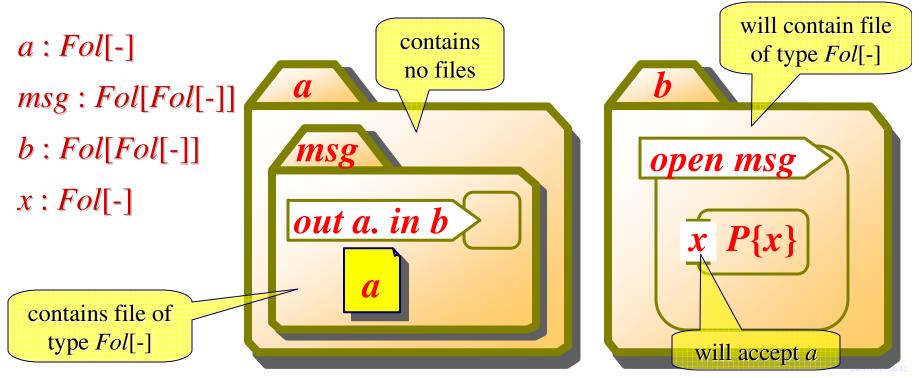
Part 3 Ambient Types Luca Cardelli Giorgio Ghelli Andy Gordon

# **Types for Exchange Control**

- Ambients exchange information by reading an writing to the "local ether". In an untyped system, the ether can be full of garbage.
- How do we make sure that ether interactions are well typed? We need to track the exchanges of messages between processes.

# Like Typing a File System

- *n*: *Fol*[*T*] means that *n* is a name for folders that can contain only files of type *T*. E.g.: *ps* : *Fol*[*Postscript*].
- Nothing is said about the subfolders of folders of name *n*: they can have any name and any type (and can come and go).
- Hierarchy rearrangements are totally unconstrained.



#### **Need for Distinctions**

- The ambients syntax does not distinguish between names and capabilities, therefore it permits strange terms like:

   *in n*[*P*]
   *n.P* (stuck)
   *n.P* (stuck)
- This cannot be avoided by a more precise syntax, because such terms may be generated by interactions:

 $\begin{array}{l} \langle in \, n \rangle \mid (m).m[P] \longrightarrow in \, n[P] \\ \langle n \rangle \mid (m).m.P \longrightarrow n.P \\ (m). \, (m.P \mid m[Q]) \end{array} \quad (\text{tests whether } m \text{ is a name or a capability!}) \end{array}$ 

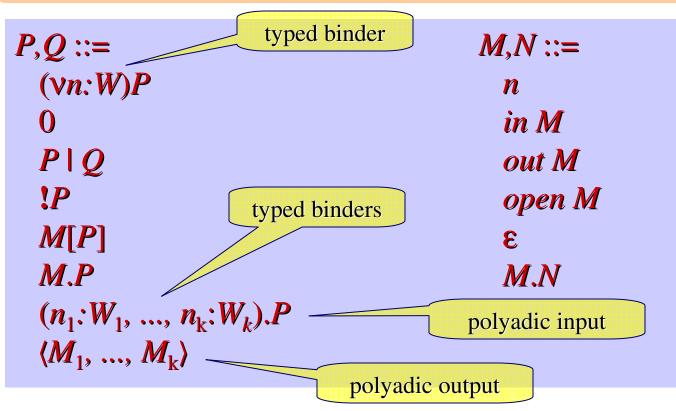
- We have two sorts of things (ambient names and capabilities) that we want to use consistently. A type system should do the job.
- Desired property: a well-typed program does not produce insane terms like *in n*[*P*] and *n*.*P*.

