



PennState

# CSE 597: Security of Emerging Technologies

## Module: Formal Verification

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# Critical Infrastructure using Cellular Network



Problem Statement: How can we **systematically** verify the design of 4G & 5G network protocols with respect to promised security and privacy guarantees?

(CCS'19)



**New flaws in 4G, 5G allow attackers to intercept calls and track phone locations**

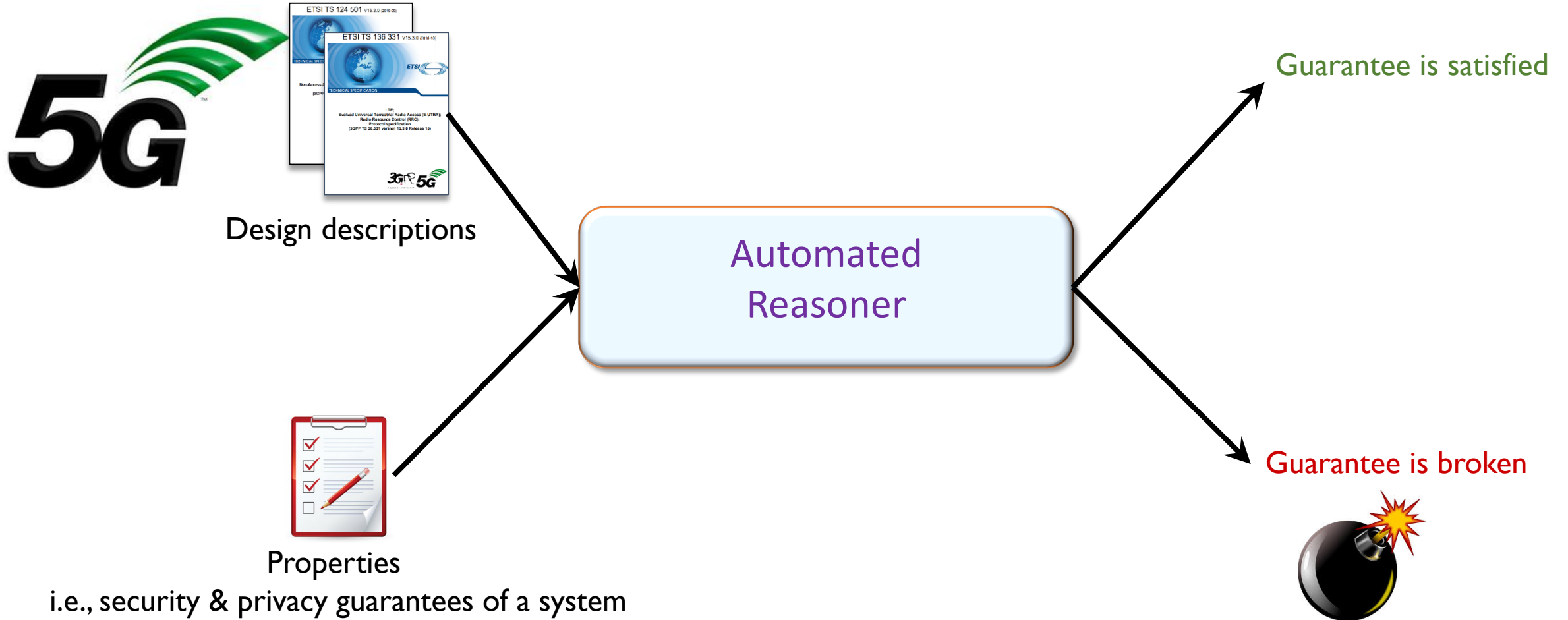
Zack Whittaker @zackwhittaker / 11:39 am EST • February 24, 2019

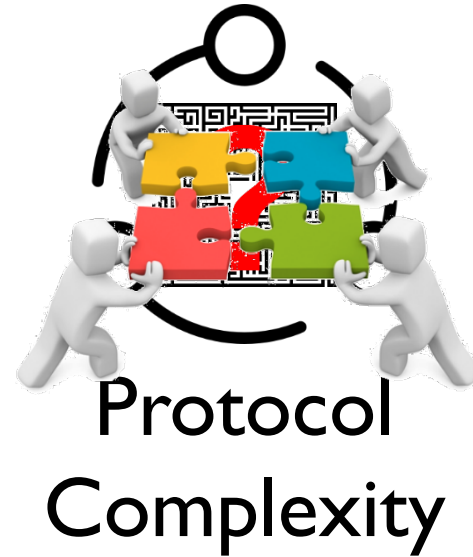


**LTE security flaw can be abused to take out subscriptions at your expense**

Researchers say the vulnerability impacts "virtually all" smartphones on the market.

# High-level Goal





Stateful Network

+

Cryptographic Constructs  
(encryption, message authentication code, certificate)

Multiple Participants

+

Intertwined Sub-Procedures

Qualitative Properties  
(temporal ordering of events)

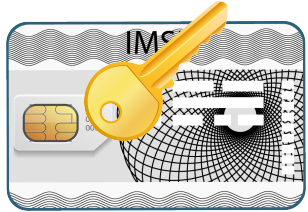
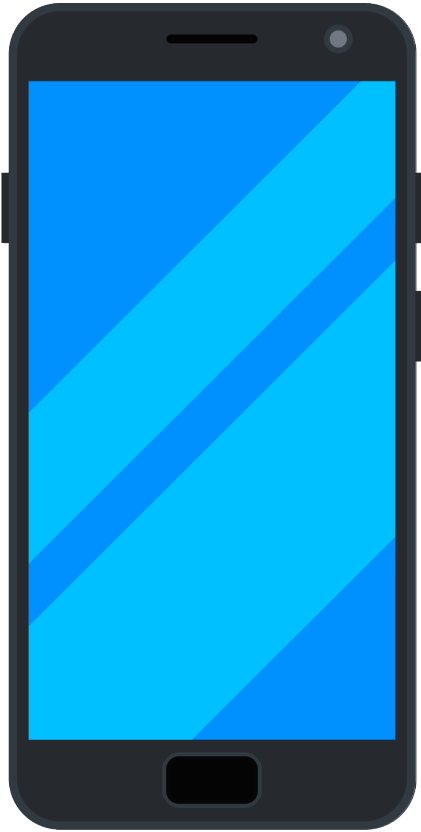
+

Quantitative Properties  
(rate of receiving a message)



