

CS-Flow: The Engineering of Pervasive Workflows

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Why?

- A workflow is a set of **activities**, each performs a piece of functionality within a given **context** and may be constrained by some **security requirements** . These activities are coordinated to collectively achieve a required business objective.
- The specification of such coordination is presented as a set of "execution constraints" which include *parallelisation, serialisation, restriction, alternation, compensation* and so on.

Why?

- Activities within workflows could be carried out by **humans**, **various software-based application programs**, or **processing entities** according to some **organisational rules** , such as meeting deadlines or performance improvement.
- Workflow execution can involve a large number of different **participants, services and devices which may cross the boundaries of various organisations and accessing variety of data.**

Therefore....

- Modern workflows are **CRITICAL** systems.
- They are
 - Highly distributed
 - Context-critical
 - Security-critical
 - Time-critical
 - Business-critical
- We need a **unified** model within which modern workflows can be **modelled, analysed** and, being critical, be **provably correct**

- our model has three distinct components:
 - Context
 - Activity and
 - Guard

- Contexts can take a variety of **forms** : different platforms and operating systems, hand-held devices, web-services, etc.
- A context is characterised by, what we call **context frame** , which is a set of variables (or attributes) of interests.

For

- **PDA**s attributes of interests could be **processor speed, memory size, battery life time** .
- a **human** context, **age, qualification, work experience** may be of interest.
- a **patient** context, **body temperature, blood pressure, kidney functions** are more appropriate attributes.

- The changes in the attributes are only **observed** and then acted upon.
- Context attributes are predicated upon to form a **context guard** so as a decision may be taken to execute an activity or choose different but more suitable context, etc.
- Context guards are also important as mechanisms to express **security policies** and for the design of variety of enforcement mechanisms of these policies that, for example, controls access to sensitive data/information.

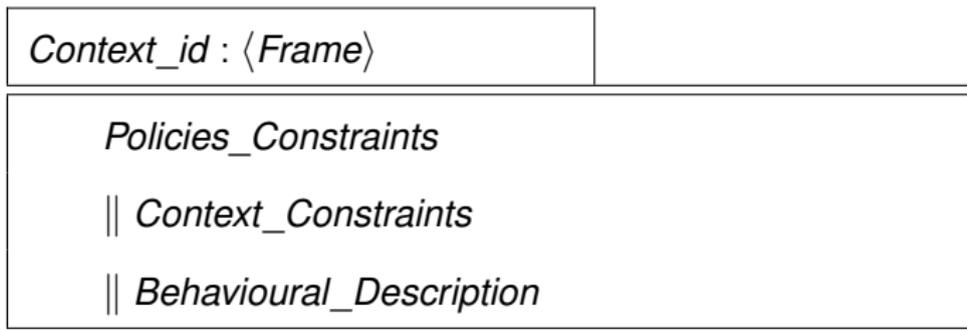
- An activity in our model does not exist in isolation. Indeed it requires a context to house it.
- Activities within a workflow **move into** a context to be executed but may choose to **move out** to another context in order to complete its functionality.
- In this way, context can be nested in a larger context in a compositional fashion.

- An *activity* is a computational unit that describes a piece of work that contributes toward the accomplishment of a given goal.
- An activity has
 - *a goal,*
 - *an input,*
 - *an output,*
 - *performed in a particular order,*
 - *associated with a particular context ,*
 - *uses resources/information,*
 - *may affect more than one organisation unit,*
 - *creates some value for users. and*
 - *properly terminates – in the same or in a different context.*

- An activity starts in one context but may terminate in a different context. This means that an activity has the ability to be **mobile** and moves from one context to another.
- But as an activity in our model is tightly associated with a context, mobility occurred at a context level , i.e. **an activity moves with its context.**

- Activities may be composed concurrently to produce a new activity which terminates if and only if all of its components terminate, i.e. we adopt the *distributed termination* convention.
- we assume a single clock for an instant of a workflow.
- Activities are also composed in alteration and in a non-deterministic fashions.
- An activity can also be conditionally executed after the passability of its condition or guard.

