Synchronous Languages—Lecture 06

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Esterel IV—The Constructive Semantics

1. What is the state of an Esterel program?



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- 5. When is an Esterel program logically reactive?

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- 4. What are possible examples for *causality problems*? What is the reason for these problems?
- 5. When is an Esterel program logically reactive? ... correct?

Overview

The Constructive Semantics

External Justification vs. Self-Justification

The Constructive Behavioral Semantics

The Constructive Operational Semantics

- ► Programming in Esterel:
 - ▶ Analyze input events to generate appropriate output signals
 - Use concurrent statements and intermediate local signals to create modular, well-structured programs

- ► Programming in Esterel:
 - ▶ Analyze input events to generate appropriate output signals
 - Use concurrent statements and intermediate local signals to create modular, well-structured programs
- ► Natural way of thinking:
 - ▶ Information propagation by cause and effect

```
present I then
emit O
end
```

```
module P1:
input I;
output 0;
signal S1, S2 in
  present I then emit S1 end
||
  present S1 else emit S2 end
||
  present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Is this logically correct?

- Is this logically correct?
 - Yes!

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module P9:
[
present 01 then emit 01 end

||
present 01 then
present 02 else emit 02 end
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]
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   present 01 then emit 01 end
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- Is this logically correct?
 - ► Yes!
- Is this well-behaved wrt information propagation?
 - ► No!
- Accepting P9 as correct is
 - Logically possible
 - ▶ But against (imperative) intention of the language

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 - First test the status of S, then execute p if S is present
 - ▶ Status of *S* should not depend on what *p* might do

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- Synchrony hypothesis:
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- Want actual computation:
 - ► "Since S is present, we take the then branch"
- Don't want speculative computation:
 - "If we assume S present, then we take the then branch"

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module P10:
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- ► This is logically correct
- But still want to reject it:
 - ▶ In the logical semantics, the information that 0 is present flows backwards across the sequencing operator
 - Contradicts basic intuition about sequential execution

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 - Does not check assumptions about signal statuses
 - Instead, propagates facts about control flow and signal statuses

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 - Instead, propagates facts about control flow and signal statuses
- ► Three equivalent presentations:
 - 1. Constructive behavioral semantics
 - 2. Constructive operational semantics
 - 3. Circuit semantics

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- 2. Constructive operational semantics:
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 - Is the simplest way of defining an efficient interpreter
- Circuit semantics:
 - ► Translation of programs into constructive circuits
 - ▶ Is the core of the Esterel v5 compiler

The Constructive Behavioral Semantics

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- Define disjoint predicates to express
 - "A statement must terminate, must pause, must exit a trap T, or must emit a signal S"
 - ► "A statement cannot terminate, cannot pause, cannot exit a trap *T*, or cannot emit a signal *S*"

- ... retains the spirit of the logical coherence semantics
- ...adds reasoning about what a program must or cannot do
- Define disjoint predicates to express
 - ► "A statement must terminate, must pause, must exit a trap *T*, or must emit a signal *S*"
 - "A statement cannot terminate, cannot pause, cannot exit a trap T, or cannot emit a signal S"
- ► The *Must* (*Cannot*) predicate determines
 - Which signals are present (absent)
 - Which statements are (cannot be) executed

Recall: Logical Coherence Law

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Replace with disjoint Constructive Coherence Laws:

A signal S is present iff an "emit S" statement must be executed.

A signal S is absent iff an "emit S" statement cannot be executed

- Define Must and Cannot predicates by structural induction on statements
- ► A signal can have three statuses:
 - "+": known to be present
 - ► "-": known to be absent
 - "⊥": yet unknown

- Define Must and Cannot predicates by structural induction on statements
- A signal can have three statuses:
 - "+": known to be present
 - ► "-": known to be absent
 - "⊥": yet unknown
- ▶ Is technically easier to define the Cannot predicate as the negation of a Can predicate
 - No constructiveness problem here as we only deal with finite sets

p;q (Sequence)

▶ Must (resp. can) execute q if p must (resp. can) terminate



p;q (Sequence)

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 - ► Test behaves as *q*
 - ▶ If *S* is yet unknown:
 - Test can do whatever p or q can do
 - ► There is nothing the test must do. In particular, it does not even have to do what both *p* and *q* have to do—this is the essence of disallowing speculative execution.

- Main novelty is in analysis of output and local signals
- Consider local signal here; output signal is similar

signal S in p end (Local signal)



- ▶ Main novelty is in analysis of output and local signals
- Consider local signal here; output signal is similar

