some similarity with the ideas behind the boxed  $\pi$ -calculus [21]. A box in [21] acts as wrapper where we can confine untrusted process; communication among the box and the context is subject to a fine-grained control that prevents the untrusted process to harm the protocol. Our hide operator is based on the symmetric principle: processes within the scope of an hide can run their protocol without be disturbed by the context outside it.

An interesting approach related to ours in spirit – but not in conception or details – is D-fusion [6]. The calculus has two forms of restriction: A “ $\nu$ ” operator for name generation, and a “ $\lambda$ ” operator that behaves like an existential quantifier and it can be seen as a generalization of an input binder. Both operators allow extrusion of the entities they declare but only the former guarantees uniqueness. In contrast our hide operator is not meant as an existential nor as an input-binder and it prevents the extrusion of the name it declares.

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## A Proofs for Section 3

The aim of this section of the appendix is to prove that observational equivalence and bisimilarity coincide (cf. Theorem 3.9).

### A.1 Soundness

We start by proving Proposition 3.7; we need several results. The first lemma states that structural congruence is preserved by the labelled semantics.

**Lemma A.1.** *Let  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  and assume  $Q \equiv P$ . Then there is  $Q' \equiv P'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'$ .*

*Proof.* By induction on the number of rewriting steps  $Q \equiv P$ . We show the base case or one rewriting step. For the axiom  $[\text{hide } x][P] \mid Q \equiv [\text{hide } x][P \mid Q \uplus x]$  the interesting case to analyze are rule [L-CLOSE] and [L-PAR]; rule [L-COM] is analogous to [L-CLOSE], but easier. Assume that [L-CLOSE] holds and that  $P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid Q')$  since  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$ ,  $Q \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} Q'$ . Let  $Q = [\text{hide } z]Q_0$ . Given  $y \notin \text{fn}(P)$ , we have the axiom  $P \mid Q \equiv [\text{hide } z][P \uplus z \mid Q_0]$ . From  $Q \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} Q'$ ,  $Q = [\text{hide } z]Q_0$  and [L-HIDE] we infer that there exists  $Q_1$  such that  $Q_0 \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} Q_1$  and  $Q' = [\text{hide } z]Q_1$  where  $k \neq x, y$ . Next, from  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$  and  $z \neq y$  we infer that  $P \uplus z \xrightarrow{x(y)} P' \uplus z$ . This can be proved by induction on the length of the inference  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$ . We apply [L-CLOSE] and infer that  $P \uplus z \mid Q_0 \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } y)(P' \uplus z \mid Q_1)$ . Notice that  $z \notin \text{fn}(P')$ , because  $\text{fn}(P') \subseteq \text{fn}(P) \cup y$ . We apply [L-HIDE] and infer  $[\text{hide } z][P \uplus z \mid Q_0] \xrightarrow{\tau} [\text{hide } z][(\text{new } y)(P' \uplus z \mid Q_1)]$ .

