
Model Checking of Action-Based Concurrent Systems

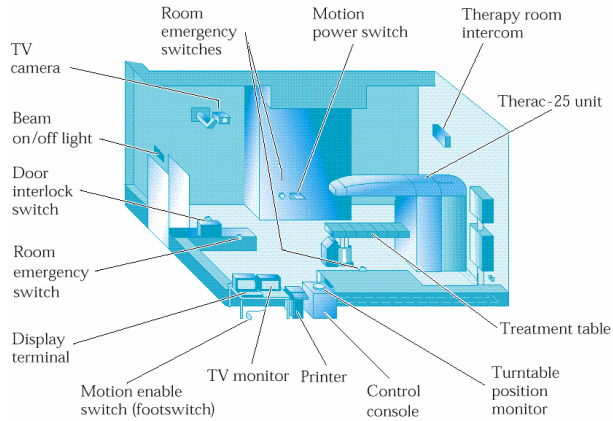
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Why formal verification?



Therac-25 radiotherapy accidents (1985-1987)

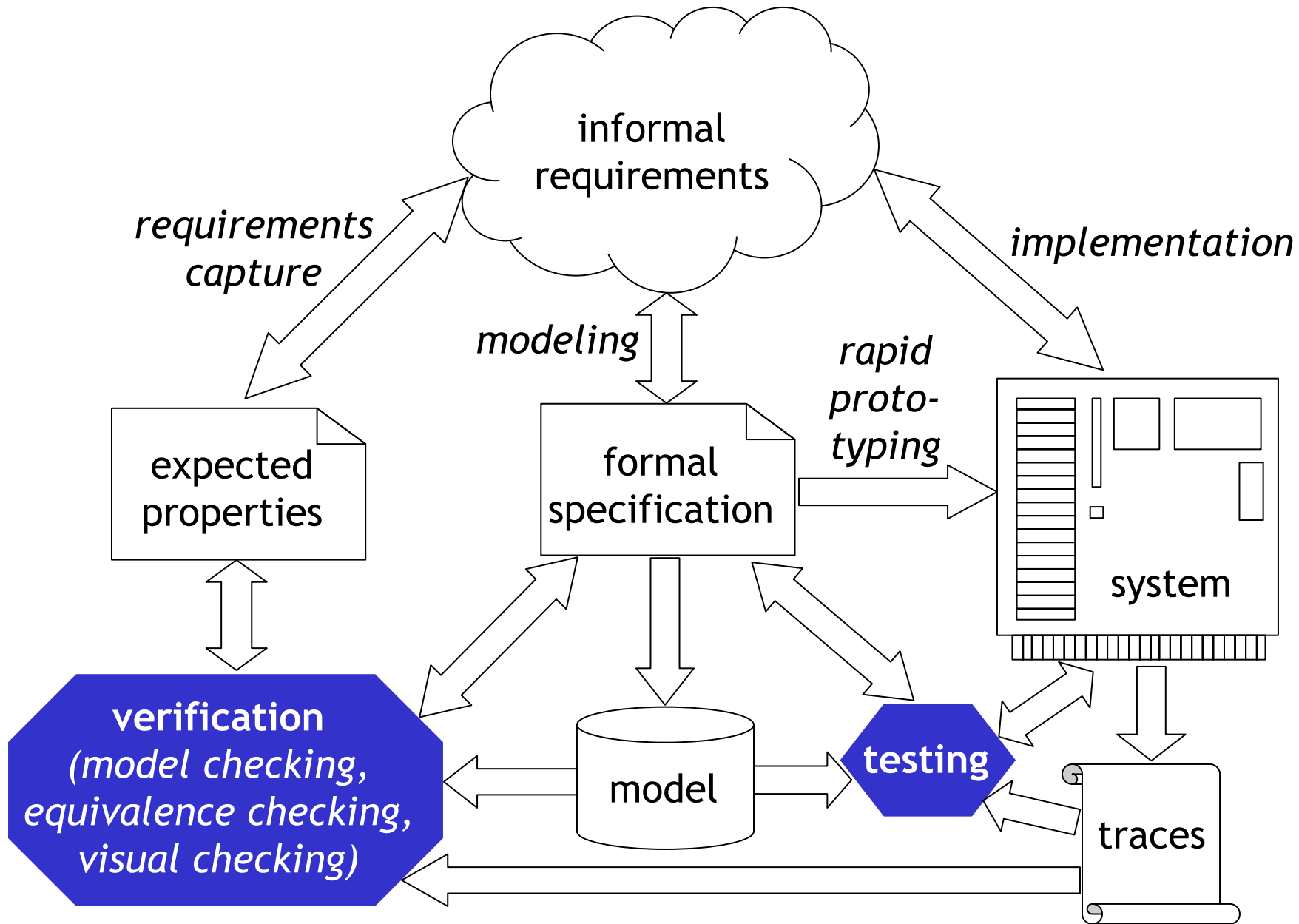
Ariane-5 launch failure (1996)

Mars climate orbiter failure (1999)

Characteristics of these systems

- Errors due to software
- Complex, often involving parallelism
- Safety-critical

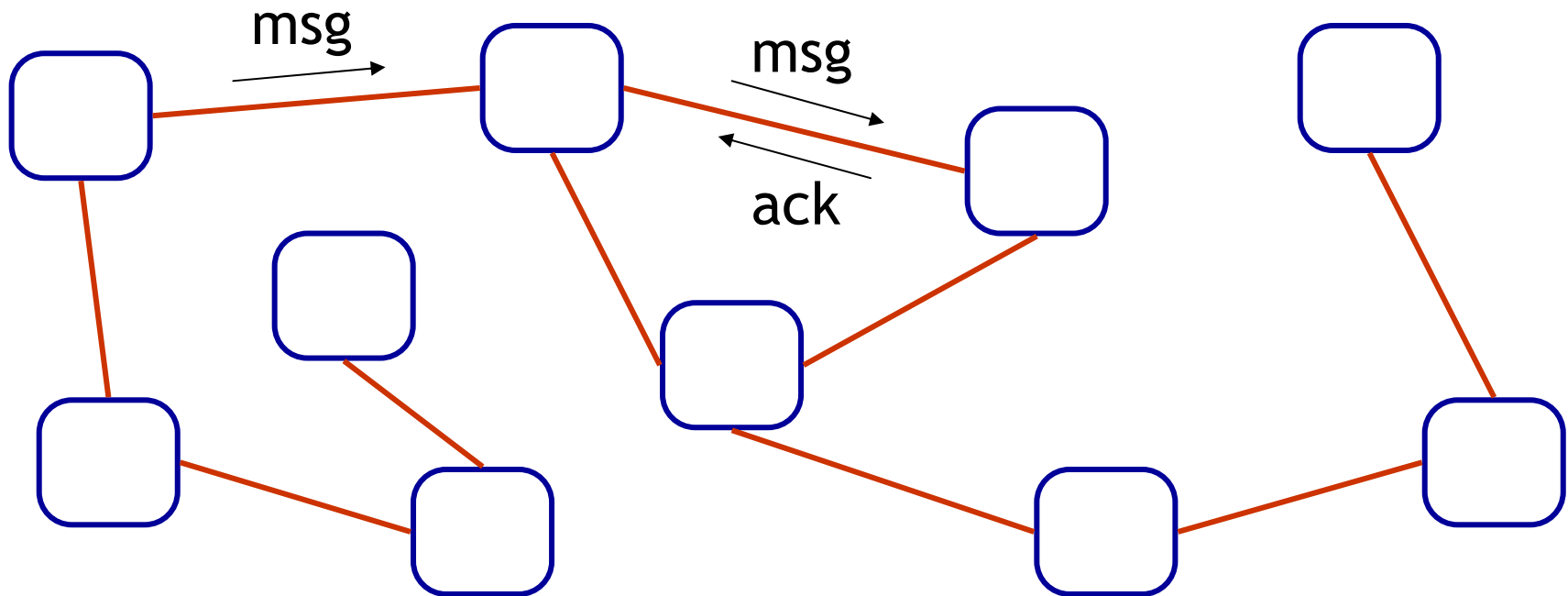
→ *formal verification is useful for early error detection*



Outline

- Communicating automata
- Process algebraic languages
- Action-based temporal logics
- On-the-fly verification
- Case study
- Discussion and perspectives

Asynchronous concurrent systems



Characteristics:

- Set of distributed processes
- Message-passing communication
- Nondeterminism

Applications:

- Hardware
- Software
- Telecommunications

CADP toolbox:

Construction and Analysis of Distributed Processes

(<http://www.inrialpes.fr/vasy/cadp>)

• Description languages:

- ISO standards (LOTOS, E-LOTOS)
- Networks of communicating automata

• Functionalities:

- Compilation and rapid prototyping
- Interactive and guided simulation
- Equivalence checking and model checking
- Test generation

• Case-studies and applications:

- >100 industrial case-studies
- >30 derived tools

• Distribution: over 400 sites (2008)

Communicating automata

- Basic notions
- Implicit and explicit representations
- Parallel composition and synchronization
- Hiding and renaming
- Behavioural equivalences

Transformational systems

- Work by computing a result in function of the entries
- **Absence of termination undesirable**
- Upon termination, the result is unique
- Sequential programming (sorting algorithms, graph traversals, syntax analysis, ...)

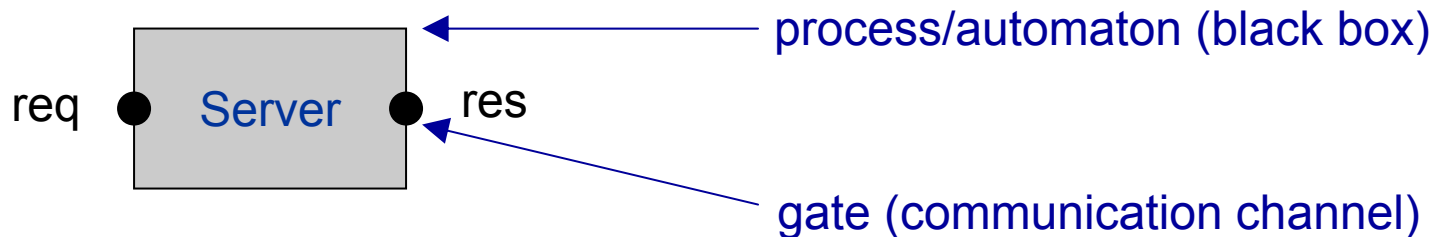
Reactive systems

- Work by reacting to the stimuli of the environment
- **Absence of termination desirable**
- Different occurrences of the same request may produce different results
- Parallel programming (operating systems, communication protocols, Web services, ...)

- **Concurrent execution**
- **Communication + synchronization**

Communicating automata

- Simple formalism describing the behaviour of concurrent systems
- *Black-box* approach:
 - One cannot inspect directly the state of the system
 - The behaviour of the system can be known only through its interactions with the environment



- Synchronization on a gate requires the participation of the process and of its environment (*rendezvous*)

Automaton (LTS)

- **Labeled Transition System** $M = \langle S, A, T, s_0 \rangle$

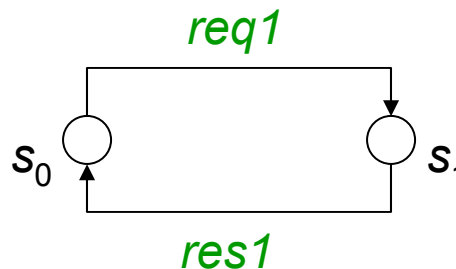
- S : set of *states* (s_1, s_2, \dots)
- A : set of visible *actions* (a_1, a_2, \dots)
- T : *transition* relation ($s_1 \xrightarrow{a} s_2 \in T$)
- $s_0 \in S$: *initial state*

internal action
(noted i or τ)

every state is reachable
from the initial state

deadlock (sink) state:
no outgoing transitions

- **Example:**
process client_1



sequential model
of a reactive system
behaviour

- **Other kinds of automata:**

- Kripke strictures (information associated to states)
- Input/output automata [Lynch-Tuttle]

LTS representations in CADP

(<http://www.inrialpes.fr/vasy/cadp>)

Explicit

- List of transitions
- Allows forward and backward exploration
- Suitable for global verification
- **BCG (Binary Coded Graphs)** environment
 - API in C for reading/writing
 - Tools and libraries for explicit graph manipulation (**bcg_io**, **bcg_draw**, **bcg_info**, **bcg_edit**, **bcg_labels**, ...)
 - Global verification tools (XTL)

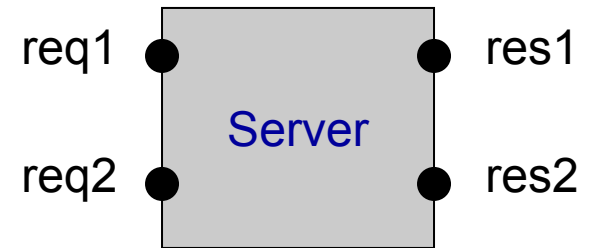
Implicit

- “Successor” function
- Allows forward exploration only
- Suitable for local (or on-the-fly) verification
- **Open/Caesar** environment [**Garavel-98**]
 - API in C for LTS exploration
 - Libraries with data structures for implicit graph manipulation (stacks, tables, edge lists, hash functions, ...)
 - On-the-fly verification tools (**Bisimulator**, **Evaluator**, ...)

Server example

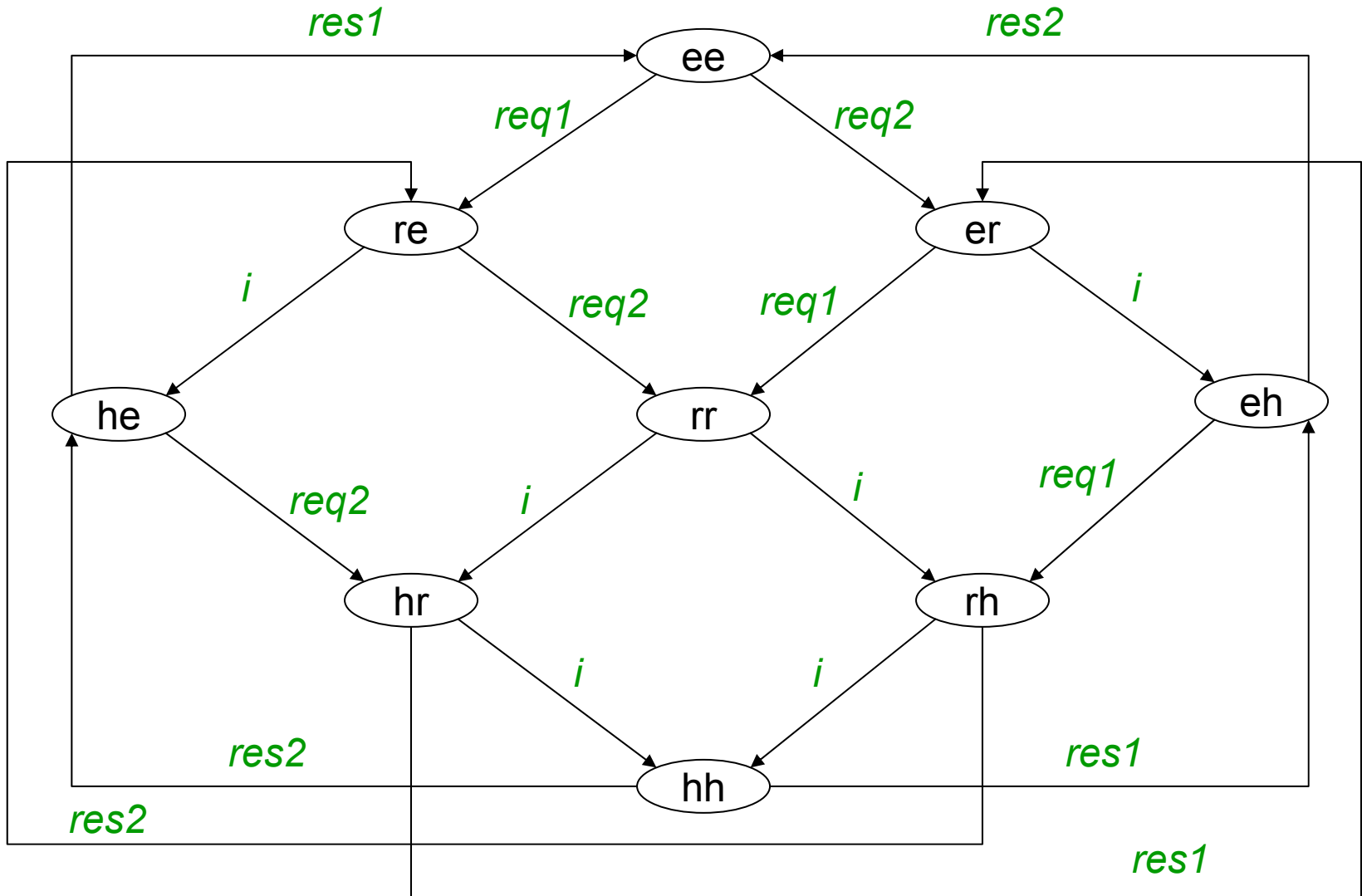
(modeled using a single automaton)

