

Software Testing and Validation

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Corso di Laurea in Informatica

The SPIN Model Checker

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Acronyms

- Murphi stands for nothing, though it is probable that it reminds Murphi's Laws
 - "if something may fail, it will fail", i.e., $\mathbf{EF}p \rightarrow \mathbf{AF}p$
- SPIN stands for Simple Promela INterpreter
- Promela is the SPIN input language
 - Murphi input language does not have a proper name
- Promela stands for PROcess MEta LANGUAGE
 - as we will see, it is actually based on Operating Systems-like processes



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Structure of a Promela Model

- We recall that Murphi input language is based on:
 - global variables with finite types
 - base types are integer subranges and enumerations
 - higher types are arrays and structures
 - function and procedures
 - guarded rules and starting states (*dynamics*)
 - may call functions and procedures, in an *atomic* way
 - Pascal-like syntax: `:=` for assignments, `=` for equality checks...
 - invariants



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Structure of a Promela Model

- Promela instead has:
 - global variables with finite types
 - base types are integer types of the C language
 - enumerations are very limited
 - arrays and records
 - channels!
 - processes behaviour (*dynamics*)
 - possibly with arguments and local variables
 - properties to be checked:
 - assertions
 - deadlocks
 - “neverclaim” describing a BA
 - a separate tool may translate an LTL formula in the corresponding BA



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Structure of a Promela Model

Variables and Types (1)

- Five different (integer) **basic types**.
- **Arrays**
- **Records** (structs)
- **Type conflicts** are detected at runtime.
- **Default initial value** of basic variables (local and global) is **0**.

Basic types

<code>bit</code>	<code>turn=1;</code>	<code>[0..1]</code>
<code>bool</code>	<code>flag;</code>	<code>[0..1]</code>
<code>byte</code>	<code>counter;</code>	<code>[0..255]</code>
<code>short</code>	<code>s;</code>	<code>[-2¹⁶-1.. 2¹⁶-1]</code>
<code>int</code>	<code>msg;</code>	<code>[-2³²-1.. 2³²-1]</code>

Arrays

```
byte a[27];  
bit flags[4];
```

array
indic
start at 0

Typedef (records)

```
typedef Record {  
    short f1;  
    byte f2;  
}  
Record rr;  
rr.f1 = ..
```

variable
declaration



Structure of a Promela Model

- Mainly C-like syntax: = for assignments, == for equality checks...
 - with some exceptions: if, while, message exchange
- No start states: there is only one starting state
 - an “empty” state, we will see how it is defined
- Thus, if you need multiple starting states, you will have to explicitly model this in Promela
 - having the “empty” state non-deterministically going in the desired starting states
- Assertions are conceptually the same as invariants



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Processes in Promela

- Dynamics in Promela is defined through *processes*
- You may define many different codes for your processes:
proctype
- You may instantiate many times each proctype
 - each instantiation of a proctype is a process
- Each process is either active (i.e., running) from the starting state, or it is explicitly started by some other process
- Though Promela proctypes may seem procedures, they are not!
 - running a process is not like calling a function
 - it is rather like forking a new process, which executes the given code concurrently with the “calling” one



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Peterson Protocol in Promela

```
bool turn, flag[2];
byte ncrit;

active [2] proctype user()
{
  assert(_pid == 0 || _pid == 1);
again:
  flag[_pid] = 1;
  turn = _pid;
  (flag[1 - _pid] == 0 || turn == 1 - _pid);
  ncrit++;
  assert(ncrit == 1); /* critical section */
  ncrit--;
  flag[_pid] = 0;
  goto again
}
```



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Peterson Protocol in Promela

- In this case, the starting state has:
 - two running processes, both ready to execute their first statement (i.e., the assert)
 - `turn`, `flag`, `ncrit` are all set to zero
 - both entries for `flag`
- A special local variable `_pid` is available for all processes
 - similar to Operating Systems PID
 - n instantiations of a proctype will have `_pid` going from 0 to $n - 1$
 - read-only
- The often-deprecated `goto` statement is heavily used in Promela models
 - C-like labels also may have special meanings
 - the same holds for the `break` statement



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Non-Determinism in Promela: Part I

- In the Peterson model above, there does not seem to be any non-determinism
- Instead, in each state there are two possible successors
 - one obtained executing the (current statement in) the first process
 - the other one obtained executing the second process
- Generally speaking, if in a state there are n active processes, then there are n successors
 - actually, they be less, because of blocked statements
 - or more, because of the other source of non-determinism
- SPIN checks that properties hold for *all possible interleavings* between processes
 - using OS-like parlance, the model must be correct regardless of the scheduler



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- Proctypes are sequences of *statements*
- Statements may be either *blocked* or *executable*
 - again, it resembles OS blocking primitives, such as those on semaphores or on message exchange
- If a statement is blocked, then the corresponding process cannot be selected for execution
- For each type of statement, we will say when it is blocked and when it is executable



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- The following statements are always executable: assignments, goto, break, skip, assert, printf
 - return does not exist
 - break must be inside a cycle
 - skip does nothing, useful in some cases
 - not completely true
 - assert takes an expression e as argument: if e is false, the verification is aborted and the error is reported
 - printf is only used in debugging the model itself (simulation mode)



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- Expressions may be used as statements
 - in Peterson protocol:
`(flag[1 - _pid] == 0 || turn == 1 - _pid);`
- An expression e used as a statement is executable iff e is evaluated to true in the current state
 - e is always of some integer type
 - as usual in C, e is true if $e \neq 0$, and false otherwise
 - in OS parlance, we are implementing busy waiting
 - e is equivalent to `while (!e) /* do nothing */`



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Peterson Protocol in Promela

```
bool turn, flag[2];
byte ncrit;

active [2] proctype user()
{
  assert(_pid == 0 || _pid == 1);
again:
  flag[_pid] = 1;
  turn = _pid;
  (flag[1 - _pid] == 0 || turn == 1 - _pid);
  ncrit++;
  assert(ncrit == 1); /* critical section */
  ncrit--;
  flag[_pid] = 0;
  goto again
}
```