We apply structural congruence and infer that  $[\text{hide } z][(\text{new } y)(P' \uplus z \mid Q_1)] \equiv (\text{new } y)([\text{hide } z][P' \uplus z \mid Q_1])$ . Since  $z \notin \text{fn}(P')$ , we have that  $(\text{new } y)([\text{hide } z][P' \uplus z \mid Q_1]) \equiv (\text{new } y)(P' \mid Q')$ . From transitivity of  $\equiv$  we obtain the desired result,  $[\text{hide } z][P \uplus z \mid Q_0] \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv (\text{new } y)(P' \mid Q')$ . The case  $P = [\text{hide } z]P_0$  is analogous, but simpler. Assume now case [L-PAR] to hold and let  $P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \mid Q$  be inferred from  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  given  $\text{bn}(\alpha) \cap \text{fn}(Q) = \emptyset$ . Suppose that  $Q = [\text{hide } x]Q_0$ . We apply structural congruence and infer  $P \mid Q \equiv [\text{hide } x][P \uplus x \mid Q_0]$  where  $x \notin \text{fn}(P)$ . Next, we have that  $[\text{hide } x][P \uplus x \mid Q_0] \stackrel{\text{alpha}}{\equiv} [\text{hide } z][P \uplus z \mid Q_0\{z/x\}]$  for some  $z \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . From  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  we infer that  $P \uplus z \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \uplus z$ . We apply [L-PAR], and [L-HIDE] and infer that  $[\text{hide } z][P \uplus z \mid Q_0\{z/x\}] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } z][P' \uplus z \mid Q_0\{z/x\}]$ . From this we deduce that  $[\text{hide } x][P \uplus x \mid Q_0] \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } z][P' \uplus z \mid Q_0\{z/x\}]$ . This is the desired result, since  $[\text{hide } z][P' \uplus z \mid Q_0\{z/x\}] \equiv P' \mid Q$ . For the axiom  $(\text{new } x)[\text{hide } y]P \equiv [\text{hide } y](\text{new } x)P$  we analyze rules [L-NEW],[L-HIDE] and [L-OPEN]. Assume that case [L-NEW] holds and  $(\text{new } x)P \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\text{new } x)P'$  since  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  with  $x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . Let  $P = [\text{hide } y]P_0$ . We set  $x \neq y$  and swap the two binders by using the axiom:  $(\text{new } x)P \equiv [\text{hide } y](\text{new } x)P_0$ . From  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ ,  $P = [\text{hide } y]P_0$  and [L-HIDE] we infer that there is  $P_1$  such that  $P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} P_1$  with  $P' = [\text{hide } y]P_1$  and  $y \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . We apply [L-NEW] and infer  $(\text{new } x)P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\text{new } x)P_1$ . An application of [L-HIDE] give us the reduction  $[\text{hide } y](\text{new } x)P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } y](\text{new } x)P_1$ , which is the desired result, since  $[\text{hide } y](\text{new } x)P_1 \equiv (\text{new } x)[\text{hide } y]P_1$ . Case [L-HIDE] is analogous. Assume  $[\text{hide } x]P \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } x]P'$  since  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  with  $x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ , and let  $P = (\text{new } y)P_0$ . We apply the axiom  $[\text{hide } x]P \equiv (\text{new } y)[\text{hide } x]P_0$  and find  $P_1$  such that  $P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} P_1$  with  $P' = (\text{new } y)P_1$  and  $y \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . We apply [L-HIDE] and infer  $[\text{hide } x]P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide } x]P_1$ , followed by [L-NEW] which give us the expected result:  $(\text{new } y)[\text{hide } x]P_0 \xrightarrow{\alpha} (\text{new } y)[\text{hide } x]P_1$ . Consider now case [L-OPEN] and assume that  $(\text{new } y)P \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} P'$  has been inferred from  $P \xrightarrow{\bar{x}(y)} P'$ . Let  $P = [\text{hide } z]P_0$ . We have that  $(\text{new } y)P \equiv [\text{hide } z](\text{new } y)P_0$ . Since  $P \xrightarrow{\bar{x}(y)} P'$  has been inferred by using [L-HIDE], we infer that there is  $P_1$  such that  $P_0 \xrightarrow{\bar{x}(y)} P_1$  with  $P' = [\text{hide } z]P_1$  and  $z \neq x, y$ . We apply [L-OPEN] and infer the reduction:  $(\text{new } y)P_0 \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} P_1$ . An application of [L-HIDE] give us the expected result:  $[\text{hide } z](\text{new } y)P_0 \xrightarrow{(y)\bar{x}(y)} [\text{hide } z]P_1$ .  $\square$

The next lemma establishes the correspondence among the reduction relation defined in Figure 2 and the  $\tau$  action in Figure 3. We write  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv P'$  to indicate that there is  $P'' \equiv P'$  such that  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P''$ .

**Lemma A.2.**  $P \rightarrow P'$  if and only if  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv P'$ .

*Proof.* We first prove the left direction. Assume  $P \rightarrow P'$ . We proceed by induction on the length of the inference. Assume case [R-COM] holds since  $z \notin B$  and  $x(y \div B).Q \mid \bar{x}(z).P \rightarrow Q\{z/y\} \mid P$ . By applying [L-OUT] and [L-IN] we infer respectively  $\bar{x}(z).P \xrightarrow{x(z)} P$  and  $x(y \div B).Q \xrightarrow{x(z)} QB$ , because of  $z \notin B$ . We apply [L-COM] and deduce  $x(y \div B).Q \mid \bar{x}(z).P \xrightarrow{\tau} Q\{z/y\} \mid P$ . The case [R-T-COM] is similar. Assume now that case [R-STRUCT] holds since  $P \rightarrow P'$  is inferred from  $P \equiv Q$ ,  $Q \rightarrow Q'$  and  $Q' \equiv P'$ . By I.H. we infer that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'' \equiv Q'$ . We apply Lemma A.1 and infer  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \equiv Q''$ . By transitivity of  $\equiv$  we infer the desired result,  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv Q'$ . The remaining cases are obtained by induction. We omit all the details. To see the right to the left direction, assume  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv P'$ . We proceed by induction on



the length of the inference, eventually inferring the shape of  $P$ . Assume case [L-CLOSE] holds since  $P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } z)(P' \mid Q')$  is inferred from  $P \xrightarrow{x(z)} P'$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{(z)\bar{x}(z)} Q'$  where  $z \notin \text{fn}(P)$ . Therefore or (i)  $P \mid Q \equiv (\text{new } z)C[x(y \div B).P_1 \mid \bar{x}(z).Q_1]$  or (ii)  $P \mid Q \equiv (\text{new } z)C[x[y : A].P_1 \mid \bar{x}(z).Q_1]$ , for some context  $C$ , process  $P_1, Q_1$  and name set  $A, B$ . In both cases we have that  $P' \mid Q' \equiv (\text{new } z)C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q_1]$ . In case (i) by applications of [R-COM],[R-NEW], followed by applications of [R-PAR], [R-NEW] and [R-STRUCT] we infer  $P \mid Q \rightarrow (\text{new } z)C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q_1]$ . Another application of [R-STRUCT] gives us the desired result,  $P \mid Q \rightarrow (\text{new } z)(P' \mid Q')$ . In case (ii) we apply [R-T-COM] and rules for restriction, parallel composition, and structural rearrangements and we obtain the same result. The remaining cases are obtained straightforwardly by induction.  $\square$

Using Lemma A.1, we can also define a variation of the proof technique. We let  $P' \equiv \mathcal{R} \equiv Q'$  whenever there are  $P'' \equiv P'$  and  $Q'' \equiv Q'$  such that  $P'' \mathcal{R} Q''$ .

