

Introduction to process algebra (1)

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Actions & processes

Action

- elementary unit of behaviour that can **execute itself atomically in time** (no duration), after which it terminates successfully
- is a **latency for interaction**

$$\alpha ::= \tau \mid a \mid \alpha \mid \alpha$$

- $a \mid b \mid \dots \mid z$ represent a collection of actions that occur at the same time instant
- τ is the empty action, which contains no actions and as such cannot be observed
- $\langle N, |, \tau \rangle$ forms a **monoid**

Actions & processes

Process

is a description of how the interaction capacities of a system evolve, *i.e.*, its **behaviour**
for example,

$$E \triangleq a.b + a.E$$

- **analogy**: regular expressions vs finite automata

The framework

Process

... abstract representation of a system's **behaviour**

Algebra

... a **mathematical structure** satisfying a particular set of **axioms**

Process Algebra

... a framework for the specification and manipulation of process terms as induced by a collection of operator symbols, encompassing an operational and an axiomatic theory

The framework

Transition systems operational representation of system's behaviour through labelled graphs

Behavioural equivalences to distinguished states in transition systems

Process terms algebraic representation of transition systems (for the purpose of mathematical reasoning)

Structural operational semantics inductive proof rules to provide each process term with its intended transition system

Equational theory Axiomatic theory of processes, expressed in an equational logic on process terms, that is sound and complete wrt bisimilarity.

Instantiating the framework

CCS: a prototypical process algebra

- *Calculus of Communicating Systems* [Milner, 1980]

- Actions:

$$Act ::= a \mid \bar{a} \mid \tau$$

for $a \in N$, N denoting a set of **names**

- Processes:
 - No sequential composition: but **action prefix** $a.$
 - No distinction between **termination** and **deadlock** (why?)
 - Communication by **binary handshake**
(of complementary actions)

Examples

Buffers

1-position buffer: $A(in, out) \triangleq in.\overline{out}.0$

... non terminating: $B(in, out) \triangleq in.\overline{out}.B$

... with two output ports: $C(in, o_1, o_2) \triangleq in.(\overline{o_1}.C + \overline{o_2}.C)$

... non deterministic: $D(in, o_1, o_2) \triangleq in.\overline{o_1}.D + in.\overline{o_2}.D$

... with parameters: $B(in, out) \triangleq in(x).\overline{out}\langle x \rangle.B$

Examples

n -position buffers

1-position buffer:

$$S \triangleq \text{new } \{m\} (B\langle in, m \rangle \mid B\langle m, out \rangle)$$

n -position buffer:

$$Bn \triangleq \text{new } \{m_i \mid i < n\} (B\langle in, m_1 \rangle \mid B\langle m_1, m_2 \rangle \mid \cdots \mid B\langle m_{n-1}, out \rangle)$$

Examples

mutual exclusion

$$Sem \triangleq get.put.Sem$$

$$P_i \triangleq \overline{get}.c_i.\overline{put}.P_i$$

$$S \triangleq new \{get, put\} (Sem \mid (|_{i \in I} P_i))$$

CCS Syntax

The set \mathbb{P} of **processes** is the set of all terms generated by the following BNF:

$$E ::= A(x_1, \dots, x_n) \mid a.E \mid \sum_{i \in I} E_i \mid E_0 \mid E_1 \mid \text{new } K E$$

for $a \in \text{Act}$ and $K \subseteq L$

Abbreviations

$$E_0 + E_1 \stackrel{\text{abv}}{=} \sum_{i \in \{0,1\}} E_i$$

$$\mathbf{0} \stackrel{\text{abv}}{=} \sum_{i \in \emptyset} E_i$$

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CCS Syntax

Process declaration

$$A(\tilde{x}) \triangleq E_A$$

with $\text{fn}(E_A) \subseteq \tilde{x}$ (where $\text{fn}(P)$ is the set of **free** variables of P).

