
Software Model Checking

The Spin Model Checker : Part II

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■ Promela

- ✚ The system specification language of the Spin model checker
- ✚ Syntax is similar to that of C, but simplified
 - No float type, no functions, no pointers etc
- ✚ Paradigm is similar to that of CCS
 - Communication and concurrency
 - Clear operational semantics
 - Interleaved semantics
 - Asynchronous process execution
 - Two-way communication
- ✚ Unique features not found in programming languages
 - Non-determinism (process level and statement level)
 - Executability



6 Types of Basic Statements

■ Assignment: always executable

✚ Ex. `x=3+x, x=run A()`

■ Print: always executable

✚ Ex. `printf("Process %d is created.\n",_pid);`

■ Assertion: always executable

✚ Ex. `assert(x + y == z)`

■ Expression: depends on its value

✚ Ex. `x+3>0, 0, 1, 2`

✚ Ex. `skip, true`

■ Send: depends on buffer status

✚ Ex. `ch1!m` is executable only if `ch1` is not full

■ Receive: depends on buffer status

✚ Ex. `ch1?m` is executable only if `ch1` is not empty



Critical Section Example

```
bool lock;  
byte cnt;
```

```
active[2] proctype P() {  
    !lock -> lock=true;  
    cnt=cnt+1;  
    printf("%d is in the crt sec!\n",_pid);  
    cnt=cnt-1;  
    lock=false;  
}
```

```
active proctype Invariant() {  
    assert(cnt <= 1);  
}
```

```
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# ls  
crit.pml  
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# spin -a crit.pml  
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# ls  
crit.pml pan.b pan.c pan.h pan.m pan.t  
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# gcc pan.c  
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# a.out  
pan: assertion violated (cnt<=1) (at depth 8)  
pan: wrote crit.pml.trail
```

Full statespace search for:

```
never claim          - (none specified)  
assertion violations  +  
acceptance cycles    - (not selected)  
invalid end states    +
```

State-vector 36 byte, depth reached 16, errors: 1

119 states, stored

47 states, matched

166 transitions (= stored+matched)

0 atomic steps

hash conflicts: 0 (resolved)

4.879 memory usage (Mbyte)

```
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# ls  
a.out crit.pml crit.pml.trail pan.b pan.c pan.h  
pan.m pan.t
```



Critical Section Example (cont.)

```
[root@moonzoo spin_test]# spin -t -p crit.pml
```

```
Starting P with pid 0
```

```
Starting P with pid 1
```

```
Starting Invariant with pid 2
```

```
1:  proc 1 (P) line 5 "crit.pml" (state 1)  [!(lock)]
2:  proc 0 (P) line 5 "crit.pml" (state 1)  [!(lock)]
3:  proc 1 (P) line 5 "crit.pml" (state 2)  [lock = 1]
4:  proc 1 (P) line 6 "crit.pml" (state 3)  [cnt = (cnt+1)]
    1 is in the crt sec!
5:  proc 1 (P) line 7 "crit.pml" (state 4)  [printf('%d is in the crt sec!\n',_pid)]
6:  proc 0 (P) line 5 "crit.pml" (state 2)  [lock = 1]
7:  proc 0 (P) line 6 "crit.pml" (state 3)  [cnt = (cnt+1)]
    0 is in the crt sec!
8:  proc 0 (P) line 7 "crit.pml" (state 4)  [printf('%d is in the crt sec!\n',_pid)]
```

```
spin: line 13 "crit.pml", Error: assertion violated
```

```
spin: text of failed assertion: assert((cnt<=1))
```

```
9:  proc 2 (Invariant) line 13 "crit.pml" (state 1)  [assert((cnt<=1))]
```

```
spin: trail ends after 9 steps
```

```
#processes: 3
```

```
lock = 1
```

```
cnt = 2
```

```
9:  proc 2 (Invariant) line 14 "crit.pml" (state 2) <valid end state>
```

```
9:  proc 1 (P) line 8 "crit.pml" (state 5)
```

```
9:  proc 0 (P) line 8 "crit.pml" (state 5)
```



Revised Critical Section Example

```
bool lock;
byte cnt;

active[2] proctype P() {
    atomic{ !lock -> lock=true;}
    cnt=cnt+1;
    printf("%d is in the crt sec!\n",_pid);
    cnt=cnt-1;
    lock=false;
}

active proctype Invariant() {
    assert(cnt <= 1);
}
```

[root@moonzoo revised]# a.out

Full statespace search for:

never claim - (none specified)
assertion violations +
acceptance cycles - (not selected)
invalid end states +

State-vector 36 byte, depth reached 14, errors: 0

62 states, stored

17 states, matched

79 transitions (= stored+matched)

0 atomic steps

hash conflicts: 0 (resolved)

4.879 memory usage (Mbyte)



Deadlocked Critical Section Example

```
bool lock;
byte cnt;

active[2] proctype P() {
    atomic{ !lock -> lock==true;}
    cnt=cnt+1;
    printf("%d is in the crt sec!\n",_pid);
    cnt=cnt-1;
    lock=false;
}

active proctype Invariant() {
    assert(cnt <= 1);
}
```

```
[[root@moonzoo deadlocked]# a.out
pan: invalid end state (at depth 3)
```

(Spin Version 4.2.7 -- 23 June 2006)

Warning: Search not completed
+ Partial Order Reduction

Full statespace search for:

never claim - (none specified)
assertion violations +
acceptance cycles - (not selected)
invalid end states +

State-vector 36 byte, depth reached 4, errors: **1**

5 states, stored

0 states, matched

5 transitions (= stored+matched)

2 atomic steps

hash conflicts: 0 (resolved)

4.879 memory usage (Mbyte)



Deadlocked Critical Section Example (cont.)

```
[root@moonzoo deadlocked]# spin -t -p deadlocked_crit.pml
Starting P with pid 0
Starting P with pid 1
Starting Invariant with pid 2
  1:  proc 2 (Invariant) line 13 "deadlocked_crit.pml" (state 1)
[assert((cnt<=1))]
  2:  proc 2 terminates
  3:  proc 1 (P) line 5 "deadlocked_crit.pml" (state 1)  [!(lock)]
  4:  proc 0 (P) line 5 "deadlocked_crit.pml" (state 1)  [!(lock)]
spin: trail ends after 4 steps
#processes: 2
      lock = 0
      cnt = 0
  4:  proc 1 (P) line 5 "deadlocked_crit.pml" (state 2)
  4:  proc 0 (P) line 5 "deadlocked_crit.pml" (state 2)
3 processes created
```



Options in XSPIN

- Now you have learned all necessary techniques to verify common problems in the SW development

The image shows two overlapping dialog boxes from the XSPIN tool. The 'Advanced Verification Options' dialog on the left contains several input fields and buttons:

- Physical Memory Available (in Mbytes): 4000 [explain]
- Estimated State Space Size (states x 10³): 500 [explain]
- Maximum Search Depth (steps): 10000 [explain]
- Nr of hash-functions in Bitstate mode: 2 [explain]
- Extra Compile-Time Directives (Optional): [Choose]
- Extra Run-Time Options (Optional): [Choose]
- Extra Verifier Generation Options: [Choose]

It also features two sub-dialogs: 'Error Trapping' with options like 'Stop at Error Nr: 1' and 'Use Breadth-First Search', and 'Type of Run' with options like 'Use Partial Order Reduction' and 'Compute Variable Ranges'. Buttons for 'Help', 'Cancel', and 'Set' are at the bottom.

The 'Basic Verification Options' dialog on the right is divided into sections:

- Correctness Properties:** Includes 'Safety (state properties)' (checked), 'Assertions', 'Invalid Endstates', 'Liveness (cycles/sequences)', 'Non-Progress Cycles', 'Acceptance Cycles', 'With Weak Fairness', 'Apply Never Claim (If Present)', 'Report Unreachable Code', and 'Check xr/xs Assertions'.
- Search Mode:** Includes 'Exhaustive' (checked), 'Supertrace/Bitstate', and 'Hash-Compact'.
- A Full Queue:** Includes 'Blocks New Msgs' (checked) and 'Loses New Msgs'.
- Buttons: '[Add Never Claim from File]', '[Verify an LTL Property]', '[Set Advanced Options]', 'Help', 'Cancel', and 'Run'.

