

# Actris: Session-Type Based Reasoning in Separation Logic

**Jonas Kastberg Hinrichsen, ITU**

Joint work with  
Jesper Bengtson, ITU  
Robbert Krebbers, TU Delft

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# The Actor Model and Message Passing

- Principled way of writing concurrent programs
  - Isolation of concurrent behaviour
  - Threads as services and clients
  - Used in Erlang, Elixir, Go, Java, Scala, F# and C#

- Primitives

`new_chan ()`, `send c v`, `recv c`

- Example: `let (c, c') = new_chan () in`  
`fork {send c' 42};`  
`recv c`

- Many variants exists
  - In our case: Asynchronous, Order-Preserving and Reliable

- Message-Passing is not a silver bullet for concurrency
  - “We studied 15 large, mature, and actively maintained actor programs written in Scala and found that 80% of them mix the actor model with another concurrency model.” [ [Tasharofi et al., ECOOP'13](#) ]
- No existing solution where high-level actor-based reasoning is readily available in combination with existing concurrency models for functional verification
  - Allowing communication of references, channels and higher-order functions

## Combine

- Session Types [ [Honda et al., ESOP'98](#) ]
  - Type system for channels
  - Example:  $!N.?B.end$
  - Ensures safety through static type checking
- Concurrent Separation Logic [ [O'Hearn & Brooks, CONCUR'04](#) ]
  - Logic for reasoning about concurrent programs with mutable state.
  - Example:  $\{x \mapsto a * y \mapsto b\} \text{ swap } x \ y \ \{x \mapsto b * y \mapsto a\}$
  - Ensures functional correctness through manual proofs

Actris: A concurrent separation logic for proving *functional correctness* of programs that combine *message passing* with other programming and concurrency paradigms

- We introduce the notion of *Dependent Separation Protocols*
- Integration with Iris and its existing concurrency mechanisms, e.g. locks and ghost state
- Verification of feature-heavy programs including a variant of Map-Reduce
- A full mechanization of all of the above in Coq with tactic support

# Demonstration

# Demonstration

Language: Iris's ML-like language extended with message-passing primitives

$$e \in \text{Expr} ::= \begin{array}{l} \text{new\_chan } () \\ \text{send } c \ v \\ \text{recv } c \end{array} \quad \left| \begin{array}{l} \\ \\ \dots \end{array} \right.$$

Program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {send c' 42};
recv c
```

# Dependent Separation Protocols

## Definition

$$\begin{aligned} \text{prot} &\triangleq \text{! } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \text{prot} \quad | \\ &\quad \text{? } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \text{prot} \quad | \\ &\quad \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

## Example

$$\text{! } (x : \mathbb{N}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{? } (b : \mathbb{B}) \langle b \rangle \{ b = \text{is\_even } x \}. \text{end}$$

## Duality

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\text{! } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \text{prot}} &= \text{? } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \overline{\text{prot}} \\ \overline{\text{? } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \text{prot}} &= \text{! } \vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{ P \}. \overline{\text{prot}} \\ \overline{\text{end}} &= \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

## Ownership

$$c \rightsquigarrow \text{prot}$$



# Dependent Separation Protocols - Rules

HT-NEWCHAN

{True}

`new_chan ()`

$\{(c, c'). c \mapsto \text{prot} * c' \mapsto \overline{\text{prot}}\}$

HT-SEND

$\{c \mapsto !\vec{x}:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \text{prot} * P[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$

`send c (v[\vec{t}/\vec{x}])`

$\{c \mapsto \text{prot}[\vec{t}/\vec{x}]\}$

HT-RECV

$\{c \mapsto ?\vec{x}:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \text{prot}\}$

`recv c`

$\{w. \exists \vec{y}. (w = v[\vec{y}/\vec{x}]) * c \mapsto \text{prot}[\vec{y}/\vec{x}] * P[\vec{y}/\vec{x}]\}$

# Demonstration - Verified

## Program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in (* {True} - {c ↦ ? ⟨42⟩ {True}. end * _} *)
fork {send c' 42};          (* {c' ↦ ! ⟨42⟩ {True}. end} - {c' ↦ end} *)
recv c                      (* {c ↦ ? ⟨42⟩ {True}. end} - {v. c ↦ end * v = 42} *)
```

