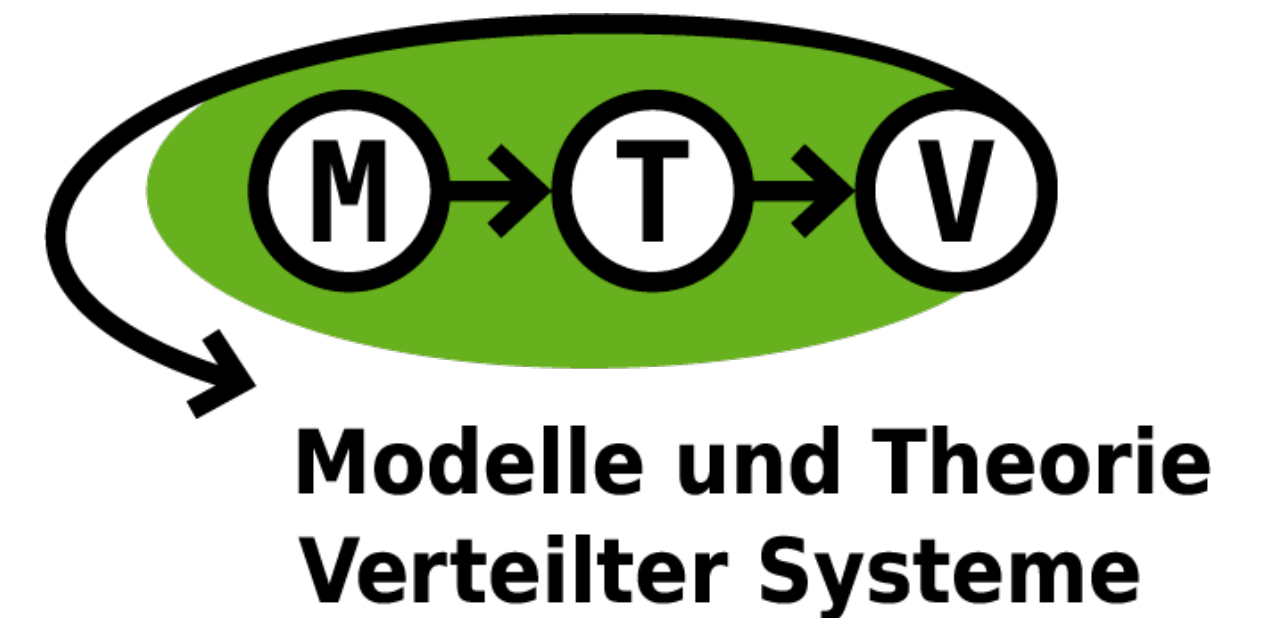


“Observing States”

Nadine Karsten
Uwe Nestmann

OPCT
Bertinoro
2023-06-27



Motivation

Distributed Consensus

Table 4. *The Rotating Co-ordinator Algorithm for Participant i*

```
1    $x_i := \text{input};$ 
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3                           if alive( $p_r$ ) then  $x_i := \text{input\_from\_broadcast}$  };
4   output  $x_i$ ;
```

“pseudo” code

incomplete
informal

...

shows “code” for just one participant

...

underlying communication mechanism by textual explanation

“pseudo” proofs !

handwaving
“intuitive”

Distributed Consensus

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A Fault Tolerance Bisimulation Proof For Consensus (Extended Abstract)

Adrian Francalanza¹ and Matthew Hennesy²

¹ Imperial College, London SW7 2BZ, England, adrianf@doc.ic.ac.uk

² University of Sussex, Brighton BN1 9RH, England, matthewh@sussex.ac.uk

Distributed Consensus

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Validity

every **decision** value **must have been proposed** by one of them

Agreement

no two (correct) processes **decide differently**

Termination

every correct process **eventually decides**

Distributed Consensus

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For this algorithm, Agreement requires *sufficiently reliable failure detection*.

Weak Accuracy (Chandra/Toueg):

Some **correct** process will never be **suspected**.

Distributed Consensus

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For this algorithm, Agreement requires *sufficiently reliable failure detection*.

Weak Accuracy (Chandra/Toueg):

Some *correct* process will never be *suspected*.

Fuzzati/N. call this process “*trusted immortal*”. Let *ti* refer to it.

Informal Correctness Argument

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Before round t_i , “anything goes”.

In such a round, any process may receive the value proposed by any coordinator of the rounds until then. Or not. No guarantees ...

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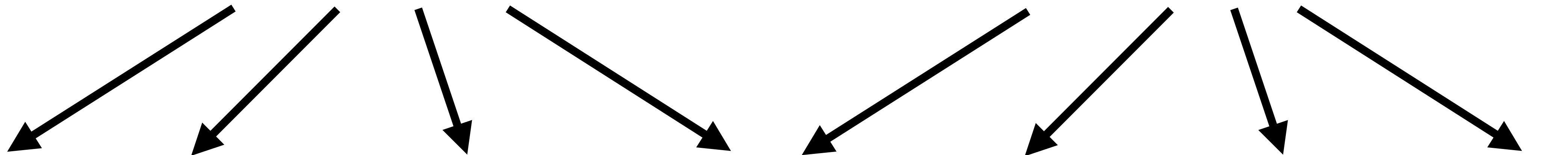
In round t_i , in which t_i is coordinator,
no process can suspect it to have failed, so all will adopt t_i 's proposal.

