

Towards Practical Verification of Protocols in mCRL2*

Ongoing work by
Bas van den Heuvel and Jorge A. Pérez

Bernoulli Institute for Math, CS, and AI
University of Groningen, The Netherlands

AGERE 2021

* Research partially supported by the Dutch Research Council (NWO) under project No. 016.Vidi.189.046 (Unifying Correctness for Communicating Software).

Overview

- Context:

Overview

- Context:
 - Multiparty Session Types (MPST),

Overview

- Context:
 - Multiparty Session Types (MPST),
 - Traditional method of verification:
projection onto *local protocols* for type checking,

Overview

- Context:
 - Multiparty Session Types (MPST),
 - Traditional method of verification:
projection onto *local protocols* for type checking,
 - Our novel approach:
verification by means of *model checking process implementations*.

Overview

- Context:
 - Multiparty Session Types (MPST),
 - Traditional method of verification:
projection onto *local protocols* for type checking,
 - Our novel approach:
verification by means of *model checking process implementations*.
- Implementing MPST as communicating processes.

Overview

- Context:
 - Multiparty Session Types (MPST),
 - Traditional method of verification:
projection onto *local protocols* for type checking,
 - Our novel approach:
verification by means of *model checking process implementations*.
- Implementing MPST as communicating processes.
- Current work: formulas for model checking.

Context: Multiparty Session Types (MPST)

- MPST: theory of protocols that describe interaction between two or more participants *from a vantage point*.

Context: Multiparty Session Types (MPST)

- MPST: theory of protocols that describe interaction between two or more participants *from a vantage point*.
- Usually expressed as *global types*:

$$G ::= s \rightarrow r\langle T \rangle . G \quad T \text{ is data type, e.g. "int" or "str"} \\ | \; s \rightarrow r(\ell_i . G)_{\ell_i \in I} \quad \ell_i \text{ are labels, e.g. "heads" or "tails"} \\ | \; \text{end} \\ | \; \text{rec } X . G \mid X \quad X \text{ must be guarded by exchange in } G$$

Context: Multiparty Session Types (MPST)

- MPST: theory of protocols that describe interaction between two or more participants *from a vantage point*.
- Usually expressed as *global types*:

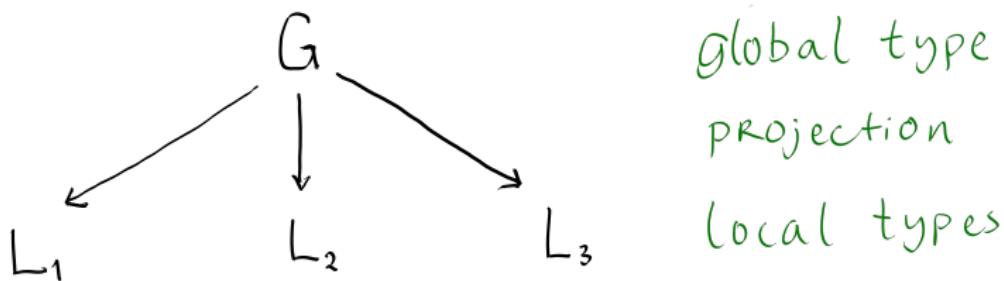
$$G ::= s \rightarrow r\langle T \rangle . G \quad T \text{ is data type, e.g. "int" or "str"} \\ | \; s \rightarrow r(\ell_i . G)_{\ell_i \in I} \quad \ell_i \text{ are labels, e.g. "heads" or "tails"} \\ | \; \text{end} \\ | \; \text{rec } X . G \mid X \quad X \text{ must be guarded by exchange in } G$$

- Running example global type with participants Alice (a), Bob (b), and Coin (c):

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \rightarrow b\langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose}. \text{end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose}. \text{end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

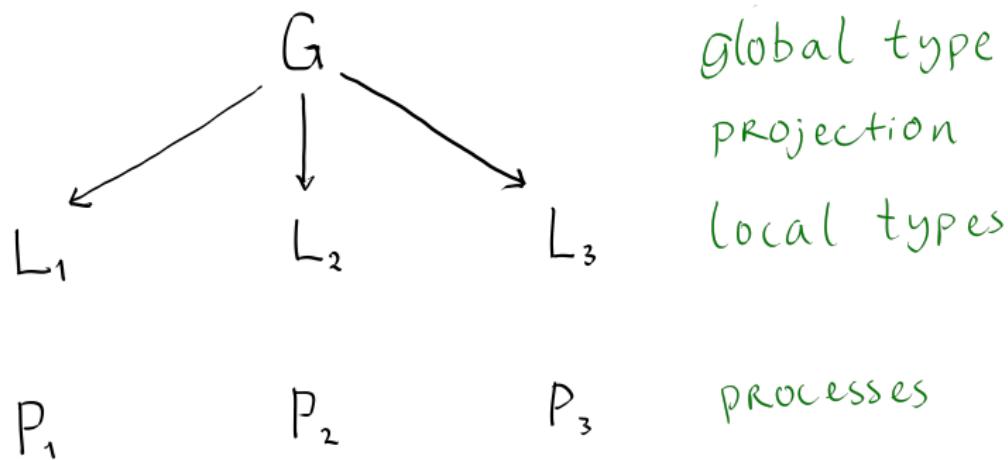
Context: Traditional methods of verification

- Global types are projected onto participants yielding *local types*.



