Advanced Tool Architectures
Supporting Interface-Based Design

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NSF ITR Deliverables

A set of reusable, inter-operating software modules, freely distributed as open-source software. These modules will be toolkits and frameworks that support the design of embedded systems, provide infrastructure for domain-specific tools, and provide model-based code generators.

The starting point is a family of actor-oriented modeling tools and associated meta modeling tools.
Tool Architectures

- Objective is to unify:
  - modeling
  - specification
  - design
  - programming

- Define modeling & design “languages” with:
  - syntaxes that aid understanding
  - composable abstractions
  - understandable concurrency and time
  - predictable behavior
  - robust behavior

All of these tasks are accomplished by the system designers.

Actor-Oriented Design

- Object orientation:
  - class name
  - data
  - methods

  What flows through an object is sequential control

- Actor orientation:
  - actor name
  - data (state)
  - parameters
  - ports

  Input data

  Output data

  What flows through an object is data streams
Examples of Actor-Oriented Component Frameworks

- Simulink (The MathWorks)
- Labview (National Instruments)
- Modelica (Linkoping)
- OCP, open control platform (Boeing)
- GME, actor-oriented meta-modeling (Vanderbilt)
- SPW, signal processing worksystem (Cadence)
- System studio (Synopsys)
- ROOM, real-time object-oriented modeling (Rational)
- Port-based objects (U of Maryland)
- I/O automata (MIT)
- VHDL, Verilog, SystemC (Various)
- Polis & Metropolis (UC Berkeley)
- Ptolemy & Ptolemy II (UC Berkeley)
- ...

Actor View of Producer/Consumer Components

Key idea: The model of computation defines the component interaction patterns and is part of the framework, not part of the components themselves.
Object-Oriented and Actor-Oriented Design

- **Object orientation:**
  - strong typing
  - inheritance
  - procedural interfaces

- **Actor orientation**
  - concurrency
  - communication
  - real time

- These are complementary

Actor orientation offers:
- modeling the continuous environment (and hybrid systems)
- understandable concurrency (vs. RPC, semaphores, and mutexes)
- specifications of temporal behavior (vs. “prioritize and pray”)

UML object model emphasizes static structure.

Two of Our Tool Starting Points

- **GME: Generic Modeling Environment**
  - Vanderbilt ISIS
  - Meta modeling of actor-oriented modeling
  - Proven for representing “abstract syntax” (called by some “static semantics”)

- **Ptolemy II**
  - UC Berkeley Chess
  - Framework for exploring actor-oriented semantics
  - Beginnings of meta modeling of actor-oriented “abstract semantics”
**Actor-Oriented Modeling in GME**

Domain-specific actor-oriented modeling environments are created from meta models, and a sophisticated, domain-specific UI is generated from those models.

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**Meta Modeling in GME**

Meta models consist of UML object models enriched by OCL constraints which capture structural properties shared by a family of models.
Ptolemy II

A laboratory supporting experimentation with actor-oriented design, concurrent semantics, and visual syntaxes.

http://ptolemy.eecs.berkeley.edu

example Ptolemy model: hybrid control system

Software Practice

- Ptolemy II and GME are widely recognized to be unusually high quality software from a research group.
- Software practice in the Ptolemy Project:
  - Object models in UML
  - Design patterns
  - Layered software architecture
  - Design and code reviews
  - Design document
  - Nightly build
  - Regression tests
  - Sandbox experimentation
  - Code rating
**Code rating**

- A simple framework for
  - quality improvement by peer review
  - change control by improved visibility
  - encouraging innovation

- Four confidence levels
  - Red. No confidence at all.
  - Yellow. Passed design review. Soundness of the APIs.
  - Green. Passed code review. Quality of implementation.
  - Blue. Passed final review. Backwards-compatibility assurance

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**Modeling Semantics in Ptolemy II - Object Model for Executable Components**

```
«Interface»
Executable

+fire()
+initialize()
+postfire() : boolean
+prefire() : boolean
+preinitialize()
+stopFire()
+terminate()
+wrapup()

«Interface»
Actor

+getDirector() : Director
+getExecutiveDirector() : Director
+getManager() : Manager
+inputPortList() : List
+newReceiver() : Receiver
+outputPortList() : List

ComponentEntity

Director

AtomicActor

Director

CompositeEntity

ComponentEntity

CompositeActor

ComponentEntity

CompositeActor

0..1

0..n
```

Software is written to be read!
Communication Protocols – Object Model for Messaging Framework

Structuring This Space with Interface Theories

• Concept of Interface Theories is due to Tom Henzinger and his colleagues.