# Background (Cellular Device or User Equipment)

UE

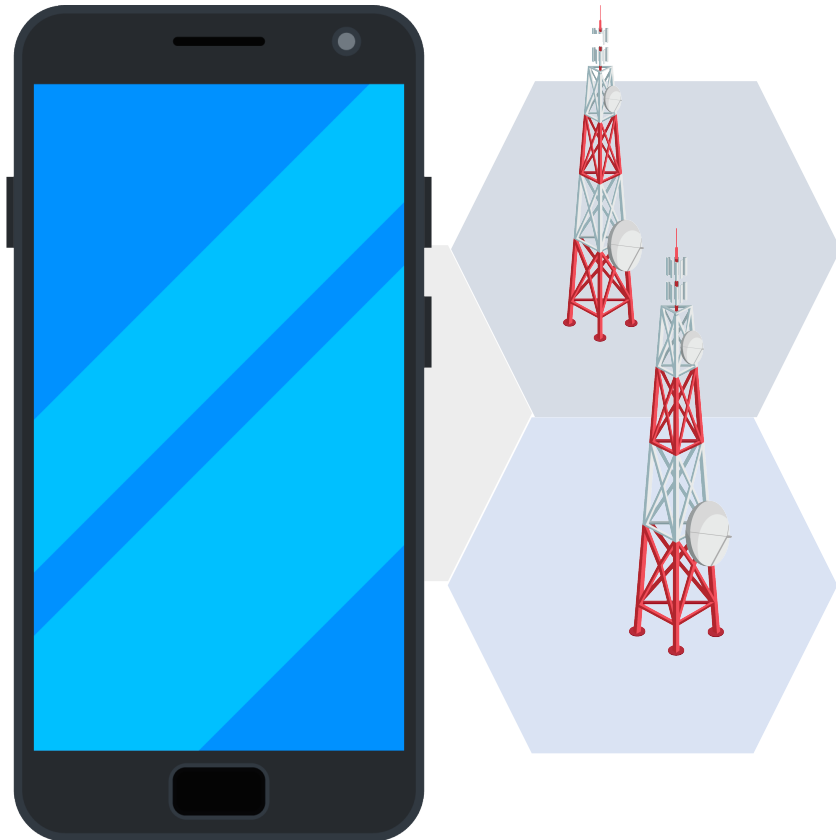


IMSI = International Mobile Subscriber Identity

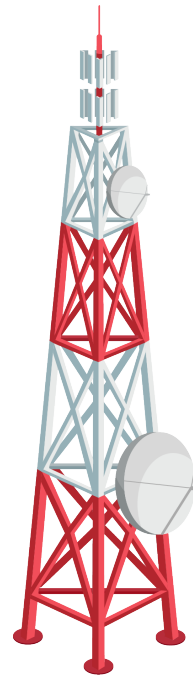
IMEI = International Mobile Equipment Identity