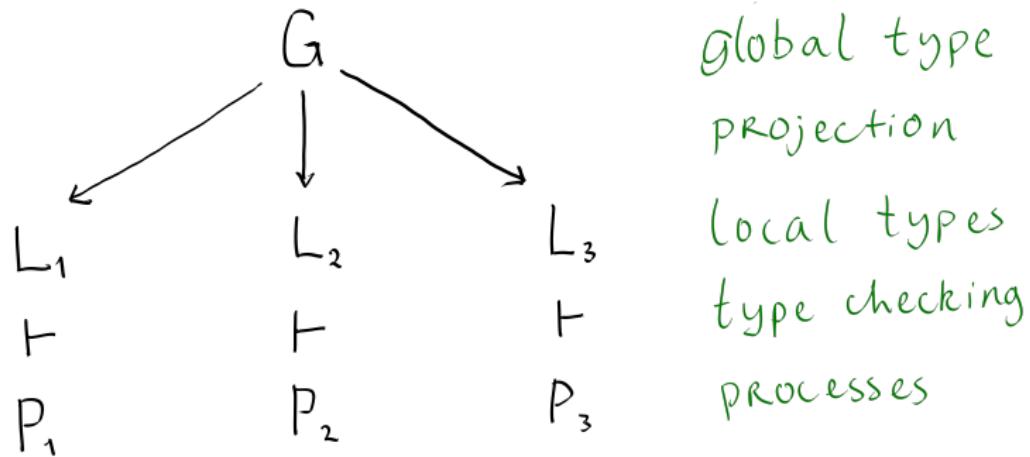
Context: Traditional methods of verification

- Global types are projected onto participants yielding *local types*.
- Roles of participants are implemented as processes (usually π -calculus).



Context: Traditional methods of verification

- Global types are projected onto participants yielding *local types*.
- Roles of participants are implemented as processes (usually π -calculus).
- Process implementations are type checked using the local types.



Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.

Context: Our approach

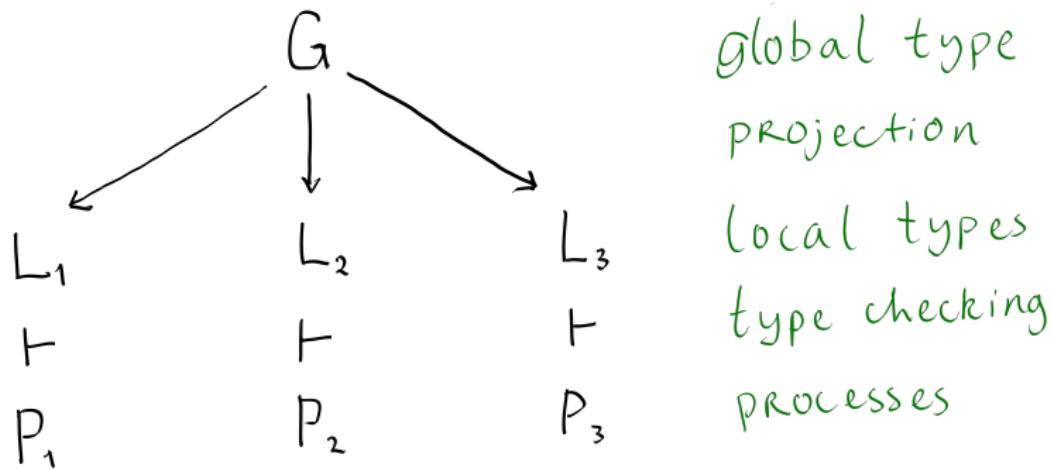
- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.

Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.
- Our novel approach focusses on model checking *implementations as communicating processes*.

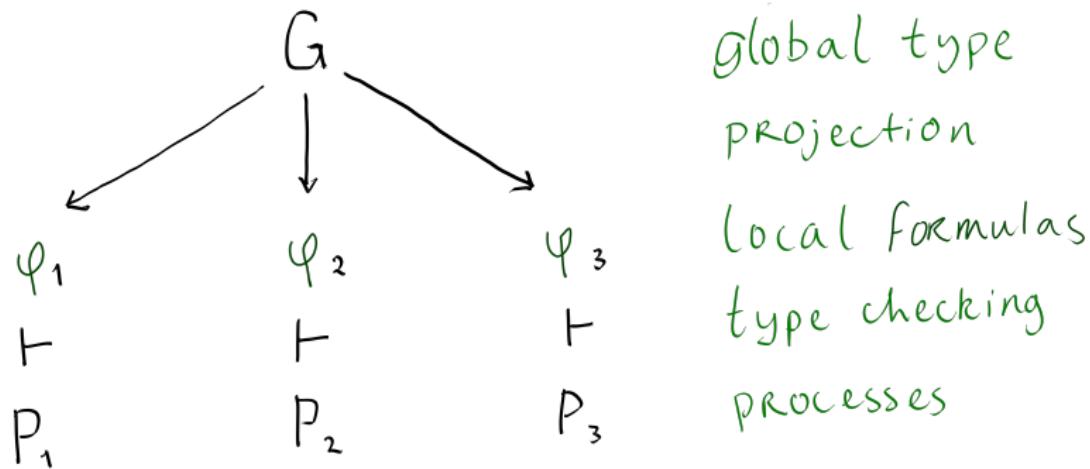
Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.
- Our novel approach focusses on model checking *implementations as communicating processes*.



