

# Software Testing and Validation

A.A. 2025/2026

Corso di Laurea in Informatica

## Kripke Structures and Murphi Verification Algorithm(s)

Igor Melatti

Università degli Studi dell'Aquila

Dipartimento di Ingegneria e Scienze dell'Informazione e Matematica



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Kripke Structures

- Let  $AP$  be a set of “atomic propositions”
  - in the sense of first-order logic: each atomic proposition is either true or false
  - typically identified with lower case letters  $p, q, \dots$
- A *Kripke Structure* (KS) over  $AP$  is a 4-tuple  $\langle S, I, R, L \rangle$ 
  - $S$  is a finite set, its elements are called *states*
  - $I \subseteq S$  is a set of *initial states*
  - $R \subseteq S \times S$  is a *transition relation*
  - $L : S \rightarrow 2^{AP}$  is a *labeling function*



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Labeled Transition Systems

- A *Labeled Transition System* (LTS) is a 4-tuple  $\langle S, I, \Lambda, \delta \rangle$ 
  - $S$  is a finite set of states as before
  - $I \subseteq S$  is a set of initial states as before (not always included)
  - $\Lambda$  is a finite set of *labels*
  - $\delta \subseteq S \times \Lambda \times S$  is a *labeled transition relation*



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



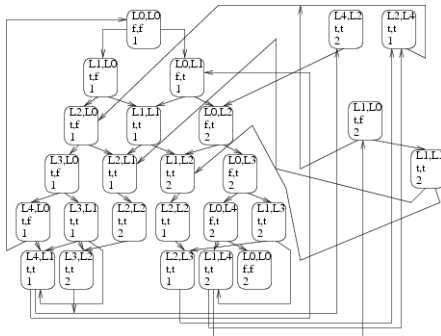
DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Peterson's Mutual Exclusion as a Kripke Structure

- $S = \{(p_1, p_2, q_1, q_2, t) \mid p_1, p_2 \in \{L0, L1, L2, L3, L4\}, q_1, q_2 \in \{0, 1\}, t \in \{1, 2\}\} = \{L0, L1, L2, L3, L4\}^2 \times \{0, 1\}^2 \times \{1, 2\}$
- $I = \{L0\}^2 \times \{0\}^2 \times \{1, 2\}$
- $R$ : see next slide
- $AP = \{(P_1 = v) \mid v \in \{L0, L1, L2, L3, L4\}\} \cup \{(P_2 = v) \mid v \in \{L0, L1, L2, L3, L4\}\} \cup \{(Q_1 = v) \mid v \in \{0, 1\}\} \cup \{(Q_2 = v) \mid v \in \{0, 1\}\} \cup \{(\text{turn} = v) \mid v \in \{1, 2\}\}$ 
  - e.g.:  $L((L0, L0, 0, 0, 1)) = \{(P_1 = L0), (P_2 = L0), (Q_1 = 0), (Q_2 = 0), (\text{turn} = 1)\}$



# Peterson's Mutual Exclusion as a Kripke Structure



E.g.:  $((L0, L0, 0, 0, 1), (L1, L0, 1, 0, 1)) \in R$ , whilst  
 $((L0, L0, 0, 0, 1), (L2, L0, 0, 0, 1)) \notin R$

Transitions in  $R$  corresponds to arrows in the figure above



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Kripke Structure vs Labeled Transition Systems

- KSs have atomic propositions on states, LTSs have labels on transitions
- In model checking, atomic propositions are mandatory
  - to specify the formula to be verified, as we will see
  - a first example was the invariant in Murphi
- Instead, it is not required to have a label on transitions
  - Murphi allows to do so, but it is optional
  - may be easily added automatically, if needed
- Labels are typically needed when:
  - we deal with macrostates, as in UML state diagrams
  - when we are describing a complex system by specifying its sub-components, so labels are used for synchronization



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Total Transition Relation

- In many cases, the transition relation  $R$  is required to be *total*
- $\forall s \in S. \exists s' \in S : (s, s') \in R$ 
  - this of course allows also  $s = s'$  (*self loop*)
- In the Peterson's example, the relation is actually total
  - Murphi allows also non-total relations, by using option `-ndl`
  - note however that not giving option `-ndl` is stronger:  
 $\forall s \in S. \exists s' \in S : s \neq s' \wedge (s, s') \in R$
  - otherwise, if  $s$  is s.t.  $\forall s'. s = s' \vee (s, s') \notin R$ , Murphi calls  $s$  a *deadlock* state
  - that is, you cannot go anywhere, except possibly self looping on  $s$
- By deleting any rule, we will obtain a non-total transition relation



# Non-Determinism

- The transition relation is, as the name suggests, a relation
- Thus, starting from a given state, it is possible to go to many different states
  - in a deterministic system,
$$\forall s_1, s_2, s_3 \in S. (s_1, s_2) \in R \wedge (s_1, s_3) \in R \rightarrow s_2 = s_3$$
  - this does not hold for KSs
- This means that, starting from state  $s_1$ , the system may *non-deterministically* go either to  $s_2$  or to  $s_3$ 
  - or many other states
- Motivations for non-determinism: modeling choices!
  - underspecified subsystems
  - unpredictable interleaving
  - interactions with an uncontrollable environment
  - ...



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Some Useful Notation

- Given a KS  $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, I, R, L \rangle$ , we can define:
  - the *predecessor* function  $\text{Pre}_{\mathcal{S}} : S \rightarrow 2^S$ 
    - defined as  $\text{Pre}_{\mathcal{S}}(s) = \{s' \in S \mid (s', s) \in R\}$
    - we will write simply  $\text{Pre}(s)$  when  $\mathcal{S}$  is understood
  - the *successor* function  $\text{Post} : S \rightarrow 2^S$ 
    - defined as  $\text{Post}(s) = \{s' \in S \mid (s, s') \in R\}$
- Note that, if  $\mathcal{S}$  is deterministic,  $\forall s \in S. |\text{Post}(s)| \leq 1$
- Note that, if  $\mathcal{S}$  is total,  $\forall s \in S. |\text{Post}(s)| \geq 1$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Paths in KSs

- A path (or *execution*) on a KS  $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, I, R, L \rangle$  is a sequence  $\pi = s_0 s_1 s_2 \dots$  such that:
  - $\forall i \geq 0. s_i \in S$  (it is composed by states)
  - $\forall i \geq 0. (s_i, s_{i+1}) \in R$  (it only uses valid transitions)
- We will denote  $i$ -th state of a path as  $\pi(i) = s_i$
- Note that paths in LTSs also have actions:  $\pi = s_0 a_0 s_1 a_1 \dots$   
s.t.  $(s_i, a_i, s_{i+1}) \in \delta$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Paths in KSs

