

VECoS'25

A GENERIC EVENT-B THEORY FOR THE FORMALISATION OF THE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM OF UNITS

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OUTLINE

- The context of the work
- The motivating example
- The proposed approach

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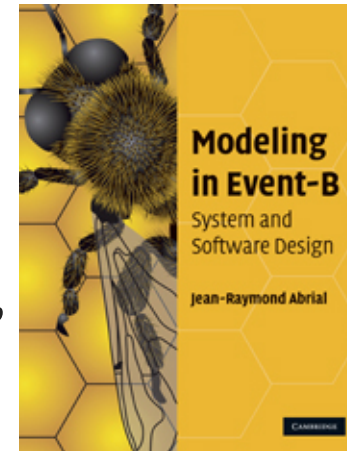
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THE EVENT-B METHOD

- The **Event-B method** is an evolution of the **classical B method**.
 - modeling a system by a **set of events** instead of **operations**.
- The **Event-B method** is a **formal method** based on **first-order logic** and **set theory**.
- The **Event-B method** is based on :
 - the notions of **pre-conditions** and **post-conditions** (**Hoare**),
 - the **weakest pre-condition** (**Dijkstra**),
 - and the **calculus of substitution** (**Abrial**).



USING EVENT-B METHOD

- The **Rodin** platform (an **Eclipse-based IDE**) is intended to support the construction and verification of **Event-B models**.
- The use of the **Event-B method** has continued to increase.
 - applied to various applications and domains.
 - railway, automotive, aeronautics, cybersecurity, nuclear-energy, ...
- The **Event-B method** is adapted to analyse **discrete systems**.
 - offers the possibility of modelling **discrete behaviors**.

THE EVENT-B METHOD

CONTEXT ctx_1
EXTENDS ctx_2

SETS s
CONSTANTS c
AXIOMS
 $A(s, c)$
THEOREMS
 $T(s, c)$
END

MACHINE mch_1
REFINES mch_2
SEES ctx_i

VARIABLES v
INVARIANTS
 $I(s, c, v)$
THEOREMS
 $T(s, c, v)$
EVENTS
 $[events_list]$
END

$event \hat{=}$
 any x
 where
 $G(s, c, v, x)$
 then
 $BA(s, c, v, x, v')$
 end

$A(s, c) \vdash T(s, c)$
 $A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) \vdash T(s, c, v)$
 $A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) \wedge G(s, c, v, x) \vdash \exists v'. BA(s, c, v, x, v')$
 $A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) \wedge G(s, c, v, x) \wedge BA(s, c, v, x, v') \vdash I(s, c, v')$
...

THE EVENT-B METHOD

STATIC TYPE CHECKING

- **Event-B** support **static type checking** using tools such as **Rodin** or **AtelierB**.
- These tools generate **proof obligations (POs)** for arithmetic operations - known as **Well-Defined (WD) POs**.
- **WD POs** ensure that expressions (axioms, theorems, invariants, guards, actions, etc.) are **mathematically well-defined**.
- **Example** → For the expression $E \div F$, a **WD PO** ensures that $F \neq 0$.

THE EVENT-B METHOD

THE THEORY PLUGIN

- **Theory Plug-in** provides capabilities to **extend the Event-B mathematical language** and **the Rodin proving infrastructure**.
- An **Event-B theory** can contain :
 - new datatype definitions,
 - new polymorphic operator definitions,
 - axiomatic definitions,
 - theorems,
 - associated rewrite and inference rules.

- Michael J. Butler and Issam Maamria.
Practical theory extension in Event-B. [Theories of Programming and Formal Methods](#). 2013.
- Thai Son Hoang, Laurent Voisin, Asieh Salehi, Michael J. Butler, Toby Wilkinson, and Nicolas Beauger.
Theory plug-in for Rodin 3.x. [CoRR](#), [abs/1701.08625](#), 2017.

