A Choreographic Language for PRISM

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- Abstract

- 5 This is the abstract
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1 Formal Languages

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

1.1 PRISM

- $_{15}$ $\,$ 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
- 17 this and attempts to make more precise some informal assumptions and definitions.
- Syntax. Let 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 Var , and v over a (possibly
- $_{20}$ infinite) set of values Val. Then, the syntax of the PRISM language is given by the following
- 21 grammar:

(Commands)
$$F ::= [a]g \to \Sigma_{i \in I} \{\lambda_i : u_i\} \quad g \text{ is a boolean expression in } E$$

(Assignment)
$$u ::= (x' = E)$$
 update x , element of \mathcal{V} , with E $A \& A$ multiple assignments $E ::= f(\tilde{E}) \mid x \mid v$

- Networks are the top syntactic category for system of modules composed together. The term
- o represent an empty network. A module is meant to represent a process running in the
- 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 σM is equivalent to applying the substitution σ to all variables in x. A
- substitution is a function that given a variable returns a value. When we write σN we

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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 32 the form $[a]g \to \Sigma_{i \in I}\{\lambda_i : u_i\}$. The label a is used for synchronisation (it is a condition 33 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 35 and the guards are enabled, then the command executes in a probabilistic way one of the 36 branches. Depending on the model we are going to use, the value λ_i is either a real number 37 representing a rate (when adapting an exponential distribution) or a probability. If we are 38 using probabilities, then we assume that terms in every choice are such that the sum of the probabilities is equal to 1. 40

Semantics. In order to give a probabilistic semantics to PRISM, we proceed by steps. First, we define {[-]}, as the closure of the following rules:

$$\frac{[E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_j]\} \quad j \in \{1, 2\}}{[E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_j]\} \quad j \in \{1, 2\}} \quad (\mathsf{Par}_1))}{[E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_j]\} \quad a \not\in A \quad j \in \{1, 2\}} \quad (\mathsf{Par}_2)}$$

$$\frac{[a]E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_j]\} \quad a \not\in A \quad j \in \{1, 2\}}{[a]E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_1]\} \quad [a]E' \to \{\lambda'_j : y_j = E'_j\}_{j \in J} \in \{[M_2]\} \quad a \in A} \quad (\mathsf{Par}_3)}$$

$$\frac{[a]E \to \{\lambda_i : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M_1]\} \quad [a]E' \to \{\lambda'_j : y_j = E'_j\}_{j \in J} \in \{[M_2]\} \quad a \in A}{[E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad (\mathsf{Par}_3)}} \quad (\mathsf{Par}_3)$$

$$\frac{[E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad (\mathsf{Hide}_1) \quad \frac{[a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \not\in A}{[a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad (\mathsf{Hide}_2)} \quad \frac{[E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad (\mathsf{Subst}_1)}{[E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \not\in \mathsf{dom}(\sigma)}} \quad (\mathsf{Subst}_1)$$

$$\frac{[a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \not\in \mathsf{dom}(\sigma)}{[a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \not\in \mathsf{dom}(\sigma)}} \quad (\mathsf{Subst}_2)$$

$$\frac{[a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \not\in \mathsf{dom}(\sigma)}{[\sigma a]E \to \{\lambda_j : x_i = E_i\}_{i \in I} \in \{[M]\} \quad a \in \mathsf{dom}(\sigma)}} \quad (\mathsf{Subst}_3)$$

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 $\{N\}$ 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 $\{[N]\}$, 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 state_0 , we can define a transition system where each of node is a (different) state_1 function. Then, we can move from state_1 to state_2 whenever ... Formally, a transition system is defined as:

- ▶ **Definition 1** (Transition System). [put definition of transition system here.]
- We can then define a transition system $\mathcal{T} = (2^{\mathsf{state}}, \mathsf{state}_0, \ldots)$ [fix details here].