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- The `run` statement may be used to create a new process
 - there is a limit to the number of active processes N
 - `run` is executable iff the number of currently active processes is less than N
- Other ways to have processes:
 - declare a proctype as active $[n]$
 - active since the start state
 - n is the number of instances to be run, may be skipped if $n = 1$
 - name a proctype as `init`
 - again, active since the start state
- There must be either active proctypes or the `init` proctype in every Promela model



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Structure of a Promela Model

Processes (3)

- Process are **created** using the **run** statement (which returns the **process id**).
- Processes can be created at **any point** in the execution (within any process).
- Processes start executing **after** the **run** statement.
- Processes can **also** be created by adding **active** in front of the **proctype** declaration.

```
proctype Foo(byte x) {  
    ...  
}  
  
init {  
    int pid2 = run Foo(2);  
    run Foo(27);  
}  
  
active[3] proctype Bar() {  
    ...  
}
```

number of procs. (opt.)

parameters will be initialised to 0



Peterson Protocol in Promela

```
bool turn, flag[2];
byte ncrit;

proctype user()
{
  /* ... as before */
}

init {
  run user();
  run user();
}
```



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Atomic Statements

- Each single statement is *atomic*
 - other processes must wait for an executable single statement completion
 - this differs from OS-like processes: if n is shared and $n++$ is executed, race conditions may arise
 - because $n++$ must be viewed as a sequence of assembly statements
 - not in Promela
- It is sometimes desirable to declare a sequence of statements s_1, \dots, s_n as atomic: `atomic { s_1, \dots, s_n }`



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Peterson Protocol in Promela

```
bool turn, flag[2];
byte ncrit;

proctype user()
{
  /* ... as before */
}

init {
  atomic{
    run user();
    run user();
  }
}
```



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Atomic Statements

- An atomic block like `atomic { s_1, \dots, s_n }` may be executable or blocked as well
- The rule is simple: `atomic { s_1, \dots, s_n }` is executable iff s_1 is executable
- What happens if s_i is blocked for some $i > 1$?
- The process loses the atomicity, it becomes blocked and other active processes will have to be executed
- This is the only case in which a statement is initially executable and then becomes blocked
- When s_i is executable again, and the “scheduler” selects the process, the rest of the atomic section is executed atomically again
 - unless a new s_j is blocked with $j > i$...



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Atomic Statements

- Another way of specifying atomic blocks is `d_step`
 $\{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$
- Again, executable iff s_1 is executable, but:
 - it is a (runtime) error if s_i is blocked with $i > 1$
 - each s_i must be deterministic
 - all statements seen till now are deterministic, later we will see non-deterministic ones
- thanks to these restrictions, `d_step` is more efficient than `atomic`
 - intermediate states need not to be generated, as they cannot block and then resume



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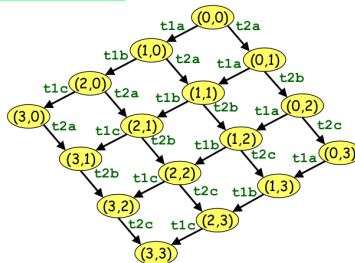
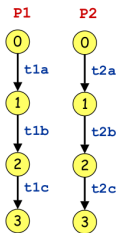


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Atomic Statements

```
proctype P1() { t1a; t1b; t1c }  
proctype P2() { t2a; t2b; t2c }  
init { run P1(); run P2() }
```

No atomicity



Not completely correct as each process has an implicit end-transition...



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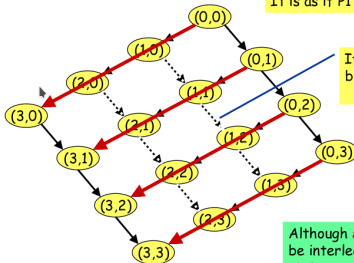
Atomic Statements

```
proctype P1() { atomic {t1a; t1b; t1c} }  
proctype P2() { t2a; t2b; t2c }  
init { run P1(); run P2() }
```

atomic

It is as if P1 has only one transition...

If one of P1's transitions blocks, these transitions may get executed



Although **atomic** clauses cannot be interleaved, the **intermediate states** are still constructed.



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- The `timeout` statement may be used to avoid deadlocks
 - that is, states where all processes only have blocked statements
- In fact, `timeout` is an expression
 - it becomes true (and thus, as a statement, executable) iff we are in a deadlock, in the sense described above
- Used as an escape in some cases



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- The if statement has a somewhat surprising syntax

if

:: $e_1 \rightarrow s_{11}; \dots; s_{1n_1}$

:

:: $e_m \rightarrow s_{m1}; \dots; s_{mn_m}$

fi

- inspired by Dijkstra guarded command language
- it is executable if there exists i s.t. e_i is executable
 - typically e_i are expressions, thus when e_i are true
- as a special expression, else is true (executable) iff all e_i are false (blocked)
 - thus, an if with an else is always executable
- if all e_i are blocked, then the if statement is blocked
- ; may be used instead of \rightarrow , which is actually syntactic sugar



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Blocked and Executable Statements

- The while statement does not exist in Promela
- Instead, we have

do

:: $e_1 \rightarrow s_{11}; \dots; s_{1n_1}$

:

:: $e_m \rightarrow s_{m1}; \dots; s_{mn_m}$

od

- as for the if, it is executable if there exists i s.t. e_i is executable
- if all e_i are blocked, then the do statement is blocked
- of course, if is executed only once, while do is executed forever
- more precisely: once, for some i , $s_{i1}; \dots; s_{in_i}$ is executed, the whole do is evaluated again
- to exit from a do, a break is necessary
- or some other escape, such as unless: see later



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Non-Determinism in Promela: Part II

- There are two sources of non-determinism in Promela:
 - inter-process, as a process may non-deterministically be chosen among all the currently active non-blocked processes
 - a non-blocked process is a process which current statement is executable
 - intra-process: using `if` or `do`
- In fact, if $E = \{e_{i_1}, \dots, e_{i_k} \mid e_{i_j} \text{ is executable}\}$ is such that $|E| > 1$, there will non-deterministically be $|E|$ successors
 - of course, for the current process only
 - other processes may have a current `if` or `do` as well



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Non-Determinism in Promela: Part II

if-statement (2)

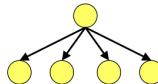
```
if
:: (n % 2 != 0) -> n=1
:: (n >= 0)      -> n=n-2
:: (n % 3 == 0)  -> n=3
:: else          -> skip
fi
```

- The **else** guard becomes **executable** if **none** of the other guards is executable.

give n a random value

```
if
:: skip -> n=0
:: skip -> n=1
:: skip -> n=2
:: skip -> n=3
fi
```

non-deterministic branching



skips are **redundant**, because assignments are themselves **always executable**...