THE EVENT-B METHOD

THE THEORY PLUGIN

```
THEORY thy1
IMPORT thy2

DATATYPES
  DT1, ..., DTn
OPERATORS
  OP11, ..., OP1n
AXIOMATIC DEFINITIONS
  operators
    OP21, ..., OP2n
  axioms
    A
THEOREMS
  T
PROOF RULES
  PR
END
```

```
CONTEXT ctx1
EXTENDS ctx2

SETS s
CONSTANTS c
AXIOMS
  A(s, c)
THEOREMS
  T(s, c)
END
```

```
MACHINE mch1
REFINES mch2
SEES ctxi

VARIABLES v
INVARIANTS
  I(s, c, v)
THEOREMS
  T(s, c, v)
EVENTS
  [events_list]
END
```

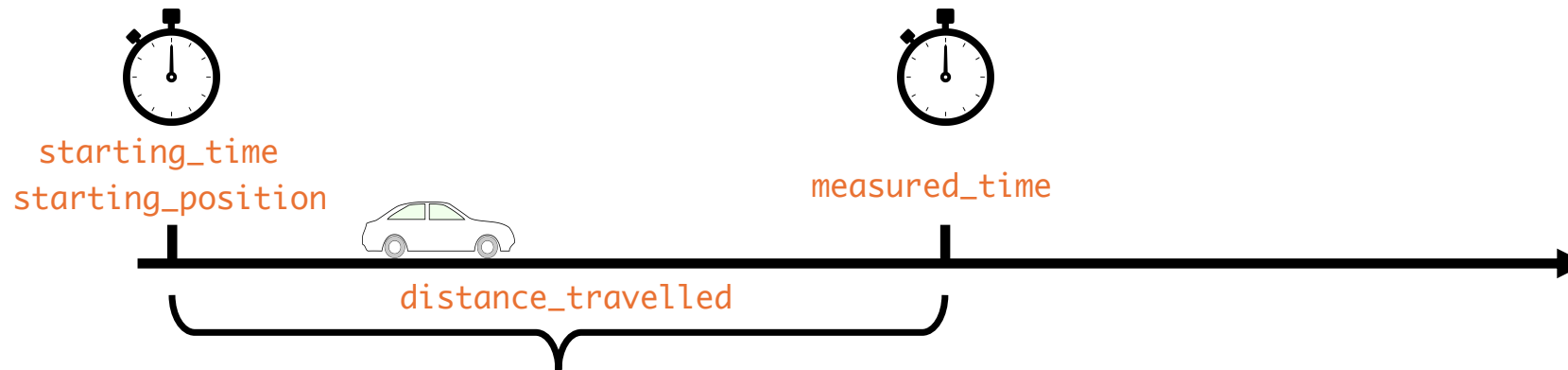
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A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

System that continuously calculates **a moving object's speed**



- Analysing **two functional properties**:
 - **PROP-1** : **the speed of the moving object** is equal to the *distance_travelled* divided by the *measured_time* ($v = d/t$).
 - **PROP-2** : when the *distance_travelled* is **strictly positive**, the *speed* of the moving object must also be **strictly positive**.
- **the object moves** when its *speed* is different from zero.

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Objectives → showing some **modelling and verification problems** :

- using **integer** variables to handle **small values**.
- analysing **physical phenomena**.
 - expressions that come from **the physics laws**.

CHALLENGES IN MODELLING CPS SYSTEMS

- Cyber-Physical Systems (CPS) models require numerical variables representing physical measurements.
- Event-B does not support physical unit annotations for such variables.
- Formal verification of CPS systems requires a physical measurement model, e.g. the International System of Units (SI).
- Using explicit units improves rigour by ensuring unit compatibility in computations.

PROPOSED APPROACH

- **Objective**

- Formally annotate numerical variables with measurement units in Event-B.
- Provide automatic checking of correct unit usage in arithmetic expressions.
- Define Well-Defined Proof Obligations (WD POs) to ensure unit consistency.
- Example: $b = v / 2a_{max,brake}$
→ must ensure that the unit of b matches that of $v / 2a_{max,brake}$.

- **Proposal**

- Develop a measurement units theory using the Theory plugin.
- Extend the Event-B type-checking system to handle reasoning about measurement units.
- Introduce a formal method for annotating Event-B variables with their associated units of measurement.

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THANK YOU

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