

Introduction to MCRL2 (modelling)

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MCRL2: A toolset for process algebra

MCRL2 provides:

- a generic **process algebra**, based on ACP (Bergstra & Klop, 82), in which other calculi can be **embedded**
- extended with **data** and (real) **time**
- with an **axiomatic** semantics
- the full **μ -calculus** as a specification logic
- powerful toolset for **simulation** and **verification** of reactive systems

www.mcrl2.org

Actions

Interaction through multisets of actions

- A **multiaction** is an elementary unit of interaction that can **execute itself atomically in time** (no duration), after which it terminates successfully

$$\alpha ::= \tau \mid a \mid a(d) \mid \alpha \mid \alpha$$

- actions may be parametric on **data**
- the structure $\langle N, |, \tau \rangle$ forms an Abelian **monoid**

Sequential processes

Sequential, non deterministic behaviour

The set \mathbb{P} of **processes** is the set of all terms generated by the following BNF, for $a \in N$,

$$p ::= \alpha \mid \delta \mid p + p \mid p \cdot p \mid P(d)$$

- **atomic process**: a for all $a \in N$
- **choice**: $+$
- **sequential composition**: \cdot
- **inaction or deadlock**: δ (it cannot even to terminate!)
- **process references** introduced through definitions of the form $P(x : D) = p$, parametric on **data**

Sequential Processes

Exercise

Describe the behaviour of

- $a.b.\delta.c + a$
- $(a + b).\delta.c$
- $(a + b).e + \delta.c$
- $a + (\delta + a)$
- $a.(b + c).d.(b + c)$

MCRL2: A toolset for process algebra

Example

```
act    order, receive, keep, refund, return;

proc   Buy = order.OrderedItem

      OrderedItem = receive.ReceivedItem + refund.Buy;
      ReceivedItem = return.OrderedItem + keep;

init   Buy;
```

Example

Clock

```
act    set, alarm, reset;  
  
proc   P = set.R  
        R = reset.P + alarm.R  
  
init   P
```

Example

A refined clock

```
act    set:N, alarm, reset, tick;

proc   P = (sum n:N . set(n).R(n)) + tick.P
        R(n:N) = reset.P + ((n == 0) -> alarm.R(0) <> tick.R(n-1))

init   P
```


Parallel composition

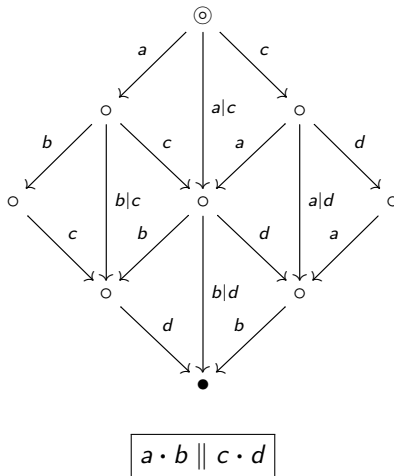
\parallel = interleaving + synchronization

- modelling principle: interaction is the key element in software design
- modelling principle: (distributed, reactive) architectures are configurations of communicating black boxes
- MCRL2: supports flexible synchronization discipline (\neq CCS)

$$p ::= \cdots \mid p \parallel p \mid p \mid p \mid p \parallel p$$

Parallel composition

An example



Parallel composition

- **parallel** $p \parallel q$: interleaves and synchronises the actions of both processes.
- **synchronisation** $p \mid q$: synchronises the first actions of p and q and combines the remainder of p with q with \parallel , cf axiom:

$$(a.p) \mid (b.q) \sim (a \mid b) . (p \parallel q)$$

- **left merge** $p \ll q$: executes a first action of p and thereafter combines the remainder of p with q with \parallel .

Parallel composition

A semantic parenthesis

Lemma: There is no sound and complete finite axiomatisation for this process algebra with \parallel modulo bisimilarity [F. Moller, 1990].

