



Western Norway
University of
Applied Sciences

Resource Contracts for Active Objects

(Part of the *CroFlow* Project)

Charaf Eddine Dridi
Violet Ka I Pun
Volker Stolz

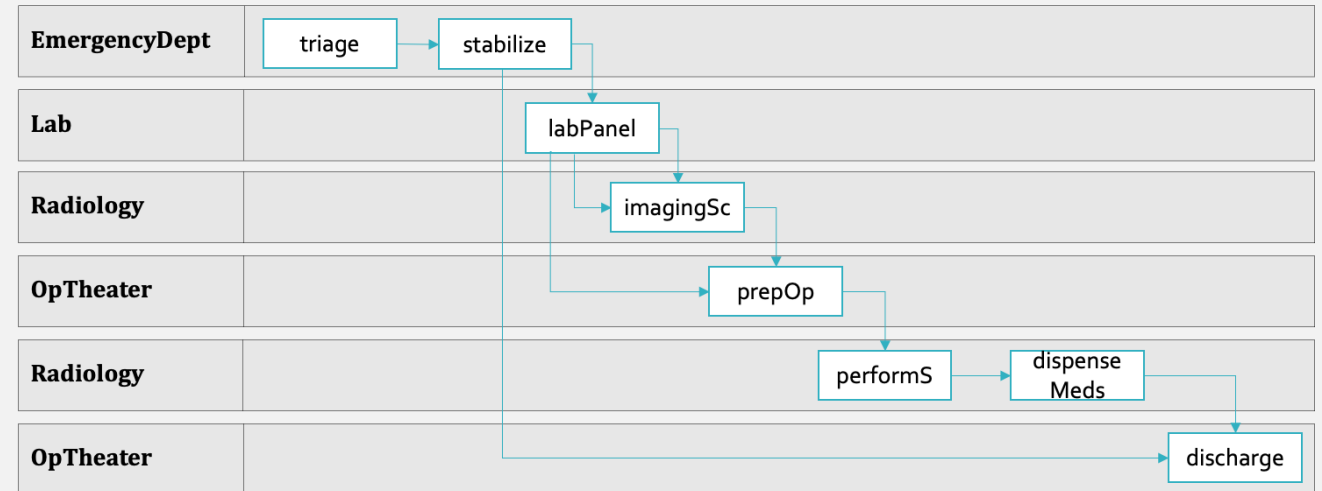
7th International Workshop on Asynchronous Programming Models
2nd October 2025, Porto, Portugal

Challenge of Concurrent Workflows

Require coordination of tasks across distributed units

Must handle:

- Dependencies
- Resources



Active objects coordinate tasks across cross-organizational workflows?

How do we model and reason about these systems formally?

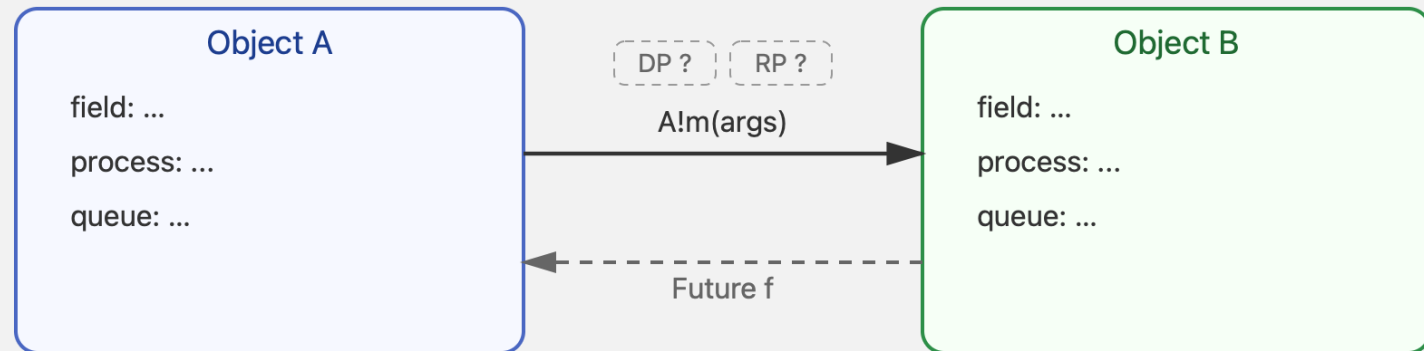
Why Active Objects?