# Background (4G System Architecture)

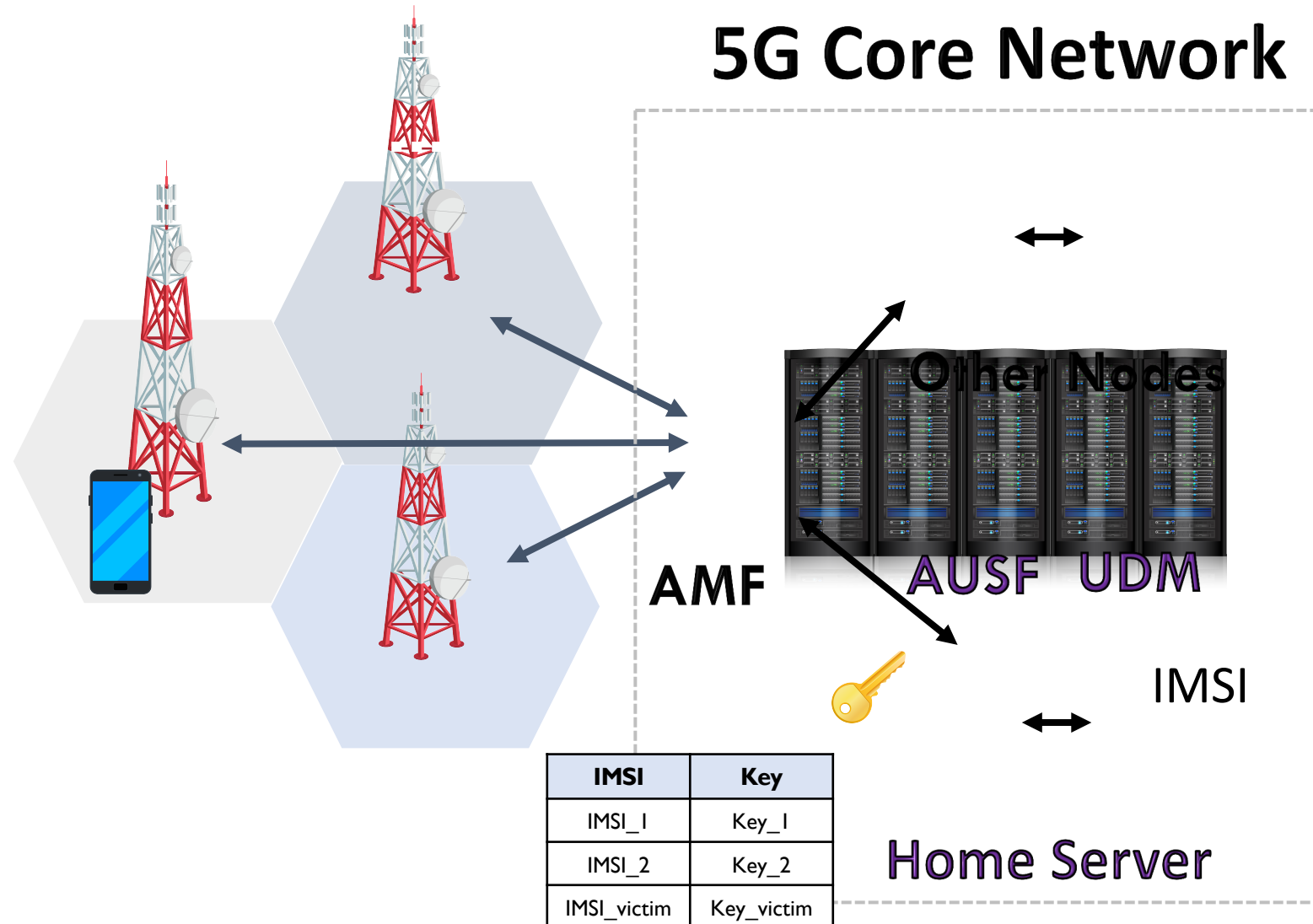
**Registration Area**



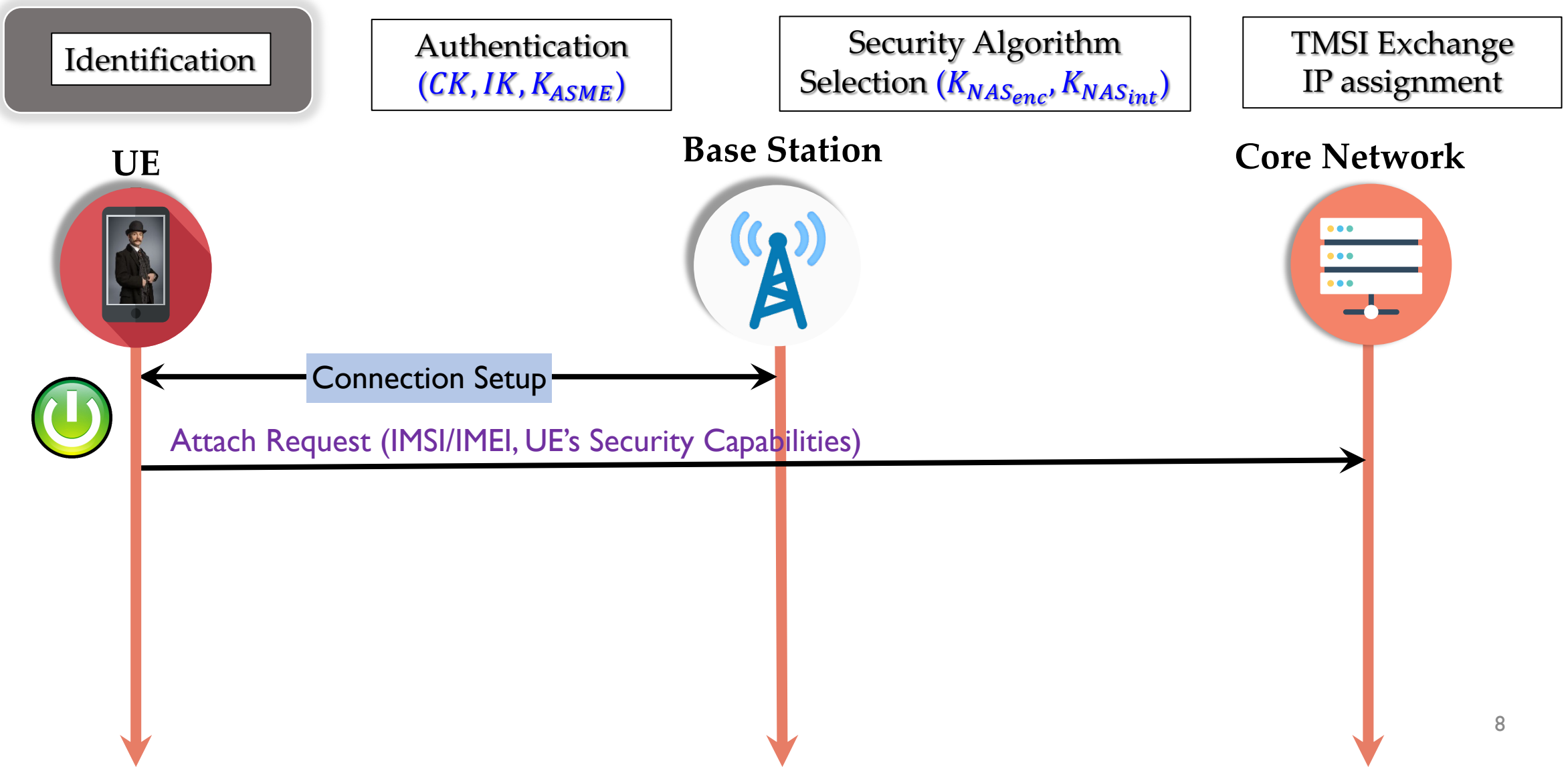
**Base Station  
(gNB)**



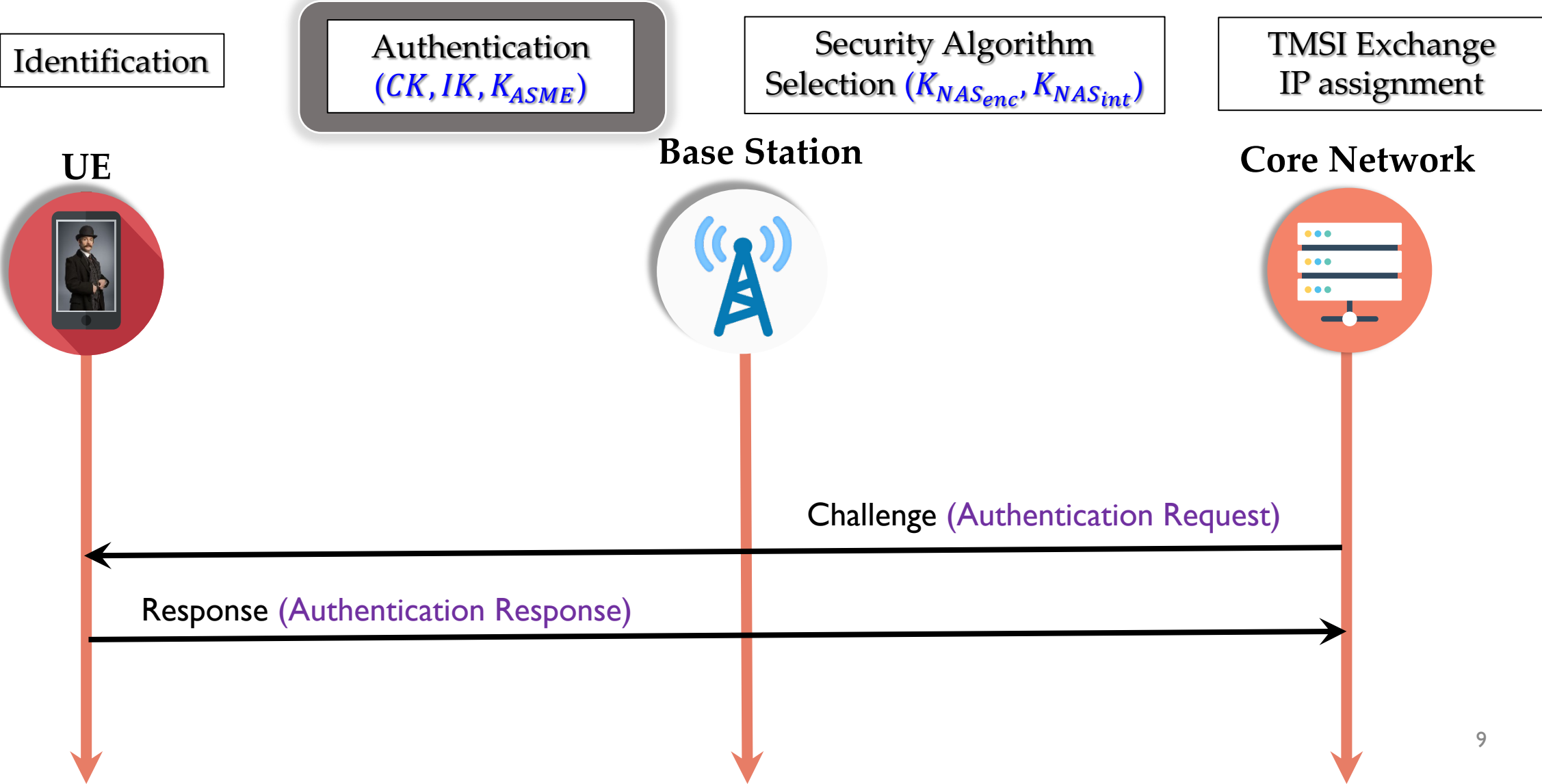
# Background (4G System Architecture)



# Attach/Registration Procedure



# Attach/Registration Procedure



# Attach/Registration Procedure



Identification

Authentication  
( $CK, IK, K_{ASME}$ )

Security Algorithm  
Selection ( $K_{NAS_{enc}}, K_{NAS_{int}}$ )

TMSI Exchange  
IP assignment

UE

Base Station

Core Network



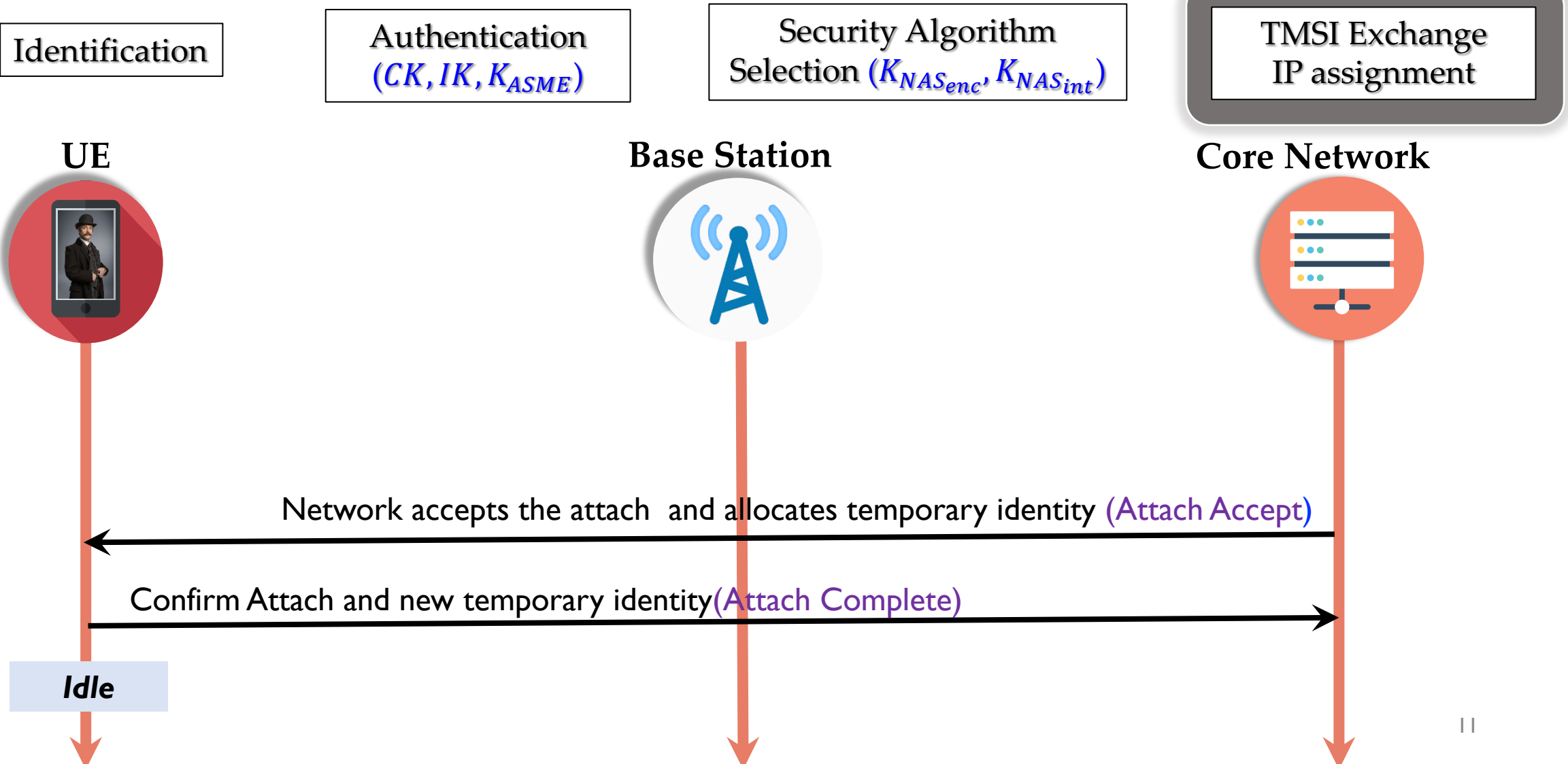
Select Security Algorithm (Security Mode Command)