Solution: combine two auxiliar operators:

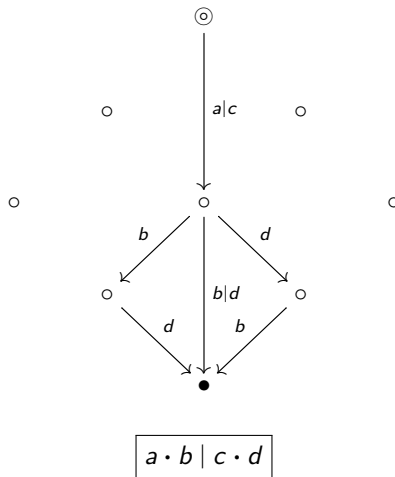
- left merge: \ll
- synchronous product: $|$

such that

$$p \parallel t \sim (p \ll t + t \ll p) + p | t$$

Parallel composition

An example



Interaction

Communication $\Gamma_C(p)$ (com)

- applies a **communication function** C forcing action synchronization and renaming to a new action:

$$a_1 \mid \cdots \mid a_n \rightarrow c$$

- data parameters are retained in action c , e.g.

$$\Gamma_{\{a|b \rightarrow c\}}(a(8) \mid b(8)) = c(8)$$

$$\Gamma_{\{a|b \rightarrow c\}}(a(12) \mid b(8)) = a(12) \mid b(8)$$

$$\Gamma_{\{a|b \rightarrow c\}}(a(8) \mid a(12) \mid b(8)) = a(12) \mid c(8)$$

- left hand-sides in C must be disjoint: e.g., $\{a \mid b \rightarrow c, a \mid d \rightarrow j\}$ is not allowed

Interface control

Restriction: $\nabla_B(p)$ (**allow**)

- specifies which actions are allowed to occur
- disregards the data parameters of actions

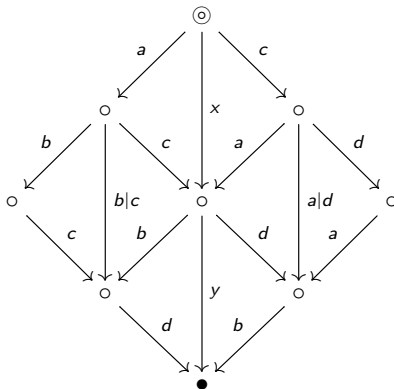
$$\nabla_{\{d, b|c\}}(d(12) + a(8) + (b(\text{false}, 4) \mid c)) = d(12) + (b(\text{false}, 4) \mid c)$$

- τ is always allowed to occur

Discuss: $\nabla_{\{x,y\}}(\Gamma_{\{a|c \rightarrow x, b|d \rightarrow y\}}(a.b \parallel c.d))$

Interface control

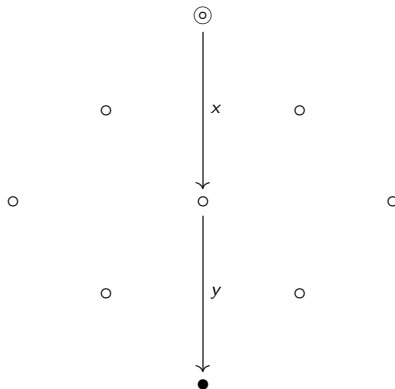
An example



$$\Gamma_{\{a|c \rightarrow x, b|d \rightarrow y\}}(a.b \parallel c.d)$$

Interface control

An example



$$\nabla_{\{x,y\}}(\Gamma_{\{a|c \rightarrow x, b|d \rightarrow y\}}(a.b \parallel c.d))$$

Interface control

Block: $\partial_B(p)$ (**block**)

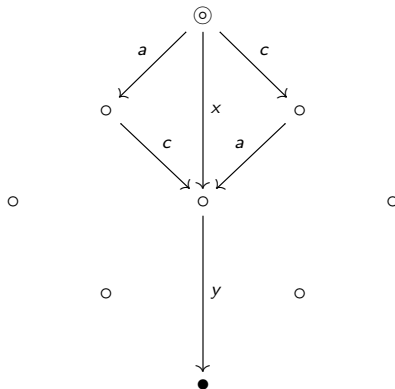
- specifies which actions are not allowed to occur
- disregards the data parameters of actions

$$\partial_{\{b\}}(d(12) + a(8) + (b(\text{false}, 4) \mid c)) = d(12) + a(8)$$

- the effect is that of renaming to δ
- τ cannot be blocked

Interface control

An example



$$\partial_{\{b,d\}}(\Gamma_{\{b|d \rightarrow y\}}(a.b \parallel c.d))$$

Interface control

Enforce communication

- $\nabla_{\{c\}}(\Gamma_{\{a|b \rightarrow c\}}(p))$
- $\partial_{\{a,b\}}(\Gamma_{\{a|b \rightarrow c\}}(p))$