Active Objects :

- Encapsulate process + queue
- Communicate via asynchronous calls (futures)

But: existing models lack built-in support for

- Declarative dependencies
- Resource constraints
- Scheduling policies



***ReAct*: Resource-Aware Active Objects**

Extend active object paradigm:

- Dependencies (DP)
- Resource Profiles (RP)

Formalized in Maude:

- Enforce DP and RP
- Simulation & execution
- Analysis with model checking / search

ReAct : Syntax

Signature as a contract

$$Sg ::= T \ m \ (\overline{T \ x}) \ \overline{DP} \ \overline{RP}$$

- Dependencies

$$\overline{DP} = \{ DP_1, DP_2 \},$$

$$\text{where } DP_1 = C_1.m_1, DP_2 = C_2.m_2 \wedge C'_2.m'_2$$

- Resources Requirements

$$\overline{RP} = \{ RP_1, RP_2 \},$$

$$\text{where } RP_1 = (t_1.n_1, A_1),$$

$$RP_2 = (t_2.n_2, A_2) \wedge (t'_2, n'_2, A'_2)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P &::= \overline{R} \ \overline{CD} \ \{\overline{T \ x} \ s\} \\ CD &::= \mathbf{class} \ C \ \{\overline{T \ x} \ \overline{M}\} \\ M &::= Sg \ \{\overline{T \ x} \ ; \ s\} \\ Sg &::= T \ m(\overline{T \ x}) \ \overline{DP} \ \overline{RP} \\ T &::= B \mid \mathbf{Fut}\langle B \rangle \\ B &::= C \mid \mathbf{Bool} \mid \mathbf{Int} \mid \mathbf{Unit} \mid \dots \\ DP &::= C.m \mid DP \wedge DP \\ RP &::= (t, n, \mathcal{A}) \mid RP \wedge RP \\ R &::= (t, \mathcal{A}) \\ s &::= x = rhs \mid \mathbf{skip} \mid \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \ s \ \mathbf{else} \ s \\ &\quad \mid \mathbf{await} \ f? \mid \mathbf{return} \ e \mid s ; s \\ &\quad \mid \mathbf{if} \ e \ \mathbf{then} \{s\} \ \mathbf{else} \ \{s\} \\ rhs &::= e \mid \mathbf{new} \ C \mid f.\mathbf{get} \\ &\quad \mid e.m(\overline{e}) \ \mathbf{after} \ \overline{fs} \mid e!m(\overline{e}) \ \mathbf{after} \ \overline{fs} \\ e &::= x \mid b \mid \overline{fs} \mid \mathbf{this} \\ fs &::= f? \mid fs \wedge fs \end{aligned}$$

ReAct : Syntax

Example : Hospital Workflow

- Resources Pool
- Methods
 - Dependencies – **dep**
 - Resources Profiles – **req**
- Workflow – **after**

```
1 { (Intern,  $\mathcal{A}_1$ ), (JuniorResident,  $\mathcal{A}_2$ ), (SeniorNurse,  $\mathcal{A}_3$ ),  
2   (JuniorNurse,  $\mathcal{A}_6$ ), (JuniorNurse,  $\mathcal{A}_5$ ), (SeniorResident,  $\mathcal{A}_6$ )  
3   ... }  
4  
5 class Hospital {  
6   Unit registerPatient()  
7     req (Intern,1,...)  $\vee$  (JuniorNurse,1,...) { ... }  
8  
9   Unit startTreatmentPlan()  
10    dep CardiologyUnit.assessPatient  $\wedge$  RadiologyUnit.imagingScan  
11    req (Intern,1,...)  $\wedge$  (JuniorNurse,2,...) { ... } }  
12  
13 class CardiologyUnit {  
14   Unit assessPatient() dep Hospital.registerPatient  
15     req (SeniorResident,1,...)  $\wedge$  (SeniorNurse,1,...) { ... } }  
16  
17 class RadiologyUnit {  
18   Unit imagingScan() dep Hospital.registerPatient  
19     req (JuniorResident,1,...)  $\vee$  (SeniorNurse,1,...) { ... } }  
20  
21 { Hospital h = new Hospital();  
22   CardiologyUnit cu = new CardiologyUnit();  
23   RadiologyUnit ru = new RadiologyUnit();  
24  
25   Fut<Unit> f1 = h!registerPatient();  
26   Fut<Unit> f2 = cu!assessPatient() after f1?;  
27   Fut<Unit> f3 = ru!imagingScan() after f1?;  
28   Fut<Unit> f4 = h!startTreatmentPlan() after f2?  $\wedge$  f3?; }
```