- Server able to process two requests concurrently
- State variables u_1 , u_2 storing the request status:
 - Empty (e)
 - Received (r)
 - Handled (h)
- A state: couple $\langle u_1, u_2 \rangle$
- Initial state: $\langle e, e \rangle$ (ee for short)
- Gates (actions):
 - req1, req2: receive a request
 - res1, res2: send a response
 - i: internal action



LTS of the server

(9 states, 16 transitions)



Remarks

- All the theoretical states are reachable:

$$|u_1| * |u_2| = 3 * 3 = 9$$

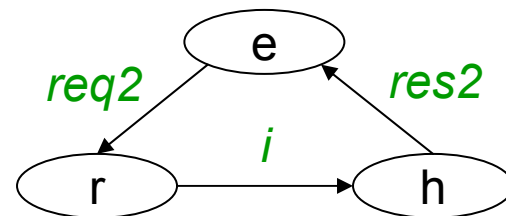
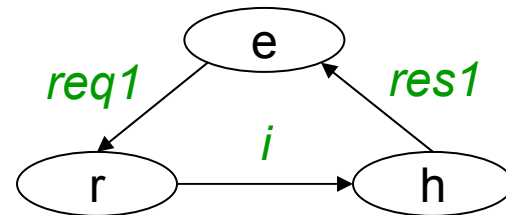
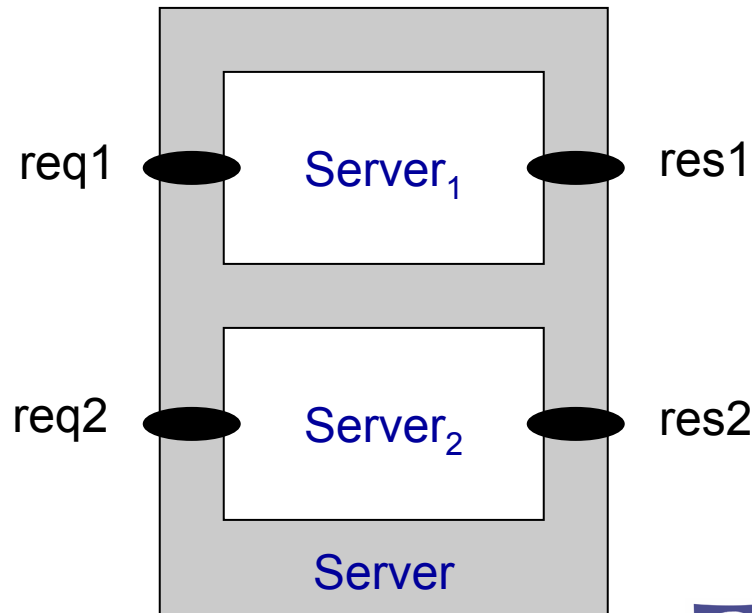
(no synchronization between request processings)

- There is no sink state (the system is *deadlock-free*)
 - From every state, it is possible to reach the initial state again (the server can be re-initialized)
 - Shortcomings of modeling with a single automaton:
 - One must predict all the possible request arrival orders
 - For more complex systems, the LTS size grows rapidly
- *need of higher-level modeling features*

Server example

(modeled using two concurrent automata)

- Decomposition of the system in two subsystems
 - Every type of request is handled by a subsystem
 - In the server example, subsystems are independent
- Simpler description w.r.t. single automaton:
 $3 + 3 = 6$ states



Decomposition in concurrent subsystems

Required at physical level

- Modeling of distributed activities
- Multiprocessor/multitasking execution platform

Chosen at logical level

- Simplified design of the system
- Well-structured programs

- Communication and synchronization between subsystems may introduce behavioural errors (e.g., *deadlocks*)
 - In practice, even simple parallel programs may reveal difficult to analyze
- *need of computer-assisted verification*

Parallel composition (“product”) of automata

• Goals:

- Define internal composition laws

$$\otimes : LTS \times \dots \times LTS \rightarrow LTS$$

expressing the parallel composition of 2 (or more) LTSs

- Allow synchronizations on one or several actions (gates)
- Allow hierarchical decomposition of a system

• Consequences:

- A product of automata can always be translated into a single (sequential) automaton
- The logical parallelism can be implemented sequentially (e.g., time-sharing OS)

Binary parallel composition

(syntax)

- EXP language [Lang-05]
 - Description of communicating automata
 - Extensive set of operators
 - Parallel compositions (binary, general, ...)
 - Synchronization vectors
 - Hiding / renaming, cutting, priority, ...
 - Exp.Open compiler → implicit LTS representation
- Binary parallel composition:

“lts1.bcg” |[G1, ..., Gn]| “lts2.bcg”

with synchronization
on G1, ..., Gn

“lts1.bcg” ||| “lts2.bcg”

without synchronization
(interleaving)

Binary parallel composition

(semantics)

Let $M_1 = \langle S_1, A_1, T_1, s_{01} \rangle$, $M_2 = \langle S_2, A_2, T_2, s_{02} \rangle$ and
 $L \subseteq A_1 \cap A_2$ a set of visible actions to be synchronized.

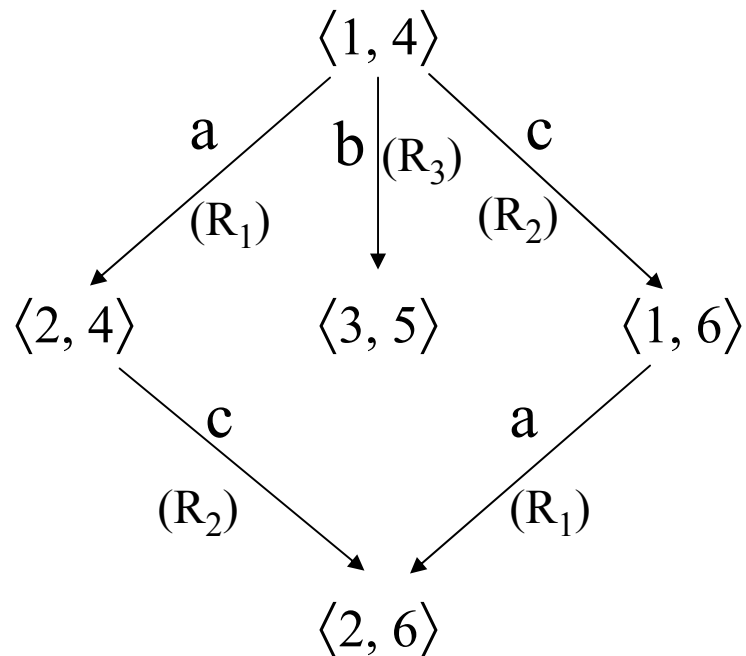
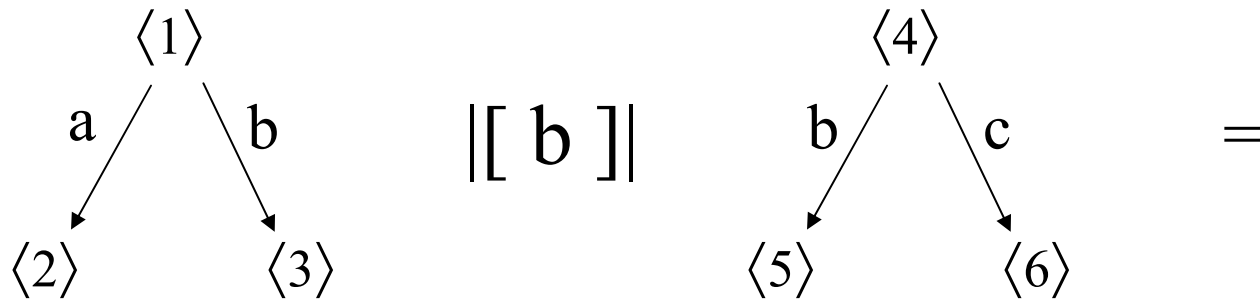
$M_1 \parallel [L] \parallel M_2 = \langle S, A, T, s_0 \rangle$

- $S = S_1 \times S_2$
- $A = A_1 \cup A_2$
- $s_0 = \langle s_{01}, s_{02} \rangle$
- $T \subseteq S \times A \times S$

defined by R_1 - R_3

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l}
 (R_1) \frac{s_1 \xrightarrow{a} s'_1 \wedge a \notin L}{\langle s_1, s_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{a} \langle s'_1, s_2 \rangle} \\
 (R_2) \frac{s_2 \xrightarrow{a} s'_2 \wedge a \notin L}{\langle s_1, s_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{a} \langle s_1, s'_2 \rangle} \\
 (R_3) \frac{s_1 \xrightarrow{a} s'_1 \wedge s_2 \xrightarrow{a} s'_2 \wedge a \in L}{\langle s_1, s_2 \rangle \xrightarrow{a} \langle s'_1, s'_2 \rangle}
 \end{array} \right.$$

Example

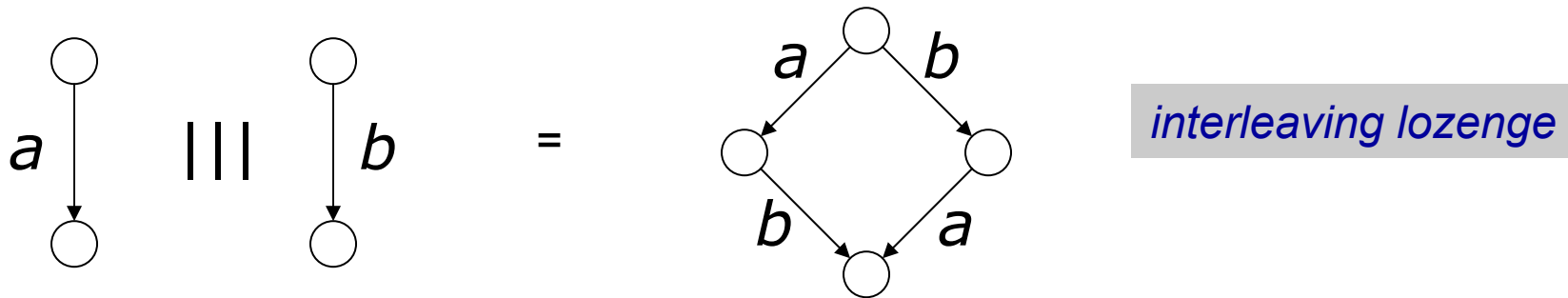


Interleaving semantics

- Hypothesis:

- Every action is atomic
- One can observe at most one action at a time

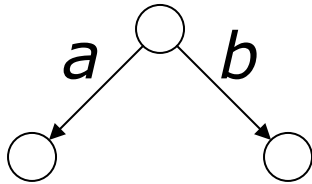
→ *suitable paradigm for distributed systems*



- Parallelism can be expressed in terms of *choice* and *sequence* (*expansion theorem* [Milner-89])

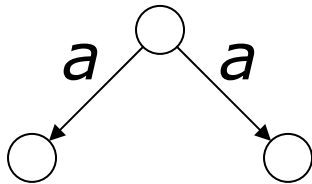
Internal and external choice

- **External** choice (the environment decides which branch of the choice will be executed)



the environment can force the execution of a and b by synchronizing on that action

- **Internal** choice (the system decides)



the environment may synchronize on a, but this will not remove the nondeterminism

Example of modeling with communicating automata

- Mutual exclusion problem:

Given two parallel processes P_0 and P_1 competing for a shared resource, guarantee that at most one process accesses the resource at a given time.

- Several solutions were proposed *at software level*:
 - In centralized setting (Peterson, Dekker, Knuth, ...)
 - In distributed setting (Lamport, ...)

→ *M. Raynal. Algorithmique du parallélisme: le problème de l'exclusion mutuelle. Dunod Informatique, 1984.*

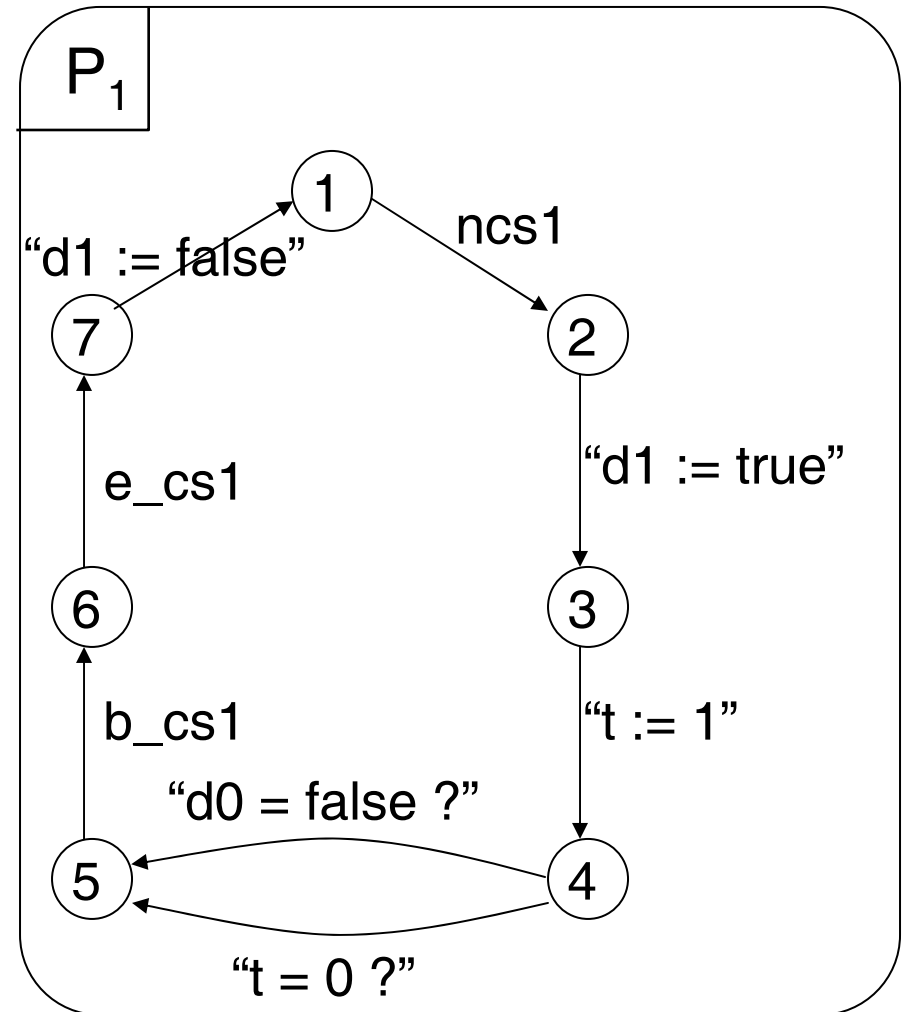
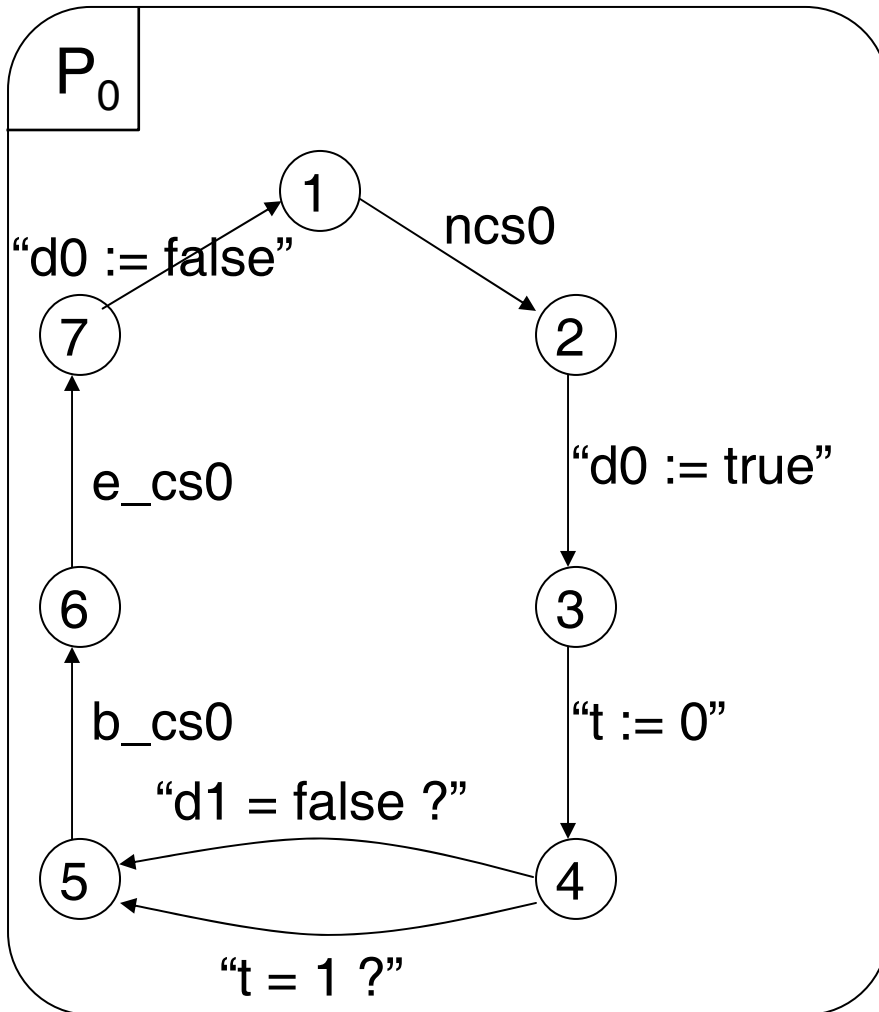
Peterson's algorithm [1968]

```
var d0 : bool := false      { read by P1, written by P0 }
var d1 : bool := false      { read by P0, written by P1 }
var t ∈ {0, 1} := 0         { read/written by P0 and P1 }
```

