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# On the Implementability of Global Types

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*Qualcosa*



# Abstract

Behavioural types define how information is exchanged in distributed systems. An example are Multiparty Session Types (MPST), which describe interactions between multiple participants using global protocols and their local counterparts. Ensuring correct implementation, including deadlock freedom and session conformance, is a central concern in MPST. While most research targets peer-to-peer communication, real-world systems often use different communication models such as mailbox-based or causally ordered messaging. A key challenge is that protocols valid in one model may fail in another. In this work, we develop a flexible MPST framework parameterized by different network semantics, including asynchronous, peer-to-peer, causal ordering, and synchronous. We study the implementability problem from a broad semantic perspective, aiming to understand its fundamental limits. My contributions include a survey of related work, a proof of undecidability for weak implementability under synchronous semantics, and enhancements to the RESCU tool for checking deadlock freedom in synchronous systems. This approach embeds communication models as a parameter, and it provides a basis for verifying distributed systems beyond classical settings.



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# Chapter 1

## Introduction

Informally, a *distributed system* is a collection of independent computing entities (interchangeably called processes, actors, nodes, or participants) that communicate and coordinate their actions through message passing over a medium of communication (typically an **asynchronous network**), with the goal of solving a common problem. For example, a client-server application can be seen as a form of distributed system, where the shared objective is to provide services to an end user.

Distributed systems make it possible to address challenges that are hard to solve without such an architecture, such as high availability and elastic scalability. However, these benefits come with their own set of difficulties that computer scientists have long sought to overcome—for example, ensuring reliability in the presence of failures in critical systems, and maintaining data consistency. Distributed systems are widely adopted in domains such as *cloud computing*, critical infrastructures, and telecommunication-oriented applications (i.e. autonomous cars, aerospace systems, etc.). Given their ubiquity, it is crucial to study every aspect of their **design**, **execution**, and **verification**.

One recurring difficulty is writing **correct programs** in this context. Avoiding programming and logical errors is inherently hard, even for experienced developers. To mitigate this, many abstractions have been introduced, and computer scientists have focused their efforts on developing *formal frameworks* that provide developers with guarantees about their programs. Formal methods for distributed systems offer mathematically rigorous techniques to specify, design, and verify such systems. They are valuable during development, helping detect errors early, and during analysis, enabling the study of critical properties such as **safety**, **liveness**, and **deadlock-freedom**. Two primary verification approaches are *model checking* and *by-construction* verification. Model checking systematically explores a system's

state space to confirm properties, while by-construction verification guarantees correctness through the design process itself, preventing errors from being introduced.

There exists several models to reason about distributed systems. Different model are specialized in different aspects of a system, and we are interested in the ones about the exchange of information, such as Calculus of Communicating Systems (CCS), the  $\pi$ -calculus, and Petri nets. In this work, however, we focus on *Multiparty Session Types* (MPST) [18] and *choreographies* [24], since these formalisms place particular emphasis on structured and verifiable communication protocols, making them especially well suited for protocol design. In MPST, communication is specified by a *global type*, which describes the entire interaction among participants. This global type is then *projected* into *local types*, one for each participant. Local types serve as contracts that guarantee each component is compliant to the described protocol, therefore ensuring certain properties, such as deadlock-freedom, at compile time. The implementability problem in MPST is comparable to verifying whether a given global type can be correctly projected into local types, preserving the intended behaviour.

## 1.1 Goal

The goal of this work is to study the **implementability problem**, which concerns whether a global specification can be faithfully realised by a set of *local processes* in a distributed system. In essence, it asks: does an implementation really **respect** the behaviour described by a given specification model?

To illustrate the relevance of this problem, consider the following example.

**Example 1.** Given four processes  $A, B, C, D$  distributed over a network, and four messages  $x, y, z, w$  to be exchanged according to the description in Listing 1.1, is it possible to implement it in a real world system?

```

1 A sends B either message x or y.
2
3 If A sends B message x,
4   then C sends D message z.
5
6 If A sends B message y,
7 then C sends D message w.
```

**Listing 1.1:** Example specification of message exchanges

While the specification can be expressed using several of the formalisms mentioned earlier, only some are capable of revealing that it is, in fact, impossible to implement in a real distributed system. The reason is that process  $C$  cannot determine which

message to send to  $D$  without knowing which message  $A$  sent to  $B$ , because this information is not locally available to  $C$ .

This problem is examined from a theoretical perspective to provide a more formal and precise understanding of the fundamental limits that exist and why syntactical constraints of certain models work. In this work, we use an *automata-based* approach to Global Types. This formalism is designed to be highly modular, incorporating various *network semantics* (such as asynchronous, peer-to-peer, causal ordering, and synchronous semantics) as explicit parameters of the framework. This parameterization allows flexible analysis of different communication models within a unified setting.

The main contributions of this work are:

- a related-work overview, highlighting existing research and results in this particular domain and giving perspective to our work;
- we prove **undecidability** of the *weak implementability* problem under the synchronous semantics of our framework;
- we extend and improve the model-checking tool RESCU [15], enabling verification of *deadlock-freedom* and *progress* for synchronous systems.

The thesis begins with a brief overview of the background in Section 1.2, presented in a general and accessible manner, avoiding formal definitions and proofs. Chapters 2 and 3 then introduce the necessary formal definitions, followed by the main theoretical contribution and in Chapter 4 the practical contributions of this work. Finally, Chapter 6 presents concluding remarks and outlines possible directions for future research and development.

## 1.2 Background

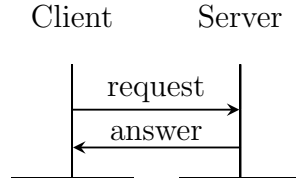
In this overview, we give a brief understanding of the state of the art regarding Message Sequence Charts, Multiparty Session Types and the implementability (or realisability) problem.

### 1.2.1 Message Sequence Charts

Message Sequence Charts (MSCs) are a standardized graphical formalism, introduced in 1992 [19], used to describe trace languages for specifying communication behaviour. Thanks to their simplicity and intuitive semantics, MSCs have been widely adopted in industry. Figure 1.1 illustrates a simple example based on a minimal client–server architecture. An extension of this formalism, known as High-Level



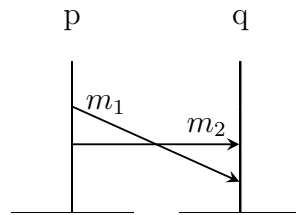
Message Sequence Charts (HMSCs), was later introduced [20]. HMSCs enable the definition of MSCs as nodes connected by transitions and are used to model more complex patterns of message flows by capturing sequences, alternatives, or iterations of atomic MSC scenarios.



**Figure 1.1:** Simple example of a client-server architecture.

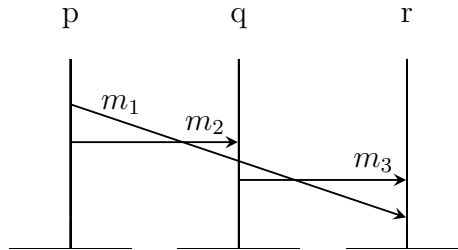
With MSCs, [11] presents some interesting communication semantics. I will describe a few them informally, using examples to highlight the differences from the main semantics considered in this work, which is **synch**, that is also the only one formally defined in Definition 2.2.3. In Section 5, the discussion continue presenting other communication semantics, and summarizing the relevance of the work by Di Giusto, et al. [11]. Some examples are shown in Figure 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4, whose *membership* can be verified with an online tool for MSCs [14].

**Fully asynchronous** In the fully asynchronous communication model (**asy**), messages can be received at any time after they have been sent, and send events are non-blocking. This model can be viewed as an unordered “bag” in which all messages are stored and retrieved by processes when needed. It is also referred to as *non-FIFO*. The formal definition coincides with that of an MSC (Definition 2.2.5). Figure 1.2 illustrates an example of asynchronous communication.



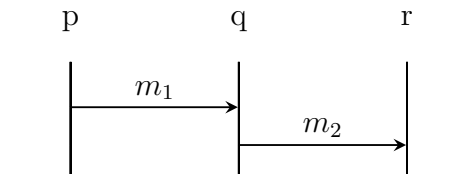
**Figure 1.2:** Asynchronous semantic example.

**Peer-to-peer** In the peer-to-peer (p2p) communication model, any two messages sent from one process to another are always received in the same order as they are sent. An alternative name is FIFO. An example is shown in Figure 1.3.



**Figure 1.3:** Peer-to-peer semantic example.

**Synchronous** The synchronous (**synch**) communication model imposes the existence of a scheduling such that any send event is immediately followed by its corresponding receive event. An example for this communication model is shown in Figure 1.4.c. A formal definition is given later for this semantic (Definition 2.2.3).



**Figure 1.4:** Synchronous semantic example.

### The implementability problem for MSCs

The *implementability problem* was first introduced for MSC languages in [1, 2]. It asks whether there exists a distributed implementation that can realise all behaviours of a finite set of MSCs without introducing additional ones. A stronger variant, called *safe implementability*, requires the implementation to also be **deadlock-free**. This problem has some synonyms in the term, with slightly different definition, but it can be called also realisability and projectability.

### 1.2.2 Multiparty Session Types

Multiparty Session Types (MPST) [18] provide a type-theoretic framework to specify and verify communication protocols among multiple participants. They ensure that communication follows a predefined structure, preventing errors such as deadlocks, orphan messages, and unspecified receptions. The **global specification** describes the overall communication protocol. From this, one derives the **local behaviours** of each participant via a *projection* operation. The system's **processes** form the *implementation*, defining how participants interact. With the definition of a *typing system* and suitable *type-checking rules*, one ensures that the implementation conforms to the local specification, thereby guaranteeing properties such as *well-formedness*. Figure 1.5 show a schema summarizing the principal parts of the framework.

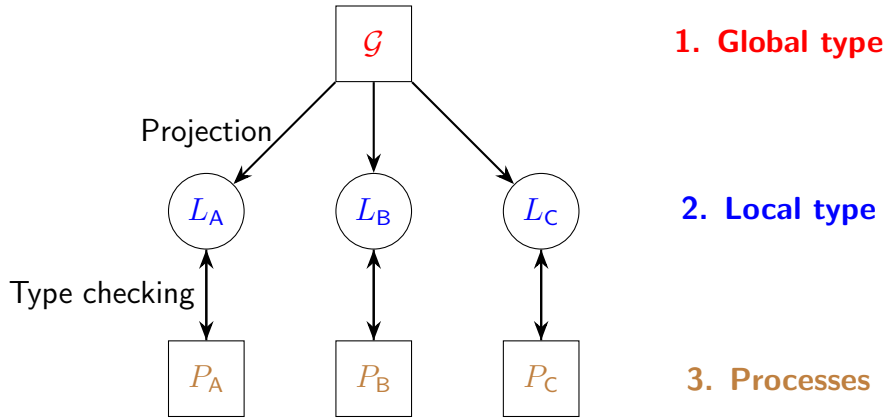


Figure 1.5: Intuitive schema of MPST framework

#### Projectability

A central notion in MPST is *projectability*, which asks whether a global type can be faithfully projected into local specifications for each participant. If projection succeeds, the resulting local types interact without mismatches or unintended behaviours, effectively bridging global specifications and distributed implementations [18]. Projectability is, therefore, comparable to the implementability problem as they have the same aim. Projection algorithms, however, often reject natural protocols that fail to meet restrictive syntactic conditions. This difference between expressivity and safety has motivated extensions of the theory, with [8] being the only algorithm aiming for full completeness.