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Other Promela

unless

```
{ <stats> } unless { guard; <stats> }
```

- Statements in *<stats>* are executed **until** the first statement (*guard*) in the escape sequence becomes **executable**.
- resembles **exception handling** in languages like Java
- *Example:*

```
proctype MicroProcessor() {  
  {  
    ...  
    /* execute normal instructions */  
  }  
  unless { port ? INTERRUPT; ... }  
}
```



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macros - **cpp** preprocessor

- Promela uses **cpp**, the **C preprocessor** to preprocess Promela models. This is useful to define:

- **constants**

```
#define MAX 4
```

All **cpp** commands start with a hash:
#define, **#ifdef**, **#include**, etc.

- **macros**

```
#define RESET_ARRAY(a) \  
d_step { a[0]=0; a[1]=0; a[2]=0; a[3]=0; }
```

- **conditional** Promela model fragments

```
#define LOSSY 1  
...  
#ifdef LOSSY  
active proctype Daemon() { /* steal messages */ }  
#endif
```



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Other Promela

inline - poor man's procedures

- Promela also has its own **macro-expansion** feature using the **inline**-construct.

```
inline init_array(a) {  
  d_step {  
    i=0;   
    do   
      :: i<N -> a[i] = 0; i++  
      :: else -> break  
    od;  
    i=0;  
  }  
}
```

Should be declared somewhere else (probably as a local variable).

Be sure to reset temporary variables.

- error messages are more **useful** than when using **#define**
- cannot** be used as **expression**
- all **variables** should be **declared somewhere else**



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Inter-Process Communication

- Two process may communicate using shared memory
 - that is, using global variables
 - one writes and the other reads
- If synchronization is required, busy waiting must be used
 - that is, read only after writing



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Inter-Process Communication

```
byte x;  
  
active [2] proctype user()  
{  
    byte y;  
    if  
    :: _pid == 0 -> x = 1  
    :: _pid == 1 -> y = x;  
    fi;  
    ...  
}
```

What if I want $y = x$ to happen only after $x = 1$?



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Inter-Process Communication

```
byte x;  
bit b = 0;  
active [2] proctype user()  
{  
    byte y;  
    if  
    :: _pid == 0 -> atomic{b = 1; x = 1}  
    :: _pid == 1 -> atomic{b == 1; y = x;}  
fi;  
    ...  
}
```



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Inter-Process Communication

- Two process may communicate using shared memory
 - that is, using global variables
 - one writes and the other reads
- Synchronization is however a problem, busy waiting is required



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Inter-Process Communication: Channels

- Fortunately, Promela offers a simple way to handle communication: FIFO channels
 - similar to OS message exchange via mailbox
- To declare a channel, the `chan` data type can be used
 - the modeler must specify both the size of the channel and the type of the messages to be exchanged
- Messages may be tuples
 - their types must be enclosed in brackets



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Communication (2)

- Communication between processes is via **channels**:
 - **message passing**
 - **rendez-vous** synchronisation (**handshake**)

- Both are defined as **channels**:

also called:
queue or buffer

```
chan <name> = [<dim>] of {<t1>, <t2>, ... <tn>};
```

name of
the channel

type of the elements that will be
transmitted over the channel

number of elements in the channel
dim==0 is special case: rendez-vous

```
chan c      = [1] of {bit};  
chan toR    = [2] of {mtype, bit};  
chan line[2] = [1] of {mtype, Record};
```

array of
channels



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Inter-Process Communication: Channels

- To send a message in a channel: `channel!value1,...valuen`
 - executable iff `channel` has size $m > 0$ and contains at most $m - 1$ messages
 - each message has size $n...$
- To receive a message in a channel: `channel?x1,...,xn`
 - if all x_i are variables, the first still undelivered message in `channel` is stored in each x_i , breaking down the tuple
 - executable iff the channel is not empty
 - if all x_i are constant values, the first still undelivered message in `channel` is compared to the values x_i , breaking down the tuple
 - executable iff the first message in the channel matches the given values
 - in this case, the message is removed from the channel
 - variables and constants may be mixed



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Inter-Process Communication: Rendez-Vous Channels

- It is sometimes desirable to also have blocking send
 - that is, if there is not some other process receiving on the channel, the send must block
 - reading is always blocking, if there is not something to be received
- This may be achieved using *rendez-vous* channel
- Defined using 0 as the channel size
- Both the sending and the reading process will block, till when the other process perform the dual operation
- Then, both of them go on to the following statement
 - only case in which two separate statement of two different process are executed at the same time



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Dijkstra Protocol in Promela

```
#define p 0
#define v 1
chan sema = [0] of { bit }; /* rendez-vous */

proctype dijkstra()
{
    byte count = 1; /* local variable */
    do
        :: (count == 1) -> sema!p; count = 0
        /* send 0 and blocks, unless some other
           proc is already blocked in reception */
        :: (count == 0) -> sema?v; count = 1
        /* receive 1, same as above */
    od
}
```



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Dijkstra Protocol in Promela

```
proctype user()  
{  
  do  
    :: sema?p;  
      /*      critical section      */  
      sema!v;  
      /* non-critical section */  
  od  
}  
  
init  
{  
  run dijkstra();  
  run user(); run user(); run user()  
}
```



