

# A Choreographic Language for PRISM

... Author: Please enter affiliation as second parameter of the author macro

... Author: Please enter affiliation as second parameter of the author macro

## Abstract

This is the abstract

**2012 ACM Subject Classification** Theory of computation → Type theory; Computing methodologies → Distributed programming languages; Theory of computation → Program verification

**Keywords and phrases** Session types, PRISM, Model Checking

**Digital Object Identifier** 10.4230/LIPIcs.ITP.2023.m

**Funding** This work was supported by

## 1 Introduction

This is the introduction

**Contributions and Overview.** Our contributions can be categorised as follows:

## 2 The Prism Language and its Semantics

This section provides the formal definition of our choreographic language as well as process algebra representing PRISM [?].

### 2.1 PRISM

We start by describing PRISM semantics. To the best of our knowledge, the only formalisation of a semantics for PRISM can be found on the PRISM website [?]. Our approach starts from this and attempts to make more precise some informal assumptions and definitions.

**Syntax.** Let  $\mathbf{p}$  range over a (possibly infinite) set of module names  $\mathcal{R}$ ,  $a$  over a (possibly infinite) set of labels  $\mathcal{L}$ ,  $x$  over a (possibly infinite) set of variables  $\mathbf{Var}$ , and  $v$  over a (possibly infinite) set of values  $\mathbf{Val}$ . Then, the syntax of the PRISM language is given by the following grammar:

(Networks)	$N, M ::=$	$\mathbf{0}$	empty network
		$\mathbf{p} : \{F_i\}_i$	module
		$M [A] M$	parallel composition
		$M/A$	action hiding
		$\sigma M$	substitution
(Commands)	$F ::=$	$[a]g \rightarrow \Sigma_{i \in I} \{\lambda_i : u_i\}$	$g$ is a boolean expression in $E$
(Assignment)	$u ::=$	$(x' = E)$	update $x$ , element of $\mathcal{V}$ , with $E$
		$A \& A$	multiple assignments
(Expr)	$E ::=$	$f(\tilde{E}) \mid x \mid v$	

Networks are the top syntactic category for system of modules composed together. The term  $\mathbf{0}$  represent an empty network. A module is meant to represent a process running in the



© God;  
licensed under Creative Commons License CC-BY 4.0

International Conference on Blah.

Editors: John Q. Open and Joan R. Access; Article No. m; pp. m:1–m:15

Leibniz International Proceedings in Informatics



LIPICs Schloss Dagstuhl – Leibniz-Zentrum für Informatik, Dagstuhl Publishing, Germany

system, and is denoted by its variables and its commands. Formally, a module  $p : \{F_i\}_i$  is identified by its name  $p$  and a set of commands  $F_i$ . Networks can be composed in parallel, in a CSP style: a term like  $M_1|[A]|M_2$  says that networks  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  can interact with each other using labels in the finite set  $A$ . The term  $M/A$  is the standard CSP/CCS hiding operator. Finally  $\sigma M$  is equivalent to applying the substitution  $\sigma$  to all variables in  $x$ . A substitution is a function that given a variable returns a value. When we write  $\sigma N$  we refer to the term obtained by replacing every free variable  $x$  in  $N$  with  $\sigma(x)$ . **Marco:** *Is this really the way substitution is used? Where does it become important?* Commands in a module have the form  $[a]g \rightarrow \Sigma_{i \in I} \{\lambda_i : u_i\}$ . The label  $a$  is used for synchronisation (it is a condition that allows the command to be executed when all other modules having a command on the same label also execute). The term  $g$  is a guard on the current variable state. If both label and the guards are enabled, then the command executes in a probabilistic way one of the branches. Depending on the model we are going to use, the value  $\lambda_j$  is either a real number representing a rate (when adapting an exponential distribution) or a probability. If we are using probabilities, then we assume that terms in every choice are such that the sum of the probabilities is equal to 1.

**Semantics.** In order to give a probabilistic semantics to PRISM, we proceed by steps. First, we define  $\llbracket - \rrbracket$ , as the closure of the following rules:

$$\begin{array}{c}
\frac{}{F_i \in \llbracket p : \{F_i\}_i \rrbracket} \text{ (Module)} \quad \frac{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M_j \rrbracket \quad j \in \{1, 2\}}{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M_1|[A]|M_2 \rrbracket} \text{ (Par}_1\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M_j \rrbracket \quad a \notin A \quad j \in \{1, 2\}}{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M_1|[A]|M_2 \rrbracket} \text{ (Par}_2\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M_1 \rrbracket \quad [a]E' \rightarrow \{\lambda'_j : y_j = E'_j\}_{j \in J} \in \llbracket M_2 \rrbracket \quad a \in A}{\llbracket E \wedge E' \rightarrow \{\lambda_i * \lambda'_j : x_i = E_i \wedge y_j = E'_j\}_{i \in I, j \in J} \in \llbracket M_1|[A]|M_2 \rrbracket} \text{ (Par}_3\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket}{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M/A \rrbracket} \text{ (Hide}_1\text{)} \quad \frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket \quad a \notin A}{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M/A \rrbracket} \text{ (Hide}_2\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket \quad a \in A}{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M/A \rrbracket} \text{ (Hide}_3\text{)} \quad \frac{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket}{\llbracket E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket \sigma M \rrbracket} \text{ (Subst}_1\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket \quad a \notin \text{dom}(\sigma)}{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket \sigma M \rrbracket} \text{ (Subst}_2\text{)} \\
\\
\frac{[a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket M \rrbracket \quad a \in \text{dom}(\sigma)}{[\sigma a]E \rightarrow \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \llbracket \sigma M \rrbracket} \text{ (Subst}_3\text{)}
\end{array}$$