## Protocol

```
c ↦ ? ⟨42⟩ {True}. end    and
c' ↦ ! ⟨42⟩ {True}. end
```

# Demonstration - References

## Program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in (* {True} - {c ↦ ?l ⟨l⟩ {l ↦ 42}. end * -} *)
fork {send c' (ref 42)};    (* {c' ↦ !l ⟨l⟩ {l ↦ 42}. end * l ↦ 42} - {c' ↦ end} *)
!(recv c)                  (* {c ↦ ?l ⟨l⟩ {l ↦ 42}. end} - {l. c ↦ end * l ↦ 42} *)
```

## Protocol

```
c ↦ ?l ⟨l⟩ {l ↦ 42}. end    and
c' ↦ !l ⟨l⟩ {l ↦ 42}. end
```

# Demonstration - Delegation

Delegation: Passing channels over channels

Program

```
let (c1, c'1) = new_chan () in
fork { let (c2, c'2) = new_chan () in
      send c'1 c2; send c'2 (ref 42) };
!(recv (recv c1))
```

Protocols

$c_1 \mapsto ?c \langle c \rangle \{ c \mapsto ?l \langle l \rangle \{ l \mapsto 42 \}. \text{end} \}. \text{end}$       and

$c'_1 \mapsto !c \langle c \rangle \{ c \mapsto ?l \langle l \rangle \{ l \mapsto 42 \}. \text{end} \}. \text{end}$

$c_2 \mapsto ?l \langle l \rangle \{ l \mapsto 42 \}. \text{end}$       and

$c'_2 \mapsto !l \langle l \rangle \{ l \mapsto 42 \}. \text{end}$

# Demonstration - Higher-Order

## Program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {let f = recv c' in send c' (λ(). f() + 2)};
let r = ref 40 in send c (λ(). !r); recv c ()
```

## Protocol

$c \rightsquigarrow$  !  $P$   $Q$   $f \langle f \rangle \{ \{P\} f () \{v. Q(v)\} \}$ .  
?  $g \langle g \rangle \{ \{P\} g () \{v. \exists w. (v = w + 2) * Q(w)\} \}$ .  
end

and

$c' \rightsquigarrow$  ?  $P$   $Q$   $f \langle f \rangle \{ \{P\} f () \{v. Q(v)\} \}$ .  
!  $g \langle g \rangle \{ \{P\} g () \{v. \exists w. (v = w + 2) * Q(w)\} \}$ .  
end