#### **Exchange Types**

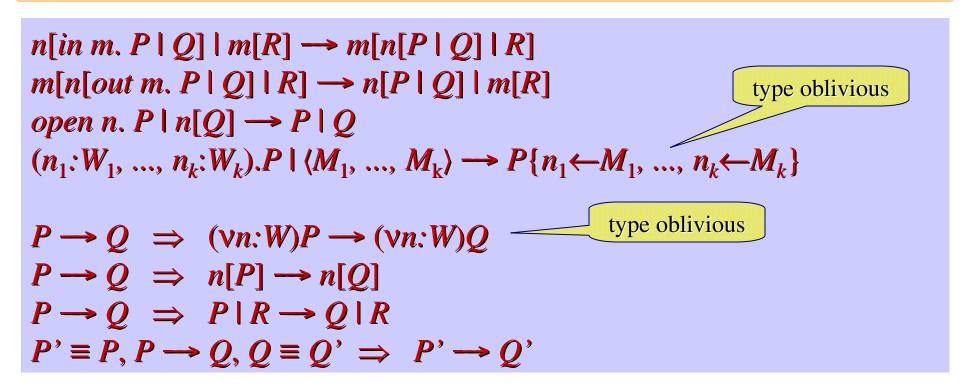
<i>W</i> ::=	message types
Amb[T]	ambient name allowing <i>T</i> exchanges
Cap[T]	capability unleashing <i>T</i> exchanges
<i>T</i> ::=	process types
Shh	no exchange
$W_1 \times \ldots \times W_k$	tuple exchange (1 is the null product)

- A quiet ambient: *Amb[Shh]*
- A harmless capability: *Cap*[*Shh*]
- A synchronization ambient: *Amb*[1]
- Ambient containing harmless capabilities: Amb[Cap[Shh]]
- A capability that may unleash the exchange of names for quiet ambients: *Cap[Amb[Shh]]*

### **Polyadic Ambient Calculus**



#### Reduction



# **Structural Congruence**

• As usual (polyadic).

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### **Intuitions: Typing of Processes**

- If *M* is a *W*, then  $\langle M \rangle$  is a process that exchanges *W*.  $M: W \Longrightarrow \langle M \rangle: W$
- If *P* is a process that may exchange *W*, then (n:W).*P* is too.  $P: W \Rightarrow (n:W)$ .*P*: *W*
- If *P* and *Q* are processes that may exchange *T*, then P | Q is too. (Similarly for !*P*.)  $P: T, Q: T \Rightarrow P | Q: T$
- Both 0 and *n*[*P*] exchange nothing at the current level, so they can have any exchange type, and can be added in parallel freely.
- Therefore, *W*-inputs and *W*-outputs are tracked so that they match correctly when placed in parallel.

# **Intuitions: Typing of Open**

- We have to worry about *open*, which might open-up a *T*-ambient and unleash *T*-exchanges inside an *S*-ambient.
- We decorate each ambient name with the *T* that can be exchanged in ambients of that name. Different ambients may permit internal exchanges of different types.
   n: Amb[T], P: T ⇒ n[P] is legal and n[P]: S
- If *n* permits *T*-exchanges, then *open n* may unleash *T*-exchanges in the current location.

 $n:Amb[T] \implies open n:Cap[T]$ 

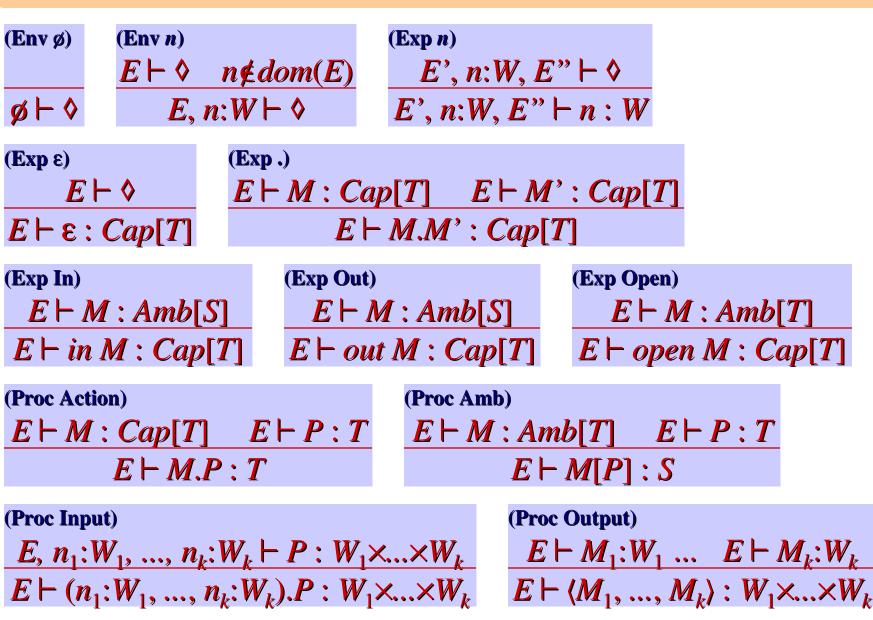
• Any process that uses a *Cap*[*T*] had better be a process that already exchanges *T*, because new *T*-exchanges may be unleashed.