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Inter-Process Communication: Channels

https:

[//en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternating_bit_protocol](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Alternating_bit_protocol)

DEMO

Alternating Bit Protocol (2)

```
mtype {MSG, ACK};  
chan toS = [2] of {mtype, bit};  
chan toR = [2] of {mtype, bit};  
  
proctype Sender(chan in, out)  
{  
  bit sendbit, rcvbit;  
  do  
    :: out ! MSG, sendbit ->  
      in ? ACK, rcvbit;  
    if  
      :: rcvbit == sendbit ->  
        sendbit = 1-sendbit  
      :: else  
        fi  
    od  
}
```

channel
length of 2

```
proctype Receiver(chan in, out)  
{  
  bit rcvbit;  
  do  
    :: in ? MSG(rcvbit) ->  
      out ! ACK(rcvbit);  
    od  
  }  
  
  init  
  {  
    run Sender(toS, toR);  
    run Receiver(toR, toS);  
  }  
}
```

Alternative notation:
ch ! MSG(par1, ...)
ch ? MSG(par1, ...)



Thursday 11-Apr-2002

Theo C. Ruys - SPIN Beginners' Tutorial

41



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Promela: Other

- Each statement may have a label (e.g. again in Peterson's protocol)
- If the label begins with “end”, then it is a valid end-state
- An end-state is valid if it has an “end” label or if it consists of the closing brackets of a process
- Any other state from which it is not possible to execute a transition triggers a verification error, claiming a *deadlock* has been found
- If the label begins with “accept”, then it is an accepting state
 - typically inside some neverclaim representing a BA of some LTL formula



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From Promela to Kripke Structures

- We define the Kripke structure $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, I, R, L \rangle$ corresponding to a given Promela model
 - $S = D_1 \times \dots \times D_n \times \{1, \dots, M_1\} \times \dots \times \{1, \dots, M_k\}$
 - here we are assuming n (flattened) local and global variables, including channels
 - we also assume there are k running processes, with process i having M_i statements inside it
 - this is due to the fact that *program counters* must be stored for each running process
 - so we can single out the exact statement to be executed in each process, being on some current state
 - if a D_i corresponds to `short` or `int`, then it has 2^{16} or 2^{32} values on a typical 64-bit architecture, as it is in C
 - a channel is essentially an array of structures



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From Promela to Kripke Structures

- This state space is *dynamic*, as it contains the *currently running* processes
 - new processes may be added at any time by a `run` statement
 - thus, the state space cannot be defined *in advance* as it is with Murphi
 - this could only be possible when only active proctypes are used, without `run` commands
 - however, local variables may be defined at any point inside proctypes, thus it is not possible even in that case
- Thus, state space grows: as new processes run and new local variables are reached
- ... and shrinks: as some process terminate



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From Promela to Kripke Structures

- $I = \{s_0\}$ where s_0 contains only processes defined as active and all global variables are zero
 - all program counters are at the beginning, local variables still does not exist
- Intuitively, $R(s, s')$ holds iff there is a running process p in s and an executable statement t at the current program counter of p s.t. t , when executed, leads from s to s'
 - if t is the beginning of an atomic sequence, then the whole atomic sequence must be executed
 - till the first blocking statement of the sequence
 - if t is a send on a rendez-vous channel c , and there is another current statement t' in another process p' s.t. t' is a receive on c , both t and t' have to be executed when leading from s to s'
- L is similar to Murphi, i.e., equations between (global and local) variables and values; however, also program counters must be considered



SPIN Simulation

Almost equal to Murphi one

```
void Make_a_run(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ )
{
  let  $\mathcal{N} = \langle S, \{s_0\}, \text{Post} \rangle$ ;
  s_curr =  $s_0$ ;
  if (some assertion fail in s_curr)
    return with error message;
  while (1) { /* loop forever */
    if (Post(s_curr) =  $\emptyset$ )
      return with deadlock message;
    s_next = pick_a_state(Post(s_curr));
    if (some assertion fail in s_curr)
      return with error message;
    s_curr = s_next;
  }
}
```



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SPIN Verification

- Able to answer to the following questions:
 - is there a deadlock (invalid end state)?
 - are there reachable assertions which fail (safety)?
 - is a given LTL formula (safety or liveness) ok in the current system?
 - is a given neverclaim (safety or liveness) ok in the current system?
- It is possible to specify some side behaviours:
 - is sending to a full channel blocking, or the message is dropped without blocking?
- It may report unreachable code
 - Promela statements in the model which are never executed



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SPIN Verification

- Similar to Murphi:
 - 1 the SPIN compiler (`SrcXXX/spin -a`) is invoked on `model.prm` and outputs 5 files:
 - `pan.c`, `pan.h`, `pan.m`, `pan.b`, `pan.t` (unless there are errors...)
 - 2 the 5 files given above are compiled with a C compiler
 - it is sufficient to compile `pan.c`, which includes all other files
 - in this way, an executable file `model` is obtained
 - 3 just execute `model`
 - option `--help` gives an overview of all possible options



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PAN: Protocol ANalyzer

- `pan.[ch]` is the fixed part of the verifier, it implements a DFS (also BFS starting from some later version, but less efficient), it also includes the other files
- `pan.t` creates a table with an entry for each statement in the source Promela model
 - for each statement, the corresponding values to execute the forward and backward in `pan.[bm]` are stored
 - this is needed for simulations and counterexamples



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PAN: Protocol ANalyzer

- `pan.m` is the part of the verifier which depends on the Promela model: it contains a C `switch` statement implementing the transition relation
 - very similar to Murphi Code implementing a rule body
 - given the current state, given a running process index i and the program counter p inside that process, it performs on `now` the modifications demanded by the Promela statement at line i of process p , so obtaining the next state
 - the current state is saved in a memory buffer called `now` which is very similar to the Murphi's `workingstate`
 - actually, a second index j is needed in the case the current statement is non-deterministic



