CauDEr: A Causal-Consistent Reversible Debugger for Erlang

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Motivation

Facts about debugging:

- Developers spend 50% of their programming time searching and fixing bugs.
- Global cost of debugging is estimated to be around \$312 billions anually.
- Cost of debugging increases with software complexity (size, concurrent).

However, very little research on debugging, especially for concurrent sw

⇒ Novel approach to debug concurrent message-passing programs

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Erlang

Erlang's features

Main features of Erlang:

- integration of functional and concurrent features
- concurrency model based on asynchronous message-passing
- dynamic typing
- hot code loading

These features make it appropriate for distributed, fault-tolerant applications (Facebook, WhatsApp)

Erlang syntax

We consider a subset of Erlang with this syntax:

```
Module ::= module Atom = fun_1, \dots, fun_n
     fun ::= fname = fun (X_1, \ldots, X_n) \rightarrow expr
 fname ::= Atom/Integer
      lit ::= Atom | Integer | Float | []
   expr ::= Var \mid lit \mid fname \mid [expr_1|expr_2] \mid \{expr_1, \dots, expr_n\}
                call expr(expr_1, ..., expr_n) | apply expr(expr_1, ..., expr_n)
                 case expr of clause_1; ...; clause_m end
                 let Var = expr_1 in expr_2 | receive clause_1; . . . ; clause_n end
                 spawn(expr, [expr_1, ..., expr_n]) \mid expr_1 ! expr_2 \mid self()
 clause ::= pat when expr_1 \rightarrow expr_2
    pat ::= Var \mid lit \mid [pat_1 \mid pat_2] \mid \{pat_1, \ldots, pat_n\}
```

Erlang syntax

We consider a subset of Erlang with this syntax:

```
let Var = expr_1 in expr_2 | receive clause_1; ...; clause_n end
spawn(expr, [expr_1, ..., expr_n]) \mid expr_1 ! expr_2 \mid self()
```

```
main/0 = fun() \rightarrow let P2 = spawn(echo/0, [])
                         in let P3 = \text{spawn}(target/0, [])
                         in let _{-} = P3 ! hello
                          in let P2 ! {P3, world}
 target/0 = fun() \rightarrow receive
                                 A \rightarrow \text{receive}
                                           B \rightarrow \{A,B\} d
                                        end
                             end
   echo/0 = fun () \rightarrow receive
                                \{P,M\} \rightarrow P!M
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 target/0 = fun() \rightarrow receive
                              A \rightarrow \text{receive}
                                        d P1
P1
\{P3, world\}
                                     end
                          end
  echo/0 = fun () \rightarrow receive
                             \{P,M\} \rightarrow P!M
                                                          {hello,world}
                          end
```

```
 \begin{array}{l} \mathit{main}/0 = \mathsf{fun} \ () \to \mathsf{let} \ P2 = \mathsf{spawn}(\mathit{echo}/0, [\,]) \\ & \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{let} \ P3 = \mathsf{spawn}(\mathit{target}/0, [\,]) \\ & \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{let} \ P3 = \mathsf{spawn}(\mathit{target}/0, [\,]) \\ & \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{let} \ P3 = \mathsf{spawn}(\mathit{target}/0, [\,]) \\ & \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{let} \ P2 = \mathsf{leflo} \\ & \mathsf{in} \ \mathsf{let} \ P2 = \mathsf{leflo} \\ & \mathsf{lend} \end{array}   \begin{array}{c} \mathsf{P1} \xrightarrow{\mathit{hello}} \mathsf{P3} \\ \mathsf{P2} \xrightarrow{\mathit{world}} \mathsf{P3} \\ \mathsf{P2} & \mathsf{lend} \end{array}   \mathsf{P3} = \mathsf{P3}   \mathsf{P4} = \mathsf{P3} = \mathsf{P3}   \mathsf{P4} = \mathsf{P3} = \mathsf{P3} = \mathsf{P3}   \mathsf{P4} = \mathsf
```

$$echo/0 = fun () \rightarrow receive \ \{P, M\} \rightarrow P ! M$$
 end

 $\{\mathsf{hello}, \mathsf{world}\}, \{\mathsf{world}, \mathsf{hello}\}$

Semantics

Standard Semantics

Definition (process)

A process is a triple $\langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle$ where

- p is the pid of the process
- (θ, e) is the control of the state
- q is the process' local mailbox

Definition (system)

A system is denoted by Γ ; Π , where

- \bullet Γ is the global mailbox of the system (models the network)
- ullet Π is a pool of processes