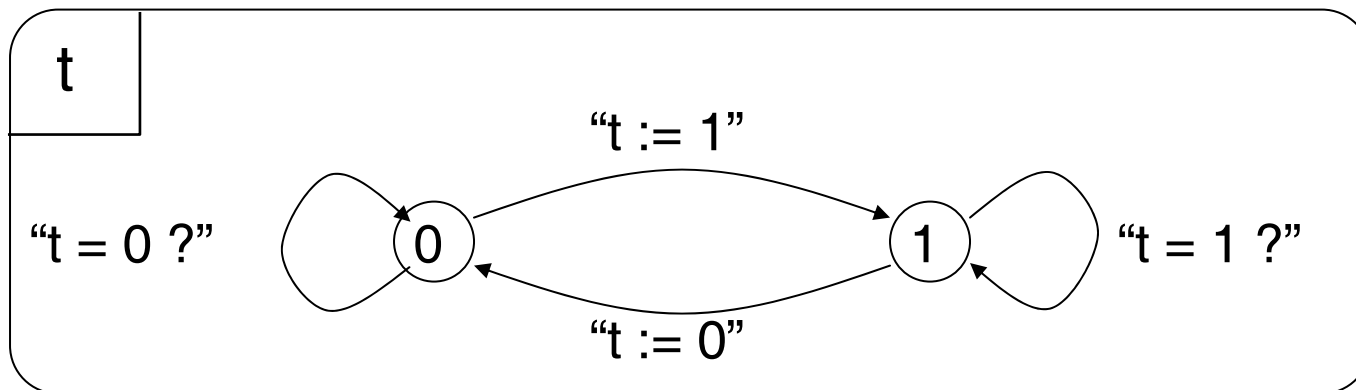
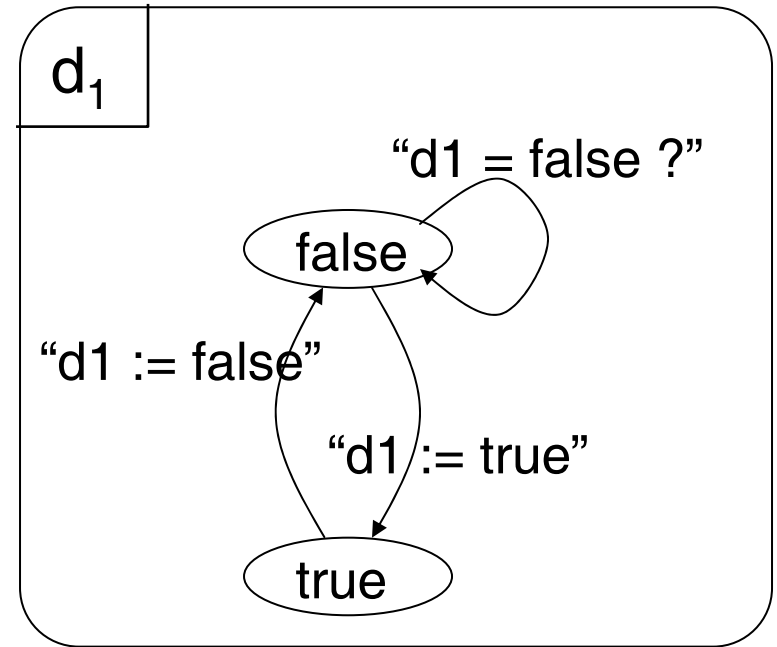
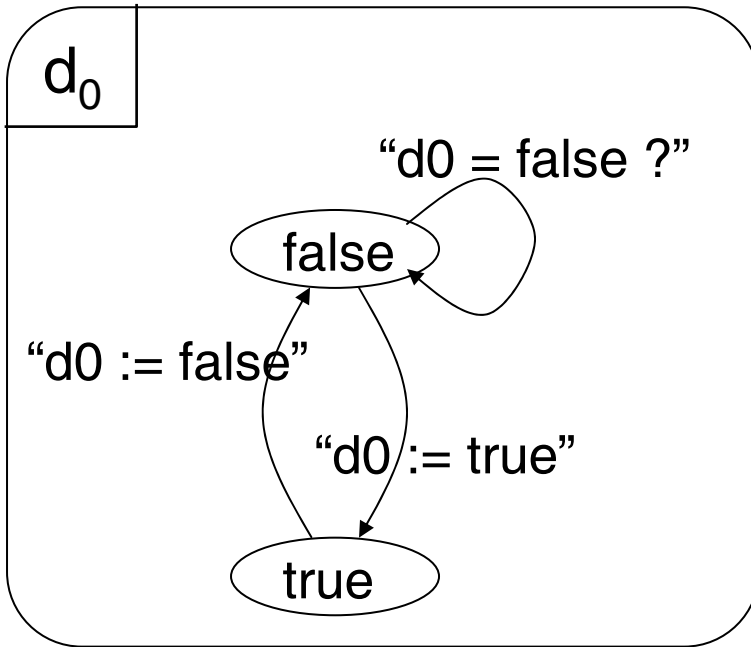
```
loop forever { P0 }
1 : { ncs0 }
2 : d0 := true
3 : t := 0
4 : wait (d1 = false or t = 1)
5 : { b_cs0 }
6 : { e_cs0 }
7 : d0 := false
endloop
```

```
loop forever { P1 }
1 : { ncs1 }
2 : d1 := true
3 : t := 1
4 : wait (d0 = false or t = 0)
5 : { b_cs1 }
6 : { e_cs1 }
7 : d1 := false
endloop
```

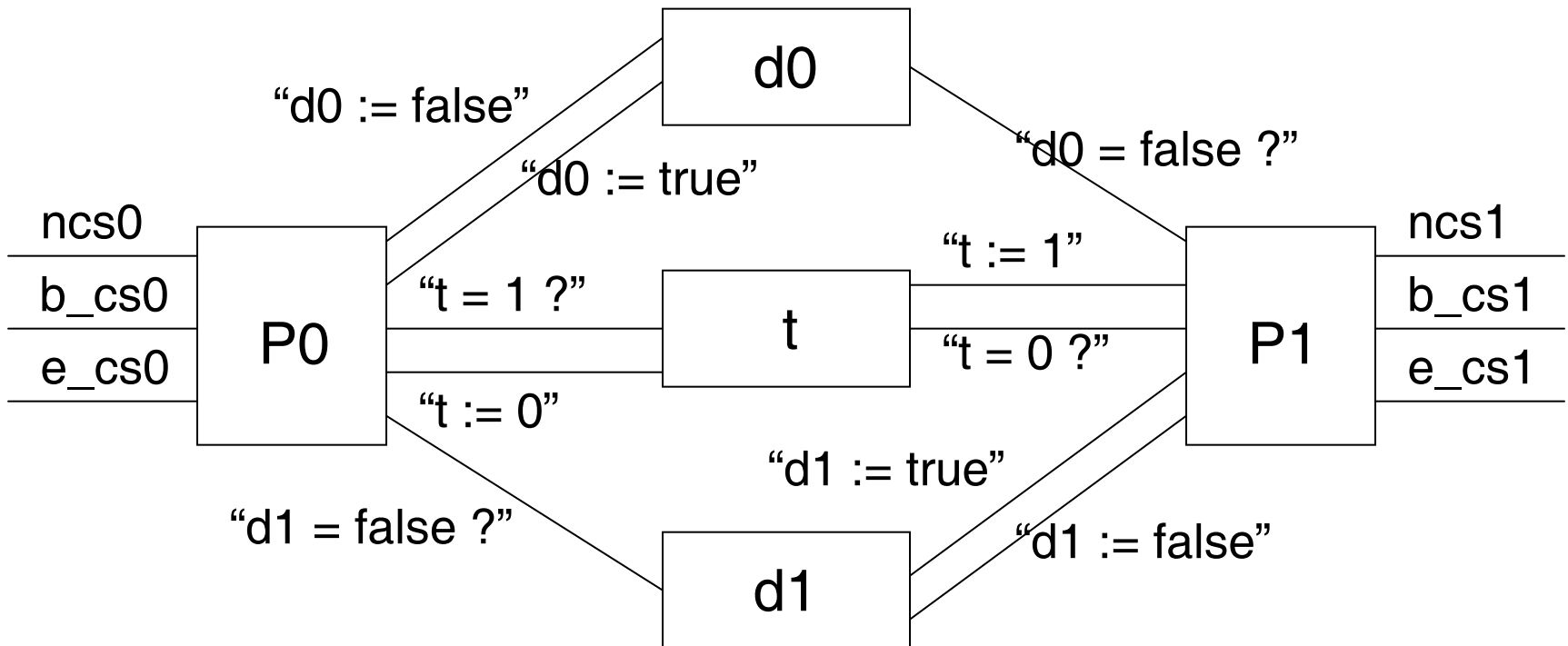

Automata of P_0 and P_1



Automata of d_0 , d_1 , and t



Architecture of the system (graphical)



- Synchronized actions: $\ll d0:=false \gg$, $\ll d0:=true \gg$, ...
- Non synchronized actions: $ncs0$, b_cs0 , e_cs0 , ...

Architecture of the system

(textual)

- Using binary parallel composition:

(P0 ||| P1)

|[“d0:=false”, “d0:=true”, ...]|

(d0 ||| d1 ||| t)

- Using general parallel composition:

par

“d0:=false”, “d0:=true”, ... → P0

|| “d1:=false”, “d1:=true”, ... → P1

|| “d0:=false”, “d0:=true”, “d0=false?” → d0

|| “d1:=false”, “d1:=true”, “d1=false?” → d1

|| “t:=0”, “t:=1”, “t=0?”, “t=1?” → t

end par

Construction of the LTS

(“product automaton”)

- *Explicit-state* method:
 - LTS construction by exploring forward the transition relation, starting at the initial state
 - Transitions are generated by using the R_1 , R_2 , R_3 rules
 - Detect already visited states in order to avoid cycling
- Several possible exploration strategies:
 - Breadth-first, depth-first
 - Guided by a criterion / property, ...
- Several types of algorithms:
 - Sequential, parallel, distributed, ...

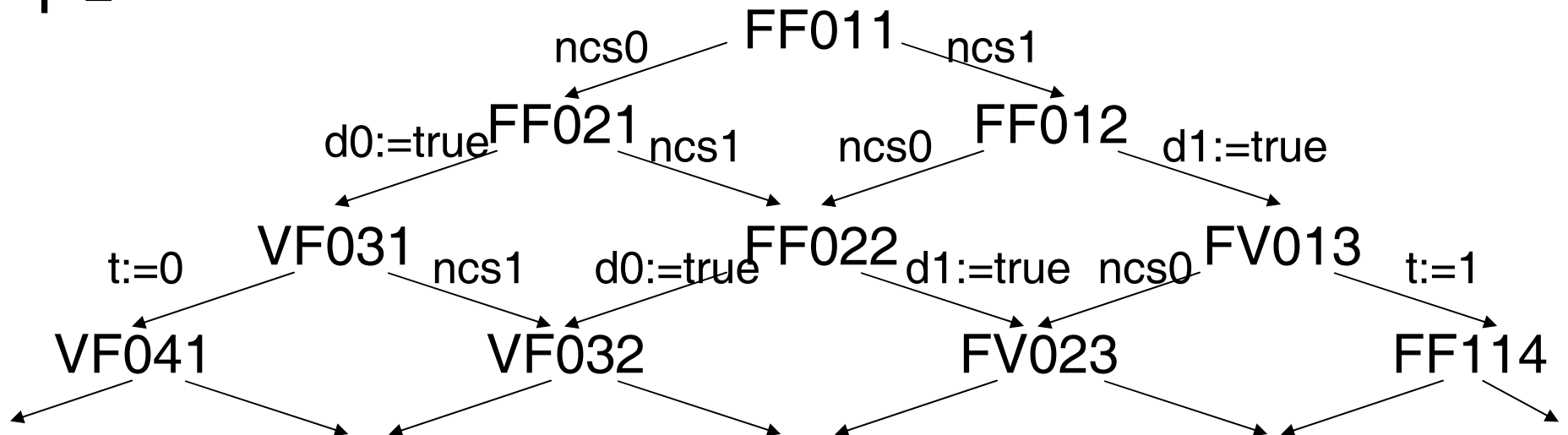
Construction of the LTS

$$S = \{ F, V \} \times \{ F, V \} \times \{ 0, 1 \} \times \{ 1..7 \} \times \{ 1..7 \}$$

$$A = \{ ncs0, ncs1, \dots, \text{"d0:=true"}, \dots \}$$

$$s_0 = \langle F, F, 0, 1, 1 \rangle = FF011$$

T =



Remarks

- The LTS of Peterson's algorithm is finite:

$$| S | \cong 50 \leq 2 \times 2 \times 2 \times 7 \times 7 = 392$$

- In the presence of synchronizations, the number of reachable states is (much) smaller than the size of the cartesian product of the variable domains

- Some tools of CADP for LTS manipulation:

- OCIS (step-by-step and guided simulation)
- Executor (random exploration)
- Exhibitor (search for regular sequences)
- Terminator (search for deadlocks)

➔ can be used in conjunction with Exp.Open

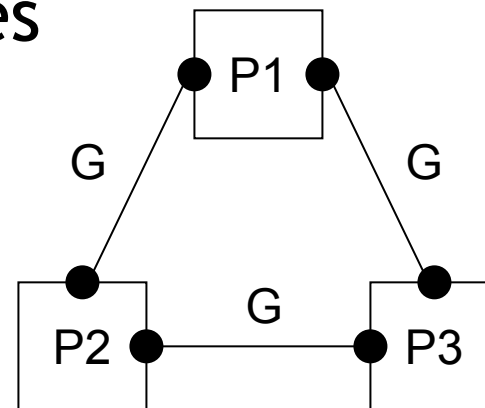
Verification

- Once the LTS is generated, one can formulate and verify automatically the desired properties of the system
- For Peterson's algorithm:
 - **Deadlock freedom**: each state has at least one successor
 - **Mutual exclusion**: at most one process can be in the critical section at a given time
 - **Liveness**: no process can indefinitely overtake the other when accessing its critical section

[see the chapter on temporal logics]

Limitations of binary parallel composition

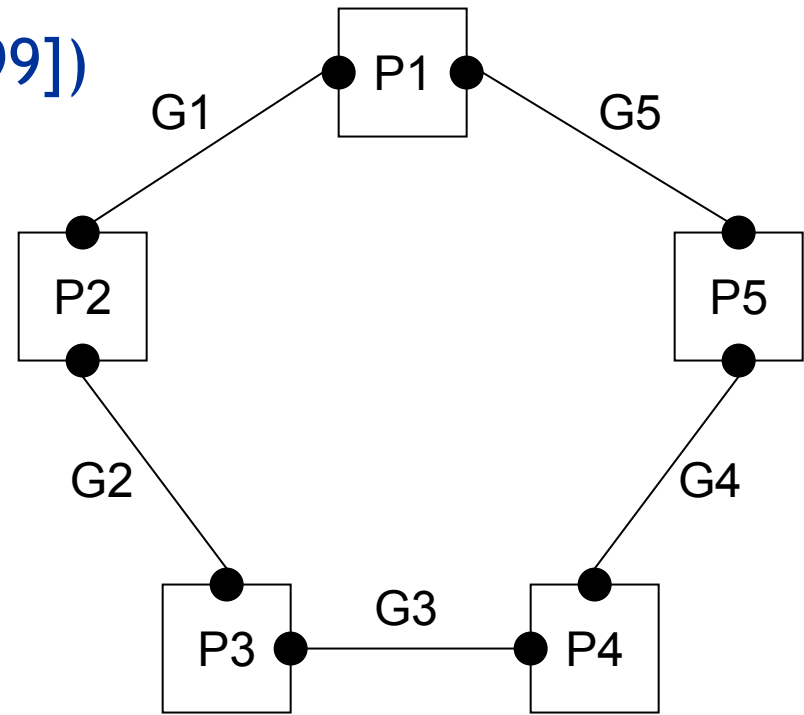
- Several ways of modeling a process network:
 - Absence of *canonical form*
 - Difficult to determine whether two composition expressions denote the same process network
 - Difficult to retrieve the process network from a composition expression
- The semantics of “ $|[G_1, \dots, G_n]|$ ” (rule R_3) does not prevent that other processes synchronize on G_1, \dots, G_n (*maximal cooperation*)
- Some networks cannot be modeled using “ $|[]|$ ”:



binary synchronization on G

Example

(ring network [Garavel-Sighireanu-99])