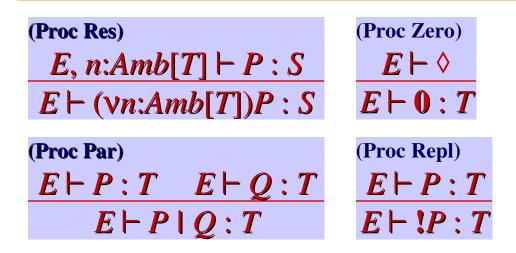
 $M: Cap[T], P:T \implies M.P:T$ 

# Judgments

$E \vdash \diamond$	good environment
$E \vdash M : W$	good message of type W
$E \vdash P : T$	good process that exchanges $T$

#### Rules



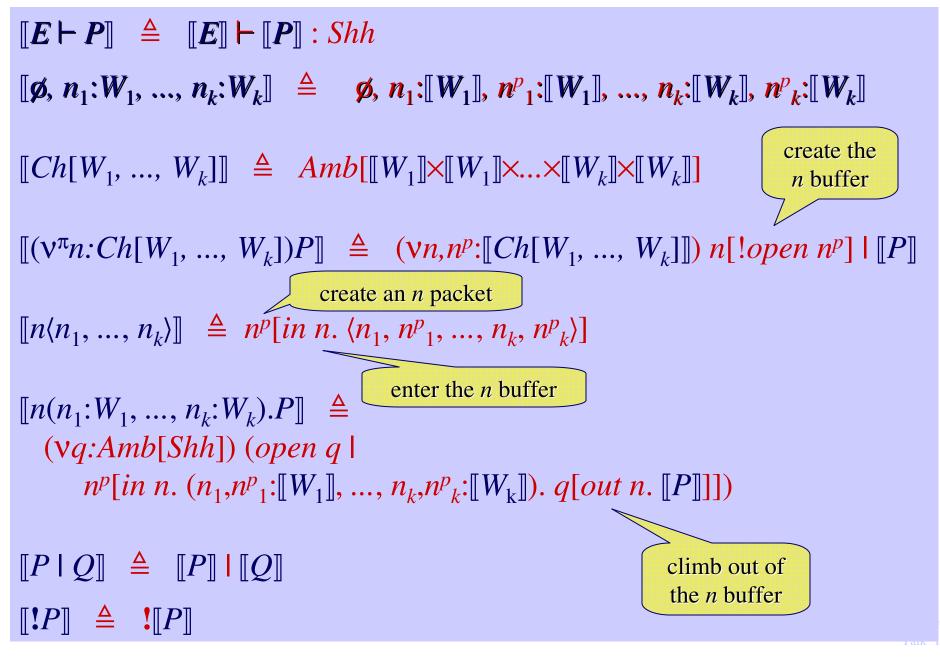


- Ex.: A capability that may unleash *S*-exchanges: *n*:*Amb*[*T*], *m*:*Amb*[*S*] ⊢ *in n. open m* : *Cap*[*S*]
- Ex.: A process that outputs names of quiet ambients:
   *E* ⊢ !(*vn*:*Amb*)⟨*n*⟩ : *Amb*
- Proposition (Subject Reduction) If  $E \vdash P : T$  and  $P \rightarrow Q$  then  $E \vdash Q : T$ .