The rules above work with modules, parallel composition, name hiding, and substitution. The idea is that given a network, we wish to collect all those commands  $F$  that are contained in the network, independently from which module they are being executed in. Intuitively, we can regard  $\llbracket N \rrbracket$  as a set, where starting from all commands present in the syntax, we do some filtering and renaming, based on the structure of the network.

Now, given  $\llbracket N \rrbracket$ , we define a transition system that shows how the system evolves. Let **state** be a function that given a variable in **Var** returns a value in **Val**. Then, given an initial state  $\text{state}_0$ , we can define a transition system where each of node is a (different) **state** function. Then, we can move from  $\text{state}_1$  to  $\text{state}_2$  whenever ... Formally, a transition system is defined as:

► **Definition 1** (Transition System). *[put definition of transition system here.]*

59 We can then define a transition system  $\mathcal{T} = (2^{\text{state}}, \text{state}_0, \dots)$  [fix details here].

60 ► **Definition 2** (Discrete Time Markov Chain (DTMC)). *A Discrete Time Markov Chain*  
61 *(DTMC) is a pair  $(S, P)$  where*

62 ■  *$S$  is a set of states*

63 ■  *$P : S \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]$  is the probability transition matrix such that, for all  $s \in S$ ,*  
64  *$\sum_{s' \in S} P(s, s') = 1$ .*

65 ► **Definition 3** (Continuous Time Markov Chain (CTMC)). *A Continuous Time Markov Chain*  
66 *(DTMC) is a pair  $(S, R)$  where*

67 ■  *$S$  is a set of states*

68 ■  *$P : S \times S \rightarrow \mathbb{R}^{\geq 0}$  is the rate transition matrix.*

## 69 **3** Formal Languages

### 3.1 Choreographies

**Syntax.** Our choreographic language is defined by the following syntax:

(Chor)  $C ::= \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j \mid \text{if } E@p \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2 \mid X \mid \mathbf{0}$

We comment the various constructs. The syntactic category  $C$  denotes choreographic programmes. The term  $\mathbf{p} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma\{\lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j\}_{j \in J}$  denotes an interaction initiated by role  $\mathbf{p}$  with roles  $\mathbf{p}_i$ . Unlike in PRISM, a choreography specifies what interaction must be executed next, shifting the focus from what can happen to what must happen. When the synchronisation happens then, in a probabilistic way, one of the branches is selected as a continuation. The term  $\text{if } E@p \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2$  factors in some local choices for some particular roles. [write a bit more about procedure calls, recursion and the zero process]

**Semantics.** Similarly to how we did for the PRISM language, we consider the state space  $\text{Val}^n$  where  $n$  is the number of variables present in the choreography. We then inductively define the transition function for the state space as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} (\sigma, \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j) &\longrightarrow_{\lambda_j} (\sigma[\sigma(E_j)/x_j], C_j) \\ (\sigma, \text{if } E@p \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2) &\longrightarrow (\sigma, C_1) \\ X \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} C &\Rightarrow (\sigma, X) \longrightarrow (\sigma, C) \end{aligned}$$

From the transition relation above, we can immediately define an LTS on the state space. Given an initial state  $\sigma_0$  and a choreography  $C$ , the LTS is given by all the states reachable from the pair  $(\sigma_0, C)$ . I.e., for all derivations  $(\sigma_0, C) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_0} \dots \longrightarrow_{\lambda_n} (\sigma_n, C_n)$  and  $i < n$ , we have that  $(\sigma_i, \sigma_{i+1}) \in \delta$  [adjust once the definition of probabilistic LTS is in].