- Each activity/context is governed by a set of *context* and/or *security* policies/constraints which are continually changing due to either the occurrence of an event and/or the passage of time.
- *access control* policies: subjects – such as human, activities, platforms; object – This is a resource which is there to be used. It has a state where a subject can alter once it is granted to do so and action – is an activity where once the access is granted, it can be executed.
- **ECA is another formulation of policy.**

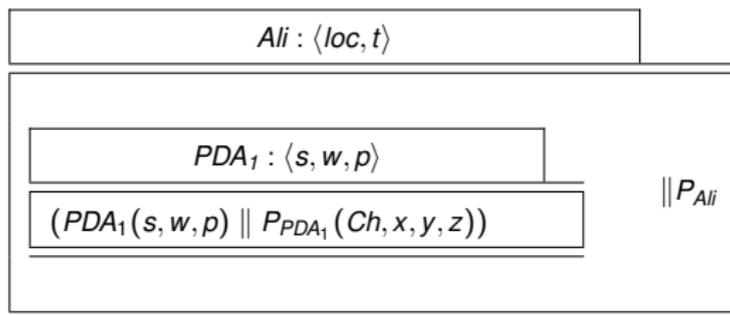


where *Frame* is given as:

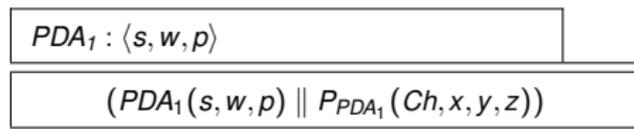
Frame :: $\langle Context_Attributes \rangle$

$$PDA_1 : \langle s, w, p \rangle$$
$$(PDA_1(s, w, p) \parallel P_{PDA_1}(Ch, x, y, z))$$

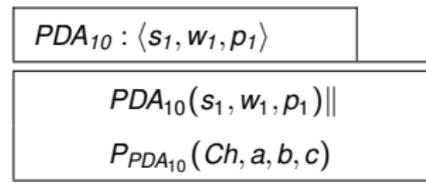
CS-Flow: Graphical Representation



CS – \mathcal{F} low: Graphical Representation



\parallel



- Activities can communicate by exchanging messages over channels.
- The communication is synchronous and is modelled using handshake message passing communication primitives: $C ! v$ (output) and $C ? x$ (input).

- $P_{PDA_1} \hat{=} \dots; Ch ! Temp_{value}; \dots$

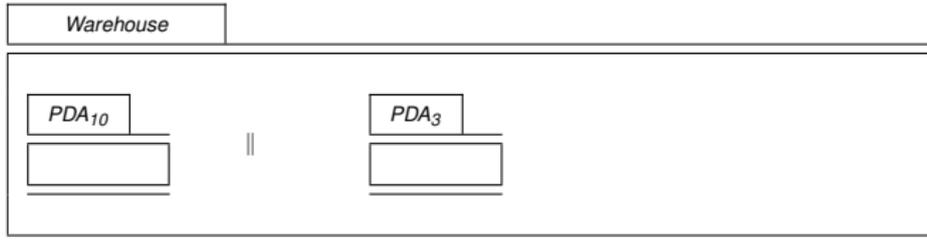
and

$$P_{PDA_{10}} \hat{=} \dots; Ch ? x; \dots$$

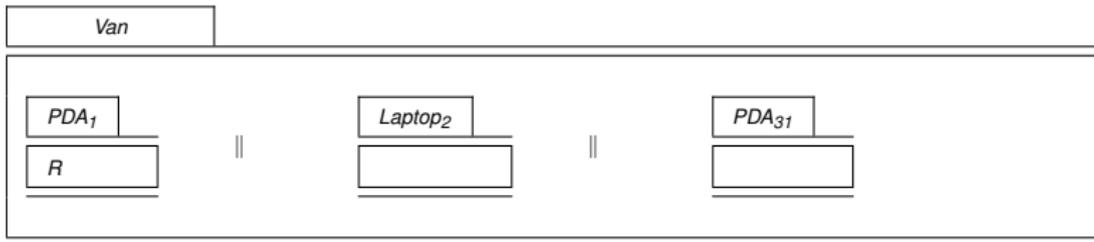
CS-Flow: Mobility



CS-Flow: Mobility



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CS–Flow: textual Representation