A key restriction in the definition of MPST appears in branching. In the original framework [18, 7], choice is **sender-driven**: the first sender dictates the branch, ensuring safety but excluding many common patterns where multiple participants

influence the decision [7]. Allowing **mixed choice** increases expressivity by permitting several initiators, but it also makes the implementability problem undecidable in general [27].

### 1.2.3 Reduction to synchronous semantic

The main idea of this work is that reasoning about implementability becomes more tractable under *synchronous* semantics for automata-based solutions to the implementability problem. In synchronous communication, send and receive actions are tightly coupled, effectively removing nondeterminism caused by asynchronous message buffering. Several results exploit this observation by reducing the implementability problem under richer communication models (e.g. asynchronous or peer-to-peer FIFO) to the simpler synchronous case [3, 11].

Formally, one can show that if a global type is implementable in synchronous semantics, then under certain conditions it is also implementable in more general models such as peer-to-peer or mailbox semantics. This reduction requires constraints such as *orphan-freedom* (no message is left unmatched) and *deadlock-freedom*. The following theorem, currently a work in progress by my supervisors [13, Theorem 5.3], provides a characterization of a connection between peer-to-peer semantics and synchronous semantics: a global type  $G$  is deadlock-free realisable in p2p iff the following four conditions hold

- the language of  $G$ 's local type is in synchronous semantics
- all  $G$ 's projections are orphan-free
- all the traces of the MSCs' language of  $G$  is deadlock-free in p2p
- $G$  is realisable in synchronous semantics

This result highlights the central role of synchronous semantics as a *core model*: implementability in peer-to-peer systems can be reduced to the synchronous case provided the additional safety conditions are met. My own contribution focuses on the last item of the theorem, namely the problem of checking whether a given global type is implementable in synchronous semantics. This question is at the heart of the undecidability results presented in Section 3, and motivates the need for the identification of new subclasses that enable new verification techniques along with tool support.



# Chapter 2

## Preliminaries

In this section, the fundamental concepts and definitions necessary to contextualize the main contributions of this work are presented. I, first, introduce automaton, executions, and Message Sequence Charts (MSC), followed by an examination of communication model's semantics that are particularly interesting. Then, the notions of Global Type and Realisability are defined within the scope of this work, along with the foundational elements required to understand the theoretical contributions.

### 2.1 Standard notions on automata

**Definition 2.1.1** (NFA). A non-deterministic finite automaton (NFA) is a tuple  $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , where  $Q$  is a finite set of states,  $\Sigma$  is a finite alphabet,  $\delta : Q \times (\Sigma \cup \{\varepsilon\}) \rightarrow Q$  is the transition relation,  $q_0 \in Q$  is the initial state, and  $F \subseteq Q$  is the set of accepting states.

We write  $\delta^*(s, w)$  to denote the set of states  $s'$  reachable from  $s$  along a path labelled with  $w$ . The language accepted by  $\mathcal{A}$ , denoted  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathcal{A})$ , is the set of words  $w \in \Sigma^*$  such that  $\delta^*(q_0, w) \cap F \neq \emptyset$ .

**Definition 2.1.2** (DFA). A deterministic finite automaton (DFA) is an NFA where the transition relation  $\delta$  is a partial function  $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$ . The DFA is complete if  $\delta$  is total.

**Definition 2.1.3** (Determinization). To every NFA  $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F)$ , we associate the DFA  $\text{det}(\mathcal{A}) = (Q', \Sigma, \delta', q'_0, F')$ , where  $Q' = 2^Q$ ,  $q'_0 = \{q_0\}$ ,  $F'$  is the set of subsets of  $Q$  that contain at least one accepting state, and  $\delta'$  is defined by  $\delta'(S, a) = \bigcup \{\delta^*(s, a) \mid s \in S\}$  for all  $S \in Q'$ ,  $a \in \Sigma$ .

We write  $\hat{\mathcal{A}}$  for the automaton obtained from  $\mathcal{A}$  by setting  $F = Q$ .

## 2.2 Execution, Communication Models and MSCs

We assume a finite set of *processes*  $\mathbb{P} = \{p, q, \dots\}$  and a finite set of messages (labels)  $\mathbb{M} = \{m_1, m_2, \dots\}$ . We consider two kinds of actions:

- *send actions*, of the form  $!m^{p \rightarrow q}$ , executed by process  $p$  when sending message  $m$  to  $q$ ;
- *receive actions*, of the form  $?m^{p \rightarrow q}$ , executed by process  $q$  when receiving  $m$  from  $p$ .

Furthermore, we write  $\mathbf{Act}$  for the set  $\mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{P} \times \{!, ?\} \times \mathbb{M}$  of all actions, and  $\mathbf{Act}_p$  for the subset of actions executable by  $p$  (i.e.,  $!m^{p \rightarrow q}$  or  $?m^{q \rightarrow p}$ ). When processes are clear from the context, we abbreviate send and receive actions as  $!m$  and  $?m$ , respectively.

An *event*  $\eta$  of a sequence of actions  $w \in \mathbf{Act}^*$  is an index  $i \in \{1, \dots, \text{length}(w)\}$ . It is a *send event* (resp. *receive event*) if  $w[i]$  is a send (resp. receive) action. We denote by  $\mathbf{events}_S(w)$  (resp.  $\mathbf{events}_R(w)$ ) the set of send (resp. receive) events of  $w$ , and  $\mathbf{events}(w) = \mathbf{events}_S(w) \cup \mathbf{events}_R(w)$ . When all events are labelled with distinct actions, we identify an event with its action.

### Executions.

An execution is a well-defined sequence of actions  $e \in \mathbf{Act}^*$ , where a receive action is always preceded by a unique corresponding send action.

**Definition 2.2.1** (Execution). An *execution* over  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{M}$  is a sequence of actions  $e \in \mathbf{Act}^*$  together with an injective mapping  $\mathbf{src}_e : \mathbf{events}_R(e) \rightarrow \mathbf{events}_S(e)$  such that for each receive event  $i$  labelled  $?m^{p \rightarrow q}$ , its source  $\mathbf{src}_e(i)$  is labelled  $!m^{p \rightarrow q}$  and  $\mathbf{src}_e(i) < i$ .

For a set of executions  $\mathcal{E}$ , let  $\mathbf{Prefixes}(\mathcal{E})$  be the set of all prefixes of executions in  $\mathcal{E}$ . The *projection*  $\mathbf{proj}_p(e)$  of  $e$  on process  $p$  is the subsequence of actions in  $\mathbf{Act}_p$ . A send event  $s$  is *matched* if there exists a receive event  $r$  such that  $\mathbf{src}(r) = s$ . An execution is *orphan-free* if all send events are matched, i.e., if  $\mathbf{src}$  is surjective onto  $\mathbf{events}_S(e)$ .

### Communication Models.

In this thesis, we focus on two communication models: the peer-to-peer model (p2p) and the synchronous model (synch). Nonetheless, this work forms part of

a broader and more general project. Some results presented here naturally extend to a wide range of communication models, often requiring only mild additional assumptions. Please, refer to the related work chapter (Chapter 5, Section 5.1). From this perspective, we introduce a general definition of a communication model.

**Definition 2.2.2** (Communication model). A *communication model*  $\text{com}$  is a set  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{com}}$  of executions.

In the *synchronous model*  $\text{synch}$ , every send is immediately followed by its matching receive:

**Definition 2.2.3** ( $\text{synch}$ ). An execution  $e = (w, \text{src})$  belongs to  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{synch}}$  if for every send event  $s \in \text{events}_S(e)$ , the event  $s + 1$  is a receive event with  $\text{src}(s + 1) = s$ .

In the peer-to-peer communication model  $\text{p2p}$ , every pair of processes  $(p, q)$  is connected by a dedicated FIFO channel. Messages sent by  $p$  to  $q$  are delivered in the same order in which they were issued: if  $p$  first sends  $m_1$  and then  $m_2$ , the channel guarantees that  $m_2$  cannot overtake  $m_1$ . Concretely:

- if  $m_1$  is never received, then  $m_2$  cannot be received either;
- if both are received, then  $m_1$  is delivered before  $m_2$ .

**Definition 2.2.4** (Peer-to-peer model  $\text{p2p}$ ). The set  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{p2p}}$  consists of all executions  $e$  such that for any two send events  $s_1 = !m_1^{p \rightarrow q}$  and  $s_2 = !m_2^{p \rightarrow q}$  in  $\text{events}_S(e)$ , with  $s_1 < s_2$ , one of the following holds:

- $s_2$  remains unmatched; or
- there exist receive events  $r_1, r_2$  such that  $r_1 < r_2$ ,  $\text{src}(r_1) = s_1$ , and  $\text{src}(r_2) = s_2$ .

It is easy to observe that  $\mathcal{E}_{\text{synch}} \subseteq \mathcal{E}_{\text{p2p}}$ . Furthermore, the *source function*  $\text{src}_e$  is defined as follows. If  $e$  is an execution in  $\text{p2p}$ , the source of the  $i$ -th receive event of  $q$  from  $p$  is the  $i$ -th corresponding send event of  $p$  to  $q$ . If instead  $e$  belongs to  $\text{synch}$ , then for every receive event  $i$  we define  $\text{src}_e(i) = i - 1$ .

## Message Sequence Charts.

While executions correspond to a total order of events in a system, message sequence charts (MSCs) provide a distributed view, using a partial order on events. For a tuple  $M = (w_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$ , each  $w_p \in \text{Act}_p^*$  is a sequence of actions executed by process  $p$ , according to some total, locally observable order. We write  $\text{events}(M)$  for the set  $\{(p, i) \mid p \in \mathbb{P} \text{ and } 0 \leq i < \text{length}(w_p)\}$ . The label  $\text{action}(\eta)$  of an event  $\eta = (p, i)$  is the action  $w_p[i]$ . The event  $\eta$  is a send (resp. receive) event if it is labelled with a send (resp. receive) action. We write  $\text{events}_S(M)$  (resp.  $\text{events}_R(M)$ ) for the set



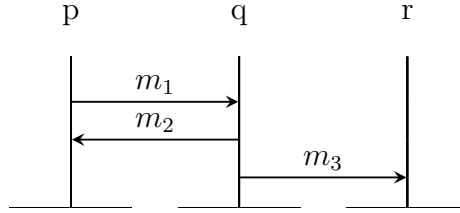
of send (resp. receive) events of  $M$ . We also write  $\text{msg}(\eta)$  for the message sent or received at  $\eta$ , and  $\text{proc}(\eta)$  for the process executing  $\eta$ . Finally, we write  $\eta_1 \prec_{\text{proc}} \eta_2$  if there exists a process  $p$  and indices  $i < j$  such that  $\eta_1 = (p, i)$  and  $\eta_2 = (p, j)$ .

**Definition 2.2.5** (Message Sequence Chart). An *MSC* over  $\mathbb{P}$  and  $\mathbb{M}$  is a tuple  $M = ((w_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src})$  where

1. for each process  $p$ ,  $w_p \in \text{Act}_p^*$  is a finite sequence of actions;
2.  $\text{src} : \text{events}_R(M) \rightarrow \text{events}_S(M)$  is an injective function from receive events to send events such that for all receive event  $\eta$  labelled with  $?m^{p \rightarrow q}$ ,  $\text{src}(\eta)$  is labelled with  $!m^{p \rightarrow q}$ .

For an execution  $e$ ,  $\text{msc}(e)$  is the MSC  $((w_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src})$  where  $w_p$  is the subsequence of  $e$  restricted to the actions of  $p$ , and  $\text{src}$  is the lifting of  $\text{src}_e$  to the events of  $(w_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$ .

