Actris: Session-Type Based Reasoning in Separation Logic

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The Actor model and message passing

Principled way of writing concurrent programs

- Isolation of concurrent behaviour
- Threads as services and clients
- ▶ Used in Erlang, Elixir, Go, Java, Scala, F# and C#

Message passing primitives

```
new_chan (), send c v, recv c
```

```
Example: let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {let x = recv c' in send c' (x + 2)};
send c 40; recv c
```

Many variants of message passing exist

We consider: asynchronous, order-preserving and reliable

Problem

Message passing is not a silver bullet for concurrency

"We studied 15 large, mature, and actively maintained actor programs written in Scala and found that 80% of them mix the actor model with another concurrency model." [Tasharofi et al., ECOOP'13]

Problem: No existing solution for dependent high-level actor-based reasoning in combination with existing concurrency models for functional correctness

- ▶ **Dependent:** dependency on previously communicated messages
- ▶ High-level: communication of references, channels and higher-order functions

Key Idea

Protocols akin to session types for specifications in concurrent separation logic

Session types [Honda et al., ESOP'98]

- Type system for channels
- ► Example: !N.?N.end
- Ensures safety and session fidelity

Concurrent separation logic [O'Hearn & Brooks, CONCUR'04]

- ▶ Logic for reasoning about concurrent programs with mutable state
- ► Example: $\{I \mapsto v\} I \leftarrow w \{I \mapsto w\}$
- Ensures functional correctness

Contributions

Actris: A concurrent separation logic for proving *functional correctness* of programs that combine *message passing* with other programming and concurrency paradigms

- ► Introducing dependent separation protocols
- Integration with Iris and its existing concurrency mechanisms
- Verification of feature-heavy programs including a variant of map-reduce
- ► Full mechanization in Coq (https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/)



Features of dependent separation protocols

Specification and proof system for message passing that allows

- ► Resources: sending references
- ► **Higher-order:** sending function closures
- Delegation: sending channels over channels
- ▶ **Dependent:** dependency on previous messages
- Recursion: looping protocols
- Branching: protocols with choice
- ► Manifest sharing: sharing channel endpoints

Features of dependent separation protocols

Specification and proof system for message passing that allows

- ▶ **Resources:** sending references
- ► **Higher-order:** sending function closures
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- Dependent: dependency on previous messages
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- Manifest sharing: sharing channel endpoints

Tour of Actris

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Tour of Actris - Goal

Language: ML-like language extended with concurrency, state and message passing

Example program:

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {let x = \text{recv } c' \text{ in send } c' (x + 2)};
send c 40; recv c
```

Goal: prove that returned value is 42

Session types

Symbols

```
st \triangleq |T.st|
?T.st|
end |\dots|
```

Example

 $!\mathbb{N}.?\mathbb{N}.end$

Duality

$$\frac{\overline{!T.st}}{\overline{?T.st}} = ?T.\overline{st}$$

$$\overline{end} = !T.\overline{st}$$
end

Rules

$$\begin{array}{l} \mathtt{new_chan} \; () : st \otimes \overline{st} \\ \\ \mathtt{send} : (!T.st \otimes T) \multimap st \\ \\ \mathtt{recv} : ?T.st \multimap (T \otimes st) \end{array}$$

Tour of Actris - Type checked

Example program:

```
let (c, c') = \text{new\_chan} () in
fork {let x = \text{recv } c' \text{ in send } c' (x + 2)};
send c 40; recv c
```

Session types:

```
c : !\mathbb{N}.?\mathbb{N}.end and c' : ?\mathbb{N}.!\mathbb{N}.end
```

Properties obtained:

- ▼ Functional correctness

Dependent separation protocols - Definitions

| | Dependent separation protocols | Session types |
|---------|--|---|
| Symbols | $prot \triangleq ! \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot $ $? \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot $ end | $st \triangleq !T.st \mid ?T.st \mid$ end $\mid \dots$ |
| Example | $!(x:\mathbb{N})\langle x\rangle\{True\}.?(y:\mathbb{N})\langle y\rangle\{y=x+2\}.$ end | $\mathbb{N}.\mathbb{N}.$ end |
| Duality | $ \frac{\vec{!} \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot}{\vec{?} \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot} = \vec{?} \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot} = \vec{!} \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot} = \vec{!} \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot} = \text{end} $ | $ \frac{\overline{!T.st}}{\overline{?T.st}} = ?T.\overline{st} \\ \overline{?T.st} = !T.\overline{st} \\ \overline{end} = end $ |
| Usage | $c \rightarrowtail \mathit{prot}$ | c : st |

Dependent separation protocols - Rules

| | Dependent separation protocols | Session types |
|------|---|---|
| New | | $\mathtt{new_chan}\;():st\otimes\overline{st}$ |
| Send | $ \begin{cases} c \rightarrowtail ! \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \ \textit{prot} * P[\vec{t}/\vec{x}] \} \\ \text{send} \ c \ (v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]) \\ \{c \rightarrowtail \textit{prot}[\vec{t}/\vec{x}] \} \end{cases} $ | $\mathtt{send}: (!T.st \otimes T) \multimap st$ |
| Recv | $ \begin{cases} c \rightarrowtail ? \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \ prot \} \\ \text{recv } c \\ \{w. \exists \vec{y}. \ (w = v[\vec{y}/\vec{x}]) * P[\vec{y}/\vec{x}] * c \rightarrowtail prot[\vec{y}/\vec{x}] \} \end{cases} $ | $recv: ?T.st \multimap (T \otimes st)$ |

Tour of Actris - Verified

Example program:

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {let x = recv c' in send c' (x + 2)};
send c 40; recv c
```

Dependent separation protocols:

$$c \mapsto !(x:\mathbb{N}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ?(y:\mathbb{N}) \langle y \rangle \{ y = x+2 \}. \text{ end}$$
 and $c' \mapsto ?(x:\mathbb{N}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. !(y:\mathbb{N}) \langle y \rangle \{ y = x+2 \}. \text{ end}$

Properties obtained:

- $f \checkmark$ Type safety / session fidelity
- ✓ Functional correctness

Tour of Actris - References

Example program:

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {let \ell = recv c' in \ell \leftarrow ! \ell + 2; send c' ()};
let \ell = ref 40 in send c \ell; recv c; ! \ell
```

Dependent separation protocols:

```
c \mapsto ! (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{\ell \mapsto x\}. ? \langle () \rangle \{\ell \mapsto x + 2\}. \text{ end} and c \mapsto ? (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{\ell \mapsto x\}. ! \langle () \rangle \{\ell \mapsto x + 2\}. \text{ end}
```

Tour of Actris - References

Example program:

```
 \begin{array}{c} \operatorname{let}\left(c,c'\right) = \operatorname{new\_chan}\left(\right) \operatorname{in} \\ \operatorname{fork}\left\{\operatorname{let}\ell = \operatorname{recv}\ c' \operatorname{in}\ell \leftarrow !\,\ell + 2; \ \operatorname{send}\ c'\left(\right)\right\}; \\ \operatorname{let}\ell = \operatorname{ref}\ 40 \operatorname{in}\operatorname{send}\ c\ \ell; \ \operatorname{recv}\ c; \ !\,\ell \\ \end{array}   \left\{\operatorname{True}\right\}\operatorname{ref}\ v\left\{\ell.\ \ell \mapsto v\right\}
```

Dependent separation protocols:

$$c \mapsto ! (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ? \langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x + 2 \}.$$
 end $c \mapsto ? (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ! \langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x + 2 \}.$ end

Tour of Actris - References

Example program:

```
 \begin{array}{c} \operatorname{let}\left(c,c'\right) = \operatorname{new\_chan}\left(\right) \operatorname{in} \\ \operatorname{fork}\left\{\operatorname{let}\ell = \operatorname{recv}\ c' \operatorname{in}\ell \leftarrow !\ \ell + 2; \ \operatorname{send}\ c' \left(\right)\right\}; \\ \operatorname{let}\ell = \operatorname{ref}\ 40 \operatorname{in}\operatorname{send}\ c\ \ell; \ \operatorname{recv}\ c; \ !\ \ell \\ \end{array}   \left\{\operatorname{True}\right\}\operatorname{ref}\ v\left\{\ell.\ \ell\mapsto v\right\} \\ \left\{\ell\mapsto v\right\}\ !\ \ell\left\{w.\ w = v \land \ell\mapsto v\right\} \\ \end{array}
```

Dependent separation protocols:

$$c \mapsto ! (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ? \langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x + 2 \}.$$
 end $c \mapsto ? (\ell : \mathsf{Loc}) (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ! \langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x + 2 \}.$ end

Soundness and implementation of Actris

Soundness of Actris

If $\{\text{True}\}\ e\ \{v.\ \phi(v)\}\$ is provable in Actris then:

- ✓ Type safety/session fidelity: e will not crash and not send wrong messages
- \checkmark Functional correctness: If e terminates with v, the postcondition $\phi(v)$ holds

Obtained by modeling Actris as an embedded domain-specific logic in Iris

- ► A language-independent higher-order impredicative concurrent separation logic in Coq
- Exactly what we need

Implementation and model of Actris in Iris

Approach:

- ▶ Implement new_chan, send, and recv as a library using lock-protected buffers
- Define prot using Iris's recursive domain equation solver
- ▶ Define $c \mapsto prot$ using Iris's invariant and ghost state machinery
- Prove Actris's proof rules as lemmas in Iris

Benefits:

- Actris's soundness result is a corollary of Iris's soundness
- ✓ Very small Coq mechanization (200 lines for channel implementation and proofs, 1000 lines for the definition and proof rules of $c \rightarrow prot$, 450 lines for Coq tactics specific for message passing)
- ✓ Readily integrates with other concurrency mechanisms in Iris

Integration with other concurrency mechanisms in Iris

Example program:

Dependent separation protocols:

```
lock\_prot\ (n:\mathbb{N}) 	riangleq 	ext{if } n=0 	ext{ then end else } ?\langle 21 \rangle.lock\_prot\ (n-1)
c \mapsto lock\_prot\ 2 	ext{ and } 	ext{ } c' \mapsto \overline{lock\_prot\ 2}
```

Proof:

- ► Main thread: follows immediately from Actris's rules
- Forked-off thread: requires reasoning about locks using Iris

Beyond this talk

Features:

- ► **Higher-order:** sending function closures
- Delegation: sending channels over channels
- ▶ **Branching:** protocols with choice

Case Studies:

- Various distributed merge sort variants
- Distributed load-balancing mapper
- ► A variant of map-reduce

Model:

- ▶ Protocols: *prot*
- ightharpoonup Ownership: $c \rightarrow prot$

In the paper!

Ongoing and future work

- ► Semantic model of session types via logical relations (Daniël Louwrink)
- Reasoning about deadlock freedom in separation logic (Jules Jacobs)
- Multi-party variant of dependent separation protocols (based on [Honda et al., POPL'08])
- Communication between distributed systems with logical marshalling
- Linearity of channels through Iron [Bizjak et al., POPL'19]
 - Ensure channels are closed

Locks

Example program:

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in

\begin{cases}
let /k = new\_lock () in \\
fork {acquire /k; send c' 21; release /k}; \\
acquire /k; send c' 21; release /k
\end{cases};

recv c + recv c
```

Dependent separation protocols:

```
\begin{array}{c} \texttt{lock\_prot}\;(n:\mathbb{N}) \triangleq \texttt{if}\; n = 0 \; \texttt{then} \; \texttt{end} \; \texttt{else}\; \textbf{?} \; \langle 21 \rangle. \texttt{lock\_prot}\; (n-1) \\ c \rightarrowtail \texttt{lock\_prot}\; 2 \qquad \text{and} \qquad c' \rightarrowtail \overline{\texttt{lock\_prot}\; 2} \end{array}
```

Hoare Triple for critical section:

```
 \{\text{is\_lock } \textit{lk} \ (\exists \textit{n. } \textit{c'} \rightarrowtail \overline{\text{lock\_prot } \textit{n}} * [\bullet \textit{n} : \text{AUTH}(\mathbb{N})]^{\gamma}) * [\circ 1 : \text{AUTH}(\mathbb{N})]^{\gamma} \}  acquire \textit{lk}; send \textit{c'} \ 21; release \textit{lk} \ \{\text{True}\}
```

The Model of Actris - Channels

Channels encoded directly on top of HeapLang as a pair of lock-protected buffers $(c_1, c_2) \mapsto (\vec{v_1}, \vec{v_2})$

The rules enqueue and dequeue as one would expect

The Model of Actris - Dependent separation protocols

Defined in Continuation-Passing Style to allow use of quantifiers and have positive position of recursive occurrence

```
\begin{array}{ccc} \text{iProto} & \cong & 1 + \big(\mathbb{B} \times \big( \text{Val} \to \big( \blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \to \text{iProp} \big) \to \text{iProp} \big) \big) \\ & \text{end} & \triangleq & \text{inj}_1 \big( \big) \\ ! \, \vec{x} \colon \vec{\tau} \, \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \, \textit{prot} & \triangleq & \text{inj}_2 \, \big( \text{true}, \lambda \, w \, (f \colon \blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \to \text{iProp}). \, \exists (\vec{x} \colon \vec{\tau}). \, (v = w) * \triangleright P * f (\text{next } \textit{prot}) \big) \\ ? \, \vec{x} \colon \vec{\tau} \, \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \, \textit{prot} & \triangleq & \text{inj}_2 \, \big( \text{false}, \lambda \, w \, (f \colon \blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \to \text{iProp}). \, \exists (\vec{x} \colon \vec{\tau}). \, (v = w) * \triangleright P * f (\text{next } \textit{prot}) \big) \end{array}
```