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PAN: Protocol ANalyzer

- `pan.b`: the same of `pan.m`, but *backwards*!
 - actually, `pan.m` does not surprise and it is not conceptually difficult to understand and implement
 - implementing the same backwards is not straightforward, but SPIN does it!
 - essentially, all Promela instruction may be reversed, and the code to reverse them is in `pan.b`
 - PAN maintains old values for all variables in the state (i.e., values are saved before overwriting due to new assignments)
 - thanks to the fact that the visit is a DFS (SPIN is optimized for DFS), it is only needed to maintain the *last* values, thus a stack for each variable is used for this purpose



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PAN: Protocol ANalyzer

- On-the-fly exploration: as in Murphi, the RAM contains only the part of the graph which has been explored till now
 - only the states, no transitions between them
- Hash table for the visited states
 - Murphi uses open addressing, here the hash table is handled with collision lists
 - in order to speed up visited states check, such lists are ordered (i.e., each new state is inserted in order)
- Iterative DFS (recursive one is inefficient)
 - with gotos and global variables!
 - DFS stack is explicitly handled in a lighter and more efficient way



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Standard Recursive DFS

```
HashTable Visited =  $\emptyset$ ;
```

```
DFS(graph  $G = (V, E)$ , node  $v$ )  
{  
    Visited := Visited  $\cup v$ ;  
    foreach  $v' \in V$  t.c.  $(v, v') \in E$  {  
        if ( $v' \notin$  Visited)  
            DFS( $G, v'$ );  
    }  
}
```



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Iterative DFS

```
DFS(graph  $G = (V, E)$ )
{
     $s := \text{init}$ ;  $i := 1$ ;  $\text{depth} := 0$ ;
    push( $s$ , 1);
Down:
    if ( $s \in \text{Visited}$ )
        goto Up;
    Visited := Visited  $\cup$   $s$ ;
    let  $S' = \{s' \mid (s, s') \in E\}$ ;
    if ( $|S'| \geq i$ ) {
         $s := i\text{-th element in } S'$ ;
        increment  $i$  on the top of the stack;
        push( $s$ , 1);
         $\text{depth} := \text{depth} + 1$ ;
        goto Down;
    }
}
```



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Iterative DFS

```
Up:
  (s, i) := pop();
  depth := depth - 1;
  if (depth > 0)
    goto Down;
}
```



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DFS in PAN

```
DFS(NFSS  $\mathcal{N}$ )
{
  let  $\mathcal{N} = (S, I, \text{Post})$ ;
  now := init; depth := 0;
Down:
  if (now  $\in$  Visited)
    goto Up;
  Visited := Visited  $\cup$  now;
  foreach p s.t. p is a running process in now {
    foreach opt s.t. opt is enabled at p.pc {
      now := apply(now, p, opt);
/* no need of incrementing opt on the top of the
stack: when popping, it will be done by the
foreach on opt... */
      push(p, opt);
      depth := depth + 1;
      goto Down;
    }
  }
```



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DFS in PAN

Up:

```
    (p, opt) := pop();  
    depth := depth - 1;  
    now := undo(now, p, opt);  
} }  
if (depth > 0)  
    goto Down;  
}
```



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PAN: Just Two Indexes!

- The stack does *not* store states
- Instead, each stack entry stores a pair $\langle p, o \rangle$ of indices (integers)
 - p is a process pid
 - o identifies a statement at the current program counter of p
 - (recall that there may be non-determinism inside each process...)
 - so it is 8 bytes, whilst the current state may easily require some kB
- We now detail the rational behind this choice



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PAN: Just Two Indexes!

- There is just one initial state
- Let $\langle p_0, o_0 \rangle$ be the first (from the bottom) pair on the stack; it univocally identifies a statement $istr_0$ to be executed
- By applying $istr_0$ to s_0 we obtain a state s_1 (formally, $s_1 = \text{apply}(s_0, p_0, o_0)$)
- Analogously, $s_2 = \text{apply}(s_1, p_1, o_1)$ if $\langle p_1, o_1 \rangle$ is the second pair on the stack
- Thus, a stack $\langle \langle p_0, o_0 \rangle, \dots, \langle p_d, o_d \rangle \rangle$ univocally identifies a state s_d , obtained by chaining the executions due to pairs $\langle p_i, o_i \rangle$
- Formally, $\forall 1 \leq i \leq d \ s_i = \text{apply}(s_{i-1}, p_{i-1}, o_{i-1})$



PAN: Just Two Indexes!

- Moreover, SPIN is able to define the *undo* function, with the same parameters of the *apply* function
 - of course, *apply* is defined in `pan.m`, *undo* in `pan.b`
 - *undo* needs a stack of values for each variable, as explained above
 - however, it tries to minimise such stacks usage; e.g., if a $c = c + 2$ statement must be undone, then it is sufficient to execute $c = c - 2$
 - for direct assignments (e.g., $c = 4$), the *apply* function puts the preceding values of v in the stack of v before overwriting it with 4
 - *undo* will pop the value from the stack of v and put it back in v
 - this works because the whole visit is a DFS



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PAN: Just Two Indexes!

- Finally, recall we have a global fixed structure now implementing the current state
 - same as Murphi's `workingstate`
- Summing up, given what we said:
 - no need of pushing a whole state s in the DFS stack: SPIN pushes the pair $\langle p, o \rangle$ which generates s if applied to the current state
 - no need of popping a state s : SPIN pops the pair $\langle p, o \rangle$ which generates s if undone on the current state



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PAN: Details

- ch13.pdf adds some more details
- Atomic sequences handling:
 - if we are inside an atomic sequence, SPIN must take care that only the current process can execute
 - this is done by setting $From = To = II$ (line 44), which forces the for loop in line 24 to only select the current process
 - normal behaviour is reprised at line 46
 - a state may be searched and possibly inserted in the hash table (line 13) only if we are not in an atomic sequence



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PAN: Details

- ch13.pdf adds some more details
- timeout handling:
 - it is a Promela boolean expression, which is true iff the whole system deadlocks (all processes must execute non-executable statements)
 - thus, when the double for at lines 24 and 28 is finished without any statement being executable (thus, n is still 0) and this is not a valid end state, PAN tries to perform the whole computation again with timeout set to 1
 - linea 46 reprises the normal non-timeout behaviour