- The *length* of a path  $\pi$  is the number of states in  $\pi$ 
  - paths can be either finite  $\pi = s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ , in which case  $|\pi| = n + 1$
  - or infinite  $\pi = s_0 s_1 \dots$ , in which case  $|\pi| = \infty$
- We will denote the prefix of a path up to  $i$  as  $\pi|_i = s_0 \dots s_i$ 
  - a prefix of a path is always a finite path
- A path  $\pi$  is *maximal* iff one of the following holds
  - $|\pi| = \infty$
  - $|\pi| = n + 1$  and  $|\text{Post}(\pi(n))| = 0$ 
    - that is,  $\forall s \in S. (\pi(n), s) \notin R$
    - i.e., the last state of the path has no successors
    - often called *terminal state*
- If  $R$  is total, maximal paths are always infinite
  - for many model checking algorithms, this is required



UNIVERSITÀ  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Reachability

- The set of paths of  $\mathcal{S}$  starting from  $s \in S$  is denoted by  $\text{Path}(\mathcal{S}, s) = \{\pi \mid \pi \text{ is a path in } \mathcal{S} \wedge \pi(0) = s\}$
- The set of paths of  $\mathcal{S}$  is denoted by  $\text{Path}(\mathcal{S}) = \cup_{s \in I} \text{Path}(\mathcal{S}, s)$ 
  - that is, they must start from an initial state
- A state  $s \in S$  is *reachable* iff  $\exists \pi \in \text{Path}(\mathcal{S}), k < |\pi| : \pi(k) = s$ 
  - i.e., there exists a path from an initial state leading to  $s$  through valid transitions
- The set of reachable states is defined by  $\text{Reach}(\mathcal{S}) = \{\pi(i) \mid \pi \in \text{Path}(\mathcal{S}), i < |\pi|\}$



# Safety Property Verification

- Verification of *invariants*: nothing bad happens
- The property is a formula  $\varphi : S \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ 
  - built using boolean combinations of atomic propositions in  $p \in AP$
  - i.e., the syntax is

$$\Phi ::= (\Phi) \mid \Phi \wedge \Phi \mid \Phi \vee \Phi \mid \neg \Phi \mid p$$

- The KS  $\mathcal{S}$  satisfies  $\varphi$  iff  $\varphi$  holds on all reachable states
  - $\forall s \in \text{Reach}(\mathcal{S}). \varphi(s) = 1$
- Note that it may happen that  $\varphi(s) = 0$  for some  $s \in S$ : never mind, if  $s \notin \text{Reach}(\mathcal{S})$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- First, we mathematically define a Murphi description  $\mathcal{M}$
- $V = \langle v_1, \dots, v_n \rangle$  is the set of global variables of  $\mathcal{M}$ , with domains  $\langle D_1, \dots, D_n \rangle$ 
  - all variables are *unfolded* to the Murphi simple types
    - integer subranges
    - enumerations
    - the special “undefined” value should be added to all simple types
  - that is, if a variable is an array with  $q$  elements, then it is actually to be considered as  $q$  different variables
  - the same for records (and any nesting of arrays and records)
  - as an example: `var a : array [1..n] of record begin`  
`b : 1..m; c: 1..k; endrecord`
  - then there will be  $2n$  variables as follows:  
 $a1b, \dots, anb, a1c, \dots, anc$
  - the first  $n$  with type  $1..m$ , the other with type  $1..k$



# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- $\mathcal{I} = \{I_1, \dots, I_k\}$  is the set of startstate sections in  $\mathcal{M}$ 
  - startstates may be defined inside rulesets; again, all rulesets are *unfolded*
  - thus, if a startstate  $\mathcal{I}$  is inside  $m$  nested rulesets  $\mathcal{R}_1, \dots, \mathcal{R}_m$ ...
  - and each ruleset  $\mathcal{R}_i$  is defined on an index  $j_i$  spanning on a domain  $\mathcal{D}_i$  (note that  $\mathcal{D}_i$  must be a simple type)...
  - then there actually are  $\prod_{i=1}^m |\mathcal{D}_i|$  startstates to be considered, instead of just one
  - of course, in each of these startstates definitions, the tuple  $j_1, \dots, j_m$  takes all possible values of  $\mathcal{R}_1 \times \dots \times \mathcal{R}_m$
- $\mathcal{T} = \{T_1, \dots, T_p\}$  is the set of rule sections in  $\mathcal{M}$ 
  - again, if rulesets are present, they are *unfolded*



# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- The Kripke structure  $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, I, R, L \rangle$  described by  $\mathcal{M}$  is such that:
  - $S = D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$
  - $s \in I$  iff there is a startstate  $I_i \in \mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $s$  may be obtained by applying the body of  $I_i$
  - $(s, t) \in R$  iff there is a rule  $T_i \in T$  s.t.  $T_i$  guard is true in  $s$  and  $T_i$  body changes  $s$  to  $t$
  - $AP = \{(v = d) \mid v = v_i \in V \wedge d \in D_i\}$
  - $(v = d) \in L(s)$  iff variable  $v$  has value  $d$  in  $s$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- We also assume to have a function defining the semantics of Murphi (sequence of) statements
  - those in bodies of rules and startstates
- Let  $\mathcal{P}$  be the set of all possible (syntactically legal) Murphi statements
  - including while, if, for, assignments...
- Thus, let  $\eta : \mathcal{P} \times D_1 \times \dots \times D_n \rightarrow D_1 \times \dots \times D_n$  be our evaluation function
  - it takes a Murphi statement  $P \in \mathcal{P}$  and the state  $s$  preceding such statement
  - it returns the new state  $s'$  obtained by executing  $P$  on  $s$
  - e.g.,  $\eta(a := a + 1; b := b - 1, (1, 2, 3)) = (2, 1, 3)$
  - $\eta$  may be defined, e.g., using operational semantics



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- We also assume to have a function defining the semantics of Murphi boolean expression
  - those in guards of rules
  - and in invariants!
- Let  $\mathcal{Q}$  be the set of all possible (syntactically legal) Murphi boolean expressions
  - including forall, exists, equality checks...
- Thus, let  $\zeta : \mathcal{Q} \times D_1 \times \dots \times D_n \rightarrow \{0,1\}$  be our evaluation function
  - it takes a Murphi boolean expression  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$  and the state  $s$  to be evaluated
  - it returns 1 iff  $Q$  is true in  $s$
  - e.g.,  $\zeta((a = 3 | b = 4), (1, 4, 3)) = 1$
  - $\zeta$  may be defined using atomic propositions