$$\begin{aligned} P, Q \quad ::= & \text{ skip } \mid \text{ abort } \mid x := v \mid \text{ delay}(t) \mid [t_1 \dots t_n] P \mid c!v \mid c?x \\ & \mid \alpha \langle \tilde{x} \rangle : \{P\} \mid \text{to}(\alpha) \mid \text{var } \tilde{x} \text{ in } P \{Q\} \mid \text{chan } \tilde{c} \text{ in } P \{Q\} \\ & \mid \text{in } \alpha \cdot P(\tilde{x}) \mid P;Q \mid P \parallel Q \mid P \triangleright_t^G Q \mid \text{while } G \cdot \text{do } P \text{ od} \\ & \mid [p_1] : G_1 \rightarrow P \square [p_2] : G_2 \rightarrow Q \\ G \quad ::= & \text{ true } \mid b \mid \text{not } G \mid G_1 \text{ and } G_2 \mid \text{somewhere}(\alpha) \cdot G \end{aligned}$$

$$\alpha \langle \tilde{x} \rangle :$$
$$\{$$
$$P$$
$$\}$$

Ikea : $\langle \quad \rangle$

{

$P_{Ikea} \parallel PDA_{23} : \{Q\}$

}

$Ikea : \langle Damp_{Level}, Smoke_{Alarm} \rangle$

{

$P_{Ikea} \parallel PDA_{23} : \{Q\}$

}

Ikea : $\langle Damp_{Level}, Smoke_{Alarm} \rangle$

{

$P_{Ikea} \parallel PDA_{23}$:

{

TakeStock ;

not ($Damp_{Level} \geq 25 \vee Smoke_{Alarm}$) \rightarrow

to(*Van*) ; *Place Order*

}

}

Context, Location and Holes

- Central to our model is that activities do not operate in the ether. They need contexts which identify their *locations* and within which they execute, terminate and may move out of them to another contexts.
- Unlike other formalisms, the notion of **holes** exists in which processes can move to. This makes the models rather clumsy and static with a fixed number of holes.

Context, Location and Holes

- The term "context" is used here instead of "location" for the later can indicate/require notions such as
 - Proximity,
 - Coordinates,
 - Neighborhoods, etc.

which in our view adds extra complication which is not needed.

Context, Location and Holes

- Two special contexts, which we call *SKIP* and *STOP*:
 - *SKIP* is an empty context and nothing is happening in it and there are no observables.
 - *STOP* is the most un-inhabited context and will remain so forever! Further, if it moves into another context, it makes the host context un-inhabitable too. It is a context that needs to be avoided at all cost.

Context, Location and Holes

- Context, like activities, can communicate synchronously via channels. Whenever a context moves, its channels move with it. This is a powerful mobility notion as all what we needed is a single label to identify a context. The connectivity's between contexts (or their exact coordinates, neighborhoods, etc.) becomes irrelevant.

Examples: Adaptable activities

ShopFloor :

{

win || linx

}

Examples: Adaptable activities

```
win :  
{  
  var f in edit  
  {  
    notepad(f)  
  }  
}
```

Examples: Adaptable activities

```
linx :  
{  
  var f in edit  
  {  
    emacs(f)  
  }  
}
```

Examples: Adaptable activities

Employee :

```
{  
    somewhere (ShopFloor) · edit(file) }
```

Examples: Adaptable activities

win :

```
{  
  var f in edit  
  {  
    notepad(f)  
  }  
||
```

Employee :

```
{
```

```
somewhere(ShopFloor) · edit(file) }
```

Examples: Adaptable activities

linx :

```
{  
  var f in edit  
  {  
    emacs(f)  
  }  
||
```

Employee :

```
{
```

```
somewhere(ShopFloor) · edit(file) }
```

Examples: Policies – ECA

```
while true
do
  {
     $G_{event_1}$  and  $G_{condition_1} \rightarrow P$ 
    □
     $G_{event_2}$  and  $G_{condition_2} \rightarrow Q$ 
    ...
    □
  } od
```

Examples: Policies – ECA

System $\hat{=}$

Flows || *EventAnalyser* || *ECA*

LAYERS: Assumptions

Without lose of generality, we assume that

- There is only one parallel operator, \parallel , in our system. Nesting concurrency can be dealt with by applying the transformation to the most inner \parallel and continue to move to the outer constructs.
- The length of all activities in the system are the same. This can be easily achieved using the semantics of `skip`. I.e.

$$\text{skip} ; S \equiv S ; \text{skip} \equiv S$$

$C_1 \langle \tilde{a} \rangle :$

{

var \tilde{x}, \tilde{y} in

{

$P_1;$

$P_2;$

$P_3;$

$P_4;$

$P_5;$

}

}

$C_2 \langle \tilde{b} \rangle :$

{

var \tilde{x}_1, \tilde{y}_1 in

{

$Q_1;$

$Q_2;$

$Q_3;$

}

}

||

$C_1 \langle \tilde{a} \rangle :$

{

var \tilde{x}, \tilde{y} in

{

$P_1;$

$P_2;$

$P_3;$

$P_4;$

$P_5;$

}

}

$C_2 \langle \tilde{b} \rangle :$

{

var \tilde{x}_1, \tilde{y}_1 in

{

skip;

$Q_1;$

skip;

$Q_2;$

$Q_3;$

}

}

||

Let us consider an example:

$$\mathcal{R} \hat{=} C_1 \langle \tilde{a} \rangle : \{ \mathcal{P} \} \parallel C_2 \langle \tilde{b} \rangle : \{ \mathcal{Q} \}$$

$C_1 \langle \tilde{a} \rangle :$

```
{  
  var  $x, y, z, chan_1$  in  
  {  
     $y := y + x;$   
     $z := y \times z;$   
     $chan_1 ! z;$   
  }  
}
```

$C_2 \langle \tilde{b} \rangle :$

```
{  
  var  $x_1, chan_1$  in  
  {  
     $chan_1 ? x_1;$   
     $x_1 := x_1 \times x_1;$   
  }  
}
```

\parallel

Definition

A layer, L of a workflow, S , is a logical horizontal partition that cut across all concurrent threads of S □.

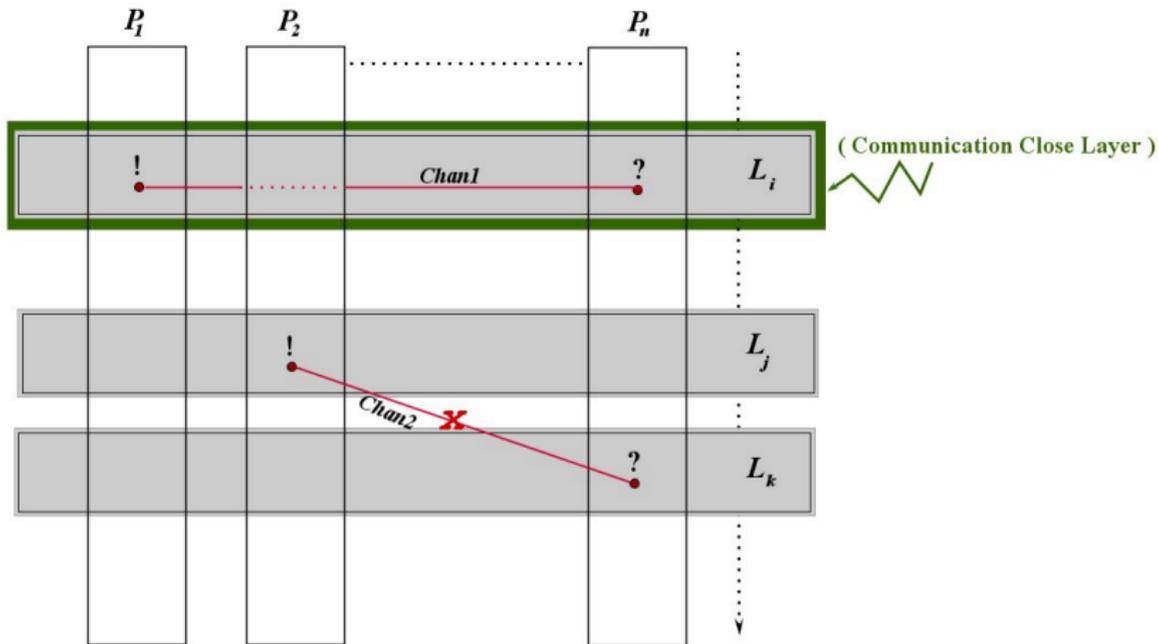
Definition

A Layer L is called communicating layer if it contains at least one communication primitive. It is called communication-closed if a communication starts and terminates in the same layer.

A non-communicating layer is that which contains no communication primitives.

Definition

A super-structure over a workflow, S , is a quasi-sequential composition of layers from S □.



$L_1 \hat{=}$	$y := y + x$		$chan_1 ? x_1$
$L_2 \hat{=}$	$z := y \times z$		$x_1 := x_1 \times x_1$
$L_3 \hat{=}$	$chan_1 ! z$		skip
$L_4 \hat{=}$	$y := y + x;$		skip;
	$z := y \times z$		skip
$L_5 \hat{=}$	$z := y \times z;$		skip;
	$chan_1 ! z;$		$chan_1 ? x_1;$
	skip		$x_1 := x_1 \times x_1$

The following are some super-structures:

$$\textcircled{1} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_1} \hat{=} \mathcal{R}$$

$$\textcircled{2} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_2} \hat{=} L_1 ; L_2 ; L_3$$

$$\textcircled{3} \mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_3} \hat{=} L_4 ; L_5$$

Under what condition(s) will a super-structure workflow be equivalent to the original one? .

It is clear that, in the example above, L_2 and L_4 are non-communicating layers while L_1, L_3 and L_5 are communication-closed. $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_3}$ and $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_1}$ are a quasi-sequential workflow whilst $\mathcal{S}_{\mathcal{R}_2}$ is not.

Theorem

For any CS- \mathcal{F} low workflow system S there exist a semantically equivalent quasi-sequential system, $S_{\mathcal{L}}$.

Proof: Choices

$$G_1 \rightarrow P$$

□

$$G_2 \rightarrow Q$$

Proof: Choices

The following workflow, S' , is a such safe decomposition:

$S' \cong$

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \left[\begin{array}{l} G_1 \rightarrow P ; GFlag := \text{false} \\ \square \\ G_2 \rightarrow GFlag := \text{true} \end{array} \right] ; \quad (S_{11}) \\ \\ \left[\begin{array}{l} GFlag \rightarrow Q \\ \square \\ \text{not } GFlag \rightarrow \text{skip} \end{array} \right] \quad (S_{12}) \end{array} \right\}$$

Now, if we have another workflow \mathcal{D} of the same structure as S then

$$S \parallel \mathcal{D}$$

can be "safely" decomposed into the structure:

$$((S_{11} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{11}) ; (S_{12} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{12})) \square ((S_{21} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{21}) ; (S_{22} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{22}))$$

where each S_{ij} , for all $i, j = 1, 2$, is either a non-communicating layer or a communication-closed layer.

Proof: Choices

This can be rewritten as

$$((\mathcal{S}_{11} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{11}) \square (\mathcal{S}_{21} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{21}));$$
$$((\mathcal{S}_{11} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{11}) \square (\mathcal{S}_{22} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{22}));$$
$$((\mathcal{S}_{12} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{12}) \square (\mathcal{S}_{21} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{21}));$$
$$((\mathcal{S}_{12} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{12}) \square (\mathcal{S}_{22} \parallel \mathcal{D}_{22}))$$

These structures demonstrate that layers can be composed, respectively, as a series of alternative or sequentially. In fact, structures such as iteration, conditional, interrupt, etc. can also be used.

Proof: Iterations

We assume that

- 1 Loops are *finite*
- 2 Communication symmetry is assured (i.e., communication-deadlock free)

It should be noted that due to (1) above, a finite loop can be replaced as a set of sequentially composed statements and because of (2), we can always ensure (using `skip`) that each layer is communication-closed layer.

Proof: Iterations

Using

$\text{while } G \text{ do}\{P\} \equiv G \rightarrow P ; (\text{while } G \text{ do}\{P\})$

then, if we have

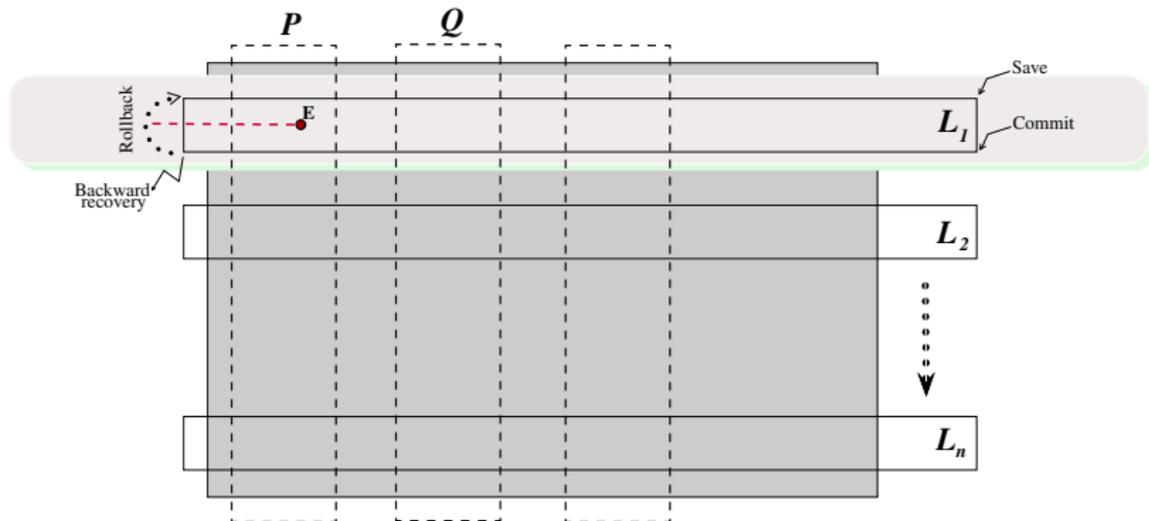
$$\text{while } G \text{ do}\{P\} \parallel Q$$

Then we can transform this to the semantically equivalent *CS-Flow* system

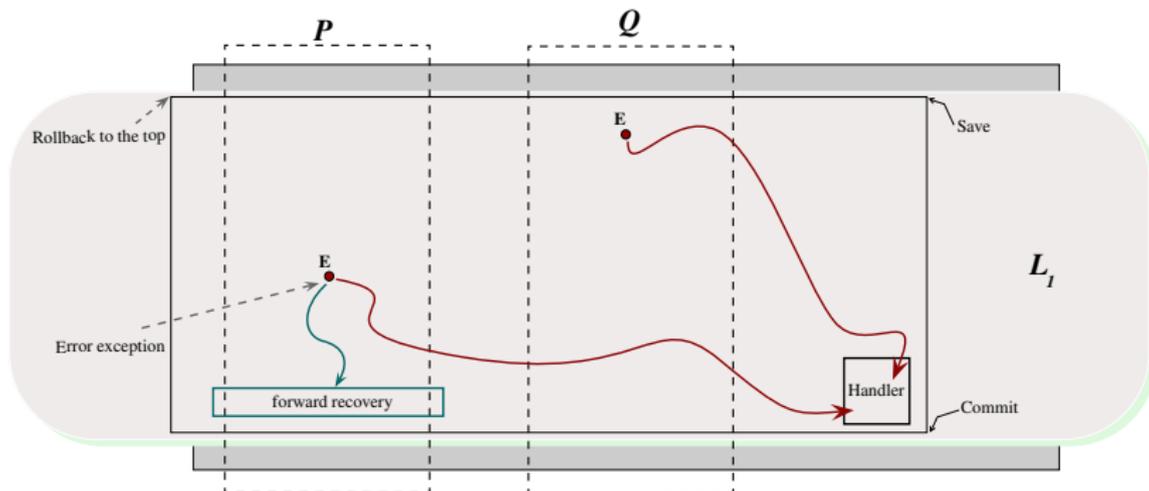
$$((G \rightarrow P) \parallel Q) ; (\text{while } G \text{ do}\{P\})$$

Then, we layer $((G \rightarrow P) \parallel Q)$ into communication-closed layers (depending on the structure of P and Q , and repeat the process on the $\text{while } G \text{ do}\{P\}$, and so on.

Layers: Fault-Tolerance



Layers: Fault-Tolerance



Layers Usages

- Analysis
 - The idea here is to transform the existing *CS-Flow* design into a semantically equivalent communication-closed layer design in which the analyses are easier than the original one. The rationale is that the resulting layer-design is quasi-sequential and hence all existing formalisms for sequential systems can be deployed.
- Design

Layers Design Methodology

1 Requirements Decomposition.

- decompose the given workflow requirements into a number of sub-requirements which can be as fine or coarse grain as we wish. This process *iterative* in nature.
- Experience has shown that, identifying, what we call *Actors* helps in specifying layer interfaces.

2 Layer Design.

- Design layers which conform/satisfy its requirement.
- The layers however have to be *communication-closed* layers.

3 Integration.

- Compose/integrate all layers into a complete *CS-Flow* workflow.

Example: One-place Buffer – Layer Decomposition

We can easily identify two major layers:

- 1 Initialisation. Involves the *Buffer* and the *Authorised_User*, and using channel *push*.
- 2 Operations. This involves the *Buffer* and any other user.

Example: One-place Buffer – Layer Design

Init $\hat{=}$

push ! *v* || (*push* ? *x* ; *empty* := false) || skip

Example: One-place Buffer – Layer Design

$Operation \hat{=} ($

skip \parallel $\left[\begin{array}{l} \text{while true do} \\ \quad \{ \\ \quad \quad \text{empty} \rightarrow \text{push ? } x \\ \quad \quad \square \\ \quad \quad \text{not empty} \rightarrow \text{pull ! } v \\ \quad \quad \} \\ \quad \text{od} \end{array} \right] \parallel \left[\begin{array}{l} \text{pull ? } x ; \\ \text{push ! } v \end{array} \right]$

Example: One-place Buffer – Layer Design

It is clear that each of the above layers are communication-closed and the resulting quasi-sequential system is

$$Sys_L \hat{=} Init ; Operation$$

Example: One-place Buffer – Integration

In this phase, the layers are integrated to obtain the final system:

$$Sys \hat{=} Authorised_User \parallel Buffer \parallel User$$

where

$$Buffer \hat{=} ($$

```
push ? x ;  
empty := false ;  
while true  
do  
  {  
    empty → push ? x  
    □  
    not empty → pull ! v ;  
    empty := true  
  }  
}
```

Example: One-place Buffer – Integration

The users are modelled as

Users :: (

Authorised_User $\hat{=}$ *push* ! *v*

User $\hat{=}$ *pull* ? *x* ; *push* ! *v*

We note that, as the layers were designed communication-closed, then $\text{Sys}_L \equiv \text{Sys}$.

Context-Aware Ward: *CAW*



$$CAW \hat{=} ($$

nurse $\langle \tilde{x}_n \rangle : \{P_n\}$

$\|$ *bed* $\langle \tilde{w} \rangle : \{P_b\}$

$\|$ *patient* $\langle \tilde{w}_1 \rangle : \{P_p\}$

$\|$ *nurse – office* $\langle \tilde{w}_2 \rangle : \{P_{n.o}\}$

$\|$ *medicine – room* $\langle \tilde{w}_3 \rangle : \{P_{m.r}\}$

$\|$

(1)

tray $\langle \tilde{x}_t \rangle : \{P_t \parallel$ *Cont*₁ $\langle pat_1, \tilde{a}_1 \rangle : \{P_1\}$