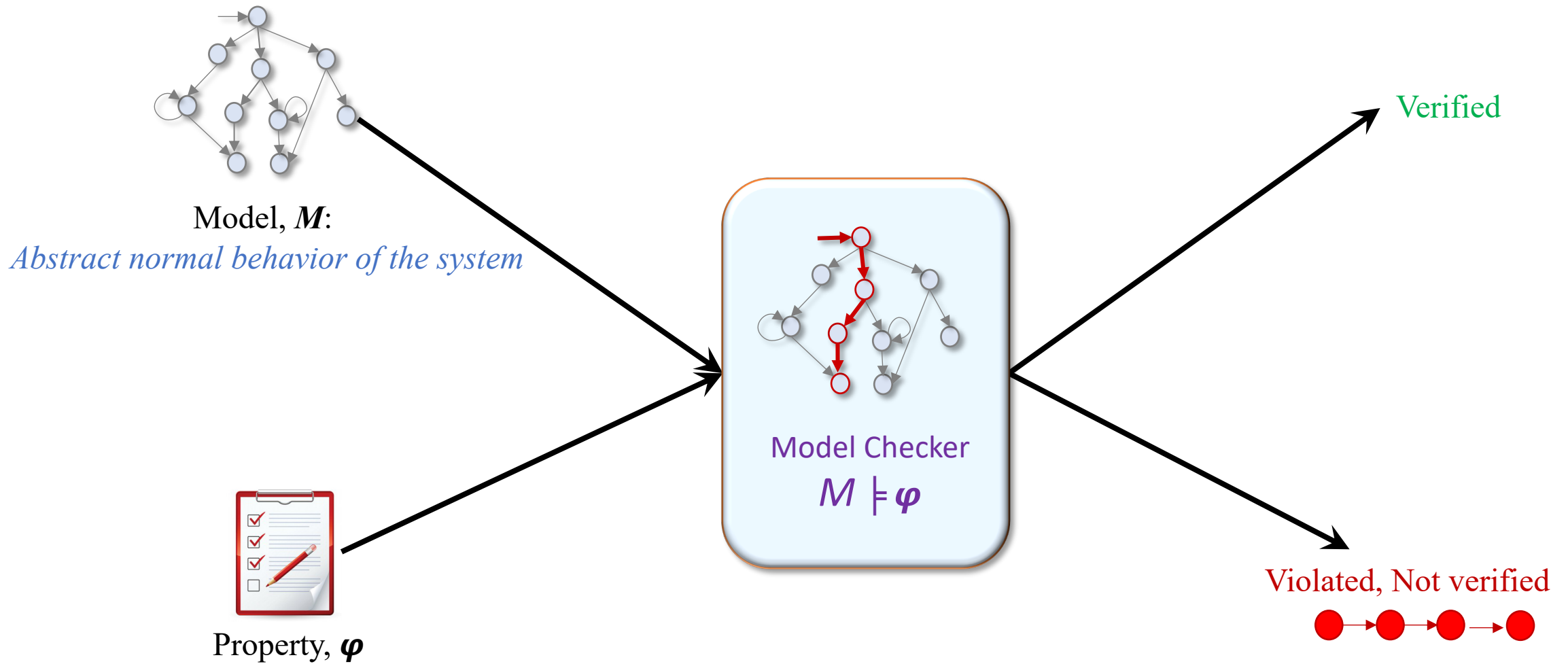
Confirm Security Algorithm (Security Mode Complete)