- used as, e.g., $A(a, b, c) \triangleq a.b.\mathbf{0} + c.A\langle d, e, f \rangle$

Process declaration: fixed point expression

$$\underline{\text{fix}} (X = E_X)$$

- syntactic substitution over \mathbb{P} , cf.,
 - $\{c/b\} a.b.\mathbf{0}$
 - (internal variables renaming)
 - $\{x/y\} \text{new } \{x\} y.x.\mathbf{0} = \text{new } \{x'\} x.x'.\mathbf{0}$

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Sort

A **sort** of a process P is an **interface** for P

- **minimal sort**: $\mathcal{L}(P) = \bigcap \{K \subseteq L \mid K \text{ is a sort of } P\}$
- **syntactic sort**, *i.e.*, the set of **free variables**:

$$\text{fn}(a.P) = \{a\} \cup \text{fn}(P)$$

$$\text{fn}(\tau.P) = \text{fn}(P)$$

$$\text{fn}\left(\sum_{i \in I} P_i\right) = \bigcup_{i \in I} \text{fn}(P_i)$$

$$\text{fn}(P \mid Q) = \text{fn}(P) \cup \text{fn}(Q)$$

$$\text{fn}(\text{new } K \ P) = \text{fn}(P) - (K \cup \bar{K})$$

and, for each $P(\tilde{x}) \triangleq E$, $\text{fn}(E) \subseteq \text{fn}(P(\tilde{x})) = \tilde{x}$.

Sort

The **minimal sort** $\mathcal{L}(P)$ corresponds to the set of actions which effectively label valid transitions of P . All the other sorts are upper bounds of $\mathcal{L}(P)$ and represent interaction **possibilities**.

Warning

- $\text{new } \{a\} (a.b.c.0)$ has no transitions, so its sort is \emptyset
- however: $\text{fn}((\text{new } \{a\} a.b.c.0)) = \{b, c\}$

Semantics

Two-level semantics

- **arquitectural**, expresses a notion of **similar assembly configurations** and is expressed through a **structural congruence** relation;
- **behavioural** given by **transition rules** which express how system's components interact

Semantics

Structural congruence

\equiv over \mathbb{P} is given by the closure of the following conditions:

- for all $A(\tilde{x}) \triangleq E_A$, $A(\tilde{y}) \equiv \{\tilde{y}/\tilde{x}\} E_A$,
(i.e., **folding/unfolding** preserve \equiv)
- α -conversion (i.e., replacement of bounded variables).
- both $|$ and $+$ originate, with $\mathbf{0}$, **abelian monoids**
- forall $a \notin \text{fn}(P)$ $\text{new } \{a\} (P | Q) \equiv P | \text{new } \{a\} Q$
- $\text{new } \{a\} \mathbf{0} \equiv \mathbf{0}$

Semantics

$$\frac{}{a.p \xrightarrow{a} p} \text{ (prefix)}$$

$$\frac{\{\tilde{k}/\tilde{x}\} p_A \xrightarrow{a} p'}{A(\tilde{k}) \xrightarrow{a} p'} \text{ (ident) (if } A(\tilde{x}) \triangleq p_A)$$

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{a} p'}{p + q \xrightarrow{a} p'} \text{ (sum - l)}$$

$$\frac{q \xrightarrow{a} q'}{p + q \xrightarrow{a} q'} \text{ (sum - r)}$$

Semantics

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{a} p'}{p \mid q \xrightarrow{a} p' \mid q} \text{ (par - l)} \qquad \frac{q \xrightarrow{a} q'}{p \mid q \xrightarrow{a} p \mid q'} \text{ (par - r)}$$

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{a} p' \quad q \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} q'}{p \mid q \xrightarrow{\tau} p' \mid q'} \text{ (react)}$$

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{a} p'}{\text{new } \{k\} p \xrightarrow{a} \text{new } \{k\} p} \text{ (res) (if } a \notin \{k, \bar{k}\})$$

Compatibility

Lemma

Structural congruence preserves transitions:

if $p \xrightarrow{a} p'$ and $p \equiv q$ there exists a process q' such that $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ and $p' \equiv q'$.