**Example 2.** Consider the MSC depicted in Figure 2.1. It consists of  $\mathbb{P} = \{p, q, r\}$  and  $\mathbb{M} = \{m_1, m_2, m_3\}$  with  $M = ((w_p, w_q, w_r), \text{src})$ , where  $w_p = !m_1 ?m_2$ ,  $w_q = ?m_1 !m_2 !m_3$ ,  $w_r = ?m_3$ ,  $\text{src}((p, 2)) = (q, 2)$ ,  $\text{src}((q, 1)) = (p, 1)$ , and  $\text{src}((r, 1)) = (q, 3)$ .



**Figure 2.1:** Simple example with an exchange of three messages.

Given a set of processes  $\mathbb{P}$ , an MSC  $M = ((w_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src})$  is said to be a *prefix* of another MSC  $M' = ((w'_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src}')$ , denoted by  $M \leq_{\text{pref}} M'$ , if the following conditions hold:

- for every  $p \in \mathbb{P}$ , the sequence  $w_p$  is a prefix of  $w'_p$ ;
- for every receive event  $e$  of  $M$ , it holds that  $\text{src}'(e) = \text{src}(e)$ .

The *concatenation* of two MSCs  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  is the MSC  $M_1 \cdot M_2$  obtained by stacking  $M_1$  vertically above  $M_2$ . Formally, let  $M_1 = ((w_p^1)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src}_1)$  and  $M_2 = ((w_p^2)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}, \text{src}_2)$ . Then: (i) for each process  $p$ , the sequence is  $w_p = w_p^1 \cdot w_p^2$ ; (ii) the source function  $\text{src}$  is defined so that  $\text{src}(e) = \text{src}_i(e)$  for all receive events  $e$  belonging to  $M_i$ , with  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .

## Happens-before relation and linearisations

In a given MSC  $M$ , an event  $\eta$  happens before  $\eta'$ , if

- $\eta$  and  $\eta'$  are events of a same process  $p$  and happen in that order on the timeline of  $p$
- $\eta$  is send event matched by  $\eta'$
- a sequence of such situations defines a path from  $\eta$  to  $\eta'$

**Definition 2.2.6** (Happens-before relation). Let  $M$  be an MSC. The happens-before relation over  $M$  is the binary relation  $\prec_M$  defined as the least transitive relation over  $\text{events}(M)$  such that:

- for all  $p, i, j$ , if  $i < j$ , then  $(p, i) \prec_M (p, j)$ , and
- for all receive events  $\eta$ ,  $\text{src}(\eta) \prec_M \eta$ .

**Example 3.** Consider the Example 2. The following happens-before relations are valid:

$$!m_1 \prec_M ?m_1 \prec_M !m_2 \prec_M !m_3 \prec_M ?m_3$$

and

$$!m_1 \prec_M ?m_1 \prec_M !m_2 \prec_M ?m_2.$$

**Definition 2.2.7** (Linearisation). A *linearisation* of an MSC  $M$  is a total order  $\ll$  on  $\text{events}(M)$  that refines  $\prec_M$ : for all events  $\eta, \eta'$ , if  $\eta \prec_M \eta'$ , then  $\eta \ll \eta'$ .

We write  $\text{lin}(M)$  for the set of all linearisations of  $M$ . We often identify a linearisation with the execution it induces.

**Example 4.** Considering the Example 2, let  $M$  be the MSC in Figure 2.1. The elements of the set  $\text{lin}(M)$  are

$$!m_1 ?m_1 !m_2 ?m_2 !m_3 ?m_3,$$

$$!m_1 ?m_1 !m_2 !m_3 ?m_2 ?m_3,$$

$$!m_1 ?m_1 !m_2 !m_3 ?m_3 ?m_2.$$

Given an MSC  $M$ , we write  $\text{lin}_{\text{com}}(M)$  to denote  $\text{lin}(M) \cap \mathcal{E}_{\text{com}}$ ; the executions of  $\text{lin}_{\text{com}}(M)$  are called the linearisations of  $M$  in the communication model  $\text{com}$ .

**Definition 2.2.8** (com-linearisable MSC). An MSC  $M$  is *linearisable* in a communication model  $\text{com}$  if  $\text{lin}_{\text{com}}(M) \neq \emptyset$ . We write  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{com}}$  for the set of all MSCs linearisable in  $\text{com}$ .

**Example 5.** Consider the Example 2 and the respective linearisation listed in Example 4. The MSC  $M$  is *linearisable* in the **synch** communication model because  $\text{lin}_{\text{synch}}(M) \neq \emptyset$ . The only element of  $\text{lin}_{\text{synch}}(M)$  is

$$!m_1?m_1!m_2?m_2!m_3?m_3.$$

All the send events are followed by the respective receive events.

### Communicating finite state machines.

We recall the definition of communicating finite state machines [5]. These definitions will later be used also for Chapter 4.

**Definition 2.2.9** (CFSM). A communicating finite state machine (CFSM) is an NFA with  $\varepsilon$ -transitions  $\mathcal{A}$  over the alphabet **Act**. A system of CFSMs is a tuple  $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{A}_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$ .

Given a system of CFSMs  $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{A}_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$ , we write  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}$  for the system of CFSMs  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}} = (\widehat{\mathcal{A}}_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$  where all states are accepting, i.e.,  $F_p = Q_p$ .

**Definition 2.2.10** (Executions of CFSMs in a model). Given a system  $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{A}_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$  and a model **com**,  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{exec}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})$  is the set of executions  $e \in \mathcal{E}_{\text{com}}$  such that  $\text{proj}_p(e) \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathcal{A}_p)$  for all  $p$ .

We write  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})$  for the set  $\{\text{msc}(e) \mid e \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{exec}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})\}$ .

A system is orphan-free if, whenever all machines have reached an accepting state, no message remains in transit, i.e., no message is sent but not received.

**Definition 2.2.11** (Orphan-free). A system  $\mathcal{S}$  is *orphan-free* in a model **com** if all its executions in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{exec}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})$  are orphan-free.

All synchronous executions are orphan-free by definition.

A system is deadlock-free if, any *partial* execution can be extended/completed to an accepting execution.

**Definition 2.2.12** (Deadlock-free). A system  $\mathcal{S}$  is *deadlock-free* in **com** if for every execution  $e \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{exec}}^{\text{com}}(\widehat{\mathcal{S}})$ , there exists a completion  $e'$  with  $e \leq_{\text{pref}} e'$  and  $e' \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{exec}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})$ .

The following result shows that, for either **p2p** or **synch** communication models, the deadlock-freedom property of a system of CFSMs can be expressed as a property on the MSCs of the system.

**Lemma 1** (Deadlock-freedom as an MSC property). *Assume  $\text{com}$  is p2p (respectively,  $\text{com}$  is synch). Then a system of CFSMs  $\mathcal{S}$  is deadlock-free for  $\text{com}$  if and only if*

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^{\text{com}}(\widehat{\mathcal{S}}) \subseteq \text{Prefixes}(\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^{\text{com}}(\mathcal{S})).$$

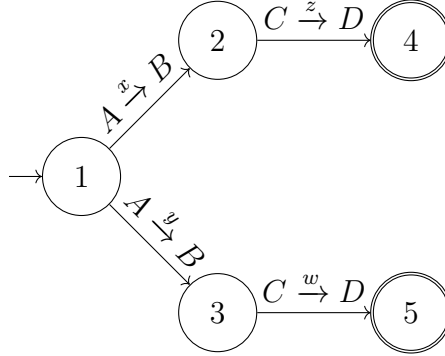
## 2.3 Global Types

This part will further highlight the basic notions to understand the formal proof for the theorem presented in Section 3 and, in particular, Global Type and Weakly-realizable. We begin by extending the definition of linearisability so that it applies to all communication models. In our setting, Global Types are automata that describe a language of MSCs, as considered in this recent work by Di Giusto, et al. [13].

**Definition 2.3.1** (Global Type). An *arrow* is a triple  $(p, q, m) \in \mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{P} \times \mathbb{M}$  with  $p \neq q$ ; we often write  $p \xrightarrow{m} q$  instead of  $(p, q, m)$ , and write  $\text{Arr}$  to denote the finite set of arrows. A Global Type  $\mathbf{G}$  is a deterministic finite state automaton over the alphabet  $\text{Arr}$ .

We use the notation  $p \xleftrightarrow{m} q$  to denote the *round-trip* exchange of a message  $m$ : first  $p$  sends  $m$  to  $q$ , and then  $q$  sends back the same message  $m$  to  $p$ . This will serve as an acknowledgment message for  $p$ .

**Example 6.** An example of a Global Type expressed as an automaton is the following. Consider the not-implementable specification stated in Listing 1.1. The protocol can be modelled with the Global Type in Figure 2.2.



**Figure 2.2:** An automaton representing the specification's global type given in Listing 1.1.

I can now formally define the relationship between MSCs and Global Types. Intuitively, Global Types represent a set of MSCs, allowing us to reason about multiple message sequence scenarios.

A Global Type defines a language of MSCs in two different ways, one existential and one universal. Let  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathbf{G})$  be the set of sequences of arrows  $w$  accepted by  $\mathbf{G}$ . Note that for  $w \in \text{Arr}^*$ , the function  $w \mapsto \text{msc}(w)$  with  $\text{msc}(w) \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$  is not injective, as two arrows with disjoint pairs of processes commute. We write  $w_1 \sim w_2$  if  $\text{msc}(w_1) = \text{msc}(w_2)$ , and  $[w]$  for the equivalence class of  $w$  with respect to  $\sim$ .

Informally, the existential MSC language  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\exists(\mathbf{G})$  of a Global Type  $\mathbf{G}$  is the set of MSCs that admit at least one representation as a sequence of arrows in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathbf{G})$ , and the universal MSC language  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\forall(\mathbf{G})$  of a Global Type  $\mathbf{G}$  is the set of MSCs whose representations as sequences of arrows are all in  $\mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathbf{G})$ :

**Definition 2.3.2** ( $\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\exists(\mathbf{G})$ ).

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\exists(\mathbf{G}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{msc}(w) \mid w \in \mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathbf{G})\}$$

**Definition 2.3.3** ( $\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\forall(\mathbf{G})$ ).

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\forall(\mathbf{G}) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{msc}(w) \mid [w] \subseteq \mathcal{L}_{\text{words}}(\mathbf{G})\}.$$

**Definition 2.3.4** (Commutation-closed). A global type  $\mathbf{G}$  is *commutation-closed* if

$$\mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\exists(\mathbf{G}) = \mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\forall(\mathbf{G}).$$

I now introduce the definition of implementability following the one given by Alur, et al. [3], referred to as *Weak-realisability*. To formalize it, we first define the notions of *weak implication* and *weak closure*.

**Definition 2.3.5** (Weakly-imply). Let  $\mathcal{M}$  be a set of MSCs and  $M$  an MSC.  $\mathcal{M}$  *weakly implies*  $M$ , if for any sequence of automata  $\langle A_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq n \rangle$ , if every MSC in  $\mathcal{M}$  is in  $L(\prod_i A_i)$  then  $M \in L(\prod_i A_i)$ .

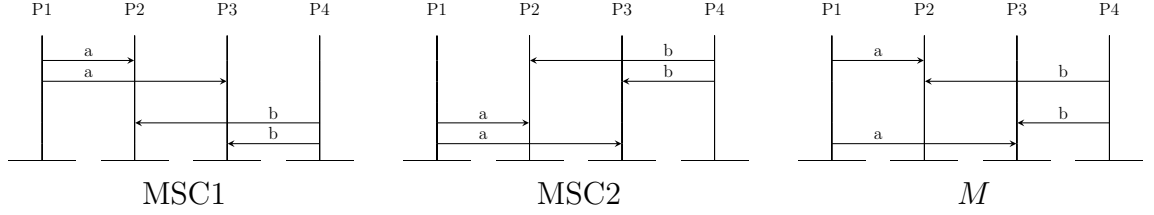
In order to understand the meaning of *weak implication*, consider the following example.