**Definition A.3** (Bisimulation up to structural congruence). *A symmetric relation  $\mathcal{R}$  over extended processes is a bisimulation up to structural congruence if whenever  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  and  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$  then there exists a process  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} \hat{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'$  and  $P' \equiv \mathcal{R} \equiv Q'$  where  $\hat{\tau}$  is the empty string and  $\hat{\alpha} = \alpha$  otherwise.*

**Proposition A.4.** *If  $\mathcal{R}$  is a bisimulation up to structural congruence then  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \approx$ .*

The next lemmas say that bisimilarity is closed under the new and the hide operators.

**Lemma A.5** (Closure under new). *If  $P \approx Q$  then  $(\text{new } x)P \approx (\text{new } x)Q$ .*

**Lemma A.6** (Closure under hide). *If  $P \approx Q$  then  $[\text{hide } x]P \approx [\text{hide } x]Q$ .*

The next result says that bisimilarity is closed under composition.

**Lemma A.7** (Closure under composition). *If  $P \approx Q$  then  $P \mid J \approx Q \mid J$ .*

*Proof.* Let  $(\text{new } \tilde{a})(P \mid J) \mathcal{R} (\text{new } \tilde{a})(Q \mid J)$  whenever  $P \approx Q$  with  $\tilde{a}$  is a possible empty sequence of names  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , such that if  $i \geq 1$  then  $(\text{new } \tilde{a}) = (\text{new } a_1) \cdots (\text{new } a_n)$ . Assume that  $(\text{new } \tilde{a})P \mid J \xrightarrow{\alpha} M$ . We proceed by induction on the length of the inference and show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is included in  $\approx$ . There are many cases. The most interesting cases arise when the reduction is inferred by interaction of  $P$  and  $J$ . To illustrate, assume that [L-COM] has been applied since  $\tilde{a} = \varepsilon$ ,  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$ ,  $J \xrightarrow{x(y)} J'$ , and  $M = P' \mid J'$ . From  $P \approx Q$  we find  $Q_0, Q_1$  and  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \xrightarrow{x(y)} Q_1 \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'$  with  $P' \approx Q'$ . Applications of [L-PAR], followed by [L-COM], and applications of [L-PAR], let us infer:  $Q \mid J \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \mid J \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_1 \mid J' \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' \mid J'$ . As a further communication example, assume that [L-CLOSE] applied since  $\tilde{a} = \varepsilon$ ,  $P \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} P'$ ,  $J \xrightarrow{x(y)} J'$ , and  $M = (\text{new } y)(P' \mid J')$ . From  $P \approx Q$  we find  $Q_0, Q_1, Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \xrightarrow{(z)x(z)} Q_1 \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'$  with  $P' \approx Q'$ . Applications of [L-PAR], followed by [L-CLOSE], and applications of [L-PAR], give us the expected result (up-to alpha renaming):  $Q \mid J \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \mid J \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_1 \mid J' \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } z)(Q' \mid J')$ . Now assume that  $(\text{new } a)(P \mid J) \xrightarrow{\alpha} M$  has been inferred by using [L-NEW]. We infer that  $M = (\text{new } a)M'$  for some  $M'$  such that  $P \mid J \xrightarrow{\alpha} M'$  with  $a \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . By I.H. there is  $N'$  such that  $Q \mid J \xrightarrow{\tau} \hat{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\tau} N'$  with  $M' \mathcal{R} N'$ . By applications of [L-NEW] we infer  $(\text{new } a)(Q \mid J) \xrightarrow{\tau} \hat{\alpha} \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } a)N'$ . By definition of  $\mathcal{R}$  we infer that  $(\text{new } a)M' \mathcal{R} (\text{new } a)N'$ , as desired.  $\square$

Given the properties of the labelled transition semantics established with the previous lemmas, we are able to prove that bisimilar processes are behaviourally equivalent.

**Proof of Proposition 3.7** Let  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  whenever  $P \approx Q$ . We show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is an observational equivalence up to structural congruence, which implies that  $\mathcal{R}$  is included in observational equivalence. The proof of this fact is straightforwardly obtained by a diagram chasing argument. To see reduction closure, assume  $P \rightarrow P'$ . By Lemma A.2 we infer  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P'' \equiv P'$ . Since  $P \approx Q$ , we let  $Q$  match this move by finding  $Q'' \approx P''$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q''$ . Take  $Q' \equiv Q''$ . By multiple applications of Lemma A.2 we infer that here is  $Q_1 \equiv Q'$  such  $Q \Rightarrow Q_1$ . This is what we need, since  $P' \equiv \mathcal{R} \equiv Q'$ .

To see barb preservation, assume  $P \downarrow_x$ . There are two cases corresponding to (i)  $P \equiv C[x(y:A).P_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $P$  and  $A \cap \text{bn}(P) = \emptyset$  and (ii)  $P \equiv C[x[y \div B].P_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $P$ .