• We are using this concept to figure out what the Ptolemy Group has done with its software prototypes.
Receiver Interface – Software Architecture Perspective

These polymorphic methods implement the communication semantics of a domain in Ptolemy II. The receiver instance used in communication is supplied by the director, not by the component.

Behavioral Types – Interface Theory Perspective

- Capture the dynamic interaction of components in types
- Obtain benefits analogous to data typing.
- Call the result behavioral types.

- Communication has
  - data types
  - behavioral types

- Components have
  - data type signatures
  - behavioral type signatures

- Components are
  - data polymorphic
  - domain polymorphic
A Preliminary Behavioral Type System

- Based on interface automata
  - Proposed by de Alfaro and Henzinger
  - Concise composition (vs. standard automata)
  - Alternating simulation provides contravariant inputs/outputs

- Compatibility checking
  - Done by automata composition
  - Captures the notion "components can work together"

- Alternating simulation (from Q to P)
  - All input steps of P can be simulated by Q, and
  - All output steps of Q can be simulated by P.
  - Provides the ordering we need for subtyping & polymorphism

Simple Example: One Place Buffer
Showing Consumer Interface Only

Model of the interaction of a one-place buffer, showing the interface to a consumer actor.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Inputs:</th>
<th>Outputs:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>g get</td>
<td>t Token</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>hT hasToken</td>
<td>hTT Return True from hasToken</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>hTF Return False from hasToken</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Two Candidate Consumer Actors

Consumer with check:

Inputs:

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<tr>
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<th>Token</th>
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Consumer without check:

Composition: Behavioral Type Check

Illegal states are pruned out of the composition. A composite state is illegal if an output produced by one has no corresponding input in the other.
**Composition: Behavioral Type Check**

An empty composition means that all composite states are illegal. E.g., here, .0_0 is illegal, which results in pruning all states.

**Subclassing and Polymorphism**

We can construct a type lattice by defining a partial order based on alternating simulation. It properly reflects the desire for contravariant inputs and outputs.
Contravariance of Inputs and Outputs in a Classical Type System

```
BaseClass
public Complex foo(Double arg)
```

```
DerivedClass
public Double foo(Complex arg)
```

... and deliver more specific outputs

Can accept more general inputs

DerivedClass remains a valid drop-in substitution for BaseClass.

Representing Models of Computation
Synchronous Dataflow (SDF) Domain

This can be composed with models of actors to determine compatibility.
Subtyping Relation Between Models of Computation: \( SDF \leq DE \)

This enables the design of components that can operate within multiple models of computation ("domain polymorphic components")

Summary of Behavioral Types – Preliminary Results

- We capture patterns of component interaction in a type system framework: behavioral types
- We describe interaction types and component behavior using interface automata.
- We do type checking through automata composition (detect component incompatibilities)
- Subtyping order is given by the alternating simulation relation, supporting polymorphism.
- A behavioral type system is a set of automata that form a lattice under alternating simulation.
Scalability

- Automata represent behavioral types
  - Not arbitrary program behavior
  - Descriptions are small
  - Compositions are small
  - Scalability is probably not an issue

- Type system design becomes an issue
  - What to express and what to not express
  - Restraint!
    - Will lead to efficient type check and type inference algorithms

Issues and Ideas

- Composition by name-matching
  - awkward, limiting.
  - use ports in hierarchical models?

- Rich subtyping:
  - extra ports interfere with alternating simulation.
  - projection automata?
  - use ports in hierarchical models?

- Synchronous composition:
  - composed automata react synchronously.
  - modeling mutual exclusion is awkward
  - use transient states?
  - hierarchy with transition refinements?
More Speculative

- We can reflect component dynamics in a run-time environment, providing behavioral reflection.
  - admission control
  - run-time type checking
  - fault detection, isolation, and recovery (FDIR)

- Timed interface automata may be able to model real-time requirements and constraints.
  - checking consistency becomes a type check
  - generalized schedulability analysis

- Need a language with a behavioral type system
  - Visual syntax given here is meta modeling
  - Use this to build domain-specific languages

Conclusions

- You can expect from this team:
  - Sophisticated software
  - High quality, open-source software
  - Domain-specific modules
  - Generators for domain-specific modules

- Emphasis on:
  - Meta modeling of abstract syntax
  - Meta modeling of semantics
  - Actor-oriented design methods
  - Interface definitions
  - Composable models