We often use Γ ; $\langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi$



$$(Seq) \qquad \frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\tau} \theta', e'}{\Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma; \langle p, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \mid \Pi}$$

$$(Send) \qquad \frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\text{send}(p'', v)} \theta', e'}{\Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma \cup (p'', v); \langle p, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \mid \Pi}$$

$$(Receive) \qquad \frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\text{rec}(\kappa, \overline{cl_n})} \theta', e' \quad \text{matchrec}(\overline{cl_n}, q) = (\theta_i, e_i, v)}{\Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma; \langle p, (\theta'\theta_i, e'\{\kappa \mapsto e_i\}), q \rangle_{v} \mid \Pi}$$

$$(Spawn) \qquad \frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\text{spawn}(\kappa, a/n, [\overline{v_n}])} \theta', e' \quad p' \text{ is a fresh pid}}{\Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma; \langle p, (\theta', e'\{\kappa \mapsto p'\}), q \rangle} \mid \langle p', (id, apply \ a/n \ (\overline{v_n})), [] \rangle \mid \Pi}$$

$$(Self) \qquad \frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\text{self}(\kappa)} \theta', e'}{\Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma; \langle p, (\theta', e'\{\kappa \mapsto p\}), q \rangle \mid \Pi}$$

$$(Sched) \qquad \overline{\Gamma \cup \{(p, v)\}; \langle p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \mid \Pi \hookrightarrow \Gamma; \langle p, (\theta, e), v; q \rangle \mid \Pi}$$

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Reversible Trace Semantics

(Seq)
$$\frac{\theta, e \xrightarrow{\tau} \theta', e'}{\Gamma; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \rightarrow \Gamma; \langle \tau(\theta, e); h, p, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \& \Pi}$$

(Self)
$$\frac{\theta, e \stackrel{\mathsf{self}(y)}{\to} \theta', e'}{\Gamma; \langle h, \rho, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \to \Gamma; \langle \mathsf{self}(\theta, e) : h, \rho, (\theta', e' \{ y \mapsto \rho \}), q \rangle \& \Pi}$$

$$(\textit{Spawn}) \quad \frac{\theta, e \overset{\mathsf{spawn}(y, a/n, [e_1, \ldots, e_n])}{\to} \theta', e' \quad p' \text{ is a fresh pid}}{\Gamma; \langle h, \rho, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \quad \to \quad \Gamma; \langle \mathsf{spawn}(\theta, e, p') : h, \rho, (\theta', e'\{y \mapsto p'\}), q \rangle} \\ \& \langle [], \rho', (\theta, \mathsf{apply} \ a/n \ (e_1, \ldots, e_n)), [] \rangle \& \Pi$$

$$(\mathit{Send}) \ \ \frac{\theta, e \overset{\mathsf{send}(p'', v)}{\longrightarrow} \theta', e' \ \ \, \mathsf{and} \ \ \, \lambda \; \mathsf{is \; a \; fresh \; identifier}}{\Gamma; \langle h, \rho, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \rightharpoonup \Gamma \cup (p'', \{v, \lambda\}); \langle \mathsf{send}(\theta, e, \{v, \lambda\}) : h, \rho, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \& \Pi}$$

$$(\textit{Receive}) \qquad \frac{\theta, \operatorname{e} \overset{\mathsf{rec}(y,\overline{cl_n})}{\to} \theta', \operatorname{e}' \quad \mathsf{matchrec}(\overline{cl_n}, q) = (\theta_i, e_i, \{v, \lambda\})}{\Gamma; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \rightharpoonup \Gamma; \langle \quad \mathsf{rec}(\theta, e, \{v, \lambda\}, q, q \backslash \{v, k\}) : h, \\ p, (\theta'\theta_i, e' \{y \mapsto e_i\}), q \backslash \{v, k\} \quad \rangle \& \Pi}$$

(Sched)
$$\frac{\Gamma \cup \{(p, \{v, \lambda\})\}; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \rightharpoonup \Gamma; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), \{v, \lambda\} : q \rangle \& \Pi}{\Gamma \cup \{(p, \{v, \lambda\})\}; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), q \rangle \& \Pi \rightharpoonup \Gamma; \langle h, p, (\theta, e), \{v, \lambda\} : q \rangle \& \Pi}$$

Causal-Consistent Debugging Semantics

Rollbacks

Processes in rollback mode are annotated using $\lfloor \ \rfloor_{\varPsi}$ where \varPsi is the requested set of rollbacks

- s: one causal-consistent backward step
- ullet λ^{\Uparrow} : a backward derivation up to the sending of λ
- ullet λ^{\Downarrow} : a backward derivation up to the delivery of λ
- ullet $\lambda^{
 m rec}$: a backward derivation up to the receive of λ
- sp_p : a backward derivation up to the spawning of p
- sp: a backward derivation up to the creation of the process
- X: a backward derivation up to the introduction of variable X