Supplied function eventually chosen as an equivalence

$$f \triangleq (\lambda \operatorname{prot}' \cdot \operatorname{prot}' = \operatorname{next} \operatorname{prot})$$

The Model of Actris - Endpoint ownership

Protocol ownership "c → prot" encoded via ghost state and invariants

$$c \rightarrowtail \textit{prot} \triangleq \exists \gamma_1 \ \gamma_2 \ c_1 \ c_2. \left((c = c_1 * \gamma_1 \mapsto_{\circ} \textit{prot}) \lor (c = c_2 * \gamma_2 \mapsto_{\circ} \textit{prot}) \right) * \boxed{I \ \gamma_1 \ \gamma_2 \ c_1 \ c_2}$$

Protocol Invariant - One buffer is always empty

$$\begin{array}{c} \textit{I } \gamma_1 \ \gamma_2 \ \textit{c}_1 \ \textit{c}_2 \triangleq \exists \vec{v}_1 \ \vec{v}_2 \ \textit{prot}_1 \ \textit{prot}_2. \left(\textit{c}_1, \textit{c}_2 \right) \rightarrowtail \left(\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \right) * \\ \gamma_1 \mapsto_{\bullet} \textit{prot}_1 * \gamma_2 \mapsto_{\bullet} \textit{prot}_2 * \\ \triangleright \left((\vec{v}_2 = \epsilon * \mathsf{interp} \ \vec{v}_1 \ \textit{prot}_1 \ \textit{prot}_2) \lor \\ \left((\vec{v}_1 = \epsilon * \mathsf{interp} \ \vec{v}_2 \ \textit{prot}_2 \ \textit{prot}_1) \end{array} \right) \end{aligned}$$

Duality and ownership of resources in transit

```
\begin{array}{l} \operatorname{interp} \ \epsilon \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \triangleq \operatorname{prot}_1 = \overline{\operatorname{prot}}_2 \\ \operatorname{interp} \ ([v] \cdot \vec{v}) \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \triangleq \exists \varPhi \ \operatorname{prot}_2'. \left(\operatorname{prot}_2 = \operatorname{inj}_2 \left(\operatorname{false}, \varPhi\right)\right) * \\ \varPhi \ v \ (\lambda \ \operatorname{prot}'. \ \operatorname{prot}' = \operatorname{next} \ \operatorname{prot}_2') * \\ \rhd \operatorname{interp} \ \vec{v} \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \operatorname{prot}_2' \end{array}
```

Distributed merge sort

Program:

```
sort_service\ cmp\ c\ \triangleq
  let l = recv c in
  if |I| \leq 1 then send c () else
  let I' = split I in
  let c_1 = start (sort_service cmp) in
  let c_2 = start (sort_service cmp) in
  send c_1 1: send c_2 1':
  recv c1; recv c2;
  merge cmp \mid l': send c()
 start e ≜
   let f = e in
   let(c,c') = new\_chan()in
   fork { f c' } : c
```

Dependent separation protocol:

```
sort_prot (I: T \to Val \to iProp) (R: T \to T \to \mathbb{B}) \triangleq
          ?\vec{x} \ell \langle \ell \rangle \{\ell \mapsto_{\ell} \vec{x}\}.
          |\vec{y}\rangle\langle ()\rangle \{ \ell \mapsto_I \vec{y} * \text{sorted\_of}_R \vec{y} \vec{x} \}. \text{ end}
    \left\{\begin{array}{l} cmp\_spec\ I\ R\ cmp\ * \\ c \longrightarrow sort\_prot\ I\ R \end{array}\right\}
          sort_service cmp c
     \{c \mapsto \text{end}\}
cmp_spec I R cmp \triangleq
          \forall x_1 \ x_2 \ v_1 \ v_2 \ \{I \ x_1 \ v_1 * I \ x_2 \ v_2\}
                                        cmp \ v_1 \ v_2
                                    \{r, r = R \times_1 \times_2 * I \times_1 \vee_1 * I \times_2 \vee_2\}
```