- Description using binary parallel composition:

$$(P_1 \mid [G_1] \mid P_2 \mid [G_2] \mid P_3 \mid [G_3] \mid P_4) \\ \mid [G_4, G_5] \mid \\ P_5$$

*the composition expression
does not reflect the symmetry
of the process network*

General parallel composition

[Garavel-Sighireanu-99]

- “Graphical” parallel composition operator allowing the composition of **several** automata and their **m among n** synchronization:

par [$g_1 \# m_1, \dots, g_p \# m_p$ **in**]

$\underline{G}_1 \rightarrow B_1$

|| $\underline{G}_2 \rightarrow B_2$

...

|| $\underline{G}_n \rightarrow B_n$

end par

gates with their associated synchronization degrees

automata (processes)

communication interfaces (gate lists)

General parallel composition

(semantics - rules without synchronization degrees)

$$\frac{\exists a, i . B_i -a \rightarrow B_i' \wedge a \notin G_i \wedge \forall j \neq i . B_j' = B_j}{\text{par } G_1 \rightarrow B_1, \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_n -a \rightarrow \text{par } G_1 \rightarrow B_1', \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_n'} \quad (\text{GR1})$$

mandatory interleaved execution of non-synchronized actions

$$\frac{\exists a . \forall i . \text{if } a \in G_i \text{ then } B_i -a \rightarrow B_i' \text{ else } B_i' = B_i}{\text{par } G_1 \rightarrow B_1, \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_n -a \rightarrow \text{par } G_1 \rightarrow B_1', \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_n'} \quad (\text{GR2})$$

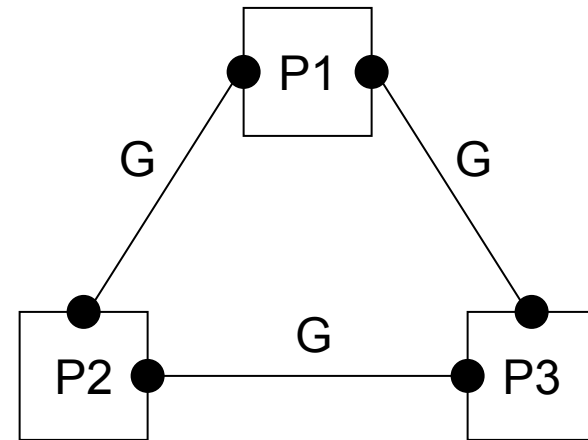
execution in maximal cooperation of synchronized actions

Example (1/3)

- Process network unexpressible using “| [] |”:

- Description using general parallel composition:

```
par G#2 in
  G → P1
||  G → P2
||  G → P3
end par
```



maximal cooperation avoided by means of synchronization degrees

Example (2/3)

(ring network [Garavel-Sighireanu-99])

- Description using general parallel composition:

par

$G_1, G_5 \rightarrow P_1$

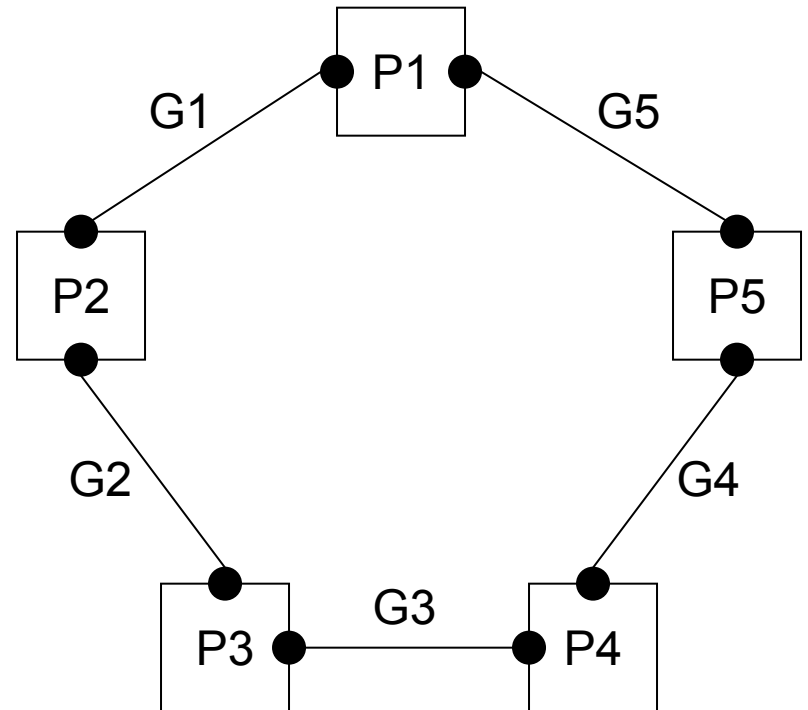
|| $G_2, G_1 \rightarrow P_2$

|| $G_3, G_2 \rightarrow P_3$

|| $G_4, G_3 \rightarrow P_4$

|| $G_5, G_4 \rightarrow P_5$

end par



the symmetry of the process network is also present in the composition expression

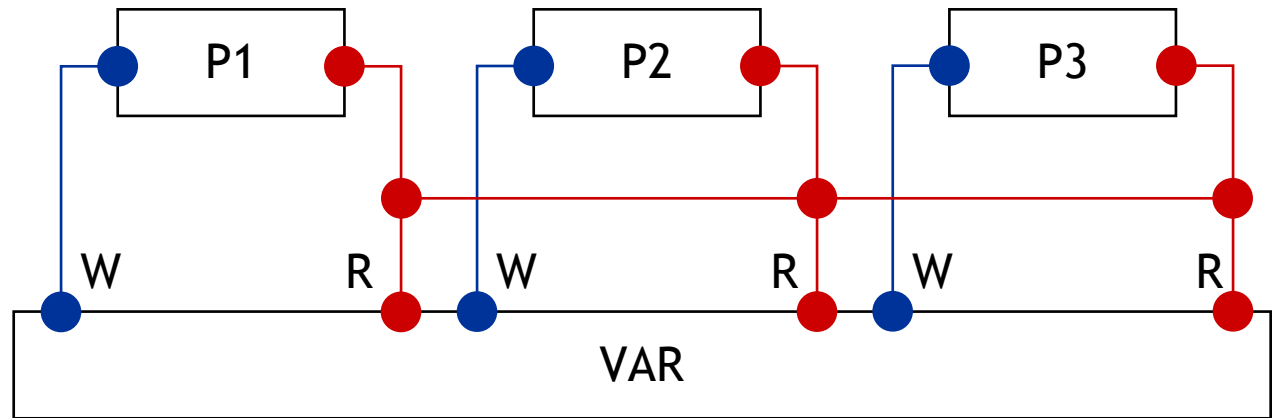
Example (3/3)

- Definition of “|[]|” in terms of “par”:

$$B_1 \mid [G_1, \dots, G_n] \mid B_2 = \begin{array}{l} \text{par } G_1, \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_1 \\ \parallel G_1, \dots, G_n \rightarrow B_2 \\ \text{end par} \end{array}$$

- CREW (Concurrent Read / Exclusive Write):

par $W\#2$ in

$$\begin{array}{l} R, W \rightarrow P_1 \\ \parallel R, W \rightarrow P_2 \\ \parallel R, W \rightarrow P_3 \\ \parallel R, W \rightarrow \text{VAR} \\ \text{end par} \end{array}$$


Parallel composition using synchronization vectors

- Primitive form of n-ary parallel composition
- Proposed in various networks of automata: MEC [Arnold-Nivat], FC2 [deSimone-Bouali-Madelaine]
- Synchronizations are made explicit by means of *synchronization vectors*
- Syntax in the EXP language [Lang-05]:

par V_1, \dots, V_m **in**
 $B_1 \parallel \dots \parallel B_n$

synchronization vectors

end par

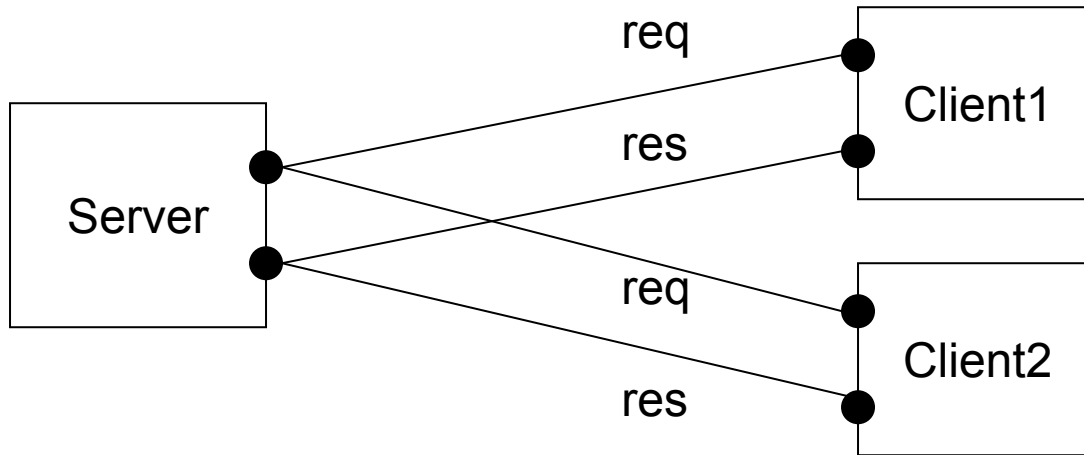
$V ::= (G_1 \mid _) * \dots * (G_n \mid _) \rightarrow G_0$

wildcard



Example

(client-server with gate multiplexing)



*binary synchronization
on gates req and res*

- Description using synchronization vectors:

```
par req * _ * req → req,   rep * _ * rep → rep,  
    _ * req * req → req,   _ * rep * rep → rep
```

in

```
Client1 || Client2 || Server
```

```
end par
```

Behavioural equivalence

- Useful for determining whether two LTSs denote the same behaviour
- Allows to:
 - Understand the semantics of languages (communicating automata, process algebras) having LTS models
 - Define and assess translations between languages
 - Refine specifications whilst preserving the equivalence of their corresponding LTSs
 - Replace certain system components by other, equivalent ones (maintenance)
 - Exploit identities between behaviour expressions (e.g., $B_1 \mid [G] \mid B_2 = B_2 \mid [G] \mid B_1$) in analysis tools



Equivalence relations between LTSs



- A large spectrum of equivalence relations proposed:
 - *Trace* equivalence (\cong language equivalence)
 - *Strong* bisimulation [Park-81]
 - *Weak* bisimulation [Milner-89]
 - *Branching* bisimulation [Bergstra-Klop-84]
 - *Safety* equivalence [Bouajjani-et-al-90]
 - ...

Trace equivalence

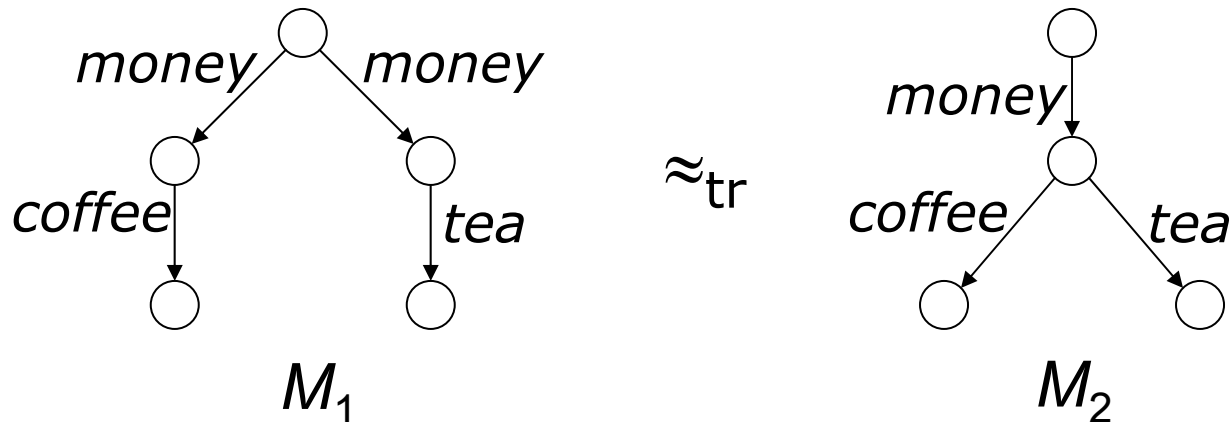
- Trace: sequence of visible actions
(e.g., $\sigma = req_1 res_1 req_2 res_2$)
- Notations ($a =$ visible action):
 - $s = a \Rightarrow$: there exists a transition sequence
 $s \xrightarrow{i} s_1 \xrightarrow{i} s_2 \dots \xrightarrow{a} s_k$
 - $s = \sigma \Rightarrow$: there exists a transition sequence
 $s \xrightarrow{a_1} s_1 \dots \xrightarrow{a_n} s_n$ such that $\sigma = a_1 \dots a_n$
- Two state are trace equivalents iff they are the source of the same traces:

$$s \approx_{tr} s' \quad \text{iff} \quad \forall \sigma . (s = \sigma \Rightarrow \quad \text{iff} \quad s' = \sigma \Rightarrow)$$

Example

(coffee machine)

- The two LTSs below are trace equivalent:



Traces (M_1) = Traces (M_2) =
 $\{ \varepsilon, \text{money}, \text{money coffee}, \text{money tea} \}$

→ *have the two coffee machines the same behaviour w.r.t. a user?*

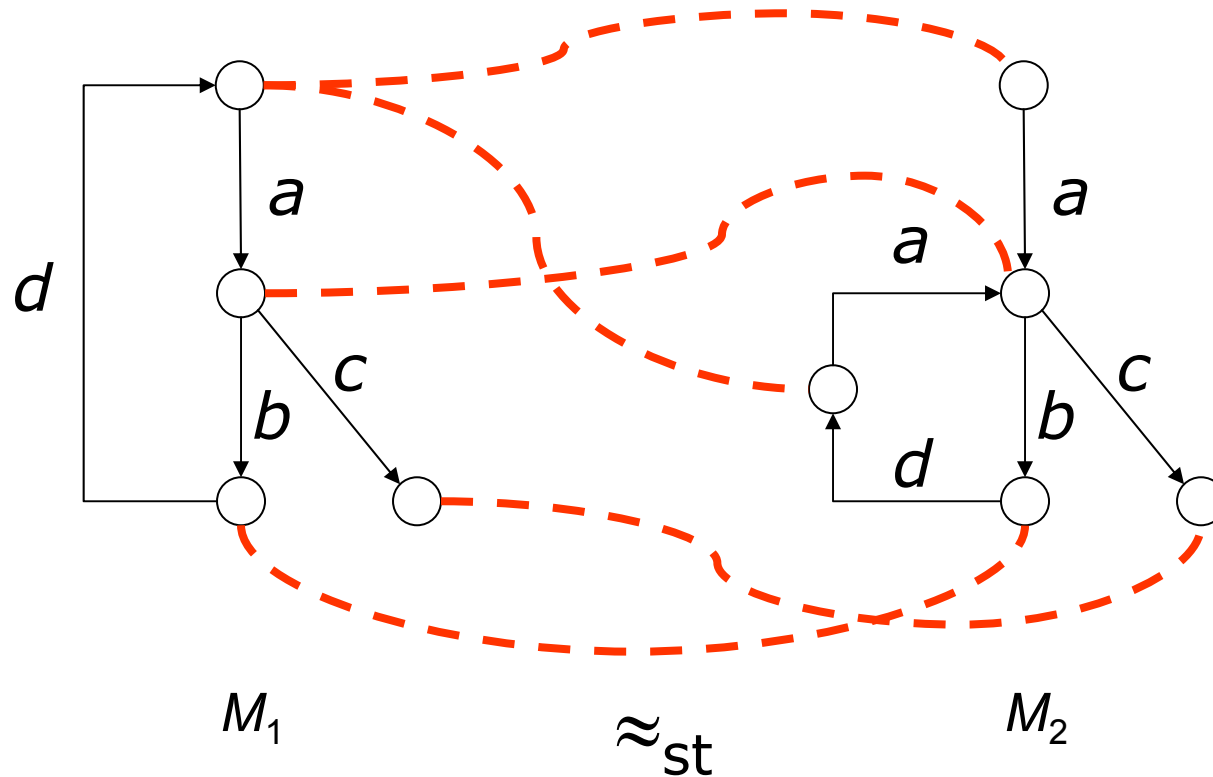
M_1 : risk of deadlock

Bisimulation

- Trace equivalence is not sufficiently precise to characterize the behaviour of a system w.r.t. its interaction with its environment
 - *stronger relations (bisimulations) are necessary*
- Two states s_1 et s_2 are *bisimilar* iff they are the origin of the same behaviour (execution tree):
 - $\forall s_1 - a \rightarrow s_1' . \exists s_2 - a \rightarrow s_2' . s_1' \approx s_2'$
 - $\forall s_2 - a \rightarrow s_2' . \exists s_1 - a \rightarrow s_1' . s_2' \approx s_1'$
- Bisimulation is an equivalence relation (reflexive, symmetric, and transitive) on states
- Two LTSs are bisimilar iff $s_{01} \approx s_{02}$