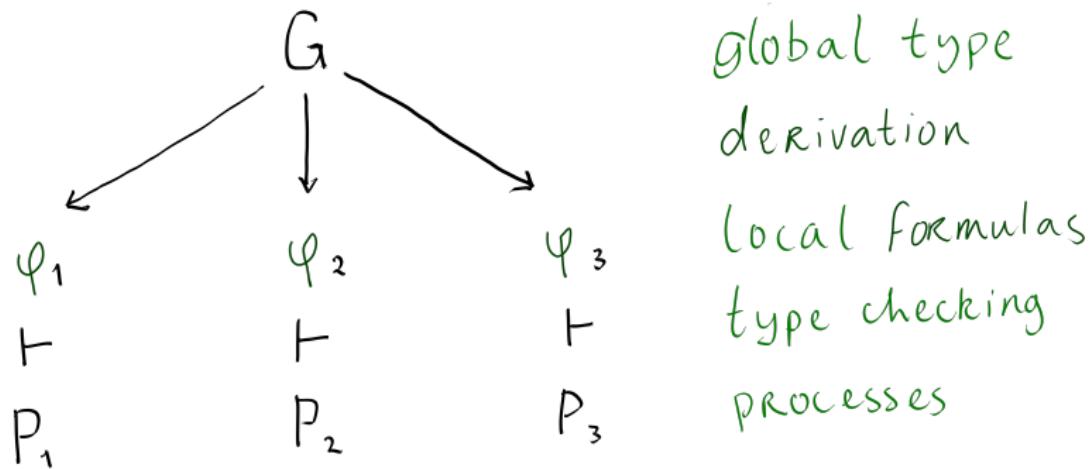
Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.
- Our novel approach focusses on model checking *implementations as communicating processes*.



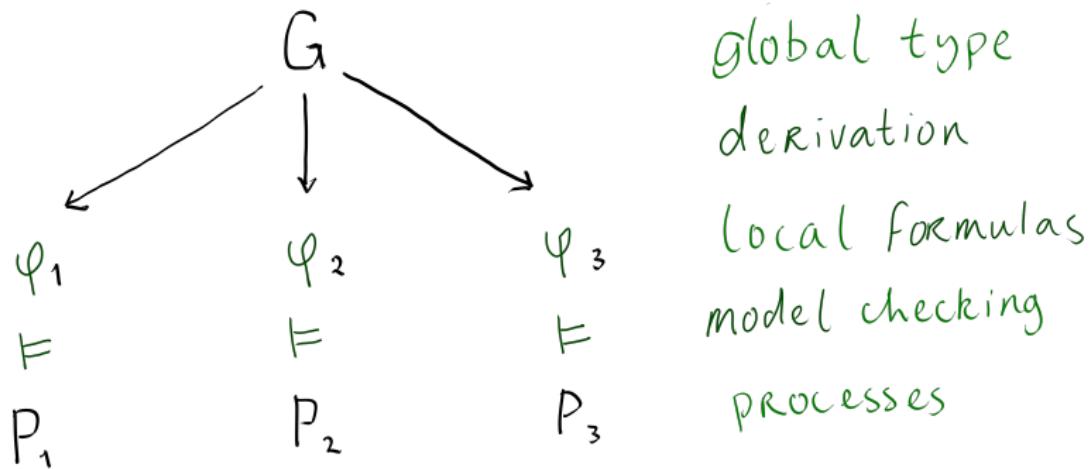
Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.
- Our novel approach focusses on model checking *implementations as communicating processes*.



Context: Our approach

- Alternative method of verification: *model checking*.
- Prior works apply model checking only to *types*.
- Our novel approach focusses on model checking *implementations as communicating processes*.



Context: Our approach

- Target: the mCRL2 model checker, based on the Algebra of Communicating Processes and the modal μ -calculus.

Context: Our approach

- Target: the mCRL2 model checker, based on the Algebra of Communicating Processes and the modal μ -calculus.
- Implement the role of each of a global type's participants *as a separate process*: participant implementations.

Context: Our approach

- Target: the mCRL2 model checker, based on the Algebra of Communicating Processes and the modal μ -calculus.
- Implement the role of each of a global type's participants *as a separate process*: participant implementations.
- Composition of participant implementations: global implementation.

Context: Our approach

- Target: the mCRL2 model checker, based on the Algebra of Communicating Processes and the modal μ -calculus.
- Implement the role of each of a global type's participants *as a separate process*: participant implementations.
- Composition of participant implementations: global implementation.
- Derive from global type:
local formulas to model check participant implementations,
global formula to model check global implementation.

Context: Our approach

- Target: the mCRL2 model checker, based on the Algebra of Communicating Processes and the modal μ -calculus.
- Implement the role of each of a global type's participants *as a separate process*: participant implementations.
- Composition of participant implementations: global implementation.
- Derive from global type:
local formulas to model check participant implementations,
global formula to model check global implementation.
- Ultimate goal:
compiler from global type specifications to mCRL2 projects.

Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:

Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:

G

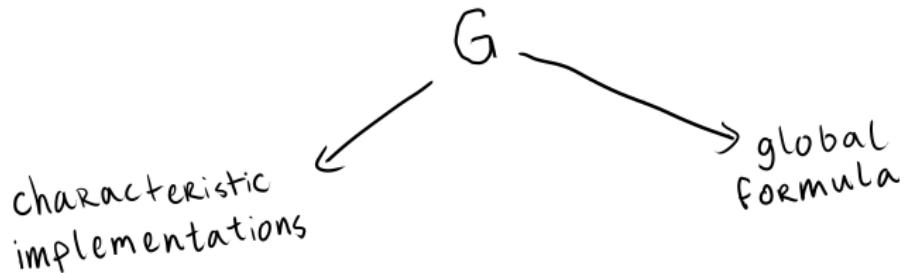
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



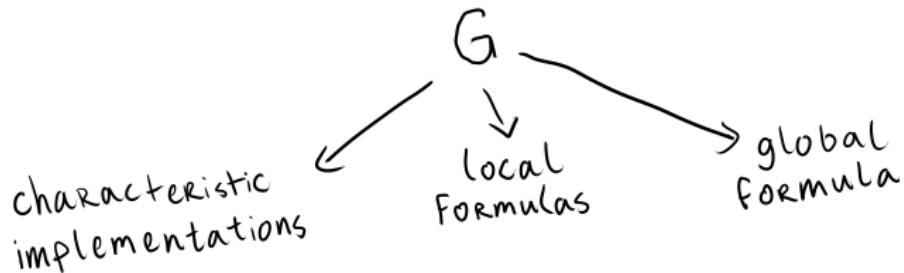
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