# Attach Procedure

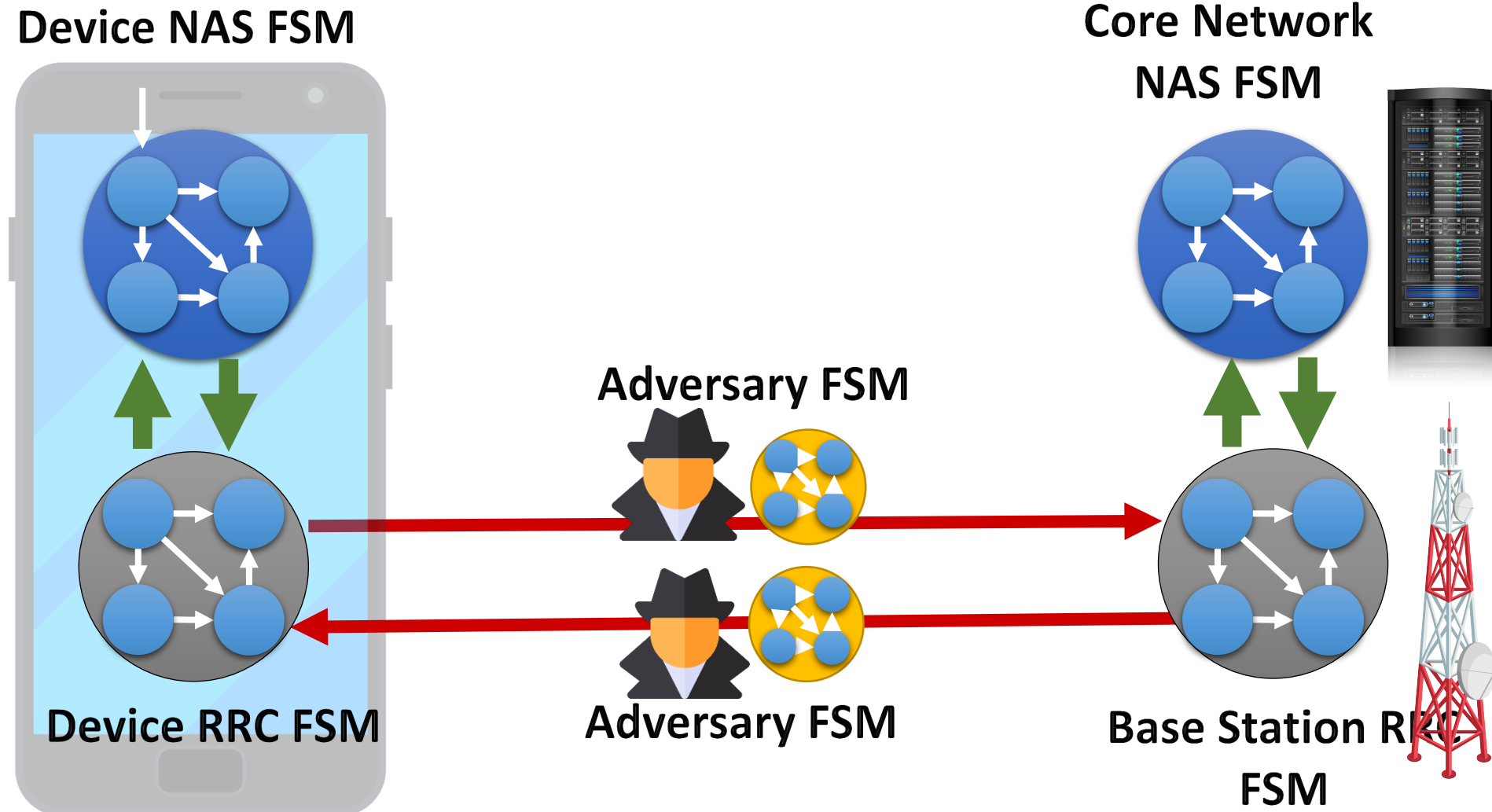


# Model Checking

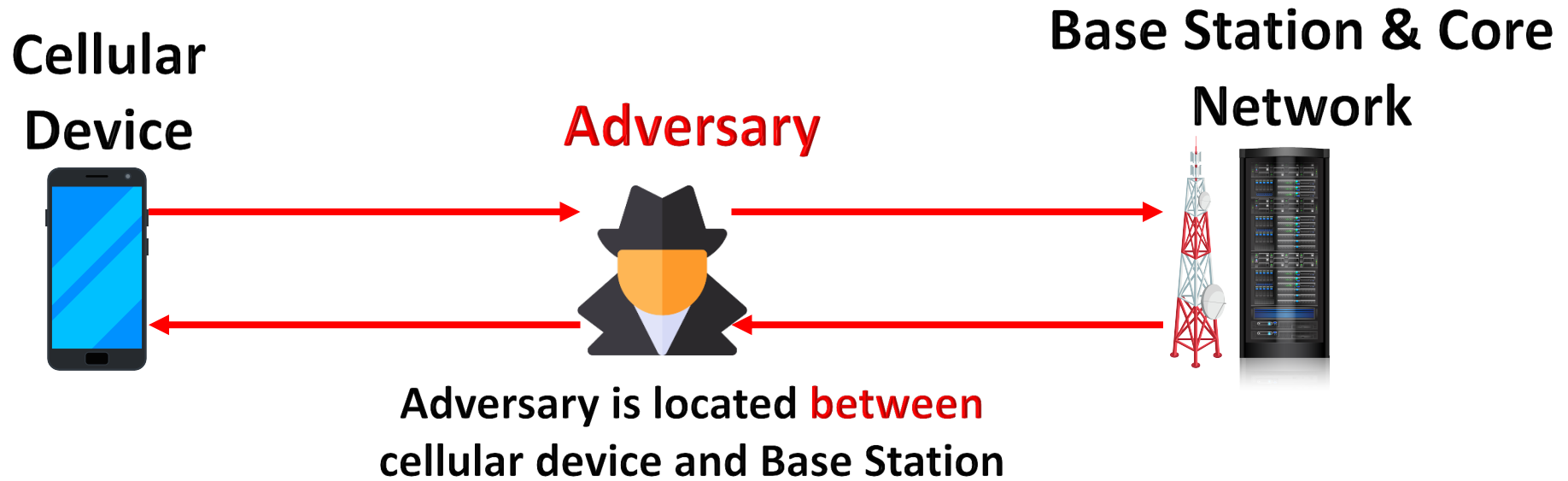




# Dolev-Yao Adversary Model



# Dolev-Yao Adversary Model



# Dolev-Yao Adversary Model

Drop, Modify, or Spoof Messages

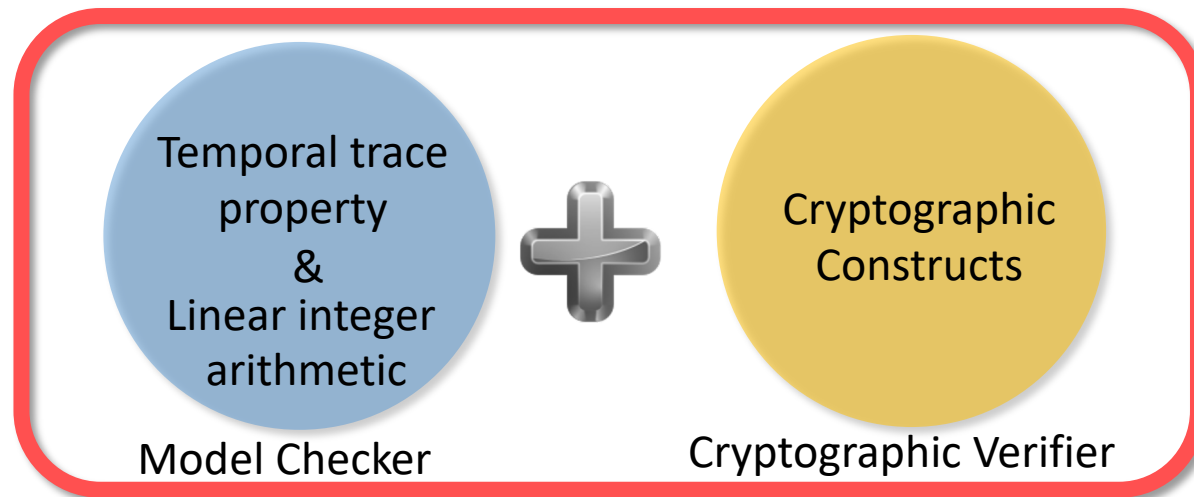
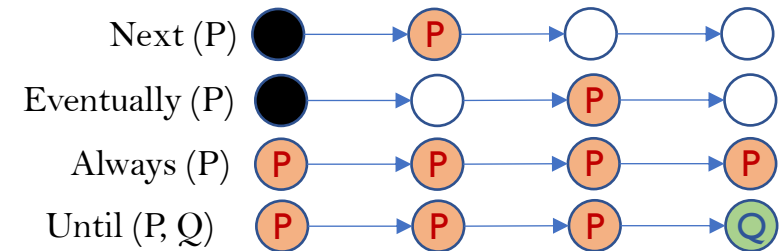


You must adhere to all the cryptographic assumptions!

# Key Insight of Our Adversarial Testing Framework

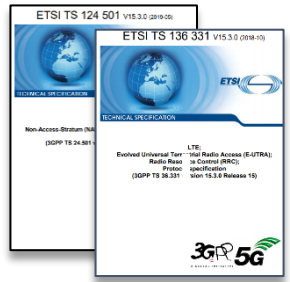
## Property characteristics

- ✓ Temporal ordering of events
- ✓ Cryptographic constructs
- ✓ Linear integer arithmetic and other predicates
  - SQN++ and verify  $SQN \leq XSQN \leq (SQN + \text{range})$



How can we leverage reasoning power of these two?

