Concurrency Workbench and Process Algebras

- Process algebra CCS
- \bullet μ -calculus and its relationship with CTL
- Verification approaches
- Example: simple protocol
- Doing this in CWB

Other: plan for the rest of the semester; projects; assignments

Concurrency Workbench

- Specify: a set of (communicating) concurrent processes (using CCS or SCCS)
- Use various verification methods to check that the processes meet their specification.
- The system is designed to be easy to extend (so CW in Manual ≠ CW in Paper)

Overview of CCS

Processes are called *agents*, built from a set of *actions*. Actions can be:

- Observable (or *communication*), marked by letters a, b, etc., and
 - Unobservable (or silent), marked by τ .

Observable actions:

- a, b, ... input actions
- \overline{a} , \overline{b} , ... output actions

Input action a and output action \overline{a} are *complimentary*, reflecting input and output on the "port" a (used to represent synchronization).

Some standard operators

Nil - Terminated process

 \perp - Undefined process. Its behavior is unknown ("don't care").

a.P - Process performs action a and then acts exactly like P.

More on that:

 $\stackrel{a}{\rightarrow}$ - transition relation.

 $p \stackrel{a}{\to} p\prime$ holds when p can evolve into $p\prime$ by performing action a. $p\prime$ is called an a-derivative of p.

 $a.p \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} p$ holds for any p.

Standard Operators (Cont'd)

- + Choice. p+q either p or q will get performed. $p+q \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} p\prime$ if either $p \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} p\prime$ or $q \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} p\prime$.
- | Parallel composition. The agent $p \mid q$ behaves like the "interleaving" of p and q with the possibility of complementary actions synchronizing to produce a τ action. Example:

- [f] Relabeling of f, which maps actions to actions. p[f] behaves like p with actions renamed by function f.

CCS Operators - Formal Semantics

$$a.p \xrightarrow{a} p$$

$$p \xrightarrow{a} p' \Rightarrow p + q \xrightarrow{a} p'$$

$$q \xrightarrow{a} q' \Rightarrow q + q \xrightarrow{a} q'$$

$$p \xrightarrow{a} p' \Rightarrow p|q \xrightarrow{a} p'|q$$

$$q \xrightarrow{a} q' \Rightarrow p|q \xrightarrow{a} p|q'$$

$$p \xrightarrow{a} p', q \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} q' \Rightarrow p|q \xrightarrow{\tau} p'|q'$$

$$p \xrightarrow{a} p', a, \bar{a} \not\in L \Rightarrow p \setminus L \xrightarrow{a} p' \setminus L$$

$$p \xrightarrow{a} p' \Rightarrow p[f] \xrightarrow{f(a)} p'[f]$$

$$p_A \xrightarrow{a} p' \Rightarrow A \xrightarrow{a} p'$$

Here p_A is the agent expression bound to identifier A.

Specification examples - Buffers

 BUF_n - a buffer of capacity n.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{BUF}_n &= \mathsf{BUF}_n^0 \\ \mathsf{BUF}_n^0 &= in.\mathsf{BUF}_n^1 \\ \mathsf{BUF}_n^i &= in.\mathsf{BUF}_n^{i+1} + \overline{o^{ut}}.\mathsf{BUF}_n^{i-1} \\ \mathsf{for} \ i &= 1, \ ..., \ n-1 \\ \mathsf{BUF}_n^n &= \overline{out}.\mathsf{BUF}_n^{n-1} \end{aligned}$$

Transition graph for BUF_n .

Specification examples - Buffers

 $\mathsf{CBUF}n$ - a compositional buffer of capacity n.

$$\begin{aligned} \mathsf{CBUF}_n &= (\mathsf{BUF}_1[x_1/out] \mid \\ &\underbrace{\dots \mid \mathsf{BUF}_1[x_i/in, x_{i+1}/out] \mid \dots}_{i=1,\dots,n-2} \mathsf{BUF}_1[x_{n-1}/in]) \\ &\underbrace{\setminus \{x_1, \dots, x_{n-1}\}} \end{aligned}$$

Transition graph for $CBUF_2$.

