Chapter 7

Safety & Liveness Properties



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safety & liveness properties

Concepts: properties: true for every possible execution safety: nothing bad happens liveness: something good eventually happens

Models:safety: no reachable ERROR/STOP stateprogress:an action is eventually executedfair choice and action priority

Practice: threads and monitors

Aim: property satisfaction.

7.1 Safety

A **safety** property asserts that nothing **bad** happens.

- **STOP** or deadlocked state (no outgoing transitions)
- ERROR process (-1) to detect erroneous behaviour



Safety - property specification

ERROR condition states what is **not** required (cf. exceptions).

 in complex systems, it is usually better to specify safety properties by stating directly what is required.



analysis using **LTSA** as before.

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Keep the property alphabet as small as possible – only **relevant** actions!

Safety properties

Property that it is polite to knock before entering a room.



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Safety properties

Safety **property P** defines a deterministic process that asserts that any trace including actions in the alphabet of **P**, is accepted by **P**. Those actions that are not part of the specified behaviour of P are transitions to the **ERROR** state.

Thus, if **P** is composed with **S**, then traces of actions in (alphabet of $S \cap$ alphabet of **P**) must also be valid traces of **P**, otherwise **ERROR** is reachable.

Transparency of safety properties:

Since all actions in the alphabet of a property are eligible choices, composing a property with a set of processes does not affect their correct behaviour. However, if a behaviour can occur which violates the safety property, then **ERROR** is reachable. Properties must be deterministic to be transparent.

Safety properties

How can we specify that some action, disaster, never occurs?



A safety property must be specified so as to include **all** the acceptable, valid behaviours **in its alphabet**.

Safety - mutual exclusion

How do we check that this does indeed ensure mutual exclusion in the critical section?

```
property MUTEX =(p[i:1..3].enter
               -> p[i].exit
               -> MUTEX ).
||CHECK = (SEMADEMO || MUTEX).
```

Check safety using LTSA.

What happens if semaphore is initialized to 2?

What happens if semaphore is initialized to **0**?

7.2 Single Lane Bridge problem



A bridge over a river is only wide enough to permit a single lane of traffic. Consequently, cars can only move concurrently if they are moving in the same direction. A safety violation occurs if two cars moving in different directions enter the bridge at the same time.

Single Lane Bridge - model

Events or actions of interest? enter and exit Identify processes. cars and bridge Identify properties. oneway Define each process and interactions (structure).



Single Lane Bridge - CARS model

```
const N = 3 // number of each type of car
range T = 0..N // type of car count
range ID= 1..N // car identities
```

```
CAR = (enter->exit->CAR).
```

No overtaking constraints: To model the fact that cars cannot pass each other on the bridge, we model a **CONVOY** of cars in the same direction. We will have a red and a blue convoy of up to N cars for each direction:

||CARS = (red:CONVOY || blue:CONVOY).

Single Lane Bridge - CONVOY model



Single Lane Bridge - BRIDGE model

Cars can move concurrently on the bridge only if in the same direction. The bridge maintains counts of blue and red cars on the bridge. Red cars are only allowed to enter when the blue count is zero and vice-versa.

```
BRIDGE = BRIDGE[0][0], // initially empty
BRIDGE [nr:T] [nb:T] = //nr is the red count, nb the blue
      (when (nb==0))
          red[ID].enter -> BRIDGE[nr+1][nb]
                                                        //nb==0
          red[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr-1][nb]
       |when (nr==0)
          blue[ID].enter-> BRIDGE[nr][nb+1] //nr==0
          blue[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr][nb-1]
                                Even when 0, exit actions permit the car counts
                               to be decremented. LTSA maps these undefined
                               states to ERROR.
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```

Single Lane Bridge - safety property ONEWAY

We now specify a **safety** property to check that cars do not collide! While red cars are on the bridge only red cars can enter; similarly for blue cars. When the bridge is empty, either a red or a blue car may enter.

<pre>property ONEWAY = (red[ID].enter -> RED[1]</pre>
<pre> blue[ID].enter -> BLUE[1]</pre>
),
<pre>RED[i:ID] = (red[ID].enter -> RED[i+1]</pre>
<pre> when(i==1)red[ID].exit -> ONEWAY</pre>
<pre> when(i>1) red[ID].exit -> RED[i-1]</pre>
), //i is a count of red cars on the bridge
<pre>BLUE[i:ID] = (blue[ID].enter-> BLUE[i+1]</pre>
<pre> when(i==1)blue[ID].exit -> ONEWAY</pre>
<pre> when(i>1)blue[ID].exit -> BLUE[i-1]</pre>
). //i is a count of blue cars on the bridge

```
||SingleLaneBridge = (CARS|| BRIDGE||ONEWAY).
```

Is the safety property **ONEWAY** violated?