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PAN: Details

- ch13.pdf adds some more details
- Apply ed undo are implemented in pan.m (included at line 30) and pan.b (line 54)
 - if a statement cannot be executed, pan.m performs a C continue statement, which forces for in line 28 to go on with next iteration
 - otherwise, a goto P999 is executed
 - instead, pan.b executes goto R999
- Finally, recall that, for LTL verification, a nested DFS is used



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PAN: Counteracting State Space Explosion

- PAN has the same bit compression (called *byte masking*) and hash compaction techniques we described for Murphi
 - to enable hash compaction, compile `pan.c` with `-DHC`
 - byte masking is always enabled, compile with `-DNOCOMP` to disable it
 - simply align to bytes instead of 4-bytes words
 - also bitstate hashing, a precursor of hash compaction
 - stack cycling, i.e., efficiently use disk for DFS stack
- Other interesting techniques: collapse compression, minimized automaton (may be combined), partial order reduction
- First two techniques try to use less memory to represent the set of visited states so far
 - same goal of hash compaction et similia
- Last technique directly prunes the state space
 - same goal of symmetry reduction in Murphi



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Collapse Compression

- Less effective than hash compaction, but exhaustive as bit compression
 - to enable it, compile `pan.c` with `-DCOLLAPSE`
- Recall the main components of a Promela model: N processes, global variables, channels
- The idea is to store in the hashtable $N + 2$ state fragments, instead of a single state
 - this is the default, but you can put all processes together (`-DJOINPROCS`)
 - or separate channels with `DSEPPQS`
- A further special “order fragment” is used to say which is the first fragment, the second, ... till the $(N + 2)$ -th fragment



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Collapse Compression

- Thus, to decide if the current state is visited, first split it as described above
- If at least one fragment is not in the hashtable, the state is new
 - of course, the missing fragment(s) must be placed inside the hash table
 - for each of them, a unique identifier is generated and stored together with the fragment
 - the unique identifier is an integer with value i , if this is the i -th fragment to be generated
 - of course, only considering the current fragment typology...
 - the special order fragment contains the sequence of such identifiers



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Collapse Compression

- Otherwise, also the order fragment must be checked
 - if it is found, then the state is already visited
 - otherwise, insert the new fragment order and return the state as not visited
- Very good if there are many combinations of a few state fragments
 - the order fragment is much shorter than fragments concatenation



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Minimized Automaton

- Explicit model checking, borrowing ideas from symbolic model checking
- We still have the DFS as above, but as for visited states check there is not any hash table!
- It is replaced by a “minimized automaton” representing the visited states
 - here, a minimized automaton is essentially similar to those recognizing regular expressions
 - but they are limited: no cycles (it is a DAG), as there is a maximum length to the words



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Minimized Automaton

- Finite State Automaton (FSA) for regular expressions:
 $\mathcal{F} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \delta, q_0, F \rangle$
 - Q is the finite set of states
 - being $q_0 \in Q$ the initial state and $F \subseteq Q$ the final states
 - Σ is the alphabet (input symbols) of the regular expression
 - $\delta \subseteq Q \times \Sigma \times Q$ is the transition relation
- A word $w \in \Sigma^*$ is recognized if, starting from q_0 , it ends up in a final state in F
 - $w = \sigma_1 \dots \sigma_n$, $\langle q_0, \dots, q_n \rangle$ is such that $(q_{i-1}, w_i, q_i) \in \delta$ for $1 \leq i \leq n$
 - w is recognized iff $q_n \in F$
- $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})$ is the set of recognized words



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Minimized Automaton

- A minimized automaton \mathcal{F} is a special case of a FSA where:
 - $\Sigma = \{0, 1\}^8$ (input symbols are bytes)
 - $|F| = 1$
 - δ is deterministic, thus $\delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow Q$
 - $\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})$ is the set of bit sequences representing visited states, which implies $|\mathcal{L}(\mathcal{F})| < \infty$
 - as a consequence, there are no cycles induced by δ (it is a DAG)
 - “diamonds”, i.e., circuits, are still possible
 - the original definition of minimized automaton also has layers of states
 - s.t. δ goes from a state in level i to $i + 1$
- PAN incrementally constructs \mathcal{F} for each unvisited state
 - keeping it minimal w.r.t. the number of states
 - several heuristics are also used, not covered here



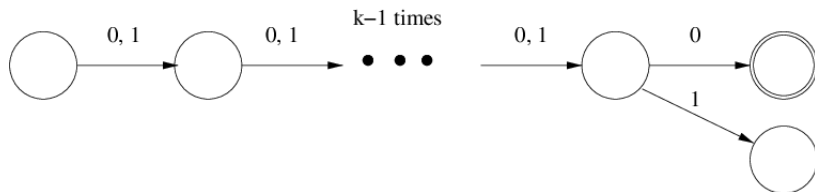
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Minimized Automaton: Why Effective?

- Suppose you have a k -bytes state vector, and that the visited states are exactly those having 8 zeros in the last byte
 - thus, a visited state is represented by $[0, 1]^{8(k-1)}0$
- Using an hash table, we have to store 2^{k-1} states
- Instead, using the minimized automaton:



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Minimized Automaton: Why Effective?