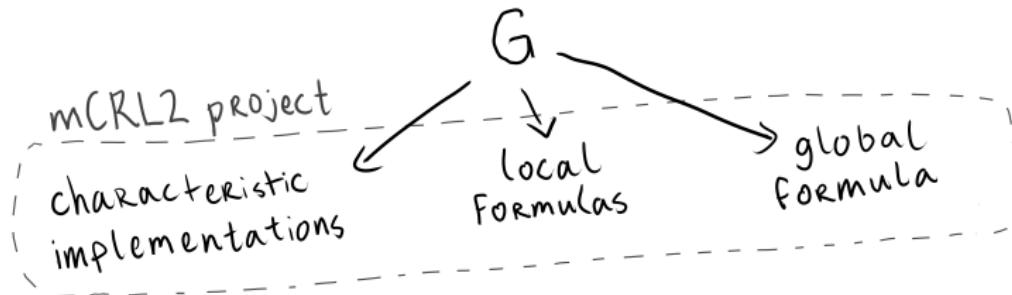
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



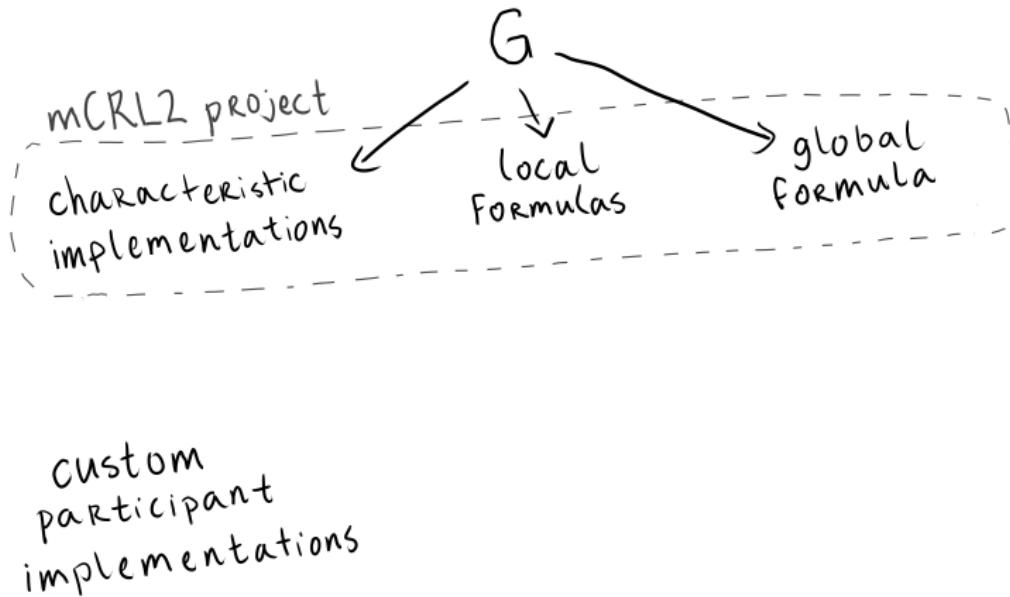
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



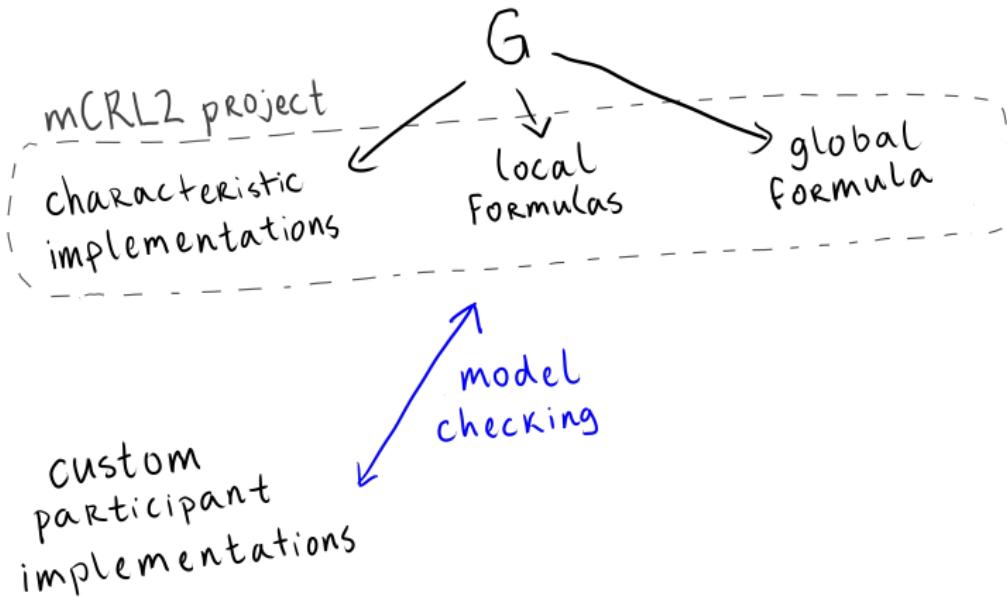
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



