

# Actris: Session-Type Based Reasoning in Separation Logic

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# The actor model and message passing

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

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**Example:** `let (c, c') = new_chan () in  
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## Many variants of message passing exist

We consider: 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](#) ]

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**Problem:** No existing solution for dependent high-level actor-based reasoning in combination with existing concurrency models for functional correctness

- ▶ **Dependent:** dependency on previously communicated messages
- ▶ **High-level:** communication of references, channels and higher-order functions

## Key Idea

Protocols akin to **session types** for reasoning in **Iris's concurrent separation logic**

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- ▶ Type system for channel endpoints
- ▶ Example: `!Z. ?Z. end`
- ▶ Ensures safety and session fidelity

# Key Idea

Protocols akin to **session types** for reasoning in **Iris's concurrent separation logic**

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- ▶ Type system for channel endpoints
- ▶ Example:  $!Z. ?Z. \text{end}$
- ▶ Ensures safety and session fidelity

**Iris's concurrent separation logic** [ [Jung et al., POPL'15](#) ]

- ▶ Logic for reasoning about concurrent programs with mutable state
- ▶ Example:  $\{\ell \mapsto v\} \ell \leftarrow w \{\ell \mapsto w\}$
- ▶ Supports high-level concurrency reasoning mechanisms
- ▶ Ensures functional correctness

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

- ▶ Introducing *dependent separation protocols*
- ▶ Integration with Iris and its existing concurrency mechanisms
- ▶ Verification of feature-heavy programs including a variant of map-reduce
- ▶ Full mechanization in Coq (<https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/>)



# Features of dependent separation protocols

Specification and proof system for message passing that allows

- ▶ **Resources:** sending references
- ▶ **Higher-order:** sending function closures
- ▶ **Delegation:** sending channels over channels
- ▶ **Dependent:** dependency on previous messages
- ▶ **Recursion:** looping protocols
- ▶ **Choice:** diverging protocols
- ▶ **Manifest sharing:** concurrent sharing of channel endpoints
- ▶ **Subprotocols:** weakening mechanism for added flexibility

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# Actris

joint work with

Jesper Bengtson, IT University of Copenhagen

Robbert Krebbers, Radboud University

## Tour of Actris - Goal

**Language:** ML-like language extended with concurrency, state and message passing

$$e \in \text{Expr} ::= v \mid x \mid \text{rec } f \ x = e \mid e_1(e_2) \mid \text{fork } \{e\} \mid e_1 \parallel e_2 \mid \text{ref } (e) \mid !e \mid e_1 \leftarrow e_2 \mid \\ \text{new\_chan } () \mid \text{send } e_1 \ e_2 \mid \text{recv } e \mid \dots$$

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fork {let x = recv c' in send c' (x + 2)};
send c 40; recv c
```

**Goal:** prove that returned value is 42

# Session types

## Symbols

$$\begin{array}{l|l} S ::= !A. S & \\ \quad ?A. S & \\ \quad \text{end} & \dots \end{array}$$

## Example

$!Z. ?Z. \text{end}$

## Duality

$$\begin{array}{l} \overline{!A. S} = ?A. \overline{S} \\ \overline{?A. S} = !A. \overline{S} \\ \overline{\text{end}} = \text{end} \end{array}$$

## Usage

$c : \text{chan } S$

## Rules

$\text{new\_chan } () : \text{chan } S \times \text{chan } \overline{S}$

$\text{send} : (\text{chan } (!A. S) \times A) \multimap \text{chan } S$

$\text{recv} : \text{chan } (?A. S) \multimap (A \times \text{chan } S)$

### Example program:

```
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## Tour of Actris - Type checked

### Example program:

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### Session types:

$c$  : chan (!Z. ?Z. end)      and  
 $c'$  : chan (?Z. !Z. end)

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let (c, c') = new_chan () in  
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## Session types:

$c : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. \text{end})$       and  
 $c' : \text{chan } (?Z. !Z. \text{end})$

