



Laboratoire  
Méthodes  
Formelles



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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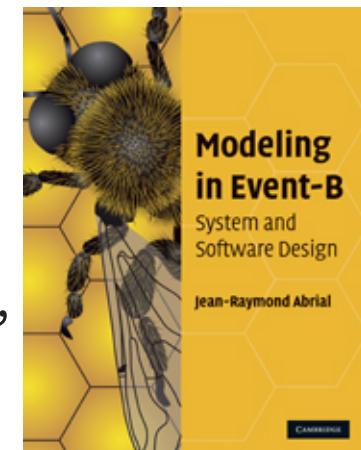
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# THE EVENT-B METHOD

- 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**

$event \triangleq$   
any  $x$   
where  
     $G(s, c, v, x)$   
then  
     $BA(s, c, v, x, v')$   
end

$$\begin{aligned} A(s, c) &\vdash T(s, c) \\ A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) &\vdash T(s, c, v) \\ A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) \wedge G(s, c, v, x) &\vdash \exists v'. BA(s, c, v, x, v') \\ A(s, c) \wedge I(s, c, v) \wedge G(s, c, v, x) \wedge BA(s, c, v, x, v') &\vdash I(s, c, v') \\ \dots \end{aligned}$$

# 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**  $thy_1$   
**IMPORT**  $thy_2$

**DATATYPES**

$DT_1, \dots, DT_n$

**OPERATORS**

$OP_{11}, \dots, OP_{1n}$

**AXIOMATIC DEFINITIONS**

**operators**

$OP_{21}, \dots, OP_{2n}$

**axioms**

$A$

**THEOREMS**

$T$

**PROOF RULES**

$PR$

**END**

VECTORS

**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**

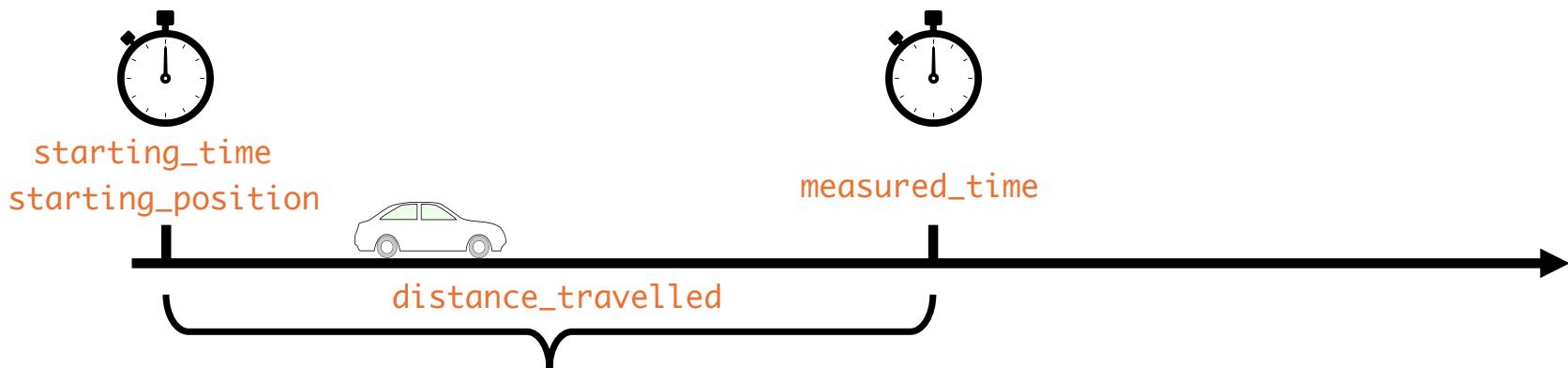
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# A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

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.

# A SIMPLE EXAMPLE

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    - the object moves when its *speed* is different from zero.

**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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