ReAct : Semantics

Calls Evaluation

- Async-Call-After
- Sync-Call-After
- Async-Call
- Sync-Call

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(SYNC-CALL-AFTER)} \\ & o(a, \{l \mid x = e.m(\bar{e}) \text{ after } \bar{f}s ; s\}, q) \\ \rightarrow & o(a, \{l \mid \text{if } \bar{f}s \{x = e.m(\bar{e}) ; s\} \text{ else } \{\text{suspend} ; x = e.m(\bar{e}) \text{ after } \bar{f}s ; s\}\}, q) \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} & \text{(ASYNC-CALL-AFTER)} \\ & o(a, \{l \mid x = e!m(\bar{e}) \text{ after } \bar{f}s ; s\}, q) \\ \rightarrow & o(a, \{l \mid \text{if } \bar{f}s \{x = e!m(\bar{e}) ; s\} \text{ else } \{\text{suspend} ; x = e!m(\bar{e}) \text{ after } \bar{f}s ; s\}\}, q) \end{aligned}$$

ReAct : Semantics

Invocations

- Invoc
- bind method

$$\frac{\text{(INVOC)} \quad \{l \mid s\} = \text{bind}(o, f, m, \bar{v}, \text{class}(o))}{o(a, p, q) \quad \text{invoc}(o, f, m, \bar{v}) \rightarrow o(a, p, q \cup \{l \mid s\})}$$

$$\text{bind}(o, f, m, \bar{v}, C) = \{ \text{destiny} \mapsto f, \text{rr} \mapsto \overline{RP}, \bar{x} \mapsto \bar{v}, \text{ar} \mapsto \perp, \bar{y} \mapsto \perp \mid s[o \backslash \mathbf{this}] \}$$

ReAct : Semantics

Activation and Resources Allocation

- Activate-1 : No resources needed
- Activate-2 : Already have resources
- Activate-Alloc : Need resources

$$\frac{(\text{ACTIVATE-1})}{l(rr) = \emptyset}$$

$$\frac{o(a, \text{idle}, q \cup \{l \mid s\})}{\rightarrow o(a, \{l \mid s\}, q)}$$

$$\frac{(\text{ACTIVATE-2})}{l(ar) \neq \perp}$$

$$\frac{o(a, \text{idle}, q \cup \{l \mid s\})}{\rightarrow o(a, \{l \mid s\}, q)}$$

$$(\text{ACTIVATE-ALLOC})$$

$$\frac{l(rr) \neq \emptyset \quad l(ar) = \perp \quad ares = \text{fpr}(l(rr), res) \neq \emptyset}{o(a, \text{idle}, q \cup \{l \mid s\}) \quad res}$$

$$\rightarrow o(a, \{l[ar \mapsto ares] \mid s\}, q) \quad res \setminus ares$$

ReAct : Semantics

Self-Sync Calls

- Self-Sync-Call

$$\frac{\begin{array}{l} \text{(SELF-SYNC-CALL)} \\ o = \llbracket e \rrbracket_{aol} \quad \bar{v} = \llbracket \bar{e} \rrbracket_{aol} \quad f' \text{ fresh} \quad f = l(\text{destiny}) \\ \{l' \mid s'\} = \text{bind}(o, f', m, \bar{v}, C) \quad ares = \text{fpr}(l'(rr), res) \neq \emptyset \end{array}}{\begin{array}{l} o(a, \{l \mid x = e.m(\bar{e}) ; s\}, q) \quad res \\ \rightarrow o(a, \{l'[ar \mapsto ares] \mid s' ; \mathbf{cont}(f)\}, q \cup \{l \mid x = f'.\mathbf{get} ; s\}) \quad res \setminus ares \quad fut(f', \perp) \end{array}}$$

ReAct : Semantics

Return and Future Resolution

- Return
- Self-Sync-Return

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(RETURN)} \\ \hline \frac{v = \llbracket e \rrbracket_{a \circ l} \quad f = l(\textit{destiny})}{o(a, \{l \mid \mathbf{return} \ e ; s\}, q) \quad \textit{fut}(f, \perp) \quad \textit{res} \rightarrow o(a, \{l \mid s\}, q) \quad \textit{fut}(f, v) \quad \textit{res} \cup l(ar)} \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{(SELF-SYNC-RETURN)} \\ \hline \frac{f = l(\textit{destiny})}{o(a, \{l' \mid \mathbf{cont}(f)\}, q \cup \{l \mid s\}) \quad \textit{res} \rightarrow o(a, \{l \mid s\}, q) \quad \textit{res} \cup l(ar)} \end{array}$$

Formalizing *ReAct* in Maude

Why Maude?

- **We require:**
 - Rich structural representation
 - Conditional behaviors
 - Executable specifications
- **Maude is based on rewriting logic:**
 - Expressive
 - Executable
 - Equipped with verification tools (search, model checking)
- **Execuatable *ReAct*:**
 - Signature (sorts, ops, classes)
 - Equations & attributes
 - Rewrite rules : Rules transform configurations using pattern matching and conditions

$$\text{def}_{ReAct} = \{\Sigma_{ReAct}, (E \cup A)_{ReAct}, R_{ReAct}\}$$

Formalizing *ReAct* in Maude

Syntax

ReAct	Maude
Object	class OBJECT fields : Int, proc : ProcessState, suspended : ProcessPool .
Method	class METHOD sig : Oid, body : Oid .
Signature	class SIGNATURE ret : Int, name : MethodName, params : ParamList, dp : DP, requires : ResourceProfile .
Resource Profile	class RESOURCE type : String, attrs : AttrSet, state : ResState, ResCost : Int . op noneProfile : -> ResourceProfile . op _and_ : ResourceProfile ResourceProfile -> ResourceProfile [ctor assoc comm id: noneProfile] . op _or_ : ResourceProfile ResourceProfile -> ResourceProfile [ctor assoc comm id: noneProfile] .
Statement	sort Statement . op _ = !_ () : LocalVar Expr Oid Args -> Statement [ctor] . op _ = _ . () : LocalVar Expr Oid Args -> Statement [ctor] . op _ = !_ () after_ : LocalVar Expr Oid Args Clause -> Statement [ctor] . op _ = _ . () after_ : LocalVar Expr Oid Args Clause -> Statement [ctor] . ops skip suspend : -> Statement [ctor] . op await : Oid -> Statement [ctor] .
Process State	sort ProcessState . ops idle : -> ProcessState . op { _ _ } : LocalVarList Statement -> ProcessState [ctor] .
Future	sort FutureState . class Future value : ValueOption, state : FutureState . ops unresolved resolved : -> FutureState [ctor]

Formalizing *ReAct* in Maude

Semantics

ReAct	Maude
Equations	clauseSatisfied(FS), bind(O,F,...), get(F), feasibleProfile(RP, RS) .
Messages	op invoc(O, F, M, A) : Oid FutureOid Oid Args -> Msg [ctor] .
Rules	crl [rewrite-rule-name] : State => State' if Equation .
Properties	search [n] in ModId : initial-state =>! pattern [such that cond] .

Formalizing *ReAct* in Maude

Rewriting Rules

rl [Async-Call-After] :

< O : OBJECT | fields : Fld, proc : { LVL | (X = E ! M(A)after Fset) ; S },
suspended : Q >

=>

< O : OBJECT | fields : Fld, proc : { LVL | if clauseSatisfied(FSet)
then (X = E ! M(A)) ; S
else (suspend ; X = E ! M(A)after FSet) ; S
fi},
suspended : Q > .

crl [activate-alloc] :

< RP : RESOURCE-POOL | pool : ResS >

< O : OBJECT | fields : Fld,
proc : idle,
suspended : { LVL ; (rr := RP1) ; (ar := noneProfile) | S } ; Q >

=>

< RP : RESOURCE-POOL | pool : reserveResources(feasibleProfile(RP1, ResS), ResS) >

< O : OBJECT | fields : Fld,
proc : { LVL ; (rr := RP1) ; (ar := feasibleProfile(RP1, ResS)) | S },
suspended : Q >

if RP1 /= noneProfile .

Simulation and Analysis

Example : Hospital Workflow

Main {
< bmain : **METHODBODY** | **stmt** :
 ((fregRecord = Hospital ! registerPatient());
 (fcardioAssess = CardiologyUnit ! assessPatient() after fregRecord);
 (fimagingScan = RadiologyUnit ! imagingScan() after fregRecord);
 (finitiateTreatment = Hospital ! startTreatmentPlan() after (fcardioAssess /\ fimagingScan))) >

Signatures {
< sigregisterPatient : **SIGNATURE** | **name** : registerPatient, **params** : pl1,
 requires : needs("Intern", 1, (years(2) ; shift("day")))
 and needs("Junior Nurse", 1, (years(5) ; shift("day")))) >

< sigassessPatient : **SIGNATURE** | **name** : assessPatient, **params** : pl2,
 depends : (HOSPITAL . registerPatient),
 requires : needs("Senior Resident", 1, (years(10) ; shift("day")))
 and needs("Senior Nurse", 1, (years(10) ; shift("day")))) >

< sigimagingScan : **SIGNATURE** | **name** : imagingScan, **params** : pl3,
 depends : (HOSPITAL . registerPatient),
 requires : needs("Junior Resident", 1, (years(5) ; shift("day")))
 or needs("Senior Nurse", 1, (years(10) ; shift("day")))) >

< sigstartTreatmentPlan : **SIGNATURE** | **name** : startTreatmentPlan, **params** : pl4,
 depends : (CARDIOLOGYUNIT . assessPatient) ; (RADIOLOGYUNIT . imagingScan),
 requires : needs("Intern", 1, (years(2) ; shift("day")))
 or needs("Junior Nurse", 2, (years(5) ; shift("day")))) >

Simulation and Analysis

Execution

- All tasks completed
- Correct resource discipline
- All futures resolved
- No pending invocations
- No suspended processes

```
Maude> Maude> Maude> Maude> rewrite in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init .
rewrites: 484 in 0ms cpu (1ms real) (598269 rewrites/second)
result Configuration:
< fregRecord : Future | value : someInt(1), state : resolved >
< fcardioAssess : Future | value : someInt(111), state : resolved >
< fimagingScan : Future | value : someInt(11), state : resolved >
< finitiateTreatment : Future | value : someInt(1111), state : resolved >
< resourcePool : RESOURCE-POOL | pool :
  (< r1 : RESOURCE | id : r1, type : "Intern", attrs : (years(2) ; shift("day")), state : available, R
   : < r2 : RESOURCE | id : r2, type : "Junior Nurse", attrs : (years(5) ; shift("day")), state : avail
   : < r3 : RESOURCE | id : r3, type : "Junior Nurse", attrs : (years(5) ; shift("day")), state : avail
   : < r4 : RESOURCE | id : r4, type : "Junior Resident", attrs : (years(5) ; shift("day")), state : a
   : < r5 : RESOURCE | id : r5, type : "Senior Resident", attrs : (years(10) ; shift("day")), state : a
   : < r6 : RESOURCE | id : r6, type : "Senior Nurses", attrs : (years(10) ; shift("day")), state : ava
   : < r7 : RESOURCE | id : r7, type : "Nurse", attrs : (years( 5) ; shift("day")), state : available,
   : < r8 : RESOURCE | id : r8, type : "Chief of Service", attrs : (years(15) ; shift("day")), state :
   : < r9 : RESOURCE | id : r9, type : "Senior Nurses", attrs : (years(10) ; shift("day")), state : ava
  < Hospital : OBJECT | id : HOSPITAL, fields : 23, proc : idle, suspended : emptyPool >
  < CardiologyUnit : OBJECT | id : CARDIOLOGYUNIT, fields : 102, proc : idle, suspended : emptyPool >
  < RadiologyUnit : OBJECT | id : RADIOLOGYUNIT, fields : 102, proc : idle, suspended : emptyPool > •
```

Simulation and Analysis

Reachability analysis

- All futures Resolved

```
search in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init =>!  
< fregRecord : Future | state : resolved >  
< fcardioAssess : Future | state : resolved >  
< fimagingScan : Future | state : resolved >  
< finitiateTreatment : Future | state : resolved >  
C:Configuration .
```

→ Succeeds

- Resource Release

```
search in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init =>!  
< resourcePool | pool :  
( < r4 : RESOURCE | type : "Junior Resident", state : available > : _ ) >  
C:Configuration .
```

→ Succeeds

```
search in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init =>!  
< resourcePool | pool :  
( < r4 : RESOURCE | type : "Junior Resident", state : consumed > : _ ) >  
C:Configuration .
```

→ Fails

Simulation and Analysis

Reachability analysis

- Global pool restoration

```
search in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init =>!  
C:Configuration  
such that not samePool(C) .
```

→ Fails

```
search [1] in ACTIVE-OBJ-RESOURCE-TEST : init =>!  
< fm : FUTMON | resolved : RF >  
< counter : COUNTER | count : N > C:Configuration  
such that samePool(C) and (RF != noneF) and (N > 1) .
```

→ Succeeds

Conclusion

Each method declares a contract

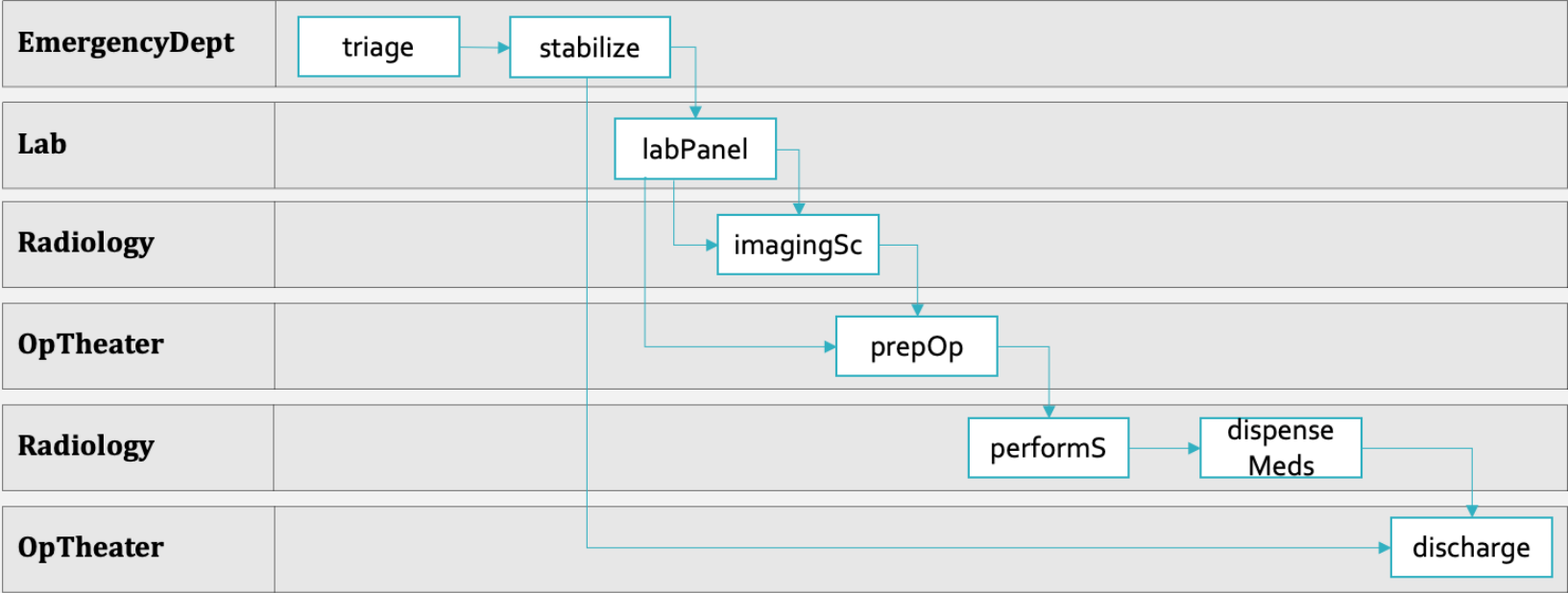
- Dependencies (DP): Invoke a method only when DP holds
- Resource Profile (RP): Allocate resources atomically on activation; release them on return

Encoded in Maude (rewriting logic)

- Executable semantics
- Simulation and analysis

Future Work

- Activation Policy



Future Work

```
1 { (ERDoctor, A1), (SeniorNurse, A2), (JuniorNurse, A3),  
2   (Radiologist, A4), (CT, A5), (MRI, A6),  
3   (Anesthetist, A7), (Surgeon, A8), (OR, A9),  
4   (Pharmacist, A10), (LabTech, A11) }  
5  
6 class Patient { ... }  
7  
8 class EmergencyDept SD{ PRIORITY } {  
9   Unit triage(Patient p)  
10    AP (priority = pt)  
11    req (SeniorNurse,1,...) ∨ (JuniorNurse,1,...) { ... }  
12  
13   Unit stabilize(Patient p)  
14    AP (priority = ps)  
15    dep EmergencyDept.triage  
16    req (ERDoctor,1,...) ∧ (SeniorNurse,1,...) { ... } }  
17  
18 class Lab SD{ FIFO } {  
19   Unit labPanel(Patient p)  
20    dep EmergencyDept.stabilize  
21    req (LabTech,1,...) { ... } }  
22  
23 class Radiology SD{ SJF } {  
24   Unit imagingScan(Patient p)  
25    AP (duration = d)  
26    dep EmergencyDept.stabilize ∧ Lab.labPanel  
27    req (CT,1,...) ∧ (Radiologist,1,...) ∨  
28        (MRI,1,...) ∧ (Radiologist,1,...) { ... } }  
29  
30 class OperatingTheater SD{ COST } {  
31   Unit prepOR(Patient p)
```

```
52 {  
53   Patient p = new Patient();  
54   EmergencyDept ed = new EmergencyDept();  
55   Lab lb = new Lab();  
56   Radiology rd = new Radiology();  
57   OperatingTheater ot = new OperatingTheater();  
58   Pharmacy ph = new Pharmacy();  
59   Ward wd = new Ward();  
60  
61   Fut<Unit> f1 = ed!triage(p) AP (priority =2);  
62   Fut<Unit> f2 = ed!stabilize(p) AP (priority = 0) after f1?;  
63   Fut<Unit> f3 = lb!labPanel(p) after f2?;  
64   Fut<Unit> f4 = rd!imagingScan(p) AP (duration = 10) after f2? ∧ f3?;  
65   Fut<Unit> f5 = ot!prepOR(p) AP (cost = 30) after f4? ∧ f3?;  
66   Fut<Unit> f6 = ot!performSurgery(p) AP (cost = 100) after f5?;  
67   Fut<Unit> f7 = ph!dispenseMeds(p) after f6?;  
68   Fut<Unit> f8 = wd!discharge(p) after f2? ∨ f7?;  
69 }
```