#### Exercise

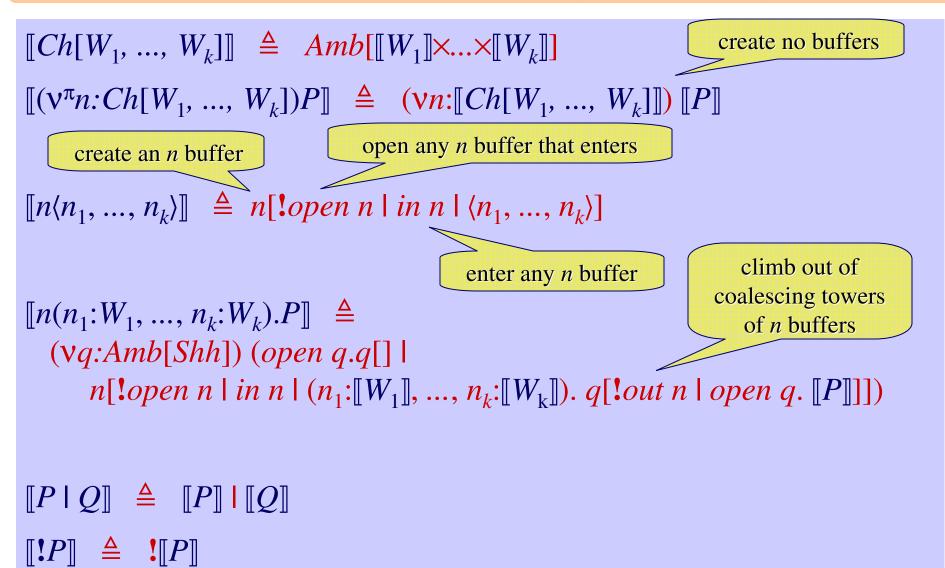
• Construct a typing derivation for the message example:

## Typed Polyadic Asynchronous $\pi$ -calculus



- The previous encoding emulates the  $\pi$ -calculus, but:
  - Channel buffers are generated at v occurrences.
  - If freely embedded within ambients, channel I/O may then fail if the channel buffer is not where the I/O happens, even if I and O are in the same place. (I.e., extrusion across ambient boundaries is not implemented by this encoding.)
  - Using 2 ambient names for  $1 \pi$  name is a bit awkward.
- Georges Gonthier devised a different encoding:
  - Uses 1 ambient name for  $1 \pi$  name.
  - New buffers are generated whenever needed to do I/O.
  - Encoding can be freely merged with ambient operations (I's and O's on a channel *n* interact when they are in the same ambient.)
  - Buffers must be *coalesced* to allow I/O interactions.

#### **Gonthier's Coalescing Encoding**



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#### **Typed Call-by-Value** $\lambda$ -calculus

```
\llbracket E \vdash b:T \rrbracket \triangleq \llbracket E \rrbracket \vdash (\mathbf{v}^{\pi}k:Ch[\llbracket T \rrbracket)) \llbracket b \rrbracket_k : Shh
```

```
\llbracket A \rightarrow B \rrbracket \triangleq Ch[\llbracket A \rrbracket, Ch[\llbracket B \rrbracket]]
```

```
\llbracket x_T \rrbracket_k \triangleq k \langle x \rangle
```

```
\begin{bmatrix} \lambda x: A. b_{A \to B} \end{bmatrix}_{k} \triangleq \\ (\mathbf{v}^{\pi} n: \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket) (k\langle n \rangle \mid !n(x: \llbracket A \rrbracket, k': Ch[\llbracket B \rrbracket]). \llbracket b_{B} \rrbracket_{k'})
```

```
 \begin{split} & \llbracket b_{A \to B}(a_A) \rrbracket_k & \triangleq \\ & ( \vee^{\pi} k' : Ch[\llbracket A \to B \rrbracket], \, k'' : Ch[\llbracket A \rrbracket]) \\ & (\llbracket b \rrbracket_{k'} \mid k'(x : \llbracket A \to B \rrbracket), \, (\llbracket a \rrbracket_{k''} \mid k''(y : \llbracket A \rrbracket), \, x(y, \, k))) \end{split}
```

```
\llbracket x:T \vdash x:T \rrbracket
```

```
= [x:T] \vdash (v^{\pi}k:Ch[[T]]) k\langle x \rangle : Shh
```

 $= x: \llbracket T \rrbracket, x^{p}: \llbracket T \rrbracket \vdash (\forall k: Amb[\llbracket T \rrbracket \times \llbracket T \rrbracket)) k[!open k^{p}] \mid k^{p}[in k.\langle x, x^{p}\rangle] : Shh_{203-03-1716}$ 