To see case (i), let  $z \in A$ . By applications of [L-NEW],[L-HIDE],[L-PAR] and [L-IN] we infer

$$P \xrightarrow{x(z)} C[P_1\{z/y\}]$$

We exploit  $P \approx Q$  and infer the shape of the redex  $Q_0$  of  $Q$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \xrightarrow{x(z)} \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' & C[P_1\{z/y\} \triangleright B] \approx Q' \\ (1) Q_0 \equiv D[x(y:A').Q_1] & x \notin \text{bn}(Q_0), A' \cap \text{bn}(Q_0) = \emptyset \\ (2) Q_0 \equiv D[x[y \div B'].Q_1] & x \notin \text{bn}(Q_0) \end{array}$$

In both cases we infer  $Q_0 \downarrow_x$  and in turn  $Q \downarrow_x$ . Case (ii) is analogous. Assume now  $P \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$ . We have  $P \equiv C[\bar{x}(y).P_1]$  with  $x$  free and  $y$  not hidden in  $C$ . We first draw the case whether the output  $y$  is bound by a new in  $C$ , that is  $C = (\text{new } y)C'$ . By applications of [L-NEW], [L-HIDE],[L-PAR], and [L-OPEN] we infer

$$C[\bar{x}(y).P_1] \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} C'[P_1]$$

We exploit  $P \approx Q$  and infer the shape of the redex  $Q_0$  of  $Q$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' & C[\bar{x}(y).P] \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} \approx Q' \\ Q_0 \equiv (\text{new } z)D[\bar{x}(z).Q_1] & x \in \text{fn}(Q_0) \end{array}$$

We conclude that  $Q_0 \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  and in turn  $Q \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$ , as required.

Next assume  $P \equiv C[\bar{x}(y).P_1]$  with  $x, y$  free in  $P$ . By applications of [L-NEW], [L-HIDE],[L-PAR], and [L-OUT] we infer

$$C[\bar{x}(y).P_1] \xrightarrow{x(y)} C[P_1]$$

We exploit  $P \approx Q$  and infer the shape of the redex  $Q_0$  of  $Q$ :

$$\begin{array}{ll} Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q_0 \xrightarrow{x(y)} \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' & C[P] \approx Q' \\ Q_0 \equiv D[\bar{x}(y).Q_1] & \{x, y\} \subseteq \text{fn}(Q_0) \end{array}$$

We conclude that  $Q_0 \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  and in turn  $Q \downarrow_{\bar{x}}$ , as required. Lastly contextuality of  $\mathcal{R}$  is obtained by using Lemmas A.5–A.7.  $\square$

## A.2 Completeness

To obtain the reverse direction, namely that observationally equivalent processes are bisimilar, we attack the following lemmas. The first lemma says that observationally equivalent processes have the same weak bars.

**Lemma A.8.** *Let  $P \cong Q$ . Then*

- $P \Downarrow_x$  iff  $Q \Downarrow_x$
- $P \Downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  iff  $Q \Downarrow_{\bar{x}}$
- $P \Downarrow_x$  iff  $Q \Downarrow_x$
- $P \Downarrow_{\bar{x}}$  iff  $Q \Downarrow_{\bar{x}}$

*Proof.* Assume  $P \cong Q$ . The first item is obtained by applying symmetry and reduction closure of  $\cong$ . To see the left to the right direction. Assume  $P \Downarrow_x$ . Therefore there is  $P \Rightarrow P'$  with (i)  $P' \equiv C[x(y : A).P_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $P'$  and  $A \cap \text{fn}(P') \neq \emptyset$  or (ii)  $P' \equiv C[x[y \div B].P_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $P'$ . In both cases by reduction closure we infer that there is  $Q'$  such that  $Q \Rightarrow Q'$  with  $P' \cong Q'$ . From  $P' \Downarrow_x$  we infer  $Q' \Downarrow_x$ , as required. The opposite direction is obtained by symmetry and induction. If  $Q \Rightarrow Q'$  and (iii)  $Q' \equiv C[x(y : A).Q_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $Q'$  and  $A \cap \text{fn}(Q') \neq \emptyset$  or (iv)  $Q' \equiv C[x[y \div B].Q_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $Q'$ , then from  $P \cong Q$  we infer  $Q \cong P$ . We proceed by induction on the number of reductions  $Q \Rightarrow Q'$  and shows that there exists  $P'$  such that  $P \Rightarrow P'$  with  $Q' \cong P'$ . Hence  $P' \Downarrow_x$ , as required. The second item is analogous. For the third item, to see the left to the right direction assume that  $P \Downarrow_x$ . Therefore there not exists  $P \Rightarrow P'$  such that (a)  $P' \equiv C[x(y : \mathcal{A}).P_1]$  with  $x \in \text{fn}(P')$  and  $A \cap \text{bn}(P') \neq \emptyset$  or (b)  $P' \equiv C[x[y \div B].P_1]$  with  $x$  free in  $P'$ . Now the first item applied to the hypotheses  $Q \Downarrow_x$  and  $Q \cong P$  (by symmetry of  $\cong$ ) would imply  $P \Downarrow_x$ , contradiction. Therefore  $Q \Downarrow_x$ , as requested. To see the opposite direction, assume  $Q \Downarrow_x$ . If we apply the first item to  $P \cong Q$  and the hypothesis  $P \Downarrow_x$  we can proceed as in the other direction and infer  $Q \Downarrow_x$ , contradiction. Therefore  $P \Downarrow_x$ . The fourth item is analogous. □