**Example 7.** Define two MSCs, MSC1 and MSC2. Both perform the same four communications, but in different orders. MSC1 first sends message  $a$  from P1 to P2, then from P1 to P3, then sends  $b$  from P4 to P2, and finally from P4 to P3.

MSC2 instead starts with P4 sending  $b$  to P2, then to P3, followed by P1 sending  $a$  to P2 and then to P3.

Now define a third MSC  $M$  with the same four messages but in a different order: P1 sends  $a$  to P2, P4 sends  $b$  to P2, P4 sends  $b$  to P3, and finally P1 sends  $a$  to P3.

We say  $M$  is weakly implied by MSC1 and MSC2. Indeed, by looking at each process projection we recover the same behaviour in one of them: for P1 and P4 in both, for P2 in MSC1, and for P3 in MSC2. Figure 2.3 illustrates the three MSCs.



**Figure 2.3:** The MSC  $M$  is weakly implied by MSC1 and MSC2

**Definition 2.3.6** (Weakly-closure  $\mathcal{M}^w$ ). The weak-closure  $\mathcal{M}^w$  of a set  $\mathcal{M}$  of MSCs contains all the MSCs weakly implied by  $\mathcal{M}$ .

**Definition 2.3.7** (Weakly-realisable). An MSC  $M$  is said to be weakly-realisable if the set of MSCs  $L(M)$  is weakly realisable. A set of MSCs  $\mathcal{M}$  is said to be weakly realisable if  $\mathcal{M} = \mathcal{M}^w$ .

It is important to note that this definition does not include the property of deadlock-freedom.

We are now ready to present the main contributions of this work.



## Chapter 3

# Weak-Realisability is Undecidable for Synch Global Types

As already mentioned, the first contribution is Theorem 1, which states that Weak-realisation is undecidable for synchronous global types. To understand this result, I have already covered the basic notions in Section 2 on MSCs, Global Types, and Weak-realisation. These concepts are general and align closely with definitions used in previously established works. We now introduce the main objects employed in the proof of Theorem 1. The proof itself is adapted from the work of Alur et al. [3]. I will first give a sketch of the proof, to also highlight the differences with the original one.

### Sketch of Proof

The proof is carried out by a *reduction* from the **Relaxed Post Correspondence Problem (RPCP)**, a variant of the classical Post Correspondence Problem (PCP). The main idea is to encode the existence of a solution to an RPCP instance into the (non-)realisability of a *global type*  $L^*$  built from synchronous MSCs. In the original proof,  $L^*$  is not a global type, but an MSC. Therefore, we changed the base definitions of the original paper to fit the model.

**Step 1: Construction.** Given an RPCP instance  $\Delta = \{(v_1, w_1), \dots, (v_m, w_m)\}$ , we associate to each pair  $(v_i, w_i)$  two MSCs  $M_i^0, M_i^1$ , following Def. 3.1.6. Each  $M_i^n$  is *synchronous* (Lemma 2) and belongs to the language of the global type  $G_S$  (Lemma 3). From all such MSCs we build  $L^*$  (Def. 3.1.5), which represents all possible concatenations of the  $M_i^n$ .



**Step 2: Direction “ $\Rightarrow$ ”.** Assume  $\Delta$  has a solution  $\Delta = (i_1, a_1, b_1, \dots, i_m, a_m, b_m)$ . From this, construct two MSC sequences:

$$M_x = M_{i_1}^{a_1} \dots M_{i_m}^{a_m}, \quad M_y = M_{i_1}^{b_1} \dots M_{i_m}^{b_m}.$$

Both  $M_x, M_y$  are synchronous concatenations of synchronous MSCs. Consider now a third MSC  $M_{\text{sol}}$  obtained by taking the projections  $M_y|_1, M_y|_2$  and  $M_x|_3, M_x|_4$ . Intuitively, processes  $P_1, P_2$  construct the *right string*  $y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_m}$ , while processes  $P_3, P_4$  construct the *left string*  $x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m}$ . The prefix property of RPCP ensures that  $M_{\text{sol}}$  is acyclic and *synchronous*. The  $M_{\text{sol}}$  synchrony is not trivial, therefore we need to prove it. This part was not present in the original proof. By construction,  $L^*$  weakly implies  $M_{\text{sol}}$ , but  $M_{\text{sol}} \notin L^*$ , since at least one tile differs. Hence,  $L^*$  is *not realisable*.

**Step 3: Direction “ $\Leftarrow$ ”.** Suppose  $L^*$  is not realisable: then there exists some MSC  $M^\circledast$  weakly implied by  $L^*$  but not in  $L^*$ . Analysing the projections of  $M^\circledast$  on each process, we recover two sequences of words, one built along processes  $P_1, P_2$  and the other along  $P_3, P_4$ . The fact that  $M^\circledast \notin L^*$  implies that these two sequences must differ at some tile, and the prefix property ensures that the word on  $P_2$  is always a prefix of the word on  $P_3$ . This yields a *solution to the RPCP instance*  $\Delta$ .

**Step 4: Conclusion.** We have shown the equivalence:

$$\Delta \in \text{RPCP} \quad \Longleftrightarrow \quad L^* \text{ is not realisable.}$$

Since RPCP is known to be **undecidable**, it follows that *checking weak realisability of a global type is also undecidable*.

Let’s first define the main objects used in the proof.

## 3.1 Definitions

RPCP was shown to be undecidable by Alur et al. [3], via reduction from PCP.

**Definition 3.1.1** (Relaxed Post Correspondence Problem). Given a set of tiles  $\{(v_1, w_1), (v_2, w_2), \dots, (v_r, w_r)\}$ , determine whether there exist indices  $i_1, \dots, i_m$  such that

$$x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m} = y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_m},$$

where  $x_{i_j}, y_{i_j} \in \{v_{i_j}, w_{i_j}\}$ , such that:

- there exists at least one index  $i_\ell$  for which  $x_{i_\ell} \neq y_{i_\ell}$ , and

- for all  $j \leq m$ ,  $y_{i_1} \cdots y_{i_j}$  is a prefix of  $x_{i_1} \cdots x_{i_j}$ .

Intuitively, RPCP requires that the concatenation on the left-hand side always grows at least as fast as the right-hand side, while ensuring that at least one chosen tile differs between the two sequences. Moreover, in constructing the strings, we may freely choose which element of each tile (either  $v_i$  or  $w_i$ ) contributes to the left or right sequence.

**Example 8** (Simple RPCP instance). Consider the tile set

$$(v_1, w_1) = (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{bb}), \quad (v_2, w_2) = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{ab}), \quad (v_3, w_3) = (\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}).$$

Take the index sequence  $(2, 1, 3)$  and the choices

$$x_1 = w_2, \ y_1 = v_2; \quad x_2 = v_1, \ y_2 = w_1; \quad x_3 = v_3, \ y_3 = w_3.$$

Then

$$x_1 x_2 x_3 = \mathbf{ab} \mathbf{b} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{abbc}, \quad y_1 y_2 y_3 = \mathbf{a} \mathbf{bb} \mathbf{c} = \mathbf{abbc},$$

so the two sides are equal.

We now check the RPCP conditions:

- **at least one mismatch:** here  $x_1 \neq y_1$  and  $x_2 \neq y_2$ , so the “some index differs” condition holds;
- **prefix property:** for every prefix length  $j$  we have  $y_1 \cdots y_j$  is a prefix of  $x_1 \cdots x_j$ :
  - $j = 1$ :  $y_1 = \mathbf{a}$  is a prefix of  $x_1 = \mathbf{ab}$ ;
  - $j = 2$ :  $y_1 y_2 = \mathbf{abb}$  is a prefix of  $x_1 x_2 = \mathbf{abb}$ ;
  - $j = 3$ :  $y_1 y_2 y_3 = \mathbf{abbc}$  is a prefix of  $x_1 x_2 x_3 = \mathbf{abbc}$ .

With this definition in place, I now introduce the main objects used in the proof. Specifically, I begin by showing how a Global Type can represent a single **synch** MSC.

**Definition 3.1.2** ( $G_M$ ). Given an MSC  $M \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$ , there exists a global type  $G_M$  such that  $\{M\} = \mathcal{L}_{\text{msc}}^\exists(G)$ .

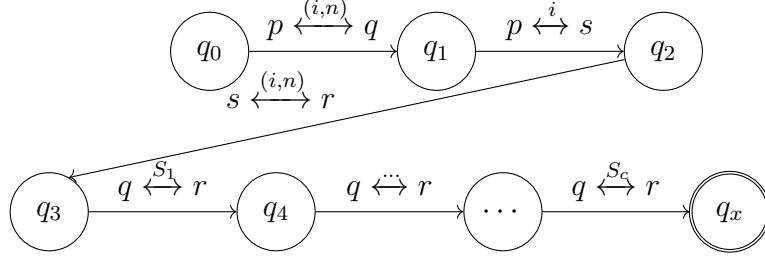
We now define a particular Global Type that will be useful in the reduction.

**Definition 3.1.3** ( $G_S$ ). Given a string  $S \in \Sigma^*$ , and two integers  $i, n$ , the global type  $G_S$  is the global type composed of:

- $\mathbb{P} = \{p, q, r, s\}$ ;

- $\mathbb{M} = \{m_1, m_2, m_3, m_{S_1}, \dots, m_{S_c}\}$  where  $m_1 = (i, n), m_2 = i, m_3 = (i, n), m_{S_1} = S_1, \dots, m_{S_c} = S_c$  with  $c = |S|$ ;
- $\text{Arr} = \{p \xleftrightarrow{m_1} q, p \xleftrightarrow{m_2} s, s \xleftrightarrow{m_3} r, q \xleftrightarrow{m_{S_1}} r, \dots, q \xleftrightarrow{m_{S_c}} r\}$  where each arrow denotes a synchronous message accompanied by an acknowledgment.

The  $G_S$ 's automaton is depicted in Figure 3.1.



**Figure 3.1:** The global type  $G_S$ .

Now, let's generalize Definition 3.1.2 to include a set of MSCs.

**Definition 3.1.4** ( $G^*$ ). Given a set of MSCs  $\mathcal{M} = \{M \mid \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}\}$ ,  $G^*$  is the set of global types such that  $G^* = \{G_M \mid M \in \mathcal{M}\}$ , where  $G_M$  is built using Definition 3.1.2.

Informally, for every MSC  $M \in \mathcal{M}$  there exists a global type  $G \in G^*$  that captures the language of  $M$ .