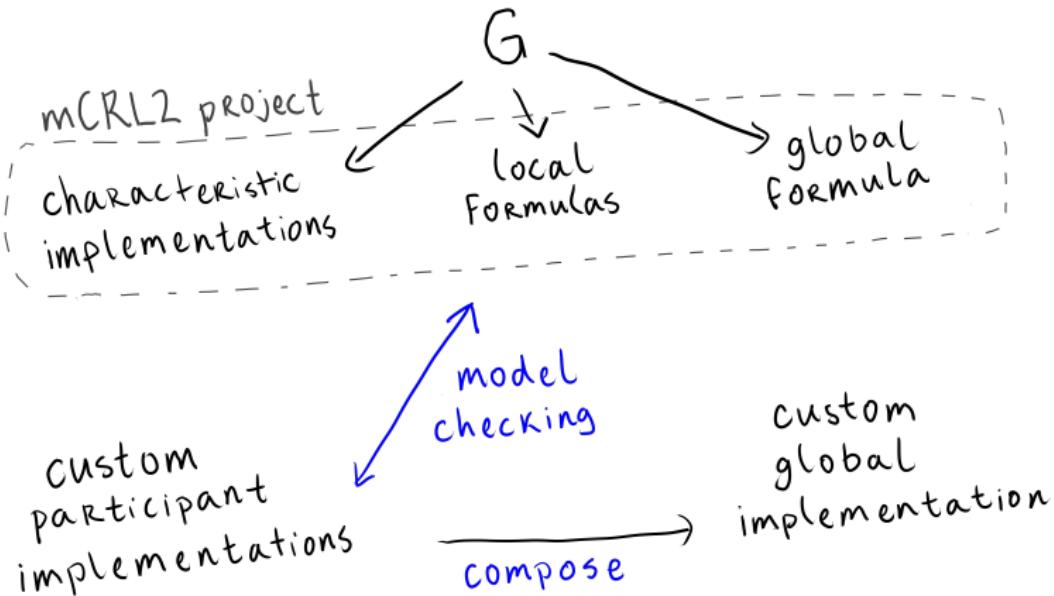
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



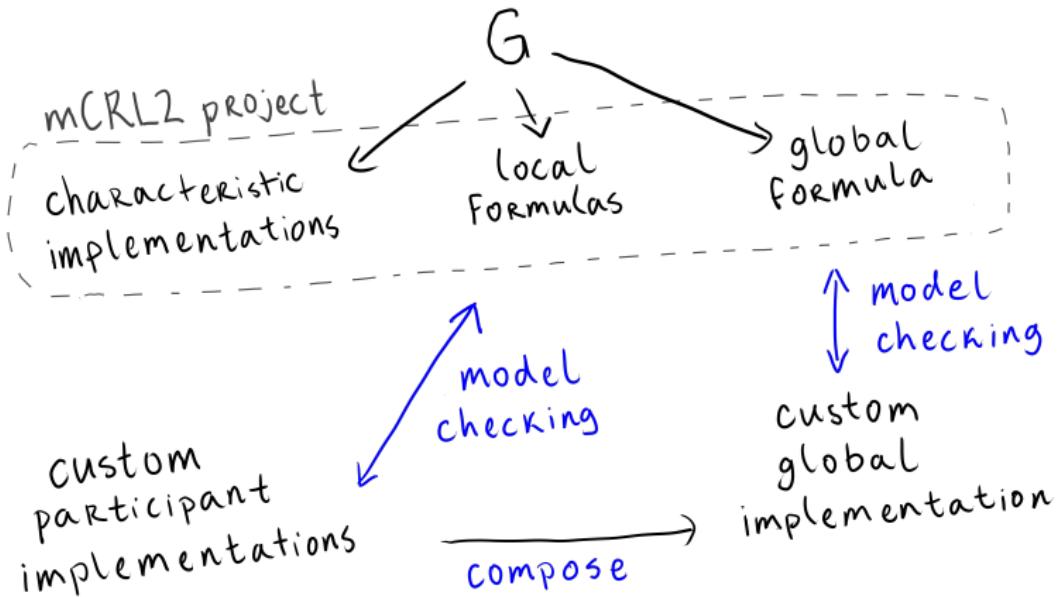
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



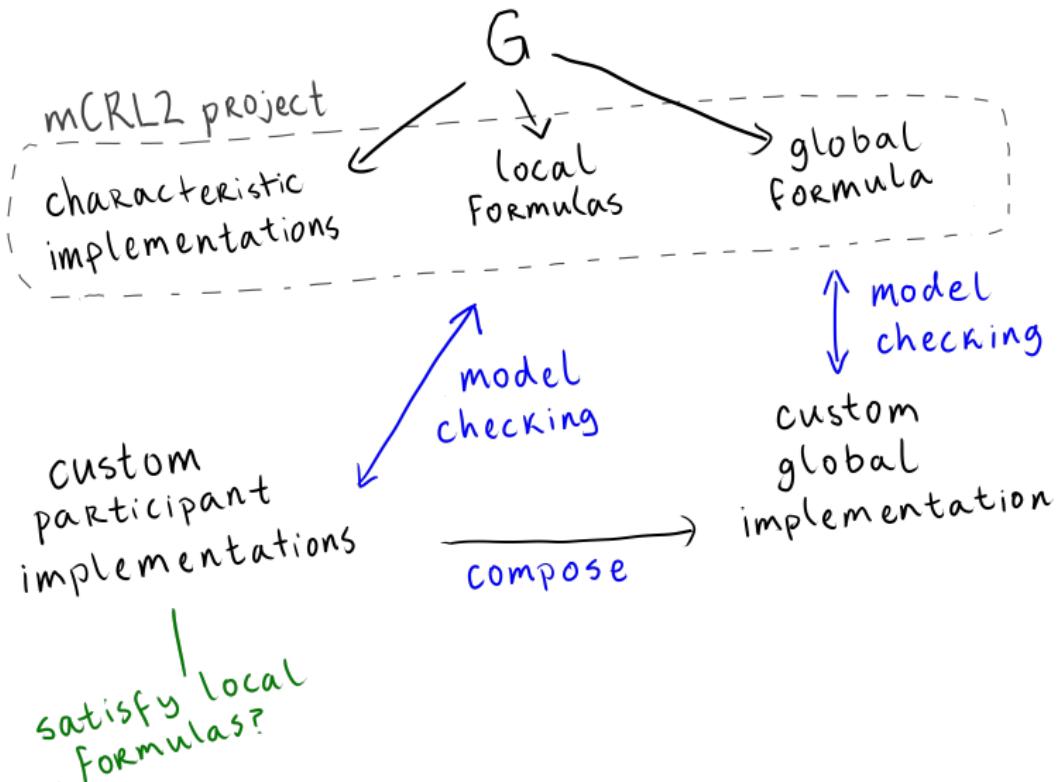
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