```
No deadlocks/errors
```

||SingleLaneBridge = (CARS||ONEWAY).

Without the **BRIDGE** contraints, is the safety property **ONEWAY** violated?

Trace to property violation in ONEWAY: red.1.enter blue.1.enter

Single Lane Bridge - implementation in Java



Single Lane Bridge - BridgeCanvas

An instance of BridgeCanvas class is created by SingleLaneBridge applet - ref is passed to each newly created RedCar and BlueCar object.

```
class BridgeCanvas extends Canvas {
  public void init(int ncars) {...} //set number of cars
  //move red car with the identity i a step
  //returns true for the period on bridge, from just before until just after
  public boolean moveRed(int i)
           throws InterruptedException {...}
  //move blue car with the identity i a step
  //returns true for the period on bridge, from just before until just after
  public boolean moveBlue(int i)
           throws InterruptedException{...}
  public synchronized void freeze() {...}// freeze display
  public synchronized void thaw() {...} //unfreeze display
```

Single Lane Bridge - RedCar

```
class RedCar implements Runnable {
  BridgeCanvas display; Bridge control; int id;
  RedCar(Bridge b, BridgeCanvas d, int id) {
    display = d; this.id = id; control = b;
  public void run() {
    trv {
      while(true) {
        while (!display.moveRed(id)); // not on bridge
        control.redEnter(); // request access to bridge
        while (display.moveRed(id)); // move over bridge
        control.redExit(); // release access to bridge
    } catch (InterruptedException e) {}
                              Similarly for the BlueCar
```

Single Lane Bridge - class Bridge

```
class Bridge {
   synchronized void redEnter()
     throws InterruptedException {}
   synchronized void redExit() {}
   synchronized void blueEnter()
   throws InterruptedException {}
   synchronized void blueExit() {}
}
```

Class **Bridge** provides a null implementation of the access methods i.e. no constraints on the access to the bridge.

Result.....?

Single Lane Bridge



To ensure safety, the "safe" check box must be chosen in order to select the **SafeBridge** implementation.

Single Lane Bridge - SafeBridge



Single Lane Bridge - SafeBridge



To avoid unnecessary thread switches, we use **conditional notification** to wake up waiting threads only when the number of cars on the bridge is zero i.e. when the last car leaves the bridge.

But does every car **eventually** get an opportunity to cross the bridge? This is a **liveness** property.

7.3 Liveness

A **safety** property asserts that nothing **bad** happens.

A **liveness** property asserts that something good eventually happens.

Single Lane Bridge: Does every car eventually get an opportunity to cross the bridge? ie. to make **PROGRESS?**

A progress property asserts that it is *always* the case that a particular action is *eventually* executed. Progress is the opposite of *starvation*, the name given to a concurrent programming situation in which an action is never executed.

Progress properties - fair choice

Fair Choice: If a choice over a set of transitions is executed infinitely often, then every transition in the set will be executed infinitely often.

(

If a coin were tossed an infinite number of times, we would expect that heads would be chosen infinitely often and that tails would be chosen infinitely often.

This requires Fair Choice !





Progress properties

progress $P = \{a1, a2...an\}$ defines a progress property P which asserts that in an infinite execution of a target system, at least **one** of the actions a1, a2...an will be executed infinitely often.

Progress properties

Suppose that there were two possible coins that could be picked up: pick



Progress properties



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Progress analysis

A terminal set of states is one in which every state is reachable from every other state in the set via one or more transitions, and there is no transition from within the set to any state outside the set.



Given fair choice, each terminal set represents an execution in which each action used in a transition in the set is executed infinitely often.

Since there is no transition out of a terminal set, any action that is not used in the set cannot occur infinitely often in all executions of the system - and hence represents a potential progress violation!

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Progress analysis

A progress property is violated if analysis finds a terminal set of states in which **none** of the progress set actions appear.



```
progress TAILS = {tails} in {1,2}
```

Default: given fair choice, for every action in the alphabet of the target system, that action will be executed infinitely often. This is equivalent to specifying a separate progress property for every action.



Progress analysis



If the default holds, then every other progress property holds i.e. every action is executed infinitely often and system consists of a single terminal set of states.

Progress - single lane bridge



Fair choice means that eventually every possible execution occurs, including those in which cars do not starve. To detect progress problems we must check under adverse conditions. We superimpose some scheduling policy for actions, which models the situation in which the bridge is **congested**.

Progress - action priority

Action priority expressions describe scheduling properties:



||C = (P||Q) << {a1,...,an} specifies a composition in which the actions a1,...,an have higher priority than any other action in the alphabet of P||Q including the silent action tau.

In any choice in this system which has one or more of the actions **a1,..,an** labeling a transition, the transitions labeled with other, lower priority actions are discarded.

Low Priority (">>") $||C = (P||Q) >> \{a1, ..., an\}$ specifies a composition in which the actions a1, ..., an have **lower** priority than any other action in the alphabet of P||Q including the silent action tau.

In any choice in this system which has one or more transitions not labeled by **a1**, . . , **an**, the transitions labeled by **a1**, . . , **an** are discarded.



7.4 Congested single lane bridge

```
progress BLUECROSS = {blue[ID].enter}
progress REDCROSS = {red[ID].enter}
```

BLUECROSS - eventually one of the blue cars will be able to enter

REDCROSS - eventually one of the red cars will be able to enter

Congestion using action priority?

Could give red cars priority over blue (or vice versa) ? In practice neither has priority over the other.

Instead we merely encourage congestion by lowering the priority of the exit actions of both cars from the bridge.

```
||CongestedBridge = (SingleLaneBridge)
>>{red[ID].exit,blue[ID].exit}.
```



Progress Analysis ? LTS?

congested single lane bridge model

```
Progress violation: REDCROSS
Trace to terminal set of states:
    blue.1.enter
Cycle in terminal set:
    blue.2.enter
    blue.1.exit
    blue.1.enter
    blue.2.exit
Actions in terminal set:
    blue[1..2].{enter, exit}
```

Similarly for BLUECROSS

This corresponds with the observation that, with *more* than one car **(N=2 say)**, it is possible that whichever colour car enters the bridge first could continuously occupy the bridge preventing the other colour from ever crossing.

congested single lane bridge model



Will the results be the same if we model congestion by giving car entry to the bridge high priority?

Can congestion occur if there is only one car moving in each direction?

Progress - revised single lane bridge model

The bridge needs to know whether or not cars are **waiting** to cross.

Modify CAR:

```
CAR = (request->enter->exit->CAR).
```

Modify BRIDGE:

Red cars are only allowed to enter the bridge if there are no blue cars on the bridge **and** there are **no blue cars waiting** to enter the bridge.

Blue cars are only allowed to enter the bridge if there are no red cars on the bridge **and** there are **no red cars waiting** to enter the bridge.

Progress - revised single lane bridge model

```
/*nr-number of red cars on the bridge wr -number of red cars waiting to enter
  nb-number of blue cars on the bridge wb -number of blue cars waiting to enter
*/
BRIDGE = BRIDGE[0][0][0]],
BRIDGE[nr:T][nb:T][wr:T][wb:T] =
  (red[ID].request -> BRIDGE[nr][nb][wr+1][wb]
  |when (nb==0 \&\& wb==0)
     red[ID].enter -> BRIDGE[nr+1][nb][wr-1][wb]
  |red[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr-1][nb][wr][wb]
  |blue[ID].request -> BRIDGE[nr][nb][wr][wb+1]
  |when (nr=0 \& wr==0)
     blue[ID].enter -> BRIDGE[nr][nb+1][wr][wb-1]
  |blue[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr][nb-1][wr][wb]
                                                OK now?
```

Progress - analysis of revised single lane bridge model

Trace to DEADLOCK: red.1.request red.2.request red.3.request blue.1.request blue.2.request blue.3.request The trace is the scenario in which there are cars waiting at both ends, and consequently, the bridge does not allow either red or blue cars to enter.

Solution?

Introduce some asymmetry in the problem (cf. Dining philosophers).

This takes the form of a boolean variable **bt** which breaks the deadlock by indicating whether it is the turn of blue cars or red cars to enter the bridge.

Arbitrarily set **bt** to true initially giving **blue** initial precedence.

Progress - 2nd revision of single lane bridge model

```
const True = 1
                                        ➡ Analysis ?
const False = 0
range B = False..True
/* bt - true indicates blue turn, false indicates red turn */
BRIDGE = BRIDGE[0][0][0][0][True],
BRIDGE[nr:T][nb:T][wr:T][wb:T][bt:B] =
  (red[ID].request -> BRIDGE[nr][nb][wr+1][wb][bt]
  |when (nb==0 \&\& (wb==0||!bt))
     red[ID].enter -> BRIDGE[nr+1][nb][wr-1][wb][bt]
  |red[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr-1][nb][wr][wb][True]
  |blue[ID].request -> BRIDGE[nr][nb][wr][wb+1][bt]
  |when (nr=0 \&\& (wr=0 | |bt))
     blue[ID].enter -> BRIDGE[nr][nb+1][wr][wb-1][bt]
  |blue[ID].exit -> BRIDGE[nr][nb-1][wr][wb][False]
  ).
```

Revised single lane bridge implementation - FairBridge

```
class FairBridge extends Bridge {
  private int nred = 0; //count of red cars on the bridge
  private int nblue = 0; //count of blue cars on the bridge
  private int waitblue = 0; //count of waiting blue cars
  private int waitred = 0; //count of waiting red cars
  private boolean blueturn = true;
  synchronized void redEnter()
      throws InterruptedException {
    ++waitred:
    while (nblue>0||(waitblue>0 && blueturn)) wait();
    --waitred:
                                                 Negation of the
    ++nred;
                                                 model guard.
  synchronized void redExit() {
    --nred;
    blueturn = true;
    if (nred==0)notifyAll();
```

Revised single lane bridge implementation - FairBridge

```
synchronized void blueEnter(){
    throws InterruptedException {
    ++waitblue;
    while (nred>0||(waitred>0 && !blueturn)) wait();
    --waitblue;
    ++nblue;
}
synchronized void blueExit(){
    --nblue;
    blueturn = false;
    if (nblue==0) notifyAll();
}
```

Note that we did not need to introduce a new request monitor method. The existing enter methods can be modified to increment a wait count before testing whether or not the caller can access the bridge.

7.5 Readers and Writers



A shared database is accessed by two kinds of processes. **Readers** execute transactions that examine the database while **Writers** both examine and update the database. A Writer must have exclusive access to the database; any number of Readers may concurrently access it.

readers/writers model

Events or actions of interest?

acquireRead, releaseRead, acquireWrite, releaseWrite

Identify processes.

Readers, Writers & the RW_Lock

 Identify properties. RW_Safe RW_Progress
 Define each process and interactions (structure).



readers/writers model - READER & WRITER

```
set Actions =
{acquireRead,releaseRead,acquireWrite,releaseWrite}
READER = (acquireRead->examine->releaseRead->READER)
+ Actions
\ {examine}.
WRITER = (acquireWrite->modify->releaseWrite->WRITER)
+ Actions
\ {modify}.
```

Alphabet extension is used to ensure that the other access actions cannot occur freely for any prefixed instance of the process (as before).

Action hiding is used as actions **examine** and **modify** are not relevant for access synchronisation.

readers/writers model - RW_LOCK

```
The lock
const False = 0 const True = 1
                                             maintains a count
range Bool = False..True
const Nread = 2 // Maximum readers
                                             of the number of
const Nwrite= 2 // Maximum writers
                                             readers, and a
                                             Boolean for the
RW LOCK = RW[0][False],
                                             writers.
RW[readers:0..Nread][writing:Bool] =
     (when (!writing)
          acquireRead -> RW[readers+1][writing]
     |releaseRead -> RW[readers-1][writing]
     |when (readers==0 && !writing)
          acquireWrite -> RW[readers][True]
     |releaseWrite -> RW[readers][False]
     ).
```

readers/writers model - safety

```
property SAFE_RW
= (acquireRead -> READING[1]
    |acquireWrite -> WRITING
    ),
READING[i:1..Nread]
= (acquireRead -> READING[i+1]
    |when(i>1) releaseRead -> READING[i-1]
    |when(i==1) releaseRead -> SAFE_RW
    ),
WRITING = (releaseWrite -> SAFE_RW).
```

We can check that **RW_LOCK** satisfies the safety property.....

||READWRITELOCK = (RW_LOCK || SAFE_RW).

Safety Analysis ? LTS?

readers/writers model



An **ERROR** occurs if a reader or writer is badly behaved (**release** before **acquire** or more than two readers).

We can now compose the **READWRITELOCK** with **READER** and **WRITER** processes according to our structure....



readers/writers - progress

```
progress WRITE = {writer[1..Nwrite].acquireWrite}
progress READ = {reader[1..Nread].acquireRead}
```

WRITE - eventually one of the writers will acquireWrite

READ - eventually one of the readers will acquireRead

Adverse conditions using action priority?

we lower the priority of the release actions for both readers and writers.

Progress Analysis ? LTS?

readers/writers model - progress





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readers/writers implementation - monitor interface

We concentrate on the monitor implementation:

```
interface ReadWrite {
    public void acquireRead()
        throws InterruptedException;
    public void releaseRead();
    public void acquireWrite()
        throws InterruptedException;
    public void releaseWrite();
}
```

We define an interface that identifies the monitor methods that must be implemented, and develop a number of alternative implementations of this interface.

```
Firstly, the safe READWRITELOCK.
```

readers/writers implementation - ReadWriteSafe

```
class ReadWriteSafe implements ReadWrite {
 private int readers =0;
 private boolean writing = false;
 public synchronized void acquireRead()
             throws InterruptedException {
   while (writing) wait();
    ++readers;
 public synchronized void releaseRead() {
    --readers;
    if(readers==0) notify();
```

Unblock a single writer when no more readers.

readers/writers implementation - ReadWriteSafe



Unblock **all** readers

However, this monitor implementation suffers from the **WRITE** progress problem: possible *writer starvation* if the number of readers never drops to zero.



readers/writers - writer priority



Strategy: Block readers if there is a writer waiting.

)+Actions\{modify}.

readers/writers model - writer priority

```
RW_LOCK = RW[0][False][0],
RW[readers:0..Nread][writing:Bool][waitingW:0..Nwrite]
= (when (!writing && waitingW==0)
        acquireRead -> RW[readers+1][writing][waitingW]
        |releaseRead -> RW[readers-1][writing][waitingW]
        |when (readers==0 && !writing)
            acquireWrite-> RW[readers][True][waitingW-1]
        |releaseWrite-> RW[readers][False][waitingW]
        |requestWrite-> RW[readers][False][waitingW]
        |requestWrite-> RW[readers][writing][waitingW+1]
        ).
```



readers/writers model - writer priority

```
property RW_SAFE:
```

No deadlocks/errors

progress READ and WRITE:

```
Progress violation: READ
Path to terminal set of states:
    writer.1.requestWrite
    writer.2.requestWrite
Actions in terminal set:
{writer.1.requestWrite, writer.1.acquireWrite,
    writer.1.releaseWrite, writer.2.requestWrite,
    writer.2.acquireWrite, writer.2.releaseWrite}
```

starvation: if always a writer waiting.

Reader

In practice, this may be satisfactory as is usually more read access than write, and readers generally want the most up to date information.

readers/writers implementation - ReadWritePriority

```
class ReadWritePriority implements ReadWrite{
  private int readers =0;
  private boolean writing = false;
 private int waiting W = 0; // no of waiting Writers.
  public synchronized void acquireRead()
             throws InterruptedException {
    while (writing || waitingW>0) wait();
     ++readers;
  public synchronized void releaseRead() {
    --readers;
    if (readers==0) notifyAll();
```

readers/writers implementation - ReadWritePriority

```
synchronized public void acquireWrite()
               throws InterruptedException {
    ++waitingW;
    while (readers>0 || writing) wait();
    --waitingW;
    writing = true;
  synchronized public void releaseWrite() {
    writing = false;
    notifyAll();
```

Both **READ** and **WRITE** progress properties can be satisfied by introducing a **turn** variable as in the Single Lane Bridge.

Java ReadWriteLock

java.util.concurrent includes a specialized lock ReadWriteLock which maintains a pair of associated locks: readLock and writeLock with optional preference to the longest waiting thread (cf. ReentrantLock, and not ensuring fair thread scheduling.)

```
class dataBase { ...
  private ReadWriteLock rwLock =
                   new ReentrantReadWriteLock(true);
  Lock wLock = rwLock.writeLock();
  Lock rLock = rwLock.readLock();
                                                optional "fairness"
  public ... readDB(...) {
      rLock.lock();
      try { ...reading... } finally {rLock.unlock(); }
  public void updateDB(...) {
      wLock.lock(); }
      try { ...writing... } finally {wLock.unlock(); }
```

Summary

- Concepts
 - properties: true for every possible execution
 - safety: nothing bad happens
 - liveness: something good eventually happens
- Models

• safety: no reachable ERROR/STOP state

compose safety properties at appropriate stages

• progress: an action is always eventually executed

fair choice and action priority

apply progress check on the final target system model

Practice

threads and monitors

Aim: property satisfaction