## Hoare Triple for initial closure

$\{r \mapsto 40\} (\lambda(). !r) () \{v. v = 40\}$

# Demonstration - Locks

## Program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
let lk = new_lock () in
fork {acquire lk; send c' 21; release lk};
fork {acquire lk; send c' 21; release lk};
recv c + recv c
```

## Protocol

$$\text{lock\_prot} \triangleq \mu(\text{rec} : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \text{iProto}). \lambda n. \text{if } n = 0 \text{ then end else ?}\langle 21 \rangle. \text{rec } (n - 1)$$
$$c \mapsto \text{lock\_prot } 2 \quad \text{and} \quad c' \mapsto \overline{\text{lock\_prot}} 2$$

## Hoare Triple for critical section

$$\{ \text{is\_lock } lk \ (\exists n. c' \mapsto \overline{\text{lock\_prot}} n * \boxed{\bullet n : \text{AUTH}(\mathbb{N})}^\gamma) * \boxed{\circ 1 : \text{AUTH}(\mathbb{N})}^\gamma \}$$
$$\text{acquire } lk; \text{send } c' 21; \text{release } lk$$
$$\{ \text{True} \}$$

# Model

# The Model of Actris - Channels

Channels encoded directly on top of HeapLang as a pair of lock-protected buffers  
 $(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)$

The rules enqueue and dequeue as one would expect

$\{\text{True}\}$	<code>new_chan</code> $()$	$\{(c_1, c_2). (c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\epsilon, \epsilon)\}$
$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)\}$	<code>send</code> $c_1 w$	$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1 \cdot [w], \vec{v}_2)\}$
$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)\}$	<code>send</code> $c_2 w$	$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2 \cdot [w])\}$
$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)\}$	<code>recv</code> $c_1$	$\{w. (\vec{v}_2 = [w] \cdot \vec{w}) * (c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{w})\}$
$\{(c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2)\}$	<code>recv</code> $c_2$	$\{w. (\vec{v}_1 = [w] \cdot \vec{w}) * (c_1, c_2) \rightsquigarrow (\vec{w}, \vec{v}_2)\}$



# The Model of Actris - Dependent Separation Protocols

Defined in Continuation-Passing Style to allow use of quantifiers and have positive position of recursive occurrence

$$\begin{aligned} \text{iProto} &\cong 1 + (\mathbb{B} \times (\text{Val} \rightarrow (\blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \rightarrow \text{iProp}) \rightarrow \text{iProp})) \\ \text{end} &\triangleq \text{inj}_1 () \\ !\vec{x}:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \text{prot} &\triangleq \text{inj}_2 (\text{true}, \lambda w (f : \blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \rightarrow \text{iProp}). \exists(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}). (v = w) * \triangleright P * f(\text{next prot})) \\ ?\vec{x}:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \text{prot} &\triangleq \text{inj}_2 (\text{false}, \lambda w (f : \blacktriangleright \text{iProto} \rightarrow \text{iProp}). \exists(\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}). (v = w) * \triangleright P * f(\text{next prot})) \end{aligned}$$

Supplied function always chosen as an equivalence

$$f \triangleq (\lambda \text{prot}'. \text{prot}' = \text{next prot})$$

# The Model of Actris - Endpoint Ownership

Protocol ownership “ $c \mapsto \text{prot}$ ” encoded via ghost state and invariants

$$c \mapsto \text{prot} \triangleq \exists \gamma_1 \gamma_2 c_1 c_2. ((c = c_1 * \gamma_1 \mapsto_o \text{prot}) \vee (c = c_2 * \gamma_2 \mapsto_o \text{prot})) * \boxed{I \gamma_1 \gamma_2 c_1 c_2}$$

Protocol Invariant - One buffer is always empty

$$I \gamma_1 \gamma_2 c_1 c_2 \triangleq \exists \vec{v}_1 \vec{v}_2 \text{prot}_1 \text{prot}_2. (c_1, c_2) \mapsto (\vec{v}_1, \vec{v}_2) * \\ \gamma_1 \mapsto_{\bullet} \text{prot}_1 * \gamma_2 \mapsto_{\bullet} \text{prot}_2 * \\ \triangleright \left( \begin{array}{l} (\vec{v}_2 = \epsilon * \text{interp } \vec{v}_1 \text{ prot}_1 \text{ prot}_2) \vee \\ (\vec{v}_1 = \epsilon * \text{interp } \vec{v}_2 \text{ prot}_2 \text{ prot}_1) \end{array} \right)$$

Duality and ownership of resources in transit

$$\text{interp } \epsilon \text{ prot}_1 \text{ prot}_2 \triangleq \text{prot}_1 = \overline{\text{prot}_2} \\ \text{interp } ([v] \cdot \vec{v}) \text{ prot}_1 \text{ prot}_2 \triangleq \exists \Phi \text{prot}'_2. (\text{prot}_2 = \text{inj}_2(\text{false}, \Phi)) * \\ \Phi \vee (\lambda \text{prot}'_2. \text{prot}'_2 = \text{next } \text{prot}'_2) * \\ \triangleright \text{interp } \vec{v} \text{ prot}'_1 \text{ prot}'_2$$

- Semantic model of Session Types via logical relations

$$\llbracket - \rrbracket : \tau \rightarrow \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{iProp}$$

$$\llbracket \mathbb{N} \rrbracket \triangleq \lambda v. \exists n \in \mathbb{N}. v = n$$

$$\llbracket st \rrbracket \triangleq ???$$

- Multi-party Dependent Separation Protocols (Based on [ [Honda et al., POPL'08](#) ])
- Linearity of channels through Iron
  - Preventing dropping of channel obligation
- Communication between distributed systems

Actris: A concurrent separation logic for proving *functional correctness* of programs that combine *message passing* with other programming and concurrency paradigms

- We introduce the notion of *Dependent Separation Protocols*
- Integration with Iris and its existing concurrency mechanisms, e.g. locks and ghost state
- Verification of feature-heavy programs including a variant of Map-Reduce
- A full mechanization of all of the above in Coq with tactic support
  - <https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris>
- A paper on Actris has been conditionally accepted for POPL'20.

# Extras

# Distributed Merge Sort