Interface control

Renaming $\rho_M(p)$ (rename)

- renames actions in p according to a mapping M
- also disregards the data parameters, but when a renaming is applied the values of data parameters are retained:

$$\begin{aligned}\rho_{\{d \rightarrow h\}}(d(12) + s(8) \mid d(false) + d.a.d(7)) \\ = h(12) + s(8) \mid h(false) + h.a.h(7)\end{aligned}$$

- τ cannot be renamed

Interface control

Hiding $\tau_H(p)$ (hide)

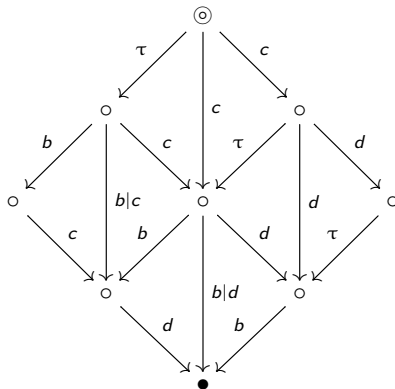
- hides (or renames to τ) all actions in H in all multiactions of p .
- disregards the data parameters

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_{\{d\}}(d(12) + s(8) \mid d(false) + h.a.d(7)) \\ = \tau + s(8) \mid \tau + h.a.\tau = \tau + s(8) + h.a.\tau\end{aligned}$$

- τ and δ cannot be renamed

Interface control

An example



$$\tau_{\{a\}}(\Gamma_{\{b|d \rightarrow y\}}(a.b \parallel c.d))$$

Example

New buffers from old

```
act    inn,outt,ia,ib,oa,ob,c : Bool;

proc   BufferS = sum n: Bool.inn(n).outt(n).BufferS;

      BufferA = rename({inn -> ia, outt -> oa}, BufferS);
      BufferB = rename({inn -> ib, outt -> ob}, BufferS);

      S = allow({ia,ob,c}, comm({oa|ib -> c}, BufferA || BufferB));

init   hide({c}, S);
```


Data types

- **Equalities**: equality, inequality, conditional ($\text{if}(-,-,-)$)
- **Basic types**: booleans, naturals, reals, integers, ... with the usual operators
- **Sets, multisets, sequences** ... with the usual operators
- **Function definition**, including the λ -notation
- **Inductive types**: as in

```
sort    BTree = struct leaf(Pos) | node(BTree, BTree)
```

Signatures and definitions

Sorts, functions, constants, variables ...

```
sort  S, A;
```

```
cons  s,t:S, b:set(A);
```

```
map   f:  S x S -> A;  
      c:  A;
```

```
var   x:S;
```

```
eqn   f(x,s) = s;
```

Signatures and definitions

A full functional language ...

```
sort   BTree = struct leaf(Pos) | node(BTree, BTree);

map    flatten:  BTree -> List(Pos);

var    n:Pos, t,r:BTree;

eqn    flatten(leaf(n)) = [n];
        flatten(node(t,r)) = flatten(t) ++ flatten(r);
```

Processes with data

Why?

- Precise modeling of real-life systems
- Data allows for finite specifications of infinite systems

How?

- data and processes parametrized
- summation over data types: $\sum_{n:N} s(n)$
- processes conditional on data: $b \rightarrow p \diamond q$

Examples

A counter

```
act    up, down;  
       setcounter:Pos;  
  
proc   Ctr(x:Pos) = up.Ctr(x+1)  
        + (x>0) -> down.Ctr(x-1)  
        + sum m:Pos.(setcounter(m).Ctr(m))  
  
init   Ctr(345);
```

Examples

A dynamic binary tree

```
act    left,right;

map    N:Pos;

eqn    N = 512;

proc   X(n:Pos)=(n<=N)->(left.X(2*n)+right.X(2*n+1))<>delta;

init   X(1);
```