$$\left(\begin{array}{l} \parallel \quad \textit{Cont}_2 \langle pat_2, \tilde{a}_2 \rangle : \{P_2\} \\ \parallel \quad \dots\dots\dots \\ \parallel \quad \textit{Cont}_k \langle pat_k, \tilde{a}_k \rangle : \{P_k\} \\ \} \end{array} \right)$$

$$P_n \hat{=} \text{chan } \mathit{chan}_{n,t} \text{ in } \{$$

while true

$\mathit{chan}_{n,t} ! \text{any};$

$\text{to}(\mathit{bed});$

$[\mathit{epr}(P_i) \parallel \mathit{HandOutDrug}(P_i)]$

$\mathit{chan}_{n,t} ! \text{any};$

$\text{to}(\mathit{nurse} - \mathit{office})$

$HandOutDrug \hat{=} \text{var } T, D, N, i \text{ in} \{$

while $i \leq N$

do

$([T]([D]GiveDrug) \parallel \text{delay}(T)) ;$

$i = i + 1$

od

In addition to equational theory and operational semantics for *CS-Flow* we have

- Denotational semantics: A CCA-specification semantics
- Reduction semantics

Reduction Rules

$P \rightarrow P' \Rightarrow \text{var } \tilde{x} \text{ in } \{P\} \rightarrow \text{var } \tilde{x} \text{ in } \{P'\}$ (Reduction Var)

$P \rightarrow P' \Rightarrow \text{chan } \tilde{x} \text{ in } \{P\} \rightarrow \text{chan } \tilde{x} \text{ in } \{P'\}$ (Reduction Chan)

$P \rightarrow P' \Rightarrow \alpha < \tilde{x} >: \{P\} \rightarrow \alpha < \tilde{x} >: \{P'\}$ (Reduction Contxt)

$P \rightarrow P' \Rightarrow \mathcal{C}(P) \rightarrow \mathcal{C}(P')$ (Reduction Contxt)

$P \rightarrow P' \Rightarrow P \parallel Q \rightarrow P' \parallel Q$ (Reduction Par)

$P \equiv Q, Q \rightarrow Q', Q' \equiv P' \Rightarrow P \rightarrow P'$ (Reduction \equiv)

Reduction Rules

$$(Chan ? \tilde{y}) ; P \parallel (Chan ! \tilde{z}) ; Q$$
$$\rightarrow P\{\tilde{y} \leftarrow \tilde{z}\} \parallel Q \quad (\text{Reduction Com-1})$$

$$\alpha : \{((Chan ? \tilde{y}) ; P) \parallel Q\} \parallel \beta : \{((Chan ! \tilde{z}) ; R) \parallel S\}$$
$$\rightarrow \alpha : \{P(\tilde{y} \leftarrow \tilde{z}) \parallel Q\} \parallel \beta : \{R \parallel S\} \quad (\text{Reduction Com-2})$$

$$\alpha : ((Chan ? \tilde{y}) ; P) \parallel Q \parallel \beta : (\alpha : (Chan ! \tilde{z}) ; R) \parallel S$$
$$\rightarrow \alpha : (P(\tilde{y} \leftarrow \tilde{z})) \parallel \beta : (R \parallel S) \quad (\text{Reduction Com-3})$$

$$\alpha : (\beta : (Chan ? \tilde{y} ; P) \parallel Q) \parallel \beta : (Chan ! \tilde{z} ; R) \parallel S$$
$$\rightarrow \alpha : (P(\tilde{y} \leftarrow \tilde{z}) \parallel Q) \parallel \beta(R \parallel S) \quad (\text{Reduction Com-4})$$

$$\alpha : (\beta : (Chan ? \tilde{y} ; P) \parallel Q) \parallel \beta : (\alpha : ((Chan ! \tilde{z} ; R) \parallel S))$$
$$\rightarrow \alpha : (P(\tilde{y} \leftarrow \tilde{z}) \parallel Q) \parallel \beta(R \parallel S) \quad (\text{Reduction Com-5})$$

$$\beta : \{t_0(\alpha) . P \parallel Q\} \parallel (\alpha : \{R\})$$
$$\rightarrow \alpha : \{\beta : \{P \parallel Q\} R\} \quad (\text{Reduction Mob})$$