Semantics

These rules define a **LTS**

$$\{\xrightarrow{a} \subseteq \mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{P} \mid a \in Act\}$$

Relation \xrightarrow{a} is defined **inductively** over process structure entailing a semantic description which is

Structural *i.e.*, each process **shape** (defined by the most external combinator) has a type of transitions

Modular *i.e.*, a process transition is defined from transitions in its sup-processes

Complete *i.e.*, all possible transitions are inferred from these rules

static vs dynamic combinators

Graphical representations

Synchronization diagram

- represent interfaces of processes
- static combinators are an **algebra** of synchronization diagrams

Transition graph

- derivative, n -derivative, transition tree
- folds into a **transition graph**

Graphical representations

Synchronization diagram

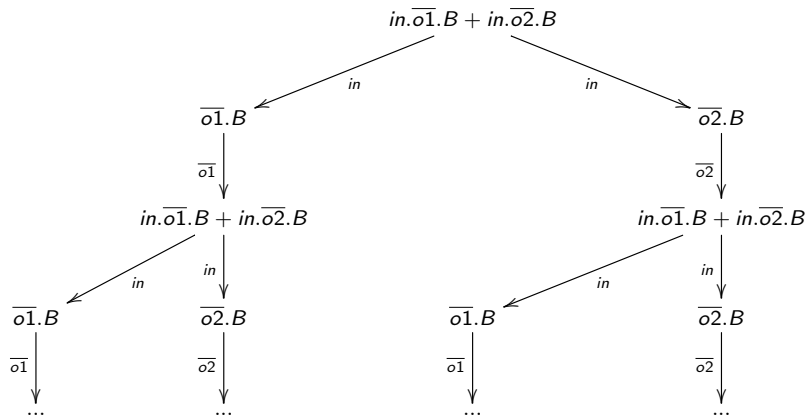
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Transition graph

- **derivative**, *n*-**derivative**, **transition tree**
- folds into a **transition graph**

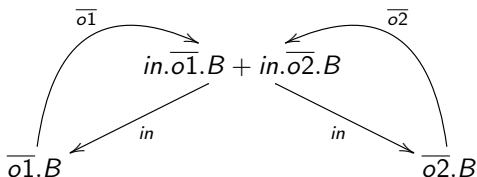
Transition tree

$$B \triangleq in.\overline{o1}.B + in.\overline{o2}.B$$

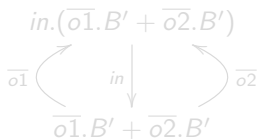


Transition graph

$$B \triangleq in.\overline{o1}.B + in.\overline{o2}.B$$

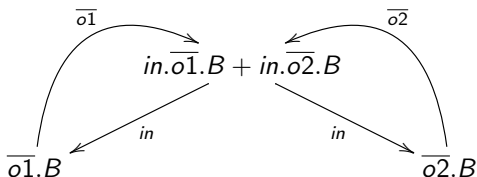


compare with $B' \triangleq in.(\overline{o1}.B' + \overline{o2}.B')$

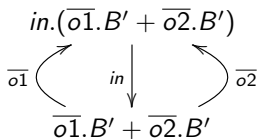


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Data parameters

Language \mathbb{P} is extended to \mathbb{P}_V over a data universe V , a set V_e of expressions over V and a evaluation $Val : V_e \rightarrow V$

Example

$$B \triangleq in(x).B'_x$$

$$B'_v \triangleq \overline{out}\langle v \rangle.B$$

- Two prefix forms: $a(x).E$ and $\bar{a}\langle e \rangle.E$ (actions as ports)
- Data parameters: $A_S(x_1, \dots, x_n) \triangleq E_A$, with $S \in V$ and each $x_i \in L$
- Conditional combinator: if b then P , if b then P_1 else P_2