### 3.2 Projection from Choreographies to PRISM

**Mapping Choreographies to PRISM.** We need to run some standard static checks because, since there is branching, some terms may not be projectable.

$$\begin{aligned} &(q \in \{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}, J = \{1, 2\}, l_1, l_2 \text{ fresh}) \\ \text{proj}(q, \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j, s) &= \\ &\{[l_1]s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s \rightarrow \lambda_1 : s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s_{\mathbf{p}_1} + 1, [l_2]s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s \rightarrow \lambda_2 : s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s_{\mathbf{p}_1} + 2\} \cup \\ &\text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_1, s + 1) \cup \text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_2, s + \text{nodes}(C_1)) \\ \\ &(q \notin \{\mathbf{p}, \mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\}) \\ \text{proj}(q, \mathbf{p} \rightarrow \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j, s) &= \text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_1, s) \cup \text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_2, s + \text{nodes}(C_1)) \\ \\ &(q = \mathbf{p}) \\ \text{proj}(q, \text{if } E@p \text{ then } C_1 \text{ else } C_2, s) &= \\ &\{\llbracket s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s \& E \rightarrow \Sigma_{i \in I} \{\lambda_i :: i\} s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s_{\mathbf{p}_1} + 1, \llbracket s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s \& \text{not}(E) \rightarrow \Sigma_{i \in I} \{\lambda_i :: i\} s_{\mathbf{p}_1} = s_{\mathbf{p}_1} + 1 \rrbracket \cup \\ &\text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_1, s + 1) \cup \text{proj}(\mathbf{p}_1, C_2, s + \text{nodes}(C_1)) \end{aligned}$$

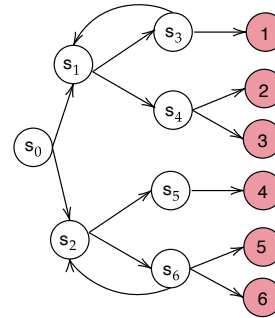
## 4 Tests

In this section we present our experimental evaluation of our language. We focus on four benchmarks: the dice program and the random graphs protocol that we compare with the test cases reported in the PRISM repository<sup>1</sup>; the Bitcoin proof of work protocol and the Hybrid Casper protocol, presented in [2, 4].

### 4.1 The Dice Program

The first test case we focus on the Dice Program<sup>2</sup>[5]. The following program models a die using only fair coins. Starting at the root vertex (state  $s_0$ ), one repeatedly tosses a coin. Every time heads appears, one takes the upper branch and when tails appears, the lower branch. This continues until the value of the die is decided.

In Listing 1, we report the modelled program using the choreographic language while in Listing 2 the generated PRISM program is shown.



```

108 preamble
109 "dtmc"
110 endpreamble
111
112 n = 1;
113
114 Dice → Dice : "d : [0..6] init 0;" ;
115
116 {
117 DiceProtocol0 := Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol1
118                               +["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol2)
119
120
121 DiceProtocol1 := Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " .
122                               Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol1
123                               +["0.5*1"] "(d'=1)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
124                               +["0.5*1"] " "&&" " .
125                               Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] "(d'=2)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3
126                               +["0.5*1"] "(d'=3)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
127
128 DiceProtocol2 := Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " .
129                               Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol2
130                               +["0.5*1"] "(d'=4)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
131                               +["0.5*1"] " "&&" " .
132                               Dice → Dice : (+["0.5*1"] "(d'=5)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3
133                               +["0.5*1"] "(d'=6)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
134
135 DiceProtocol3 := Dice → Dice : ([1*1] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
136 }

```

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/dice.php>

137

■ **Listing 1** Choreographic language for the Dice Program.

138

139

140

141

142

143

144

145

146

147

148

149

150

151

152

153

154

155

dtmc

module Dice

Dice : [0..11] init 0;

d : [0..6] init 0;

[] (Dice=0) → 0.5 : (Dice'=2) + 0.5 : (Dice'=6);

[] (Dice=2) → 0.5 : (Dice'=3) + 0.5 : (Dice'=4);

[] (Dice=3) → 0.5 : (Dice'=2) + 0.5 : (d'=1)&amp;(Dice'=10);

[] (Dice=4) → 0.5 : (d'=2)&amp;(Dice'=10) + 0.5 : (d'=3)&amp;(Dice'=10);

[] (Dice=6) → 0.5 : (Dice'=7) + 0.5 : (Dice'=8);

[] (Dice=7) → 0.5 : (Dice'=6) + 0.5 : (d'=4)&amp;(Dice'=10);

[] (Dice=8) → 0.5 : (d'=5)&amp;(Dice'=10) + 0.5 : (d'=6)&amp;(Dice'=10);

[] (Dice=10) → 1 : (Dice'=10);

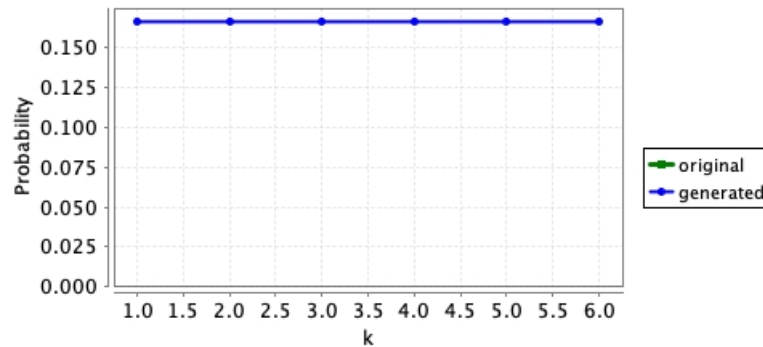
endmodule

■ **Listing 2** Generated PRISM program for the Dice Program.