UNIVERSITÀ  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- Let  $Q \in \mathcal{Q}$  be a Murphi boolean expression
- Flatten  $Q$  w.r.t. Forall and Exists
  - Forall is replaced by ANDs, Exists by ORs
  - e.g., from Exists i1: pid Do Exists i2: pid Do (i1 != i2 & P[i1] = L3 & P[i2] = L3) End End ...
  - ... to (1 != 1 & P[1] = L3 & P[1] = L3) | (2 != 1 & P[2] = L3 & P[1] = L3) | (1 != 2 & P[1] = L3 & P[2] = L3) | (2 != 2 & P[2] = L3 & P[2] = L3)
- If we replace each variable  $v_i \in V$  occurring in  $Q$  with a value  $w_{j_i} \in D_i$ , we obtain a boolean value (true or false)
  - e.g., the former evaluates to true by setting  $P[1] = L3$  and  $P[2] = L3$
- Thus,  $\zeta(Q, s) = 1$  iff  $Q(w_{j_1}, \dots, w_{j_n}) = 1$ 
  - where each  $w_{j_i}$  is such that  $(v_i = w_{j_i}) \in L(s)$
  - $Q(w_{j_1}, \dots, w_{j_n})$  is the result of replacing variable  $v_i$  with value  $w_{j_i}$



# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- $(s, t) \in R$  iff there is a rule  $T_i \in T$  s.t.  $T_i$  guard is true in  $s$  and  $T_i$  body changes  $s$  to  $t$
- By using  $\eta$  and  $\zeta$ , we can be more precise:
  - “ $T_i$  guard is true” means  $\zeta(G(T_i), s) = 1$ , being  $G(T_i)$  the Murphi expression used as guard of rule  $T_i$
  - “ $T_i$  body changes  $s$  to  $t$ ” means  $\eta(B(T_i), s) = t$ , being  $B(T_i)$  the Murphi statement used as body of rule  $T_i$
- $s \in I$  iff there is a startstate  $I_i \in \mathcal{I}$  s.t.  $s$  may be obtained by applying the body of  $I_i$ 
  - “ $s$  may be obtained by applying the body of  $I_i$ ” means  $\eta(B(I_i), (\perp, \dots, \perp)) = s$ , being  $B(I_i)$  the Murphi statement used as body of startstate  $I_i$



# From Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$ to KS $\mathcal{S}$

- $(s, t) \in R$  iff there is a rule  $T_i \in T$  s.t.  $T_i$  guard is true in  $s$  and  $T_i$  body changes  $s$  to  $t$ :
  - that is: in the body of  $T_i$ , variables starting values are those of  $s$
  - note that there may be two or more rules defining the same transition from  $s$  to  $t$ ; no problem with this
  - simply, the same transition is described by multiple rules
- A state  $s$  is a deadlock state for two possible reasons:
  - ①  $(s, t) \notin R$  for all  $t \in S$ , i.e., the values for the variables in  $s$  do not satisfy any ruleset guard
  - ②  $(s, t) \in R \rightarrow t = s$ , i.e., there is some ruleset guard which is satisfied by  $s$ , but its body do not change any of the global variables (e.g., the body is empty)



# How to Verify a Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$

- Theoretically, extract KS  $\mathcal{S}$  and property  $\varphi$  from  $\mathcal{M}$  as described above
  - for a given invariant  $I$  in  $\mathcal{M}$ ,  $\varphi(s) = \zeta(I, s)$  for all  $s \in S$
- Then, KS  $\mathcal{S}$  satisfies  $\varphi$  iff  $\varphi$  holds on all reachable states
  - $\forall s \in \text{Reach}(\mathcal{S}). \varphi(s) = 1$
- Thus, consider KS as a graph and perform a visit
  - states are nodes, transitions are edges
- If a state  $e$  s.t.  $\varphi(e) = 0$  is found, then we have an error
- Otherwise, all is ok



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# How to Verify a Murphi Description $\mathcal{M}$

- From a practical point of view, many optimization may be done, but let us stick to the previous scheme
- The worst case time complexity for a DFS or a BFS is  $O(|V| + |E|)$  (and same for space complexity)
- For KSs, this means  $O(|S| + |R|)$ , thus it is linear in the size of the KS
- Is this good? NO! Because of the *state space explosion problem*
- Assuming that  $B$  bits are needed to encode each state
  - i.e.,  $B = \sum_{i=1}^n b_i$ , being  $b_i$  the number of bits to encode domain  $D_i$
- We have that  $|S| = O(2^B)$



# State Space Explosion

- The “practical” input dimension is  $B$ , rather than  $|S|$  or  $|R|$
- Typically, for a system with  $N$  components, we have  $O(N)$  variables, thus  $O(B)$  encoding bits
- It is very common to verify a system with  $N$  components, and then (if  $N$  is ok) also for  $N + 1$  components
  - verifying a system with a generic number  $N$  of components is a proof checker task...
- This entails an exponential increase in the size of  $|S|$
- Thus we need “clever” versions of BFS/DFS



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Standard BFS: No Good for Model Checking

- Assumes that all graph nodes are in RAM
- For KSs, graph nodes are states, and we know there are too many
  - state space explosion
- You also need a full representation of the graph, thus also edges must be in RAM
  - using adjacency matrices or lists does not change much
  - for real-world systems, you may easily need TB of RAM
- Even if you have all the needed RAM, there is a huge preprocessing time needed to build the graph from the Murphi specification
- Then, also BFS itself may take a long time



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

- We need a definition inbetween the model and the KS: NFSS (Nondeterministic Finite State System)
- $\mathcal{N} = \langle S, I, \text{Post} \rangle$ , plus the invariant  $\varphi$ 
  - $S$  is the set of states,  $I \subseteq S$  the set of initial states
  - $\text{Post} : S \rightarrow 2^S$  is the successor function as defined before
    - given a state  $s$ , it returns  $T$  s.t.  $t \in T \rightarrow (s, t) \in R$
  - no labeling, we already have  $\varphi$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

- KSs and NFSSs differ on having  $\text{Post}$  instead of  $R$
- $\text{Post}$  may easily be defined from the Murphi specification
- Such definition is implicit, as programming code, thus avoiding to store adjacency matrices or lists
  - $t \in \text{Post}(s)$  iff there is a rule  $T_i \in T$  s.t.  $T_i$  guard is true in  $s$  and  $T_i$  body changes  $s$  to  $t$ 
    - see above for using  $\eta$  and  $\zeta$
  - Essentially, if the current state is  $s$ , it is sufficient to inspect all (flattened) rules in the Murphi specification  $\mathcal{M}$ 
    - for all guards which are enabled in  $s$ , execute the body so as to obtain  $t$ , and add  $t$  to  $\text{next}(s)$
  - This is done “on the fly”, only for those states  $s$  which must be explored