6 1.2 Choreographies

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

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

- We comment the various constructs. The syntactic category C denotes choreographic
- programmes. The term $\mathbf{p} \to \{\mathbf{p}_1, \dots, \mathbf{p}_n\} \Sigma \{\lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j\}_{j \in J}$ denotes an interaction
- initiated by role p with roles 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 if E@p then C_1 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
- 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:

$$(\sigma, \mathsf{p} \to \{\mathsf{p}_1, \dots, \mathsf{p}_n\} \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j; C_j) \longrightarrow_{\lambda_j} (\sigma[\sigma(E_j)/x_j], C_j)$$

 $(\sigma, \text{if } E@ extsf{p} ext{ then } C_1 ext{ else } C_2) \ \longrightarrow \ (\sigma, C_1)$

$$X \stackrel{\mathsf{def}}{=} C \quad \Rightarrow \quad (\sigma, X) \quad \longrightarrow \quad (\sigma, C)$$

- From the transition relation above, we can immediately define an LTS on the state space.
- Given initial state σ_0 and a choreography C, the LTS is given by all the states reachable
- from the pair (σ_0, C) .

1.3 Projection from Choreographies to PRISM

- ⁷⁴ Mapping Choreographies to PRISM. We need to run some standard static checks
- because, since there is branching, some terms may not be projectable.

$$\begin{array}{l} \left(q \in \{\mathsf{p},\mathsf{p}_1,\dots,\mathsf{p}_n\}, J = \{1,2\},\ l_1,l_2 \text{ fresh}\right) \\ \mathsf{proj}(q,\mathsf{p} \to \{\mathsf{p}_1,\dots,\mathsf{p}_n\} \, \Sigma_{j \in J} \lambda_j : x_j = E_j;\ C_j,s) = \\ \left\{[l_1]s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s \to \lambda_1 : s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s_{\mathsf{p}_1} + 1,\ [l_2]s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s \to \lambda_2 : s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s_{\mathsf{p}_1} + 2\right\} \quad \cup \\ \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_1,s+1) \quad \cup \quad \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_2,s+\mathsf{nodes}(C_1)) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{ll} \left(q\notin \{\mathsf{p},\mathsf{p}_1,\ldots,\mathsf{p}_n\}\right) \\ \mathsf{proj}(q,\mathsf{p}\to \{\mathsf{p}_1,\ldots,\mathsf{p}_n\}\,\Sigma_{j\in J}\lambda_j:x_j\!=\!E_j;\;C_j,s) \;=\; \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_1,s)\;\cup\; \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_2,s+\mathsf{nodes}(C_1)) \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \left(q = \mathsf{p}\right) \\ \mathsf{proj}(q,\mathsf{if}\ E@\mathsf{p}\ \mathsf{then}\ C_1\ \mathsf{else}\ C_2,s) = \\ \left\{ \left[\left] s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s\&E \to \Sigma_{i\in I} \{\lambda_i ::_i\} s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s_{\mathsf{p}_1} + 1, \left[\right] s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s\&\mathsf{not}(E) \to \Sigma_{i\in I} \{\lambda_i ::_i\} s_{\mathsf{p}_1} = s_{\mathsf{p}_1} + 1 \} \right. \\ \left. \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_1,s+1) \quad \cup \quad \mathsf{proj}(\mathsf{p}_1,C_2,s+\mathsf{nodes}(C_1)) \end{array} \right. \end{array}$$

2 Tests

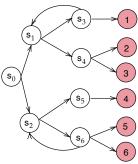
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In this section we present our experimental evaluation of our language. We focus on four benchmarks: the dice program and the random graphs protocol that we compare with the test cases reported in the PRISM repository¹; the Bitcoin proof of work protocol and the Hybrid Casper protocol, presented in [2, 4].