Strong bisimulation



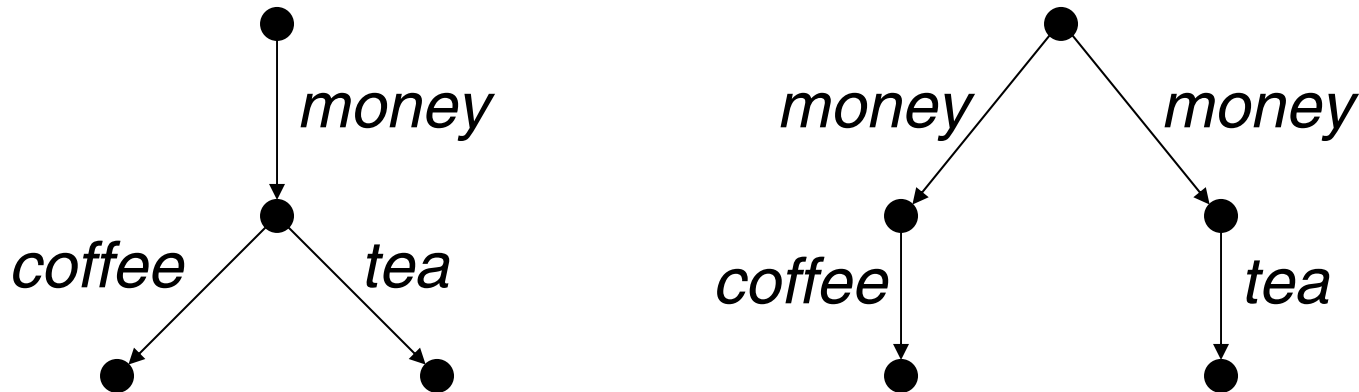
- Strong bisimulation: the largest bisimulation

→ *to show that two LTSs are strongly bisimilar, it is sufficient to find a bisimulation between them*

Is strong bisimulation sufficient?

- *Trace equivalence* ignores internal actions (*i*) and does not capture the branching of transitions

→ *does not distinguish the LTSs below*



- *Strong bisimulation* captures the branching, but handles internal and visible actions in the same way

→ *does not abstract away the internal behaviour*

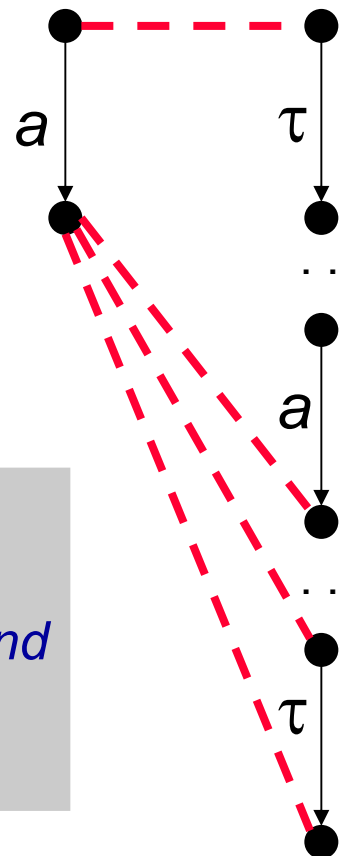
Weak bisimulation

(or *observational equivalence*)

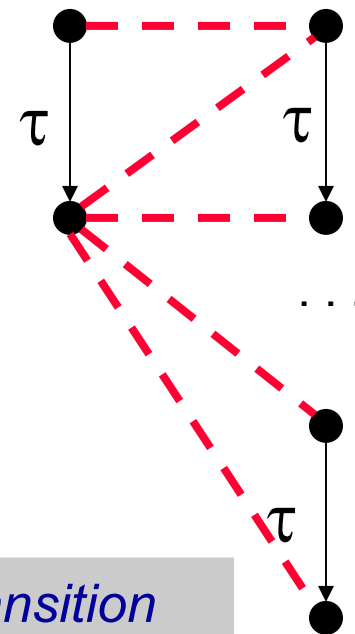
- In practice, it is necessary to compare LTSs
 - By abstracting away internal actions
 - By distinguishing the branching

- **Weak bisimulation** [Milner-89]:

every a -transition corresponds to an a -transition preceded and followed by 0 or more τ -transitions



every τ -transition corresponds to 0 or more τ -transitions



Weak bisimulation

(formal definition)

- Let $M_1 = \langle S_1, A, T_1, s_{01} \rangle$ and $M_2 = \langle S_2, A, T_2, s_{02} \rangle$
- A weak bisimulation is a relation $\approx \subseteq S_1 \times S_2$ such that $s_1 \approx s_2$ iff:

$$\forall s_1 -a \rightarrow s_1' . \exists s_2 -\tau^*.a.\tau^* \rightarrow s_2' . s_1' \text{ eq } s_2'$$

$$\forall s_1 -\tau \rightarrow s_1' . \exists s_2 -\tau^* \rightarrow s_2' . s_1' \text{ eq } s_2'$$

and

$$\forall s_2 -a \rightarrow s_2' . \exists s_1 -\tau^*.a.\tau^* \rightarrow s_1' . s_1' \text{ eq } s_2'$$

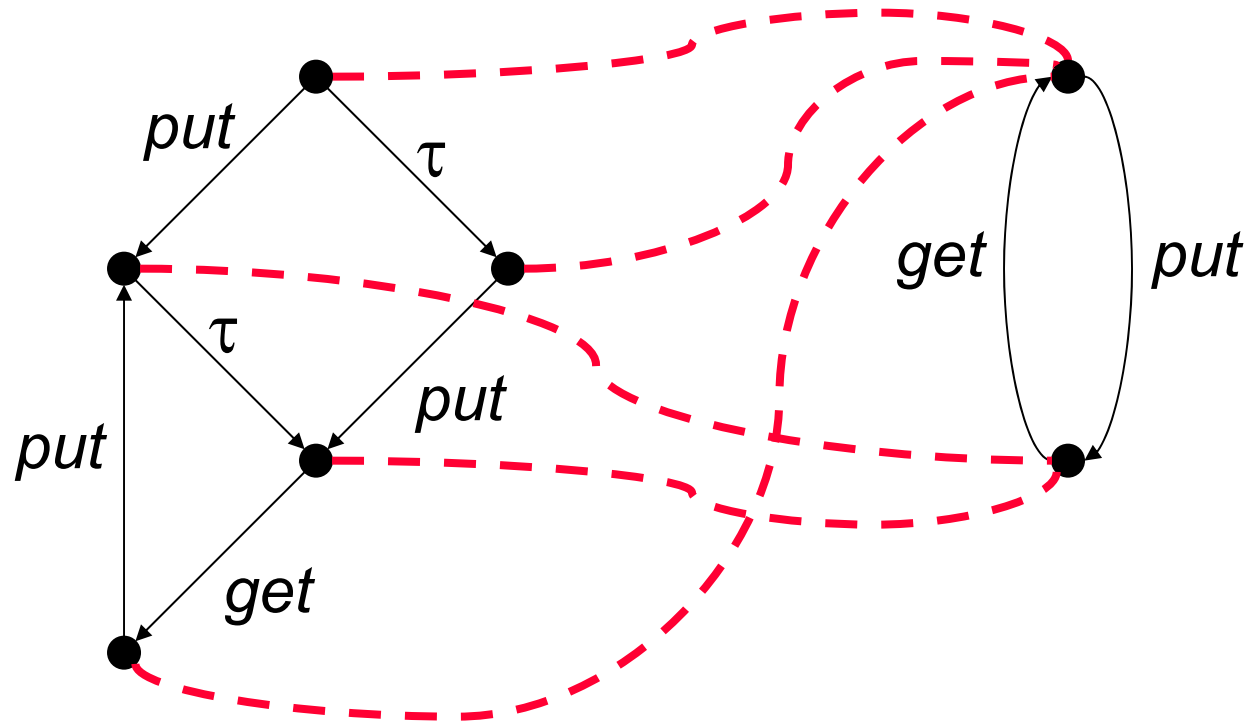
$$\forall s_2 -\tau \rightarrow s_2' . \exists s_1 -\tau^* \rightarrow s_1' . s_1' \text{ eq } s_2'$$

- \approx_{obs} is the largest weak bisimulation
- $M_1 \approx_{obs} M_2$ iff $s_{01} \approx_{obs} s_{02}$



Example

- To show that two LTSs are weakly bisimilar, it is sufficient to find a weak bisimulation between them



Communicating automata

(summary)

• Advantages:

- Simple model for describing concurrency
- Powerful tools for manipulation
 - MEC (University of Bordeaux)
 - Auto/Autograph/FC2 (INRIA, Sophia-Antipolis)
 - CADP (INRIA, Grenoble)
- Some industrial applications

• Shortcomings:

- Limited expressiveness
 - No dynamic creation and destruction of automata
 - Impossible to express: $A \text{ then } (B \parallel C) \text{ then } D$
 - No handling of data (each variable = an automaton), unacceptable for complex types (numbers, lists, structures, ...)
- Maintenance difficult and error-prone (large automata)

Process algebraic languages

- Basic notions
- Parallel composition and hiding
- Sequential composition and choice
- Value-passing and guards
- Process definition and instantiation

Process algebras

- PAs: theoretical formalisms for describing and studying concurrency and communication
- Examples of PAs for asynchronous systems:
 - CCS (*Calculus of Communicating Systems*) [Milner-89]
 - CSP (*Communicating Sequential Processes*) [Hoare-85]
 - ACP (*Algebra of Communicating Processes*) [Bergstra-Klop-84]
- Basic idea of PAs:
 - Provide a small number of operators
 - Construct behaviours by freely combining operators (lego)
- Standardized specification languages:
 - LOTOS [ISO-1988], E-LOTOS [ISO-2001]



LOTOS

(Language Of Temporal Ordering Specification)

- International standard [ISO 8807] for the formal specification of telecommunication protocols and distributed systems

<http://www.inrialpes.fr/vasy/cadp/tutorial>

- Enhanced LOTOS (E-LOTOS): revised standard [2001]
- LOTOS contains two “orthogonal” sublanguages:
 - *data* part (for data structures)
 - *process* part (for behaviours)
- Handling data is necessary for describing realistic systems. “Basic LOTOS” (the dataless fragment of LOTOS) is useful only for small examples.



LOTOS - data part

- Based on algebraic abstract data types (ActOne):

```
type Natural is  
  sorts Nat  
  opns 0 : -> Nat  
        succ : Nat -> Nat  
        + : Nat, Nat -> Nat  
  eqns forall M, N : Nat  
    ofsort Nat  
      0 + N = N;  
      succ(M) + N = succ(M + N);  
endtype
```

- Caesar.Adt compiler of CADP [\[Garavel-Turlier-92\]](#)
- ADTs tend to become cumbersome for complex data manipulations (removed in E-LOTOS).

LOTOS - process part

- Combines the best features of the process algebras CCS [Milner-89] and CSP [Hoare-85]
- Terminal symbols (identifiers):
 - Variables: X_1, \dots, X_n
 - Gates: G_1, \dots, G_n
 - Processes: P_1, \dots, P_n
 - Sorts (\approx types): S_1, \dots, S_n
 - Functions: F_1, \dots, F_n
 - Comments: $(* \dots *)$
- Caesar compiler of CADP [Garavel-Sifakis-90]

Value expressions and offers

- Value expressions: V_1, \dots, V_n

$V ::= X$

| $F(V_1, \dots, V_n)$

| $V_1 F V_2$

- Offers: O_1, \dots, O_n

$O ::= ! V$

emission of a value V

| $? X : S$

reception of a value to be stored
in a variable X of sort S

Behaviour expressions

(Lots Of Terribly Obscure Symbols :-)

- Behaviours: B_1, \dots, B_n

$B ::= \text{stop}$

| $G_0 O_1 \dots O_n [V] ; B_0$

| $B_1 [] B_2$

| $B_1 |[G_1, \dots, G_n]| B_2$

| $B_1 ||| B_2$

| **hide** G_1, \dots, G_n **in** B_0

| $[V] \rightarrow B_0$

| **let** $X : S = V$ **in** B_0

| **choice** $X : S [] B_0$

| $P [G_1, \dots, G_n] (V_1, \dots, V_n)$

inaction

action prefix

choice

parallel with synchroni-
zation on G_1, \dots, G_n

interleaving

hiding

guard

variable definition

choice over values

process call

Process definitions

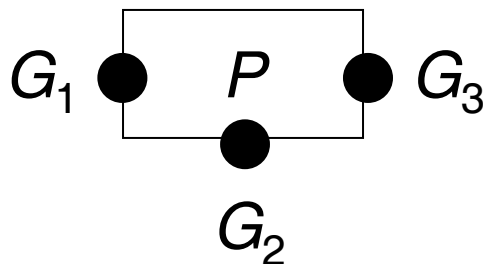
```
process  $P$  [  $G_1, \dots, G_n$  ] ( $X_1:S_1, \dots, X_n:S_n$ ) :=  
     $B$   
endproc
```

where:

- P = process name
- G_1, \dots, G_n = formal *gate* parameters of P
- X_1, \dots, X_n = formal *value* parameters of P ,
of sorts S_1, \dots, S_n
- B = body (behaviour) of P

Remarks

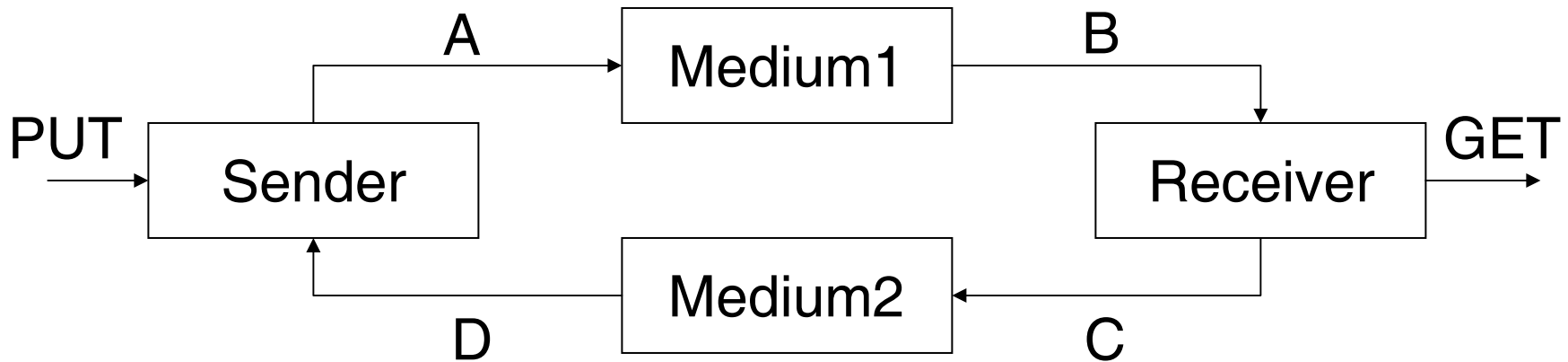
- LOTOS process: “black box” equipped with communication points (gates) with the outside



process P [G_1, G_2, G_3] (...) :=
...
endproc

- Each process has its own local (private) variables, which are not accessible from the outside
 - *communication by rendezvous and not by shared variables*
- Parallel composition and encapsulation of boxes: described using the $|[\dots]|$, $|||$, and **hide** operators