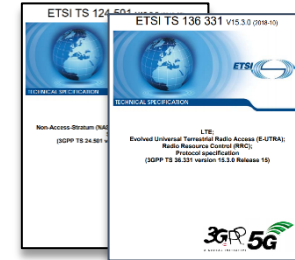
# Adversarial Testing Framework: LTEInspector



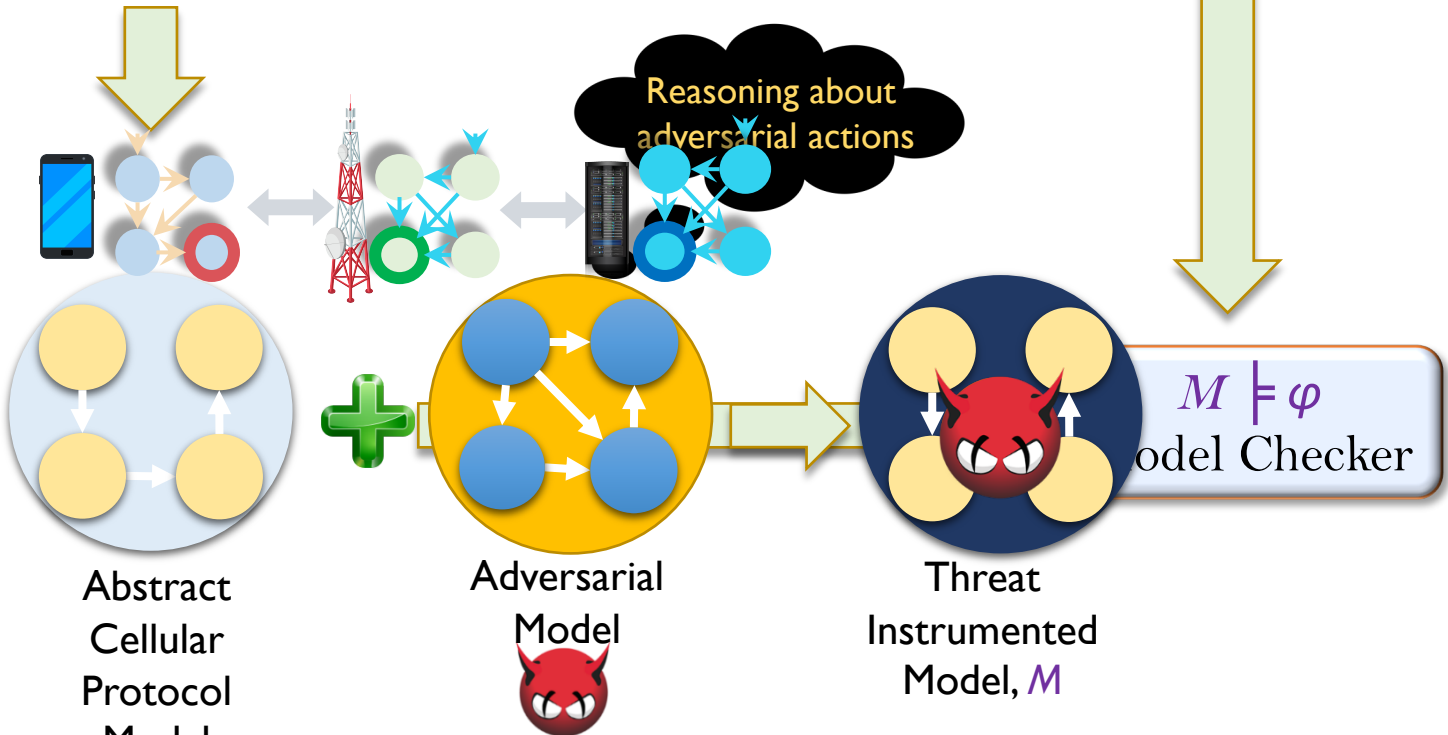
Technical Specifications



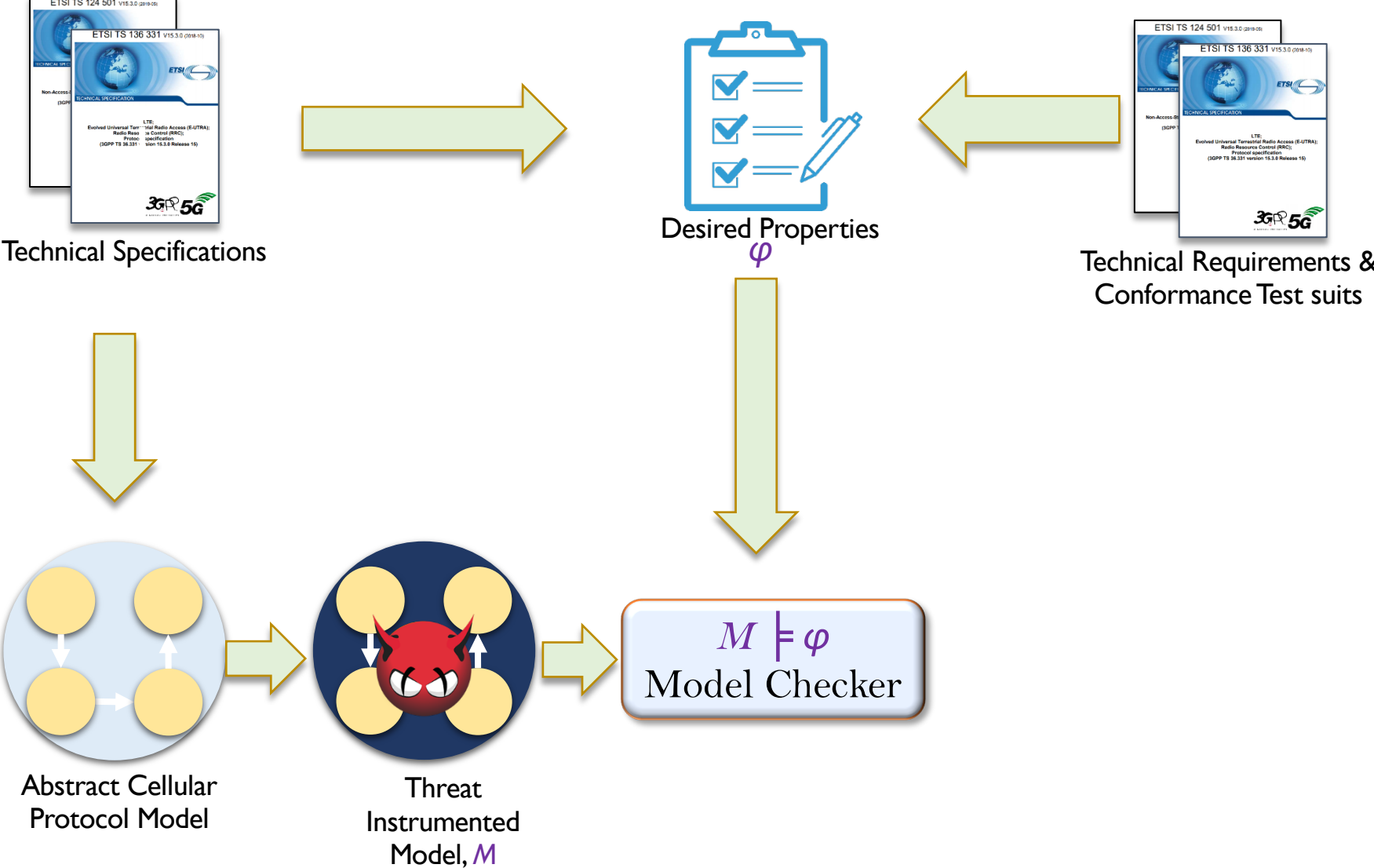
Desired Properties



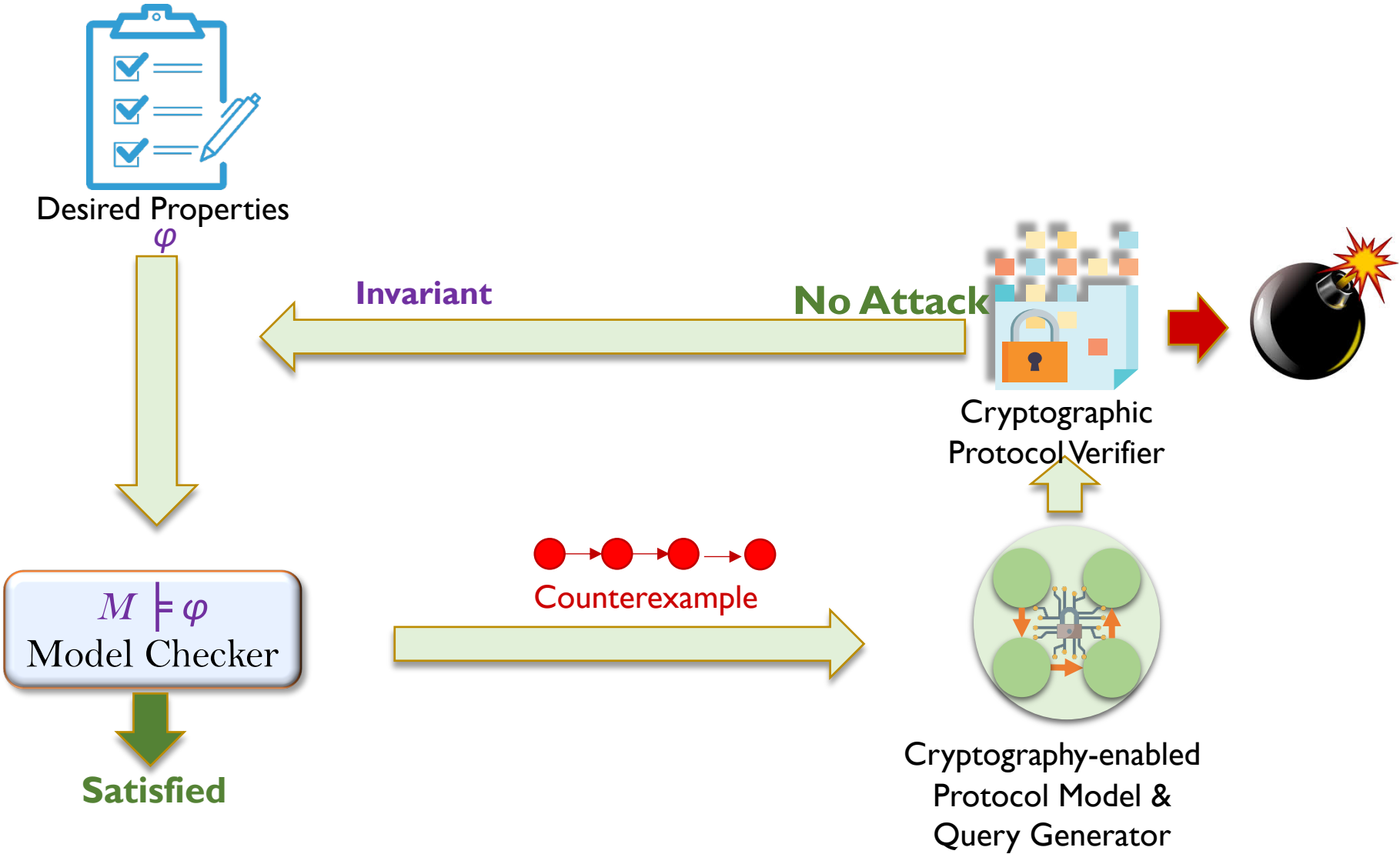
Technical Requirements & Conformance Test suits



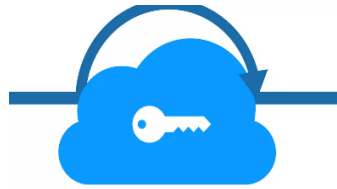
# Adversarial Testing Framework: LTEInspector



# Adversarial Testing Framework: LTEInspector



## 5G 11 new attacks



Authentication Bypass



Location tracking



Service Profiling

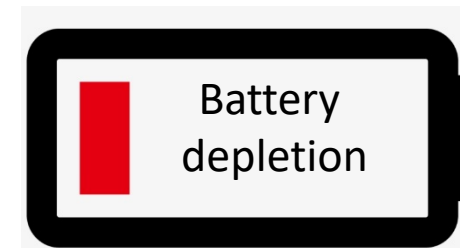
## 4G LTE

## 10 new attacks



TMSI exposure

Overbilling



Battery depletion



Artificial Chaos



- Model checking is the exhaustive exploration of the state space of a system, typically to see if an error state is reachable. It produces concrete counterexamples.
- The state explosion problem refers to the large number of states in the model.
- Temporal logic allows you to specify properties with concepts like “eventually” and “always”.
- **Keywords:**
  - ▶ Model checking is an automated technique
  - ▶ Model checking verifies transition systems
  - ▶ Model checking verifies temporal properties

Model checking falsifies by generating counterexamples A model checker is a program that checks if a (transition) system satisfies a (temporal) property 9

# Verification vs. Falsification

- What is verification?
  - ▶ Prove that a property of a system holds
  
- What is falsification?
  - ▶ Disprove that a property holds

# Verification vs. Falsification



- An automated verification tool
