6SENG002W Concurrent Programming

Lecture 11

Translating FSP Models into Concurrent Java Programs



Translating FSP Models into Concurrent Java Programs

The aim of this lecture is to illustrate how to translate FSP into Java.

We shall do this by considering:

- The following FSP program examples:
 - the Ornamental Garden Problem involving processes interacting & sharing an object using mutual exclusion.
 - a Semaphore involving conditional synchronisation.
- ► The issues related to Threads interacting & sharing objects using Mutual Exclusion.
- How to translate various aspects of FSP processes & programs into Java threads, monitors & programs:
 - ▶ an *FSP process* into either a Java *monitor* or *thread*,
 - ▶ an FSP composite process (program) into a Java main program.

Note: these lecture notes are based on material in Chapters 4, 5, & 7 of the recommended book: *Concurrency: State Models & Java Programs, (2nd Edition)*, J. Magee & J. Kramer, Wiley, 2006. (ISBN 978-0-470-09355-9)

PART I

The Ornamental Garden Problem an Example of Process Interaction & Mutual Exclusion

The Ornamental Garden Problem

To illustrate the issues of *thread interaction & mutual exclusion*, we use the *Ornamental Garden problem*. (See the recommended book Chapter 4.)



Figure: 11.1 Ornamental Garden

- People visit an ornamental garden, by entering through either of two turnstiles – East & West.
- To simplify the problem people are allowed to enter but never leave.
- Management needs to determine how many people are in the garden at any one time, so a single people counter is required.
- So when a person passes through either turnstile, the turnstile must increment the people counter, therefore the counter must be shared.
- ► The FSP program used to model this system must represent the:
 - shared people counter, that requires mutually exclusive access,
 - ► East & West turnstiles that have shared ME access to the people counter.

FSP Model of the Ornamental Garden

In general each object or set of objects will be modelled as an FSP process.

The Ornamental Garden FSP program models the *increment* action by incrementing a variable counter process SAFE_COUNTER, that describes the read & write accesses to a variable.

There is no explicit mention of an *increment* action, instead, increment is modelled using read & write actions by TURNSTILE's local process INCREMENT.

The east & west TURNSTILE processes, each has its own copy of the read & write actions that make up the increment operation.

In other words, the increment operation is not an atomic action.

Therefore, *interference*, i.e. destructive updates, can occur by means of the arbitrary interleaving of read & write actions.

The *solution to interference* is to give operations that access a shared object *mutually exclusive* access to that object.

This ensures that an update, i.e. an increment (read then write), is **not** interrupted by concurrent updates.

Ornamental Garden: Preliminary Definitions

We use the following preliminary definitions of: a *constant*, a *number range*, an *action set* & 2 *process label sets*.

These will be used in the definition of the FSP processes that model the Ornamental Garden problem.

CounterAlpha is the counter process's alphabet & is used to extend the alphabets of the two turnstiles east & west.

Ornamental Garden: an "Unsafe" Shareable Counter

We begin by defining an FSP process UNSAFE_COUNTER that models a counter variable & the basic operations on the counter.

This process **DOES NOT** attempt to enforce *mutual exclusion*, this will be added in the next stage.

Where:

- ▶ the counter is *initialised* to 0 by US_COUNT[0],
- the read[v] action is used to read/get the current value of the counter v,
- the write[nv : CR] action is used to write/set the new value of the counter to nv.

Ornamental Garden: Expanded UNSAFE_COUNTER

To understand how this process UNSAFE_COUNTER models a counter here is the expanded version:

```
____ Expanded: UNSAFE_COUNTER _____
UNSAFE COUNTER = US COUNT[0],
| write[ nv : CR ] -> US_COUNT[ nv ] ) ,
| write[ nv : CR ] -> US_COUNT[ nv ] ) ,
| write[ nv : CR ] -> US_COUNT[ nv ] ) ,
| write[ nv : CR ] -> US_COUNT[ nv ] ) ,
| write[ nv : CR ] -> US_COUNT[ nv ] ) .
```

So the local process ${\tt US_COUNT[0]}$ represents a *counter* with the value 0, similarly for the others.