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Simple Simulation

```
void Make_a_run(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , invariant  $\varphi$ )
{
  let  $\mathcal{N} = \langle S, I, \text{Post} \rangle$ ;
  s_curr = pick_a_state(I);
  if (! $\varphi$ (s_curr))
    return with error message;
  while (1) { /* loop forever */
    s_next = pick_a_state(Post(s_curr));
    if (! $\varphi$ (s_next))
      return with error message;
    s_curr = s_next;
  }
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Simple Simulation with Deadlock

```
void Make_a_run(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , invariant  $\varphi$ )
{
  let  $\mathcal{N} = \langle S, I, \text{Post} \rangle$ ;
  s_curr = pick_a_state(I);
  if ( $\neg \varphi(s_{\text{curr}})$ )
    return with error message;
  while (1) { /* loop forever */
    if ( $\text{Post}(s_{\text{curr}}) = \emptyset$ )
      return with deadlock message;
    s_next = pick_a_state( $\text{Post}(s_{\text{curr}})$ );
    if ( $\neg \varphi(s_{\text{next}})$ )
      return with error message;
    s_curr = s_next;
  }
}
```



# Murphi Simulation

```
void Make_a_run(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , invariant  $\varphi$ )
{
  let  $\mathcal{N} = \langle S, I, \text{Post} \rangle$ ;
  s_curr = pick_a_state(I);
  if ( $\neg \varphi(s_{\text{curr}})$ )
    return with error message;
  while (1) { /* loop forever */
    if ( $\text{Post}(s_{\text{curr}}) = \emptyset \vee \text{Post}(s_{\text{curr}}) = \{s_{\text{curr}}\}$ )
      return with deadlock message;
    s_next = pick_a_state( $\text{Post}(s_{\text{curr}})$ );
    if ( $\neg \varphi(s_{\text{next}})$ )
      return with error message;
    s_curr = s_next;
  }
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Simulation

- Similar to testing
- If an error is found, the system is bugged
  - or the model is not faithful
  - actually, Murphi simulation is used to understand if the model itself contains errors
- If an error is not found, we cannot conclude anything
- The error state may lurk somewhere, out of reach for the random choice in `pick_a_state`



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Standard BFS (Cormen-Leiserson-Rivest)

BFS( $G, s$ )

```
1  for ogni vertice  $u \in V[G] - \{s\}$ 
2      do  $color[u] \leftarrow \text{WHITE}$ 
3           $d[u] \leftarrow \infty$ 
4           $\pi[u] \leftarrow \text{NIL}$ 
5   $color[s] \leftarrow \text{GRAY}$ 
6   $d[s] \leftarrow 0$ 
7   $\pi[s] \leftarrow \text{NIL}$ 
8   $Q \leftarrow \{s\}$ 
9  while  $Q \neq \emptyset$ 
10     do  $u \leftarrow \text{head}[Q]$ 
11         for ogni  $v \in \text{Adj}[u]$ 
12             do if  $color[v] = \text{WHITE}$ 
13                 then  $color[v] \leftarrow \text{GRAY}$ 
14                      $d[v] \leftarrow d[u] + 1$ 
15                      $\pi[v] \leftarrow u$ 
16                     ENQUEUE( $Q, v$ )
17     DEQUEUE( $Q$ )
18      $color[u] \leftarrow \text{BLACK}$ 
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Murphi BFS

```
FIFO_Queue Q;  
HashTable T;  
  
bool BFS(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , AP  $\varphi$ )  
{  
  let  $\mathcal{N} = (S, I, \text{Post})$ ;  
  foreach s in I {  
    if (! $\varphi(s)$ )  
      return false;  
  }  
  foreach s in I  
    Enqueue(Q, s);  
  foreach s in I  
    HashInsert(T, s);
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

```
while (Q  $\neq$   $\emptyset$ ) {  
  s = Dequeue(Q);  
  foreach s_next in Post(s) {  
    if (! $\varphi$ (s_next))  
      return false;  
    if (s_next is not in T) {  
      Enqueue(Q, s_next);  
      HashInsert(T, s_next);  
    } /* if */ } /* foreach */ } /* while */  
return true;  
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

- Edges are never stored in memory
  - states are “created” when expanding the current state
  - rules are used to modify the current state so as to obtain the new one
  - at the start, you have an empty state which is modified by startstates
- (Reachable) states are stored in memory only at the end of the visit
  - inside hashtable T
- This is called *on-the-fly* verification
- States are marked as visited by putting them inside an hashtable
  - rather than coloring them as gray or black
  - which needs the graph to be already in memory



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informatica  
e Matematica

# State Space Explosion

- State space explosion hits in the FIFO queue  $Q$  and in the hashtable  $T$ 
  - and of course in running time...
- However,  $Q$  is not really a problem
  - it is accessed *sequentially*
  - always in the front for extraction, always in the rear for insertion
  - can be efficiently stored using disk, much more capable of RAM
- $T$  is the real problem
  - random access, not suitable for a file
  - what to do?
  - before answering, let's have a look at Murphi code



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Usage

- As for all *explicit* model checker, a Murphi verification has the following steps:
  - 0 compile Murphi source code and write a Murphi model `model.m`
  - 1 invoke Murphi compiler on `model.m`: this generates a file `model.cpp`
    - `mu options model.m`
    - see `mu -h` for available options
  - 2 invoke C++ compiler on `model.cpp`: this generates an executable file
    - `g++ -Ipath_to_include model.cpp -o model`
    - `path_to_include` is the include directory inside Murphi distribution
  - 3 invoke the executable file
    - `./model options`
    - see `./model -h` for available options



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi compiler

- Executable `mu` is in `src` directory of Murphi distribution
- Obtained by compiling the 25 source files in `src`
  - of course, a Makefile is provided for this
- Standard compiler implementation, with Flex lexical analyzer (`mu.l`) and Yacc parser (`mu.y`)
- The main function which builds `model.cpp` is `program::generate_code` in `cpp_code.cpp` (called by `main`, in `mu.cpp`)
- `program::generate_code` uses the parse tree generated by Yacc to “implement” in C++ the guards and the bodies of the rules
- The result goes in `model.cpp`: model-specific code



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Organization of model.cpp

- Each Murphi variable  $v$  (local or global) corresponds to a C++ instance  $\text{mu\_}v$  of the class  $\text{mu\_int}$  (possibly through class generalizations)
- Class  $\text{mu\_int}$  is used to handle variables with max value 254 (255 is used for the undefined value)
- For integer subranges with greater values, class  $\text{mu\_long}$  is used; also  $\text{mu\_byte}$  (equal to  $\text{mu\_int}$ ...) and  $\text{mu\_boolean}$  exist
- If  $v$  is a local variable,  $\text{mu\_}v$  directly contains the value (attribute  $\text{cvalue}$ ,  $\text{in\_world}$  is false)
- Otherwise, if  $v$  is global,  $\text{mu\_}v$  retrieves the value from a fixed-address structure containing the current state value ( $\text{workingstate}$ ;  $\text{in\_world}$  is true)



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Organization of model.cpp