## Properties obtained:

- ✓ Safety / session fidelity
- ✗ Functional correctness

# Dependent separation protocols - Definitions

	<u>Dependent separation protocols</u>	<u>Session types</u>
<b>Symbols</b>	$  \begin{array}{l}  prot ::= !\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.prot \quad   \\  \qquad \qquad ?\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.prot \quad   \\  \qquad \qquad \text{end}  \end{array}  $	$  \begin{array}{l}  S ::= !A.S \quad   \\  \qquad \qquad ?A.S \quad   \\  \qquad \qquad \text{end} \quad   \dots  \end{array}  $
<b>Example</b>	$!(x:\mathbb{Z})\langle x\rangle\{\text{True}\}.?(y:\mathbb{Z})\langle y\rangle\{y = (x + 2)\}.\text{end}$	$!Z. ?Z.\text{end}$
<b>Duality</b>	$  \begin{array}{l}  \overline{!\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.prot} = ?\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.\overline{prot} \\  \overline{?\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.prot} = !\vec{x}:\vec{\tau}\langle v\rangle\{P\}.\overline{prot} \\  \overline{\text{end}} = \text{end}  \end{array}  $	$  \begin{array}{l}  \overline{!A.S} = ?A.\overline{S} \\  \overline{?A.S} = !A.\overline{S} \\  \overline{\text{end}} = \text{end}  \end{array}  $
<b>Usage</b>	$c \multimap prot$	$c : \text{chan } S$

# Dependent separation protocols - Rules

## Dependent separation protocols

**New**

$$\{\text{True}\}$$
$$\text{new\_chan } ()$$
$$\{(c, c'). c \multimap \text{prot} * c' \multimap \overline{\text{prot}}\}$$

**Send**

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

**Recv**

$$\{c \multimap ?\vec{x} : \vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. \text{prot}\}$$
$$\text{recv } c$$
$$\{w. \exists \vec{y}. (w = v[\vec{y}/\vec{x}]) * \\ c \multimap \text{prot}[\vec{y}/\vec{x}] * P[\vec{y}/\vec{x}]\}$$

## Session types

$$\text{new\_chan } () : \text{chan } S \times \text{chan } \overline{S}$$
$$\text{send} : (\text{chan } (!A. S) \times A) \multimap \text{chan } S$$
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$$\begin{aligned} c &\multimap ! (x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? (y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle y \rangle \{ y = (x + 2) \}. \text{end} && \text{and} \\ c' &\multimap ? (x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! (y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle y \rangle \{ y = (x + 2) \}. \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

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```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in  
fork {let l = recv c' in l ← (!l + 2); send c' ()};  
let l = ref 40 in send c l; recv c; !l
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$$c \mapsto !(l:\text{Loc}) (x:\mathbb{Z}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto x \}. ? \langle () \rangle \{ \ell \mapsto (x + 2) \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and}$$
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$\{\text{True}\} \text{ref } v \{ \ell. \ell \mapsto v \}$

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$\{l \mapsto v\} !l \{w. w = v \wedge l \mapsto v\}$

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## Example - Locks

**Example program:**

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

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$$\text{lock\_prot } (n : \mathbb{N}) \triangleq \text{if } n = 0 \text{ then end else } ?\langle 21 \rangle. \text{lock\_prot } (n - 1)$$

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### Proof:

- ▶ Main thread: follows immediately from Actris's rules
- ▶ Forked-off thread: requires reasoning about locks using Iris

Paper [POPL'20]: [https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris\\_popl.pdf](https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris_popl.pdf)

Mechanisation: <https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/-/tree/popl20>

## Actris: Session-Type Based Reasoning in Separation Logic

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Message passing is a useful abstraction to implement concurrent programs. For real-world systems, however, it is often combined with other programming and concurrency paradigms, such as higher-order functions, mutable state, shared-memory concurrency, and locks. We present **Actris**: a logic for proving functional correctness of programs that use a combination of the aforementioned features. Actris combines the power of modern concurrent separation logics with a first-class protocol mechanism—based on session types—for reasoning about message passing in the presence of other concurrency paradigms. We show that Actris provides a suitable level of abstraction by proving functional correctness of a variety of examples, including a distributed merge sort, a distributed load-balancing mapper, and a variant of the map-reduce model, using relatively simple specifications. Soundness of Actris is proved using a model of its protocol mechanism in the Iris framework. We mechanised the theory of Actris, together with tactics for symbolic execution of programs, as well as all examples in the paper, in the Coq proof assistant.