2.1 The Dice Program

The first test case we focus on the Dice Program²[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.



```
preamble
      "dtmc"
95
      endpreamble
96
97
     n = 1;
98
99
     Dice \rightarrow Dice : "d : [0..6] init 0;";
100
101
102
     {\tt DiceProtocol}_0 \; \coloneqq \; {\tt Dice} \; \to \; {\tt Dice} \; : \; (\texttt{+["0.5*1"]} \;\; \texttt{" "&\&" "} \;\; . \;\; {\tt DiceProtocol}_1
103
                                                +["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol<sub>2</sub>)
105
     {	t DiceProtocol}_1 \coloneqq {	t Dice} 	o {	t Dice} : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" "
106
                                  Dice 	o Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol_1
107
                                                     +["0.5*1"] "(d'=1)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3)
108
                                               +["0.5*1"] " "&&" "
109
                                  Dice \rightarrow Dice : (+["0.5*1"] "(d'=2)"&&" " . DiceProtocol_3
110
                                                      +["0.5*1"] "(d'=3)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3))
111
112
     {	t DiceProtocol}_2 \coloneqq {	t Dice} 	o {	t Dice} : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" "
113
                                  Dice \rightarrow Dice : (+["0.5*1"] " "&&" " . DiceProtocol_2
114
                                                      +["0.5*1"] "(d'=4)"&&" " . DiceProtocol_3)
115
                                            +["0.5*1"] " "&&" " .
                                  Dice \rightarrow Dice : (+["0.5*1"] "(d'=5)"&&" " . DiceProtocol_3
                                                     +["0.5*1"] "(d'=6)"&&" " . DiceProtocol3))
118
119
     DiceProtocol_3 := Dice \rightarrow Dice : (["1*1"] " "&&" ".DiceProtocol_3)
120
     }
121
```

 $^{^{1}}$ https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/

² https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/dice.php

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Listing 1 Choreographic language for the Dice Program.

```
dtmc
124
125
     module Dice
126
              Dice : [0..11] init 0;
127
              d : [0..6] init 0;
128
129
                 (Dice=0) \rightarrow 0.5 : (Dice'=2) + 0.5 : (Dice'=6);
130
131
                 (Dice=2) \rightarrow 0.5 : (Dice'=3) + 0.5 : (Dice'=4);
                            \rightarrow 0.5 : (Dice'=2) + 0.5 : (d'=1)&(Dice'=10);
132
                  (Dice=4) \rightarrow 0.5 : (d'=2) & (Dice'=10) + 0.5 : (d'=3) & (Dice'=10);
133
              (Dice=6) \rightarrow 0.5 : (Dice'=7) + 0.5 : (Dice'=8);
134
              (Dice=7) \rightarrow 0.5 : (Dice'=6) + 0.5 : (d'=4)&(Dice'=10);
135
                 (Dice=8) \rightarrow 0.5 : (d'=5) & (Dice'=10) + 0.5 : (d'=6) & (Dice'=10);
              Г٦
136
              [] (Dice=10) \rightarrow 1 : (Dice'=10);
137
138
     endmodule
138
```

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.

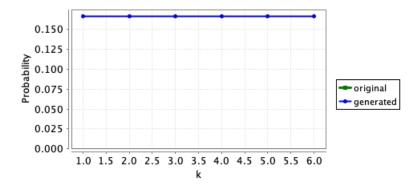


Figure 1 Probability of reaching a state where d = k, for k = 1, ..., 6.

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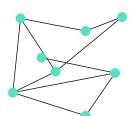
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2.2 Random Graphs Protocol



The second case study we report is the random graphs protocol presented in the PRISM documentation³. It investigates the likelihood that a pair of nodes are connected in a random graph. More precisely, we take into account the 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 repository⁴).

```
159
     preamble
160
     "mdp"
161
     "const double p;"
162
163
     endpreamble
164
    n = 3;
165
166
    PC -> PC : " ";
167
    M[i] -> i in [1...n] M[i] : "varM[i] : bool;";
168
    P[i] -> i in [1...n] P[i] : "varP[i] : bool;";
169
170
171
    GraphConnected0 :=
172
             PC -> M[i] : (+["1*p"] " "&&"(varM[i]'=true)". END
173
                             +["1*(1-p)"] " "&&"(varM[i]'=false)". END)
174
             PC -> P[i] : (+["1*p"] " "&&"(varP[i]'=true)" . END
175
                             +["1*(1-p)"] " "&&"(varP[i]'=false)".
176
                             if "(PC=6)&!varP[i]&((varP[i] & varM[i]) | (varM[i+1] & varP[
177
178
                                  \hookrightarrow i+2])) "@P[i] then {
                                      ["1"]"(varP[i]'=true)"@P[i] . GraphConnectedO
179
180
                             })
    }
181
182
```