- As usual in Model Checking: impossible to a priori state that a given KS will be “well” represented by a minimized automaton, or collapse compression, or whatever
 - all such techniques may be seen as “heuristics” in some sense
- For the minimized automaton, some “regularity” is needed inside the bit representation of the set of visited state
- Also note that sometimes adding a state may improve regularity, making the minimized automaton smaller
 - and of course, in some other cases, adding a state may decrease regularity and make the automaton bigger

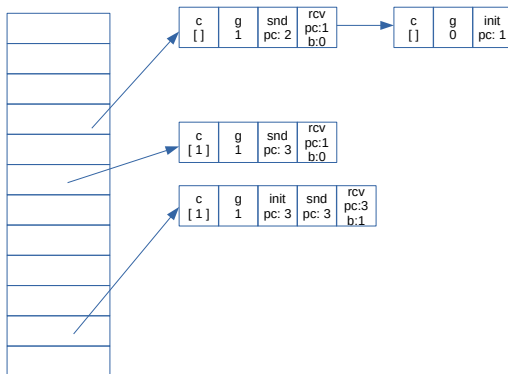


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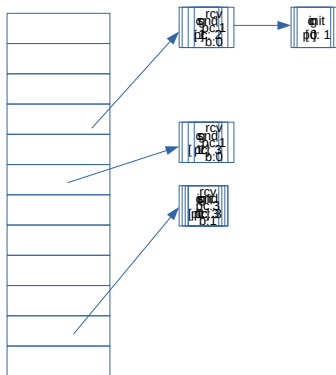


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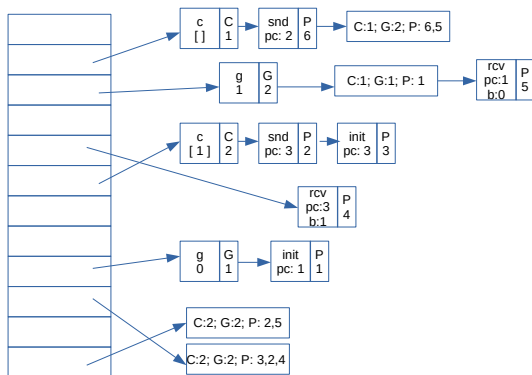
PAN Saving Memory Recap: Normal



PAN Saving Memory Recap: Hash Compaction



PAN Saving Memory Recap: Collapse



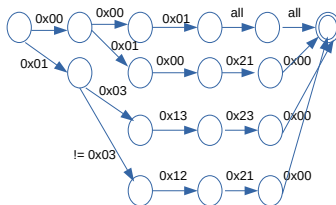
PAN Saving Memory Recap: Minimized Automaton

c []	g 1	snd pc: 2	rcv pc:1 b:0
0x00 01 12 210			

c []	g 0	init pc: 1	
0x00 00 01			

c [1]	g 1	snd pc: 3	rcv pc:1 b:0
0x01 01 12 210			

c [1]	g 1	init pc: 3	snd pc: 3	rcv pc:3 b:1
0x01 01 03 13 230				

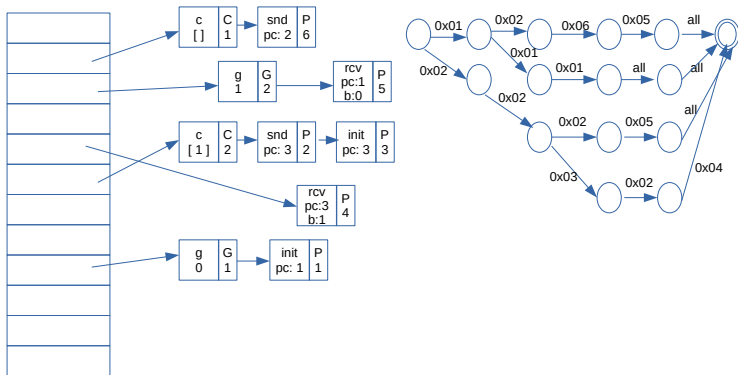


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PAN Saving Memory Recap: Collapse + Minimized Automaton



Partial Order Reduction

- POR does not try to use less memory to save the same states: it tries to save less states
 - while retaining correctness, of course
 - some states are “useless” and need not to be explored (and saved)
 - also saves in computation time, of course
- Similar to Murphi symmetry for the goal, but different in use and algorithm
 - use: Murphi modeler must specify which parts of the model are symmetric
 - in SPIN, POR is directly applied without the modeler being aware of it
 - though it is possible to disable it



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Partial Order Reduction

- There are many ways to perform POR; here, we focus on *ample sets*
- The main idea is that not all interleavings of processes must actually be expanded
 - if we have, e.g., 2 processes, for some actions it is not important if we execute P1 and then P2 or viceversa
- We need an algorithm to decide when only one interleaving can be considered, retaining verification correctness
 - such algorithm must have a low overhead
 - must also work locally (we cannot first expand all reachable states and then decide which one can be removed...)



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Partial Order Reduction

- Let $\mathcal{P} = \langle Q, q_0, T \rangle$ be a *finite state program* (FSP) where:
 - Q is a finite set of states, $q_0 \in Q$ is the start state
 - T is a finite set of *operations*
 - also called *actions* or *transitions*
 - each action $t \in T$ is a partial function $t : Q \rightarrow Q \cup \{\perp\}$
 - i.e., executing t from a state q generates a new state $q' = t(q)$
 - we also define, for each action $t \in T$, the set $\text{en}_t = \{q \in Q \mid t(q) \neq \perp\}$
 - furthermore, the function $\text{en} : Q \rightarrow 2^T$ returns all actions enabled in a state q , i.e., $\text{en}(q) = \{t \in T \mid q \in \text{en}_t\}$
 - paths are sequences $\pi = r_0 \alpha_0 r_1 \dots$
 - notation: $\pi^{(q)}(i) = r_i$, $\pi^{(a)}(i) = \alpha_i$
 - of course, $r_{i+1} = \alpha_i(r_i)$, $\alpha_{i+1} \in \text{en}(r_i)$



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Partial Order Reduction

- From an FSP $\mathcal{P} = \langle Q, I, T \rangle$ it is easy to generate a KS $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, J, R, L \rangle$
 - $Q = S, J = I$
 - $(s, s') \in R$ iff $\exists t \in \text{en}(s) : s' = t(s)$
 - L may be defined as needed
- Note that actions are deterministic, but the resulting KS may be non-deterministic
 - there may exists $t, t' \in T$ s.t. $t \neq t', q \in \text{en}_t \cap \text{en}_{t'} \neq \emptyset$ and $t(q) \neq t'(q)$
- It is easy to see that a Promela model is close to an FSP: each action is a statement
 - thus, an action is identified by a PID and a statement inside that PID
 - of course, states are defined as above from Promela to KSs