Communication Using Message Channels

■ Spin provides communications through various types of message channels

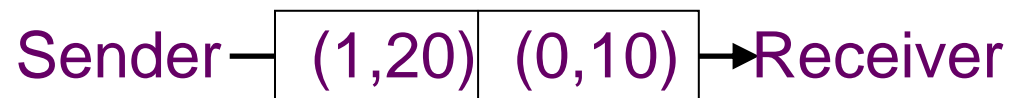
- ✚ Buffered or non-buffered (rendezvous comm.)
- ✚ Various message types
- ✚ Various message handling operators

■ Syntax

✚ `chan ch1 = [2] of { bit, byte};`

- `ch1!0,10;ch1!1,20`

- `ch1?b,bt;ch1?1,bt`



✚ `chan ch2 = [0] of {bit, byte}`



■ Basic channel inquiry

- + `len(ch)`
- + `empty(ch)`
- + `full(ch)`
- + `nempty(ch)`
- + `nfull(ch)`

■ Additional message passing operators

- + `ch?[x,y]`: polling only
- + `ch?<x,y>`: copy a message without removing it
- + `ch!!x,y`: sorted sending (increasing order)
- + `ch??5,y`: random receiving
- + `ch?x(y) == ch?x,y` (for user's understandability)

■ Be careful to use these operators inside of expressions

- + They have side-effects, which spin may not allow



Faulty Data Transfer Protocol

(pg 27, data switch model proposed at 1981 at Bell labs)

mtype={ini,ack, dreq,data, shutdown,quiet, dead}

chan M = [1] of {mtype};

chan W = [1] of {mtype};

active proctype Mproc()

{

W!ini; /* connection */

M?ack; /* handshake */

timeout -> /* wait */

if /* two options: */

:: W!shutdown; /* start shutdown */

:: W!dreq; /* or request data */

do

:: M?data -> W!data

:: M?data-> W!shutdown;

break

od

fi;

M?shutdown;

W!quiet;

M?dead;

}

active proctype Wproc() {

W?ini; /* wait for ini*/

M!ack; /* acknowledge */

do /* 3 options: */

:: W?dreq-> /* data requested */

M!data /* send data */

:: W?data-> /* receive data */

skip /* no response */

:: W?shutdown->

M!shutdown; /* start shutdown*/

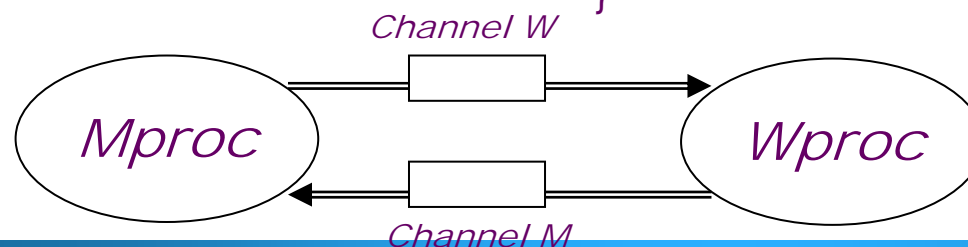
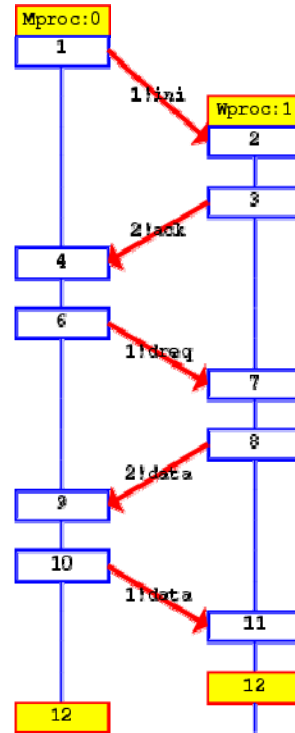
break

od;

W?quiet;

M!dead;

}



The Sieve of Eratosthenes (pg 326)

```
/*
  The Sieve of Eratosthenes (c. 276-196 BC)
  Prints all prime numbers up to MAX
*/
#define MAX    25
mtype = { number, eof };
chan root = [0] of { mtype, int };

init
{
  int n = 2;

  run sieve(root, n);
  do
  :: (n < MAX) -> n++; root!number(n)
  :: (n >= MAX) -> root!eof(0); break
  od
}
```

```
proctype sieve(chan c; int prime)
{
  chan child = [0] of { mtype, int };
  bool haschild; int n;
  printf("MSC: %d is prime\n", prime);
end: do
  :: c?number(n) ->
    if
    :: (n%prime) == 0 -> printf("MSC: %d = %
    :: else ->
      if
      :: !haschild -> /* new prime */
        haschild = true;
        run sieve(child, n);
      :: else ->
        child!number(n)
      fi;
    fi
  :: c?eof(0) -> break
  od;
  if
  :: haschild -> child!eof(0)
  :: else
  fi
}
```