By comparing our model with the one presented in the PRISM documentation, we notice that the difference is the number assumed by the variable `Dice`. In particular, the variable assumes different values and this is due to how the generation in presence of a branch is done. However, this does not cause any problems since the updates are done correctly and the states are unique. Moreover, to prove the generated program is correct, we show that the probability of reaching a state where

$$d=k \text{ for } k = 1, \dots, 6 \text{ is } 1/6.$$

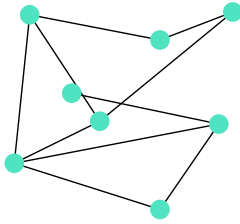
The results are displayed in Figure 1, where we compare the probability we obtain with our generated model and the one obtained with the original PRISM model. As expected, the results are equivalent.



■ **Figure 1** Probability of reaching a state where  $d = k$ , for  $k = 1, \dots, 6$ .

158

## 4.2 Random Graphs Protocol



The second case study we report is the random graphs protocol presented in the PRISM documentation<sup>3</sup>. It investigates the likelihood that a pair of nodes are connected in a random graph. More precisely, we take into account the set of random graphs  $G(n, p)$ , i.e. the set of random graphs with  $n$  nodes where the probability of there being an edge between any two nodes equals  $p$ .

The model is divided in two parts: at the beginning the random graph is built. Then the algorithm finds nodes that have a path to node 2 by searching for nodes for which one can reach (in one step) a node for which the existence of a path to node 2 has already been found.

The choreographic model is shown in Listing 3, while in Listing 4, we report only part of the generated PRISM module (the modules  $M_2$ ,  $M_3$  and  $P_2$ ,  $P_3$  are equivalent to, respectively,  $M_1$  and  $P_2$  and can be found in the repository<sup>4</sup>).

```

174 preamble
175 "mdp"
176 "const double p;"
177 endpreamble
178
179
180 n = 3;
181
182 PC -> PC : " ";
183 M[i] -> i in [1...n] M[i] : "varM[i] : bool;";
184 P[i] -> i in [1...n] P[i] : "varP[i] : bool;";
185
186 {
187   GraphConnected0 :=
188     PC -> M[i] : (+["1*p"] " "&&"(varM[i]')==true"). END
189               +["1*(1-p)"] " "&&"(varM[i]')==false"). END)
190     PC -> P[i] : (+["1*p"] " "&&"(varP[i]')==true"). END
191               +["1*(1-p)"] " "&&"(varP[i]')==false").
192     if "(PC=6)&!varP[i]&((varP[i] & varM[i]) | (varM[i+1] & varP[
193         ↪ i+2]))" "@P[i] then {
194         ["1"] "(varP[i]')==true"@P[i] . GraphConnected0
195     }
196 }
197

```

■ Listing 3 Choreographic language for the Random Graphs Protocol.

```

198 mdp
199 const double p;
200
201
202 module PC
203   PC : [0..7] init 0;
204

```

<sup>3</sup> [https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/graph\\_connected.php](https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/graph_connected.php)

<sup>4</sup> <https://github.com/adeleveschetti/choreography-to-PRISM>

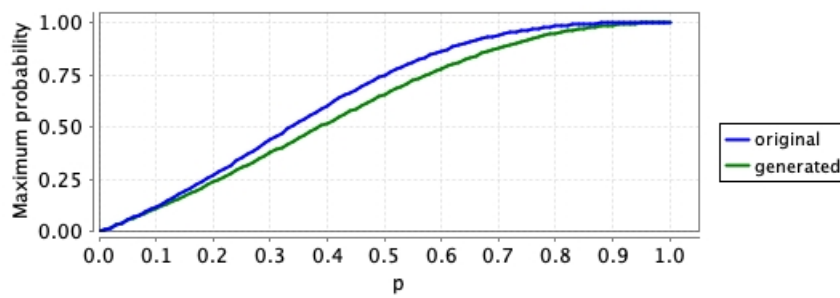
```

205 [DPPGR] (PC=0) → 1 : (PC'=1);
206 [YCJJG] (PC=1) → 1 : (PC'=2);
207 [TWGVA] (PC=2) → 1 : (PC'=3);
208 [NODPZ] (PC=3) → 1 : (PC'=4);
209 [FDALJ] (PC=4) → 1 : (PC'=5);
210 [DCKXC] (PC=5) → 1 : (PC'=6);
211 endmodule
212
213 module M1
214   M1 : [0..1] init 0;
215   varM1 : bool;
216
217   [DPPGR] (M1=0) → p : (varM1'=true)&(M1'=0) + (1-p) : (varM1'=false)&(M1'=0);
218 endmodule
219
220 ...
221
222 module P1
223   P1 : [0..3] init 0;
224   varP1 : bool;
225
226   [NODPZ] (P1=0) → p : (varP1'=true)&(P1'=0) + (1-p) : (varP1'=false)&(P1'=0);
227   [] (P1=0)&(PC=6)&!varP1&((varP1 & varM1) | (varM2 & varP3))
228     → 1 : (varP1'=true)&(P1'=0);
229 endmodule
230 ...
231

```

■ **Listing 4** Generated PRISM program for the Random Graphs Protocol.