To prove Proposition 3.8, we associate a context  $C_\alpha$  to each label  $\alpha$  different from  $\tau$  (cf. [16]). Let  $A = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\}$  be a set of names such that  $\text{fn}(\alpha) \subseteq A$ , and assume that there are names  $\omega, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n$  such that  $\{\omega, \psi_1, \dots, \psi_n\} \cap A = \emptyset$ . We define:

$$C_{x(y)}^A[-] \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \begin{cases} - \mid \bar{x}\langle y \rangle . \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle & y \neq \omega \\ \text{[hide } k \text{]} [x(z) . (z[w : k] \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_1\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_1\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_n\langle \rangle)] & \alpha = x\langle y \rangle, (y)x\langle y \rangle \end{cases}$$

We also define

$$C'_y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{[hide } k \text{]} [y[w : k] \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_1\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_1\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_n\langle \rangle] \quad \forall i \in 1, \dots, n. y \neq a_i$$

$$C''_y \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{[hide } k \text{]} [\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_j\langle k \rangle . \bar{\psi}_j\langle \rangle]$$

where in  $C''_y$  we assume that the sequence  $i, \dots, j$  is a permutation of  $1, \dots, n$  such that  $a_i = y$ .

**Lemma A.9.** *Let  $P$  be a process s.t.  $\text{fn}(P) = \{a_1, \dots, a_n\} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} A$ , with  $n > 0$ . The following hold.*

1. If  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$  then  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$
2. If  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$  then  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv P' \mid C_y''$
3. If  $P \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} P'$  then  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \xRightarrow{\text{def}} C_P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y')$  and  $C_P \not\Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$
4. If  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow \bar{\omega}$  then  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$
5. Assume  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow \bar{\omega}, \Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$ . Then  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv P' \mid C_y''$  and  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$
6. Assume  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow \bar{\omega}, \not\Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . Then  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \xRightarrow{\text{def}} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y')$  where  $y \notin \text{fn}(C_{(y)x(y)}^A[\mathbf{0}])$  and  $P \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} P'$

*Proof.* 1) is obtained by applying [L-COM]. To see 2), assume that  $P \xrightarrow{x(y)} P'$ . Since  $y$  is free in  $P$ , there is  $a_l \in A$  such that  $y = a_l$ . We apply [L-IN], [L-PAR] followed by [L-HIDE] and infer

$$C_{x(y)}^A[\mathbf{0}] \xrightarrow{x(y)} C_y'$$

We apply [L-COM] and infer  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid C_y'$ . Since  $y = a_l$ , we can apply [L-COM] followed by [L-HIDE] and infer  $C_y' \xrightarrow{\tau} [\text{hide } k][\mathbf{0} \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{\psi}_l\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_j\langle \rangle]$ . The result then follows by applying [L-PAR] and structural congruence.

To see 3), assume  $P \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} P'$ . Therefore there is not  $a_i \in A$  such that  $a_i = y$ . We proceed as in the previous case and infer  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y')$  by applying [L-IN], [L-PAR], [L-HIDE] followed by [L-CLOSE]. Now since  $a_i \neq y$  for all  $i = 1, \dots, n$  we cannot apply [L-COM] in order to unblock some output  $\bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle$ . Therefore  $(\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y') \not\Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$ , as required.

For the reverse direction, consider case 4) and assume that  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow \bar{\omega}$ . Since  $\omega$  is not in the free names of  $P$ , it needs to be that  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  with  $\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  unblocked by interaction of  $P$  and  $C_{x(y)}^A[-]$  over  $x$ . We have that  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P_0 \mid \bar{x}\langle y \rangle \cdot \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and [L-COM] is applied with the hypothesis  $P_0 \xrightarrow{x(y)} P_1$  and  $\bar{x}\langle y \rangle \cdot \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \xrightarrow{x(y)} \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $P_1 \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$ . From the hypothesis  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P_0 \mid \bar{x}\langle y \rangle \cdot \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  we infer that  $P \xrightarrow{\tau} P_0$ . From  $P_1 \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $\omega$  not occurring in the free names of  $P$  (which contain those of  $P_1$ ), and  $\omega \neq y$ , we infer that the reductions are not inferred by interaction on channel  $\omega$ , that is:  $P_1 \xrightarrow{\tau} P'$ . The result then follows by concatenating the reductions for  $P, P_0, P_1$ .