Listing 3 Choreographic language for the Random Graphs Protocol.

```
183
184
mdp
const double p;

186
187
module PC
188
PC: [0..7] init 0;
```

 $^{^3}$ https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/graph_connected.php

 $^{^4 \ \, {\}tt https://github.com/adeleveschetti/choreography-to-PRISM}$

```
[DPPGR] (PC=0) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=1);
190
         [YCJJG] (PC=1) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=2);
191
         [TWGVA] (PC=2) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=3);
192
         [NODPZ] (PC=3) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=4);
193
         [FDALJ] (PC=4) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=5);
194
         [DCKXC] (PC=5) \rightarrow 1 : (PC'=6);
195
     endmodule
196
197
     module M1
198
         M1 : [0..1] init 0;
199
         varM1 : bool;
200
201
         [DPPGR] (M1=0) \rightarrow p :(varM1'=true)&(M1'=0) + (1-p) :(varM1'=false)&(M1'=0);
202
     endmodule
203
204
205
206
     module P1
207
         P1 : [0..3] init 0;
208
         varP1 : bool;
209
210
         [NODPZ] (P1=0) \rightarrow p:(varP1'=true)&(P1'=0) + (1-p):(varP1'=false)&(P1'=0);
211
         [] (P1=0)&(PC=6)&!varP1&((varP1 & varM1) | (varM2& varP3))
212
                                          \rightarrow 1 : (varP1'=true)&(P1'=0);
213
214
     endmodule
\frac{215}{216}
```

Listing 4 Generated PRISM program for the Random Graphs Protocol.

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

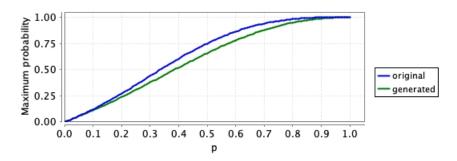


Figure 2 Probability that the nodes 1 and 2 are connected.

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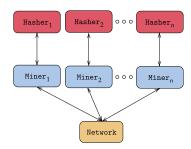
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2.3 Proof of Work Bitcoin Protocol

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.

```
237
    preamble
238
239
    endpreamble
240
    n = 4;
242
243
244
245
246
    PoW := Hasher[i] -> Miner[i] :
247
    (+["mR*hR[i]"] " "\&\&"(b[i]'=createB(b[i],B[i],c[i]))\&(c[i]'=c[i]+1)".
248
           Miner[i] -> Network :
249
                  (["rB*1"] "(B[i]'=addBlock(B[i],b[i]))" &&
250
                  foreach(k != i) "(set[k], addBlockSet(set[k], b[i]))" @Network .PoW)
251
     +["lR*hR[i]"] " " && " " .
252
           if "!isEmpty(set[i])"@Miner[i] then {
253
                  ["r"] "(b[i]'=extractBlock(set[i]))"@Miner[i] .
254
                         Miner[i] -> Network :
255
                          (["1*1"] "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i] , b[i]))"&&
256
                              257
           }
258
           else{
259
                  if "canBeInserted(B[i],b[i])"@Miner[i] then {
260
                          ["1"] "(B[i]'=addBlock(B[i],b[i]))&&(setMiner[i]'=removeBlock
261
                              262
                  }
263
                  else{
264
                         PoW
265
                  }
266
           }
267
    )
268
    }
269
```

