A Logical Basis for the Verification of Message-Passing Programs

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Concurrency Theory, Message-Passing, Programming Languages, Verification

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• Type systems

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- Process calculi

Slogan: The π -calculus treats **processes** like the λ -calculus treats **functions**

• Propositions as sessions

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• Propositions as sessions

Today An overview in two parts

- ► A gentle introduction to session types
- Runtime verification based on session types (presented in RV'23)

Part I

Session Types for Message-Passing Concurrency

When is a Program Correct?

Sequential Programs				
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	~	v		
"Dragrams produce outputs that are				
consistent with their input"				
consistent with their input				

When is a Program Correct?



Concurrent Programs



When is a Program Correct?



Concurrent Programs



Type Systems: From Data to Behaviors

- Can detect bugs before programs are run
- Present in many programming languages
- A sound notion of correctness A program is either correct or incorrect



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Sequential Languages

- Data type systems classify values in a program
- Examples: Integers, strings of characters

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Concurrent Languages

- Behavioral type systems classify protocols in a program
- Example: "first send username, then receive true/false, finally close"
- A typical bug: sending messages in the wrong order

Protocols as Session Types

Session types uniformly describe protocols in terms of

- communication actions (input and output)
- labeled choices (offers and selections)
- sequential composition
- recursion



Session protocols are attached to interaction devices:

- channel endpoints
- channels in languages like Go
- π -calculus names
- • •

Sequentiality in types goes hand-in-hand with sequentiality in processes













Alice and Bob cooperate in buying a book from Seller:

1. Alice sends a book title to Seller, who sends a quote back.



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- 3. Alice uses the answer from Bob to interact with Seller, either:
 - a) completing the payment and arranging delivery details
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- 4'. In case 3(b) Alice is in charge of gracefully concluding the conversation.

The Syntax of Session Types

S ::=	! U; S	${f output}$ value of type $ U$, continue as $ S$
	?U;S	${f input}$ value of type $ U$, continue as $ S$
	$\&\{l_i:S_i\}_{i\in I}$	offer a selection between S_1, \ldots, S_n
	$\oplus \{l_i:S_i\}_{i\in I}$	select between S_1, \ldots, S_n
	$\mu tS \mid t$	recursion
	end	terminated protocol

(Labels l_1, \ldots, l_n are pairwise different.)

Two separate protocols, with Alice "leading" the interactions:

• A session type for Seller (in its interaction with Alice):

$$S_{SA} = ?book; !quote; & \begin{cases} buy : ?paym; ?address; !ok; end \\ cancel : ?thanks; !bye; end \end{cases}$$

• A session type for Alice (in its interaction with Bob):

$$S_{AB} = ! \text{cost}; \& \begin{cases} \text{share : ?address; !ok; enc} \\ \text{close : !bye; end} \end{cases}$$

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• A session type for Alice (in its interaction with Bob):

$$S_{AB} = !cost; \& \begin{cases} share : ?address; !ok; end \\ close : !bye; end \end{cases}$$

Note:

- The above protocols are specified in the **binary** setting
- Session types have been developed also in the more general multiparty setting

Desiderata for the implementations of Alice, Bob, and Seller:

• Fidelity – they follow the intended protocol.

- Alice doesn't continue the transaction if Bob can't contribute
- Alice chooses among the options provided by Seller



Desiderata for the implementations of Alice, Bob, and Seller:

- Fidelity they follow the intended protocol.
- **Safety** they don't feature **communication errors**.
 - Seller always returns an integer when Alice requests a quote

\checkmark
\checkmark

Desiderata for the implementations of Alice, Bob, and Seller:

- Fidelity they follow the intended protocol.
- **Safety** they don't feature **communication errors**.
- **Deadlock-Freedom** they do not **"get stuck"** while running the protocol.
 - Alice eventually receives an answer from Bob on his contribution.



Desiderata for the implementations of Alice, Bob, and Seller:

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Correctness follows from the interplay of these properties. **Hard to enforce**, especially when actions are "scattered around" in source programs.



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- Recall that S_{AB} describes Alice's viewpoint in her interaction with Bob:

$$S_{AB} = ! \text{cost}; \& \begin{cases} \text{share : ?address; !ok; end} \\ \text{close : !bye; end} \end{cases}$$

• Given this, Bob's implementation should conform to $\overline{S_{AB}}$, the dual of S_{AB} :

$$\overline{S_{AB}} = ?cost; \oplus \begin{cases} share : !address; ?ok; end \\ close : ?bye; end \end{cases}$$

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$$\overline{S_{AB}} = ?cost; \oplus \begin{cases} share : !address; ?ok; end \\ close : ?bye; end \end{cases}$$

• Also, Alice's implementation should conform to both $\overline{S_{SA}}$ and S_{AB} .