```
sort_service cmp c  $\triangleq$   
  let l = recv c in  
  if |l|  $\leq$  1 then send c () else  
  let l' = split l in  
  let c1 = start (sort_service cmp) in  
  let c2 = start (sort_service cmp) in  
  send c1 l; send c2 l';  
  recv c1; recv c2;  
  merge cmp l l'; send c ()
```

```
start e  $\triangleq$   
  let f = e in  
  let (c, c') = new_chan () in  
  fork {f c'}; c
```

```
sort_prot (l : T  $\rightarrow$  Val  $\rightarrow$  iProp) (R : T  $\rightarrow$  T  $\rightarrow$   $\mathbb{B}$ )  $\triangleq$   
  ?  $\vec{x}$  l <l> {l  $\mapsto_l$   $\vec{x}$ }.  
  !  $\vec{y}$  <()> { l  $\mapsto_l$   $\vec{y}$  * sorted_of_R  $\vec{y}$   $\vec{x}$  }.end
```

```
{ cmp_spec l R cmp *  
  c  $\mapsto$  sort_prot l R  
  sort_service cmp c  
  {c  $\mapsto$  end}
```

```
cmp_spec l R cmp  $\triangleq$   
   $\forall x_1 x_2 v_1 v_2. \{l x_1 v_1 * l x_2 v_2\}$   
    cmp v1 v2  
    {r. r = R x1 x2 * l x1 v1 * l x2 v2}
```

# Fine-Grained Merge Sort

```
sort_servicefg cmp c  $\triangleq$   
  branch c with  
    right  $\Rightarrow$  select c right  
  | left  $\Rightarrow$   
    let x1 = recv c in  
    branch c with  
      right  $\Rightarrow$  select c left;  
              send c x1;  
              select c right  
    | left  $\Rightarrow$   
      let x2 = recv c in  
      let c1 = start sort_servicefg cmp in  
      let c2 = start sort_servicefg cmp in  
      select c1 left; send c1 x1;  
      select c2 left; send c2 x2;  
      splitfg c c1 c2; mergefg cmp c c1 c2  
  end  
end
```

$$\text{sort\_prot}_{fg} (I : T \rightarrow \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{iProp}) (R : T \rightarrow T \rightarrow \mathbb{B}) \triangleq$$
$$\text{sort\_prot}_{fg}^{\text{head}} I R \epsilon$$
$$\text{sort\_prot}_{fg}^{\text{head}} I R \triangleq$$
$$\mu(\text{rec} : \text{List } T \rightarrow \text{iProto}).$$
$$\lambda \vec{x}. (?x \vee \langle v \rangle \{I \ x \ v\}. \text{rec } (\vec{x} \cdot [x]))$$
$$\& \text{sort\_prot}_{fg}^{\text{tail}} I R \vec{x} \epsilon$$
$$\text{sort\_prot}_{fg}^{\text{tail}} I R \triangleq$$
$$\mu(\text{rec} : \text{List } T \rightarrow \text{List } T \rightarrow \text{iProto}).$$
$$\lambda \vec{x} \vec{y}. (!y \vee \langle v \rangle \{(\forall i < |\vec{y}|. R \ \vec{y}_i \ y) * I \ y \ v\}. \text{rec } \vec{x} (\vec{y} \cdot [y]))$$
$$\{\text{True}\} \oplus \{\vec{x} \equiv_p \vec{y}\} \text{ end}$$

# Distributed Mapper