232 The model is very similar to the one presented in the PRISM repository, the main  
 233 difference is that we use state variables also for the modules  $P_i$  and  $M_i$ , where in the original  
 234 model they were not required. However, this does not affect the behaviour of the model, as  
 235 the reader can notice from the results of the probability that nodes 1 and 2 are connected  
 showed in Figure 2.



■ **Figure 2** Probability that the nodes 1 and 2 are connected.

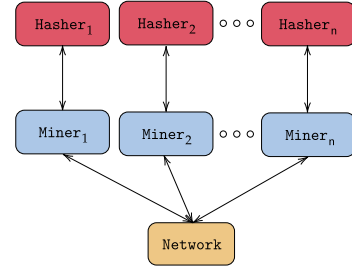


### 4.3 Proof of Work Bitcoin Protocol

In [2], the authors decided to extend the PRISM model checker with dynamic data types in order to model the Proof of Work protocol implemented in the Bitcoin blockchain [6].

The Bitcoin system is the result of the parallel composition of  $n$  Miner processes,  $n$  Hasher processes and a process called *Network*. In particular:

- The *Miner* processes model the blockchain mainers that create new blocks and add them to their local ledger;
- the *Hasher* processes model the attempts of the miners to solve the cryptopuzzle;
- the *Network* process model the broadcast communication among miners.



Since we are not interested in the properties obtained by analyzing the protocol, we decided to consider  $n = 4$  miner and hasher processes; the model can be found in Listing 5.

```

252 preamble
253 ...
254 endpreamble
255
256 n = 4;
257
258 ...
259
260 {
261   PoW := Hasher[i] -> Miner[i] :
262     (+["mR*hr[i]" " "&&"(b[i]':createB(b[i],B[i],c[i]))&(c[i]':c[i]+1)" "
263       Miner[i] -> Network :
264         ([ "rB*1" " "(B[i]':addBlock(B[i],b[i]))" "&&
265           foreach(k != i) "(set[k]':addBlockSet(set[k],b[i]))" @Network .PoW)
266       +["lR*hr[i]" " "&&" " " "
267         if "!isEmpty(set[i])"@Miner[i] then {
268           ["r" " "(b[i]':extractBlock(set[i]))"@Miner[i] .
269           Miner[i] -> Network :
270             ([ "1*1" " "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i] , b[i]))"&&
271             ↪ "(set[i]' = removeBlock(set[i],b[i]))" . PoW)
272         }
273       else{
274         if "canBeInserted(B[i],b[i])"@Miner[i] then {
275           ["1" " "(B[i]':addBlock(B[i],b[i]))&&(setMiner[i]':removeBlock
276           ↪ (setMiner[i],b[i]))"@Miner[i] . Pow
277         }
278       else{
279         PoW
280       }
281     }
282   }
283 }
284
285

```

■ **Listing 5** Choreographic language for the Proof of Work Bitcoin Protocol.

Part of the generated PRISM code is shown in Listing 6, the modules *Miner<sub>2</sub>*, *Miner<sub>3</sub>*, *Miner<sub>4</sub>* and *Hasher<sub>2</sub>*, *Hasher<sub>3</sub>*, *Hasher<sub>4</sub>* are equivalent to *Miner<sub>1</sub>* and *Hasher<sub>1</sub>*, respectively. Our generated PRISM model is more verbose than the one presented in [2], this is due to the fact that for the if-then-else expression, we always generate the else branch. and this leads to having more instructions