Example



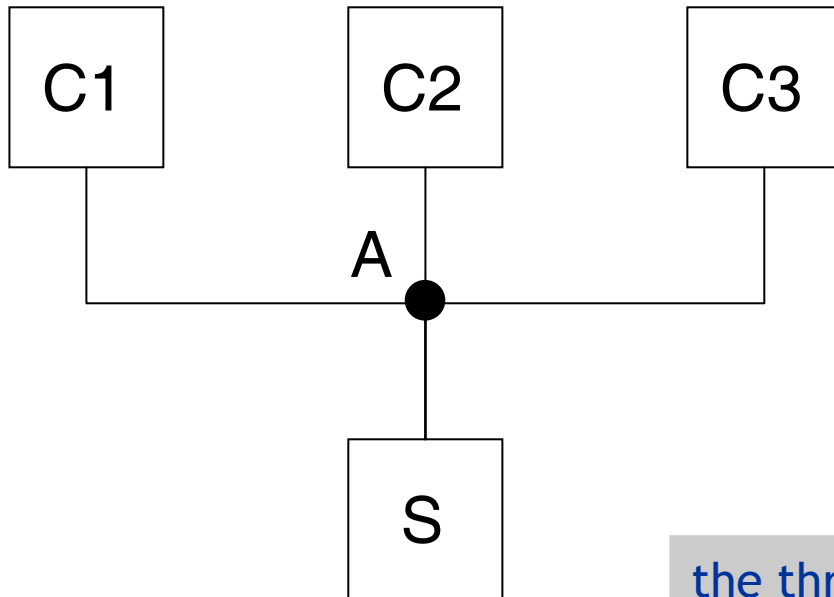
(Sender [PUT, A, D] ||| Receiver [GET, B, C])
|[A, B, C, D]|
(Medium1 [A, B] ||| Medium2 [C, D])

or

(Sender [PUT, A, D] |[A]| Medium1 [A, B])
|[B, D]|
(Receiver [GET, B, C] |[C]| Medium2 [C, D])

Multiple rendezvous

- LOTOS parallel operators allow to specify the synchronization of $n \geq 2$ processes on the same gate



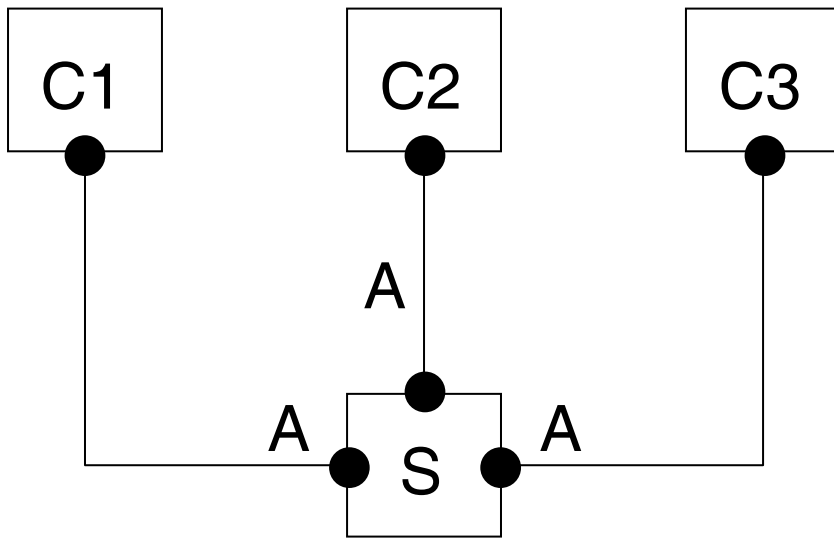
Example (client-server):

```
C1 [A] | [A] | C2 [A] | [A] | C3 [A]
| [A] |
S [A]
```

the three client processes
synchronize with the server
on gate A (4-way rendezvous)

Binary rendezvous

- The $|||$ operator allows to specify binary rendezvous (2 among n) on the same gate



Example (client-server):

```
(C1 [A] ||| C2 [A] ||| C3 [A])  
|[A]|  
S [A]
```

the three client processes are competing to access the server on gate A but only one can get access at a given moment

Abstraction

(hiding)

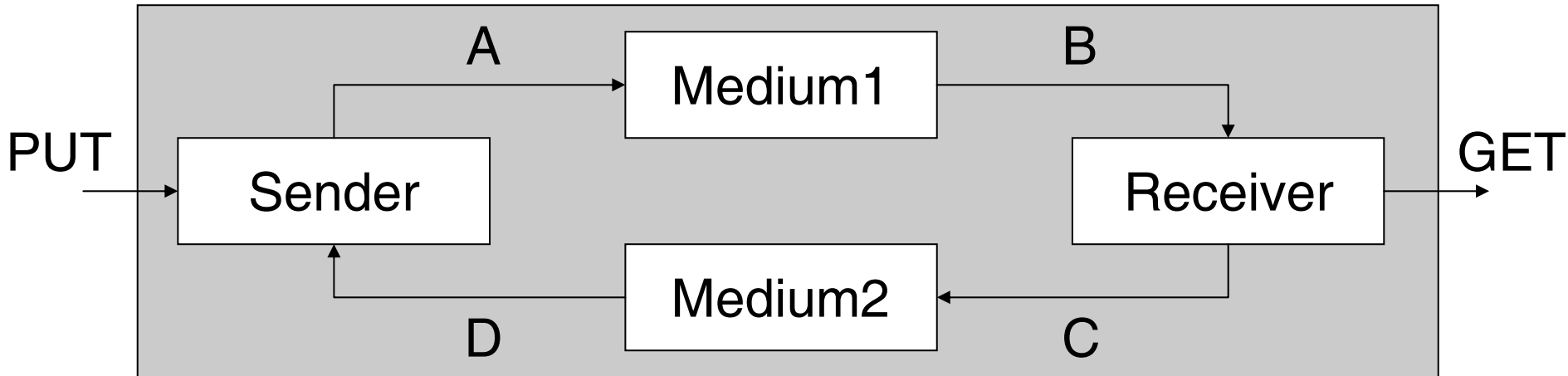
- In LOTOS, when a synchronization takes place on a gate G between two processes, another one can also synchronize on G (*maximal cooperation*)
- If this is undesirable, it can be forbidden by hiding the gate (renaming it into i) using the **hide** operator:

hide G_1, \dots, G_n in B

which means that all actions performed by B on gates G_1, \dots, G_n are hidden

- The gates G_1, \dots, G_n are “abstracted away” (hidden from the outside world)

Example



process Network [PUT, GET] :=

hide A, B, C, D **in**

(Sender [PUT, A, D] ||| Receiver [GET, B, C])

| [A, B, C, D] |

(Medium1 [A, B] ||| Medium2 [C, D])

endproc

Operational semantics

• Notations:

- \underline{G} : gate list (or set)
- L : action (transition label), of the form

$$G V_1, \dots, V_n$$

where G is a gate and V_1, \dots, V_n is the list of values exchanged on G during the rendezvous

- $gate(L) = G$
- $B [v / X]$: syntactic substitution of all free occurrences of X inside B by a value v (having the same sort as X)
- $V [v / X]$: idem, substitution of X by v in V

Semantics of “ $||[\dots]||$ ”

$B_1 \rightarrow_L B_1' \wedge \text{gate}(L) \notin \underline{G}$ B_1 evolves

$B_1 ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2 \rightarrow_L B_1' ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2$

$B_2 \rightarrow_L B_2' \wedge \text{gate}(L) \notin \underline{G}$ B_2 evolves

$B_1 ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2 \rightarrow_L B_1 ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2'$

$B_1 \rightarrow_L B_1' \wedge B_2 \rightarrow_L B_2' \wedge \text{gate}(L) \in \underline{G}$ B_1 and B_2

$B_1 ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2 \rightarrow_L B_1' ||[\underline{G}]|| B_2'$ evolve

- Gates have no direction of communication

Semantics of “hide”

$B \rightarrow_L B' \wedge \text{gate } (L) \notin \underline{G}$ normal gate

$\text{hide } \underline{G} \text{ in } B \rightarrow_L \text{hide } \underline{G} \text{ in } B'$

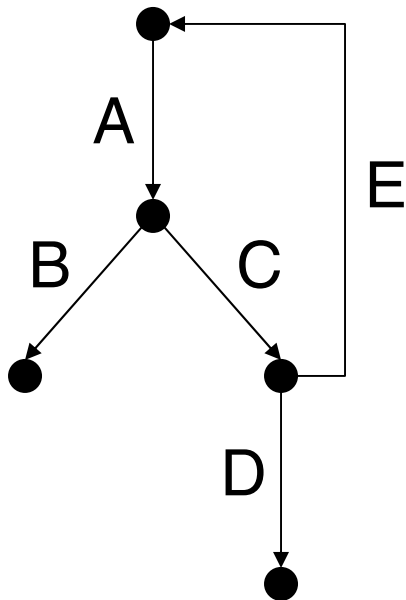
$B \rightarrow_L B' \wedge \text{gate } (L) \in \underline{G}$ hidden gate

$\text{hide } \underline{G} \text{ in } B \rightarrow_i \text{hide } \underline{G} \text{ in } B'$

- In LOTOS, **i** is a keyword: use with care

Sequential behaviours

- LOTOS allows to encode sequential automata by means of the choice (“[]”) and sequence operators (“;” and “**stop**”), and recursive processes



```
process P [A, B, C, D, E] : noexit :=  
  A; (  
    B; stop  
    []  
    C; (  
      D ; stop  
      []  
      E ; P [A, B, C, D, E]  
    )  
  )  
endproc
```

Remarks

- The description of automata in LOTOS is not far from regular expressions (operators “.”, “|”, “*”), except that:
 - The “;” operator of LOTOS is *asymmetric* (\neq from “.”)
$$G O_1 \dots O_n ; B \quad \text{but not} \quad B_1 ; B_2$$
 - There is no iteration operator “*”, one must use a recursive process call instead
- LOTOS allows to describe automata with data values (\approx functions in sequential languages) by using processes with value parameters

Semantics of “stop”

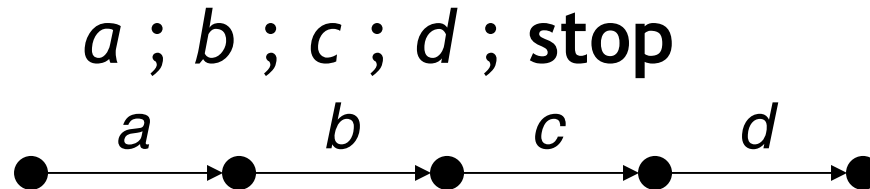
- The “**stop**” operator (inaction) has no associated semantic rule, because no transition can be derived from it
- A call of a “pathological” recursive process like

```
process P [A] : noexit :=  
  P [A]  
endproc
```

has a behaviour equivalent to **stop** (unguarded recursion)

Prefix operator (“;”)

- Allows to describe:
 - Sequential composition of actions
 - Communication (emission / reception) of data values
- Simplest variant: actions on gates, without value-passing (basic LOTOS)



Semantics of “;”

Case 1: action without reception offers ($?X:S$)

$$(\forall 1 \leq i \leq n . O_i \equiv ! V_i) \wedge V = \text{true}$$

$$\frac{}{G O_1 \dots O_n [V] ; B \rightarrow_G V_1 \dots V_n B}$$

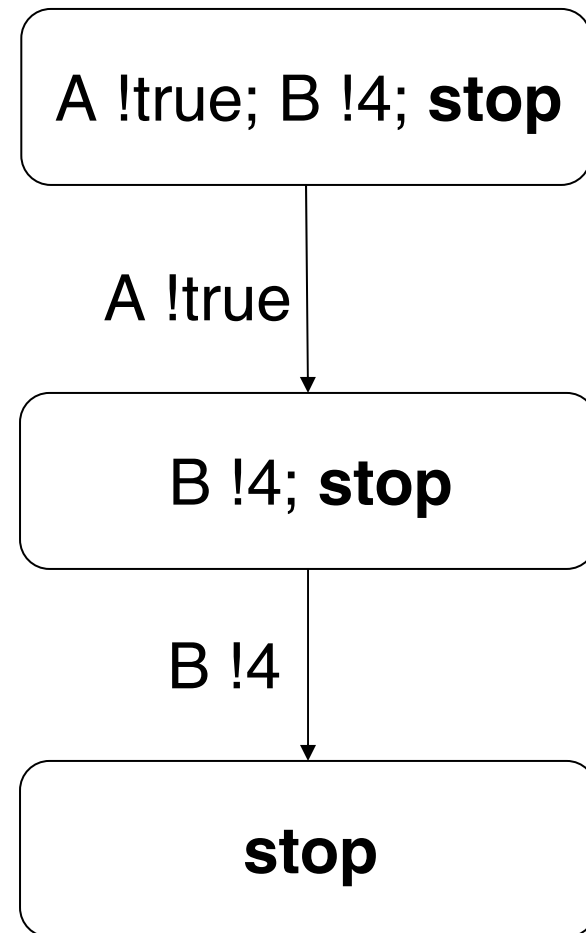
- The boolean guard and the offers are optional
- If the guard V is false, the rendezvous does not happen (deadlock):

$$G O_1 \dots O_n [V] ; B \approx \text{stop}$$

Example (1/2)

Sequential composition:

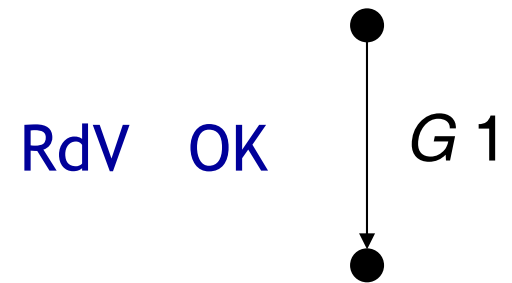
A !true; B !4; stop



Example (2/2)

- Synchronization by *value matching*: two processes send to each other the same values on a gate

$G !1; B_1 \mid [G] \mid G !1; B_2$



$G !1; B_1 \mid [G] \mid G !2; B_2$

deadlock
(different values)

$G !1; B_1 \mid [G] \mid G !\text{true}; B_2$

deadlock
(different types)

Semantics of “;”

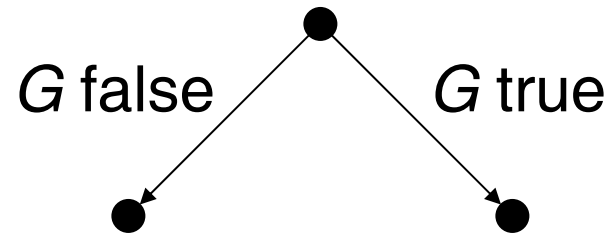
Case 2: action containing reception offer(s) (?X:S)

$$\frac{(V \in S) \wedge (V [v / X] = \text{true})}{G ?X:S [V] ; B \rightarrow_{G_v} B [v / X]}$$

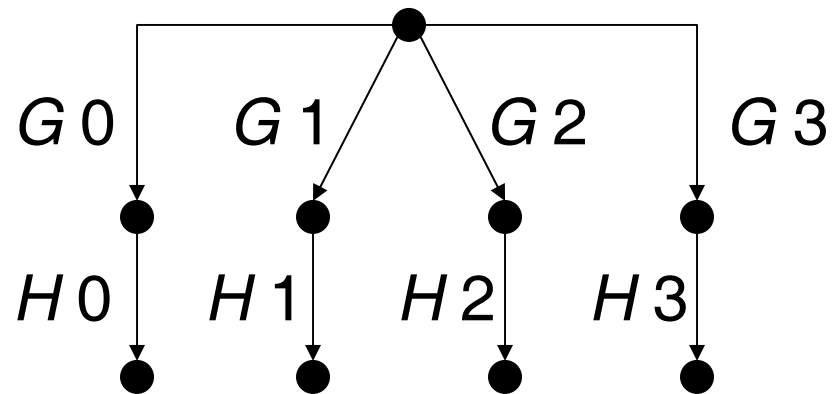
- The variables defined in the offers ?X:S are visible in the boolean guard V and inside B
- An action can freely mix emission and reception offers

Example (1/3)

$G ?X:\text{Bool};$
stop



$G ?X:\text{Nat } [X < 4];$
 $H ! X;$
stop



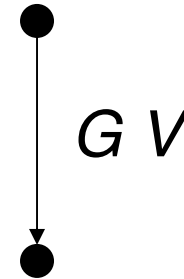
- The semantics handles the reception by branching on all possible values that can be received

Example (2/3)

- Emission of a value = guarded reception:

$$G !V \equiv G ?X:S [X = V]$$

where $S = \text{type}(V)$

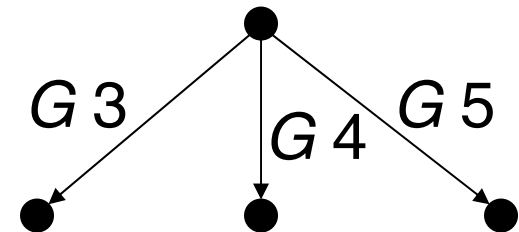


- Synchronization by *value generation*: two processes receive values of the same type on a gate

$$G ?n_1:\text{Nat} [n_1 \leq 5]; B_1$$

$$| [G] |$$

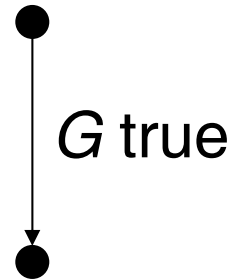
$$G ?n_2:\text{Nat} [n_2 > 2]; B_2$$



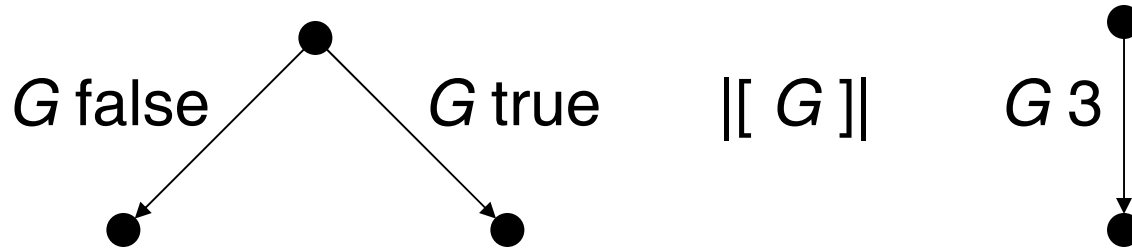
Example (3/3)