```
mapper_worker  $f_v$   $lk$   $c \triangleq$   
  acquire  $lk$ ; select  $c$  left;  
  branch  $c$  with  
    right  $\Rightarrow$  release  $lk$   
  | left  $\Rightarrow$  let  $x := \text{recv } c$  in release  $lk$ ;           (* acquire work *)  
              let  $y := f_v x$  in                          (* map it *)  
              acquire  $lk$ ; select  $c$  right; send  $c$   $y$ ; release  $lk$ ; (* send it back *)  
              mapper_worker  $f_v$   $lk$   $c$   
end
```

```
mapper_prot  $I_T$   $I_U$  ( $f : T \rightarrow \text{List } U$ )  $\triangleq$   
   $\mu$  rec.  $\lambda (n : \mathbb{N}) (X : \text{MultiSet } T)$ .  
    if  $n = 0$  then end else  
      ( $? x \ v \ \langle v \rangle \{I_T x \ v\}$ . rec  $n$  ( $X \uplus \{x\}$ )) & rec ( $n - 1$ )  $X$   
         $\{(n=1) \Rightarrow (X=\emptyset)\} \oplus \{\text{True}\}$   
      !  $x \ \ell \ \langle \ell \rangle \{x \in X * \ell \mapsto_{I_U} (f \ x)\}$ . rec  $n$  ( $X \setminus \{x\}$ )
```

```
 $prot_1 \ \{Q_1\} \oplus \{Q_2\} \ prot_2 \triangleq$   
  ! ( $b : \mathbb{B}$ )  $\langle b \rangle$  {if  $b$  then  $Q_1$  else  $Q_2$ }.  
  if  $b$  then  $prot_1$  else  $prot_2$ 
```

```
 $prot_1 \ \{Q_1\} \& \{Q_2\} \ prot_2 \triangleq$   
  ? ( $b : \mathbb{B}$ )  $\langle b \rangle$  {if  $b$  then  $Q_1$  else  $Q_2$ }.  
  if  $b$  then  $prot_1$  else  $prot_2$ 
```



# Distributed Mapper - Specification

Concurrent Spec of Mapper Worker

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{f\_spec } l_T \ l_U \ f \ f_v \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ \emptyset \ * \\ \text{is\_lock } lk \ \left( \frac{\exists n \ X. \ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \ *}{c \mapsto \text{mapper\_prot } l_T \ l_U \ f \ n \ X} \right) \end{array} \right\}$$

mapper\_worker  $f_v \ lk \ c$

{True}

$$\text{f\_spec } (T \ U : \text{Type}) \ (f_v : \text{Val}) \triangleq \\ \forall x \ v. \ \{l_T \ x \ v\} \ f_v \ v \ \{l. \ l \mapsto_{l_U} \ f \ x\}$$

Ghost Theory:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \text{True} \Rightarrow & \exists \gamma. \ \text{auth}_\gamma \ 0 \ \emptyset \\ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \Rightarrow & \text{auth}_\gamma \ (1 + n) \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ \emptyset \\ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ \emptyset \Rightarrow & \text{auth}_\gamma \ (n - 1) \ X \\ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ Y \Rightarrow & \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ (X \uplus Z) \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ (Y \uplus Z) \\ Z \subseteq Y \ * \ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ Y \Rightarrow & \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ (X \setminus Z) \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ (Y \setminus Z) \\ \text{auth}_\gamma \ n \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ Y \ * & n > 0 \ * \ Y \subseteq X \\ \text{auth}_\gamma \ 1 \ X \ * \ \text{contrib}_\gamma \ Y \ * & Y = X \end{array}$$