Clearly

$$\text{if } b \text{ then } P_1 \text{ else } P_2 \stackrel{\text{abv}}{=} (\text{if } b \text{ then } P_1) + (\text{if } \neg b \text{ then } P_2)$$

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Data parameters

Additional semantic rules

$$\frac{}{a(x).E \xrightarrow{a(v)} \{v/x\}E} \text{ (prefix}_i\text{)} \quad \text{for } v \in V$$

$$\frac{}{\bar{a}\langle e \rangle.E \xrightarrow{\bar{a}\langle v \rangle} E} \text{ (prefix}_o\text{)} \quad \text{for } Val(e) = v$$

$$\frac{E_1 \xrightarrow{a} E'}{\text{if } b \text{ then } E_1 \text{ else } E_2 \xrightarrow{a} E'} \text{ (if}_1\text{)} \quad \text{for } Val(b) = \text{true}$$

$$\frac{E_2 \xrightarrow{a} E'}{\text{if } b \text{ then } E_1 \text{ else } E_2 \xrightarrow{a} E'} \text{ (if}_2\text{)} \quad \text{for } Val(b) = \text{false}$$

Back to \mathbb{P}

Encoding in the basic language: $\mathcal{T}(\) : \mathbb{P}_V \longrightarrow \mathbb{P}$

$$\mathcal{T}(a(x).E) = \sum_{v \in V} a_v \cdot \mathcal{T}(\{v/x\}E)$$

$$\mathcal{T}(\bar{a}\langle e \rangle.E) = \bar{a}_e \cdot \mathcal{T}(E)$$

$$\mathcal{T}\left(\sum_{i \in I} E_i\right) = \sum_{i \in I} \mathcal{T}(E_i)$$

$$\mathcal{T}(E \mid F) = \mathcal{T}(E) \mid \mathcal{T}(F)$$

$$\mathcal{T}(\text{new } K \ E) = \text{new } \{a_v \mid a \in K, v \in V\} \ \mathcal{T}(E)$$

and

$$\mathcal{T}(\text{if } b \text{ then } E) = \begin{cases} \mathcal{T}(E) & \text{if } \text{Val}(b) = \text{true} \\ \mathbf{0} & \text{if } \text{Val}(b) = \text{false} \end{cases}$$

EX1: Canonical concurrent form

$$P \triangleq \text{new } K (E_1 \mid E_2 \mid \dots \mid E_n)$$

The chance machine

$$IO \triangleq m.\overline{\text{bank}}.(\overline{\text{lost}}.\overline{\text{loss}}.IO + \text{rel}(x).\overline{\text{win}}\langle x \rangle.IO)$$

$$B_n \triangleq \text{bank}.\overline{\text{max}}\langle n + 1 \rangle.\text{left}(x).B_x$$

$$Dc \triangleq \text{max}(z).(\overline{\text{lost}}.\overline{\text{left}}\langle z \rangle.Dc + \sum_{1 \leq x \leq z} \overline{\text{rel}}\langle x \rangle.\overline{\text{left}}\langle z - x \rangle.Dc)$$

$$M_n \triangleq \text{new } \{ \text{bank}, \text{max}, \text{left}, \text{lost}, \text{rel} \} (IO \mid B_n \mid Dc)$$

EX2: Sequential patterns

1. List all states (configurations of variable assignments)
2. Define an order to capture systems's evolution
3. Specify an expression in \mathbb{P} to define it