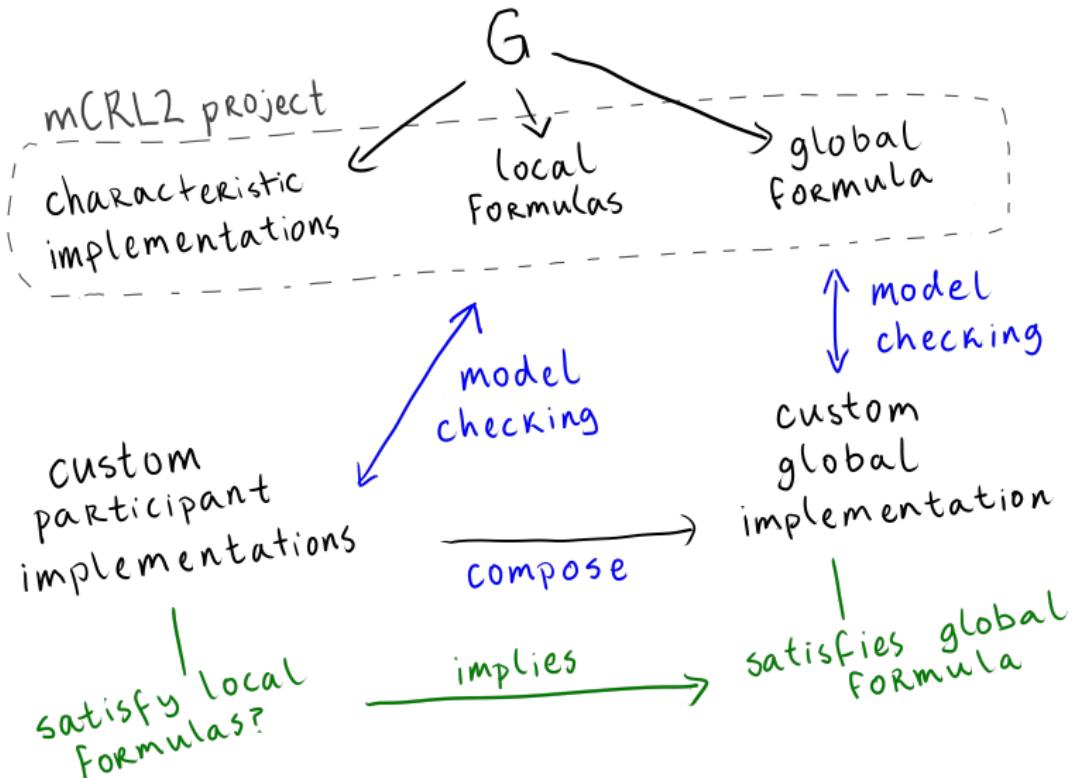
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



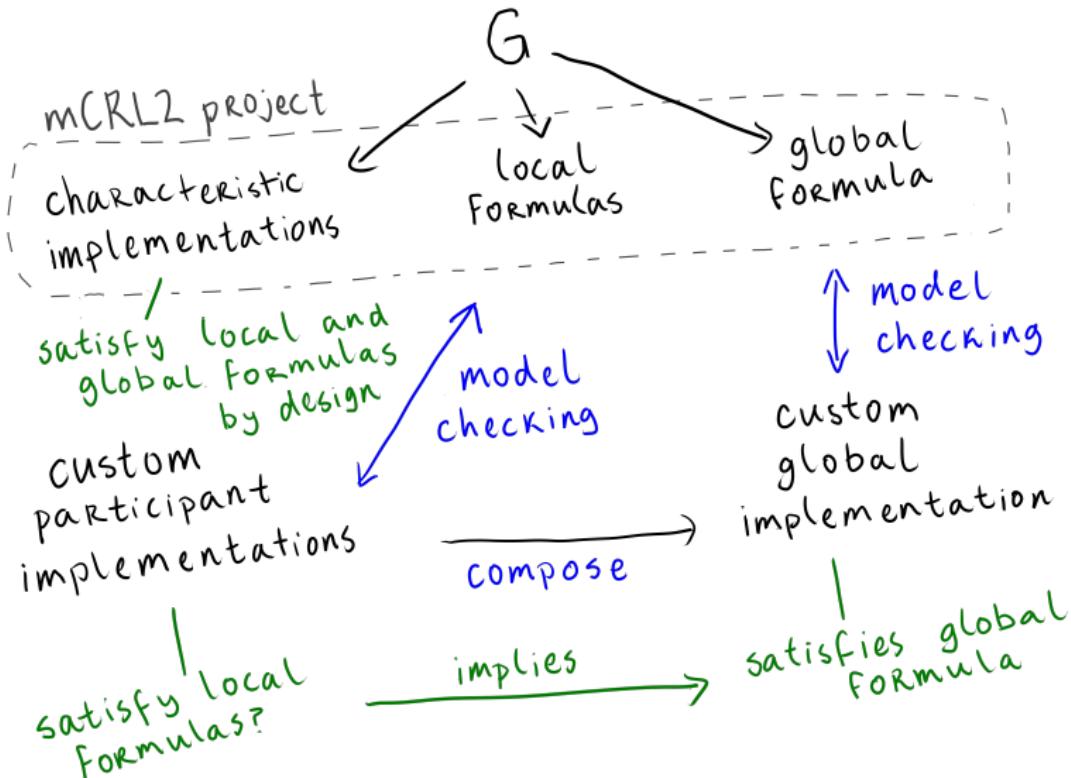
Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



