

TaDA Live: Compositional Reasoning for Termination of Fine-grained Concurrent Programs



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Goal

Compositional verification of **total** correctness:

- for fine-grained concurrent programs
- with blocking behaviour
- under fair scheduling

Approach

TaDA Live: a novel concurrent separation logic



D’Oswaldo, Sutherland, Farzan, Gardner

TaDA Live: Compositional Reasoning for Termination of
Fine-grained Concurrent Programs

TOPLAS 2021 — <https://doi.org/10.1145/3477082>

A beefy 84-page paper!

- In-depth motivation of design
- Formalisation of the model
- Full proof system with illustrative examples
- Several realistic case studies
- Soundness argument
- More related work

```
//...  
[x] := 1  
//...  
||  
//...  
do {  
    d := [x]  
} while(d ≠ 1)  
//...
```

Scope:

- First-order imperative code — think `java.util.concurrent` (no step-indexing)
- Sequential consistency semantics
- Pen & Paper logic (more on this later)

```
//...  
[x] := 1  
//...  
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do {  
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Program features of interest:

- **Fine-grained concurrency**

Synchronization through custom busy-waiting patterns

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Program features of interest:

- **Fine-grained concurrency**
Synchronization through custom busy-waiting patterns
- **Blocking behaviour**
Termination of a thread requires cooperation of the others

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//...  
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Program features of interest:

- **Fine-grained concurrency**
Synchronization through custom busy-waiting patterns
- **Blocking behaviour**
Termination of a thread requires cooperation of the others
- **Fairness assumption**
Necessary for termination with blocking

<pre>//... [x] := 1 //...</pre>	<pre>//... do { d := [x] } while(d ≠ 1) //...</pre>
---	---

Properties of interest:

- Functional correctness
- Termination guarantees

<code>//...</code>	<code>//...</code>
<code>[x] := 1</code>	<code>do {</code>
<code>//...</code>	<code> d := [x]</code>
	<code>} while(d ≠ 1)</code>
	<code>//...</code>

Compositionality is the main challenge:

- Thread-local (scalability)
- Module-local (reuse)

What should specifications look like?

```

                                {x ↦ 0}
                                ||
//...                          //...
[x] := 1                        do {
//...                          d := [x]
                                } while(d ≠ 1)
                                //...
                                ||
                                {True}

```

Total Hoare triples:

$\vdash \{P\} \mathbb{C} \{Q\} \text{ total}$

\mathbb{C} run from a state satisfying P **always terminates** in a state satisfying Q .

```

      {x ↦ 0}
      ||
//...  | //...
[x] := 1 |
//...  |
      ||
      {True}

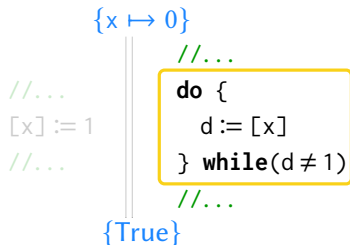
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$\vdash \{ \text{share}(x) \} \text{ do } \{ d := [x] \} \text{ while } (d \neq 1) \{ \text{True} \} \text{ total}$

```

      {x ↦ 0}
      ||
//...  [x] := 1  //...
//...  //...
      ||
      {True}

```

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do {
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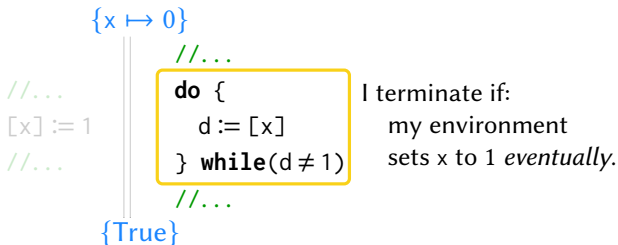
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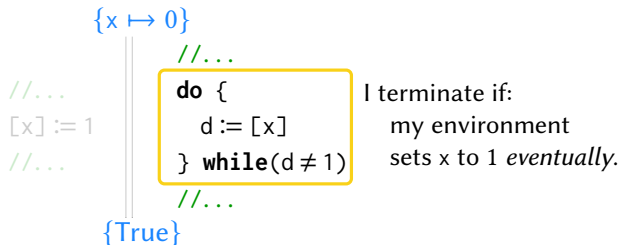
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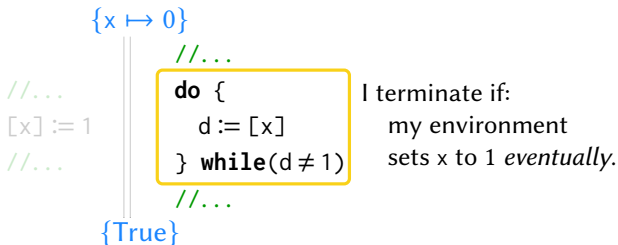
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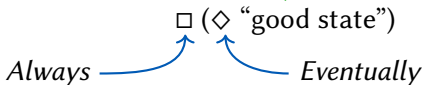
TaDA Live's starting observation:

Blocking = termination conditional on *liveness invariants*



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TaDA Live's innovations:

- 1 Subjective Obligations**
Thread-local reasoning with liveness invariants
- 2 Obligation layers**
Compositional deadlock-freedom
- 3 Logical atomicity for blocking code**
Enabling modular reasoning

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Enabling modular reasoning

	$\{x \mapsto 0\}$	
{	*	}
[x] := 1		do {
		d := [x]
		} while (d ≠ 1)
{	*	}
	$\{\text{True}\}$	

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \{x \mapsto 0\} \\
 \{ \text{sh}(x, 0) * [w] * \exists v. \text{sh}(x, v) \} \\
 [x] := 1 \quad \parallel \quad \text{do } \{ \\
 \quad \quad \quad d := [x] \\
 \quad \quad \quad \} \text{ while } (d \neq 1) \\
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 \end{array}$$

Protocol:

$$\mathcal{I}(\text{sh}(x, v)) \triangleq (x \mapsto v)$$

Allowed updates of **sh**:

$$w : (x, 0) \rightsquigarrow (x, 1)$$

(w is write permission)

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The standard (total) while rule:

$$\frac{\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{ \exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta \}}{\vdash \{P(_)\} \text{ while}(B) \{ \mathbb{C} \} \{P(_) \wedge \neg B\}}$$

Loop invariant

$$\begin{array}{c}
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The standard (total) while rule:

Variant
Upper bound on
amount of work to do

Well founded
Amount of work
decreases

$$\frac{\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\}}{\vdash \{P(_)\} \text{ while}(B) \{ \mathbb{C} \} \{P(_) \wedge \neg B\}}$$

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Allowed updates of **sh**:

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(*w* is write permission)

Target state *T*:

sh(*x*, 1)

TaDA Live's while rule:

$$\frac{
 \begin{array}{l}
 \forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * \overset{\text{green}}{T} \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\} \\
 \forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) \quad \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' \leq \beta\}
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(w is write permission)

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$\text{sh}(x, 1)$

TaDA Live's while rule:

Env. during the loop: $\diamond (\Box T)$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * T \wedge \mathbb{B}\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\} \\
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Env. during the loop

$\Diamond (\Box T)$

$\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * T\}$

$\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta)\}$

$\vdash \{P(_)\}$

Env. Liveness Condition

Here as LTL *only for illustration*

Proving $\Diamond (\Box \text{sh}(x, 1))$

- Protocol says what is **allowed**
(safety)
- Need to know what **will** happen
(liveness)

Protocol:

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Allowed updates of **sh**:

$$\text{w} : (x, 0) \rightsquigarrow (x, 1)$$

(**w** is write permission)

TaDA Live's Obligations:

- An obligation is an exclusive token u
- u is *fulfilled* = ‘Nobody holds u ’
- Implicitly, obligations encode a liveness invariant:

$$\Box (\Diamond u \text{ fulfilled})$$

- Subjective assertions:

$$\llbracket u \rrbracket^L = \text{‘I own } u\text{’} \qquad \llbracket u \rrbracket^E = \text{‘I know env. owns } u\text{’}$$

- $\vdash \{P\} \mathbb{C} \{Q\} \approx \text{If } \Box(\llbracket u \rrbracket^E \Rightarrow \Diamond(u \text{ fulfilled})) \text{ then } \mathbb{C} \text{ terminates}$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \{ \text{sh}(x, 0) * \lceil w \rceil \} \\
 [x] := 1 \\
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 \end{array}
 \parallel
 \begin{array}{c}
 \{ x \mapsto 0 \} \\
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$$\begin{array}{c}
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TaDA Live Protocol:

u obligation

Allowed updates of sh :

$w : (x, 0), u \rightsquigarrow (x, 1)$

The update fulfils u

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \Box L \Rightarrow \Diamond (\Box T) \\
 \forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * T \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\} \\
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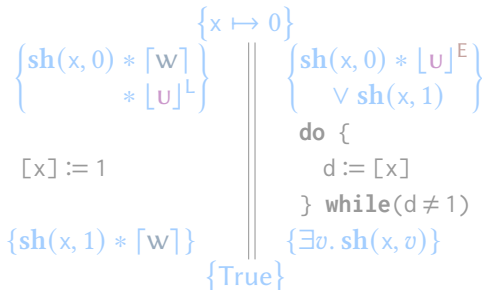
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During the loop L :
 $(\text{sh}(x, 0) * [u]^E) \vee \text{sh}(x, 1)$

Target state T :
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$\Box L \Rightarrow \Diamond (\Box T)$