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

Part of the generated PRISM code is shown in Listing 6, the modules $Miner_2$, $Miner_3$, $Miner_4$ and $Hasher_2$, $Hasher_3$, $Hasher_4$ are equivalent to $Miner_1$ and $Hasher_1$, 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

272

273

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320

```
276
277
278
     module Miner1
279
         Miner1 : [0..7] init 0;
         b1 : block {m1,0;genesis,0} ;
281
         B1 : blockchain [{genesis,0;genesis,0}];
282
         c1 : [0..N] init 0;
283
         setMiner1 : list [];
284
285
         [PZKYT] (Miner1=0) \rightarrow hR1 : (b1'=createB(b1,B1,c1))&(c1'=c1+1)&(Miner1'=1);
286
         [EUBVP] (Miner1=0) \rightarrow hR1 : (Miner1'=2);
287
         [HXYKO] (Miner1=1) \rightarrow 1 : (B1'=addBlock(B1,b1))&(Miner1'=0);
288
         \label{eq:miner1} \begin{tabular}{ll} \begin{tabular}{ll} $($Miner1=2)\&!isEmpty(set1)$ $\rightarrow$ $r:(b1'=extractBlock(set1))\&(Miner1'=4)$; \end{tabular}
289
         [SRKSV] (Miner1=4) \rightarrow 1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Miner1'=0)
290
              \hookrightarrow ;
         [] (Miner1=2)\&!(!isEmpty(set1)) \rightarrow 1 : (Miner1'=5);
         [] (Miner1=5)\&canBeInserted(B1,b1) \rightarrow 1 : (B1'=addBlock(B1,b1))\&(setMiner1'=balanceInserted(B1,b1))

    removeBlock(setMiner1,b1))&(Miner1'=0);
294
         [] (Miner1=5)&!(canBeInserted(B1,b1)) \rightarrow 1 : (Miner1'=0);
295
296
     endmodule
297
298
     module Network
299
     Network : [0..1] init 0;
300
         set1 : list [];
301
         [HXYK0] (Network=0) \rightarrow 1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,
              \rightarrow b3))&(set4'=addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(Network'=0);
         [SRKSV] (Network=0) \rightarrow 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
306
307
308
     endmodule
309
310
     module Hasher1
311
     Hasher1 : [0..1] init 0;
312
313
      [PZKYT] (Hasher1=0) \rightarrow mR : (Hasher1'=0);
314
      [EUBVP] (Hasher1=0) \rightarrow 1R : (Hasher1'=0);
315
316
     endmodule
317
318
```

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.

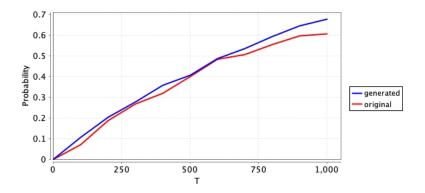
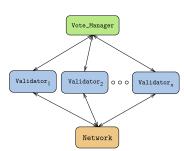


Figure 3 Probability at least one miner has created a block.