  - ▶ can report that the system is verified (with a proof);
  - ▶ or that the system was not verified.
- When the system was not verified, it would be helpful to explain why
  - ▶ Model checkers can output an error counterexample: a concrete execution scenario that demonstrates the error.
- Can view a model checker as a falsification tool –
  - ▶ The main goal is to find bugs
- So what can we verify or falsify?

# Temporal Properties



- Temporal Property

- ▶ A property with time-related operators such as “invariant” or “eventually”

- Invariant( $p$ )

- ▶ is true in a state if property  $p$  is true in every state on all execution paths starting at that state
- ▶  $G, AG, \square$  (“globally” or “box” or “forall”)

- Eventually( $p$ )

- ▶ is true in a state if property  $p$  is true at some state on every execution path starting from that state  $F, AF, \diamond$  (“future” or “diamond” or “exists”)

# An Example Concurrent Program



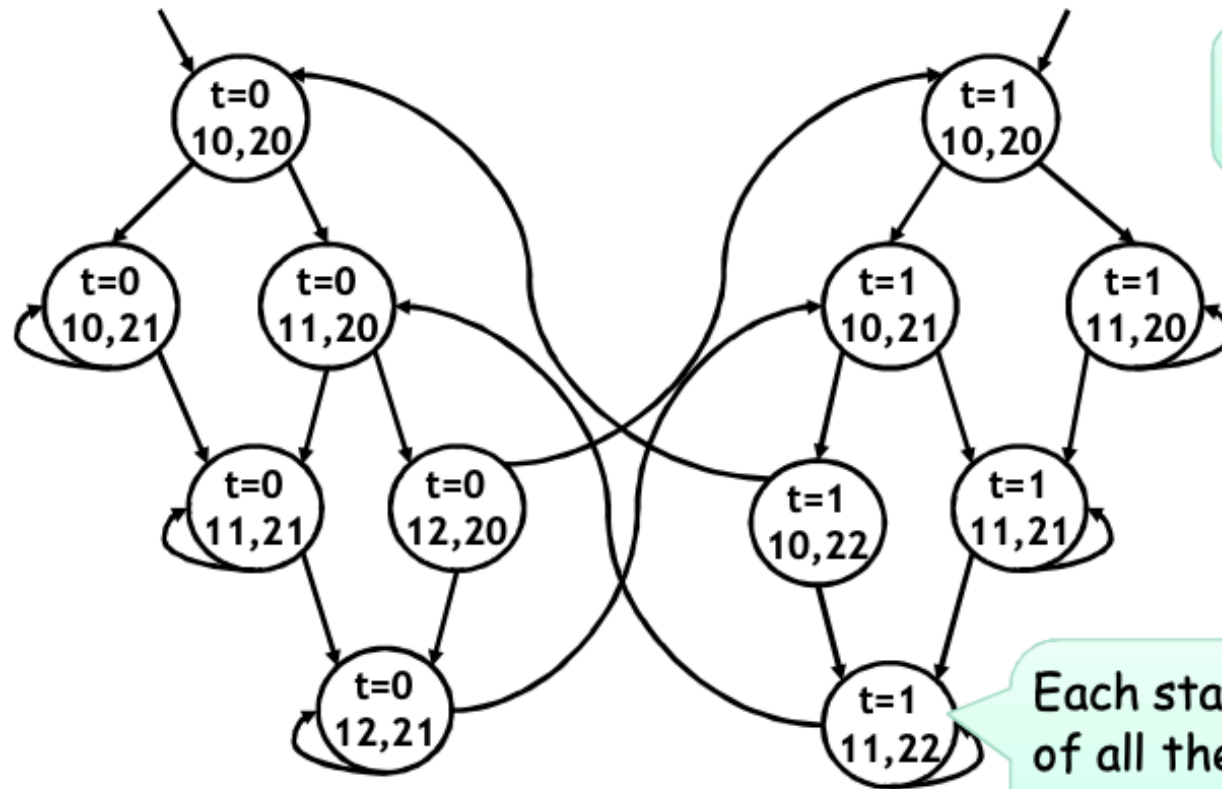
- A simple concurrent mutual exclusion program
- Two processes execute asynchronously
- There is a shared variable `turn`
- Two processes use the shared variable to ensure that they are not in the critical section at the same time
- Can be viewed as a “fundamental” program: any bigger concurrent one would include this one

```
10: while (true){
11:     wait(turn == 0);
        // critical section
12:     work(); turn = 1;
13: }

// concurrently with

20: while (true) {
21:     wait(turn == 1);
        // critical section
22: work(); turn = 0;
23: }
```

