# Core sail

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### 1 Overview

The sail language belongs to the family of Synchronous Reactive Programming (or SRP for short) languages. It is a domain speci c language aiming at increasing the reliability of reactive programming, especially in the eld of IOT.

In sail, reactivity is expressed through parallel composition and signal broadcast. Parallel composition of commands  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  is noted  $c_1$  k  $c_2$ . It relies on a cooperative scheduling. The execution of a program consists in successive runs named *instants*. A signal named s is declared through the command s s. Its lifetime is the innermost surrounding block of code. It is *emitted* through the command *emit* s. It can also be produced by the environment between instants. Once emitted, a signal is *present* for the duration of the current instant. The execution of a command may be subject to the presence of a signal. This is expressed by the statement when s s. For example, the following command prints a message if s is present. Otherwise it is suspended until the signal is emitted or a preemption occurs (see the watching construct below)

pause = when *s print\_string*("s was here")

The end of an instant occurs when no further progress can be made. Either because the execution is terminated or because all components are waiting for an absent signal. Every component of a program has the opportunity to react to a present signal before the instant terminates, components have a consistent view of their environment. Finally, a command may be preempted at the end of the current instant if it is blocked and if a given signal is present. This is expressed by the statement watching  $s\ c$  which behaves as c but preempts its residual at the end of the instant if s is present. If c terminates during the instant then watching  $s\ c$  also terminates. As an example, consider the following statement which we will note pause in the rest of the document.

s s; watching s femit s;  $s s^0$ ; when  $s^0 g$ 

The pause statement suspends its execution until the end of the instant and resumes at the next instant. This signal  $s^{\ell}$  is not emitted and thus the program is suspended because of the when statement. As the signal  $s^{\ell}$  is local, it can't be emitted whatever is the context of the

program. At the end of the instant the signal s is present and thus the watch statement is preempted.

The following example shows a possible use of this construct.

```
s s;
s s<sup>0</sup>;
f
print_string("A");
emi t s;
pause;
emi t s<sup>0</sup>
k
when s<sup>0</sup> print_string("B")
k
watchi ng s
when s<sup>0</sup> print_string("C")
```

The program prints "A" at the rst instant and "B" at the second instant. The message "C" is never printed because the watching block is preempted.

# 2 Syntax

The sail language supports usual ground data types (boolean, integers, oating points numbers, characters and strings) as well as compound data types (arrays, structures and enumerations) and generic data types. Types in sail are de ned by:

```
::= bool /int / float / char / string / arrayh / i / refh / i / boxh / i / idh /:::; / / A
```

where *arrayh i* denotes an array of values of type , *boxh i* denotes a pointer to a heap allocated value of type , *ref h i* denotes a shared reference and *idh ;:::; i* denotes a user type which is either a structure or an enumeration. A type variable A denotes a generic type. Closed types are types in which no type variable occurs. Structure and enumeration are respectively de ned by :

```
struct iddhA; ...; Aie ff: ; ...; f: g
enum iddhA; ...: Aei ffd: ( ; ...; )e; ...; fd: ( ; ...; )eg
```

where *d:e* denotes an optional element. In both cases, the type variables may occur in the types used in the de nition. As an example, the type of generic list may be de ned in sail

by

```
enum option < A > f
    None;
    Some(A)

g
struct list < A > f
    head : optionhref hnodehAiii

g
struct nodehAif
    elem : A;
    next : optionhref hnodehAiii
g
```

Expressions of the sail language are de ned by the following grammar :

```
e ::= \int x \int c \int \ominus e \int e \ominus e

\int [e; :::; e] \int e[e] \int ff : e; :::; f : eg \int e:f \int C(e; :::; e)

\int \&e \int e
```

Variables are names ranging over a nite set and are noted x, y, z and so on. A constant c is a literal denoting a boolean, an integer, a oating-point value, a character or a string. Given a literal c, we note b the corresponding value. Unary and binary operators (respectively  $\ominus$  and  $\oplus$ ) are usual operators over integer and boolean value and are assumed to come with semantics functions (noted  $\bigoplus$  and  $\bigoplus$ ). An expression  $[e_0; \ldots; e_{n-1}]$  denotes an array value lled with the values denoted by  $e_0; \ldots; e_{n-1}$  and and  $e_1[e_2]$  denotes the value at the position denoted by  $e_2$  of such a value denoted by  $e_1$ . An expression  $f_0: e_0; \ldots; f_{n-1}: e_{n-1}g$  denotes a structured value lled with values  $e_0; \ldots; e_{n-1}$  and e:f denotes the value at position f of such a value denoted by e. An expression e denotes the memory location at which the value denoted by e is stored. An expression e denotes the value stored at the memory location denoted by e.

Commands of Core-sail contain usual commands such as variable declaration, sequential composition, conditional, loops and method calls. In Core sail, method calls return no values. Core-sail also contains reactive constructs for parallel composition and signal handling. The grammar of commands is given below, followed by an intuitive description for the more signicative commands. In next section, we will see that the execution stack will reject the parallel nature of terms. We choose to distribute the stack over commands (symbols !). This will be explained latter. For now the symbols ! can be read as the command !

```
c ::= j \text{ var } x : j \text{ s s } j \text{ ski p } j \text{ e}_1 = \text{e}_2 j \text{ e}_1 = \text{ref}(\text{e}_2)
j \text{ } f \text{ } cg_i \text{ } j \text{ } c; \text{ } cj \text{ i f } e \text{ } c \text{ } cj \text{ whi l e } e \text{ } cj \text{ } case \text{ } e \text{ } fp : c; \dots; p : cgj \text{ } m(e; \dots; e) \text{ } j \text{ } return
j \text{ emi t } sj \text{ when } s \text{ } f \text{ } cg_i \text{ } j \text{ } watchi \text{ ng } s \text{ } f \text{ } cg_i \text{ } j \text{ } k \text{ } f \text{ } cg_i
```

- var x: and s s declare respectively a variable x of type and a signal s
- $e_1 = e_2$  stores the value of  $e_1$  at the memory location denoted by  $e_1$

- the sequence, conditional, loop commands and method calls behave as usual.
- case efp: c; :::; p: cg performs pattern matching on the value denoted by e. It takes the rst pattern p of the list that match the value and behaves as the corresponding command c in an environment augmented by a mapping of the variable of p to the appropriate values.
- when *e fcg<sub>1</sub>* behaves as *c* when the signal *s* is present. When *s* is absent the command is suspended.
- watching *s fcg<sub>1</sub>* behaves as *c* but, if *s* is present at the end of the instant the whole block terminates
- $fc_1g_{l_1}$  k  $fc_2g_{l_2}$  runs  $c_1$  and  $c_2$  in parallel. Parallel composition terminates when both branches terminate.

## Methods and programs The syntax of method declaration is

```
method i dhA;:::;Ai(x : ;:::;x : ) c
```

A program in Core-sail is given by a sequence of declarations of user-de ned types and methods. It also provide an entry point which is a single command (which corresponds to the Main process in sail). Consider the following example which computes the factorial of 5.

```
method factorial(x: int; y: &int)f
    if(x == 0 or x == 1)f y = 1; returng
    el sef
        var z: int;
        factorial(x 1; &z);
        y = x z;
        return
    g
g
var x: int;
factorial(5; &x);
```

Memory locations We assume a built-in method

```
boxhAi(x : A; y : \&boxhAi)
```

which allocates a new memory location, of type boxhAi which receives the value of x. The new memory location is written in y. Core-sail distinguish two kind of memory locations. Those of type boxhi, for some type x, are memory locations explicitly allocated by the user as in x = box(1; & y). Memory locations of type x are shared references obtained by the x operator.

## 3 Dynamic semantics

Core sail commands execute in the context of an environment and a heap. The environment maps program variables and signal names to memory addresses (noted possibly with subscripts). The heap maps memory addresses to values and signal states.

**Values** We assume a set Loc of memory locations noted `, possibly with subscripts. The set Val of sail values, noted v, is defined by the grammar below:

$$v ::= c \int Sff: v; \dots; f: vg \int C(v; \dots; v) \int \hat{f}_{o}$$
  
 $o ::= \int f; o$ 

where  $Sff_0: v_0, \ldots, f_{n-1}: v_{n-1}g$  is a structured and  $C(v_0, \ldots, v_{n-1})$  is an enum value. A memory location  $\hat{\ }_o$  denotes a borrowing of the memory location  $\hat{\ }$  at o set o. An o set o is a sequence of eld names and indices. We omit when the sequence is non empty. We note  $v[w]_o$  the update of v with w at o, which is recursively defined on o by

$$V[W] = W$$

$$Sf::: f_i: V_i::: g[W]_{f_i:o} = Sf::: f_i: V[W]_{o}::: g$$

**Stack and heap** An environment is a non empty list of mappings from variable and signals to values. The use of a list of mappings instead of a single mapping is motivated by the need for a precise view of the lifetime of variables. The elements of the list represents the nesting of code blocks.

where  $\mathcal{T}$  denotes a list  $l_0:::::l_{n-1}$  and  $v^2 = V$  alue [f?g] and [f?g] and [f?g] and [f?g] and [f?g] and [f] represents the value of an allocated but uninitialized location. The special values [f] and [f] represent the state of a signal, absent [f] or present [f].

**Notations** Given a partial function f: A \* B, and a value  $a \not a dom(f)$ , we note  $f_{a:b}$ , the partial function de ned by  $f_{a:b}(a) = b$  and  $f_{a:b}(x) = f(x)$  for all  $x \not b = a$ . Given a partial function f: A \* B, and a value  $a \not a dom(f)$ , we note  $f_{a \not b}$ , the partial function de ned by  $f_{a \not b}(a) = b$  and  $f_{a \not b}(x) = f(x)$  for all  $x \not b = a$ . We note  $f_{a:c \not b}(a)$  for the parallel update of a and b if  $a \not b$ . We extends the functional notations to list of functions.

$$(x) = \underbrace{undef}$$

$$(t ! (x)) = \underbrace{! (x) \text{ if } x \text{ 2 dom}(!)}_{t(x) \text{ otherwise}}$$

$$x \cdot = t !_{x} \cdot \text{ if } = t !$$

$$enter() = ?$$

$$exit( !) = Loc(!)$$

where ? denotes the empty mapping and Loc(!) is the set of memory location occurring in !.

## 3.1 Semantics of expressions

We note O the set of o sets, noted o, de ned by

$$o := \int f' \cdot o$$

The semantics of expressions is devised in two functions

```
eval_L: Path E H * Loc
                                                                   eval : Expr E H * Val
 = V((x)) 
 eval_{R}(\Theta e; ;) = \Theta(eval_{R}(e; ;)) 
 eval_{R}(e_{1} \oplus e_{2}; ;) = b(eval_{R}(e_{1}; ;); eval_{R}(e_{2}; ;)) 
 eval_{R}(e:f; ;) = v_{i} \text{ if } eval_{R}(e; ;) = f:...; f_{i}: v_{i}:...:g; f = f_{i} 
 eval_{R}(ff:e_{i}:...; f:e_{n}g; ;) = S(f_{0}:v_{0}:...; f_{n-1}:v_{n-1}) \text{ if } feval_{R}(e_{i}; ;) = v_{i}g_{i=0}^{n-1} 
 eval_{R}(C(e_{0}:...;e_{n}); ;) = E_{C}(v_{0}:...;v_{n-1}) \text{ if } feval_{R}(e_{i}; ;) = v_{i}g_{i=0}^{n-1} 
 eval_{R}(\&e; ;) = eval_{L}(e; ;) 
 eval_{R}(\&e; ;) = (`) \text{ if } eval_{R}(e_{i}; ;) 
        \frac{(x) = ^?}{eval_L(x; ; ) = (^?; o)} \qquad \frac{eval_L(e; ; ) = (^?; o)}{eval_L(e; f; ; ) = (^?; o; f)} \qquad \frac{eval_R(e; ; ) = (^?; o)}{eval_L(e; ; ) = (^?; o)}
           \frac{(x) = ` (`) = v}{eval_R(x; ; ) = v} \frac{eval_R(e; ; ) = ` (`) = v}{eval_R(e; ; ) = v}
                                             \frac{eval_R(e; ;) = ff_i : v_i g_{i=1}^n \qquad f = f_k : k \ 2 \ f1 : : : : ng}{eval_R(e; f; ;) = v_k}
                                                                     \frac{eval_R(e_k; ;) = v_k; \ k \ 2 \ f1; \dots; ng}{eval_R(ff_i: e_i g_{i=1}^n; ;) = ff_i: v_i g_{i=1}^n}
                                                            \frac{eval_R(e_k; ;) = v_k; \ k \ 2 \ f1; \dots; ng}{eval_R(C(e_0; \dots; e_n); ;) = C(v_0; \dots; v_{n-1})}
                                                                                         \frac{eval_L(x:o; ; ) = \underbrace{}^{\bullet}
eval_R(\&x:o; ; ) = \underbrace{}^{\bullet}
```

#### 3.2 Semantics of commands

The semantics of commands is divided in several levels. First we have microsteps which are given by rules of the form c; : ! K; ! ; !. In a microstep, each component is executed one time until it is terminated or suspended. The status  $K \ 2 \ f \ c; S \ c; Rg$  tells us if the command is terminated ( $\mathcal{C}$ ), suspended with the continuation c to resume (S c) or returning control to the caller (R). The frame ! denotes the part of the stack allocated during the micro-steps. Commands containing blocks of the form  $f:g_!$  is a suspened command in which ! was recorded when the command suspends. As mentioned earlier, we use these annotations to distribute the stack over commands.

$$\frac{\overline{c} \quad \overline{c}}{\overline{c}} \quad \overline{fc_1 g_{l_1} k fc_2 g_{l_2}} \quad fc_2 g_{l_2} k fc_1 g_{l_1}$$

$$\frac{\overline{c} \quad \overline{c}^0}{\overline{K} \quad \overline{K}} \quad \frac{\overline{c} \quad \overline{c}^0}{\overline{S} \quad \overline{c} \quad \overline{S} \quad \overline{c}^0}$$

## 3.3 steps and instants

The execution of an instant is a succession of microsteps. We perform microsteps until the command is either terminated or suspended (predicate *suspended*). If the command is suspended, we perform preemption (function *unlock*) before to run a new instant. The computation of instants is given in gure ??.

$$\frac{suspended(c; \ !;)}{suspended(fcg_{!};;)} = \frac{suspended(c_{1};;)}{suspended(c_{1};c_{2};;)}$$

$$\frac{(s) = () = \mathbf{0}_{-}(()) = \mathbf{1}^{suspended(c; \ !;)})}{suspended(when \ s \ fcg_{!};;)}$$

$$\frac{suspended(when \ s \ fcg_{!};;)}{suspended(watching \ s \ fcg_{!};;)}$$

$$\frac{suspended(c_{1}; \ !_{1};)_{suspended(c_{2}; \ !_{2};)}}{suspended(c_{1};_{1}k_{!_{2}}c_{2};;)}$$

The function *unlock* terminates preemption blocks if the watched signal is present.

Figure 1: Microsteps

method 
$$mhA_0; \dots; A_{m-1}i(x_0; 0; \dots; x_{m-1}; n-1)d: e c 2 Methods$$

$$fcg_{[x_i V_{i}]_{i=0}^{n-1}}; : ! R(v); !; \ell$$

$$m(e_0; \dots; e_{m-1}); : ! C; !; \ell$$

$$eval_R(e; :) = v \quad filter(p; v) = undef$$

$$case e fp: c; p: cg; : ! K; !; \ell$$

$$eval_R(e; :) = v \quad filter(p; v) = [(x_i; v_i)]_{i=0}^{n-1}$$

$$f^*ig_{i=0}^{n-1} \setminus dom( ) = ;$$

$$fcg_{[x_i V_{i}]_{i=0}^{n-1}}; : f_{i; V_i v_i g_{i=0}^{n-1}}! K; !; \ell$$

$$case e fp: c; p: cg; : ! K; !; \ell$$

Figure 2: Microsteps

We note  $(c; ) ! (c^0; )$  for  $(c; ; ) ! (c^0;?; ^0)$ , suspended(c; ) for suspended(c;?; ) and unlock(c; ) for unlock(c;?; ).

$$\frac{(c; ) ! (C; )}{(c; ) )} \frac{(c; ) ! (S c^0; )}{(c; ) ) (c^0; )} \frac{(c; ) ! (S c^0; )}{(c; ) ) (c^0; )}$$

$$\frac{(c; ) ! (S c^0; )}{(c; ) ) (c^0; )} \frac{(c^0; )}{(c^0; )} \frac{(c^0; )}{(c^0; )}$$

**Execution of a program** Given a command  $c_i$ , the initial state is  $fcg_i$ ;  $h_i$ ,  $h_i$  00; i