Fine-grained merge sort

Program:

```
sort_service_{f\sigma} cmp c \triangleq
  branch c with
    right \Rightarrow select c right
    \texttt{left} \; \Rightarrow \;
     let x_1 = recv c in
     branch c with
       right \Rightarrow select \ c \ left;
                    send c x_1;
                    select c right
       left \Rightarrow
        let x_2 = recv c in
         let c_1 = start sort_service<sub>fg</sub> cmp in
         let c_2 = \text{start sort\_service}_{f\sigma} cmp in
         select c_1 left; send c_1 x_1;
         select c2 left; send c2 x2;
         split_{f\sigma} c c_1 c_2; merge_{f\sigma} cmp c c_1 c_2
     end
  end
```

Dependent separation protocol:

```
\mathsf{sort\_prot}_{\mathsf{for}} (I: T \to \mathsf{Val} \to \mathsf{iProp}) (R: T \to T \to \mathbb{B}) \triangleq
    sort_prot_{\epsilon_m}^{head} IR \epsilon
sort_{-prot_{f\sigma}}^{head} I R \triangleq
        \mu (rec: List T \to iProto).
             \lambda \vec{x}. (? \times v \langle v \rangle \{I \times v\}. rec (\vec{x} \cdot [x]))
                       & sort_prot_{\epsilon_r}^{\text{tail}} I R \vec{x} \epsilon
sort_prot_{fr}^{tail} IR \triangleq
        \mu (rec : List T \to \text{List } T \to \text{iProto}).
             \lambda \vec{x} \vec{y}. (! y \ v \langle v \rangle \{ (\forall i < |\vec{y}|. R \vec{y}, y) * I \ y \ v \}. rec \vec{x} \ (\vec{v} \cdot [v]))
                      \{\mathsf{True}\} \oplus \{\vec{x} \equiv_n \vec{v}\} end
```

Distributed mapper

Program:

Dependent separation protocol:

```
\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{mapper\_prot} I_T \ I_U \ (f: T \to \operatorname{List} \ U) \triangleq & \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \{Q_1\} \oplus \{Q_2\} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \triangleq \\ & \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \{Q_1\} \oplus \{Q_2\} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \triangleq \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ (b: \mathbb{B}) \ \langle b \rangle \{ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ Q_1 \operatorname{else} \ Q_2 \}. \\ & \ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \operatorname{else} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ (b: \mathbb{B}) \ \langle b \rangle \{ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \operatorname{else} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \}. \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ (m-1) \Rightarrow (X = \emptyset) \} \oplus \{ \operatorname{True} \} \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ \times \ \ell \ \langle \ell \rangle \{ x \in X \ast \ell \mapsto_{I_U} (f \ x) \}. \ \operatorname{rec} \ n \ (X \setminus \{x\}) \end{array}
 \begin{array}{c} \operatorname{prot}_1 \ \{Q_1\} \otimes \{Q_2\} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \triangleq \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ (b: \mathbb{B}) \ \langle b \rangle \{ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ Q_1 \operatorname{else} \ Q_2 \}. \\ & \ \operatorname{l} \ (b: \mathbb{B}) \ \langle b \rangle \{ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ \operatorname{Q}_1 \operatorname{else} \ \operatorname{Q}_2 \}. \\ & \ \operatorname{if} \ b \operatorname{then} \ \operatorname{prot}_1 \operatorname{else} \ \operatorname{prot}_2 \end{cases}
```

Distributed mapper - Specification

Concurrent Spec of Mapper Worker:

```
 \begin{cases} \text{f\_spec } I_T \ I_U \ f \ f_v * \text{contrib}_Y \ \emptyset * \\ \text{is\_lock } I_K \ \left( \frac{\exists n \ X. \ \text{auth}_Y \ n \ X *}{\text{mapper\_prot } I_T \ I_U \ f \ n \ X} \right) \end{cases}   \qquad \qquad \text{f\_spec } \left( T \ U : \text{Type} \right) \left( f_v : \text{Val} \right) \triangleq \\ \forall x \ v. \ \left\{ I_T \ x \ v \right\} \ f_v \ v \left\{ \ell. \ \ell \mapsto_{I_U} f \ x \right\}   \text{mapper\_worker } f_v \ I_K \ c   \{ \text{True} \}
```

Ghost Theory: