

PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICE OF SESSION TYPES

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http://mrg.doc.ic.ac.uk



NEW/S

The paper *Multiparty* asynchronous session types by Kohei Honda, Nobuko Yoshida, and Marco Carbone, published in POPL 2008 has been awarded the ACM SIGPLAN Most Influential POPL Paper Award today at POPL 2018.

» more

10 Jan 2018

Estafet has published a page on their usage of the Scribble language developed in our group with RedHat and other industry partners.

» more

25 Sep 2017

Nick spoke at Golang UK 2017 on applying behavioural types to verify concurrent Go programs

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

2018

Julien Lange, Nicholas Ng, Bernardo Toninho, Nobuko Yoshida: A Static Verification Framework for Message Passing in Go using Behavioural Types. To appear in ICSE 2018.

Tutorials

Tools

Awards

Kohei Honda

Bernardo Toninho, Nobuko Yoshida: Depending On Session Typed Process. To appear in FoSSaCS 2018.

Bernardo Toninho, Nobuko Yoshida: On Polymorphic Sessions And Functions: A Talk of Two (Fully Abstract) Encodings. To appear in ESOP 2018.

Rumyana Neykova, Raymond Hu, Nobuko Yoshida, Fahd Abdeljallal: Session Type Providers: Compile-time API Generation for Distributed Protocols with Interaction Refinements in F#. To appear in CC 2018.



Post-docs: Simon CASTEL David CASTRC Francisco FERI Raymond HU Rumyana NEY Nicholas NG Alceste SCALA

PhD Students: Assel ALTAYE Juliana FRANC Eva GRAVERS

Interactions with Industries







Adam Bowen @adamnbowen · Sep 15 I didn't even know that session types existed an hour ago, but thanks to Nobuko Yoshida's great talk at **#pwlconf**, I want to learn more.

Nobuko Yoshida Imperial College, London

DoC researcher to speak at Golang UK conference

by Vicky Kapogianni 20 July 2016



DoC researcher to speak at industry-focused Golang UK conference on results of concurrency research

Click here to add content

@nicholascwng rocking on @GolangUKconf about static deadlock detection in #golang #gouk16



Interactions with Industries

F#unctional Londoners Meetup CC'18

6 days ago · 6:30 PM **Session Types with Fahd Abdeljallal**



43 Members

Synopsis: Session types are a formalism to codify the structure of a communication, using types to specify the communication protocol used. This formalism provides the... LEARN MORE

Current State

VS. Compositionality

puted Systems

ECOOP'17

Dr. Roland Kuhn @rolandkuhn — CTO of Actyx

actux

ECOOP'16 behaviors can be composed both sequentially and concurrently

- effects are not yet tracked
- Scribble generator for Scala not yet there
- theoretical work at Imperial College, London (Prof. Nobuko Yoshida & Alceste Scalas)





Go concurrency verification research at DoC grabs headline

A paper by DoC researchers at POPL on Go concurrency verification was featured in a tech blog and generates a buzz outside of the research community.

A paper by researchers at the department was recently featured in the morning paper, a blog by venture capitalist Adrian Colye, which summarises an important, influential, topical or otherwise interesting paper in the field of computer science every weekday in an easily digestible way by non-researchers. On the 2 Feb 2017 issue of the morning paper, It was highlighted as "the true spirit of POPL (Principles of Programming Languages)".



the morning paper

an interesting/influential/important paper from the world of CS every weekday morning, as selected by Adrian Colyer

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ICSE'18/

A static verification framework for message passing in Go using behavioural types

JANUARY 25, 2018

tags: Concurrency, Programming Languages

A static verification framework for message passing in Go using behavioural types Lange et al., *ICSE 18*

With thanks to Alexis Richardson who first forwarded this paper to me.

We're jumping ahead to ICSE 18 now, and a paper that has been accepted for publication there later this year. It fits with the theme we've been exploring this week though, so I thought I'd cover it now. We've seen verification techniques applied in the context of **Rust** and **JavaScript**, looked at the integration of **linear types in Haskell**, and today it is the turn of Go!

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ARCHIVES



MOST READ IN THE LAST FEW DAYS

Selected Publications 2017/2018

- [CC'18] Rumyana Neykova, Raymond Hu, NY, Fahd Abdeljallal: Session Type Providers: Compile-time API Generation for Distributed Protocols with Interaction Refinements in F#.
- [FoSSaCS'18] Bernardo Toninho, NY: Depending On Session Typed Process.
- [ESOP'18] Bernardo Toninho, NY: On Polymorphic Sessions And Functions: A Talk of Two (Fully Abstract) Encodings.
- [ESOP'18] Malte Viering, Tzu-Chun Chen, Patrick Eugster, Raymond Hu, Lukasz Ziarek: A Typing Discipline for Statically Verified Crash Failure Handling in Distributed Systems.
- [ICSE'18] Julien Lange, Nicholas Ng, Bernardo Toninho, NY : A Static Verification Framework for Message Passing in Go using Behavioural Types
- [ECOOP'17] Alceste Scala, Raymond Hu, Ornela Darda, NY: A Linear Decomposition of Multiparty Sessions for Safe Distributed Programming..
- [COORDINATION'17] Keigo Imai, NY, Shoji Yuen: Session-ocaml: a session-based library with polarities and lenses.
- [FoSSaCS'17] Julien Lange, NY: On the Undecidability of Asynchronous Session Subtyping.
- [FASE'17] Raymond Hu, NY: Explicit Connection Actions in Multiparty Session Types.
- [CC'17] Rumyana Neykova, NY: Let It Recover: Multiparty Protocol-Induced Recovery.
- [POPL'17] Julien Lange, Nicholas Ng, Bernardo Toninho, NY: Fencing off Go: Liveness and Safety for Channel-based Programming.

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CDL Equivalent

• Basic example:



Dr Gary Brown (Pi4 Tech) in 2007

Scribble Protocol

 "Scribbling is necessary for architects, either physical or computing, since all great ideas of architectural construction come from that unconscious moment, when you do not realise what it is, when there is no concrete shape, only a whisper which is not a whisper, an image which is not an image, somehow it starts to urge you in your mind, in so small a voice but how persistent it is, at that point you start scribbling" - Kohei Honda 2007

Basic example:

protocol HelloWorld { role You, World; Hello from You to World;





Part One



Type Me If You Can: Introduction to Session Types and Scribble

Rumyana Neykova, Nobuko Yoshida

Content



Specification and Verification of Distributed Protocols

	Ме	You
	History/Background	
	Session Types	
	Properties & Safety Guarantees	
	Scribble (by example)	
	Protocol Validation	
	Program verification	

Session Types

Motivation



Observation 1: Types

- One of the computing most successful concepts
- Codify the structure of the data
- Serve as a fundamental unit of compositionality
- Allow easy error prevention
- Appears from the oldest to the newest programming languages



Observation 2: But distributed systems ...



not on computation



Then...







Building blocks

Primitives – to build the types

 send, receive (well, there are few more, but it boils down to these two (

send(int).send(int).receive(bool)

- Context to be checked by the type system
 - protocols describe the communication between processes

SESSION = STRUCTURED SEQUENCE OF INTERACTIONS



Defining the type

Separate the communication into sessions



Each process has a type in a session, defined by the interactions on the session channel

A Protocol



- Protocol: Buyer-Seller
- Description: Alice buying a book

session type

send(int).receive(int). #{ok: send(string).receive(date), quit:end}
receive(int).send(int). {ok: receive(string).send(date), quit: end}



Are we compatible?

send(int).send(int).receive(bool)



receive(int).receive(int).send(bool)

It is all about duality!



receive(int).send(int).receive(bool)



receive(int).receive(int).send(bool)



Wait a minute! What if it is more than 2?



How does it work?



Alice \rightarrow Bob: \langle Nat \rangle . Bob \rightarrow Carol: \langle Nat \rangle .end

$$T_{\mathtt{Bob}} = ?\langle \mathtt{Alice}, \mathtt{Nat} \rangle; \\ !\langle \mathtt{Carol}, \mathtt{Nat} \rangle; end$$

 $P_{\text{Bob}} = s?(\text{Alice}, x);$ $s!\langle \text{Carol}, x \rangle; 0$

- Step 1: Write a Global Type
- Step 2: Write Local Programs
- Step 3: Project and Type Check Locally





<u>SESSION</u> = STRUCTURED SEQUENCE OF COMMUNICATION

send(int).send(int).receive(bool)



Communication Safety

• No communication mismatch

Session Fidelity

Communication follow the described protocol

Progress

• No deadlock/ stuck in a session
























Properties of Session Types

- 1. Communication Error-Freedom No communication mismatch
- 2. Session Fidelity

The communication sequence in a session follows the scenario declared in the types.

Progress
 No deadlock/ Stuck in a session

"well-typed channels cannot go wrong"

Session Types Applications

Type Checking [ECOOP'16, OOPSLA'15, POPL'16]



Dynamic Monitoring [RV'13, COORDINATION'14, FMSD'15]



Code Generation [CC'15, FASE'16]



Synthesis [ICALP'13, POPL'15, CONCUR'15, TACAS'16, CC'16]



Scribble

- Applications
 - Deadlock Detection (Go)
 - Recovery strategies(Erlang)
 - Type-driven programming (Java, Scala, F#)
 - Static Verification (C, OCaml, Rust)
 - Runtime monitoring (Python)



Applications







Session Type Based Tools

OOI Governance



ZDLC: Process Modeling



Actor Verification



MPI code generations



Session Type based Tools







Applications







Scribble Protocol

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Basic example:

protocol HelloWorld { role You, World; Hello from You to World;

www.scribble.org



Protocol Language

"Scribbling is necessary for architects, either physical or computing, since all great ideas of architectural construction come from that unconscious moment, when you do not realise what it is, when there is no concrete shape, only a whisper which is not a whisper, an image which is not an image, somehow it starts to urge you in your mind, in so small a voice but how persistent it is, at that point you start scribbling." Kohei Honda 2007.

What is Scribble?

Scribble is a language to describe application-level protocols among communicating systems. A protocol represents an agreement on how participating systems interact with each other. Without a protocol, it is hard to do a meaningful interaction: participants simply cannot communicate effectively, since they do not know when to expect the other parties to send their data, or whether the other party is ready to receive a datum it is sending. In fact it is not clear what kinds of data is to be used for each interaction. It is too costly to carry out communications based on guess works and with inevitable communication mismatch (synchronisation bugs). Simply, it is not feasible as an engineering practice.

Documents

> Protocol Language Guide

Follow me on

GitHub

Downloads

> Java Tools

Community

- > Discussion Forum > Java Tools
 - lesues Wiki
- Python Tools Issues Wiki



Meet Scribble www.scribble.org

Scribble

What is Scribble?

Scribble is a language to describe application-level protocols among communicating systems. A protocol represents an agreement on how participating systems interact with each other. Without a protocol, it is hard to do meaningful interaction: participants simply cannot communicate effectively, since they do not know when to expect the other parties to send data, or whether the other party is ready to receive data.

However, having a description of a protocol has further benefits. It enables verification to ensure that the protocol can be implemented without resulting in unintended consequences, such as deadlocks.

Find out more ...



An example



A very simply example, but this illustrates the basic syntax for a hello world interaction, where a party performing the role Me sends a message of type *Greetings* to another party performing the role 'World', who subsequently makes a decision which determines which path of the choice will be followed, resulting in a *GoodMorning* or *GoodAfternoon* message being exchanged.



Scribble is a language for describing multiparty protocols

Verify 1

Scribble has a theoretical foundation, based on the Pi Calculus and Session Types, to ensure that protocols Project

Endpoint projection is the term used for identifying the

Implement 📰

Various options exist, including (a) using the endpoint projection for a role to generate a skeleton code, (b)

Monitor Q

Ine on Cithus

Use the endpoint projection for roles defined within a

Let's try some protocols: http://scribble.doc.ic.ac.uk/

```
module examples;
  1
  2
     global protocol HelloWorld(role Me, role World) {
  3 -
        hello() from Me to World;
  4
  5 -
        choice at World {
          goodMorning1() from World to Me;
  6
        } or {
  7 -
          goodMorning1() from World to Me;
  8
        }
  9
 10
      }
 11
              Check Protocol: examples.HelloWorld
                                              Role: Me
           \odot
Load a sample
                                                                      Project
                                                                              Generate Graph
```

Example



protocol def recursion send-receive choice

global protocol Q&A(role me, role you){
rec loop {
 ask(string) from you to me;
 choice at me
 { response (string) from me to you;
 continue loop; }
 or { enough() from me to you; }}



Protocol Validation



Are we compatible?

send(int).send(int).receive(bool)



receive(int).receive(int).send(bool)

It is all about duality!



receive(int).send(int).receive(bool)



receive(int).receive(int).send(bool)

Good/Bad MPST by example

- Communication model:
 - asynchronous, reliable, role-to-role ordering
 - MPST applies to transports that fit this model
 - TCP, HTTP, ..., AMQP, ...shared memory
- MPST protocols should be fully specified
 - no implicit messages needed to conduct a session





- Core Scribble constructs
- What can go wrong ?
- MPST safety and liveness errors (informally)
- How are they ruled out (syntactically)

Properties (by example)

Communication mismatch

Orphan messages

send(A) | send(A)

Deadlock

recv(A) |recv(B)

recv(C) | recv(C) | if (n=0) then send(A) else send(B)

Scribble constructs: **Role-to-role Message passing**



Empty operator and/or payload is allowed



Scribble constructs: **"Located" choice**



Condition

- Only enabled roles can send messages in choice paths
 - Start role enabled, other disabled
 - a role is enabled by receiving a message from an enabled role

Scribble constructs: **"Located" choice**

```
choice at A {
   buyer1(int) from A to B; // Total to pay
   (int) from B to A;// B will pay that much
   buyer1(int) from A to C; // C pays the remainder
} or {
   buyer1(x:int, y:int) from A to C; // Total to pay
   (Int) from C to A; // C pays that much
   buyer2(x:int, y:int) from A to B;// B pays the remainder
}
```

More flexible than directed choice

 $\mathbf{p} \to \mathbf{q} : {\mathbf{I}_{\mathbf{i}} : G_i}_{i \in I}$ Branching

Branching via different payloads not allowed

choice at A {1() from A to B;} or {1(int) from A to B;}



Exercise: "Located" choice

Condition

- Only enabled roles can send messages in choice paths
 - Start role enabled, other disabled
 - a role is enabled by receiving a message from an enabled role

```
choice at A {
   1() from A to B;
   1() from B to C;
   1() from C to A;
} or {
   2() from B to A;   Role B not enabled
   choice at B {
      2() from B to C;
   } or {
      3() from B to C;
   }
   4() from C to A;
}
What actually goes wrong ?
```

- MPST Safety errors:
 - reception error, orphan message, deadlock

Exercise: "Located" choice



Is this protocol OK? 1/4

```
choice at A {
    1() from A to B;
    3() from B to C; 
    4() from C to A;
} or {
    2() from A to B;
    3() from A to C; 
    5() from A to C;
```

Errors explained ?

- Ambitious choice for C
 - Should C send a 4 or 5 to A?
 - potential reception errors (4, 5) if interpreted non-deterministically
- Non-deterministic choice at C inconsistent with the choice by A
 - Not mergeable in syntactic projections
 - has to merge continuations (undefined for distinct outputs)

Is this protocol OK? 1/4

```
choice at A {
   1() from A to B;
   3() from B to C;
   4() from C to A;
   or {
    2() from A to B;
   3() from A to C;
   5() from A to C;
}
```

How to fix t?

Is this protocol OK? 1/4

```
choice at A {
    1() from A to B;
    3a() from B to C;
    4() from C to A;
} or {
    2() from A to B;
    3b() from A to C;
    5() from A to C;
}
```

Distinguish label 3!
Is this protocol OK? 2/4



```
choice at A {
  1() from A to B;
  3() from B to C;
  do Merge(A, C);
} or {
  2() from A to B;
  3() from B to C;
  do Merge(A, C);
}
global protocol Merge(role A, role C){
  choice at A {
   5() from A to C;
 } or {
   5() from A to C;
} }
```

Duplicate cases inherently mergeable, e.g [POPL'11]

Is this protocol OK? 3/4



Errors explained ?

- "Race condition" on choice on C due to asynchrony
 - What should C do after receiving a 3?
 - Potential orphan message (2) if interpreted as multi-queue FIFO
- Inconsistent external choice subject
 - (trivially non-mergeable in standard MPST)
 - A role must be enabled by the same role in choice paths

Is this protocol OK? 4/4

```
choice at A {
  1() from A to B;
  2() from A to C;
  } or {
  3() from B to B;
}
```

Errors explained ?

- Unrealisable choice at C
 - No implicit message can be assumed, e.g end of session
 - How can C determine if a message is coming?
 - Potential deadlock (C waiting for A), or potential orphan (2), depending on the interpretation
- Empty action option to terminal state
 - can't merge end type with anything else

Quiz: Mergeability

```
choice at A {
    1() from A to B;
    2() from C to B;
} or {
    3() from A to D;
    4() from D to B;
}
```



```
choice at A {
    1() from A to C;
    2() from C to D;
} or {
    3() from A to B;
    2() from C to D;
}
```

choice at A { 1() from A to B; 2() from C to D; } or { 3() from A to B; 4() from C to D; }



<pre>choice at A {</pre>				
1(() from	А	to	С;
2 (() from	В	to	С;
}	~ {			
3 (() from	А	to	Β;
4 (() from	В	to	С;
}				

Scribble construct: Recursion

Tail recursion with recursive scopes

```
rec X {
   1() from A to B;
   continue X;
}
2() from A to B; ② Dead code
```



Condition

- Reachability of protocol states (no "dead code")
 - Checked via projection (reachability w.r.t per-role protocol flow)
- Regular interaction structure at endpoints (CFSM)

Scribble construct: Recursion

Tail recursion with recursive scopes

```
rec X {
   1() from A to B;
   continue X;
}
2() from A to B; ② Dead code
rec X {
   1() from A to B;
   continue X;
}
2() from C to D;
```

Condition

- Reachability of protocol states (no "dead code")
 - Checked via projection (reachability w.r.t per-role protocol flow)

B!1()

D!2()

Regular interaction structure at endpoints (CFSM)

Is this protocol ok? 1/4

```
rec X {
    choice at A
        1() from A to B;
        continue X;
        2() from A to B; ② Dead code
    } or {
        3() from A to B;
    }
    4() from A to B; ③
}
5() from A to B;
```

Condition

- Reachability of protocol states (no "dead code")
 - Checked via projection (reachability w.r.t per-role protocol flow)
- Regular interaction structure at endpoints (CFSM)

Is this protocol OK? 2/4

```
rec X {
    choice at A {
        1() from A to B;
        2() from B to C;
        3() from C to B;
    }
    or {
        4() from A to C;
        5() from C to B;
}
continue X;
```

Why does Scribble not allow this protocol?

Is this protocol OK? 3/4

```
rec X {
    choice at A {
        1() from A to B;
        continue X;
} or {
        1() from A to B;
}
```



Potential *deadlocks* or *orphans*

Is this protocol ok? 4/4

• Safety errors?

```
• hint: Consider the FSM at A?
```

Is this protocol ok? 4/4

- Safety errors?
 - hint: Consider the FSM at A?
 - How about now?

- Liveness errors?
 - Role progress
 - Message liveness

Scribble

Program Verification

Scribble Endpoint API generation toolchain

- Protocol spec. as Scribble protocol (asynchronous MPST)
 - Global protocol validation (safely distributable asynchronous protocol)
 - Syntactic projection to local protocols (static session typing if supported)
 - Endpoint FSM (EFSM) translation (dynamic session typing by monitors)
 - Protocol states as state-specific channel types
 - Call chaining API to link successor states
- Java APIs for implementing the endpoints



Example: Adder



```
global protocol Adder(role C, role S) {
   choice at C {
      Add(Integer, Integer) from C to S;
      Res(Integer) from S to C;
      do Adder(C, S);
   } or {
      Bye() from C to S;
      Bye() from S to C;
   }
}
```

Example: Adder



Adder: State Channel API for C



Adder_C_1

Output state channel: (overloaded) send methods

```
Adder_C_2 send(S role, Add op, Integer arg0, Integer arg1) throws ...
Adder_C_3 send(S role, Bye op) throws ...
```

- Parameter types: message recipient, operator and payload
- Return type: successor state

Adder: endpoint implementation for C



Adder_C_1 c1 = new Adder_C_1(...);

c1,

send(S role, Bye op) : Adder_C_3 - Adder_C_1

send(S role, Add op, Integer arg0, Integer arg1) : Adder_C_2 - Adder_C_1

A demo is worth a thousand slides



MPST beyond verification



Let it Recover: Multiparty Protocol-Induced Recovery

Rumyana Neykova, Nobuko Yoshida Imperial College London