- Synchronization by *value-passing*:

$G ?X:\text{Bool} ; \text{stop} \quad | [G] | \quad G !\text{true} ; \text{stop}$



$G ?X:\text{Bool} ; \text{stop} \quad | [G] | \quad G !3 ; \text{stop}$



deadlock: the semantics of the “ $|[\dots]|$ ” operator requires that the two labels be identical (same type for the emitted value and the reception offer)

Rendezvous

(summary)

- General form:

$$G \ O_1 \ \dots \ O_m \ [V_1]; \ B_1 \quad | \ [\underline{G}] \ | \quad G' \ O_1' \ \dots \ O_n' [V_2]; \ B_2$$

- Conditions for the rendezvous:

- $G = G'$ and $G \in \underline{G}$
- $m = n$
- V_1 and V_2 are true in the context of O_1, \dots, O_n'
- $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n. \text{type}(O_i) = \text{type}(O_i')$
- $\forall 1 \leq i \leq n. \text{prop}(O_i) \cap \text{prop}(O_i') \neq \emptyset$

where $\text{prop}(O) =$ set of values accepted by offer O

- $\text{prop}(!V) = \{ V \}$
- $\text{prop}(?X:S) = S$

Choice operator (“[]”)

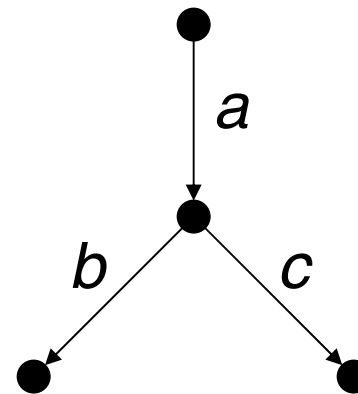
- “[]”: notation inherited from the programs with guarded commands [Dijkstra]
- Allows to specify the choice between several alternatives:

$(B_1 [] B_2 [] B_3)$

can execute either B_1 , or B_2 , or B_3

- Example:

$a ;$
 $(b ; \text{stop}$
 $[]$
 $c ; \text{stop})$



Semantics of “[]”

$$B_1 \rightarrow_L B_1'$$

execution of B_1

$$B_1 [] B_2 \rightarrow_L B_1'$$

$$B_2 \rightarrow_L B_2'$$

execution of B_2

$$B_1 [] B_2 \rightarrow_L B_2'$$

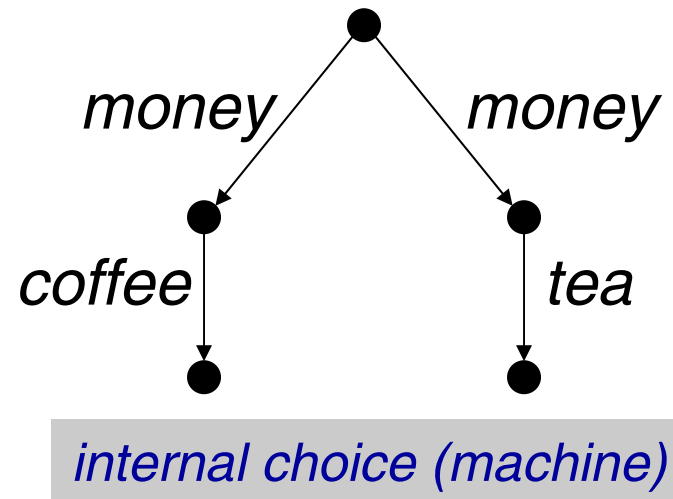
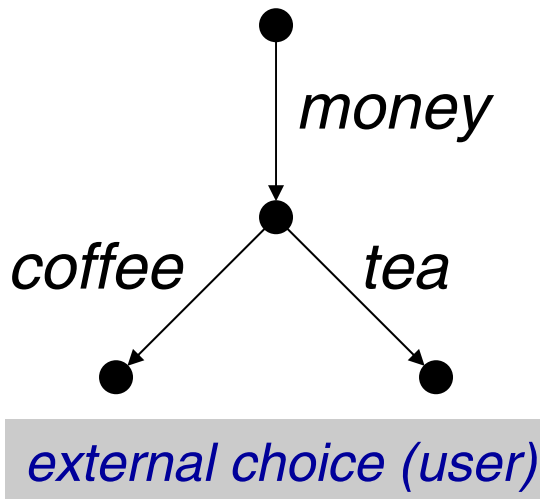
- After the choice, one of the two behaviours disappears (the execution was engaged on a branch of the choice and the other one is abandoned)

Internal / external choice

$(G_1 ; B_1 \quad [] \quad G_2 ; B_2)$

- External choice: the environment can decide which branch will be executed
- Internal choice: the program decides

● Example (coffee machine):



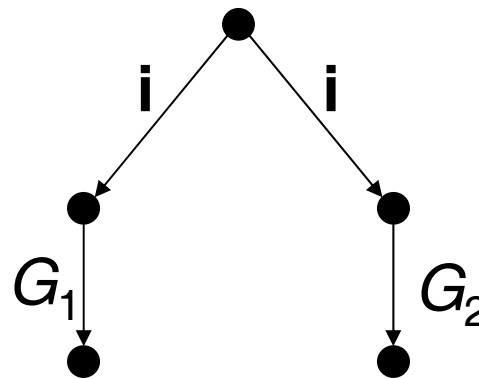
Internal action (“i”)

- In LOTOS, the special gate **i** denotes an internal event on which the environment cannot act:

$(i ; G_1 ; \text{stop}$

$[]$

$i ; G_2 ; \text{stop})$

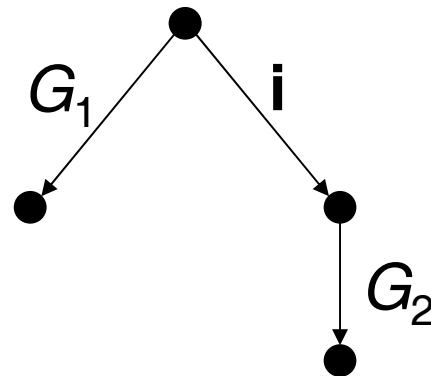


internal choice

$(G_1 ; \text{stop}$

$[]$

$i ; G_2 ; \text{stop})$



still internal choice

Guard operator (“[...] ->”)

- LOTOS does not possess an “if-then-else” construct
- *Guards* (boolean conditions) can be used instead
- Informal semantics:

$[V] \rightarrow B \approx \text{if } V \text{ then } B \text{ else stop}$

- Frequent usage in conjunction with “[]”:

READ ?m,n:Nat ;

([m >= n] -> PRINT !m; stop

[]

[m < n] -> PRINT !n; stop)

*emission of max (m,n)
on gate PRINT*

Semantics of “[...] ->”

$$(V = \text{true}) \wedge B \rightarrow_L B'$$

$$[V] -> B \rightarrow_L B'$$

- If the boolean expression V evaluates to false, no semantic rule applies (deadlock):

$$[\text{false}] -> B \approx \text{stop}$$

Examples

- “if-then-else”:

$[V] \rightarrow B_1$

$[]$

$[\text{not } (V)] \rightarrow B_2$

- “case”:

$[X < 0] \rightarrow B_1$

$[]$

$[X = 0] \rightarrow B_2$

$[]$

$[X > 0] \rightarrow B_3$

- Beware of overlapping guards:

$[X \leq 0] \rightarrow B_1$

$[]$

$[X \geq 0] \rightarrow B_2$

if $X = 0$ then this is equivalent to an unguarded choice $B_1 [] B_2$

Operator “let”

- LOTOS allows to define variables for storing the results of expressions

- Variable definition:

let $X:S = V$ **in** B

declares variable X and initializes it with the value of V . X is visible in B .

- *Write-once* variables (no multiple assignments):

let $X:Bool = true$ **in** $G !X$; (* first X *)

let $X:Bool = false$ **in** $G !X$; (* second X *)

stop

Semantics of “let”

$$B [V / X] \rightarrow_L B'$$

$$\text{let } X:S = V \text{ in } B \rightarrow_L B'$$

- Example:

let $X:\text{NatList} = \text{cons } (0, \text{nil})$ in

$G !X;$

$H !\text{cons } (1, X);$

stop

Remarks

LOTOS is a *functional* language:

- No uninitialized variable (forbidden by the syntax)
- No assignment operator (“:=”), the value of a variable does not change after its initialization
- No “global” or “shared” variables between functions or processes
- Each process has its own local variables
- Communication by rendezvous only
- No side-effects

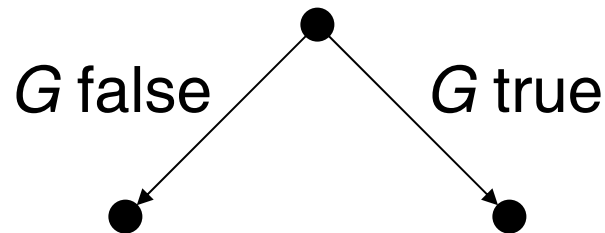
Operator “choice”

- Operator “**choice**”: similar to “**let**”, except that variable X takes a nondeterministic value in the domain of its sort S
- Semantics:

$$\frac{(\forall v \in S) \wedge B [v / X] \rightarrow_L B'}{\text{choice } X:S [] B \rightarrow_L B'}$$

- Example:

choice $X:\text{Bool} []$
 $G !X; \text{stop}$



Examples

- Reception of a value = particular case of “choice”:

$G ?X:S ; B = \text{choice } X:S [] B$

- Iteration over the values of an enumerated type:

choice *A:Addr* []

SEND !m !A ; stop

- Generation of a random value:

choice *rand:Nat* []

[rand <= 10] -> PRINT !rand ; stop

Operator “exit”

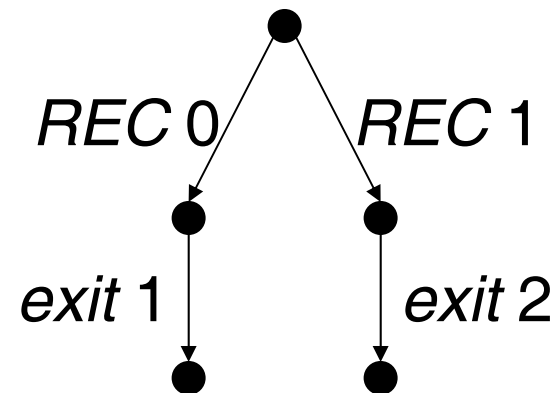
- LOTOS allows to express *normal termination* of a behaviour, possibly with the return of one or several values:

exit (V_1, \dots, V_n)

denotes a behaviour that terminates and produces the values V_1, \dots, V_n

- Example:

REC ? x :Nat [$x < 2$] ;
exit ($x + 1$)



Semantics of “exit”

true

$\text{exit} (V_1, \dots, V_n) \rightarrow_{\text{exit } V_1 \dots V_n} \text{stop}$

- *exit* = special gate, synchronized by the “|[...]|” operator (see later)
- The values V_1, \dots, V_n are optional (“**exit**” means normal termination without producing any value)

Operator “>>”

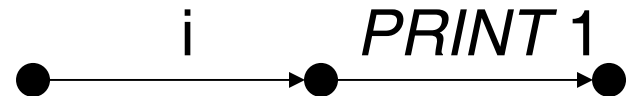
- LOTOS allows to express the sequential composition between a behaviour B_1 that terminates and a behaviour B_2 that begins:

$B_1 \gg \text{accept } X_1:S_1, \dots, X_n:S_n \text{ in } B_2$

means that when B_1 terminates by producing values V_1, \dots, V_n , the execution continues with B_2 in which X_1, \dots, X_n are replaced by the values V_1, \dots, V_n

- Example:

$\text{exit } (1) \gg \text{accept } n:\text{Nat} \text{ in}$
 $\text{PRINT } !n ; \text{stop}$



Semantics of “>>”

$$(B_1 \rightarrow_L B_1') \wedge (\text{gate}(L) \neq \text{exit})$$

$$(B_1 \gg \text{accept } \underline{X}:\underline{S} \text{ in } B_2) \rightarrow_L (B_1' \gg \text{accept } \underline{X}:\underline{S} \text{ in } B_2)$$
$$B_1 \rightarrow_{\text{exit}} \underline{V} B_1'$$

$$(B_1 \gg \text{accept } \underline{X}:\underline{S} \text{ in } B_2) \rightarrow_i B_2 [\underline{V} / \underline{X}]$$

- The \underline{V} values must belong pairwise to the \underline{S} sorts
- The *exit* gate is hidden (renamed into *i*) when sequential composition takes place
- The “>>” operator is also called *enabling* (B_2 's execution is made possible by B_1 's termination)



Example (1/4)

- Sequential composition without value-passing:

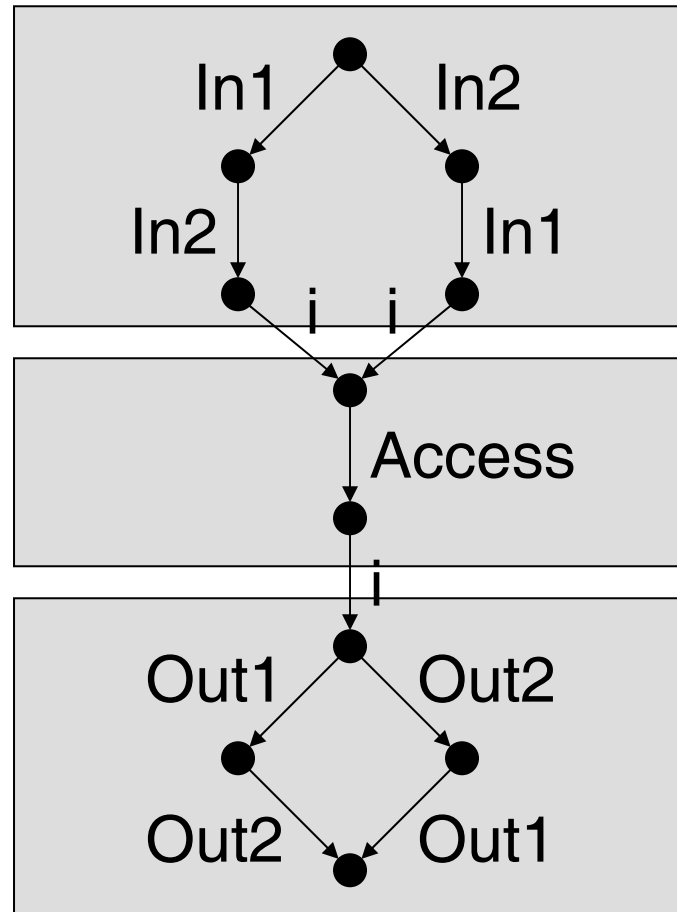
(In1; In2; exit
[]
In2; In1; exit)

>>

(Access; exit)

>>

(Out1; Out2; stop
[]
Out2; Out1; stop)



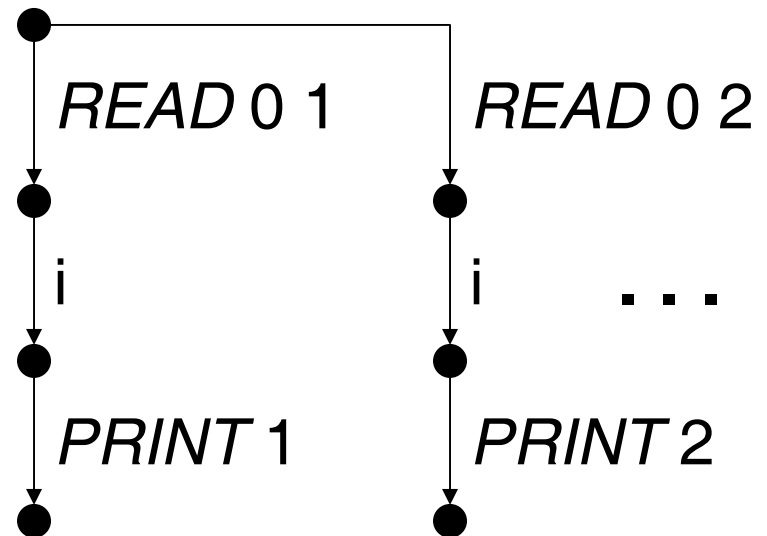
Example (2/4)