To see 5), assume  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow \bar{\omega}, \Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$ . Since  $\omega, \psi_i$  are not in the free names of  $P$ , it needs to be that there is a redex with a very specific form:  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_{P_1} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P_1 \mid [\text{hide } k][\mathbf{0} \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{\psi}_l\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_j\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_j\langle \rangle]$  with  $l, i, \dots, j$  a permutation of  $1, \dots, n$  such that  $a_l = y$ . Indeed, the output  $\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  has been unblocked by interaction of  $C_{x(y)}^A[-]$  and  $P$ . Note that  $C_{P_1} \equiv C_y''$ . We infer that there is  $P \xrightarrow{x(z)} P'$  such that

$$C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_{P'} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P' \mid [\text{hide } k][z[w : k] \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_1\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_1\langle \rangle \mid \dots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle \cdot \bar{\psi}_n\langle \rangle]$$

Indeed,  $z$  cannot be bound in  $P$ , since this would imply  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \not\Downarrow \bar{\psi}_i$  for all  $i \in 1, \dots, n$ , contradiction. Consider process  $C_{P'}$ . Process  $P'$  cannot interfere with the process protected by the hide, because  $z[w : k]$

does accept only the secret name  $k$ , and because the threads  $\bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle$  cannot extrude the scope of  $k$  (cf. the encoding of matching in Section 5). From these results we infer that

$$\begin{aligned} P' &\xrightarrow{\tau} P_1 \text{ and there exists } a_l = z \text{ such that} \\ [\text{hide } k][z[w : k] \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_1\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_1\langle \rangle \mid \cdots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_n\langle \rangle] &\xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv \\ [\text{hide } k][\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{\psi}_l\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \cdots \mid \bar{a}_j\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_j\langle \rangle] & \end{aligned}$$

with  $l, i \dots j$  a permutation of  $1, \dots, n$ . By applications of [L-PAR] we obtain  $C_{P'} \xrightarrow{\tau} C_{P_1}$ , as required.

Lastly we show 6). Assume that  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}, \not\Downarrow_{\bar{\psi}_i}}$  for  $i = 1, \dots, n$ . To unblock the barb on omega, the redex must be of a very specific form:  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_{P_1} \equiv (\text{new } y)(P_1 \mid [\text{hide } k][z[w : k] \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{a}_1\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_1\langle \rangle \mid \cdots \mid \bar{a}_n\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_n\langle \rangle])$  where we assume  $y$  occurring in  $P'$  and  $z$  sent from  $P$  to the context. Now the hypothesis  $z \in \text{fn}(P)$  leads to a contradiction, because in such case there would exist  $a_l \in A$  such that  $a_l = z$  which would imply  $C_{(y)x(y)}^A[P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\psi}_l}$ . Therefore  $z$  is fresh, that is:  $z$  is bound by the  $(\text{new } y)$  declaration. We infer that there is  $P'$  such that  $P \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} P'$  and  $C_{x(y)}^A[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_{P'}$  where:

$$C_{P'} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y)$$

As in the previous case, we infer that  $P'$  and the process protected by the hide cannot interact, because the protected process cannot both intrude names from the context and extrude the secret name to the context. Therefore  $P' \xrightarrow{\tau} P_1$ . By applications of [L-PAR], followed by [L-NEW], the result then follows.  $\square$

**Proof of Proposition 3.8** Let  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  whenever  $P \cong Q$  and assume that  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ . We show that there is  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} Q'$  and  $P' \equiv \mathcal{R} \equiv Q'$ ; Proposition A.4. then implies the desired result. Whenever  $\alpha = \tau$ , we use reduction-closure of  $\cong$  to find  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xRightarrow{\tau} Q'$  with  $P' \cong Q'$ . By repeated applications of Lemma A.2 we infer  $Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q'$ , which is the desired result since  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$ . Otherwise assume  $\alpha \neq \tau$ . We exploit contextuality of  $\cong$  and infer that  $C_\alpha^A[P] \cong C_\alpha^A[Q]$  where we let  $A = \text{fn}(P) \cup \text{fn}(Q)$ . We proceed by systematic application of Lemma A.9.

**(case  $\alpha = x(y)$ ).** By Lemma A.9(1) we have  $C_\alpha[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$ . From reduction closure we infer that  $C_\alpha[Q] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_Q \cong P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$ . By barb preservation (Lemma A.8) we infer  $C_Q \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$ . By Lemma A.9(3) we infer that  $C_Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'$ . Now, by reduction closure and barb preservation we obtain  $P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \cong Q' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$ . From this we obtain that  $P' \cong Q'$ , because of  $\omega \notin \text{fn}(P, Q)$ . The formal proof is by co-induction (cf. [16]): we omit all the details. Therefore  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$ , as desired.

**(case  $\alpha = x\langle y \rangle$ ).** By Lemma A.9(2) we have  $C_\alpha[P] \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \mid C_y''$ . We find  $C_Q$  such that  $C_\alpha[Q] \xrightarrow{\tau} C_Q \cong P' \mid C_y''$ . Since  $P' \mid C_y'' \Downarrow_{\bar{\psi}_l}$ , from  $P \cong Q$  and Lemma A.8 we infer that  $C_Q \Downarrow_{\bar{\psi}_l}$ . We apply Lemma A.9(5) and infer  $C_Q \xrightarrow{\tau} Q' \mid C_y''$  and  $Q \xrightarrow{x(y)} Q'$ . From reduction closure and barb preservation we infer  $P' \mid C_y'' \cong Q' \mid C_y''$ . By definition of  $C_y''$  we have that  $C_y''$  does not interact with  $P', Q'$ , because the threads  $\bar{a}_i\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_i\langle \rangle \mid \cdots \mid \bar{a}_j\langle k \rangle.\bar{\psi}_j\langle \rangle$  are protected by the hide. As in the previous case, we conclude that  $P' \cong Q'$ , and in turn  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$ , as requested.