CCS Concepts: • **Theory of computation** → **Separation logic**; *Program verification*; Programming logic.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: Message passing, actor model, concurrency, session types, Iris

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# Actris 2.0

joint work with

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## Problem 1 - Lack of expressivity

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### Example Program

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### Dependent separation protocols needed for verification

$$c \mapsto !(x:\mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ?\langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ?\langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and}$$
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### Actris 1.0 requires protocols to be strictly dual

- Every send matched by a receive and vice versa

## Problem 2 - Lack of extensionality

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1. **Protocols that differ only syntactically cannot interact**



## Problem 2 - Lack of extensionality

### 1. Protocols that differ only syntactically cannot interact

$!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$     and  
 $?(y : \mathbb{Z})(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

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### 2. Protocols cannot send more or receive less

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### 2. Protocols cannot send more or receive less

$!(v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} \}. ? \langle |\vec{x}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$     and  
 $?(v : \text{Val})(\vec{w} : \text{List Val}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_list } v \vec{w} \}. ! \langle |\vec{w}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

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### 3. Protocols cannot send and recover a “frame”

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$!(v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_list } v \ \vec{x} \}. ? \langle |\vec{x}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$  and  
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### 3. Protocols cannot send and recover a “frame”

$$\frac{\{P\} e \{Q\}}{\{P * R\} e \{Q * R\}}$$

## Problem 2 - Lack of extensionality

### 1. Protocols that differ only syntactically cannot interact

$!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$  and  
 $?(y : \mathbb{Z})(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

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$$\frac{\{P\} e \{Q\}}{\{P * R\} e \{Q * R\}}$$

$!(\ell : \text{Loc})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_llist } \ell \ \vec{x} \}. ? \langle () \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_llist } \ell \ (\text{rev } \vec{x}) \}. \text{end}$  and  
 $?(\ell : \text{Loc})(\vec{w} : \text{List Val}) \langle \ell \rangle \{ \text{is\_llist } \ell \ \vec{w} \}. ! \langle () \rangle \{ \text{is\_llist } \ell \ (\text{rev } \vec{w}) \}. \text{end}$

Integrate **asynchronous session subtyping** with **Actris**

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**Asynchronous session subtyping** [ [Mostrous et al., Inf.Comput'2015](#) ]

► Swapping:  $?A. !B. S <: !B. ?A. S$

Example:  $?Cat. !Dog. end <: !Dog. ?Cat. end$



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- ▶ Swapping:  $?A. !B. S <: !B. ?A. S$

Example:  $?Cat. !Dog. end <: !Dog. ?Cat. end$

- ▶ Contra and covariance of send / receive: 
$$\frac{B <: A \quad S <: T}{!A. S <: !B. S} \quad \frac{A <: B \quad S <: T}{?A. S <: ?B. S}$$

Example:  $!Cat. ?Cat. end <: !MaineCoon. ?Animal. end$

Integrate **asynchronous session subtyping** with **Actris**

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Example:  $!Cat. ?Cat. end <: !MaineCoon. ?Animal. end$

- ▶ Subsumption: 
$$\frac{A <: B \quad \Gamma \vdash e : B}{\Gamma \vdash e : A} \quad \frac{S <: T}{chan\ S <: chan\ T}$$

## Problem 1 - Type Checked

### Example program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
fork {send c' 20; let x = recv c' in send c' (x + 2)};
send c 20;
let x = recv c in
let y = recv c in x + y
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## Expected session types

$c : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. ?Z. \text{end})$     and  
 $c' : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. !Z. \text{end})$

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$c : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. ?Z. \text{end})$     and  
 $c' : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. !Z. \text{end})$

## Dual session types

$c : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. ?Z. \text{end})$     and  
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## Dual session types