Context: Our approach

- Intended workflow:



Implementing MPST as communicating processes

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \rightarrow b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Participant implementations consist of *protocol actions*, denoting the input and output of values and labels.
E.g., $a[\text{heads}]$ and $b(\text{heads})$.

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \rightarrow b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Participant implementations consist of *protocol actions*, denoting the input and output of values and labels.
E.g., $a[\text{heads}]$ and $b(\text{heads})$.
- A *communication function* derived from the global type allows processes to communicate. E.g., $a[\text{heads}] \mid b(\text{heads}) \mapsto ab\langle \text{heads} \rangle$.

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \rightarrow b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Participant implementations consist of *protocol actions*, denoting the input and output of values and labels.
E.g., $a[\text{heads}]$ and $b(\text{heads})$.
- A *communication function* derived from the global type allows processes to communicate. E.g., $a[\text{heads}] \mid b(\text{heads}) \mapsto ab\langle \text{heads} \rangle$.
- This is not enough: how to distinguish consecutive protocol actions?
E.g., $c[\text{heads}] \mid b(\text{heads}) \mapsto cb\langle \text{heads} \rangle$.

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \rightarrow b\langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \rightarrow b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \rightarrow a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \rightarrow a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- A *communication function* derived from the global type allows processes to communicate. E.g., $a[\text{heads}] \mid b(\text{heads}) \mapsto ab\langle\text{heads}\rangle$.
- This is not enough: how to distinguish consecutive protocol actions? E.g., $c[\text{heads}] \mid b(\text{heads}) \mapsto cb\langle\text{heads}\rangle$.
- Our solution: number the exchanges in the global type, annotate protocol actions accordingly. E.g.,
 $a_2[\text{heads}] \mid b_2(\text{heads}) \mapsto ab_2\langle\text{heads}\rangle$ and
 $c_3[\text{heads}] \mid b_3(\text{heads}) \mapsto cb_3\langle\text{heads}\rangle$.

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \xrightarrow{1} b\langle\text{nat}\rangle . a \xrightarrow{2} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \xrightarrow{3} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{4} a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{5} a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right) , \\ \text{tails}.c \xrightarrow{7} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{8} a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{10} a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Example participant implementations:

$$P_a := a_1[42] . a_2[\text{heads}] . (a_4(\text{win}) . P_a + a_5(\text{lose}) . a_6\text{end})$$

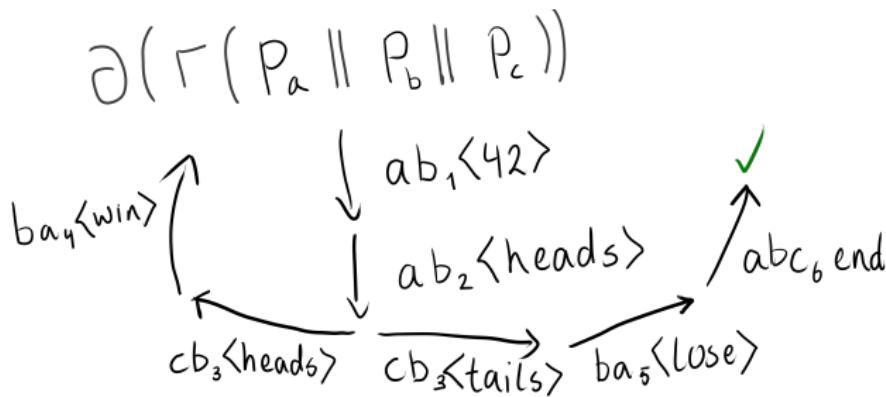
$$P_b := \sum_{x \in \mathbb{N}} b_1(x) . \left(\begin{array}{l} b_2(\text{heads}) . \left(\begin{array}{l} b_3(\text{heads}) . b_4[\text{win}] . P_b \\ + b_3(\text{tails}) . b_5[\text{lose}] . b_6\text{end} \end{array} \right) \\ + b_2(\text{tails}) . \left(\begin{array}{l} b_7(\text{heads}) . b_8[\text{lose}] . b_9\text{end} \\ + b_7(\text{tails}) . b_{10}[\text{win}] . P_b \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

$$\begin{aligned} P_c := & c_3[\text{heads}] . P_c + c_3[\text{tails}] . c_6\text{end} \\ & + c_7[\text{heads}] . c_9\text{end} + c_7[\text{tails}] . P_c \end{aligned}$$

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \xrightarrow{1} b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \xrightarrow{2} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \xrightarrow{3} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{4} a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{5} a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right) \\ \text{tails}.c \xrightarrow{7} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{8} a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{10} a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Labeled transition system of global implementation:



$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \xrightarrow{1} b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \xrightarrow{2} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \xrightarrow{3} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{4} a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{5} a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \xrightarrow{7} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{8} a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{10} a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