**Definition 3.1.5** (The  $L^*$  global type). Assume a finite set  $\mathcal{M}$  of MSCs, where  $\mathcal{M} = \{m \mid m \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}\}$ . Let  $G^*$  be defined as in Definition 3.1.4. We define the global type  $L_N^*$  as the automaton  $\mathcal{A} = (Q, \Sigma, \delta, l_0, F)$  where:

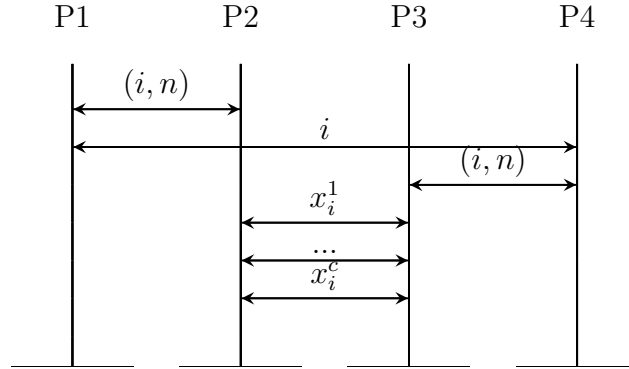
- $Q = \{v_I, v_T\} \cup \bigcup_{G \in G^*} Q^G$ ;
- $\Sigma = \{\epsilon\} \cup \bigcup_{G \in G^*} \Sigma^G$ ;
- $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow 2^Q$  is defined by:
  1.  $\forall G \in G^*, \delta(v_I, \epsilon) = q_0^G$  where  $q_0^G$  is the initial state of  $G$ ,
  2.  $\forall G \in G^*, \forall q_f^G \in F^G, \delta(q_f^G, \epsilon) = v_T$ ,
  3.  $\forall G, G' \in G^*, \forall q_f^G \in F^G, \delta(q_f^G, \epsilon) = q_0^{G'}$ .
- $l_0 = v_I$  is the initial state;
- $F = v_T$  is the accepting state.

Finally,  $L^*$  is obtained by determinizing  $L_N^*$ .

Informally,  $L^*$  represents all the possible executions of a set of MSCs. To complete the set of definitions, let's define a particular MSC corresponding to Definition 3.1.3.

**Definition 3.1.6** ( $M_i^n$ ). For a string  $u$ , let  $u^l$  denote the  $l$ -th character of the string. In the MSC  $M_i^n$ , process 1 synchronously sends the label  $m_1 = (i, n)$  to process 2, then transmits the index  $m_2 = i$  to process 4. Subsequently, process 4 sends  $m_3 = (i, n)$  synchronously to process 3. After these control messages, process 2 sends the characters  $m_i^1 = x_i^1, \dots, m_i^c = x_i^c$  synchronously to process 3 (where  $c$  is the length of  $x_i$ ). This MSC is depicted in Figure 3.2, where  $n \in \{0, 1\}$  and:

- if  $n = 0$ , then  $x_i = v_i$ ;
- if  $n = 1$ , then  $x_i = w_i$ .



**Figure 3.2:** The  $M_i^n$  MSC.

Finally, let's state the lemmas and main theorem of this work, along with all the proofs.

## 3.2 Lemmas and main proof

Before presenting the main undecidability result, we first establish two auxiliary lemmas that characterize the behaviour of the MSCs used in the reduction. These lemmas will serve as building blocks for the proof of Theorem 1.

**Lemma 2.** *The MSC  $M_i^n$  belongs to  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$ .*

*Proof.* By Definition 2.2.8 and Definition 2.2.3, we need to show a linearization with all send operations followed by their corresponding receive operations:

$$\{ !m_1?m_1 !m_2?m_2 !m_3?m_3 !m_i^1?m_i^1 \dots !m_i^c?m_i^c \}.$$

Such a linearization exists by construction, hence  $M_i^n$  is synchronous.  $\square$

**Lemma 3.** *The MSC  $M_i^n$  (Def. 3.1.6) is included in  $L(G_S)$ , where  $G_S$  is the global type defined in Def. 3.1.3.*

*Proof.* Both  $M_i^n$  and  $G_S$  describe the same communication structure: process  $p$  sends  $(i, n)$  to  $q$  and  $i$  to  $s$ ; process  $s$  relays  $(i, n)$  to  $r$ ; process  $q$  then sends the characters of  $S$  (here matching  $x_i$ ) to  $r$ . If  $i, n$  and  $S$  are the same, the sequence of messages is identical in both  $M_i^n$  and  $G_S$ . Since both models enforce synchronous communication, their linearizations coincide. Hence,  $M_i^n \in L(G_S)$ .  $\square$

**Theorem 1.** *Given a global type  $G$ , checking if  $G$  is weakly-realisable is undecidable.*

*Proof.* The proof proceeds via a reduction from the RPCP problem. Let's define some useful elements for the proof.

Given an instance  $\Delta = \{(v_1, w_1), \dots, (v_m, w_m)\}$  of RPCP, we construct a set  $L$  of MSCs over four processes as follows. For each pair  $(v_i, w_i)$ , we define two MSCs,  $M_i^0$  and  $M_i^1$ , as illustrated in Figure 3.2. Observe that the communication graph of each MSC is strongly connected and involves all four processes. Therefore, the MSC represented from  $L^*$  and derived from  $L$  is bounded. With the set  $L$ , and following the Definition 3.1.5, we can construct the global type  $L^*$ .

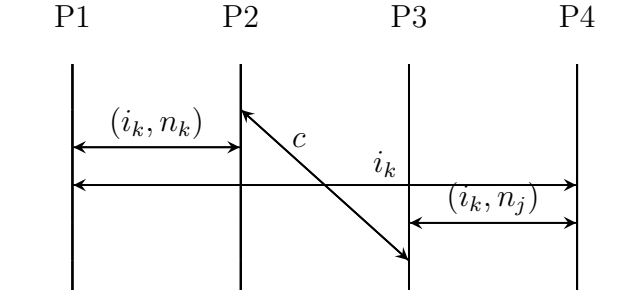
We need to prove:

$\Delta \in \text{RPCP}$  iff the global type  $L^*$  is not weakly-realisable.

$\Rightarrow$  Let's assume that  $\Delta = (i_1, a_1, b_1, i_2, a_2, b_2, \dots, i_m, a_m, b_m)$  are the indices for a solution to a generic RPCP problem instance, and the bits  $a_j$  and  $b_j$  indicate which string ( $v_{i_j}$  or  $w_{i_j}$ ) is chosen to go into the two (left and right) long strings. Consider the new MSCs  $M_x$  and  $M_y$  obtained from the sequences  $M_x = M_{i_1}^{a_1} \dots M_{i_m}^{a_m}$  and  $M_y = M_{i_1}^{b_1} \dots M_{i_m}^{b_m}$ . Executions of both of these (sequences of) MSCs must exist in any realisation of  $L^*$ . Additionally, these MSCs are in  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$  because they are sequence of  $\mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$  MSC (Lemma 2).  $M_x$  corresponds to the construction of the left side of equation (1) of the RPCP problem, and, instead,  $M_y$  represents the construction of the right side. We then look at the projections  $M_x|_1, M_x|_2, M_x|_3$ , and  $M_x|_4$  of  $M_x$ , and  $M_y|_1, M_y|_2, M_y|_3, M_y|_4$  of  $M_y$  onto the 4 processes. Now consider an MSC  $M_{\text{sol}}$  formed from  $M_y|_1, M_y|_2, M_x|_3$ , and  $M_x|_4$ . This MSC represent the construction of the solution to the problem. Processes 1 and 2 construct the right part ( $y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_m}$ ) and processes 3 and 4 construct the left part ( $x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m}$ ). The claim is that the combined MSC  $M_{\text{sol}}$  is weakly implied by  $L^*$ . By definition, the only thing

to establish is that  $M_{\text{so1}}$  is indeed an MSC, in the sense that it is acyclic, well-formed, complete and synchronous. The only new situation in terms of communication in  $M_{\text{so1}}$  is the communication between  $P_1$  and  $P_4$ , and between  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ . But the communication between  $P_1$  and  $P_4$  is consistent in  $M_y|_1$  and  $M_x|_4$  (i.e., the sequence of messages sent from  $P_1$  to  $P_4$  in  $M_y|_1$  is equal to the sequence of messages received in  $M_x|_4$ ), and the communication between  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  is consistent in  $M_y|_2$  and  $M_x|_3$  because  $R$  is a solution to the RPCP. Furthermore, the acyclicity of  $M_{\text{so1}}$  follows from the property of the solution that the string formed by the first  $j$  words on processes 1 and 2 is always a prefix of the string formed by the first  $j$  words on processes 3 and 4. Consequently, each message from  $P_1$  to  $P_4$  is sent before it needs to be received.

Finally, we prove that  $M_{\text{so1}} \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$ . Assume, for contradiction, that  $M_{\text{so1}} \notin \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$ . Then, there should be a cycle of dependencies in the communication pattern. There are no communication between  $P_2$  and  $P_4$ , and between  $P_1$  and  $P_3$ . Therefore, this cycle must involve all processes, starting for example from  $P_1$  and having this dependency graph  $P_1 \leftrightarrow P_2 \leftrightarrow P_3 \leftrightarrow P_4 \leftrightarrow P_1$ . The only new situation that we now that can cause a cycle are the communication between  $P_1$  and  $P_4$ , and between  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ . We don't need to analyse the new communication between  $P_1$  and  $P_4$  because it's not feasible in any communication model, but we need to analyse the one between  $P_2$  and  $P_3$  because it's feasible in FIFO.



**Figure 3.3:** MSC communication that breaks synchrony.

For the communication between  $P_2$  and  $P_3$ , the only possible cycle pattern is depicted in Fig. 3.3. Suppose  $P_2$  wants to send a character  $c$ , but  $P_3$  is not expecting any further characters. In order for  $P_3$  to resume receiving, it must first receive an index from  $P_4$ . However,  $P_4$  can only send this index after receiving it from  $P_1$ , which in turn must first communicate the index to  $P_2$ .

At this point,  $P_2$  needs to receive the index from  $P_1$ , but it cannot do so until it finishes sending character  $c$ . This creates a circular dependency among the processes, making the communication pattern impossible. This cycle would break the prefix property as  $x_1 \dots x_{k-1} \dots x_m = y_1 \dots y_{k-1} \dots y_m$ , but the character  $c$  appears in  $y_1 \dots y_{k-1}$  but not in  $x_1 \dots y_{k-1}$  contradicting the assumption that  $y_1 \dots y_{k-1} \leq x_1 \dots x_{k-1}$ . Therefore, we conclude that  $M_{\text{sol}} \in \mathcal{M}_{\text{synch}}$ .

Note that  $M_{\text{sol}}$  cannot itself be in  $L^*$  because there must be some index  $i_j$  where  $a_j \neq b_j$ , and no MSC exists in  $L$  where, after  $P_1$  announces the index, what  $P_2$  sends is not identical to what  $P_3$  receives.

$\Leftarrow$  Suppose there is some MSC  $M^\circledast$  which exists in any realisation of  $L^*$ , but is not in  $L^*$  itself. We want to derive a solution to  $\Delta$  from  $M^\circledast$ . First, it is clear that the projection  $M^\circledast|_1$  must consist of a sequence of pairs of messages (the first of each pair acknowledged), sent from process 1 to processes 2 and 4, respectively, with messages  $(i, b)$  and  $i$ . Likewise, it is clear that, in order for process 2 to receive those messages,  $M^\circledast|_2$  must consist of a sequence of receipts of  $(i, b)$  pairs, and after each  $(i, b)$ , either  $v_i$  or  $w_i$  is sent to process 3, based on whether  $b = 0$  or  $b = 1$ , before the next index pair is received. Likewise,  $M^\circledast|_4$  consists of a sequence of receipts of index  $i$  from process 1, followed by sending of  $(i, 0)$  or  $(i, 1)$  to process 3, and  $M^\circledast|_3$  consists of a sequence of receipt of  $(i, 0)$  or  $(i, 1)$  followed by receipt of  $v_i$  or  $w_i$ , respectively. Now, since  $M^\circledast$  is not in  $L^*$ , for some index  $i$  the choice of  $v_i$  or  $w_i$  must differ on process 2 and process 3. (Note, we are assuming that the buffers between processes are FIFO.) Furthermore, because of the precedences, the prefix formed by the first  $j$  words on process 2 must precede the  $(j + 1)$ -th message from process 1 to process 4, which in turn precedes the  $(j + 1)$ -th message from 4 to 3, and hence the  $(j + 1)$ -th word on process 3. That is, the string formed by the first  $j$  words on process 2 is a prefix of the string formed by the first  $j$  words on process 3. Therefore, we can readily build a solution for  $\Delta$  from  $M^\circledast$  by building the strings of the solution taking the projections of  $P_1$  and  $P_4$ . In fact,  $P_1$  builds  $y_{i_1} \dots y_{i_m}$ , and  $P_4$  builds  $x_{i_1} \dots x_{i_m}$ .