#### Generalizations

- The *Amb-Cap* style of types and rules is very robust and extensible to many situations.
  - It works for all kinds of *effects* (not just exchanges).
  - *Amb* types for names.
  - *Cap* types for capabilities (to deal with *open*).
- Sketch of possible extensions:
  - Instead of a single type *Amb*[*T*] for all ambient names that allow *T* exchanges, we can allow types *G*[*T*], for distinct groups *G* from a fixed collection. (Akin to Milner's sort system for π).
  - Further, we can allow a subgroup hierarchy *G*'<:*G*, with *Amb* as the top group, inducing a subtype hierarchy.
  - Further, we can allow the creation of new groups G, as in (vG) (vn:G) P or (vG'<:G) (vn:G') P.</li>

# **Types for Mobility Control**

#### • Effects

- An effect is anything a process can do that we may want to track.
- Then, *E* ⊢ *P* : *F* is interpreted to mean that *P* may have at most effects *F*. Works well for composition.
- And Amb[F] is an ambient that allows at most effects F.
- And Cap[F] is a capability that can unleash at most effects F.
- Applications
  - We have seen the case where an effect is an input or output operation of a certain type.
  - We can also consider *in* and *out* operations as effects. We can then use a type system to statically prevent certain movements.
  - We can also consider *open* operations as effects. We can then use a type system to statically prevent such operations.
  - To do all this without dependent types, we use groups.

#### **Name Groups**

- Name Groups have a variety of uses:
  - We would like to say, within a type system, something like: The ambient named *n* can enter the ambient named *m*. But this would bring us straight into *dependent types*, since names are value-level entities. This is *no fun at all*.
  - Instead, we introduce type-level name groups *G*,*H*, and we say: Ambients of group *G* can enter ambients of group *H*.
  - Groups are akin to  $\pi$ -calculus sorting mechanisms. We call them groups in the Unix sense of collections of principals.

#### **Crossing Control**

$G, H$ $Hs ::= \{H_1H_k\}$	groups sets of groups
$W ::= G[\neg Hs, T]$	message types ambient name in group G, containing processes that may cross <i>Hs</i> and exchange T
Cap[~Hs,T]	capability unleashing <i>Hs</i> crossings and <i>T</i> exchanges

 $E \vdash P : \neg Hs, T$ process that exchanges T and crosses Hs $vn:G[\uparrow \{\}, T]$ a name for immobile ambients

#### **Opening Control**

<i>W</i> ::=	message types
$G[^{\circ}Hs,T]$	ambient name in group <b>G</b> , containing
	processes that may open <i>Hs</i> and exchange <i>T</i>
Cap[°Hs,T]	capability unleashing <i>Hs</i> openings and <i>T</i> exchanges

 $E \vdash P : {}^{\circ}Hs, T$ process that exchanges T and opens Hs $vn:G[{}^{\circ}{},T]$ a name for locked ambients (where  $G \notin {}$ )

(Here *n* cannot be opened, because we require  $G \in Hs$  for open *n* to be typeable, when  $n:G[^{\circ}Hs,T]$ . This is because the opening of *G* may unleash further openings of *Hs*. With this rule the transitive closure of possible openings must be present already in the given types. It also makes *n* above unopenable.)

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# **Types for Secrecy Control**

- In addition to static groups, we add group creation.
  - This is a new construct for generating type-level names.
  - It can be studied already in  $\pi$ -calculus:
    - $(\nu G)(\nu x:G)(\nu y:G)\dots$

Create a new group (collection of names) Gand populate it with new elements x and y

- Simply by type-checking, we can guarantee that a fresh x cannot escape the scope of G.
- It can statically block certain communications that would be allowed by scope extrusion.
- We can therefore prevent the "accidental" escape of capabilities that is a major concern in practical systems.
- In ambient calculus, it further allows the safe sharing of secret between mobile processes.