Ornamental Garden: Expanded UNSAFE_COUNTER's US_COUNT[0]

We can further expand UNSAFE_COUNTER by expanding its local process US_COUNT[0], the expanded version:

```
Expanded: US_COUNT[0]

US_COUNT[0] = ( read[0] -> US_COUNT[0] | write[0] -> US_COUNT[0] | write[1] -> US_COUNT[1] | write[2] -> US_COUNT[2] | write[3] -> US_COUNT[3] | write[4] -> US_COUNT[4] )
```

US_COUNT[0] represents a *counter* with the value 0, its value can be read & it can be set to any value 0-4 by write.

The other local processes: $US_COUNT[1] - US_COUNT[4]$, can be expanded similarly.

Ornamental Garden: a "Safe" Shareable Counter

To ensure that the <code>UNSAFE_COUNTER</code> counter can be "safely shared" access to it by the 2 turnstiles must be mutually exclusive.

This is achieved by combining it with a *locking* process.

A *lock* can be modelled by the LOCK process & then combined with the UNSAFE_COUNTER process by the composition SAFE_COUNTER:

```
Ornamental Garden: VISITORS_COUNTER

LOCK = ( acquire -> release -> LOCK ) .

|| SAFE_COUNTER = ( LOCK || UNSAFE_COUNTER ) .

|| VISITORS_COUNTER = ( counter : SAFE_COUNTER ) .
```

We use the "safe" VISITORS_COUNTER version in the complete system, rather than the "unprotected" & "unsafe" UNSAFE_COUNTER version.

This is just SAFE_COUNTER labelled with "counter", which in effect collects the actions together & defines a "counter interface".

Ornamental Garden: Defining a TURNSTILE Process

Finally, the definition of the TURNSTILE process involves three steps.

Step 1: Communication between a TURNSTILE & the VISITORS_COUNTER

The 2 processes communicate using *inter-process communication* (IPC), by *synchronising* the two actions read[v] & write[nv]:

- The TURNSTILE process "reads" the counter's value from the VISITORS_COUNTER by them performing a synchronised read[v] action:
 - ► VISITORS_COUNTER *outputs* v, the *current value of the counter*
 - ► TURNSTILE *inputs* the value of v.
- The TURNSTILE process "writes" the counter's new value to the VISITORS_COUNTER by them performing a synchronised write[nv] action:
 - TURNSTILE outputs nv, the new value of the counter,
 - ▶ VISITORS_COUNTER inputs nv.

Defining a TURNSTILE Process: Step 2

Step 2: TURNSTILE uses Mutual Exclusion Protocol to Access the VISITORS_COUNTER'S value

Each TURNSTILE process must be required to adhere to the *mutual* exclusion protocol (MEP):

```
MEP = lock -> ''use resource'' -> unlock
```

We implement this in FSP by requiring the TURNSTILE process to:

- 1. acquire the lock before accessing the counter variable,
- update the the counter variable, by synchronising the two actions read[v] & write[nv],
- 3. release the lock after it has finished updating the counter variable.

Defining a TURNSTILE Process: Step 3

Step 3: Block Resource Performing Asynchronous Actions

Ensuring Step 2 implements ME correctly, we need to make sure that the VISITORS_COUNTER cannot do any unauthorised asynchronous actions.

```
alphabet( VISITORS_COUNTER ) = CounterAlpha

= { counter.{ read[CR], write[CR], acquire, release } }

= { counter.{ read[0], read[1], read[2], read[3], read[4], write[0], write[1], write[2], write[3], write[4], acquire, release } }
```

So the actions that would cause a problem by being performed asynchronous by VISITORS_COUNTER are: write[0] - write[4].

This is because a turnstile will only every attempt to write one of the values 0 – 4 at a time, but VISITORS_COUNTER is always willing to do all of them. (See expanded US_COUNT[0] above.)

So VISITORS_COUNTER must be stopped from doing a write asynchronously that a turnstile does not want to perform.

This is prevented by requiring all actions of VISITORS_COUNTER to be synchronised with the 2 turnstile processes.

Ornamental Garden: TURNSTILE Processes

First define the single TURNSTILE process.

Requiring all actions of VISITORS_COUNTER to be synchronised with a turnstile process is achieved by extending the alphabet of TURNSTILE's local process INCREMENT with the alphabet of VISITORS_COUNTER using CounterAlpha.

The result is that VISITORS_COUNTER can only do an action if the TURNSTILE is willing to do it as well, i.e. *synchronise* on it.

Ornamental Garden: East & West TURNSTILE Processes

We can now use this to define the two *East* & *West* TURNSTILE Processes:

Note that "open / Turnstiles.open" means relabel both east.open & west.open to open, similarly for close.

Ornamental Garden: MANAGEMENT process

The MANAGEMENT process can check the value of the counter at any time using the DISPLAY process to read the value of the counter, without having to lock & unlock it.

In this case this is acceptable since the DISPLAY process does not update the value of the counter variable.

The close action closes the garden & terminates the system.

As with INCREMENT, its alphabet must be *extended* with that of the VISITORS_COUNTER's to ensure no inappropriate actions are performed by the VISITORS_COUNTER.

```
For example, any of the counter.write[CR] ones, e.g. counter.write[0], counter.write[1], etc.
```

Ornamental Garden: Complete FSP Model

The complete Ornamental Garden system is defined by the GARDEN process:

which expands to:

Notes on the Ornamental Garden FSP Model

The alphabet for the TURNSTILE process is extended with the CounterAlpha set using the alphabet extension construct +{...}.

This is to ensure that **no unintended asynchronous actions** are performed within the system.

For example, if a <code>VISITORS_COUNTER write[nv]</code> is not shared (synchronised) with another process, i.e. a <code>TURNSTILE</code> or <code>DISPLAY</code> then it can do it asynchronous.

TURNSTILE **never** does the action "counter.write[0]" since it always increments the value it reads.

But, since "counter.write[0]" is in CounterAlpha, VISITORS_COUNTER is prevented from preforming it asynchronously.

The close action is synchronised on by the turnstiles & the management processes it terminates the system, it is only accepted as an alternative to an arrive action.

Note that VISITORS_COUNTER is shared by the east & west TURNSTILES & MANAGEMENT.

Ornamental Garden: Structure Diagram

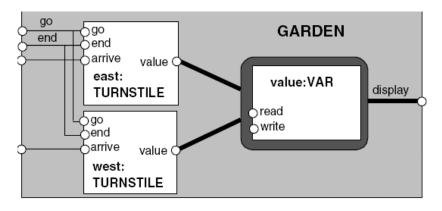


Figure: 11.2 Ornamental Garden Structure Diagram

Notes: in the diagram "value" is counter & "value: VAR" is VISITORS_COUNTER. i.e. counter: SAFE_COUNTER.

PART II

Threads Communicating/Interacting
by
Sharing an Object using Mutual Exclusion

Threads Communicating via a Shared Object

One of the simplest ways for two or more Java threads to "communicate" &/or "interact" with each other is via a shared object.

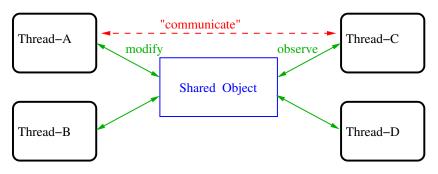


Figure: 11.3 Threads Communicate via a Shared Object

Mutual Exclusion: Context – *Shared Objects*

The *shared object* from Fig. 11.3, that is intended to be used in this way, must have an *interface* that allows this.

That is it must have public methods that allow its *state* to be "modified" & "observed" by these methods.

The collection of threads can then communicate & interact by invoking the shared object's public methods.

Consequently, two threads can **communicate** by one thread *modifying* the state of the shared object & the other thread then *observing* the state.

For example, Thread-A & Thread-C.

Other examples of threads sharing an object, are when a collection of threads *cooperate to update* information encapsulated in a shared object.

Mutual Exclusion: Problem – *Interference*

We have previously seen that the execution of the instructions from a collection of processes/threads can be interleaved in an arbitrary fashion.

This interleaving can result in incorrect updates to the state of a shared object, resulting in **corrupted data**, this is known as **interference**.

These types of objects are sometimes referred to as damaged objects.

This is clearly a situation that must be avoided at all costs.

Mutual Exclusion: Solution – Java Monitors

The problem of **interference**, is solved by the enforcement of *mutually exclusive* access to the shared object, by means of a *locking* arrangement.

In Java this means ensuring that the *shared object* is implemented as a **correctly functioning "secure" Java monitor**.

That is, the Java monitor ensures:

- complete data encapsulation inside the monitor
 - all data is either private or protected
- ▶ execution of all its public methods are mutually exclusive
 - all public methods are synchronized.

Lecture 11

PART III Translating FSP into Java

Translating FSP into Java

An FSP program, i.e. a collection of FSP processes, is used to model a program.

In a given FSP model of a system each:

Shared object: is modelled as an FSP process,

Process: is also modelled as an FSP process.

However, FSP processes (that make up a program), do not distinguish between:

- "Passive" entities (shared objects: Java monitors).
- "Active" entities (processes: Java threads).

They are both modelled as finite state machines.

This uniform treatment facilitates analysis.

Therefore, in translating an FSP program into a Java program *we must decide* what kind of Java *"object"* each individual FSP process is modelling.

Mutual Exclusion in Java

In Java usually represent "shared objects" as Java monitors.

At the Java monitor level of abstraction, we can ignore the details of *locks* & *mutual exclusion* (as provided by the use of synchronized methods).

Concurrent calls of a Java synchronized method are mutually exclusive.

So we can translate the FSP SAFE_COUNTER process into a Java monitor & make the increment method synchronized.

Java Monitor Semantics Ensures Mutual Exclusion

Java associates a *lock* with every object.

The Java compiler inserts code to *acquire the lock* before executing the body of a synchronized method & code to *release the lock* before the method returns.

Concurrent threads *trying to access the monitor* are **blocked** until the lock is *released.*

Since only one thread at a time may hold the lock, only one thread may be executing the synchronized method.

If this is the only method, as in the example, *mutual exclusion* to the shared object is ensured.

If an object has *more than one method*, to ensure mutually exclusive access to the state of the object, **all the methods should be synchronized**.

Access to an object may also be made *mutually exclusive* by using the synchronized statement, but this is **not recommended**, as it is too *"unstructured"* & prone to errors.

Summary

We have discussed thread interaction via shared objects.

The Ornamental Garden example served to demonstrate that uncontrolled interleaving of method instructions leads to **interference**, i.e. **destructive update** of the state of the shared object.

Interference can be avoided by giving each concurrent method activation *mutually exclusive access to the shared state.*

In Java, this is achieved by making such methods synchronized.

synchronized methods acquire a lock associated with the object before accessing the object state & release the lock after access.

Since only one thread at a time can acquire the lock, synchronized methods obtain *mutually exclusive access* to the object state.

The answer is to: ensure that all the methods of objects shared between threads are synchronized.

They can then be treated as "atomic actions" for modelling purposes.

Note that **interference bugs** in real concurrent programs are notoriously difficult to find.

Condition Synchronisation: Semaphores

We illustrate *condition synchronisation* using a simple version of Dijkstra's semaphores as an example.

Recall that a semaphore ${\mbox{\tiny S}}$ is an integer variable that can take only non-negative values.

Once s has been given an initial value, the only operations permitted on s are s.claim() & s.release() defined as follows:

In the following, we describe how *semaphores* can be modelled by an *FSP* process & how that can be implemented using a *Java monitor*.

However, in practice, semaphores are a low-level mechanism & are sometimes used to implement the higher-level monitor construct, rather than vice versa.

FSP Semaphore Model & Process

First step in modelling a system: decide which *events* or *actions* are of interest.

For a semaphore there are only two actions:

- ▶ claim
- release.

Second step: identify the *processes* – the *users* of the shared variable.

The control requirements for a semaphore's claim action are modelled using the FSP *guarded action construct*:

```
when (B) action
```

FSP Semaphore: SEMAPHORE

The FSP process to model this simple view of a semaphore is:

FSP can **only model finite concurrent systems**, so we only model semaphores that take a *finite range of values*, i.e. 0 - 3.

SEMAPHORE allows a maximum of three claim actions to be accepted before a release action must occur.

If a release action results in a semaphore value of 4, then it is treated as an error & is defined as the error process ERROR.

Behaviour of the FSP Semaphore Process

The semaphore's behaviour is illustrated in the LTSA diagram Fig. 11.4.

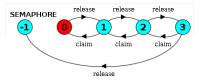


Figure: 11.4 SEMAPHORE LTS

This directly models the first (simple) definition for a semaphore given above.

claim is only accepted when (s > 0) in the SEMAPHORE.

release is not guarded (or the guard is just true).

SEMAPHORE has values in the range 0..MAX_NAT & has an initial value N.

If a release causes MAX_NAT to be exceeded then SEMAPHORE moves to the ERROR state -1.

When SEMAPHORE is used in a larger model, we must ensure that this ERROR state does not occur.

FSP Semaphore Example

We use a semaphore \mathtt{mutex} , shared by three processes $\mathtt{mp} [1..3]$, to ensure mutually exclusive access to some resource.

Each process performs the action mutex.claim to get exclusive access & mutex.release to release it.

Access to the resource (via critical section), is modelled by the action critical[i].

The composite process SEMADEMO, which combines the three processes mp[i]:MutexProcess & a semaphore is:

```
range IDS = 1..3

MutexProcess( ID = 0 ) = ( mutex.claim -> critical[ID] -> mutex.release -> MutexProcess ) .

|| MutexProcesses = ( forall [ i : IDS ] ( mp[ i ] : MutexProcess(i) ) ) .

||SEMADEMO = ( MutexProcesses | | { mp[IDS] } :: mutex : SEMAPHORE(1) ) .
```

Ensuring Mutual Exclusion Using the Semaphore

To achieve *mutual exclusion* use a *binary semaphore* initially **unlocked**, i.e. 1.

The first process that tries to execute its critical action, performs a mutex.claim making the value of mutex zero.

No further process can perform mutex.claim until the original process releases mutual exclusion by mutex.release.

Condition Synchronisation in Java (Monitors)

Java monitor objects have a synchronisation lock & a thread wait set.

Recall the following methods provided by the Object class:

- wait() place current thread in the wait set.
- ▶ notify() wake up a single thread from wait set.
- ▶ notifyAll() wake up all threads in wait set.

The operations fail if called by a thread that does not currently "own" the monitor, i.e. has the synchronisation lock.

A thread enters a monitor when it acquires the mutual exclusion lock associated with the monitor & exits the monitor when it releases the lock.

A thread calling wait() exits the monitor.

This allows other threads to enter the monitor &, when the appropriate condition is satisfied, to call notify() or notifyAll() to awake waiting threads.

Condition Synchronisation in FSP

The basic format for modelling a *guarded action* for some condition cond & action action using FSP is shown below:

```
FSP: when ( cond ) action -> NEWSTATE
```

The corresponding format for implementing the *guarded action* for condition cond & action action using Java is as follows:

Notes on the Translation

The while loop is necessary to ensure that cond is indeed satisfied when a thread re-enters the monitor.