Notion of Observation

Transition graphs make a transition on every time "tick" (even if it is just τ). If timing is removed, we might be interested in just observable transitions.

Definition:

-
$$p \stackrel{\epsilon}{\Rightarrow} p\prime$$
 iff $p \stackrel{\tau*}{\rightarrow} p\prime$ (transitive and reflexive closure of $\stackrel{\tau}{\rightarrow}$)
- $p \stackrel{a}{\Rightarrow} p\prime$ iff $p \stackrel{\epsilon}{\Rightarrow} \stackrel{a}{\rightarrow} \stackrel{\epsilon}{\Rightarrow} p\prime$ (relational products of $\stackrel{\epsilon}{\Rightarrow}$ and $\stackrel{a}{\rightarrow}$)

Can compute observation graphs, which takes $O(n^3)$, where n - number of nodes in the graph.

Observation Graph for CBUF₂

For clarity, ϵ -loops - one self-looping edge from each node - are omitted from the following graph.

Figure 5, page 8

μ -calculus

Specifications can be written in a modal logic based on the *propositional* μ -calculus.

Syntax of formulas:

X ranges over variables,

a - over actions,

B - over user-defined macro identifiers, arg-list - over lists of actions and/or formulas that B requires in order to produce a proposition,

tt and ff hold on every node and no node, respectively.

Semantics of μ -calculus formulas

Constructors < a >, [a], < . > and [.] - to reason about edges leaving a node.

A node n satisfies:

- $< a > \Phi$ if it has an a-derivative satisfying Φ
- $[a]\Phi$ if all of its a-derivatives satisfy Φ In the case that n has no a-derivatives, n trivially satisfies $[a]\Phi$
- . acts like a "wild-card" action in [.], < . > . n satisfies:
- < . > Φ if it satisfies < a > Φ for some a
- [.] Φ if it satisfies [a] Φ for all a

Semantics of μ -calculus formulas (cont'd)

Formulas of type $\nu X.\Phi$ and $\mu X.\Phi$ are recursive formulas, representing the greatest- and least-fixpoints, respectively.

-
$$\nu X.\Phi = \bigwedge_{i=0}^{\infty} \Phi_i$$
, where Φ_0 is tt and $\Phi_{i+1} = \Phi[\Phi_i/X]$ (substitute Φ_i for all free occurrences of X in Φ)

-
$$\mu X.\Phi = \bigvee_{i=0}^{\infty} \widehat{\Phi}_i$$
, where $\widehat{\Phi}_0$ is ff and $\widehat{\Phi}_{i+1} = \Phi[\widehat{\Phi}_i/X]$

Restriction: Φ should be such that any free occurrences of X appear positively.

μ -calculus and CTL

Formulas in general are unintuitive and difficult to understand. But using macros facility, they can be "coded up" into better-understood operators like CTL (its logic is a subset of μ -calculus). For example,

$$AG\Phi = \nu X.(\Phi \wedge [.]X)$$

$$AF\Phi = \mu X.(\Phi \vee (<.>tt \wedge [.]X))$$

$$AU1\Phi\Psi = \nu X.(\Phi \vee (\Psi \wedge [.]X))$$

$$AU2\Phi\Psi = \mu X.(\Phi \vee (\Psi \wedge <.>tt \wedge [.]X))$$

You can do similar encoding for Assignment 3.

How is Model-Checking Done?

- Semantics of propositions
- Tableau-based checking:
 - Notion of tableau
 - Rules
 - Example
- Implementation of model-checking
- Running times

Terminology

A - a set of atomic formulas A ...

 $\mathcal V$ (disjoint from $\mathcal A$) - a set of *propositional* variables $\mathcal X$...

Act - a set of actions a ...

Formulas are Φ ...

 \mathcal{T} - a set of states

- $\Gamma \prec \Phi$ if Γ is a strict subformula of Φ .
- environment a mapping of variables to sets of states as a means of interpreting free propositional variables.
- $\bullet\ e[X\mapsto S]$ the environment e with X "updated" to S.
- Use *sequents* of the form $H \vdash s \in \Phi$, where s is a state, Φ is a formula, and H is a set of *hypotheses* of the form st: Γ , for st a state and Γ a *closed recursive formula*.