```
class mu__int {  
    enum {undef_value=0xff};  
    bool in_world;           /* local iff false */  
    int lb, ub;              /* bounds */  
    int byteOffset;         /* in bytes */  
    /* points to workingstate->bits[byteOffset]  
       for global variables, to cvalue for  
       local */  
    unsigned char *valptr;  
    unsigned char cvalue;
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Organization of model.cpp

**public:**

```
/* constructor, sets all attributes (the  
   variable is supposed to be local by  
   default, with an undefined value);  
   byteOffset is computed by generate_code  
*/  
mu__int(int lb, int ub, int size, char *n,  
        int byteOffset);  
/* other useful functions */  
int operator= (int val) {  
    if (val <= ub && val >= lb) value(val);  
    else boundary_error(val);  
    return val;  
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Organization of model.cpp

```
operator int() const {  
    if (isundefined()) return undef_error();  
    return value();  
};  
const int value() const {return *valptr;};  
int value(int val) {  
    *valptr = val; return val;};  
void to_state(state *thestate) {  
    /* used to make the variable global */  
    in_world = TRUE;  
    valptr = (unsigned char *)&(workingstate->  
        bits[byteOffset]);  
};  
};
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Organization of model.cpp

- As for the `byteOffset` computation, `program::generate_code` simply computes the one for a variable `mu_v` mapping a Murphi variable `v` in the following way
  - Let  $M_1, \dots, M_n$  be the upper bounds of the  $n$  variables preceeding the declaration of `v`
  - Let  $b(x) = \lfloor \log_2(x + 1) \rfloor + 1$  be the number of bits required to represent the maximum value  $x$  (plus the undefined value)
  - Let  $B(x) = 1$  if  $b(x) \leq 8$ , 4 otherwise (i.e. only 1-byte or 4-bytes integers may be used)
  - Then,  $\text{byteOffset}(\text{mu\_v}) = \sum_{i=1}^n B(M_i)$



# Organization of model.cpp: workingstate

- Structure containing the current global state, is an instance of class `state`
- Essentially, it consists of an array of unsigned characters, named `bits`
  - so that any value of any global variable may be casted inside it
  - at a precise location, pointed to by `valptr` from `mu__int`
- Note that `workingstate` has a fixed length, that is  $\text{BLOCKS\_IN\_WORLD} = \sum_{i=1}^N B(M_i)$ 
  - being  $N$  the number of all global variables
  - namely, `bits` has `BLOCKS_IN_WORLD` unsigned chars



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Translation of Murphi Model Statements

- Straightforward for ifs, whiles and so on: the “difficult” part is assignments (and expressions evaluation)
- Essentially, a `:= b`; in `model.m` becomes `mu_a = (mu_b)`; in `model.cpp`
- The operator `()` is redefined so that `mu_b` retrieves the value for `b`, either from itself (attribute `cvalue`) or from `workingstate` (thanks to `valptr`)
- Then, the redefined operator `=` is called, so that `mu_a` updates the value for `a` to be equal to that of `b`, either from itself (attribute `cvalue`) or from `workingstate`
- If the right side of the assignment has a generic expression, it is evaluated in a similar way (the operator `()` solves the Murphi variable references, the other values will be integer constants or function calls...)
- BTW, functions are mapped as C++ methods...



# Translation of Murphi Rules

- For each rule  $i$  (starting from 0 at the *end* of `model.m`!) there is a class named `RuleBase $i$`
- Such class has `Code` method for the body and `Condition` method for the guard
- Startstates are similar, but they only have the body
- A suitable C++ code flattens rulesets, if present



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Translation of Murphi Rules: From This...

```
Const VAL_LIM: 5;  
  
Type val_t : 0..VAL_LIM;  
  
Var v : val_t;  
  
Rule "incBy1"  
  v <= VAL_LIM - 1 ==>  
  Var useless : val_t;  
  Begin  
    useless := 1;  
    v := v + useless;  
  End;
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Translation of Murphi Rules: ... To This

```
class RuleBase1 {
public:
    :
    bool Condition(unsigned r) { /* guard */
        return (mu_v) <= (4);
    }
    :
    void Code(unsigned r) { /* body */
        mu_1_val_t mu_useless("useless", 0);
        mu_useless = 1;
        mu_v = (mu_v) + (mu_useless);
    };
    :
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Translation of Murphi Rules: From This...

```
ruleset i:  $l_1..u_1$  do
  ruleset j:  $l_2..u_2$  do
    Rule "incBy1"
      i < j ==>
        Begin v := v + i - j; End;
  Endruleset; Endruleset;
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

## Translation of Murphi Rules: ... To This

```
class RuleBase0 {
public:
    bool Condition(unsigned r) {
        /* called  $(u_1 - l_1 + 1)(u_2 - l_2 + 1)$  with  $r$  ranging
           from 0 to  $(u_1 - l_1 + 1)(u_2 - l_2 + 1) - 1$  */
        static mu__subrange_7 mu_j;
        mu_j.value((r % (u_2 - l_2 + 1)) + l_2);
        r = r / (u_2 - l_2 + 1);
        static mu__subrange_6 mu_i;
        mu_i.value((r % (u_1 - l_1 + 1)) + l_1);
        /* useless, but it is automatically
           generated... */
        r = r / (u_1 - l_1 + 1);
        return (mu_i) < (mu_j);
    }
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

## Translation of Murphi Rules: ... To This

```
void Code(unsigned r) {  
    static mu__subrange_7 mu_j;  
    mu_j.value((r % (u2 - l2 + 1)) + l2);  
    r = r / (u2 - l2 + 1);  
    static mu__subrange_6 mu_i;  
    mu_i.value((r % (u1 - l1 + 1)) + l1);  
    r = r / (u1 - l1 + 1);  
    mu_v = ((mu_v) + (mu_i)) - (mu_j);  
};  
  
:  
};
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Overall Translation

- Note that the first part of `Condition` and `Code` is meant to translate an integer from 0 to  $(u_1 - l_1 + 1)(u_2 - l_2 + 1) - 1$  in 2 values for the rulesets indices
- The interface class for the verification algorithm is `NextStateGenerator`
- Suppose there are  $R$  rules  $r_0, \dots, r_{R-1}$ , and that each  $r_i$  is contained in  $N_i$  nested rulesets having upper bound  $u_{ij}$  and lower bound  $l_{ij}$ , for  $j = 1, \dots, N_i$
- Note that `Condition` simply calls its homonymous method of the `RuleBase` class corresponding the current `r...`



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Overall Translation

Let  $P(k) = \sum_{i=0}^{k-1} (\prod_{j=1}^{N_i} (u_{ij} - l_{ij} + 1)) + 1$  be the number of flattened rules preceding the rule  $r_k$ ;

```
class NextStateGenerator {  
    RuleBase0 R0;  
  
    :  
    RuleBase(R - 1) R(R - 1);  
public:  
    void SetNextEnabledRule(unsigned &  
        what_rule);
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Overall Translation

```
bool Condition(unsigned r) { /* r will  
    range from 0 to P(R) */  
    category = CONDITION;  
    if (what_rule < P(1))  
        return R0.Condition(r - 0);  
    if (what_rule >= P(1) && what_rule < P(2))  
        return R1.Condition(r - P(1));  
    :  
    if (what_rule >= P(R-1) && what_rule <  
        P(R))  
        return R(R-1).Condition(r - P(R-1));  
    return Error;  
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi Overall Translation

```
void Code(unsigned r) {  
    if (what_rule < P(1)) {  
        R0.Code(r - 0); return;  
    }  
    if (what_rule >= P(1) && what_rule < P(2)) {  
        R1.Code(r - P(1)); return;  
    }  
    :  
    if (what_rule >= P(R-1) && what_rule <  
        P(R)) {  
        R(R-1).Code(r - P(R-1)); return;  
    } }  
};  
const unsigned numrules = P(R);
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

## Step 2: What Is Actually Compiled by C++ Compiler

Concatenation of include/*.h
model.cpp
Concatenation of include/*.C



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Murphi BFS

```
FIFO_Queue Q;  
HashTable T;  
  
bool BFS(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , AP  $\varphi$ )  
{  
  let  $\mathcal{N} = (S, I, \text{Post})$ ;  
  foreach s in I {  
    if ( $\neg \varphi(s)$ )  
      return false;  
  }  
  foreach s in I  
    Enqueue(Q, s);  
  foreach s in I  
    HashInsert(T, s);
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

```
while (Q  $\neq$   $\emptyset$ ) {  
  s = Dequeue(Q);  
  foreach s_next in Post(s) {  
    if ( $\neg \varphi(s\_next)$ )  
      return false;  
    if (s_next is not in T) {  
      Enqueue(Q, s_next);  
      HashInsert(T, s_next);  
    } /* if */ } /* foreach */ } /* while */  
return true;  
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# BFS in Murphi

- $\text{Post}(s)$  is computed using class `NextStateGenerator`
- It is equivalent to a for loop on all flattened rules
- For each flattened rule index  $r$ ,  $\text{Condition}(r)$  tells if the current state `workingstate` enables the guard of  $r$
- If so, the next state is obtained via  $\text{Code}(r)$ , by directly modifying `workingstate`



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Hashtable in Murphi

- Open addressing ...
  - insert: repeatedly call  $e = h(s, i)$  (for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ) till  $T[e] = \emptyset$ , then insert  $s$  in  $T[e]$
  - search: repeatedly call  $e = h(s, i)$  (for  $i = 1, 2, \dots, m$ ) till either:
    - $T[e] = \emptyset \rightarrow s$  is not present
    - $T[e] = s \rightarrow s$  is present
- ... with double hashing
  - there are two hash functions  $h_1, h_2$
  - $h(s, i) = (h_1(s) + ih_2(s)) \bmod m$
  - $m$  is the size of  $T$ , and is a prime number
  - $h(s, i_1) = h(s, i_2) \rightarrow i_1 = i_2$



# Reducing Hashtable in Murphi

- States must be stored in T
- For efficiency reasons, T is a fixed-length array, each entry is an instance of state class
  - if T becomes full, the verification is terminated and you have to run it again with more memory
  - option `-m` of `model` executable
- Thus, T stores workingstates
- Two possible ways (also together):
  - 1 use less memory for each state
  - 2 store less states



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Hash Compaction

- Enabled by compiling the Murphi model with `-c`
- When dealing with hash table insertions and searches, state “signatures” are used instead of the whole states
- The idea is that it is unlikely to happen that two different states have the same signature
- If this happens, some states may be never reached, even if they are indeed reachable
- Thus, there may be “false positives”: the verification terminates with an OK messages, while the system was buggy instead
- However, this is very unlikely to happen, and in every case it is much better than testing, which may miss whole classes of bugs



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Hash Compaction

- At the beginning of the verification, a vector `hashmatrix` of `24*BLOCKS_IN_WORLD` longs (4 byte per each long) is created and initialized with *random* values (`hashmatrix` will never be modified)
- Then, given a state `s` to be sought/inserted, 3 longs 10, 11 and 12 are computed from `hashmatrix`
- Namely,  $1i$ , for  $i = 0, 1, 2$ , is the bit-to-bit xor of the longs in the set  $H(i) = \{\text{hashmatrix}[3k + i] \mid \text{the } k\text{-th bit of the uncompressed state } s \text{ is } 1\}$ ;
- That is to say, every bit of `s` is used to determine if a given element of `hashmatrix` has or hasn't to be used in the signature computation



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Hash Compaction

- This is accomplished in the functions of file `include/mu_hash.cpp`, where to avoid to compute  $8 \times \text{BLOCKS\_IN\_WORLD}$  bit-to-bit xor operations, some xor properties allow to use the preceeding computed signature and save some xor computation (`oldvec` variable)
- Then, 10 is used as a hash value (index in the hash table)
- The concatenation of 11 and 12 (truncated to a given number of bits by option `-b`) gives the signature (the value to be sought/inserted in T)
- It should be obvious, now, that a signature cannot be used to generate states, so that's why Q entries do not point to hash table entries any more
- Thus, if current `workingstate` state is found to be new, and so its signature is put inside the hash table, a new memory block is allocated to be assigned to the current front of the queue, and `workingstate` is copied into that





# Bit Compression

- To save some (not much...) space, the Murphi compiler option `-b` may be used to compress states (*bit compression* in SPIN's parlance)
- Whilst hashcompaction is a lossy compression, this is lossless
- But very less efficient
- In this way, `workingstate` contents are not forced to be aligned to byte boundaries, so it occupies less space
- Moreover, effective subranges size is used (remember we store the lower bound...)
- Of course, a more complex handling than the `valptr` and `byteOffset` one has to be used



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS

**Var**

x : 255..261;

y : 30..53;

**StartState**

x := 256;

y := 53;

**End;**



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Bit Compression

y

0x0	0x0	0x1	0x0	0x35
-----	-----	-----	-----	------

workingstate→bits  
without -b

x

y

0xc	0x2
-----	-----

workingstate→bits  
with -b



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Symmetry and Multiset Reductions

- Differently from SPIN's partial order reduction, these techniques are not transparent to the user
- In fact, symmetry reduction are applicable only if some types have been declared using the `scalarset` keyword (for multiset reduction, the keyword is `multiset`)
- Not all systems are symmetric
- However, when it is possible to apply symmetry reduction, only a subset of the state space is (correctly) explored
- To be more precise, symmetry reduction induces a partition of the state space in equivalence classes
- A functions chain (implemented in the model-dependent part in `model.cpp`) is able to return the representative of the equivalence class of a given state



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Symmetry and Multiset Reductions

- Rules for scalarset:
  - the values are not used in any comparison operation except equality testing
  - the values are not used in any arithmetic operation
  - the result from the for loop with the subrange as index does not depend on the order of the iteration
  - cannot be directly assigned to some value: either it is used on a forall, exists, for, ruleset, or it is used an assignment with some other scalarset value



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS with Symmetry Reduction

```
FIFO_Queue Q;  
HashTable T;  
  
bool BFS(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ , AP  $\varphi$ )  
{  
  let  $\mathcal{N} = (S, I, \text{Post})$ ;  
  foreach ss in I {  
    s = Normalize(ss);  
    if (! $\varphi(s)$ )  
      return false;  
  }  
  foreach s in I  
    Enqueue(Q, s);  
  foreach s in I  
    HashInsert(T, s);
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Murphi BFS with Symmetry Reduction