### **Making Secrets**

- Consider a player *P* and an opponent *O*:
   *O* | *P*
- In the π-calculus, if *P* is to create a fresh secret not shared with *O*, we program it to evolve into:
   *O* | (vx)*P*'
- Name creation (vx)P' makes a fresh name x, whose scope is the process P'

#### **Leaking Secrets**

Now, if the system were to evolve into this, the privacy of x would be violated:
 p(y).O' | (vx)(p(x) | P'')

(Output  $p\langle x \rangle$  may be accidental or malicious.)

- By extrusion, this is  $(vx)(p(y).O' | p\langle x \rangle | P'')$ which evolves to  $(vx)(O' \{y \leftarrow x\} | P'')$
- So, the secret x has leaked to the opponent.

# **Trying to Prevent Leakage**

- How might we prevent leakage?
  - Restrict output: not easy to prevent p(x) as p may have arisen dynamically
  - Restrict extrusion: again difficult, as it's needed for legitimate communication
- Can we exploit a sorted  $\pi$ -calculus?
  - Declare *x* to be of sort *Private*. But sorts are global, so the opponent can be type-checked.

 $p(y:Private).O' | (vx:Private)(p\langle x \rangle | P'')$ 

### **Group Creation**

- We want to be able to create fresh groups (sorts) on demand, and to create fresh elements of these groups on demand.
- We extend the sorted  $\pi$ -calculus with group creation (vG)P, which makes a new group G with scope P.
- Group creation obeys scope extrusion laws analogous to those for name creation.

### **Preventing Leakage**

• We can now prevent leakage to a well-typed opponent by type-checking and lexical scoping (where *G*[] is the type of nullary channels of group *G*):

 $p(y:T).O' \mid (vG)(vx:G[])(p\langle x \rangle \mid P'')$ 

• The opponent *p*(*y*:*T*).*O*' cannot be typed: the type *T* would need to mention *G*, but *G* is out of scope.

# **Untyped Opponents**

- We cannot realistically expect the opponent to be well-typed.
- Can an untyped opponent, by cheating about the type of the channel *p*, somehow acquire the secret *x*?
- No, provided the player is typed; in particular, provided p(x) is typed.

#### Secrecy

- A player creating a fresh G cannot export elements of G outside the initial scope of G,
  - either because a well-typed opponent cannot name *G* to receive a message,
  - or because a well-typed player cannot use public channels to transmit *G* elements.
- In sum: channels of group *G* remain secret, forever, outside the initial scope of (v*G*).

#### **Summary**

- We have reduced secrecy of names to scoping and typing; subtleties include:
  - extrusion rules associated with scoping
  - leakage allowed by name extrusion
  - the possibility of untyped opponents
- A reasonable precondition of our results is that the player (but not the opponent) be type-checked in some global environment.

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### **Secrecy in Typed Contexts**

• For well-typed opponents, subject reduction alone has secrecy implications.

Theorem (Subject Reduction) If  $E \vdash P$  and  $P \equiv Q$  then  $E \vdash Q$ . If  $E \vdash P$  and  $P \rightarrow Q$  then  $E \vdash Q$ .

Corollary (No Leakage) Let P = p(y:T).O' | (vG)(vx:G[T])P'. If  $E \vdash P$  for some *E* then there are no  $Q', Q'', C\{-\}$  such that  $P \equiv (vG)(vx:G[T])Q'$  and  $Q' \rightarrow Q''$  and  $Q'' \equiv C\{p \mid x \}$  where *p* and *x* are not bound by  $C\{-\}$ .

#### **Secrecy in Untyped Contexts**

#### **Theorem (Secrecy)**

Suppose that (vG)(vx:T)P where G free in T. Let S be the names occurring in dom(E). Then the type erasure (vx)erase(P) of (vG)(vx:T)P preserves the secrecy of the restricted name x from S.

Where "preserves the secrecy" is defined (in the paper) in terms of interactions with an opponent idealized as a set of names. It is similar to Abadi's definition for spi.

#### **Instances and Applications**

- There seems to be a link between group creation and several unusual type systems:
  - *letregion* in Tofte and Talpin's region analysis
  - *newlock* in Flanagan and Abadi's lock types
  - *runST* in Launchbury and Peyton Jones' lazy functional state threads
- Elsewhere, Dal Zilio and Gordon formalize the link with regions, and Cardelli, Ghelli and Gordon apply (vG) to regulate mobility.