$c : \text{chan } (!Z. ?Z. ?Z. \text{end})$     and  
 $c' : \text{chan } (?Z. !Z. !Z. \text{end})$

## Subtype relation of $c'$

$?Z. !Z. !Z. \text{end}$   
 $<: !Z. ?Z. !Z. \text{end}$

## Problem 2.2 - Type Checked

### Protocols cannot send more or receive less

- ▶ Corresponding session types

`!(List Z).?Z.end`      and  
`?(List any).!Z.end`

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### Protocols cannot send more or receive less

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`!(List Z).?Z.end`      and  
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- ▶ Instantiate dual session types

`!(List Z).?Z.end`      and  
`?(List Z).!Z.end`



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### Protocols cannot send more or receive less

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- ▶ Instantiate dual session types

`!(List Z).?Z.end`      and  
`? (List Z).!Z.end`

- ▶ Show subtyping of service type:

`? (List Z).!Z.end`  
`<: ? (List any).!Z.end`

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### Protocols cannot send more or receive less

- ▶ Corresponding session types

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`?(List any).!Z.end`

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### Protocols cannot send more or receive less

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`? (List Z).!Z.end`

- ▶ Show subtyping of service type:

`? (List Z).!Z.end`      `List Z <: List any`      `Z <: any`  
`<: ? (List any).!Z.end`

# Subprotocols

## Subprotocols

**Swap**  $\frac{?x:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. !y:\vec{\sigma} \langle w \rangle \{Q\}. prot}{\sqsubseteq !y:\vec{\sigma} \langle w \rangle \{Q\}. ?x:\vec{\tau} \langle v \rangle \{P\}. prot}$

**Send**  $\frac{\forall \vec{y}:\vec{\sigma}. Q \multimap \exists \vec{x}:\vec{\tau}. P * (v_1 = v_2) * \triangleright (prot_1 \sqsubseteq prot_2)}{!x:\vec{\tau} \langle v_1 \rangle \{P\}. prot_1 \sqsubseteq !y:\vec{\sigma} \langle v_2 \rangle \{Q\}. prot_2}$

**Recv**  $\frac{\forall \vec{x}:\vec{\tau}. P \multimap \exists \vec{y}:\vec{\sigma}. Q * (v_1 = v_2) * \triangleright (prot_1 \sqsubseteq prot_2)}{?x:\vec{\tau} \langle v_1 \rangle \{P\}. prot_1 \sqsubseteq ?y:\vec{\sigma} \langle v_2 \rangle \{Q\}. prot_2}$

**Sub.**  $\frac{c \multimap prot_1 \quad prot_1 \sqsubseteq prot_2}{c \multimap prot_2}$

## Subtyping

$?A. !B. S$   
 $<: !B. ?A. S$

$\frac{B <: A \quad S <: T}{!A. S <: !B. T}$

$\frac{A <: B \quad S <: T}{?A. S <: ?B. T}$

$\frac{A <: B \quad \Gamma \vdash e : B}{\Gamma \vdash e : A}$

# Problem 1 - Verified

## Example program

```
let (c, c') = new_chan () in
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### Dual dependent separation protocols

$$c \mapsto !(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and}$$
$$c' \mapsto ?(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$$

# Problem 1 - Verified

## Example program

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let (c, c') = new_chan () in
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## Dual dependent separation protocols

$$c \mapsto !(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and}$$
$$c' \mapsto ?(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$$

## Subprotocol relation of $c'$

$$\begin{aligned} & ?(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \\ \sqsubseteq & ! \langle 20 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ?(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle x \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle x + 2 \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

## Problem 2.1 - Verified

**Protocols that differ only syntactically can interact**



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$!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$     and  
 $?(y : \mathbb{Z})(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

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### Instantiate dual protocols (from client perspective)

$!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$     and  
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### Show subprotocol relation (using recv subprotocol rule)

$?(\textcolor{green}{x} : \mathbb{Z})(\textcolor{green}{y} : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$   
 $\sqsubseteq ?(\textcolor{red}{y} : \mathbb{Z})(\textcolor{red}{x} : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

## Problem 2.1 - Verified

**Protocols that differ only syntactically can interact**

$$\begin{aligned} &!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and} \\ &?(y : \mathbb{Z})(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

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**Show subprotocol relation (using recv subprotocol rule)**

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## Problem 2.1 - Verified

### Protocols that differ only syntactically can interact

$$\begin{aligned} &!(x : \mathbb{Z})(y : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ? \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \quad \text{and} \\ &?(y : \mathbb{Z})(x : \mathbb{Z}) \langle (x, y) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. ! \langle (y, x) \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end} \end{aligned}$$

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## Problem 2.2 - Verified

Protocols can send more or receive less

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$!(v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} \}. ? \langle |\vec{x}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$     and  
 $?(v : \text{Val})(\vec{w} : \text{List Val}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_list } v \vec{w} \}. ! \langle |\vec{w}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$

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$!(v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} \}. ? \langle |\vec{x}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$  and  
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**Instantiate dual protocols (from client perspective)**

$!(v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}) \langle v \rangle \{ \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} \}. ? \langle |\vec{x}| \rangle \{ \text{True} \}. \text{end}$  and  
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## Problem 2.2 - Verified

Protocols can send more or receive less

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Show subprotocol relation (using recv subprotocol rule)

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Protocols can send more or receive less

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$\forall (v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}). \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} \multimap$

## Problem 2.2 - Verified

Protocols can send more or receive less

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Instantiate dual protocols (from client perspective)

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$$\forall (v : \text{Val})(\vec{x} : \text{List } \mathbb{Z}). \text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} * \exists (v : \text{Val})(\vec{w} : \text{List Val}). \text{is\_list } v \vec{w} * \dots$$

## Problem 2.2 - Verified

Protocols can send more or receive less

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Instantiate dual protocols (from client perspective)

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$$\text{is\_int\_list } v \vec{x} ** (\exists (\vec{w} : \text{List Val}). \text{is\_list } v \vec{w} * \bigstar_{(x,w) \in (\vec{x}, \vec{w})} x = w)$$

