Semantics and Verification of Software

Lecture 18: Nondeterminism and Parallelism III (Calculus of Communicating Systems)

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Summer Semester 2013

Outline

The Calculus of Communicating Systems

History:

- Robin Milner: *A Calculus of Communicating Systems*
  LNCS 92, Springer, 1980
- Robin Milner: *Communication and Concurrency*
  Prentice-Hall, 1989
- Robin Milner: *Communicating and Mobile Systems: the π-calculus*
  Cambridge University Press, 1999

Approach: describing parallelism on a simple and abstract level, using only a few basic primitives

- no explicit storage (variables)
- no explicit representation of values (numbers, Booleans, ...)

$\Rightarrow$ parallel system reduced to communication potential

Syntax of CCS I

Definition 18.1 (Syntax of CCS)

- Let N be a set of (action) names.
- $\overline{N} := \{\overline{a} \mid a \in N\}$ denotes the set of co-names.
- $Act := N \cup \overline{N} \cup \{\tau\}$ is the set of actions where τ denotes the silent (or: unobservable) action.
- Let Pid be a set of process identifiers.
- The set Prc of process expressions is defined by the following syntax:

$$
\begin{array}{llll}
P & ::= & \mathsf{nil} & \text{(inaction)} \\
 & \mid & \alpha.P & \text{(prefixing)} \\
 & \mid & P_1 + P_2 & \text{(choice)} \\
 & \mid & P_1 \parallel P_2 & \text{(parallel composition)} \\
 & \mid & \mathsf{new}\ a\ P & \text{(restriction)} \\
 & \mid & A(a_1, \ldots, a_n) & \text{(process call)}
\end{array}
$$

  where $\alpha \in Act$, $a, a_i \in N$, and $A \in Pid$.

Definition 18.1 (continued)

- A (recursive) process definition is an equation system of the form

$$(A_i(a_{i1}, \ldots, a_{in_i}) = P_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq k)$$

where $k \geq 1$, $A_i \in Pid$ (pairwise different), $n_i \in \mathbb{N}$, $a_{ij} \in N$ ($a_{i1}, \ldots, a_{in_i}$ pairwise different), and $P_i \in Prc$ (with process identifiers from $\{A_1, \ldots, A_k\}$).

Notational Conventions:

- $\overline{\overline{a}}$ means a
- $A(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ sometimes written as $A(\vec{a})$, $A()$ as A
- prefixing and restriction binds stronger than composition, composition binds stronger than choice:

$$\text{new}\, a\, P + b.Q \parallel R \quad \text{means} \quad (\text{new}\, a\, P) + ((b.Q) \parallel R)$$

Meaning of CCS Constructs

- nil is an inactive process that can do nothing.
- $\alpha.P$ can execute α and then behaves as P.
- An action $a \in N$ ($\overline{a} \in \overline{N}$) is interpreted as an input (output, resp.) operation. Both are complementary: if executed in parallel (i.e., in $P_1 \parallel P_2$), they are merged into a τ-action.
- $P_1 + P_2$ represents the nondeterministic choice between P_1 and P_2.
- $P_1 \parallel P_2$ denotes the parallel execution of P_1 and P_2, involving interleaving or communication.
- The restriction new $a\, P$ declares a as a local name which is only known within P.
- The behavior of a process call $A(a_1, \ldots, a_n)$ is defined by the right-hand side of the corresponding equation where $a_1, \ldots, a_n$ replace the formal name parameters.

CCS Examples

Example 18.2

(on the board)

1. One-place buffer (see Example 17.1(1) for a CSP implementation)
2. Two-place buffer
3. Parallel specification of two-place buffer
   (see Example 17.1(2) for a CSP implementation)

Outline

Semantics of CCS I

Definition 18.3 (Semantics of CCS)

A process definition $(A_i(a_{i1}, \ldots, a_{in_i}) = P_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq k)$ determines the labeled transition system (LTS) $(Prc, Act, \longrightarrow)$ whose transitions can be inferred from the following rules ($P, P', Q, Q' \in Prc$, $\alpha \in Act$, $\lambda \in N \cup \overline{N}$, $a, b \in N$, $A \in Pid$):

$$(\text{Act})\frac{}{\alpha.P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P} \qquad (\text{Com})\frac{P \xrightarrow{\lambda} P' \quad Q \xrightarrow{\overline{\lambda}} Q'}{P \parallel Q \xrightarrow{\tau} P' \parallel Q'}$$

$$(\text{Sum}_1)\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'}{P + Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'} \qquad (\text{Sum}_2)\frac{Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'}{P + Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'}$$

$$(\text{Par}_1)\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'}{P \parallel Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \parallel Q} \qquad (\text{Par}_2)\frac{Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} Q'}{P \parallel Q \xrightarrow{\alpha} P \parallel Q'}$$

$$(\text{New})\frac{P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \quad (\alpha \notin \{a, \overline{a}\})}{\text{new } a\, P \xrightarrow{\alpha} \text{new } a\, P'} \qquad (\text{Call})\frac{P[\vec{a} \mapsto \vec{b}] \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'}{A(\vec{b}) \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'} \text{ if } A(\vec{a}) = P$$

(Here $P[\vec{a} \mapsto \vec{b}]$ denotes the replacement of every a_i by b_i in P.)

Example 18.4

(on the board)

1. One-place buffer:

$$B(in, out) = in.\overline{out}.B(in, out)$$

2. Sequential two-place buffer:

$$\begin{aligned} B_0(in, out) &= in.B_1(in, out) \\ B_1(in, out) &= \overline{out}.B_0(in, out) + in.B_2(in, out) \\ B_2(in, out) &= \overline{out}.B_1(in, out) \end{aligned}$$

3. Parallel two-place buffer:

$$\begin{aligned} B_\parallel(in, out) &= \text{new}\ com\ (B(in, com) \parallel B(com, out)) \\ B(in, out) &= in.\overline{out}.B(in, out) \end{aligned}$$

Example 18.4 (continued)

Complete LTS of parallel two-place buffer ($=: LTS(B_{\|}(in, out))$):