# **Typed Ambient Calculus with Group Creation**

- Start with exchange types.
- Just one new process construct:
   (vG)P
   to create a new group C with scope

to create a new group G with scope P.

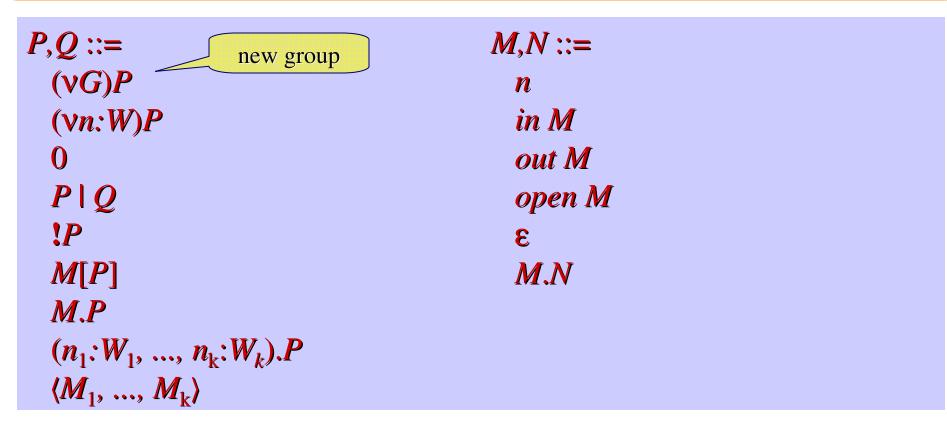
- Just one modified type construct: *G*[*T*]
   as the type of names of group *G* that name ambients that
   contain *T* exchanges.
- The construct G[T] replaces Amb[T], where Amb can now be seen as the group of all names. So we can now write:
   (vG) (vn:G[Int]) n[(3) | (x:Int). P]

#### **Types**

<i>W</i> ::=	message types
<b>G</b> [ <b>T</b> ]	ambient name in group G with T exchanges
Cap[T]	capability unleashing T exchanges
<i>T</i> ::=	process types
Shh	no exchange
$W_1 \times \ldots \times W_k$	tuple exchange (1 is the null product)

- A quiet ambient: *G*[*Shh*]
- A harmless capability: *Cap*[*Shh*]
- A synchronization ambient: *G*[1]
- Ambient containing harmless capabilities: *G*[*Cap*[*Shh*]]
- A capability that may unleash the exchange of names for quiet ambients: *Cap*[*G*[*Shh*]]

#### **Processes and Messages**



vG is static: type rules handle such G's. vG is dynamic/generative: !(vG)P not the same as (vG)!P.

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#### Reduction

 $n[in m. P | Q] | m[R] \rightarrow m[n[P | Q] | R]$   $m[n[out m. P | Q] | R] \rightarrow n[P | Q] | m[R]$   $open n. P | n[Q] \rightarrow P | Q$   $(n_1:W_1, ..., n_k:W_k).P | \langle M_1, ..., M_k \rangle \rightarrow P\{n_1 \leftarrow M_1, ..., n_k \leftarrow M_k\}$   $P \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow (\vee G)P \rightarrow (\vee G)Q$   $P \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow (\vee G)P \rightarrow (\vee G)Q$   $P \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow (\vee n:W)P \rightarrow (\vee n:W)Q$   $P \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow n[P] \rightarrow n[Q]$   $P \rightarrow Q \Rightarrow P | R \rightarrow Q | R$  $P' \equiv P, P \rightarrow Q, Q \equiv Q' \Rightarrow P' \rightarrow Q'$ 

#### **Structural Congruence**

- A usual.
  - (vG)P is similar to (vn:W)P, including scope extrusion.