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Draft [LMCS]: [https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris\\_lmcs.pdf](https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris_lmcs.pdf)  
Mechanisation: <https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/-/tree/lmcs>

## ACTRIS 2.0: ASYNCHRONOUS SESSION-TYPE BASED REASONING IN SEPARATION LOGIC

JONAS KASTBERG HINRICHSSEN, JESPER BENGTON, AND ROBBERT KREBBERS

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**ABSTRACT.** Message passing is a useful abstraction to implement concurrent programs. For real-world systems, however, it is often combined with other programming and concurrency paradigms, such as higher-order functions, mutable state, shared-memory concurrency, and locks. We present **Actris**: a logic for proving functional correctness of programs that use a combination of the aforementioned features. Actris combines the power of modern concurrent separation logics with a first-class protocol mechanism—based on session types—for reasoning about message passing in the presence of other concurrency paradigms. We show that Actris provides a suitable level of abstraction by proving functional correctness of a variety of examples, including a distributed merge sort, a distributed load-balancing mapper, and a variant of the map-reduce model, using concise specifications.

While Actris was already presented in a conference paper (POPL'20), this paper expands the prior presentation significantly. Moreover, it extends Actris to **Actris 2.0** with a notion of *subprotocols*—based on session-type subtyping—that permits additional flexibility when composing channel endpoints, and that takes full advantage of the asynchronous semantics

# Semantic Session Typing

joint work with

Daniël Louwrick, University of Amsterdam

Jesper Bengtson, IT University of Copenhagen

Robbert Krebbers, Radboud University

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Consider the following program:

$$\lambda c. (\text{recv } c \parallel \text{recv } c) : \text{chan } (?Z. ?Z. \text{end}) \multimap (Z \times Z)$$

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- ▶ Resulting proof effort is infeasible

**Goal:** Type system where ad-hoc rules  
can be added



**Solution:** Semantic Type System!

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- ▶ Requires logical interpretation of session types

## Semantic Typing

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**Actris** [Hinrichsen et al., POPL'20]

- ▶ **Dependent separation protocols:** Session type-style logical protocols
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# Semantic Session Types

**Session types** as dependent separation protocols:

$$\text{Type}_{\blacklozenge} \triangleq \text{iProto}$$
$$!A. S \triangleq ! (v : \text{Val}) \langle v \rangle \{A v\}. S$$
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$$\text{end} \triangleq \text{end}$$
$$\text{Type}_{\star} \triangleq \text{Val} \rightarrow \text{iProp}$$
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Rules are proven as lemmas using the rules for dependent separation protocols

$$\begin{array}{lll} \Gamma \models \text{new\_chan } () : \text{chan } S \times \text{chan } \overline{S} \models \Gamma & & \\ \Gamma, (c : \text{chan } (!A. S)), (x : A) \models \text{send } c \ x : 1 & \models \Gamma, (c : \text{chan } S) & \\ \Gamma, (c : \text{chan } (?A. S)) \models \text{recv } c : A & \models \Gamma, (c : \text{chan } S) & \end{array}$$

# Typing the Untypeable Program

The rule:

$$\models \lambda c. (\text{recv } c \parallel \text{recv } c) : \text{chan } (?Z. ?Z. \text{end}) \multimap (Z \times Z)$$

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$$\begin{aligned} & (c \multimap ?(v_1 : \text{Val}) \langle v_1 \rangle \{v_1 \in \mathbb{Z}\}. ?(v_2 : \text{Val}) \langle v_2 \rangle \{v_2 \in \mathbb{Z}\}. \text{end}) \multimap \\ & \text{wp } (\text{recv } c \parallel \text{recv } c) \{v. \exists v_1, v_2. (v = (v_1, v_2)) * \triangleright (v_1 \in \mathbb{Z}) * \triangleright (v_2 \in \mathbb{Z})\} \end{aligned}$$

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And then using Iris's ghost state machinery!

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The rule:

$$\models \lambda c. (\text{recv } c \parallel \text{recv } c) : \text{chan } (?Z. ?Z. \text{end}) \multimap (Z \times Z)$$

Is just another lemma proven by unfolding all type-level definitions

$$\begin{aligned} & (c \mapsto ?(v_1 : \text{Val}) \langle v_1 \rangle \{v_1 \in \mathbb{Z}\}. ?(v_2 : \text{Val}) \langle v_2 \rangle \{v_2 \in \mathbb{Z}\}. \text{end}) \multimap \\ & \text{wp } (\text{recv } c \parallel \text{recv } c) \{v. \exists v_1, v_2. (v = (v_1, v_2)) * \triangleright (v_1 \in \mathbb{Z}) * \triangleright (v_2 \in \mathbb{Z})\} \end{aligned}$$

And then using Iris's ghost state machinery! Beyond the scope of this talk

## Semantic Session Type System

- ▶ Formal connection between dependent separation protocols and session types
- ▶ Rich extensible type system for session types
  - ▶ Term and session type equi-recursion
  - ▶ Term and session type polymorphism
  - ▶ Term and (asynchronous) session type subtyping
  - ▶ Unique and shared reference types, Copyable types, Lock types
- ▶ Full mechanisation in Coq
- ▶ Supports integration of safe yet untypeable programs



Draft [CPP'21]: [https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/semantic\\_session\\_typing\\_cpp.pdf](https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/semantic_session_typing_cpp.pdf)  