# Reachable States of the Example Program



Next: formalize this intuition ...

Each state is a valuation of all the variables: `turn` and the two program counters for two processes

# Analyzed System is a Transition System



- **Labeled transition system**

$T = (S, I, R, L)$  –

$S =$  Set of states // standard FSM

$I \subseteq S =$  Set of initial states // standard FSM

$R \subseteq S \times S =$  Transition relation // standard FSM

$L: S \rightarrow 2^{AP} =$  Labeling function // this is new!

- **AP: Set of atomic propositions (e.g., “ $x=5$ ” $\in AP$ )**

- Atomic propositions capture basic properties
- For software, atomic props depend on variable values
- The labeling function labels each state with the set of propositions true in that state

# Example Properties of the Program

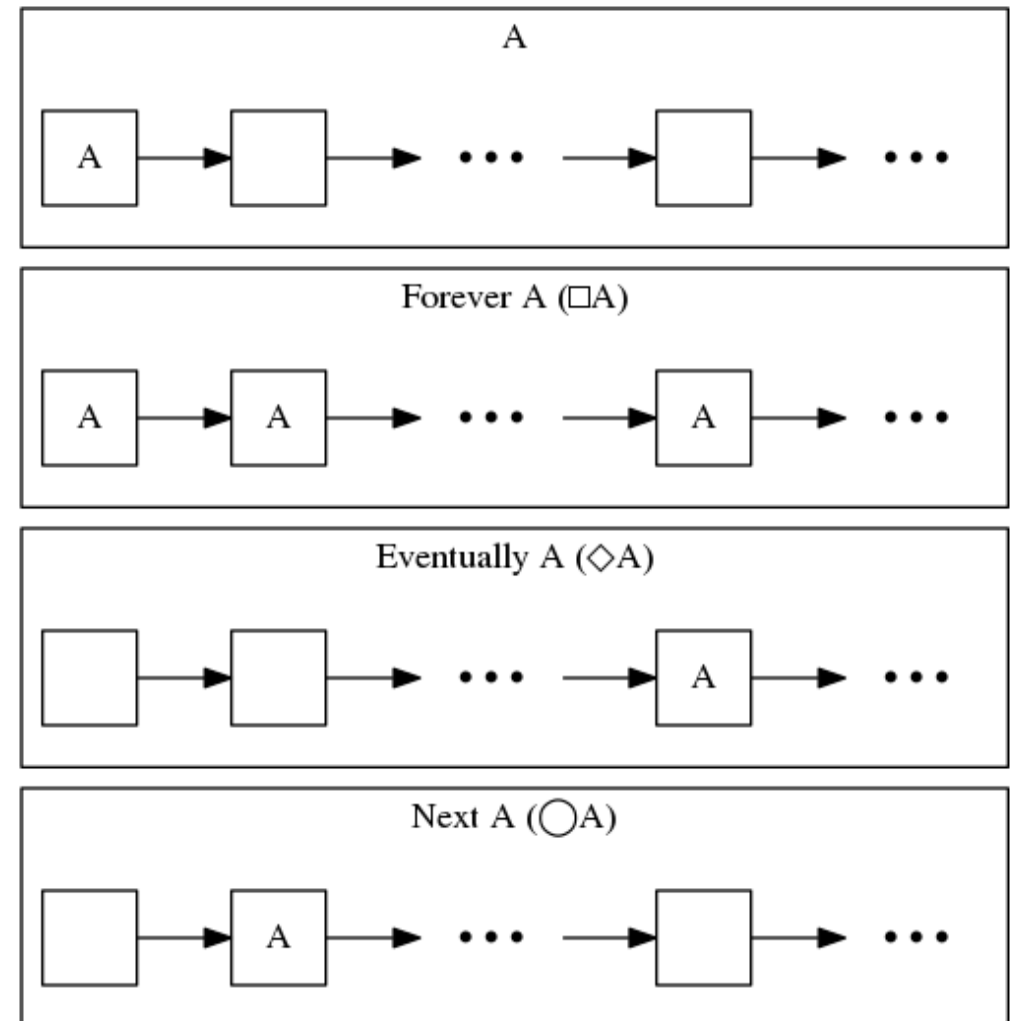


- “In all the reachable states (configurations) of the system, the two processes are never in the critical section at the same time”
  - ▶ “ $pc1=12$ ”, “ $pc2=22$ ” are atomic properties for being in the critical section
  - ▶ Invariant ( $\neg (PC1=12 \wedge PC2 = 22)$ )
- “Eventually the first process enters the critical section”
  - ▶ Eventually ( $PC1 = 12$ )



# Temporal Logics

- There are four basic temporal operators:
- $X p$  Next  $p$ ,  $p$  holds in the next state
- $G p$  Globally  $p$ ,  $p$  holds in every state,  $p$  is an invariant
- $F p$  Future  $p$ ,  $p$  will hold in a future state,  $p$  holds eventually
- $p U q$   $p$  Until  $q$ , assertion  $p$  will hold until  $q$  holds
- Precise meaning of these temporal operators are defined on execution paths



- A path in a transition system is an infinite sequence of states
  - ▶  $(s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots)$ , such that  $\forall i \geq 0. (s_i, s_{i+1}) \in R$
- A path  $(s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots)$  is an execution path if  $s_0 \in I$
- Given a path  $x = (s_0, s_1, s_2, \dots)$ 
  - ▶  $x_i$  denotes the  $i$ th state:  $s_i$
  - ▶  $x^i$  denotes the  $i$ -th suffix:  $(s_i, s_{i+1}, s_{i+2}, \dots)$
  - ▶ In some temporal logics one can quantify paths starting from a state using **path quantifiers**
    - A : for all paths
    - E : there exists a path

# Paths and Predicates



- We write

$$X \models p$$

“the path  $x$  makes the predicate  $p$  true”

- ▶  $x$  is a path in a transition system
- ▶  $p$  is a temporal logic predicate •

- Example:  $\forall x. X \models G (\neg(pc1=12 \wedge pc2=22))$

# Next Class

- Linear Temporal Logic (LTL)
- Computation Tree Logic (CTL)
- SAT/SMT Solver
- Model Checker with NuXMV

# Thanks



Thanks to Bor-Yuh Evan Chang for some slides.