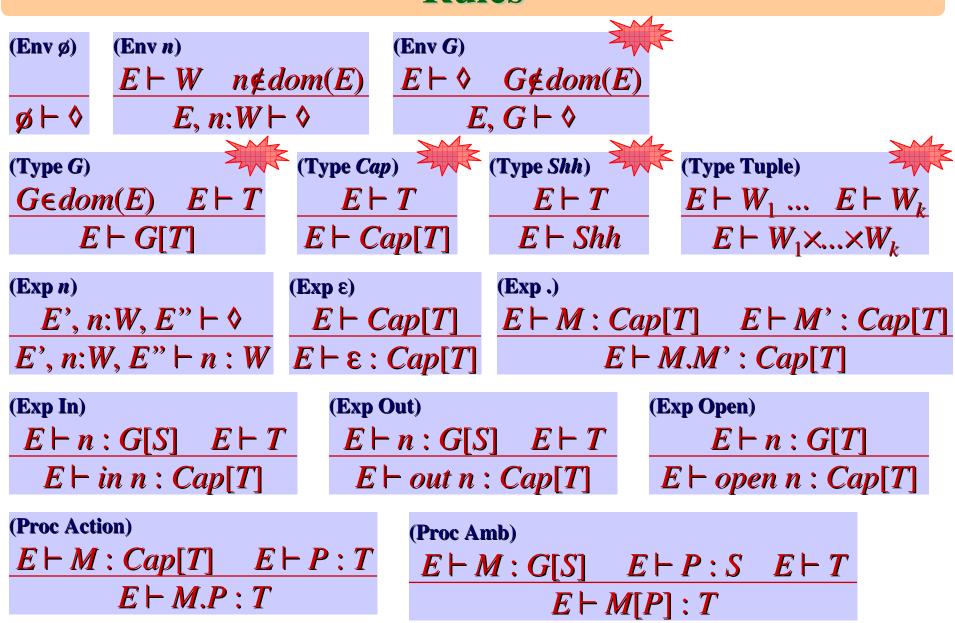
 $P \equiv Q \implies (\vee G)P \equiv (\vee G)Q$  $(\vee G)(\vee G')P \equiv (\vee G')(\vee G)P$  $(\vee G)(\vee n:W)P \equiv (\vee n:W)(\vee G)P \quad \text{if } G \notin fg(W)$  $(\vee G)(P \mid Q) \equiv P \mid (\vee G)Q \qquad \text{if } G \notin fg(P)$  $(\vee G)(m[P]) \equiv m[(\vee G)P]$  $(\vee G)0 \equiv 0$ 

• Extrusion of (vG) allows ambients to establish shared secrets, then go arbitrarily far away, and then come back to share the secrets. Without been able to give them away.

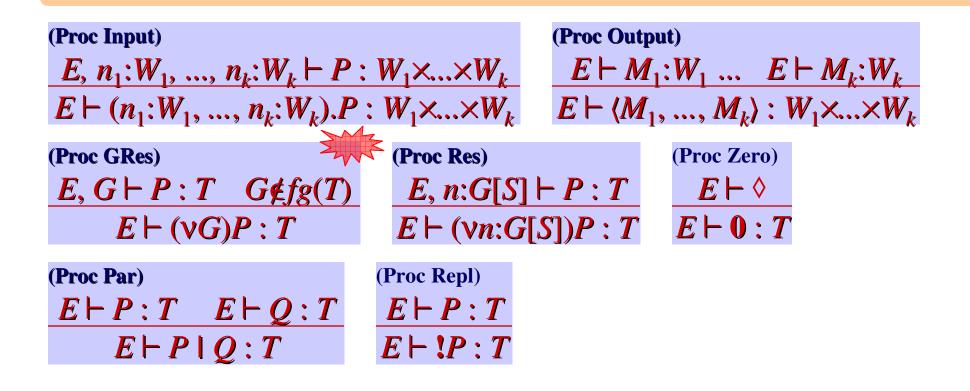
# Judgments

$E \vdash \diamond$	good environment
$E \vdash T$	good type
$E \vdash M : W$	good message of type W
$E \vdash P : T$	good process that exchanges T

#### Rules



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• Prop (Subject Reduction) If  $E \vdash P : T$  and  $P \rightarrow Q$ then there exists *Gs* such that *Gs*,  $E \vdash Q : T$ .

### Conclusions

- A new programming construct for expressing secrecy intentions.
- Good for "pure names" like channels, heap references, nonces, keys.
- Groups are like sorts, but no "new sort" construct has previously been studied.
- Basic idea could be added to any language, and is easily checked statically (no flow analysis...).