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Partial Order Reduction

- Given an FSP $\mathcal{P} = \langle Q, I, T \rangle$, an *ample selector* is a function $\text{amp} : Q \rightarrow 2^T$ s.t. $\text{amp}(q) \subseteq \text{en}(q)$
 - for a given $q \in Q$, $\text{amp}(q)$ is an *ample set*
- An ample selector defines a new KS $\mathcal{S}' = \langle S, I, R', L \rangle$, where $(s, s') \in R'$ iff $\exists t \in \text{amp}(s) : s' = t(s)$
 - of course, $R' \subseteq R$
 - from a DFS point of view, we normally expand actions in $\text{en}(q)$; instead, here we expand only $\text{amp}(q)$
- We want to choose a *POR-sound* amp
 - $\mathcal{S} \models \varphi$ iff $\mathcal{S}' \models \varphi$
 - we start by considering only invariants (assertions) as φ
- We want to compute $\text{amp}(q)$ (almost) only looking at current state q
 - must be simple, i.e., with little overhead
 - no need to be optimal



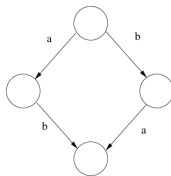
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Partial Order Reduction: Independent Actions

- Two actions $\alpha, \beta \in T$ are *independent* iff
$$\forall q \in \text{en}_\alpha \cap \text{en}_\beta. \alpha(q) \in \text{en}_\beta \wedge \beta(q) \in \text{en}_\alpha \wedge \alpha(\beta(q)) = \beta(\alpha(q))$$
 - i.e., α, β can be executed in any order, obtaining the same result
 - otherwise, α, β are *dependent*, which means that $\exists q \in \text{en}_\alpha \cap \text{en}_\beta : \alpha(q) \in \text{en}_\beta \wedge \beta(q) \in \text{en}_\alpha \rightarrow \alpha(\beta(q)) \neq \beta(\alpha(q))$
 - in this case, it is both α dependent on β and viceversa
 - example 1: two actions modifying local variables only are always independent
 - example 2: two actions modifying the same global variable are always dependent



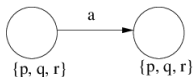
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Partial Order Reduction: Invisible Actions

- An action α is *invisible* w.r.t. a labeling $L : Q \rightarrow 2^{AP}$ iff $\forall q \in \text{en}_\alpha. L(q) = L(\alpha(q))$



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Partial Order Reduction: Conditions for amp

- Recall:
 - we are performing a DFS of the KS generated by an FSP
 - we have a current state q
 - we want to decide if we can consider $\text{amp}(q) \subset \text{en}(q)$ instead of $\text{en}(q)$
- The first 2 conditions only look at q and its actions
 - $\forall q \in Q. \text{en}(q) \neq \emptyset \rightarrow \text{amp}(q) \neq \emptyset$
 - otherwise, we have introduced a deadlock...
 - $\forall q \in Q. \text{amp}(q) \subset \text{en}(q) \rightarrow (\forall \alpha \in \text{amp}(q). \alpha \text{ is invisible})$
 - if we cut some actions, then this must not affect the labeling
 - this also means that only invisible actions can be cut



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Partial Order Reduction: Conditions for amp

The remaining conditions also considers paths starting from q

- $\forall q \in Q, \forall \pi \in \text{Path}(\mathcal{P}, q). (\exists i \geq 0, \alpha \in \text{amp}(q) : \pi^{(a)}(i), \alpha \text{ are dependent}) \rightarrow \exists j < i : \pi^{(a)}(j) \in \text{amp}(q)$
- if this is true, then either:
 - there exists an $\alpha \in \text{amp}(q)$ which is the first from $\text{amp}(q)$ in π
 - then, α is independent on all previous actions on π , and can be executed for first
 - otherwise, there exists an $\alpha \in \text{amp}(q)$ which is independent on all other actions in σ
 - again, such α can be executed first



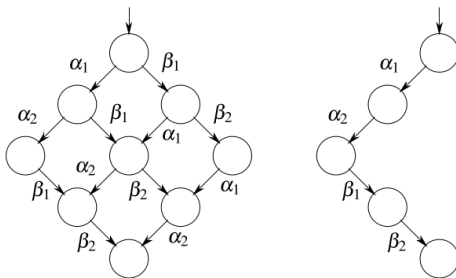
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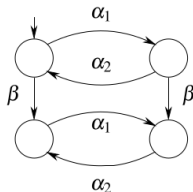
Partial Order Reduction: Conditions for amp

- Example till now: α_1, β_1 and α_2, β_2 are independent



Partial Order Reduction: Conditions for amp

- Essentially, POR *defers* execution of some actions
 - not executing an action at all means that a meaningful portion of the state space is omitted
- With these 3 conditions only, it may happen that an action is never expanded, due to cycles
 - in the example below, β is independent on both α_1, α_2



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Partial Order Reduction: Conditions for amp

The remaining condition rules out the problem with cycles

- Consider a DFS on the reduced KS, and suppose an expanded state q is detected as already visited
- We also check if it is on the DFS stack; this implies:
 - there is a cycle
 - some part of the q sub-tree has not be explored
- Then, $\text{amp}(q) = \text{en}(q)$
 - i.e., q must be fully expanded



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Partial Order Reduction with LTL Formulas

- It seemed that POR with ample set was ok for any *stutter-invariant* LTL formula
 - recall that a formula φ may be viewed as the set (language) of words $\mathcal{L}(\varphi)$ in AP^* which are recognized by φ
 - φ is stutter-invariant iff, for any sequence of integers $i_j \in \mathbb{N}$ and $w = p_0 p_1 \dots \in \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$, $p_0^{i_0} p_1^{i_1} \dots \in \mathcal{L}(\varphi)$
 - essentially, by repeating any character in the word for any number of times you still obtain a word in the language
 - if φ does not contain **X**, then it is stutter-invariant
 - viceversa does not hold
- However an error was discovered (and corrected) in 2019



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