Mechanisation: <https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/-/tree/cpp21>

## Machine-Checked Semantic Session Typing

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### Abstract

Session types—a family of type systems for message-passing concurrency—have been subject to many extensions, where each extension comes with a separate proof of type safety. These extensions cannot be readily combined, and their proofs of type safety are generally not machine checked, making their correctness less trustworthy. We overcome these shortcomings with a semantic approach to binary asynchronous affine session types, by developing a logical relations model in Coq using the Iris program logic. We demonstrate the power of our approach by combining various forms of polymorphism and recursion, asynchronous subtyping, references, and locks/mutexes. As an additional benefit of the semantic approach, we demonstrate how to manually prove the typing judgements of racy, but safe, programs that cannot be type checked using only the rules of the type system.

using *logical relations* defined in terms of a program logic [Appel et al. 2007; Dreyer et al. 2009, 2019].

The semantic approach addresses the challenges above as (1) typing judgements are definitions in the program logic, and typing rules are lemmas in the program logic (they are not inductively defined), which means that extending the system with new typing rules boils down to proving the corresponding typing lemmas correct; (2) safe functions that cannot be conventionally type checked can still be semantically type checked by manually proving a typing lemma (3) all of our results have been mechanised in Coq using Iris [Jung et al. 2016, 2018b, 2015; Krebbers et al. 2018, 2017a,b] giving us a high degree of trust that they are correct.

The syntactic approach requires global proofs of progress (well-typed programs are either values or can take a step) and preservation (steps taken by the program do not change types), culminating in type safety (well-typed programs do

# Soundness and implementation of Actris

If  $\{\text{True}\} e \{v. \phi(v)\}$  is provable in Actris then:

- ✓ **Safety/session fidelity:**  $e$  will not crash and not send wrong messages
- ✓ **Functional correctness:** If  $e$  terminates with  $v$ , the postcondition  $\phi(v)$  holds

# Implementation and model of Actris in Iris

## Approach:

- ▶ Define the type of  $prot$  with support from Iris's recursive domain equation solver
- ▶ Define operations and relations on  $prot$ , such as  $\overline{prot}$  and  $prot_1 \sqsubseteq prot_2$
- ▶ Implement `new_chan`, `send`, and `recv` as a library using lock-protected buffers
- ▶ Define  $c \rightsquigarrow prot$  using Iris's invariants and ghost state
- ▶ Prove Actris's proof rules as lemmas in Iris

## Benefits:

- ✓ Actris's soundness result is a corollary of Iris's soundness
- ✓ Can readily reuse Iris's support for interactive proofs in Coq
- ✓ Small Coq development ( $\sim 5000$  lines in total)
- ✓ Readily integrates with other concurrency mechanisms in Iris

Draft [LMCS]: [https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris\\_lmcs.pdf](https://itu.dk/people/jkas/papers/actris_lmcs.pdf)  
Mechanisation: <https://gitlab.mpi-sws.org/iris/actris/-/tree/lmcs>

## ACTRIS 2.0: ASYNCHRONOUS SESSION-TYPE BASED REASONING IN SEPARATION LOGIC

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**ABSTRACT.** Message passing is a useful abstraction to implement concurrent programs. For real-world systems, however, it is often combined with other programming and concurrency paradigms, such as higher-order functions, mutable state, shared-memory concurrency, and locks. We present **Actris**: a logic for proving functional correctness of programs that use a combination of the aforementioned features. Actris combines the power of modern concurrent separation logics with a first-class protocol mechanism—based on session types—for reasoning about message passing in the presence of other concurrency paradigms. We show that Actris provides a suitable level of abstraction by proving functional correctness of a variety of examples, including a distributed merge sort, a distributed load-balancing mapper, and a variant of the map-reduce model, using concise specifications.

While Actris was already presented in a conference paper (POPL'20), this paper expands the prior presentation significantly. Moreover, it extends Actris to **Actris 2.0** with a notion of *subprotocols*—based on session-type subtyping—that permits additional flexibility when composing channel endpoints, and that takes full advantage of the asynchronous semantics

# Ongoing and future work

# Ongoing and future work

## Ongoing work

- ▶ Multi-party dependent separation protocols (based on [ [Honda et al., POPL'08](#) ])
- ▶ Dependent separation protocols as specifications for TCP-based communication in distributed systems

## Future Work

- ▶ Deadlock free communication (based on ongoing work by [Jules Jacobs](#))
- ▶ Linearity of channels through Iron [ [Bizjak et al., POPL'19](#) ]

$! \langle \text{"Thank you"} \rangle \{ \text{ActrisKnowledge} \}.$   
 $\mu \text{rec. } ?(q : \text{Question}) \langle q \rangle \{ \text{AboutActris } q \}.$   
 $! (a : \text{Answer}) \langle a \rangle \{ \text{Insightful } a \}. \text{rec}$