□

In this example, I will show the step-by-step construction of  $M_{\text{sol}}$  from Theorem 1.

**Example 9** (Proof Example of Theorem 1). Consider the tiles and the solution of the RPCP instance in Example 8, with the tile set and the solution with index sequence  $(2, 1, 3)$

$$(v_1, w_1) = (\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{bb}), (v_2, w_2) = (\mathbf{a}, \mathbf{ab}), (v_3, w_3) = (\mathbf{c}, \mathbf{c}).$$

$$x_1 = w_2, y_1 = v_2; \quad x_2 = v_1, y_2 = w_1; \quad x_3 = v_3, y_3 = w_3$$

This sequence is a solution because  $x_1 x_2 x_3 = \mathbf{a b b c} = \mathbf{a b b c}$  and  $y_1 y_2 y_3 = \mathbf{a b b c} = \mathbf{a b b c}$ . The prefix property and the “some index differs” condition are satisfied.

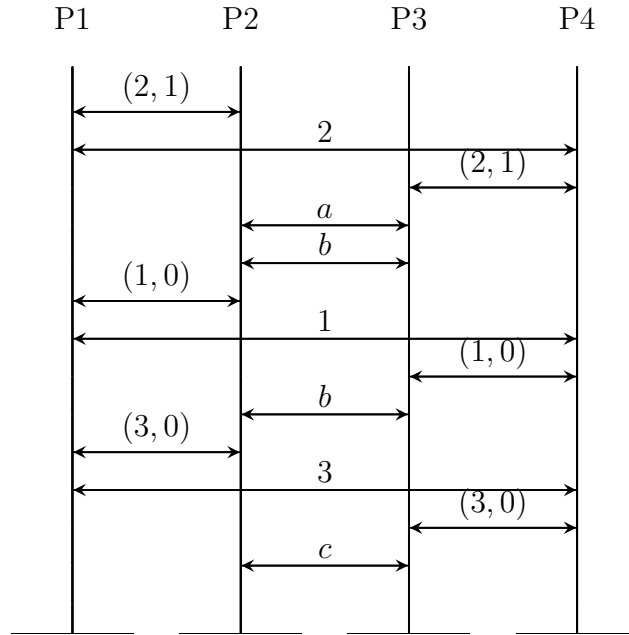
Therefore, the encoding of the solution is

$$\Delta = (i_1 = 2, a_1 = 1, b_1 = 0, i_2 = 1, a_2 = 0, b_2 = 1, i_3 = 3, a_3 = 0, b_3 = 1)$$

Recall that for each tile index  $i$  we have two synchronous MSCs  $M_i^0$  and  $M_i^1$  (see Def. 3.1.6), where the bit indicates choosing  $v_i$  (0) or  $w_i$  (1) for the character stream. Using the concrete index sequence  $(2, 1, 3)$  we form two concatenated MSCs:

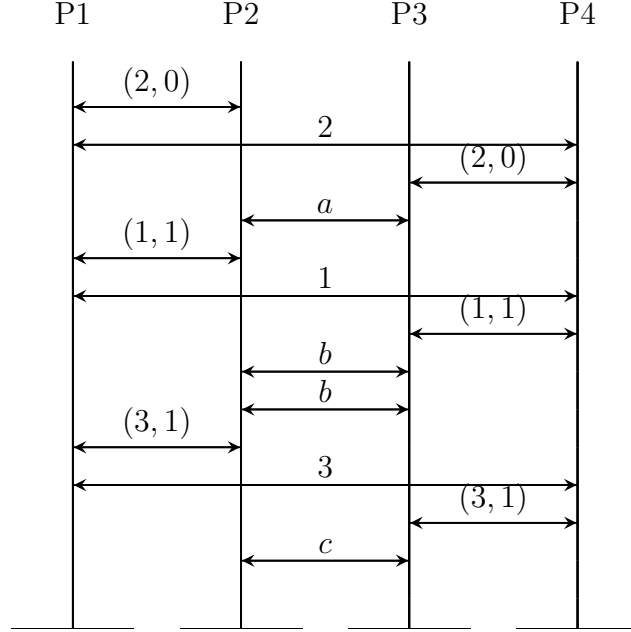
$$M_x = M_2^1 \cdot M_1^0 \cdot M_3^0, \quad M_y = M_2^0 \cdot M_1^1 \cdot M_3^1.$$

Here  $M$  encodes the **x**-concatenation  $(x_1, x_2, x_3) = (w_2, v_1, v_3)$  (depicted in Figure 3.4) and  $M_y$  encodes the **y**-concatenation (depicted in Figure 3.5)  $(y_1, y_2, y_3) = (v_2, w_1, w_3)$ .



**Figure 3.4:** The MSC  $M_x$





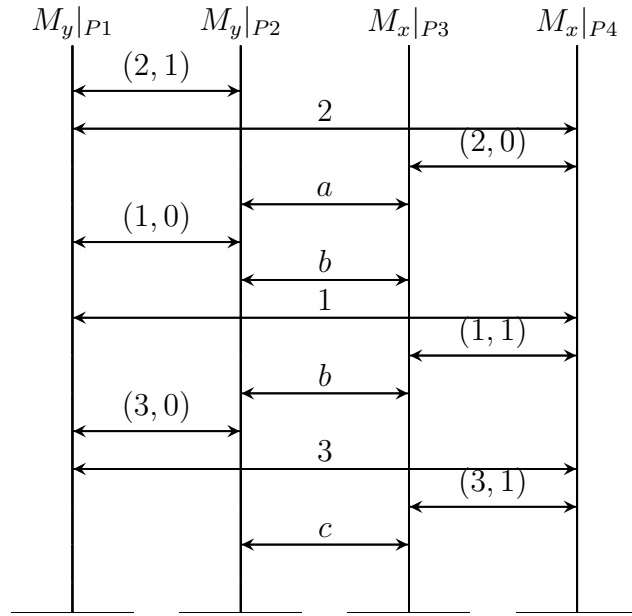
**Figure 3.5:** The MSC  $M_y$

Recall that  $M|_p$  denote the projection of  $M$  onto process  $p$ . We construct the MSC

$$M_{\text{so1}} = (M_y|_{P1}, M_y|_{P2}, M_x|_{P3}, M_x|_{P4}),$$

i.e. processes 1, 2 follow  $M_y$  while 3, 4 follow  $M_x$ . Intuitively,  $M_{\text{so1}}$  pairs the right-side construction (from  $M_y$ ) with the left-side construction (from  $M_x$ ). Figure 3.6 depicts the MSC  $M_{\text{so1}}$ . Figure 3.6 illustrates the behaviour of the MSC  $M_{\text{so1}}$ . Observe that when process 3 expects to receive the second character **b** right after *a*, but process 2 cannot send it immediately: it must first obtain the corresponding index and bit from process 1. The prefix property guarantees that every partial construction of the right-hand side is aligned with a prefix of the left-hand side, therefore preserving synchronous semantics throughout the execution.

The sequence of lemmas and the main theorem collectively establish the undecidability of weak-realizability for global types. Having developed the theoretical foundation, we now move to the next section, where we focus on the practical aspects of analysing realizability, and introduce the RESCU tool.



**Figure 3.6:** The MSC  $M_{\text{sol}}$



# Chapter 4

## ReSCu

I now present RESCU (first introduced in [9, 12, 16]), describing its features, the input language it uses, its implementation, and the modifications I introduced to extend its functionality [10]. The updated public repository with the new examples is available:

<https://github.com/gabrielegenovese/rescu> [15].

### 4.1 Characteristics

RESCU is a command-line tool that can check both membership in the class of **synch** systems (called Realisable with Synchronous Communication or, in brief, RSC from now on) and reachability of regular sets of configurations. It accepts input systems with arbitrary topologies and supports both FIFO and bag buffers. The tool provides several options: **-isrsc** checks whether the system is RSC, and **-mc** checks reachability of bad configurations. Both checks can be combined in a single run. The **-fifo** option overrides buffer types by treating all as FIFO. When a system is unsafe, the **-counter** option (used with **-mc**) produces an RSC execution that leads to the bad configuration, while the same option used with **-isrsc** outputs the borderline violation execution if the system is not RSC. Additional features include a progress display to estimate remaining runtime during long computations, and **-to\_dot**, which exports the system to DOT format for visualization. One of the most similar tools is McSCM [17], that uses a framework with for different verification techniques. Symbolic Communicating Machines (SCM), defined and used in [6] serve as the input format of the tool. A formal definition for this object is stated in Definition 2.2.9. The grammar has been updated to provide greater flexibility and clarity. In particular, transition guards have been made optional

(with a default value : `when true`), and a new `final` keyword has been introduced to explicitly specify final states. The updated grammar is shown in Listing 4.1.

```

1 prog      ::= <header> <aut_list> [<bad_confs>]
2 header    ::= scm <ident>:<channels> [<bags>] <parameters>
3 channels  ::= nb_channels = <int>;
4 bags      ::= // # bag_buffers = <int_list>
5 int_list  ::= <int>
6           | <int_list>, <int>
7 parameters ::= parameters = <param_list>
8 param_list ::= <param>
9           | <param> <param_list>
10 param     ::= {int | real} <ident>;
11 aut_list  ::= automaton <ident>:<initial>;<final>; <state_list>
12 initial   ::= initial : <int_list>;
13 final     ::= final : <int_list>;
14 state_list ::= <state>
15           | <state_list> <state>
16 state     ::= state <int> : <trans_list>
17 trans_list ::= <transition>
18           | <trans_list> <transition>
19 guard     ::= : when true | <nothing>
20 transition ::= to <int> : when true , <int> <action> <ident>
21 action    ::= "!" | "?"
22 bad_confs ::= bad_states: <bad_list>
23 bad_list  ::= (<bad_conf>)
24           | <bad_list> (<bad_conf>)
25 bad_conf  ::= <bad_state>
26           | <bad_state> with <bad_buffers>
27 bad_state ::= automaton <ident>: in <int>: true [<bad_state>]
28 bad_buffers ::= <regular_expression>
29 nothing   ::=

```

Listing 4.1: Simplified SCM grammar

## 4.2 Progress and Deadlock-Freedom

I extended RESCU with verification routines that focus on two fundamental correctness properties of distributed systems: *progress* and *deadlock-freedom*. To enable this, the tool constructs the synchronous system using the synchronous product whenever the input SCM is recognized as an RSC. These two verification routines are triggered only after another check: once the system is proven to be RSC, we can safely construct a well-formed synchronous product from it. We consider the definitions given in Chapter 2. Definition 2.2.9 corresponds to the concept of an SCM. We now present the definition of the Synchronous Product for CFSMs, which has been implemented in the tool and serves as a key component for analysing.

**Definition 4.2.1** (Synchronous Product). Let  $\mathcal{S} = (\mathcal{A}_p)_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$  be a system of CFSMs, where  $\mathcal{A}_p = (L_p, Act_p, \delta_p, l_{0,p}, F_p)$  is the CFSM associated to process  $p$ .

The *synchronous product* of  $\mathcal{S}$  is the global type  $\text{prod}(\mathcal{S}) = (L, Arr, \delta, l_0, F)$ , where

- $L = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} L_p$  is the set of global locations,
- $l_0 = (l_{0,p})_{p \in \mathbb{P}}$  is the initial global state,
- $F = \prod_{p \in \mathbb{P}} F_p$  is the set of global final states,
- $\delta$  is the transition relation defined as follows:  $(\vec{l}, p \xrightarrow{m} q, \vec{l}') \in \delta$  if

$$(l_p, !m^{p \rightarrow q}, l'_p) \in \delta_p, \quad (l_q, ?m^{p \rightarrow q}, l'_q) \in \delta_q, \quad l'_r = l_r \text{ for all } r \notin \{p, q\}.$$

After constructing the synchronous product, the tool performs several important post-processing operations. In particular, it removes any unreachable nodes from the resulting product, simplifying the structure and ensuring that only relevant states are retained for further analysis. We can now define the two properties added to the tool.

I denote **Reach** as the function that, given a node, gives the set of reachable nodes, and **Init**, **Final** as the initial and final node. Informally, a given system satisfies *progress* if, from every reachable node, either the system can eventually perform a transition, or the node is a final one.

**Definition 4.2.2** (Progress). A system  $S$  has the progress property iff  $\text{Prod}_{\text{sync}}(S)$  has the property  $\text{Reach}(\text{Init}) \subseteq \text{Reach}(\text{Final})$ .

In other words, this property is implemented by checking the existence of any not-final-node without outgoing transitions. This definition allows infinite loops. Informally, a system is *deadlock-free* if no reachable non-final node exists in which all processes are blocked (i.e., no further actions can be taken).

**Definition 4.2.3** (Deadlock-Freedom). A system  $S$  is deadlock-free iff  $\text{Prod}_{\text{sync}}(S)$  has the property  $\text{Reach}(\text{Init}) \subseteq \text{Prefixes}(\text{Final})$ .

More precisely, a system that can reach, from its initial states, some state that does not lead to a final state is not deadlock-free. Under this definition, even a loop that never reaches a final state is considered a deadlock, making the property more restrictive. This check is implemented using a reverse search algorithm starting from the final states.

Additionally, the synchronized system can be exported in DOT format (with a default filename of `sync.dot`), which allows for graphical visualization of its structure and behaviour. Let's finally see some relevant examples.

## 4.3 Examples

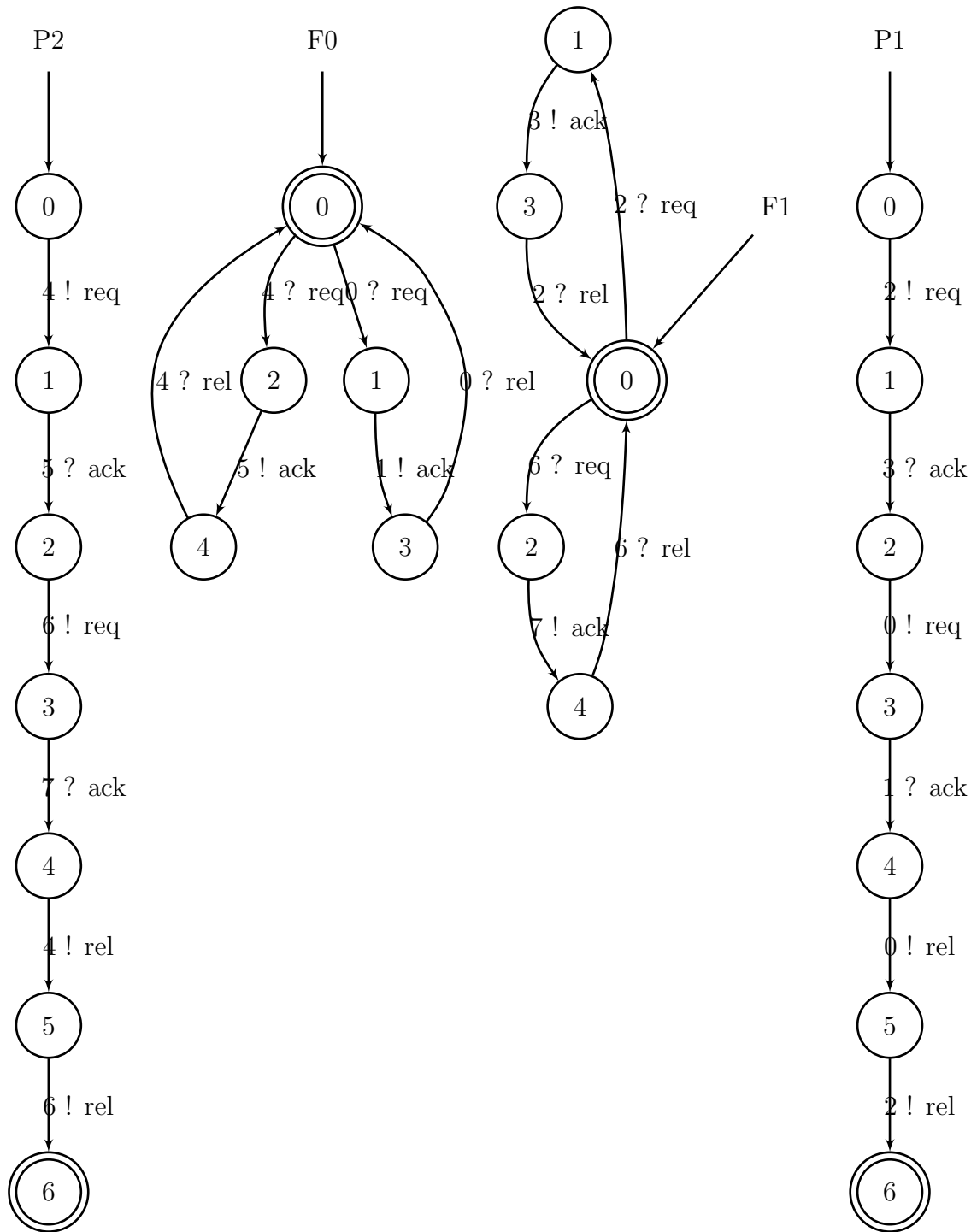
To illustrate these notions, I present two examples. The first is the classical *Dining Philosophers* problem, which shows how resource contention can lead to deadlock. The second is a minimal looping system that demonstrates how a process may satisfy the progress property while still failing to be deadlock-free.

**Example 10.** Consider two philosophers  $P_0, P_1$  and two forks  $F_1, F_2$ , arranged so that each philosopher needs both forks to eat. If both philosophers pick up their left fork simultaneously, each waits indefinitely for the other fork, producing a deadlock. This captures the essence of the Dining Philosophers problem: concurrent processes blocking one another when competing for shared resources.

```
1 This system is RSC.
2 There are some sink states:
3 Sink: Id=11 Configuration={{ F0:4; F1:3; P1:2; P2:2 }}
4 There are some deadlock states:
5 Deadlock: Id=4 Configuration={{ F0:2; F1:1; P1:1; P2:1 }}
6 Deadlock: Id=11 Configuration={{ F0:4; F1:3; P1:2; P2:2 }}
7 Deadlock: Id=8 Configuration={{ F0:4; F1:1; P1:1; P2:2 }}
8 Deadlock: Id=7 Configuration={{ F0:2; F1:3; P1:2; P2:1 }}
```

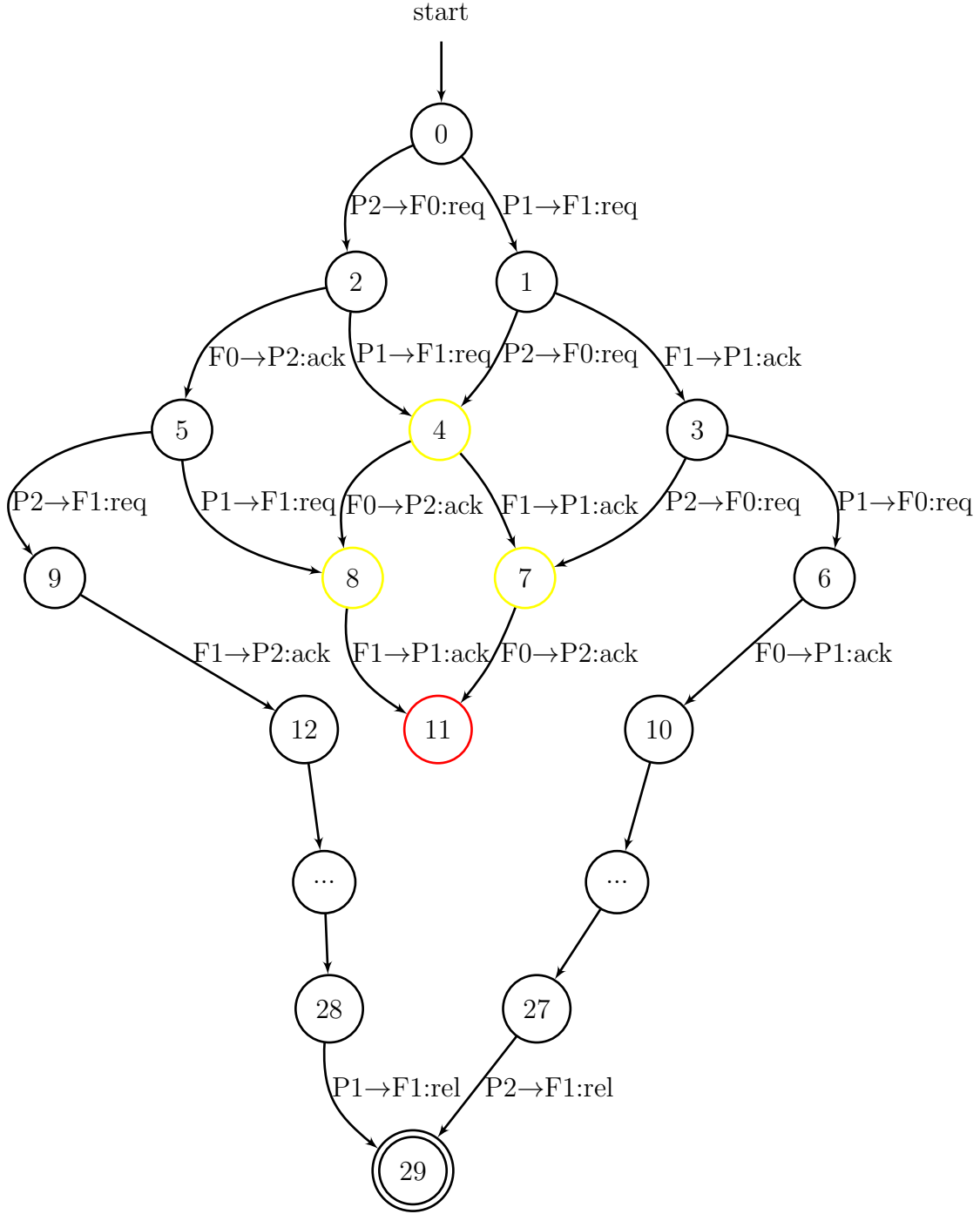
**Listing 4.2:** Output of Example 10

The behaviour of the four participants is shown in Figure 4.1. Running the tool on this input produces the terminal output in Listing 4.2 and the corresponding synchronous system in Figure 4.2. In the generated figure, the red state marks a configuration where no further actions are possible, while the three yellow states correspond to deadlocks, i.e. executions where both philosophers wait for each other indefinitely. The terminal output also lists the precise configurations of these problematic states.



**Figure 4.1:** SCM automata representation of the Example 10.





**Figure 4.2:** Synchronous Product of the Example 10.

**Example 11.** Now consider two processes  $A$  and  $B$  that exchange data. At some point, each makes a nondeterministic choice: one branch continues sending messages

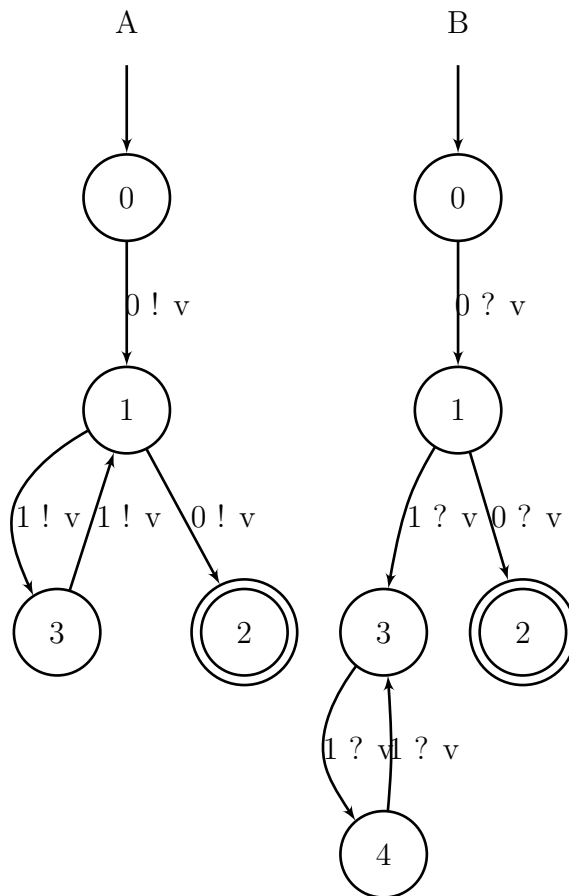
indefinitely, while the other leads to termination. Once the choice to continue is taken, however, there is no way to return to the terminating branch. As a result, the system may remain stuck in an infinite loop, never reaching a final state. Although both processes remain active, the system is effectively deadlocked.

```

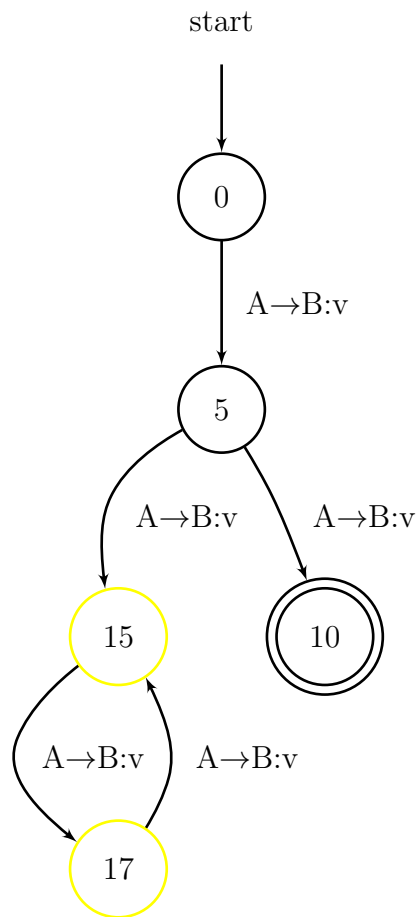
1 This system is RSC.
2 The system has the progress property.
3 There are some deadlock states:
4 Deadlock: Id=17 Configuration={{ A:1; B:4 }}
5 Deadlock: Id=15 Configuration={{ A:3; B:3 }}
```

**Listing 4.3:** Output of Example 11.

The behaviour of this system is shown in Figure 4.3. Executing the tool produces the output in Listing 4.3 and the synchronous system in Figure 4.4. In the generated figure, yellow states highlight the deadlocked executions, while the terminal output provides the configuration of each detected deadlock.



**Figure 4.3:** SCM automata representation of the Example 11.



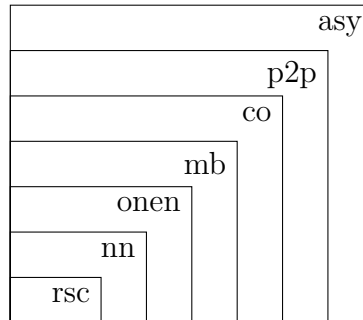
**Figure 4.4:** Synchronous Product of the Loop example

# Chapter 5

## Related work

### 5.1 Hierarchy of communication model's semantics

We defined early some communication semantics of our interest. Furthermore, [11] show some other interesting semantics. It also introduces a hierarchy of communication semantics, illustrated in Figure 5.1. The main objective of this work was to establish a hierarchy that preserves monotonic properties: if a property holds for a given communication semantic, it should also hold for all semantics contained within it. However, it was shown that this monotonicity only applies to specific properties, such as *weak-k-synchronizability*. In contrast, it does not generally extend to the implementability problem.

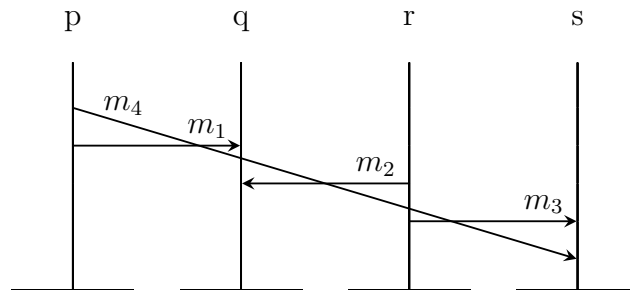


**Figure 5.1:** Hierarchy of communication model semantics.

**Causally ordered** In the causally ordered (co) communication model, messages are delivered to a process in accordance with the causal dependencies of their emissions. In other words, if there are two messages  $m_1$  and  $m_2$  with the same recipient,

such that there exists a causal path from  $m_1$  to  $m_2$ , then  $m_1$  must be received before  $m_2$ . This notion of causal ordering was first introduced by Lamport under the name “happened-before” relation. In Figure 1.3, this causality is violated:  $m_1$  should be received before  $m_3$ . Causal delivery is commonly implemented using Lamport’s logical clock algorithm [21].

**Mailbox** In this model, any two messages sent to the same process, regardless of the sender, must be received in the same order as they are sent. If a process receives  $m_1$  before  $m_2$ , then  $m_1$  must have been sent before  $m_2$ . **mb** coordinates all the senders of a single receiver. This model is also called FIFO  $n-1$ . In Figure 5.2, an example for this communication model is shown.



**Figure 5.2:** An example of mailbox semantic.

**FIFO 1-n** This model (**onen**) is the dual of **mb**, it coordinates a sender with all the receivers. Any two messages sent by a process must be received in the same order as they are sent. These two messages might be received by different processes and the two receive events might be concurrent.

**FIFO n-n** In this model (**nn**), messages are globally ordered and delivered according to their emission order. Any two messages must be received in the same order as they are sent. These two messages might be sent or receives by any process and the two send or receive events might be concurrent. The FIFO **n-n** coordinates all the senders with all the receivers.

## 5.2 Realisability for MSCs

For finite sets of MSCs, weakly realisability as defined in [3] is **coNP**-complete and safe realisability is shown to be decidable in **P**-time [3]. The problem was subse-

quently studied for infinite MSC languages, defined as MSC-Graphs (MSGs). For bounded MSGs, safe realisability remains decidable, but weak realisability is undecidable [3]. Extensions of these results to non-FIFO semantics were investigated in [25], corresponding to bag semantics under peer-to-peer communication. Later, Lohrey proved that in the general case, safe realisability is undecidable [23], though it is decidable (and **EXSPACE**-complete) for MSGs. Most positive results assume bounded channels, but [4] introduces a new class of HMSCs that allows unbounded channels while maintaining implementability. A summary of the main complexity results is given in Table 5.1.

	<b>Finite set</b>	<b>Bounded graphs</b>	<b>Unbounded</b>
<b>Weak</b>	coNp-complete	undecidable	undecidable
<b>Safe</b>	P-time	EXSPACE-complete	undecidable

**Table 5.1:** Summary of results on realisability.

## 5.3 Realisability for MPST

Recent work has focused on strengthening the connection between MPST and automata-theoretic formalisms. Stutz and Zufferey showed that implementability is decidable by encoding global types into HMSCs that are globally cooperative [29, 26]. Building on this, Li et al. [22] proposed a complete projection function for MPST, guaranteeing that every implementable global type admits a correct distributed implementation.

Stutz’s thesis [27] connects MPST to High-level MSCs (HMSCs), introducing a generalized projection operator for sender-driven choice where a sender may branch towards different receivers. This captures patterns beyond classical MPST projection. He also proves that while syntactic projection is incomplete, an automata-theoretic encoding into HMSCs yields decidability for sender-driven choice, with implementability shown to be in **PSPACE**—the first precise complexity bound for this fragment.

## 5.4 Choreographies

Choreographies [24] are another formalism to describe distributed communication protocols. Unlike MSCs or MPST, which focus either on trace-based semantics or type systems, choreographies emphasize the global specification of interactions as a high-level description of the intended message exchanges. Similarly to MPST, their goal is to ensure that a distributed implementation can be derived in which

each participant follows a local behaviour consistent with the global description, called respectively *local* and *global-view*. This setting naturally connects to the realisability problem, since the key question is whether a choreography can be faithfully implemented by a system of local processes. In choreographies, the local-view is called **End-Point Projection** (EPP), and it is derived throughout a projection operation from the global-view. The *knowledge of choice* problem is similar to the implementability one, and explored also in choreographies, but it was first introduced by Castagna et al. [8].

## 5.5 Other works

Stutz et al. [28] proposed *Protocol State Machines* (PSMs), an automata-based formalism subsuming both MPST and HMSCs. PSMs show that many syntactic restrictions of global types are not true expressivity limits. Yet, the implementability problem for PSMs with unrestricted mixed choice remains undecidable, resolving the open question that mixed-choice global types are undecidable in general.

In summary, projectability is well understood for sender-driven choice, where decidability and complexity bounds are established, but moving towards mixed choice inevitably leads to undecidability. Automata-based techniques such as HMSCs and PSMs provide the most powerful tools for extending the theory while preserving decidability in restricted cases.

# Chapter 6

## Conclusion

This work addressed the *implementability problem* for Global Types, a central concern in the verification of distributed systems. After surveying the state of the art, I positioned our contribution within an ongoing research effort, bridging well-established theoretical foundations with practical tool development.

On the theoretical side, I introduced the necessary background notions (i.e. CFSMs, Global Types, MSCs, and communication models) and formalized weak realisability. The main contribution was to connect the implementability problem to classical undecidability results, in particular through a reduction to the Relaxed Post Correspondence Problem (RPCP).

On the practical side, I improved and extended the RESCU tool, used for checking realisability and other semantic properties of Symbolic Communicating Machines (SCMs). The input grammar was refined for greater usability, and new verification routines were implemented, including checks for progress and deadlock-freedom. The tool now also generates visual representations of synchronous systems, along with illustrative examples. These extensions strengthen RESCU both as a research prototype and as a practical aid for automated verification.

Overall, the contributions span two complementary directions: a refined theoretical understanding of implementability, and concrete advances in tool support for experimenting with increasingly expressive models.

### 6.1 Future Work

Future directions include extending the theoretical results beyond weak realisability toward a decidability result of *safe realisability* (therefore, including deadlock-



freedom) for Global Types, building on the techniques developed here and extending an existing proof made by Lohrey, et al. [23]. On the practical side, a natural goal is to further enhance RESCU to support these results, ultimately aiming for a complete algorithm to decide implementability for restricted classes of Global Types. This would enable systematic benchmarking against existing methods and real-world protocols.

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