2.4 Hybrid Casper Protocol



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The last case we study we present is the Hybrid Casper Protocol modelled in PRISM in [4]. The Hybrid Capser protocol is an hybrid blockchain consenus 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 module 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 explaination 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.

```
339
    preamble
340
341
    endpreamble
342
    n = 5;
343
344
     . . .
     ₹
345
    PoS := Validator[i] -> Validator[i] :
346
        (+["mR*1"] "(b[i]'=createB(b[i],L[i],c[i]))\&(c[i]'=c[i]+1)"\&\&" "
347
       if "!(mod(getHeight(b[i]),EpochSize)=0)"@Validator[i] then{
348
          Validator[i] -> Network : (["1*1"] "(L[i]'=addBlock(L[i],b[i]))" && foreach(k
349
              \hookrightarrow !=i) "(set[k]'=addBlockSet(set[k],b[i]))"@Network .PoS)
350
       }
351
       else{
352
          Validator[i] -> Network : (["1*1"] "(L[i]'=addBlock(L[i],b[i]))" && foreach(k
353

→ !=i) "(set[k]'=addBlockSet(set[k],b[i]))"@Network . Validator[i] ->

354

→ Vote_Manager :(["1*1"] " "&&"(Votes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))".PoS

355
              \hookrightarrow ))
356
357
        +["lR*1"] " "&&" " . if "!isEmpty(set[i])"@Validator[i] then {
358
```

```
["1"] "(b[i]'=extractBlock(set[i]))"@Validator[i] .
359
            if "!canBeInserted(L[i],b[i])"@Validator[i] then {
               PoS
361
           }
362
           else{
363
           if "!(mod(getHeight(b[i]),EpochSize)=0)"@Validator[i] then {
364
            Validator[i] -> Network : (["1*1"] "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i])
365
                 \hookrightarrow , b[i]))"&&"(set[i]' = removeBlock(set[i],b[i]))" . PoS)
366
          }
367
          else{
368
            Validator[i] -> Network : (["1*1"] "(setMiner[i]' = addBlockSet(setMiner[i])
369
                 → , b[i]))"&&"(set[i]' = removeBlock(set[i],b[i]))" . Validator[i] ->
                 → Vote_Manager : (["1*1"] " "&&"(Votes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))
371
                 → ".PoS ))
372
          }
373
        }
374
      }
375
      else{PoS}
376
       +["rC*1"] "(lastCheck[i]'=extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],lastCheck[i]))&(
377
            → heightLast[i] '=getHeight(extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],lastCheck[i
378
            \hookrightarrow \texttt{])))\&(votes[i]'=calcVotes(Votes,extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints[i],extractCheckpoints[i])))}
379
            → lastCheck[i])))"&&" " .
380
          if "(heightLast[i]=heightCheckpoint[i]+EpochSize)&(votes[i]>=2/3*tot_stake)"
381

→ @Validator[i] then{
            if "(heightLast[i]=heightCheckpoint[i]+EpochSize)"@Validator[i] then{
38
              ["1"] "(lastJ[i]'=b[i])&(L[i]'= updateHF(L[i],lastJ[i]))" @Validator[i].
38
                   → Validator[i]->Vote_Manager :(["1*1"]" "&&"(epoch'=height(lastF(L[i
385
                  → ]))&(Stakes'=addVote(Votes,b[i],stake[i]))".PoS)
386
387
           else{["1"] "(lastJ[i]'=b[i])"@Validator[i] . PoS}
388
389
          else{PoS}
390
391
    }
392
393
```