```
signal S in p end (Local signal) Can predicate:
```

 \triangleright Recursively analyze p with status \perp for S



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- ► First analyze *p* in *E* augmented by setting the unknown status | for *S*
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 - Propagate this information by reanalyzing p in E with S present
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- ▶ If S must be emitted:
 - Propagate this information by reanalyzing p in E with S present
 - This may generate more information about the other signals
- ▶ Similarly, if we find that *S* cannot be emitted:
 - Reanalyze p in E with S absent

In the constructive behavioral semantics, a program is accepted as constructive iff fact propagation using the *Must* and *Can* (or *Cannot*) predicates suffices in establishing presence or absence of all output signals (and we can also compute a derivative—see later)

```
module P2:
signal S in
emit S;
present O then
present S then
pause
end;
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end signal
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- ► Can analyze this with just propagating facts
 - ▶ No need for speculative computation based on assumptions
 - Our analysis still "looks ahead" to see what must/cannot be done, but always builds on facts established so far, not on speculations
- However, analysis involves recomputations
 - Avoiding this is goal of operational and circuit semantics!

- ▶ If the must and cannot predicates bring no information about the status of some signal:
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```
module P3:
output 0;
present 0 else emit 0 end
end module
```

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```
module P3:
output 0;
present 0 else emit 0 end
end module
```

```
module P4:
output 0;
present 0 then emit 0 end
end module
```

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module P9:
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- ▶ Both 01 and 02 can be emitted
- No signal must be emitted
- ► No progress—reject P9!

Consider variant of P2:

```
module P11:
signal S
present O then
emit S;
present S then
pause
end;
emit O
end
end signal
```

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signal S
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end signal
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► Are not allowed to speculatively execute branches

Consider variant of P2:

```
module P11:
signal S
present O then
emit S;
present S then
pause
end;
emit O
end
end signal
```

- ► Are not allowed to speculatively execute branches
- Again no progress—reject P11!

```
module P12:
present 0 then
emit 0;
else
emit 0
end
```

```
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present 0 then
emit 0;
else
emit 0
end
```

► Must reject P12 as well!

```
module P12:
present 0 then
emit 0;
else
emit 0
end
```

- ► Must reject P12 as well!
- Does an equivalent HW-circuit always stabilize? (Will come back to this later ...)

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- Must function determines what must be done in a reaction $P \xrightarrow{O} P'$
- ▶ Has the form $Must(p, E) = \langle S, K \rangle$
 - ▶ E: partial event, associating status in $B_{\perp} = \{+, -, \bot\}$ with each signal
 - S: set of signals that p must emit
 - K: set of completion codes that p must return
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 - S: set of signals that p must emit
 - K: set of completion codes that p must return
 - Is either empty or a singleton
- Use subscripts to access elements of result pair:
 - $Must(p, E) = \langle Must_s(p, E), Must_k(p, E) \rangle$



- Cannot^m function prunes out false paths
- $\blacktriangleright \ \ \textit{Cannot}^m(p,E) = \langle \frac{\textit{Cannot}^m(p,E)}{\textit{cannot}^m(p,E)}, \frac{\textit{Cannot}^m(p,E)}{\textit{cannot}^m(p,E)} \rangle = \langle S, K \rangle$
- Extra argument $m \in \{+, \perp\}$ indicates whether it is known that p must be executed in event E
- ightharpoonup Can^m(p, E) is component-wise complement

Completion and signal emission:

$$Must(k, E) = Can^{m}(k, E) = \langle \emptyset, \{k\} \rangle$$
 $Must(!s, E) = Can^{m}(!s, E) = \langle \{s\}, \{0\} \rangle$

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Suspension:

$$Must(s \supset p, E) = Must(p, E)$$

 $Can^{m}(s \supset p, E) = Can^{m}(p, E)$

► Signal test:



Signal test:

$$\mathit{Must}((s?p,q),E) = egin{cases} \mathit{Must}(p,E) & \text{if } s^+ \in E \\ \mathit{Must}(q,E) & \text{if } s^- \in E \\ \langle \emptyset,\emptyset
angle & \text{if } s^\perp \in E \end{cases}$$

$${\it Can}^m((s?p,q),E) = egin{cases} {\it Can}^m(p,E) & ext{if } s^+ \in E \ {\it Can}^m(q,E) & ext{if } s^- \in E \ {\it Can}^\perp(p,E) \cup {\it Can}^\perp(q,E) & ext{if } s^\perp \in E \end{cases}$$

Sequencing:



Sequencing:

$$\mathit{Must}(p;q,E) = \begin{cases} \mathit{Must}(p,E) \\ \text{if } 0 \notin \mathit{Must}_k(p,E) \\ \langle \mathit{Must}_S(p,E) \cup \mathit{Must}_S(q,E), \mathit{Must}_k(q,E) \rangle \\ \text{if } 0 \in \mathit{Must}_k(p,E) \end{cases}$$

$$\mathit{Can}^m(p;q,E) = \begin{cases} \mathit{Can}^m(p,E) \\ & \text{if } 0 \notin \mathit{Can}^m_k(p,E) \\ \langle \mathit{Can}^m_S(p,E) \cup \mathit{Can}^{m'}_S(q,E), \mathit{Can}^m_k(p,E) \setminus 0 \cup \mathit{Can}^{m'}_k(q,E) \rangle \\ & \text{if } 0 \in \mathit{Can}^m_k(p,E) \\ & \text{with } m' = \begin{cases} + & \text{if } m = + \land 0 \in \mathit{Must}_k(p,E) \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{cases}$$

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Local signal declaration:



► Local signal declaration:

$$\mathit{Must}(p \setminus s, E) = \begin{cases} \mathit{Must}(p, E * s^{+}) \setminus s & \text{if } s \in \mathit{Must}_{S}(p, E * s^{\perp}) \\ \mathit{Must}(p, E * s^{-}) \setminus s & \text{if } s \notin \mathit{Can}_{S}^{+}(p, E * s^{\perp}) \\ \mathit{Must}(p, E * s^{\perp}) \setminus s & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$${\it Can}^m(p \backslash s, E) = egin{cases} {\it Can}^+(p, E * s^+) \backslash s \ & ext{if } m = + ext{ and } s \in {\it Must}_S(p, E * s^\perp) \ {\it Can}^m(p, E * s^-) \backslash s \ & ext{if } s \notin {\it Can}^+_S(p, E * s^\perp) \ {\it Can}^m(p, E * s^\perp) \backslash s \ & ext{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

- Note the Can/Must asymmetry: in the Can-predicate of the local signal declaration, check for m = + before calling Must to avoid speculative computation
- Otherwise, would accept program

```
present 0 then
  signal S in
  emit S
  II
   present S else emit 0 end
  end
end
```

Loop:



Loop:

$$Must(p*, E) = Must(p, E)$$

$$Can^m(p*,E) = Can^m(p,E)$$

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► Parallel:

Loop:

$$Must(p*, E) = Must(p, E)$$

 $Can^{m}(p*, E) = Can^{m}(p, E)$

Parallel:

$$Must(p|q, E) = \langle Must_S(p, E) \cup Must_S(q, E), Must_k(p, E), Must_k(q, E) \rangle$$

$$Can^m(p|q,E) = \langle Can_S^m(p,E) \cup Can_S^m(q,E), Max(Can_k^m(p,E), Can_k^m(q,E)) \rangle$$

The Max-operator on sets of completion codes is defined as

$$Max(K, L) = \begin{cases} \emptyset & \text{if } K = \emptyset \text{ or } L = \emptyset \\ \{\max(k, l) \mid k \in K, l \in L\} & \text{if } K, L \neq \emptyset \end{cases}$$

► Trap:



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$$Must(\{p\}, E) = \langle Must_S(p, E), \downarrow Must_k(p, E) \rangle$$

$$Can^m(\{p\}, E) = \langle Can_S^m(p, E), \downarrow Can_k^m(p, E) \rangle$$

► Shift:

► Trap:

$$Must(\{p\}, E) = \langle Must_S(p, E), \downarrow Must_k(p, E) \rangle$$

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► Shift:

$$Must(\uparrow p, E) = \langle Must_S(p, E), \uparrow Must_k(p, E) \rangle$$

$$Can^m(\uparrow p, E) = \langle Can^m_S(p, E), \uparrow Can^m_k(p, E) \rangle$$



Definition of the Constructive Behavioral Semantics

The constructive behavioral semantics of a given program is defined by a two-step procedure, yielding the current reaction and the derivative:

- 1. Compute output event O using Must and Cannot predicates
 - ► This fails if status of some output signal cannot be determined to be + or -

Definition of the Constructive Behavioral Semantics

The constructive behavioral semantics of a given program is defined by a two-step procedure, yielding the current reaction and the derivative:

- 1. Compute output event O using Must and Cannot predicates
 - ▶ This fails if status of some output signal cannot be determined to be + or -
- 2. Compute behavioral transition yielding program derivative
 - This fails if body of some loop is found to terminate instantaneously
 - This also fails if we cannot establish the presence/absence of a local signal

Definition of the Constructive Semantics

Step 1: Compute output event *O* Approach:

- ightharpoonup Start with undefined O (all output signal statuses $= \bot$)
- Iteratively enrich O using Must and Can information
- Terminate when this stabilizes (guaranteed by monotonicity)

Formalize this as computation of a least fixed point (see draft book)

Algorithm to Compute Outputs

```
function computeOut(P, I) E = I \cup \{s^{\perp} \mid s \in Out(P)\} do E' = E can = Can_S^+(P, E) must = Must_S(P, E) E = I \cup \{s^+ \mid s \in must\} \cup \{s^- \mid s \in Out(P) \setminus can\} \cup \{s^{\perp} \mid s \in can \setminus must\} while (E' \neq E) if \exists s : s^{\perp} \in E then error ("not constructive") return E
```





$$\mathit{Can}^+(!S,\{S^\perp,O^\perp\}) =$$



$$\mathit{Can}^+\big(!S,\{S^\perp,O^\perp\}\big)=\langle\{S\},\{0\}\rangle$$



$$Can^{+}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{S\}, \{0\} \rangle$$

 $Must_{k}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) =$

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 $Can^{\perp}(!O, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0\} \rangle$
 $Can^{\perp}(1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) =$



$$\begin{aligned} & Can^{+}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{S\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & Must_{k}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \{0\} \\ & Can^{\perp}(!O, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & Can^{\perp}(1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \emptyset, \{1\} \rangle \end{aligned}$$





Example for Can analysis

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{S\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Must}_{k}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \{0\} \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{\perp}(!O, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{\perp}(1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \emptyset, \{1\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(S?!O, 1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0, 1\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(!S; S?!O, 1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \end{aligned}$$

Example for Can analysis

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Example for Can analysis

Consider the program p = !S; S?!O, 1 and environment $\{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}$.

$$\begin{aligned} & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{S\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Must}_{k}(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \{0\} \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{\perp}(!O, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{\perp}(1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \emptyset, \{1\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(S?!O, 1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{O\}, \{0, 1\} \rangle \\ & \operatorname{Can}^{+}(!S; S?!O, 1, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) = \langle \{S, O\}, \{0, 1\} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Gives no new information on signal status

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$$Must(!S, \{S^{\perp}, O^{\perp}\}) =$$



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- 4. Update environment to $\{S^+, O^+\}$
- 5. All signals have a defined status \rightarrow done

Definition of the Constructive Semantics

Step 2: Compute transition

Rules are exactly as for logical behavioral semantics—except for changed rules for local signals

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{E' * s^+, k} p' \quad S(E') = S(E) \setminus s}{p \setminus s \xrightarrow{E', k} p' \setminus s}$$
(sig +

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(sig +)

Slide 37

is replaced with

$$\frac{s \in \mathit{Must}_s(p, E * s^{\perp}) \quad p \xrightarrow{E' * s^{+}, k} p' \quad S(E') = S(E) \setminus s}{p \setminus s \xrightarrow{E', k} p' \setminus s}$$
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C A U Synchronous Languages Lecture 06

Definition of the Constructive Semantics

$$\frac{p \xrightarrow{E' * s^{-}, k} p' \quad S(E') = S(E) \setminus s}{p \setminus s \xrightarrow{E', k} p' \setminus s}$$
 (sig –

is replaced with

$$\frac{s \in Cannot_s^+(p, E * s^{\perp}) \quad p \xrightarrow{E' * s^-, k} p' \quad S(E') = S(E) \setminus s}{p \setminus s \xrightarrow{E', k} p' \setminus s}$$
 (csig –)

...is defined by a rewriting-based interpretation scheme



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 - © Instead of reasoning about what we must do, just do it

- ... is defined by a rewriting-based interpretation scheme
 - © Instead of reasoning about what we must do, just do it
 - © Formal definition and technical treatment of the constructive operational semantics is much heavier than that of the constructive behavioral semantics
- Will still take constructive behavioral semantics as the primary semantics

- \triangleright Decorate signal declarations with status $+, -, \perp$
- ► Initially, all signals except inputs unknown
- Constructive operational semantics is a micro-step semantics
 - Current state indicated by •

Consider P1 with I present:

```
module P1:
input I<sup>+</sup>;
output 0<sup>⊥</sup>;
•signal S1<sup>⊥</sup>, S2<sup>⊥</sup> in
present I then emit S1 end

| present S1 else emit S2 end

| present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Fork of the parallel statement:

```
module P1:
input I<sup>+</sup>;
output 0<sup>⊥</sup>;
signal S1<sup>⊥</sup>, S2<sup>⊥</sup> in
•present I then emit S1 end
||
•present S1 else emit S2 end
||
•present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Only first thread can continue:

```
module P1:
input I<sup>+</sup>;
output 0<sup>\(\perc)</sup>;
signal S1<sup>\(\perc)</sup>, S2<sup>\(\perc)</sup> in
present I then •emit S1 end

||
•present S1 else emit S2 end

||
•present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Now emit S1:

```
module P1:
input I+;
output 0-;
signal S1+, S2- in
present I then emit S1 end

| |
•present S1 else emit S2 end
| |
•present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Now the 2nd branch can continue:

```
module P1:
input I+;
output 0-;
signal S1+, S2- in
present I then emit S1 end•

||
present S1 else emit S2 end•
||
•present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Cannot emit S2 any more:

```
module P1:
input I+;
output 0+;
signal S1+, S2- in
present I then emit S1 end•

||
present S1 else emit S2 end•
||
•present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Now 3rd branch can continue:

```
module P1:
input I+;
output 0-;
signal S1+, S2- in
present I then emit S1 end•

| | |
present S1 else emit S2 end•
| | |
present S2 then emit 0 end•
end signal
end module
```

Cannot emit 0 any more:

Synchronize the terminated threads:

```
module P1:
input I+;
output 0-;
signal S1+, S2- in
present I then emit S1 end

| present S1 else emit S2 end
| present S2 then emit 0 end
end signal
end module
```

Now consider P2:

```
module P2:
output 0<sup>1</sup>;
•signal S<sup>1</sup> in
emit S;
present 0 then
present S then
pause
end;
emit 0
end
end signal
end module
```

After 3 microsteps:

```
module P2:
output 0<sup>1</sup>;
signal S<sup>+</sup> in
emit S;
•present 0 then
present S then
pause
end;
emit 0
end
end signal
end module
```

Perform cannot analysis (as in constructive behavioral semantics)—and set 0 absent:

```
module P2:
output 0-;
signal S+ in
emit S;
•present 0 then
present S then
pause
end;
emit 0
end
end signal
end module
```

Take implicit else branch of test:

```
module P2:
output 0-;
signal S+ in
emit S;
present 0 then
present S then
pause
end;
emit 0
end
end signal
end module
```

- Statuses evolve monotonically
 - Hence avoid most of the recomputations that take place in the constructive behavioral semantics
- Rejecting programs is similar to constructive behavioral semantics

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```
module P3:
output 0;
present 0 else emit 0 end
end module
```

- Statuses evolve monotonically
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module P3:
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end module
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No possible initial microstep \implies cannot set O^+

- Statuses evolve monotonically
 - Hence avoid most of the recomputations that take place in the constructive behavioral semantics
- Rejecting programs is similar to constructive behavioral semantics

```
module P3:
output 0;
present 0 else emit 0 end
end module
```

- No possible initial microstep \implies cannot set O^+
- ▶ Potential path to emit $0 \Longrightarrow$ cannot set O^-

Signals:

▶ Signals are shared objects with status $\{+, -, \bot\}$



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- Signal status initialization:
 - Input signals are initialized according to the input event
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- ▶ Signals are shared objects with status $\{+, -, \bot\}$
- Signal status initialization:
 - ▶ Input signals are initialized according to the input event
 - ▶ Other signals initialized to ⊥
- Signal status changes:
 - Status of a signal S changes from ⊥ to + as soon as an "emit S" statement is executed
 - ▶ Status of a signal S changes from \bot to as soon as all the "emit S" statements have been found unreachable by the cannot false path analysis

Control:

Sequential threads of control forked by parallel statements

Control:

- Sequential threads of control forked by parallel statements
- ▶ When a thread reaches a "present S" statement:
 - ▶ As long as the status of S is \bot :
 - Control remains there, frozen,
 - \blacktriangleright As soon as S has a non- \bot status:
 - Control can resume

Control:

- Sequential threads of control forked by parallel statements
- ▶ When a thread reaches a "present S" statement:
 - ▶ As long as the status of S is \bot :
 - ► Control remains there, frozen,
 - ► As soon as S has a non-⊥ status:
 - Control can resume
- ▶ If several threads are enabled, any one of them can be chosen

Control:

- Threads are stopped by termination or by executing pause or exit statements
- Parallel statements synchronize stopped threads, as explained in the intuitive semantics
- Finally, the false path analysis explores all possible instantaneous paths towards emit statements
 - Takes into account all facts established so far
 - No speculative reasoning

Program Acceptance:

- ▶ Given an input, a program is accepted if the analysis succeeds in setting each signal status to a defined value + or −
- Logical correctness is guaranteed for accepted programs

To Go Further

▶ Albert Benveniste, Paul Caspi, Stephen A. Edwards, Nicolas Halbwachs, Paul Le Guernic, Robert De Simone, The synchronous languages 12 years later, *Proceedings of the IEEE*, Jan. 2003 vol. 91, issue 1, pages 64–83, http://citeseerx.ist.psu.edu/viewdoc/summary?doi=10.1.1.96.1117