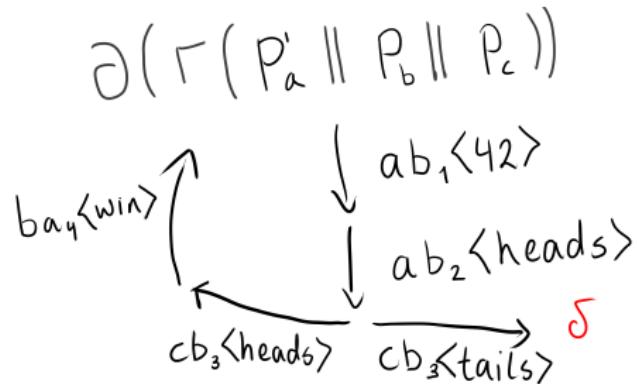
Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Alternative implementation of a : $P'_a := a_1[42] . a_2[\text{heads}] . a_4(\text{win}) . P'_a$

$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \xrightarrow{1} b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \xrightarrow{2} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \xrightarrow{3} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{4} a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{5} a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \xrightarrow{7} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{8} a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{10} a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Implementing MPST as communicating processes

- Alternative implementation of a : $P'_a := a_1[42] . a_2[\text{heads}] . a_4(\text{win}) . P'_{a'}$.
- Labeled transition system:



$$G_{\text{coin}} := \text{rec } X . a \xrightarrow{1} b \langle \text{nat} \rangle . a \xrightarrow{2} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.c \xrightarrow{3} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{4} a(\text{win}.X), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{5} a(\text{lose.end}) \end{array} \right), \\ \text{tails}.c \xrightarrow{7} b \left(\begin{array}{l} \text{heads}.b \xrightarrow{8} a(\text{lose.end}), \\ \text{tails}.b \xrightarrow{10} a(\text{win}.X) \end{array} \right) \end{array} \right)$$

Current work

- Model checking of process implementations.

Current work

- Model checking of process implementations.
- Well-formedness conditions for global types,

Current work

- Model checking of process implementations.
- Well-formedness conditions for global types,
- Formulas for checking *protocol conformance and safety* of implementations:

Current work

- Model checking of process implementations.
- Well-formedness conditions for global types,
- Formulas for checking *protocol conformance and safety* of implementations:
Local formulas for checking the correctness of individual participant implementations,
Global formulas for checking the correctness of global implementations.

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:
 - There is a communication from s to r carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:
 - There is a communication from s to r carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - After any such communication, the formula for the continuation holds,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:
 - There is a communication from s to r carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - After any such communication, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - There are no other communications possible.

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:
 - There is a communication from s to r carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - After any such communication, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - There are no other communications possible.
- Possible issue: independent exchanges, e.g., $a \rightarrow\!\!\! \rightarrow b\langle T \rangle . c \rightarrow\!\!\! \rightarrow d\langle T' \rangle . . .$

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **global formula** verifies that:
 - There is a communication from s to r carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - After any such communication, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - There are no other communications possible.
- Possible issue: independent exchanges, e.g., $a \rightarrow\!\!\! \rightarrow b\langle T \rangle . c \rightarrow\!\!\! \rightarrow d\langle T' \rangle . . .$
- Solution (for now): rule out independent exchanges with well-formedness condition.

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For s and r , after any such protocol action, the formula for the continuation holds,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For s and r , after any such protocol action, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - For s and r , there are no other protocol actions possible,

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For s and r , after any such protocol action, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - For s and r , there are no other protocol actions possible,
 - For participants other than s and r , the formula of the continuation holds (conjunction of the continuations for labeled exchange).

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For s and r , after any such protocol action, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - For s and r , there are no other protocol actions possible,
 - For participants other than s and r , the formula of the continuation holds (conjunction of the continuations for labeled exchange).
- Possible issue: unawareness of branch picked, e.g.,
 $a \twoheadrightarrow b(\ell_1 . b \twoheadrightarrow c\langle T \rangle \dots, \ell_2 . b \twoheadrightarrow c\langle T' \rangle \dots)$.

Current work

- For an exchange from s to r (type T or labels I), the **local formula** verifies that:
 - For s , there is an output carrying any value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For r , there is an input for every value of type T or label in I , annotated with the appropriate exchange number,
 - For s and r , after any such protocol action, the formula for the continuation holds,
 - For s and r , there are no other protocol actions possible,
 - For participants other than s and r , the formula of the continuation holds (conjunction of the continuations for labeled exchange).
- Possible issue: unawareness of branch picked, e.g.,
 $a \twoheadrightarrow b(\ell_1 . b \twoheadrightarrow c\langle T \rangle \dots, \ell_2 . b \twoheadrightarrow c\langle T' \rangle \dots)$.
- Solution: work in progress.

Conclusion

- Done: approach to implementing global types as communicating processes in mCRL2.

Conclusion

- Done: approach to implementing global types as communicating processes in mCRL2.
- Current work: formulas for model checking, and well-formedness conditions.

Conclusion

- Done: approach to implementing global types as communicating processes in mCRL2.
- Current work: formulas for model checking, and well-formedness conditions.
- Pending work: develop compiler from global type specifications to mCRL2 projects.

Conclusion

- Done: approach to implementing global types as communicating processes in mCRL2.
- Current work: formulas for model checking, and well-formedness conditions.
- Pending work: develop compiler from global type specifications to mCRL2 projects.
- Future work: support independent exchanges, and embed data constraints in global type specifications.

Conclusion

- Done: approach to implementing global types as communicating processes in mCRL2.
- Current work: formulas for model checking, and well-formedness conditions.
- Pending work: develop compiler from global type specifications to mCRL2 projects.
- Future work: support independent exchanges, and embed data constraints in global type specifications.
- Questions or comments? Let's discuss now, or send us an email b.van.den.heuvel@rug.nl and j.a.perez@rug.nl.