Propositions as Sessions

Concurrency Logic

 $\begin{array}{rcl} {\rm session \ types} & \leftrightarrow & {\rm linear \ logic \ propositions} \\ \pi\mbox{-calculus \ processes} & \leftrightarrow & {\rm proofs} \\ {\rm process \ communication} & \leftrightarrow & {\rm cut \ elimination} \end{array}$

- All four correctness properties hold "for free"
- Firm justification for seminal work on session types
- Reference framework for expressiveness
- Canonical platform for extensions (e.g., sharing)

Part II

Runtime Verification Based on Session Types

In A Nutshell

- A verification methodology based on routers, protocol descriptions synthesized from multiparty protocols.
- Combining and improving existing techniques, leveraging on propositions-as-sessions.
 Validated with a practical implementation.
- ▶ Key idea: Routers enrich local descriptions by capturing intra-participant dependencies.
- Routers be can used for static verification (type systems, SCP'22) and also in a dynamic verification setup (RV'23).

Multiparty Session Types

- A global type provides the entire protocol's specification for multiple participants. Participant implementations communicate with each other, without a coordinator.
- A simple authorization protocol:

 $G_{\text{auth}} = \mu X.s!c\{\text{login.}c!a(\text{passwd}).a!s(\text{succ}).X, \text{quit.end}\}$

Three participants: client (c), server (s), authorization server (a)

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Three participants: client (c), server (s), authorization server (a)

- The global type is projected onto local types, one per participant, which provide a basis for static or dynamic verification.
- Note: not all conceivable global types are projectable onto local types.

Dynamic Approach



- Multiparty session types (MPSTs): protocols for distributed message-passing.
- MPSTs enable useful runtime verification techniques. They rely on usual notions of well-formedness, which limits their applicability.
- Many practical protocols not supported by existing RV techniques: e.g., our running example, server requests client to login through authorization service.
- Existing techniques require too much information about components.

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Dynamic Approach: Overview



- New approach to runtime verification of distributed components using MPSTs as monitors to verify protocol conformance.
- Support expressive class of protocols.
- Components with unknown specification but observable message-passing behavior.
- LTSs with **minimal assumptions**: "blackboxes".
- Contributions:
 - Verification framework.
 - Compositional verification.
 - Protocol conformance and transparency.
 - Prototype implementation.

Dynamic Verification: Setup



We use the global type (multiparty protocol) in different ways:

- Obtain local views for verifying protocol conformance
- Synthesize monitors for each participant
- Detect additional coordination messages



- Each blackbox assumed to belong to a protocol participant: e.g., P_c.
- ▶ Blackboxes exchange messages asynchronously through buffers: e.g., (c: P_c : m).
- Messages carry data or choices to resolve branching.



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$$P_{c}^{\downarrow} \xleftarrow{c?s(\operatorname{login}\langle\rangle)}{c!a(\operatorname{pwd}\langle\operatorname{str}\rangle)} P_{c}$$



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$$P_{c}^{1} \xleftarrow{c?s(\operatorname{login}\langle\rangle)}{c!a(\operatorname{pwd}\langle\operatorname{str}\rangle)} P_{c} \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)}{P_{c}^{q}}$$



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 $\langle c: P_c: s! c(quit\langle \rangle) \rangle$



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$$P_{c}^{\dagger} \xleftarrow{c?s(\operatorname{login}\langle\rangle)}{\langle c!a(\operatorname{pwd}\langle\operatorname{str}\rangle)\rangle^{\gamma}} P_{c} \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)}{P_{c}^{\mathsf{q}}} \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}}{P_{c}^{\mathsf{q}}} P_{c}^{\mathsf{q}}$$

$$\langle c: P_c: s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^q: \varepsilon
angle$$

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A Logical Basis for the Verification of Message-Passing Programs



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A Logical Basis for the Verification of Message-Passing Programs

Our Setup: Monitors



- Monitoring to shield the system against unexpected behavior.
- Monitors: FSMs describing sequences of expected incoming/outgoing messages.
- Forwards expected messages between its blackbox and other monitored blackboxes.
- Unexpected messages result in error state.
- Monitored blackboxes: e.g., $[\langle c : P_c : \vec{m} \rangle : M_c : \vec{n}].$
- Broadcast messages to coordinate blackboxes to support more expressive protocols.