```
while (Q  $\neq$   $\emptyset$ ) {  
  s = Dequeue(Q);  
  foreach ss_next in Post(s) {  
    s_next = Normalize(ss_next);  
    if ( $\neg \varphi(s\_next)$ )  
      return false;  
    if (s_next is not in T) {  
      Enqueue(Q, s_next);  
      HashInsert(T, s_next);  
    } /* if */ } /* foreach */ } /* while */  
return true;  
}
```



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Symmetry Reduction

- How is `Normalize` implemented? Here are the main ideas
- Suppose that variable  $v$  is a `scalarset(N)`, and  $v = \tilde{v}$  in a state  $s \in S$
- Then, any *permutation* of the set  $\{1, \dots, N\}$  brings to an *equivalent* state
- Thus, all possible permutations are generated, and the lexicographically smaller state is chosen as the representative
  - apply a permutation means: change the value of  $v$ , and reorder any array or ruleset or for which depends on  $v$
- Could be expensive, heuristics are also used to perform faster but potentially not complete normalizations
  - i.e., two symmetric states may be declared different
  - this does not hinder verification correctness **only its efficiency**



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# What About Actual Software States?

- One could think: why not to perform a BFS on a legacy software state space?
  - transition relation: use some debugger to perform one statement at a time
  - e.g., for a C program, gdb may be used
  - if concurrency is important, one machine code statement at a time
- How many states will be there? Let us make an estimate
  - values for all global variables
  - value for the whole current call stack
    - if we have threads, all call stacks...
  - values for allocated memory on heap
  - if some I/O is being used (e.g., open files), also its value must be taken into account



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# What About Actual Software States?

- Actually, the whole computer's memory may be used
  - both RAM and disks!
- Suppose we have 2TB of total memory, i.e., 16Tb
- Thus, the number of possible states is  $2^{2^{44}} \approx 2^{10^{13}} \approx 10^{3 \cdot 10^{12}}$ 
  - number of atoms in the universe:  $10^{80}$
- That's why Murphi does not consider the content of files and heap, and does not allow uncompleted function call
  - functions are called only to determine the next state
  - the full call stack must be empty at the end of each next state computation
- For full software, only simulation (i.e., testing) can be performed



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol

- Establish mutual authentication between an *initiator*  $A$  and a *responder*  $B$ 
  - desired outcome:  $A$  knows it is speaking with  $B$  and viceversa
- Public key cryptography:
  - each agent  $\alpha$  has a public key  $K_\alpha$
  - any other agent  $\beta$  can get  $K_\alpha$  using a dedicated key server
  - each agent  $\alpha$  has a secret key  $K_\alpha^{-1}$
- Given a message  $m$ , it may be encrypted using some key  $K$ , thus obtaining  $\{m\}_K$ 
  - any agent  $\beta$  may encrypt  $m$  using  $K_\alpha$  for some agent  $\alpha$ , thus obtaining  $\{m\}_{K_\alpha}$
  - only agent  $\alpha$  may decrypt  $\{m\}_{K_\alpha}$ , thus obtaining  $m$
- A random number  $N_\alpha$  (*nonce*) may be generated by any agent  $\alpha$



# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol

- We follow the modeling by Lowe, showing an error in the protocol that went undetected for nearly 20 years
- Namely, an agent  $I$  (*intruder*) successfully make an agent  $B$  think that  $I$  is instead  $A$  (impersonation)
- NS protocol for mutual authentication consists on 7 steps, but here we focus on the 3 more important steps
  - in the omitted steps,  $A$  and  $B$  obtain their public keys, let us assume this is ok
  - *assume-guarantee* approach: assuming that something works, does the subsequent (dependent) steps work?
  - ubiquously used in verification in its “weakest” form
  - may be formalized, but we skip it



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol

- The three steps are as follows:
  - $A \rightarrow B : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$ 
    - $\cdot$  stands for concatenation,  $A$  is identity of  $A$
  - $B \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
  - $A \rightarrow B : \{N_B\}_{K_B}$
- From here onwards,  $B$  should be certain to be talking to  $A$
- The idea is: if only  $A$  can decrypt  $\{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$ , then only  $A$  could have sent  $\{N_B\}_{K_B}$  back to me
  - this is the  $B$  viewpoint, of course
- $A$  is the *initiator* and  $B$  the *responder*
  - a bit counter-intuitive, as at the end it is the responder who gets the answer



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol

- Intruder / power:
  - overhear and/or intercept any message between any pair of selected agents
  - reply to any intercepted message
  - know which the (other) intruders are
    - not in the original paper...
  - plus the fact it is itself an agent, thus:
    - may decrypt messages encrypted with its key  $K_I$
    - may encrypt messages with some other agents key  $K_\alpha$
    - may create nonces



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol in Murphi

- 5 global variables:
  - number of initiators
  - number of responders
  - number of intruders
  - number of messages in the network
  - memory size of the intruder
- To trigger the error, it is sufficient that the first 4 variables are strictly positive
  - the last must be at least 3
- Once the error is corrected, you may select higher values to see if it stays correct
  - of course, same number of initiators and responders



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol in Murphi

- Initiator has a “state” and the responder it is talking to
  - “states”: actually modalities or statuses, as in the Peterson protocol
  - SLEEPING: before first message  $A \rightarrow B : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$
  - WAIT: after first message and before  $B \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
  - COMMIT: after sending last message  $A \rightarrow B : \{N_B\}_{K_B}$
- Responder has a “state” and the initiator it is talking to
  - SLEEPING: before first message  $A \rightarrow B : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$
  - WAIT: after sending  $B \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$  and before  $A \rightarrow B : \{N_B\}_{K_B}$
  - COMMIT:  $A$  is authenticated by  $B$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol in Murphi

- Intruder has two arrays
  - for each agent  $a$  (including itself), the nonce  $N_a$ 
    - modeling choice: it is not important, for this verification purposes, to represent the actual random number
    - otherwise, too many (unnecessary) states
    - instead, only a boolean is stored for each agent: true if the nonce is known, false otherwise
    - to know a nonce, either it is its own or it has been able to intercept and decrypt a message containing it
  - a set of known “full” messages (*knowledge*)
    - set size is finite: it models the intruder “power” of storing messages



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# Modeling the Needham-Schroeder Protocol in Murphi

- The network is a (finite-sized) array of messages
- Each message is a record of:
  - source and destination agents
  - key used for encryption
    - not the actual key: the agent id suffices...
  - the body, which is modeled by its type and single components
  - $N_A \cdot A$ : a nonce and an address
    - both are agent ids...
  - $N_B \cdot N_A$  two nonces
  - $N_B$  one nonce
- Sending a message means setting up all of its parts and then adding it to the network
- Receiving a message means removing it from the network
  - should also check if you are the intended destination, but intruders do not do it...



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Starting States

- All initiators  $A$  and responders  $B$  are in SLEEP status
- Each intruder only knows its own nonce and has no recorded message
- There are no messages in the network



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Initiators Behaviour

- Ruleset 1: for all sleeping initiators  $A$  and for all responders/intruders  $B$ 
  - send nonce+address  $\{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$ 
    - this means: set up the message and add it to the network
    - thus a further condition is needed: network must not be full
  - initiator  $A$  goes to WAIT status
  - also records that its responder is  $B$
- Ruleset 2: for all waiting initiators  $A$ ,
  - if there is a message  $m$  on the network which has been sent to  $A$  and was sent by an intruder  $B$ ...
  - ... receive it: it should be  $m = \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
  - thus, send  $\{N_B\}_{K_B}$  as a response
  - new status for  $A$  is COMMIT



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Responders Behaviour

- Ruleset 1: for all sleeping responders  $B$ ,
  - if there is a message  $m$  on the network which has been sent to  $B$  and comes from an intruder  $A$ ...
  - ... receive it: it should be  $m = \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$
  - thus, send  $\{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$  as a response
  - new status for  $B$  is WAIT
  - it also records that its initiator is  $A$
- Ruleset 2: for all waiting responders  $B$ ,
  - if there is a message  $m$  on the network which has been sent to  $B$  and comes from an intruder  $A$ ...
  - ... receive it: it should be  $m = \{N_B\}_{K_B}$
  - new status for  $B$  is COMMIT



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Intruders Behaviour

- Ruleset 1: for all intruders  $I$ ,
  - if there is a message  $m$  on the network which has been sent to  $B$ , and  $B$  is not an intruder...
  - ... receive it: it may be either  $m = \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$  or  $m = \{N_B\}_{K_B}$  for some  $B$ 
    - that is, any message coming from an initiator
  - there are two possible cases:
    - $B = I$ , then  $m$  may be read and  $N_A$  is now known by  $I$
    - $B \neq I$ , then add  $m$  to knowledge of  $I$
    - provided that there is enough space and it is not already present
- Ruleset 2: for all intruders  $I$  and for all non-intruders  $A$ ,
  - if there is a message  $m$  on the knowledge of  $I$ , send  $m$  to  $A$
  - essentially, this means that ruleset 1 is equivalent to: the intruder sees messages going on the network and actually receives only those which can be decrypted



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Intruders Behaviour

- Ruleset 3: for all intruders  $I$  and for all non-intruders  $A$ , for all possible messages  $m$ , send  $m$  to  $A$ 
  - “possible messages”: all those which may be composed using the nonces known by  $I$
  - if only one nonce is known, then only  $\{N_B\}_{K_B}$  can be sent
  - if two nonces are known, also  $\{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$  can be sent
  - if no nonces are known, this ruleset cannot be fired
  - of course, there must also be room in the network for sending  $m$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Invariants

- All responders are correctly authenticated
  - for all initiators  $A$ , if status of  $A$  is COMMIT and its responder is a responder  $B$ , then initiator of  $B$  must be  $A$
  - furthermore,  $B$  must not be sleeping
- All initiators are correctly authenticated
  - for all responders  $B$ , if status of  $B$  is COMMIT and its initiator is an initiator  $A$ , then responder of  $A$  must be  $B$
  - furthermore,  $A$  must be in COMMIT status



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica



# NS Protocol in Murphi: Counterexample

- ①  $A \rightarrow I : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_I}$
- ②  $I \rightarrow B : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$
- ③  $B \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
- ④  $I$  reads and stores  $\{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
- ⑤  $I \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B\}_{K_A}$
- ⑥  $A \rightarrow I : \{N_B\}_{K_I}$
- ⑦  $I \rightarrow B : \{N_B\}_{K_B}$



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Conclusions

- Modeler must choose a “category” of attack
  - here, the fact that an intruder may be inbetween an initiator and its responder
  - and may send any message to try to breach the protocol
- The model is deadlocked
  - e.g., initiator sends to intruder, which learns the initiator nonce and sends the answer, then initiator sends final message, which is again taken by the intruder and finally the intruder generates a message with learnt nonce to the initiator
  - initiator is in COMMIT, responder does not see anything for him, network is full thus stop
- For the purposes of this verification, deadlocks are “failed” attacks, thus they can be discarded



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica

# NS Protocol in Murphi: Conclusions

- Corrected protocol:
  - $A \rightarrow B : \{N_A \cdot A\}_{K_B}$
  - $B \rightarrow A : \{N_A \cdot N_B \cdot B\}_{K_A}$ 
    - thus, also  $B$  identity is sent
  - $A \rightarrow B : \{N_B\}_{K_B}$
- A flag in the Murphi model allows to turn this fix on
- It is possible to (manually) prove that, if a bug is still in the protocol for any number of agents, then it should be in the protocol with 3 agents
  - Murphi shows that no attacks exist for 3 agents



UNIVERSITÀ  
DEGLI STUDI  
DELL'AQUILA



DISIM  
Dipartimento di Ingegneria  
e Scienze dell'Informazione  
e Matematica