Listing 7 Choreographic language for the Hybrid Casper Protocol.

```
394
     module Validator1
395
396
397
        [] (Validator1=0) \rightarrow mR : (b1'=createB(b1,L1,c1))&(c1'=c1+1)&(Validator1'=1);
398
        [] (Validator1=0) \rightarrow 1R : (Validator1'=2);
399
        [] (Validator1=0)&(!isEmpty(listCheckpoints1)) \rightarrow
             rC : (lastCheck1'=extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,lastCheck1))&(
401

→ heightLast1'=getHeight(extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,lastCheck1))
402
                  → )))&(votes1'=calcVotes(Votes,extractCheckpoint(listCheckpoints1,
403

    lastCheck1)))&(Validator1'=3);
404
        [NGRDF] (Validator1=1)&!(mod(getHeight(b1), EpochSize)=0) \rightarrow 1 : (L1'=addBlock(
405
             \hookrightarrow L1,b1))&(Validator1'=0);
406
        [] (Validator1=1)\&!(!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0)) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=3);
407
        [PCRLD] (Validator1=1)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) \rightarrow
408
             1 : (L1'=addBlock(L1,b1))&(Validator1'=4);
409
        [VSJBE] (Validator1=5) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=0);
410
        [] (Validator1=2)&!isEmpty(set1) \rightarrow
411
```

```
1 : (b1'=extractBlock(set1))&(Validator1'=4);
412
        [] (Validator1=4)&!canBeInserted(L1,b1) \rightarrow (Validator1'=0);
413
        [] (Validator1=4)&!(!canBeInserted(L1,b1)) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=6);
414
        [MDDCF] (Validator1=6)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) \rightarrow
415
             1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Validator1'=0);
416
        [] (Validator1=6)&!(!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0)) → 1 : (Validator1'=8);
417
        [IQVPA] (Validator1=6)&!(mod(getHeight(b1),EpochSize)=0) \rightarrow
418
             1 : (setMiner1' = addBlockSet(setMiner1 , b1))&(Validator1'=9);
419
        [IFNVZ] (Validator1=10) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=0);
420
        [] (Validator1=2)&!(!isEmpty(set1)) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=0);
421
        [] (Validator1=3)&(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize)&(votes1>=2/3*
422
             \hookrightarrow tot_stake) \rightarrow (Validator1'=4);
423
        [] (Validator1=4)&(heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize) \rightarrow
424
             1 : (lastJ1'=b1)&(L1'= updateHF(L1,lastJ1))&(Validator1'=6);
425
        [EQCYO] (Validator1=6) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=0);
426
        [] (Validator1=4)&!((heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize)) \rightarrow
427
             1 : (lastJ1'=b1)&(Validator1'=0);
428
        [] (Validator1=3)&!((heightLast1=heightCheckpoint1+EpochSize)&(votes1>=2/3*
429
             \hookrightarrow tot_stake)) \rightarrow 1 : (Validator1'=0);
430
     endmodule
431
432
    module Network
433
        Network : [0..1] init 0;
434
        set1 : list [];
435
        set2 : list [];
436
        set3 : list [];
437
        set4 : list [];
438
        set5 : list [];
439
440
        [NGRDF] (Network=0) \rightarrow
441
             1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,b3))&(set4'=
442
                  \hookrightarrow addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(set5'=addBlockSet(set5,b5))&(Network'=0);
443
        [PCRLD] (Network=0) \rightarrow
444
             1 : (set2'=addBlockSet(set2,b2))&(set3'=addBlockSet(set3,b3))&(set4'=
445
                  \hookrightarrow addBlockSet(set4,b4))&(set5'=addBlockSet(set5,b5))&(Network'=0);
446
        [MDDCF] (Network=0) \rightarrow 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
        [IQVPA] (Network=0) \rightarrow 1 : (set1' = removeBlock(set1,b1))&(Network'=0);
449
     endmodule
450
451
    module Vote_Manager
452
        Vote Manager : [0..1] init 0;
453
        epoch : [0..10] init 0;
454
        Votes : hash[];
455
        tot_stake : [0..120000] init 50;
456
        stake1 : [0..N] init 10;
457
        stake2 : [0..N] init 10;
458
        stake3 : [0..N] init 10;
459
        stake4 : [0..N] init 10;
460
        stake5 : [0..N] init 10;
461
462
        [VSJBE] (Vote_Manager=0) \rightarrow
463
             1 : (Votes'=addVote(Votes,b1,stake1))&(Vote_Manager'=0);
464
465
     endmodule
466
```

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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.

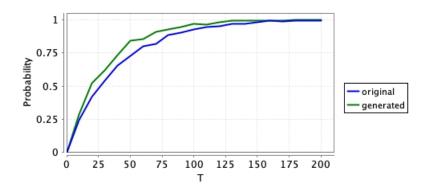


Figure 4 Probability that a block has been created.

2.5 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 Election⁵: 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 Protocols⁶: 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**⁷: in this model, the processes $\mathtt{station}_i$ do two different things in the same state. More precicely, at the state 0 (\mathtt{s}_i =0), the processes may synchronize with the process \mathtt{server} or may change their state without any synchronization. In out language, this cannot be formalized since the synchronization is a branch action, so there should be another option with a synchronization.

https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/asynchronous_leader.php

⁶ https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/prob_broadcast.php

⁷ https://www.prismmodelchecker.org/casestudies/polling.php

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