Undoing the sending of a message

$$(\overline{Send1}) \qquad \Gamma \cup \{(p', \{v, \lambda\})\}; \\ \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\uparrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$\Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ \mid \lfloor \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi'} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \\ \mid \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi' \cup \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$(\overline{Sched}) \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), \{v, \lambda\} : q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma \cup (p, \{v, \lambda\}); \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

Undoing the sending of a message

$$(\overline{Send1}) \qquad \Gamma \cup \{(p', \{v, \lambda\})\}; \\ \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\uparrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$\Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ \mid \lfloor \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi'} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \\ \lfloor \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi' \cup \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$(\overline{Sched}) \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), \{v, \lambda\} : q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma \cup (p, \{v, \lambda\}); \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

Undoing the sending of a message

$$(\overline{Send1}) \qquad \Gamma \cup \{(p', \{v, \lambda\})\}; \\ \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\uparrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$\Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ \mid \lfloor \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi'} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{send}(\theta, e, p', \{v, \lambda\}) : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \\ \mid \langle p', h', (\theta'', e''), q' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi' \cup \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$(\overline{Sched}) \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), \{v, \lambda\} : q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma \cup (p, \{v, \lambda\}); |\langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle |_{\Psi \setminus \{\lambda^{\downarrow}\}} \mid \Pi$$

Undoing the spawning of a process

$$(\overline{\textit{Spawn1}}) \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ (\overline{\textit{Spawn1}}) \qquad \qquad | \lfloor \langle p'', [], (\theta'', e''), [] \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi'} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi \setminus \{\operatorname{sp}_{p''}\}} \mid \Pi \\ \\ (\overline{\textit{Spawn2}}) \qquad \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ \qquad \qquad \qquad | \lfloor \langle p'', h'', (\theta'', e''), q'' \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi'} \mid \Pi \\ \leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\Psi} \\ \qquad \qquad | | \langle p'', h'', (\theta'', e''), q'' \rangle \mid_{\Psi' \cup \{\operatorname{sp}\}} \mid \Pi \\ \end{pmatrix}$$

More details in the paper...

Undoing the spawning of a process

$$(\overline{\textit{Spawn1}}) \qquad \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta', e'), q \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi}$$

$$(\overline{\textit{Spawn1}}) \qquad \qquad | \lfloor \langle p'', [], (\theta'', e''), [] \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi'} \mid \Pi$$

$$\leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi \setminus \{\operatorname{sp}_{p''}\}} \mid \Pi$$

$$\Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi}$$

$$(\overline{\textit{Spawn2}}) \qquad \qquad | \lfloor \langle p'', h'', (\theta'', e''), q'' \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi'} \mid \Pi$$

$$\leftarrow \Gamma; \lfloor \langle p, \operatorname{spawn}(\theta, e, p'') : h, (\theta, e), q \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi}$$

$$| \lfloor \langle p'', h'', (\theta'', e''), q'' \rangle \mid_{\varPsi' \cup \{\operatorname{sp}\}} \mid \Pi$$

More details in the paper...

Undoing the spawning of a process

$$(\overline{\textit{Spawn2}}) \begin{array}{c} \varGamma; \lfloor \langle \textit{p}, \mathsf{spawn}(\theta, e, \textit{p''}) \colon \textit{h}, (\theta, e), \textit{q} \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi} \\ & \hspace{0.5cm} | \hspace{0.5cm} \lfloor \langle \textit{p''}, \textit{h''}, (\theta'', e''), \textit{q''} \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi'} \hspace{0.5cm} | \hspace{0.5cm} \varPi \\ & \hspace{0.5cm} - \varGamma; \lfloor \langle \textit{p}, \mathsf{spawn}(\theta, e, \textit{p''}) \colon \textit{h}, (\theta, e), \textit{q} \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi} \\ & \hspace{0.5cm} | \hspace{0.5cm} \lfloor \langle \textit{p''}, \textit{h''}, (\theta'', e''), \textit{q''} \rangle \rfloor_{\varPsi' \cup \{\mathsf{sp}\}} \hspace{0.5cm} | \hspace{0.5cm} \varPi \end{array}$$

More details in the paper...

Demo: CauDEr

https://github.com/mistupv/cauder



Conclusions

We have

- designed a causal-consistent reversible semantics for Erlang
- developed CauDEr: a causal-consistent debugger for Erlang

Ongoing work:

- causal-consistent replay
- redesign GUI

Thanks for your attention!

https://github.com/mistupv/cauder