A 3-bit converter

$$A \triangleq rq.B$$

$$B \triangleq out0.C + out1.\overline{odd}.A$$

$$C \triangleq out0.D + out1.\overline{even}.A$$

$$D \triangleq out0.\overline{zero}.A + out1.\overline{even}.A$$

Processes are 'prototypical' transition systems

... hence all definitions apply:

$$E \sim F$$

- Processes E, F are **bisimilar** if there exist a bisimulation S st $\{\langle E, F \rangle\} \in S$.
- A binary relation S in \mathbb{P} is a **(strict) bisimulation** iff, whenever $(E, F) \in S$ and $a \in Act$,

$$\text{i) } E \xrightarrow{a} E' \Rightarrow F \xrightarrow{a} F' \wedge (E', F') \in S$$

$$\text{ii) } F \xrightarrow{a} F' \Rightarrow E \xrightarrow{a} E' \wedge (E', F') \in S$$

I.e.,

$$\sim = \bigcup \{S \subseteq \mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{P} \mid S \text{ is a (strict) bisimulation}\}$$

Processes are 'prototypical' transition systems

Example: $S \sim M$

$$T \triangleq i.\bar{k}.T$$

$$R \triangleq k.j.R$$

$$S \triangleq \text{new } \{k\} (T \mid R)$$

$$M \triangleq i.\tau.N$$

$$N \triangleq j.i.\tau.N + i.j.\tau.N$$

through **bisimulation**

$$R = \{ \langle S, M \rangle, \langle \text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid R), \tau.N \rangle, \langle \text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R), N \rangle, \\ \langle \text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid j.R), j.\tau.N \rangle \}$$

Example: Semaphores

A semaphore

$$Sem \triangleq get.put.Sem$$

n -semaphores

$$Sem_n \triangleq Sem_{n,0}$$

$$Sem_{n,0} \triangleq get.Sem_{n,1}$$

$$Sem_{n,i} \triangleq get.Sem_{n,i+1} + put.Sem_{n,i-1}$$

(for $0 < i < n$)

$$Sem_{n,n} \triangleq put.Sem_{n,n-1}$$

Sem_n can also be implemented by the parallel composition of n Sem processes:

$$Sem^n \triangleq Sem \mid Sem \mid \dots \mid Sem$$

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Example: Semaphores

Is $Sem_n \sim Sem^n$?

For $n = 2$:

$$\{\langle Sem_{2,0}, Sem \mid Sem \rangle, \langle Sem_{2,1}, Sem \mid put.Sem \rangle, \\ \langle Sem_{2,1}, put.Sem \mid Sem \rangle \langle Sem_{2,2}, put.Sem \mid put.Sem \rangle\}$$

is a **bisimulation**.

- but can we get rid of **structurally congruent pairs**?

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Bisimulation up to \equiv

Definition

A binary relation S in \mathbb{P} is a (strict) **bisimulation up to \equiv** iff, whenever $(E, F) \in S$ and $a \in Act$,

$$\text{i) } E \xrightarrow{a} E' \Rightarrow F \xrightarrow{a} F' \wedge (E', F') \in \equiv \cdot S \cdot \equiv$$

$$\text{ii) } F \xrightarrow{a} F' \Rightarrow E \xrightarrow{a} E' \wedge (E', F') \in \equiv \cdot S \cdot \equiv$$

Lemma

If S is a (strict) bisimulation up to \equiv , then $S \subseteq \sim$

- To prove $Sem_n \sim Sem^n$ a bisimulation will contain 2^n pairs, while a bisimulation **up to \equiv** only requires $n + 1$ pairs.

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A \sim -calculus

Lemma

$$E \equiv F \Rightarrow E \sim F$$

- **proof idea:** show that $\{(E + E, E) \mid E \in \mathbb{P}\} \cup Id_{\mathbb{P}}$ is a **bisimulation**

Lemma

$$\text{new } K' (\text{new } K E) \sim \text{new } (K \cup K') E$$

$$\text{new } K E \sim E$$

$$\text{if } \mathbb{L}(E) \cap (K \cup \bar{K}) = \emptyset$$

$$\text{new } K (E \mid F) \sim \text{new } K E \mid \text{new } K F$$

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- **proof idea:** discuss whether S is a **bisimulation**:

$$S = \{(\text{new } K E, E) \mid E \in \mathbb{P} \wedge \mathbb{L}(E) \cap (K \cup \bar{K}) = \emptyset\}$$