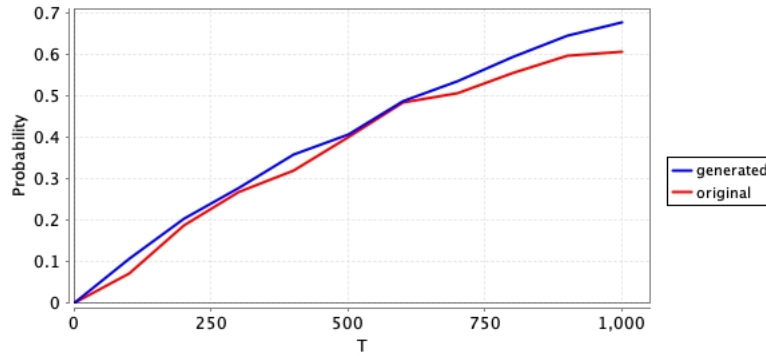
```

291 ...
292 ...
293
294 module Miner1
295   Miner1 : [0..7] init 0;
296   b1 : block {m1,0;genesis,0} ;
297   B1 : blockchain [{genesis,0;genesis,0}];
298   c1 : [0..N] init 0;
299   setMiner1 : list [];
300
301   [PZKYT] (Miner1=0) → hR1 : (b1'=createB(b1,B1,c1))&(c1'=c1+1)&(Miner1'=1);
302   [EUBVP] (Miner1=0) → hR1 : (Miner1'=2);
303   [HXYKO] (Miner1=1) → 1 : (B1'=addBlock(B1,b1))&(Miner1'=0);
304   [] (Miner1=2)&!isEmpty(set1) → r : (b1'=extractBlock(set1))&(Miner1'=4);
305   [SRKSV] (Miner1=4) → 1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Miner1'=0)
306   ↪ ;
307   [] (Miner1=2)&!(isEmpty(set1)) → 1 : (Miner1'=5);
308   [] (Miner1=5)&canBeInserted(B1,b1) → 1 : (B1'=addBlock(B1,b1))&(setMiner1'=
309   ↪ removeBlock(setMiner1,b1))&(Miner1'=0);
310   [] (Miner1=5)&!(canBeInserted(B1,b1)) → 1 : (Miner1'=0);
311
312 endmodule
313 ...
314 module Network
315   Network : [0..1] init 0;
316   set1 : list [];
317   ...
318
319   [HXYKO] (Network=0) → 1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,
320   ↪ b3))&(set4'=addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(Network'=0);
321   [SRKSV] (Network=0) → 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
322   ...
323
324 endmodule
325
326 module Hasher1
327   Hasher1 : [0..1] init 0;
328
329   [PZKYT] (Hasher1=0) → mR : (Hasher1'=0);
330   [EUBVP] (Hasher1=0) → lR : (Hasher1'=0);
331
332 endmodule
333

```

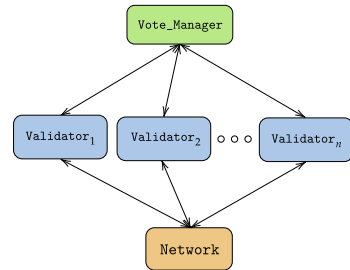
■ Listing 6 Generated PRISM program for the Peer-To-Peer Protocol.

However, for this particular test case, the results of the experiments are not affected, as shown Figure 3 where the results are compared. In this example, since we are comparing the results of two simulations, the two probabilities are slightly different, but it has nothing to do with the model itself.



■ **Figure 3** Probability at least one miner has created a block.

#### 4.4 Hybrid Casper Protocol



The last case we study we present is the Hybrid Casper Protocol modelled in PRISM in [4]. The Hybrid Casper protocol is an hybrid blockchain consensus protocol that includes features of the Proof of Work and the Proof of Stake protocols. It was implemented in the Ethereum blockchain [3] as a testing phase before switching to Proof of Stake protocol.

The approach is very similar to the one used for the Proof of Work Bitcoin protocol, so they model Hybrid Casper in PRISM as the parallel composition of  $n$  **Validator** modules and the modules **Vote\_Manager** and **Network**. The module **Validator** is very similar to the module **Miner** of the previous protocol and the only module that requires an explanation is the **Vote\_Manager** that stores the tables containing the votes for each checkpoint and calculates the rewards/penalties.

The modeling language is reported in Listing 7 while (part of) the generated PRISM code can be found in Listing 8.

```

354 preamble
355 ...
356 endpreamble
357 n = 5;
358 ...
359 {
360 PoS := Validator[i] -> Validator[i] :
361   (+["mR*1"] "(b[i]'=createB(b[i],L[i],c[i]))&(c[i]'=c[i]+1)"&&" " .
362   if "!(mod(getHeight(b[i]),EpochSize)=0)"@Validator[i] then{
363     Validator[i] -> Network : ([ "1*1" "(L[i]'=addBlock(L[i],b[i]))" && foreach(k
364       ↪ !=i) "(set[k]'=addBlockSet(set[k],b[i]))"@Network .PoS)
365   }
366   else{
367     Validator[i] -> Network : ([ "1*1" "(L[i]'=addBlock(L[i],b[i]))" && foreach(k
368       ↪ !=i) "(set[k]'=addBlockSet(set[k],b[i]))"@Network . Validator[i] ->
369       ↪ Vote_Manager :([ "1*1" " "&&"(Votes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))".PoS
370       ↪ ))
371   }
372 }
373 +["lR*1" " "&&" " . if "isEmpty(set[i])"@Validator[i] then {