$$\begin{array}{l} \langle c: P_c: s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{q}}: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{e}}: \varepsilon \rangle \\ \\ \langle s: P_s: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{q}}: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{e}}: \varepsilon \rangle \end{array}$$

Networks of monitored blackboxes (1/2) $\langle c: P_c: s! c(quit\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(quit\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^q: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{end} \langle c: P_c^e: \varepsilon \rangle$ $\langle s: P_s: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{s!c(quit\langle\rangle)} \langle s: P_s^q: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{end} \langle s: P_s^e: \varepsilon \rangle$

 $M_c = c?s \{ \{ quit \langle \rangle.end \} \}$

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$$\begin{array}{c} \langle c: P_c: s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{q}} : \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{e}} : \varepsilon \rangle \\ \\ \langle s: P_s: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{s!c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{q}} : \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{e}} : \varepsilon \rangle \end{array}$$

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$$[\langle c : P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s \{ \{quit \langle \rangle.end \} : \varepsilon] \ | \ [\langle s : P_s : \varepsilon \rangle : s!c \{ \{quit \langle \rangle.end \} : \varepsilon \} \}$$

$$\downarrow \tau$$

$$[\langle c : P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s \{ \{quit \langle \rangle.end \} \} : s!c(quit \langle \rangle)] \ | \ [\langle s : P_s^q : \varepsilon \rangle : end : \varepsilon]$$

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$$M_c = c?s\{\{\log(\langle \ldots)\}\}$$

 $M_s = s! c \{ \{ quit \langle \rangle. end \} \}$

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$$\begin{array}{l} \langle c: P_c: s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{q}}: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{e}}: \varepsilon \rangle \\ \\ \langle s: P_s: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{s!c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{q}}: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{e}}: \varepsilon \rangle \end{array}$$

$$\begin{split} [\langle c: P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s\{\{ \text{login}(\rangle \dots\}\} : \varepsilon] &| [\langle s: P_s : \varepsilon \rangle : s!c\{\{\text{quit}(\rangle, \text{end}\}\} : \varepsilon \\ &\downarrow \tau \\ [\langle c: P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s\{\{ \text{login}(\rangle \dots\}\} : s!c(\text{quit}(\rangle)] &| [\langle s: P_s^q : \varepsilon \rangle : \text{end} : \varepsilon] \\ &\downarrow \tau \\ error_c &| [\langle s: P_s^q : \varepsilon \rangle : \text{end} : \varepsilon] \end{split}$$

$$\begin{array}{l} \langle c: P_c: s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle) \rangle \xrightarrow{c?s(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{q}} : \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle c: P_c^{\mathsf{e}} : \varepsilon \rangle \\ \\ \langle s: P_s: \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{s! c(\operatorname{quit}\langle\rangle)} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{q}} : \varepsilon \rangle \xrightarrow{\operatorname{end}} \langle s: P_s^{\mathsf{e}} : \varepsilon \rangle \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{cccc} [\langle c: P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s\{\{ \mathsf{login}\langle \rangle \dots \}\} : \varepsilon] & | & [\langle s: P_s : \varepsilon \rangle : s!c\{\{\mathsf{quit}\langle \rangle.\mathsf{end}\}\} : \varepsilon] \\ & \downarrow \tau \\ [\langle c: P_c : \varepsilon \rangle : c?s\{\{\mathsf{login}\langle \rangle \dots \}\} : s!c(\mathsf{quit}\langle \rangle)] & | & [\langle s: P_s^q : \varepsilon \rangle : \mathsf{end} : \varepsilon] \\ & \downarrow \tau \\ \mathsf{error}_c & | & [\langle s: P_s^q : \varepsilon \rangle : \mathsf{end} : \varepsilon] \\ & \downarrow \tau \\ \mathsf{error}_{c,s} \end{array}$$

Results

Theorem (Soundness)

If all the monitored blackboxes in a network N satisfy a protocol G, then N behaves as specified by G.

Theorem (Transparency)

If a monitored blackbox satisfies a protocol, then it is behaviorally equivalent to its contained blackbox (modulo coordination messages).

Conclusion

- Types for message-passing concurrency
- Session types: A class of behavioral types for communication correctness
- ► A new framework for runtime verification based on multiparty session types
- More details in our papers; see www.jperez.nl

Current and future work:

- Coalgebraic and coinductive approaches to session types
- Session types beyond linear logic / propositions as sessions
- Session-based concurrency implemented on Maude (rewriting logic)

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