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\sim is a congruence

congruence is the name of **modularity** in Mathematics

- **process combinators** preserve \sim

Lemma

Assume $E \sim F$. Then,

$$a.E \sim a.F$$

$$E + P \sim F + P$$

$$E \mid P \sim F \mid P$$

$$\text{new } K \ E \sim \text{new } K \ F$$

- **recursive definition** preserves \sim

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- First \sim is extended to **processes with variables**:

$$E \sim F \equiv \forall \tilde{P}. \{\tilde{P}/\tilde{X}\} E \sim \{\tilde{P}/\tilde{X}\} F$$

- Then prove:

Lemma

- $\tilde{P} \triangleq \tilde{E} \Rightarrow \tilde{P} \sim \tilde{E}$
where \tilde{E} is a family of process expressions and \tilde{P} a family of process **identifiers**.
- Let $\tilde{E} \sim \tilde{F}$, where \tilde{E} and \tilde{F} are families of recursive process expressions over a family of process **variables** \tilde{X} , and define:

$$\tilde{A} \triangleq \{\tilde{A}/\tilde{X}\} \tilde{E} \text{ and } \tilde{B} \triangleq \{\tilde{B}/\tilde{X}\} \tilde{F}$$

Then

$$\tilde{A} \sim \tilde{B}$$

The expansion theorem

Every process is equivalent to the sum of its derivatives

$$E \sim \sum \{a.E' \mid E \xrightarrow{a} E'\}$$

understood?

$$E \sim \sum \{a.E' \mid E \xrightarrow{a} E'\}$$

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The expansion theorem

The usual definition (based on the **concurrent canonical form**):

$$\begin{aligned}
 E \sim & \sum \{ f_i(a).\text{new } K (\{f_1\} E_1 \mid \dots \mid \{f_i\} E'_i \mid \dots \mid \{f_n\} E_n) \mid \\
 & E_i \xrightarrow{a} E'_i \wedge f_i(a) \notin K \cup \overline{K} \} \\
 + & \\
 & \sum \{ \tau.\text{new } K (\{f_1\} E_1 \mid \dots \mid \{f_i\} E'_i \mid \dots \mid \{f_j\} E'_j \mid \dots \mid \{f_n\} E_n) \mid \\
 & E_i \xrightarrow{a} E'_i \wedge E_j \xrightarrow{b} E'_j \wedge f_i(a) = \overline{f_j(b)} \}
 \end{aligned}$$

for $E \triangleq \text{new } K (\{f_1\} E_1 \mid \dots \mid \{f_n\} E_n)$, with $n \geq 1$

The expansion theorem

Corollary (for $n = 1$ and $f_1 = \text{id}$)

$$\text{new } K (E + F) \sim \text{new } K E + \text{new } K F$$

$$\text{new } K (a.E) \sim \begin{cases} \mathbf{0} & \text{if } a \in (K \cup \overline{K}) \\ a.(\text{new } K E) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Example

$S \sim M$

$$\begin{aligned}
 S &\sim \text{new } \{k\} (T \mid R) \\
 &\sim i.\text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid R) \\
 &\sim i.\tau.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R) \\
 &\sim i.\tau.(i.\text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid j.R) + j.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid R)) \\
 &\sim i.\tau.(i.j.\text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid R) + j.i.\text{new } \{k\} (\bar{k}.T \mid R)) \\
 &\sim i.\tau.(i.j.\tau.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R) + j.i.\tau.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R))
 \end{aligned}$$

Let $N' = \text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R)$.

This expands into $N' \sim i.j.\tau.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R) + j.i.\tau.\text{new } \{k\} (T \mid j.R)$,

Therefore $N' \sim N$ and $S \sim i.\tau.N \sim M$

- requires result on **unique** solutions for recursive process equations