Semantics of propositions

Idea of tableau

- Theorem: $H \vdash s \in \Phi$ has a successful tableau if and only if $H \vdash s \in \neg \Phi$ has no successful tableau.
- Idea: start with property (or negated property), apply rules R1-R8 and DR1-DR3 (below) in top-down fashion until *all* leaves are successful. A leaf is successful if and only if one of the following holds:
- 1. $\Phi \in \mathcal{A}$ and $s \in (V(\Phi))$.
- 2. Φ is $\neg A$ for some $A \in \mathcal{A}$ and $s \notin V(A)$.
- 3. Φ is $\neg < a > \Phi'$ for some a and Φ' .
- 4. Φ is $\nu X.\Phi \prime$ for some X and $\Phi \prime$.
- 5. Sequents of form $H \vdash s \in True$ are successful.
- 6. Leaves of the form $H \vdash s \in [a]\Phi$ are successful.

Note: $H \vdash s \in \neg < a > \Phi$ is a leaf only when s has no a-derivatives, while $H \vdash s \in \nu X.\Phi$ is a leaf only when $s : \nu X.\Phi \in H$.

Rules

Rules (Cont'd)

see Figure 3 on p. 730 of Acta Informatica paper

see Figure 4 on p. 732 of Acta Informatica paper

Rules, Etc.

R7 and R8 require that in order to establish that a state enjoys a (negated) recursive property, it is sufficient to establish that it enjoys the (negated) unrolling of the property, provided that the assumptions involving the formulas having the recursive formula as a subformula are removed or *discharged* from the hypothesis list.

Other results:

- 1. (Finiteness) If models are finite, their tableaux are finite.
- 2. (Soundness and completeness) $H \vdash s \in \Phi$ has a successful tableau if and only if $s \in \llbracket \Phi \rrbracket^H$.

Example

See Figure 5 on p. 732 of Acta Informatica paper

Simple Implementation of model-checking

```
fun check1\iota(H \vdash s \in \Phi) =
   case Φ is
   A \in \mathcal{A} \to \text{return } (s \in \mathcal{V}(\mathcal{A}))
   X \in \mathcal{V} \to \text{error}
   \neg \Phi \prime \rightarrow \text{return not } (check1 \prime (H \vdash s \in \Phi \prime))
   \Phi_1 \vee \Phi_2 \rightarrow \text{return } (check1/(H \vdash s \in \Phi_1))
                    or check1i(H \vdash s \in \Phi_2))
   \langle a \rangle \Phi \prime \rightarrow for each s \prime \in \{s \prime, \text{ s.t. } s \xrightarrow{a} s \prime\} do
                    if check1i(H \vdash si \in \Phi i) then
                           return true:
                    else return false
   \nu X.\Phi \prime \rightarrow \text{let } H\prime = \{s\prime : \Gamma \mid \Phi \neg \prec \Gamma\} \text{ in }
                    return (check1'(H \cup \{s : \Phi\} \vdash
                          s \in \Phi / [\Phi / X])
end
fun check1(s \in \Phi) = check1(\emptyset \vdash s \in \Phi)
```

Running times

- Algorithm has exponential running time even for formulas having no recursive subformulas, owing to the possibility of nested modal operators.
- Possible optimization: store results of sequents whose truth has already been determined
- Running time is $O((|S| \times |\Phi|)^{id(\Phi)+1})$: $-id(\Phi)$ – interconnection depth of Φ , measure of the degree of mutual recursion in Φ
 - $-\Phi$ formula under verification
 - -S number of states in transition system

Verification example

Want to prove that $CBUF_n$, for a particular n, is deadlock free.

- Define a macro $Deadlock = \neg . < . > tt$ (true in states that cannot perform any actions)
- Using model-checker, check $AG \neg Deadlock$

Want to prove liveness property - buffer will eventually get engaged in an in or an \overline{out}

- Check $(AG((AF < in > tt)) \lor (AF < \overline{out} > tt))$

Equivalence Checking

Idea - node matchig. Two transition graphs are equivalent if their nodes can be matched such that

- 1. two matched nodes have compatible information fields
- 2. if two nodes are matched and one has an a-derivative, then the other must have a matching a-derivative
- 3. the root nodes of two transition graphs are matched.

Equivalence Checking - formal definition

Let G_1 and G_2 be transition graphs with node sets N_1 and N_2 , respectively. Let $N = N_1 \cup N_2$, and let $\mathcal{C} \subseteq N \times N$ be an equivalence relation reflecting a notion of "compatibility" between information fields. A \mathcal{C} -bisimulation on G_1 and G_2 is a relation $\mathcal{R} \subseteq N \times N$ such that $< m, n > \in \mathcal{R}$ implies that:

- 1. if $m \stackrel{a}{\to} m\prime$ then $\exists n\prime: n \stackrel{a}{\to} n\prime$ and $< m\prime, n\prime> \in \mathcal{R}$, and
- 2. if $n \stackrel{a}{\to} n\prime$ then $\exists m\prime$: $m \stackrel{a}{\to} m\prime$ and $< m\prime, n\prime> \in \mathcal{R}$, and
- 3. $< m, n > \in \mathcal{C}$

If root nodes can be related by C-bisimulation, then two transition graphs are C-equivalent.

Equivalence Checking - Cont'd

Many equivalences are instances of \mathcal{C} -equivalence combined with graph transformations. For example, *observation equivalence* corresponds to equivalence on observation graphs where \mathcal{C} is replaced by $U=N\times N$.

Similarly, can define *testing equivalence* for acceptance graphs (see paper).

 BUF_n and CBUF_n are observationally equivalent for each n. Notation:

$$BUF_n \approx CBUF_n, \forall n$$

Preorder Checking

A process A is "more defined than" a process B if A has the same behavior as B except for the holes in B. The preorder algorithm determines if a process is more defined than its specification. One transition graph is less than another if the states of first can be matched to the second such that:

- 1. the information field of the "lesser" node must be "less" than the "greater".
- 2. if the "greater" node has "valid" a-transitions, then each a-transition of the "lesser" must be matched by some a-transitions of the "greater".
- 3. if the "lesser" node has "viable" a-transitions, then each transition of the "greater" must be matched by some a-transition of the "lesser".
- 4. start state of the "lesser" and the "greater" must be matched.

Preorder Checking

Weak divergence preorder, $\stackrel{\square}{\sim}$, is obtained from the observation graph where

- "viable" holds for all nodes
- "valid" stands for $\{n \mid n \Downarrow a\}$. $n \Downarrow a$ holds if n is not globally divergent and cannot be triggered by means of an a-action to reach a globally divergent state.

This interpretation is based upon regarding divergent states as being *underspecified*. So, \bot allows any process as a correct implementation. Preorder $\overline{\succ}$ coincides with \approx for complete specifications.

Actually, when left-hand side process is completely specified, then so is the right-hand side process.

Other preorders can be defined similarly (see paper).

Protocol Design

A Simple Protocol

Service specification of the protocol requires that any message sent must be received before a second message may be sent:

$$SRV = s.\overline{r}.SRV$$

Graph:

Protocol specification - two processes, a sender and a receiver, and a medium connecting them.

Create the following (logical) design:

Define:

 $SND = s.\overline{from}.ack_{to}.SND$

 $MDM = from.\overline{to}.MDM + ack_{from}.\overline{ack_{to}}.MDM$ $RCV = to.\overline{r}.\overline{ack_{from}}.RCV$

 $PROT = SND \mid MDM \mid RCV$

are internal.

- Can show $PROT \approx SRV$.

Another Protocol Design

Produce a partial definition, reflecting the fact that there may be different implementations for the medium still leading to a correct overall implementation of the service specification.

$$PM = from.(\overline{to}.PM + ack_{from}.\bot) + ack_{from}.(\overline{ack_{to}}.PM + from.\bot)$$

$$PP = SND \mid PM \mid RCV \setminus \{from, to, ack_{from}, ack_{to}\}$$

Now define an implementation, consisting of two one-piece buffers, running in parallel: one for messages, one for acknowledgments.

```
NM = MB \mid AB
MB = from.\overline{to}.MB
AB = ack_{from}.\overline{ack_{to}}.AB
N\_PROT = SND \mid NM \mid RCV
\setminus \{from, to, ack_{from}, ack_{to}\}
```

Verification for this Example

- Can show that $N_PROT \approx SRV$:
 - $PP \approx SRV$
 - $PM \stackrel{\subseteq}{\sim} NM$
- PP never reaches an underspecified state (via model-checking) Therefore, $N_PROT \approx PP$ and hence $N_PROT \approx SRV$

Model-checking

Define the following macros:

$$AG\Phi = \nu X.(\Phi \wedge [.]X)$$

 $Can \Phi = \mu X.(X. < \Phi > tt \mid < \tau > X)$
 $Can't \Phi = \neg Can \Phi$

Now, check:

-
$$S_1 = AG((\operatorname{Can} s) \mid (\operatorname{Can} \overline{r}))$$

either a s or a \overline{r} can always happen
- $S_2 = AG([s](\operatorname{Can} \overline{r})\&[\overline{r}](\operatorname{Can} s))$

after a
$$s$$
, a process can \bar{r} and vice versa

-
$$S_3 = AG([s](\operatorname{Can't} s) \& [\overline{r}](\operatorname{Can't} \overline{r}))$$

two consecutive s's or \overline{r} 's cannot happen

-
$$S_4 = \operatorname{Can} s$$

s must eventually be possible

Working with CWB

To run CWB:

From command line using
cwb
or from emacs (see man cwb for installation instructions).

Examples of CWB specifications: /local/share/cwb/examples/ccs

CWB Syntax

Identifiers - (A-Z)(A-Z, a-z, 0-9, ?, !, _, ',
', -, #)*
Actions - ['](a-z)(A-Z, a-z, 0-9, ?, !, _, ',
', -, #)*

- Action au is represented as tau
- Inverse actions like \bar{a} are represented as 'a
- Constant 0 is represented as 0
- Constant @ represents agent \perp (divergence)

The rest is identical to CCS. Operations include action prefixing, summation, parallel composition, restriction, relabelig.

Concurrency Workbench - Design

Design of CW - 3 layers

- First layer manages interaction with the user and contains the basic definition of process semantics in terms of *labeled transition graphs*
- Second layer provides transformations that may be applied to transition graphs (so we can change the semantic model of processes under consideration)
- Third layer includes basic algorithms to establish whether the process meets its specification. Depending on the verification method used, a specification may either be another process (describing the desired behavior) or a formula in a modal logic expressing a relevant property.

Example Session

```
eddie% cwb
Edinburgh Concurrency Workbench, version 7.0,
Fri Oct 6 11:36:58 BST 1995
Command: agent Cell = a.'b.Cell;
Command: agent CO = Cell[c/b];
Command: agent C1 = Cell[c/a,d/b];
Command: agent C2 = Cell[d/a];
Command: agent Buff3 = (C0 \mid C1 \mid C2) \setminus \{c,d\};
Command: agent Spec = a.Spec';
Command: agent Spec' = 'b.Spec + a.Spec';
Command: agent Spec' = 'b.Spec' + a.'b.Spec';
Command: save "spec1";
Command: eq (Buff3, Spec);
true
Command: quit
eddie%
```

Environments

- CWB has several separate environments.
- All bindings are dynamic:

```
agent Cell æ.'b.Cell;
agent Cell' æ.Cell;
agent Cell = c.'b.Cell;
```

- Environments are: agents, action sets, and propositions.
- Identifiers do not clash between environments.

```
set Cell = {c, d};
agent Buff3 = (C0 | C1 | C2)\Cell;
print;
** Agents **
...
agent Cell a.'b.Cell
** Action Sets **
set Cell = {c, d}
```

Another Example Session

```
eddie% cwb
Edinburgh Concurrency Workbench, version 7.0,
Fri Oct 6 11:36:58 BST 1995
Command: input "junk";
Command: sort Buff3;
\{a, b\}
Command: size Buff3:
Buff3 has 12 states.
Command: min (Buff3Min, Buff3);
Resetting tables...
Buff3Min has 4 states.
Command: vs (3, Buff3Min);
=== a a a ===>
=== a a 'b ===>
=== a 'b a ===>
Command: random (16, Buff3Min);
a.a.a.'b.a.'b.a.'b.'b.'b.a.a.a.'b.'b.'b
```

Formatting μ -calculus formulae. Modal Operators

If P is a proposition, $a_1,...a_n$ are actions, and L is a set identifier, then the following are propositions:

- $[a_1,...a_n]$ P and [L]P strong necessity Agent A satisfies [K]P if every K-derivative of A satisfies P; that is, there is an $a \in K$ such that $A \xrightarrow{a} A \prime$ and $A \prime$ satisfies P.
- $[[a_1,...a_n]]$ P and [[L]]P weak necessity Agent A satisfies [K]P if every K-observation derivative of A satisfies P; that is, there is an $a \in K$ such that $A \stackrel{a}{\Rightarrow} AI$ and AI satisfies P.
- $< a_1, ... a_n > P$ and < L > P strong necessity Agent A satisfies [K]P if it has a K-derivative of A satisfies P; that is, there is an $a \in K$ such that $A \stackrel{a}{\to} A\prime$ and $A\prime$ satisfies P.
- $<< a_1, ... a_n>> P$ and << L>> P weak necessity

Formatting μ -calculus formulae (Cont'd)

- - indicates any transition (e.g. [-]). In μ -calculus, use [.].
- For strong modalities, the action sets must not include the empty action eps. For weak modalities, they must not include the unobservable action tau.
- Propositional Connectives: if P and Q are propositions, then so are T(true), F(false), P (negation), P&Q (conjunction), P|Q (disjunction) and P=>Q (implication).
- Fixed Point Operators: greatest fixpoint $\nu X.P$ is max(X.P); least fixpoint $\mu X.P$ is min(X.P).

To check a property, use command checkprop (A, P);

Macros for Conversion between μ -calculus and CTL

/local/share/cwb/examples/ccs/tl.macro:

Some Useful CWB Commands

- help, quit
- agent, set, relabel, prop, print, clear
- input "file", output "file" send CWB output to a file rather than terminal, save "file"
- sim simulate behavior of an agent using interactive simulation (see manual)
- checkprop
- transitions list single-step transitions of an agent,
 min, init observable actions that agent can perform immediately, vs visible sequences of length n,
 random, sort, size, states list the state-space of
 finite-state agent, deadlocks find deadlocks and list
 traces leading to them
- eq two agents are observationally equivalent, pre two agents are related by the weak divergence (bisimulation) preorder.

For More Information...

- See man pages for CWB
- See CWB Manual (Version 7)
- See examples in /local/share/cwb/examples/ccs
- See R. Milner, **Communication and Concurrency**, Prentice Hall International, 1989.
- See D. Kozen, "Results on the Propositional μ -Calculus", Theoretical Computer Science 27, p. 333-354, 1983.

What Other (Untimed) Process Algebras Are Out There?

- CCS (Calculus of Communicating Systems)
- Milner
- CSP (Communicating Sequential Processes)
- C.A.R. Hoare, **Communicating Sequential Processes**, Prentice Hall, 1985.
- ASP (Algebra of Communicating Processes)
- J. Begstra and J. Klop. "Algebra of Communicating Processes with Abstraction". Journal of Theoretical Computer Science, 37:77-121, 1985.
- SCCS (Synchronous CCS) used in CWB. Reference?

What Other (Timed) Process Algebras Are Out There?

- CSR (Communicating Shared Resources) R. Gerber, Ph.D. Thesis, University of Pennsylvania, 1991.
- ACSR (Asynchronous CSR) P. Bremond-Gregoire, J.Y. Choi and I. Lee, "The Soundness and Completeness of ACSR", Technical Report MS-CIS-93-59, Univ. of Pennsylvania, June 1993.
- Timed CSP G. Reed and A. Roscoe. "Metric Spaces as Models for Real-Time Concurrency", in Proceedings of Mathematical Foundations of Computer Science, LNCS, volume 298, Springer-Verlag, 1987.
- and many others.