$\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * T \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\}$

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$$\Box L \Rightarrow \Diamond (\Box \mathbf{sh}(x, 1))$$

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Stability

Protocol asserts:

$(x, 1) \not\rightsquigarrow (x, 0)$

 $\Box L \Rightarrow \Box (\Diamond \text{sh}(x, 1))$

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Environ. liveness

If L then either:

- $\text{sh}(x, 1)$, or
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$$L \triangleq (\text{sh}(x, 0) * \lfloor u \rfloor^E) \vee \text{sh}(x, 1)$$

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Environ. liveness

If L then either:

- T holds, or
- $\lfloor u \rfloor^E$ and fulfilling u takes us to T

Stability

$$T \Rightarrow \Box T$$

$$\forall \beta. \vdash \{P(\beta) * T \wedge B\} \mathbb{C} \{\exists \beta'. P(\beta') \wedge \beta' < \beta\}$$

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 - Invariants can only own obligations that belong to them:

$$\mathcal{I}(\text{sh}_r(x, v)) \triangleq x \mapsto v * (v = 1 \Rightarrow [u]_r^L)$$

How can a thread “fulfil” an obligation?

- To fulfil u = To go from owning, to not owning $[u]^L$
- $[u]^L$ cannot be affine: $[u]^L \not\Rightarrow \text{emp}$
- Issue with non-affine resources and invariants:

$$[u]^L \Rightarrow \boxed{[u]^L} \Rightarrow \text{emp}$$

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- Meaning of “fulfilment” strictly controlled by the protocol:

$w : (x, 0), u \rightsquigarrow (x, 1)$ is the only way to fulfil u .

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 \{x \mapsto 0\} & \\
 \{sh(x, 0) * [w] * [u]^L\} & \{ (sh(x, 0) * [u]^E) \vee sh(x, 1) \} \\
 [x] := 1 & \text{do } \{ \\
 & \quad d := [x] \\
 & \quad \} \text{ while } (\neg d) \\
 \{sh(x, 1) * [w]\} & \{ \exists v. sh(x, v) \} \\
 \{True\} &
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c|c}
 \{x \mapsto 0\} \\
 \{\text{sh}(x, 0) * [w] * [u]^L\} \\
 \text{---}[x] := 1 \text{ skip} \\
 \{\text{sh}(x, 0) * [w] * [u]^L\} \\
 \{\text{True}\}
 \end{array}
 \parallel
 \begin{array}{l}
 \{(\text{sh}(x, 0) * [u]^E) \vee \text{sh}(x, 1)\} \\
 \text{do } \{ \\
 \quad d := [x] \\
 \} \text{ while } (\neg d) \\
 \{\exists v. \text{sh}(x, v)\}
 \end{array}$$

Rule for parallel composition checks obligations are fulfilled.

TaDA Live's innovations:

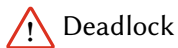
- 1 Subjective Obligations**
Thread-local reasoning with liveness invariants
- 2 Obligation layers**
Compositional deadlock-freedom
- 3 Logical atomicity for blocking code**
Enabling modular reasoning



Deadlock

```
do {  
  d1 := [y]  
} while(d1 ≠ 1)  
[x] := 1
```

```
do {  
  d2 := [x]  
} while(d2 ≠ 1)  
[y] := 1
```



<pre>do { d₁ := [y] } while(d₁ ≠ 1) [x] := 1</pre>		<pre>do { d₂ := [x] } while(d₂ ≠ 1) [y] := 1</pre>
--	--	--

Attempt at a proof:

- u_x obligation to set x to 1
- u_y obligation to set y to 1

Deadlock

Assumes $\Box\Diamond u_y$
while holding u_x
continuously

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do {  
  d1 := [y]  
} while(d1 ≠ 1)  
[x] := 1
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do {  
  d2 := [x]  
} while(d2 ≠ 1)  
[y] := 1
```

Assumes $\Box\Diamond u_x$
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Attempt at a proof:

- u_x obligation to set x to 1
- u_y obligation to set y to 1



Deadlock \Rightarrow unsound circular reasoning

Assumes $\Box\Diamond u_y$
while holding u_x
continuously

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do {  
  d1 := [y]  
} while(d1 ≠ 1)  
[x] := 1
```

```
do {  
  d2 := [x]  
} while(d2 ≠ 1)  
[y] := 1
```

Assumes $\Box\Diamond u_x$
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Deadlock

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```
do {  
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} while (d2 ≠ 1)  
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```

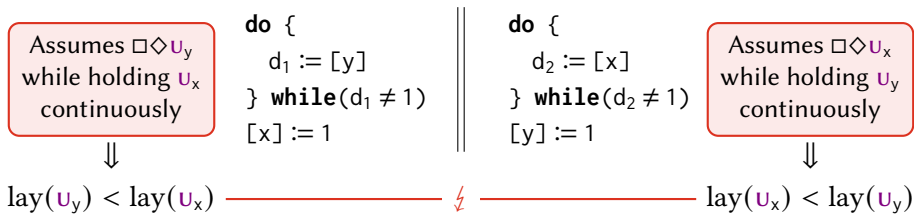
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TaDA Live's solution:

- $\text{lay}(u) \in \mathcal{L}$ well-founded order
- $\text{lay}(u_1) < \text{lay}(u_2)$ means
fulfilling u_2 may depend on liveness
invariant of u_1

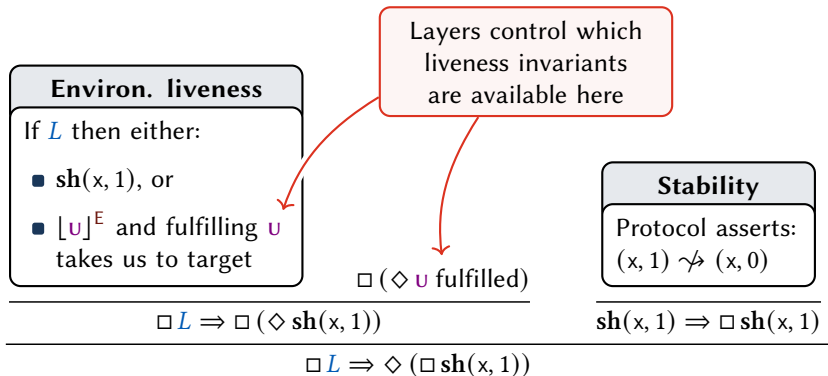


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```
[x] := 1  
do {  
  d1 := [y]  
} while(d1 ≠ 1)
```

```
|||  
do {  
  d2 := [x]  
} while(d2 ≠ 1)  
[y] := 1
```

Assumes $\Box\Diamond u_x$
while holding u_y
continuously



$\text{lay}(u_x) < \text{lay}(u_y)$

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Logical atomicity:

- specs for code that behaves as if atomic (\sim linearizable)
- enables modularity without losing precision
- TaDA Live first logic with
total logical atomic specs for blocking code

Example: specification of a lock

$$\vdash \forall v \in \{0, 1\}. \langle L(x, v) \rangle \text{ lock}(x) \langle L(x, 1) \wedge v = 0 \rangle$$

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Example: specification of a lock

$$\vdash \forall v \in \{0, 1\}. \langle L(x, v) \rangle \text{ lock}(x) \langle L(x, 1) \wedge v = 0 \rangle \quad \text{total?!?}$$

Example: specification of a lock

$$\vdash \forall v \in \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0\}. \langle L(x, v) \rangle \text{ lock}(x) \langle L(x, 1) \wedge v = 0 \rangle$$

Liveness invariant $\Box \Diamond v=0$
(responsibility of client)

Example: specification of a lock

$$\vdash \forall v \in \{0, 1\} \rightarrow \{0\}. \langle L(x, v) \rangle \text{ lock}(x) \langle L(x, 1) \wedge v = 0 \rangle$$

TaDA Live can:

- verify fine-grained implementations against the spec
 - the implementation proof can *make use* of the liveness invariant to establish termination
- use the spec to verify strong specs of clients
 - the client can use client-side obligations to *discharge* the liveness invariant

- Total TaDA (non-blocking only)
[da Rocha Pinto, Dinsdale-Young, Gardner, Sutherland'16]
- Built-in blocking primitives (no busy-waiting):
[Kobayashi'06] [Boström, Müller'15] [Leino, Müller, Smans'10]
[Hamin, Jacobs'18 & '19] [Jacobs, Bosnacki, Kuiper'18]
- LiLi [Liang, Feng'16 & '18]
 - Logic to prove linearizability by *progress-preserving* contextual refinement
 - No client reasoning within the logic, no rule for parallel
 - Atomic operations might be specified using non-atomic code
- [Reinhard, Jacobs'21] concurrent independent work
(restricted form of busy-waiting, no logical atomicity)

Iris can already prove termination for:

- Some first-order *non-blocking* programs

Mechanization challenges:

- Step indexing vs liveness
 - Transfinite Iris
 - Higher-order patterns unexplored
- Non-affine obligations
 - Iron-style trackable resources?

There is so much more in the 84-page paper!

- In-depth motivation of design
- Formalisation of the model
- Full proof system with illustrative examples
- Several realistic case studies
- Soundness argument
- More related work



D’Osualdo, Sutherland, Farzan, Gardner

TaDA Live: Compositional Reasoning for Termination of
Fine-grained Concurrent Programs

TOPLAS 2021 — <https://doi.org/10.1145/3477082>

Thank you!