

Path Expressions

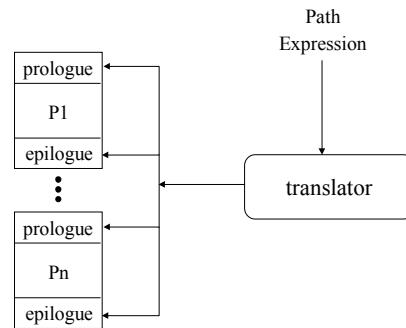
- a declarative specification of the synchronization desired among...
- a set of procedures that may be executed concurrently where...
- automatic enforcement of the synchronization is provided by automatically generated code that uses (an extended form of) semaphores.

With declarative approaches there is usually a tradeoff between the power of the expressions (i.e., the class of problems to which a solution can be expressed) and the feasibility of the expressions (i.e., the extent to which the expression can be translated into an (efficient) implementation).

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General Scheme



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General Form

The general form of a path expression is:

path <exp> , <exp> , ... , <exp> end

where <exp> is an expression formed from the following operators:

- sequencer: $x ; y$
synchronizes the beginning of y with the completion of x
- restrictor: $n : (x)$
limits to n the number of concurrent invocations of x
- derestrictor: $[x]$
allows an unlimited number of concurrent invocations of x
- grouping: (\dots)
to express precedence or nesting

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Examples

- sequencing

path put ; get end

The get procedure cannot begin its ith invocation until the put procedure has completed its ith invocation.

No synchronization is implied about concurrent executions of put or concurrent executions of get.

- restriction: mutual exclusion

path 1 : (write) end

only 1 procedure at a time can execute the procedure write.

- restriction: mutual exclusive choice

path 1 : (write , read) end

the procedures write and read cannot both be executing concurrently

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Examples

- restriction: limited concurrency

path 10 : (read) end

up to 10 invocations of the read procedure can be in progress concurrently

- simple readers-writers

path 1 : (write) , [read] end

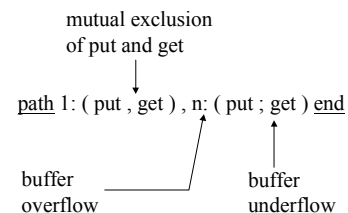
Either exactly one write procedure is executed or an unbounded number of concurrent executions of read

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Examples

- The producer-consumer problem for a buffer of size n has three constraints that can be stated in a single path expression:

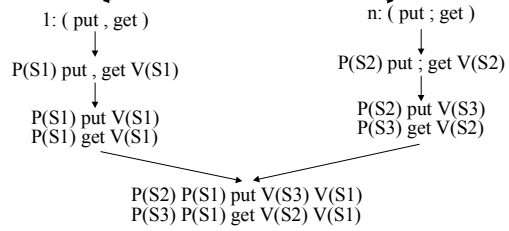


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Translating Path Expressions

path 1: (put , get) , n: (put ; get) end



semaphore S1 initially 1;
semaphore S2 initially n;
semaphore S3 initially 0;

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