Although the thread invoking wait() may have been notified that cond is satisfied, thereby releasing it from the monitor wait set.

But cond may be invalidated by another thread that runs between the time that the waiting thread is awakened & the time it re-enters the monitor (by acquiring the lock).

If an action modifies the data of the monitor, it can call notifyAll() to awaken all other threads that may be waiting for a particular condition to hold with respect to this data.

If it is not certain that only a single thread needs to be awakened, it is safer to call notifyAll() than notify() to make sure that threads are not kept waiting unnecessarily.

Translation General Rules

General Rules: for guiding the translation of an *FSP process model* into a *Java monitor* are as follows:

- In general if an FSP process that represents a shared object offers a choice ("|") between several unguarded actions & guarded actions, then as a first attempt at translation each one should be implemented as a separate synchronized method.
- The choice ("|") is represented in the monitor by the fact that a user of the shared resource (monitor) is "offered the choice" of calling any one of the synchronized methods.
- 3. Each *guarded action* in the FSP model of a monitor is implemented as a:
 - synchronized method
 - ▶ that uses a while loop & wait() to implement the guard.
- The while loop condition is the logical negation (!) of the model quard condition.

Translating the FSP Semaphore into Java

There is of course Java's pre-defined semaphore class:

```
java.util.concurrent.Semaphore
```

that we briefly looked at in a previous lecture.

But we shall provide our own explicitly defined Java Semaphore class.

Semaphores are *passive* objects that react to claim & release actions; they do not initiate actions.

Consequently, we implement a semaphore as a Java *monitor* class.

The actions claim & release become synchronized methods of our monitor semaphore class.

Translating the FSP Semaphore into Java: Guard

The guard: "when ($\mathbf{v} > 0$)", on the claim action in the FSP process model, is implemented using *conditional synchronisation*.

That is, we must use the *monitor guard* while loop:

```
while ( BExp )
{
   wait() ;
}
```

The claim changes the state of the monitor by decrementing its value s.

However, we do not use notify() to signal the change in state.

This is because threads only wait for the value of the semaphore to be *incremented*, they **do not wait** for the value to be *decremented*.

Implementing FSP's SEMAPHORE Process using a Java Semaphore class

Note that this is a very simple implementation of a semaphore.

```
public class Semaphore
  private int value :
  public Semaphore ( int initial ) { value = initial ; }
  public synchronized void claim() throws InterruptedException
    while ( value == 0 )
       wait();
   value-- ;
  public synchronized void release()
    value++ ;
    notify();
```

Implementing FSP's MutexProcess using a Java Thread

The FSP MutexProcess process is implemented as a Java Thread class.

Each one performs the action mutex.claim() to get exclusive access & mutex.release() to release it.

```
class MutexProcess extends Thread
 private Semaphore mutex ;
 MutexProcess ( Semaphore sema )
   super( "MutexProcess" ); // Thread constructor
   mutex = sema ;
 public void run()
   trv { while (true)
             // critical section
             mutex.release() ; // release ME
   } catch (InterruptedException e) { }
    MutexProcess
```

Implementing FSP's SEMADEMO Process using a Java Thread class

The Java version of the composite process SEMADEMO, which combines the three processes MutexProcess & a semaphore is:

```
class SEMADEMO
  public static void main( String args[] )
    final int UNLOCKED = 1;
    Semaphore mutex = new Semaphore ( UNLOCKED ) ;
    Thread mp[] = new Thread[3];
    // create 3 MutexProcess
   mp[0] = new MutexProcess( mutex ) ;
   mp[1] = new MutexProcess( mutex ) ;
   mp[2] = new MutexProcess( mutex ) ;
    // start MutexProcess
   mp[0].start();
   mp[1].start();
   mp[2].start();
  // SEMADEMO
```

The End.