**(case  $\alpha = (y)x\langle y \rangle$ ).** By Lemma A.9(3) we have that  $C_\alpha^A[P] \xRightarrow{\tau} C_P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } y)(P' \mid C_y')$  with  $C_P \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$  and  $C_P \not\Downarrow_{\bar{\psi}_i}$ , for all  $i \in 1, \dots, n$ . By reduction closure we find  $C_Q$  such that  $C_\alpha^A[Q] \xRightarrow{\tau} C_Q \cong C_P$ . In

particular, because of Lemma A.8 we deduce that  $C_Q \Downarrow_{\bar{a}}$  and  $C_Q \Downarrow_{\bar{w}}$ . We apply Lemma A.9(6) and infer that  $C_Q \Longrightarrow (\text{new } y)(Q' \mid C'_y)$  with  $y$  not in the context and  $Q \xrightarrow{(y)x(y)} Q_1$ . We deduce that  $(\text{new } y)(P' \mid C'_y) \cong (\text{new } y)(Q' \mid C'_y)$ , because  $C'_y$  cannot interact both with  $P'$  and  $Q'$ . Moreover, we have that (1)  $P' \Downarrow_y$  iff  $Q' \Downarrow_y$  and (2)  $P' \Downarrow_{\bar{y}}$  iff  $Q' \Downarrow_{\bar{y}}$ . As an example of the proof of this claim, we show (2); (1) is analogous. Indeed given an fresh name  $\phi$  we define the context  $D[-] = - \mid x(z).z(w).\bar{\phi}\langle \rangle$  such that  $D[P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\phi}}$  iff  $P' \Downarrow_{\bar{y}}$ . This implies  $D[Q] \Downarrow_{\bar{\phi}}$  iff  $Q' \Downarrow_{\bar{y}}$ . As in the previous cases, from these results we infer that  $P' \cong Q'$ , and in turn  $P' \mathcal{R} Q'$ , as requested.

□

## B Proofs for Section 4

In order to prove Theorem 4.2, or the characterization of observational equivalence for spied processes in terms of bisimilarity, we start by establishing that the latter relation is contained in the former. The first step is to show a correspondence among the two semantics. We need the following technical lemmas.

**Lemma B.1.** *Let  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} \equiv P'$  and let  $\alpha \in \{!x, ?x, \tau\}$ .*

1. *If  $\alpha = !x$  then*

- (a)  $P \equiv C[x(y \div B).P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q]$  and  $z \notin B$  and  $P' \equiv C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q]$  or
- (b)  $P \equiv C[x[y : A].P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q]$  and  $z \in A$  and  $P' \equiv C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q]$

*Moreover, if  $x = v$  then  $x \in \text{bn}(P)$  otherwise  $x \in \text{fn}(P)$ .*

2. *if  $\alpha = ?x$  then  $P \equiv C[\text{spy} : x.R]$  and  $P' \equiv C[R]$*

3. *If  $\alpha = \tau$  then*

- (a)  $P \equiv C[x(y \div B).P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q \mid \text{spy} : x.R]$  and  $z \notin B$  and  $P' \equiv C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q \mid R]$  or
- (b)  $P \equiv C[x[y : A].P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q \mid \text{spy} : x.R]$  and  $z \in A$  and  $P' \equiv C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q \mid R]$
- (c)  $P \equiv [\text{hide } x]C[x(y \div B).P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q]$  and  $z \notin B$  and  $P' \equiv [\text{hide } x]C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q]$
- (d)  $P \equiv [\text{hide } x]C[x[y : A].P_1 \mid \bar{x}\langle z \rangle.Q]$  and  $z \in A$  and  $P' \equiv [\text{hide } x]C[P_1\{z/y\} \mid Q]$

The next lemma establishes a correspondence among reductions and  $\tau$ -reductions for spied processes.

**Lemma B.2.** *The following hold.*

- *If  $R \rightarrow R'$  then  $R \xrightarrow{\tau} R'$ ;*
- *If  $R \xrightarrow{\tau} \equiv R'$  then  $R \rightarrow R'$ .*

*Sketch.* Similar to the proof of Lemma A.2. We proceed by induction and we systematically apply Lemma B.1.

□

The next result says that bisimilarity is included in observational equivalence for spied processes.