```

```

374 ["1"] "(b[i]'=extractBlock(set[i]))"@Validator[i] .
375   if "!(canBeInserted(L[i],b[i]))"@Validator[i] then {
376     PoS
377   }
378   else{
379   if "!(mod(getHeight(b[i]),EpochSize)=0)"@Validator[i] then {
380     Validator[i] -> Network : ([ "1*1" ] "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i]
381       ↪ , b[i]))"&&"(set[i]' = removeBlock(set[i],b[i]))" . PoS)
382   }
383   else{
384     Validator[i] -> Network : ([ "1*1" ] "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i]
385       ↪ , b[i]))"&&"(set[i]' = removeBlock(set[i],b[i]))" . Validator[i] ->
386       ↪ Vote_Manager : ([ "1*1" ] " "&&"(Votes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))
387       ↪ ".PoS ))
388   }
389 }
390 }
391 else{PoS}
392 +["rC*1"] "(lastCheck[i]'=extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],lastCheck[i]))&(
393   ↪ heightLast[i]'=getHeight(extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],lastCheck[i]
394   ↪ ))&(votes[i]'=calcVotes(Votes,extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],
395   ↪ lastCheck[i])))"&&" " .
396   if "(heightLast[i]=heightCheckpoint[i]+EpochSize)&(votes[i]>=2/3*tot_stake)"
397     ↪ @Validator[i] then{
398     if "(heightLast[i]=heightCheckpoint[i]+EpochSize)"@Validator[i] then{
399       ["1"] "(lastJ[i]'=b[i])&(L[i]'= updateHF(L[i],lastJ[i]))" @Validator[i] .
400       ↪ Validator[i]->Vote_Manager : ([ "1*1" ] " "&&"(epoch'=height(lastF(L[i]
401       ↪ ))&(Stakes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))".PoS)
402     }
403     else{["1"] "(lastJ[i]'=b[i])"@Validator[i] . PoS}
404   }
405   else{PoS}
406 )
407 }
408

```

■ Listing 7 Choreographic language for the Hybrid Casper Protocol.

```

409 module Validator1
410 ...
411
412 [] (Validator1=0) → mR : (b1'=createB(b1,L1,c1))&(c1'=c1+1)&(Validator1'=1);
413 [] (Validator1=0) → lR : (Validator1'=2);
414 [] (Validator1=0)&(isEmpty(listCheckpoints1)) →
415   rC : (lastCheck1'=extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,lastCheck1))&(
416     ↪ heightLast1'=getHeight(extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,lastCheck1
417     ↪ ))&(votes1'=calcVotes(Votes,extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,
418     ↪ lastCheck1)))&(Validator1'=3);
419 [NGRDF] (Validator1=1)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) → 1 : (L1'=addBlock(
420   ↪ L1,b1))&(Validator1'=0);
421 [] (Validator1=1)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) → 1 : (Validator1'=3);
422 [PCRLD] (Validator1=1)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) →
423   1 : (L1'=addBlock(L1,b1))&(Validator1'=4);
424 [VSJBE] (Validator1=5) → 1 : (Validator1'=0);
425 [] (Validator1=2)&!isEmpty(set1) →

```

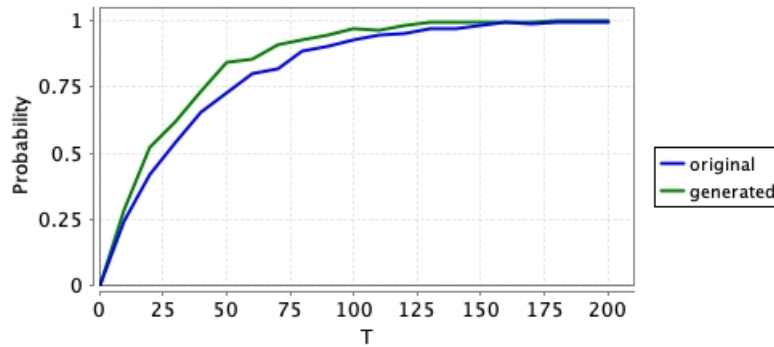
```

427     1 : (b1'=extractBlock(set1))&(Validator1'=4);
428 [] (Validator1=4)&!canBeInserted(L1,b1) → (Validator1'=0);
429 [] (Validator1=4)&!(canBeInserted(L1,b1)) → 1 : (Validator1'=6);
430 [MDDCF] (Validator1=6)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) →
431     1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Validator1'=0);
432 [] (Validator1=6)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) → 1 : (Validator1'=8);
433 [IQVPA] (Validator1=6)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) →
434     1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Validator1'=9);
435 [IFNVZ] (Validator1=10) → 1 : (Validator1'=0);
436 [] (Validator1=2)&!(isEmpty(set1)) → 1 : (Validator1'=0);
437 [] (Validator1=3)&(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize)&(votes1>=2/3*
438     ↪ tot_stake) → (Validator1'=4);
439 [] (Validator1=4)&(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize) →
440     1 : (lastJ1'=b1)&(L1'= updateHF(L1,lastJ1))&(Validator1'=6);
441 [EQCYO] (Validator1=6) → 1 : (Validator1'=0);
442 [] (Validator1=4)&!(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize) →
443     1 : (lastJ1'=b1)&(Validator1'=0);
444 [] (Validator1=3)&!(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize)&(votes1>=2/3*
445     ↪ tot_stake)) → 1 : (Validator1'=0);
446 endmodule
447 ...
448 module Network
449     Network : [0..1] init 0;
450     set1 : list [];
451     set2 : list [];
452     set3 : list [];
453     set4 : list [];
454     set5 : list [];
455
456     [NGRDF] (Network=0) →
457         1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,b3))&(set4'=
458             ↪ addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(set5'=addBlockSet(set5,b5))&(Network'=0);
459     [PCRLD] (Network=0) →
460         1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,b3))&(set4'=
461             ↪ addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(set5'=addBlockSet(set5,b5))&(Network'=0);
462     [MDDCF] (Network=0) → 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
463     [IQVPA] (Network=0) → 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
464     ...
465 endmodule
466
467 module Vote_Manager
468     Vote_Manager : [0..1] init 0;
469     epoch : [0..10] init 0;
470     Votes : hash[];
471     tot_stake : [0..120000] init 50;
472     stake1 : [0..N] init 10;
473     stake2 : [0..N] init 10;
474     stake3 : [0..N] init 10;
475     stake4 : [0..N] init 10;
476     stake5 : [0..N] init 10;
477
478     [VSJBE] (Vote_Manager=0) →
479         1 : (Votes'=addVote(Votes,b1,stake1))&(Vote_Manager'=0);
480     ...
481 endmodule