- Sequential composition with value-passing:

```
READ ?m,n:Nat ;  
( [ m >= n ] -> exit (m)  
  []  
  [ m < n ] -> exit (n) )
```

>>

```
accept max:Nat in  
PRINT !max ; stop
```



Example (3/4)

- Definition of terminating process:

```
process Login [LogReq, LogConf, LogAbort] : exit :=  
  LogReq;  
  ( i ; LogConf ; exit  
    []  
    i ; LogAbort ; Login [LogReq, LogConf, LogAbort])  
endproc
```

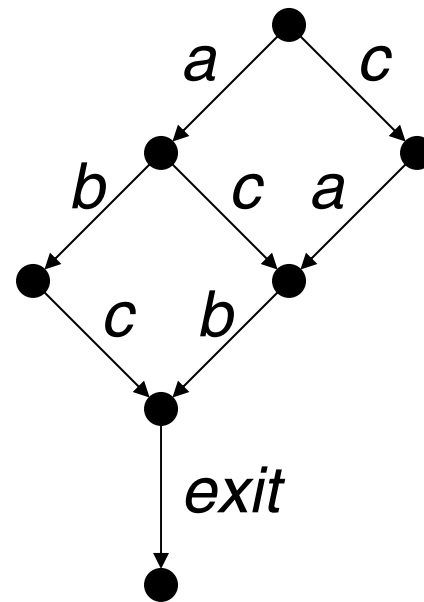
- Example of call:

```
Login [Req,Conf,Abort] >> Transfer ; Logout ; stop
```

Example (4/4)

- Combination of “**exit**” and parallel composition: the two behaviours are synchronized on the *exit* gate (they terminate simultaneously)

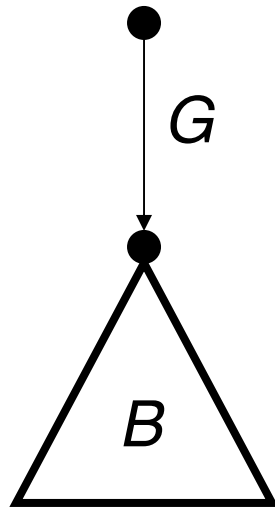
$(a ; b ; \text{exit}) \parallel \parallel (c ; \text{exit})$



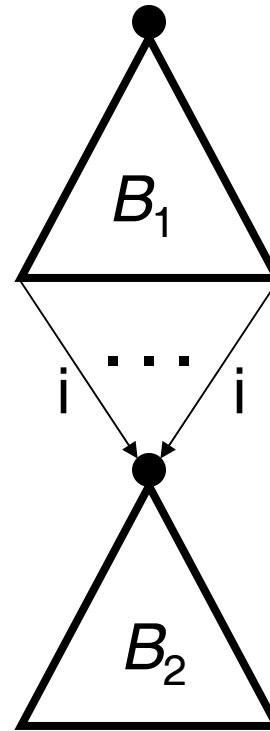
Sequential composition

(summary)

- In LOTOS, difference between “;” (asymmetric) and “>>” (symmetric):



$G ; B$



$B_1 \gg B_2$

Process call

- Let a process P defined by:

process P [G_1, \dots, G_n] ($X_1:S_1, \dots, X_n:S_n$) :=

B

endproc

- Semantics of a call to P :

$$\frac{B [g_1 / G_1, \dots, g_n / G_n] [v_1 / X_1, \dots, v_n / X_n] \rightarrow_L B'}{P [g_1, \dots, g_n] (v_1, \dots, v_n) \rightarrow_L B'}$$

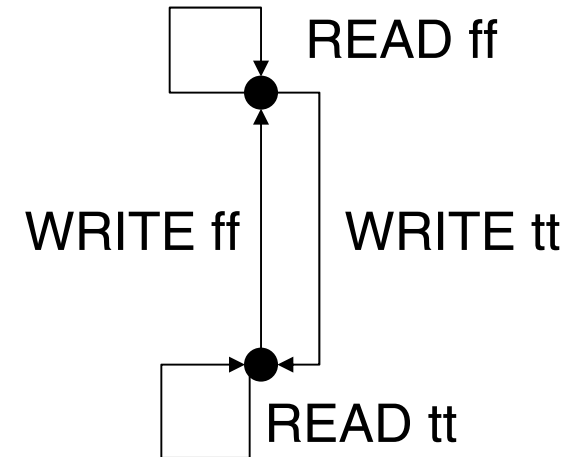
- This semantics explains why a call to

process $P[G] : \text{noexit} := P[G] \text{ endproc}$

is equivalent to **stop**.

Example

- Boolean variable:



```
process VAR [READ, WRITE] (b:Bool) : noexit :=  
  READ !b;  
  VAR [READ, WRITE] (b)  
[]  
WRITE ?b2:Bool;  
  VAR [READ, WRITE] (b2)  
endproc
```


Static semantics

(summary)

- Scope of variables inside behaviours:

| | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| $B ::= G !V_0 ?X:S \dots [V] ; B_0$ | $p(X) = \{ V, B_0 \}$ |
| hide G in B_0 | $p(G) = \{ B_0 \}$ |
| let $X:S = V$ in B_0 | $p(X) = \{ B_0 \}$ |
| choice $X:S [] B_0$ | $p(X) = \{ B_0 \}$ |
| $B_1 \gg$ accept $X:S$ in B_0 | $p(X) = \{ B_0 \}$ |

- Scope of process parameters:

| | |
|------------------------|--------------------|
| process P [G] (X:S) := | $p(G) = \{ B_0 \}$ |
| B_0 | $p(X) = \{ B_0 \}$ |
| endproc | |

LOTOS specification

- A LOTOS specification is similar to a process definition:

specification Protocol [SEND, RECEIVE] : noexit :=

(* ... type definitions *)

behaviour

(* ... behaviour = body of the specification *)

where

(* ... process definitions *)

endspec

Example:

Peterson's mutual exclusion algorithm

```
var d0 : bool := false      { read by P1, written by P0 }
var d1 : bool := false      { read by P0, written by P1 }
var t ∈ {0, 1} := 0         { read/written by P0 and P1 }
```

```
loop forever { P0 }
1 : { ncs0 }
2 : d0 := true
3 : t := 0
4 : wait (d1 = false or t = 1)
5 : { cs0 }
6 : d0 := false
endloop
```

```
loop forever { P1 }
1 : { ncs1 }
2 : d1 := true
3 : t := 1
4 : wait (d0 = false or t = 0)
5 : { cs1 }
6 : d1 := false
endloop
```

Description of variables d0, d1

- Each variable: instance of the same process D
- Current value of the variable: parameter of D
- Reading and writing: RdV on gates R et W

```
process D [R, W] (b:Bool) : noexit :=  
  R !b ; D [R, W] (b)  
  []  
  W ?b2:Bool ; D [R, W] (b2)  
endproc
```

- $d0 \equiv D [R0, W0] (\text{false})$, $d1 \equiv D [R1, W1] (\text{false})$

Description of variable t

- Variable t : instance of process T
- Current value of the variable: parameter of T
- Reading and writing: RdV on gates R et W

```
process T [R, W] (n:Nat) : noexit :=  
  R !n ; T [R, W] (n)  
  []  
  W ?n2:Bool ; T [R, W] (n2)  
endproc
```

- $t \equiv T [RT, WT] (0)$

Description of processes P0 and P1

- Process P_m : instance of the same process P
- Index m of the process: parameter of P

```
process P [Rm, Wm, Rn, Wn, RT, WT, NCS, CS]
  (m:Nat) : noexit :=
  NCS !m ; Wm !true ; WT !m ;
  P2 [Rm, Wm, Rn, Wn, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (m)
endproc
```

- $P0 \equiv P [R0, W0, R1, W1, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (0)$
- $P1 \equiv P [R1, W1, R0, W0, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (1)$

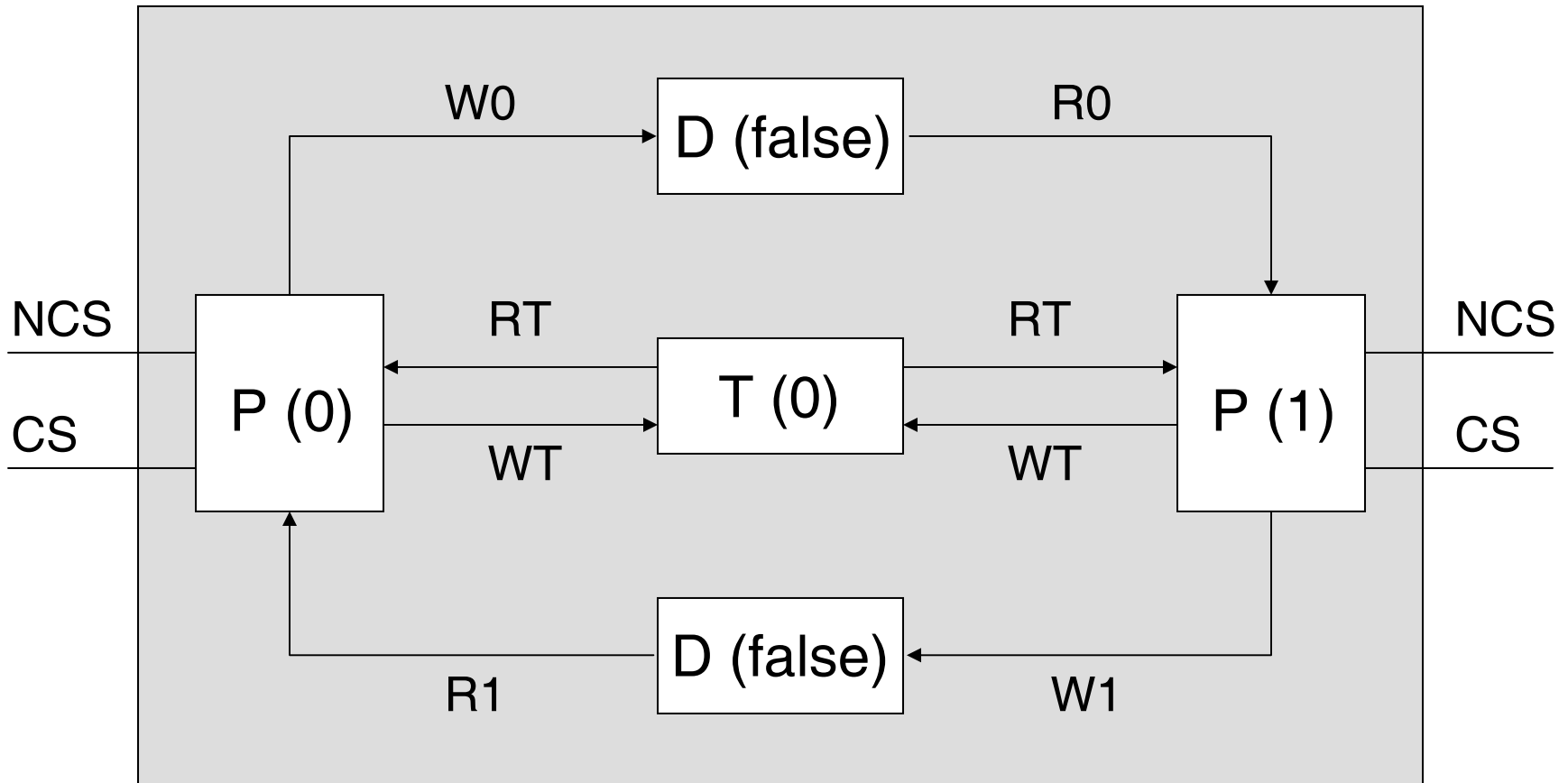
Processes P0 et P1

(continued)

- Auxiliary process to describe busy waiting:

```
process P2 [Rm, Wm, Rn, Wn, RT, WT, NCS, CS]
  (m:Nat) : noexit :=
    Rn ?dn:Bool ; RT ?t:Nat ;
    ( [ dn and (t eq m) ] ->
      P2 [Rm, Wm, Rn, Wn, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (m)
    []
    [ not (dn) or (t eq ((m + 1) mod 2)) ] ->
      CS !m ; Wn !false ;
      P [Rm, Wm, Rn, Wn, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (m) )
endproc
```

Architecture of the system (graphical)



Architecture of the system

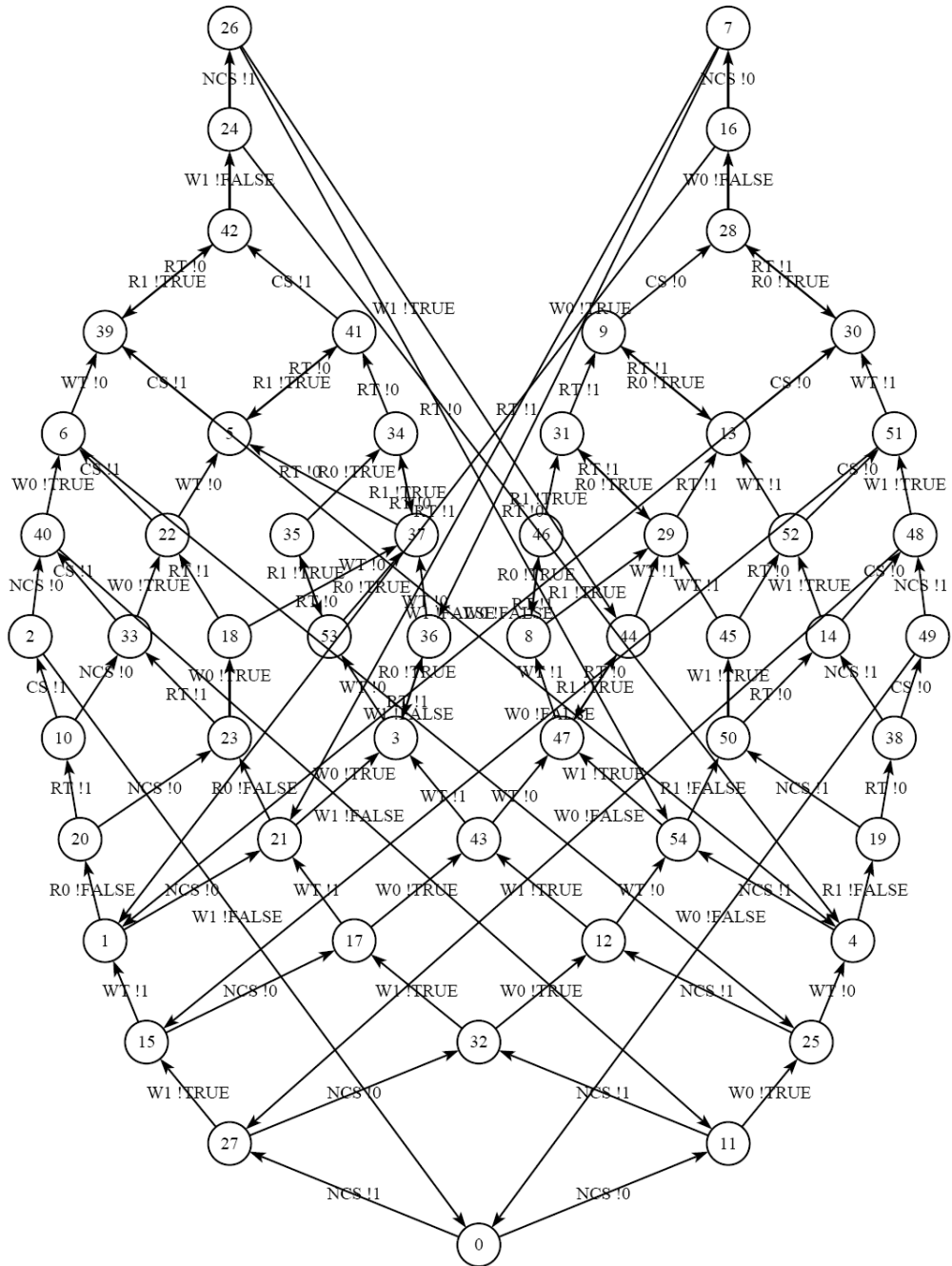
(textual)

hide R0, W0, R1, W1, RT, WT in

```
(
  P [R0, W0, R1, W1, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (0)
  |||
  P [R1, W1, R0, W0, RT, WT, NCS, CS] (1)
)
|[ R0, W0, R1, W1, RT, WT ]|
(
  T [RT, WT] (0)
  |||
  D [R0, W0] (false)
  |||
  D [R1, W1] (false)
)
```

LTS model

- 55 states
- 110 transitions



Process algebraic languages

(summary)

- More concise than communicating automata: process parameterization, value-passing communication (Exercise: model variables d_0 , d_1 , t using a single gate allowing both reading / writing)
- In general, there are several ways of describing the parallel composition of processes (Exercise: write a different expression for the architecture of Peterson's algorithm)
- Modeling of nested loops: mutually recursive LOTOS processes (Exercise: model processes P_0 , P_1 using a single LOTOS process)
- But: E-LOTOS process part is much more convenient