**Proposition B.3** (Soundness). *If  $P \overset{\bullet}{\approx} Q$  then  $P \overset{\bullet}{\cong} Q$ .*

*Proof.* We follow the same schema of the proof of Proposition 3.7 in Appendix A. Let  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  whenever  $P \approx Q$ . We show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is an observational equivalence up to structural congruence, which implies that  $\mathcal{R}$  is included in observational equivalence. Barb preservation is unchanged since we have the same observables of Section 3. Reduction closure is provided by Lemma B.2. Contextuality is provided by showing that  $\dot{\approx}$  is closed w.r.t. restriction, hide, and parallel composition. As an example of the last claim, let  $(\text{new } \vec{a})(P \mid J) \mathcal{R} (\text{new } \vec{a})(Q \mid J)$  whenever  $P \approx Q$  and  $\vec{a}$  is a possible empty sequence of names  $a_1, \dots, a_n$ , such that if  $i \geq 1$  then  $(\text{new } \vec{a}) = (\text{new } a_1) \cdots (\text{new } a_n)$ . We then show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is included in  $\approx$  by proceeding by induction on the length of the inference  $(\text{new } \vec{a})(P \mid J) \xrightarrow{\alpha} M$  (cf. Proposition A.7). Here the interesting case is  $\alpha = \tau$  inferred from (a)  $P \xrightarrow{!x} P'$  and  $J \xrightarrow{?x} J'$  or (b)  $P \xrightarrow{?x} P'$  and  $J \xrightarrow{!x} J'$ . Assume case (a); therefore from  $P \approx Q$  we infer  $Q \xrightarrow{!x} Q'$  for some  $Q' \dot{\approx} P'$ . This let us infer that there is  $N$  such that  $(\text{new } \vec{a})(Q \mid J) \Longrightarrow N \equiv (\text{new } \vec{a})(Q' \mid J')$  and  $M \mathcal{R} N$ , as required. Case (b) is analogous.  $\square$

Next we tackle the completeness direction of Theorem 4.2.

**Proposition B.4** (Completeness). *If  $P \cong Q$  then  $P \dot{\approx} Q$ .*

*Proof.* We extend the syntax of processes  $C_\alpha$  defined in Appendix A to actions  $!x, ?x$ . Given an action  $\alpha$  different from  $\tau$ , let  $A$  be a set of names such that  $\text{fn}(\alpha) \subseteq A$  and  $\omega \notin A$ , and define

$$\begin{aligned} C_\alpha^A[-] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \dots \text{ Appendix A} & \alpha = x(y), x\langle y \rangle, (y)x\langle y \rangle \\ C_{!x}^A[-] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{spy} : x.\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle & x \neq v \\ C_{?x}^A[-] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x(y).\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{x}\langle \rangle & x \neq v \\ C_{!v}^A[-] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{spy}.\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \\ C_{?v}^A[-] &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{new } x)(x(y).\bar{\omega}\langle \rangle \mid \bar{x}\langle \rangle) \end{aligned}$$

Let  $P \mathcal{R} Q$  whenever  $P \cong Q$ . We show that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a bisimulation up-to structural congruence. Assume  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ . We need the following result (cf. Lemma A.9).

1.  $P \xrightarrow{!x} P'$  implies  $C_{!x}^A[P] \Longrightarrow P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$
2.  $P \xrightarrow{?x} P'$  implies  $C_{?x}^A[P] \Longrightarrow P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$
3.  $C_{!x}^A[P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$  implies  $C_{!x}^A[P] \Longrightarrow P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $P \xrightarrow{!x} P'$
4.  $C_{?x}^A[P] \Downarrow_{\bar{\omega}}$  implies  $C_{?x}^A[P] \Longrightarrow P' \mid \bar{\omega}\langle \rangle$  and  $P \xrightarrow{?x} P'$

where  $\text{fn}(P) \subseteq B$ . Then the proof proceed by following the schema of Proposition 3.8: we omit all details.  $\square$

**Proof of Theorem 4.2** Apply propositions B.3 and B.4.  $\square$

## C Proofs from Section 5

To illustrate our method, we prove equation (4):  $[\text{hide}.x][\bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid x(y).Q] \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong} [\text{hide}.x][Q\{z/y\}]$ . To show this result we consider the relation  $\mathcal{R}$  such that  $R_1 \mathcal{R} R_2$  whenever a)  $R_1 = [\text{hide}.x][\bar{x}\langle z \rangle \mid x(y).Q]$  and  $R_2 = [\text{hide}.x][Q\{z/y\}]$  or b)  $R_1 = R_2$ , and we show that is a bisimulation up to structural congruence, which implies  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq \stackrel{\bullet}{\approx}$  (cf. Proposition A.4). From  $\stackrel{\bullet}{\approx} = \stackrel{\bullet}{\cong}$  the result then follows. The proof is easy, since the thread on the left can only fire an action labeled with  $\tau$  via [L-HIDE] and in turn move to process  $[\text{hide}.x][\mathbf{0} \mid Q]$  which is congruent to  $[\text{hide}.x][Q]$ . For the other direction, whenever  $[\text{hide}.x][Q] \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q$  we know that  $Q = [\text{hide}.x]Q'$  for some  $Q'$  such that  $Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'$  and  $x \notin \text{fn}(\alpha)$ . We match this move with  $[\text{hide}.x][\bar{x}\langle z \rangle.\mathbf{0} \mid x(y).Q] \xrightarrow{\tau} \xrightarrow{\alpha} [\text{hide}.x][\mathbf{0} \mid Q']$ .

As a further example, we have that equation (5) holds since both  $[\text{hide}.x][\bar{z}\langle x \rangle]$  and  $\mathbf{0}$  have no labelled transitions.

Lastly equation (9), which describes that the patch for D-Bus is effective, can be easily proved by relying on equations (4) and (5).