```

■ **Listing 8** Generated PRISM program for the Hybrid Casper Protocol.

The code is very similar to the one presented in [4], the main difference is the fact that our generated model has more lines of code. This is due to the fact that there are some commands that can be merged, but the compiler is not able to do it automatically. This discrepancy between the two models can be observed also in the simulations, reported in Figure 4. Although the results are similar, PRISM takes 39.016 seconds to run the simulations for the generated model, instead of 22.051 seconds needed for the original model.



■ **Figure 4** Probability that a block has been created.

## 4.5 Problems

While testing our choreographic language, we noticed that some of the case studies presented in the PRISM documentation [1] cannot be modeled by using our language. The reasons are various, in this section we try to outline the problems.

- **Asynchronous Leader Election**<sup>5</sup>: processes synchronize with the same label but the conditions are different. We include in our language the `it-then-else` statement but we do not allow the `if-then` (without the `else`). This is done because in this way, we do not incur in deadlock states.
- **Probabilistic Broadcast Protocols**<sup>6</sup>: also in this case, the problem are the labels of the synchronizations. In fact, all the processes synchronize with the same label on every actions. This is not possible in our language, since a label is unique for every synchronization between two (or more) processes.
- **Cyclic Server Polling System**<sup>7</sup>: in this model, the processes `stationi` do two different things in the same state. More precisely, at the state 0 (`si=0`), the processes may synchronize with the process `server` or may change their state without any synchronization. In our language, this cannot be formalized since the synchronization is a branch action, so there should be another option with a synchronization.

<sup>5</sup> [https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/asynchronous\\_leader.php](https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/asynchronous_leader.php)

<sup>6</sup> [https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/prob\\_broadcast.php](https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/prob_broadcast.php)

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/polling.php>

---

References

---

- 506 1 Prism documentation. <https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/>. Accessed: 2023-09-05.
- 507 2 Stefano Bistarelli, Rocco De Nicola, Letterio Galletta, Cosimo Laneve, Ivan Mercanti, and  
508 Adele Veschetti. Stochastic modeling and analysis of the bitcoin protocol in the presence of block  
509 communication delays. *Concurr. Comput. Pract. Exp.*, 35(16), 2023. doi:10.1002/cpe.6749.
- 510 3 Vitalik Buterin. Ethereum white paper. [https://github.com/ethereum/wiki/wiki/](https://github.com/ethereum/wiki/wiki/White-Paper)  
511 [White-Paper](https://github.com/ethereum/wiki/wiki/White-Paper), 2013.
- 512 4 Letterio Galletta, Cosimo Laneve, Ivan Mercanti, and Adele Veschetti. Resilience of hybrid  
513 casper under varying values of parameters. *Distributed Ledger Technol. Res. Pract.*, 2(1):5:1–  
514 5:25, 2023. doi:10.1145/3571587.
- 515 5 D. Knuth and A. Yao. *Algorithms and Complexity: New Directions and Recent Results*, chapter  
516 The complexity of nonuniform random number generation. Academic Press, 1976.
- 517 6 Satoshi Nakamoto. Bitcoin: A peer-to-peer electronic cash system. [https://bitcoin.org/](https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf)  
518 [bitcoin.pdf](https://bitcoin.org/bitcoin.pdf), 2008.
- 519