Formal Methods

(* choose your hammer *)

mathematical
structure

syntax
"code"



Petri
Nets

State
Machines

TLA[+]

"ABZ"

Process
Calculi

...

Why Process Calculi ?

- **precisely** capture concurrent computation **models**
- rich **algebraic theories** (behavioural & logical)
- **action-based** proof technique

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choose an “expressive enough” PC of your liking
(*define a domain-specific one yourself*)

model the algorithm as a process term

model the specification

also as a process term? (*requires equational reasoning*)

as a logical formula? (*requires model-checking*)

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“executable” code

complete

formal

...

CONCUR 2003

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TRENDS 2013

state-based reasoning is the key !

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More precisely:

- Most of the correctness reasoning requires **invariants about the global state** of the system.
(TLA-style ...)
- *Global state* is composed of *local states* plus “*messages in travel*”.
- *Local state* is not present in Process Calculi ...

Explicit States in Distributed Process Calculi — Syntax

Memories

$$M : \mathcal{X} \rightarrow \mathbb{V} \cup \{\top, \perp\}$$

Variables **Values** “declared” “undefined”

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Variables **Values** “declared” “undefined”

$$M \langle x \mapsto w \rangle (y) \triangleq \begin{cases} w & \text{if } x = y \\ M(y) & \text{if } x \neq y \end{cases}$$

$$w \in \mathbb{V} \cup \{\top\}$$

Expressions & Evaluation

$$e ::= v \mid x \mid (e, \dots, e) \mid f(e)$$

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$$\text{fetch}_M(e) \triangleq \begin{cases} e & \text{if } e \in \mathbb{V} \\ M(e) & \text{if } e \in \mathcal{X} \wedge M(e) \in \mathbb{V} \\ (\text{fetch}_M(e_1), \dots, \text{fetch}_M(e_n)) & \text{if } e = (e_1, \dots, e_n) \\ f(\text{fetch}_M(e')) & \text{if } e = f(e') \\ \perp & \text{else} \end{cases}$$

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$$\text{eval}_M(e) \triangleq \text{eval}(\text{fetch}_M(e))$$

Message Reception

$a, b, c \in \mathcal{C}$ (*Channels*)

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(Channels)

$c(x).P$



- (1) input some value v from channel c
- (2) use x to “remember” v afterwards
- (3) continue with/as P

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Classically (e.g. [Milner]):

$c(x).P \xrightarrow{c?v} \{v/x\}P$

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Classically (e.g. [Milner]):

$c(x).P \xrightarrow{c?v} \{v/x\}P$ for any value $v \in \mathcal{V}$

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↑ binding

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With local states (e.g. [Garavel]):

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update the “associated” memory M by $M\langle x \mapsto v \rangle$

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Threads, Processes, Networks

μ	$::=$	$\text{var } x \mid \langle x := e \rangle \mid a(x) \mid O$	actions	\mathcal{A}
G	$::=$	$\mathbf{0} \mid \mu.T \mid G + G$	selections	\mathcal{G}
T	$::=$	$G \mid I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \text{if } e \text{ then } T \text{ else } T \mid T \mid T$	threads	\mathcal{T}
P	$::=$	$[M \triangleleft T]$	processes	\mathcal{P}

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P	$::=$	$[M \triangleleft T]$	processes	\mathcal{P}
N	$::=$	$P \mid \mathbb{A} \mid N \parallel N$	networks	\mathcal{N}

Threads, Processes, Networks

$O ::= \emptyset \mid \{\bar{e}\langle e \rangle\} \mid O \uplus O$	outgoing bag	
$\mathcal{A} ::= \emptyset \mid \{\bar{c}\langle v \rangle\} \mid \mathcal{A} \uplus \mathcal{A}$	message aether	\mathcal{A}
$\mu ::= \text{var } x \mid \langle x := e \rangle \mid a(x) \mid O$	actions	\mathcal{A}
$G ::= \mathbf{0} \mid \mu.T \mid G + G$	selections	\mathcal{G}
$T ::= G \mid I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \text{if } e \text{ then } T \text{ else } T \mid T \mid T$	threads	\mathcal{T}
$P ::= [M \triangleleft T]$	processes	\mathcal{P}
$N ::= P \mid \mathcal{A} \mid N \parallel N$	networks	\mathcal{N}

Processes

$$[M \triangleleft T]$$

Processes

$$[M \triangleleft T]$$

All free variables of a thread T must be “bound” by M .

Binders ...

$$[M \triangleleft T] =_{\alpha} [\{y/x\}M \triangleleft \{y/x\}T]$$

Binders ...

$$[M \triangleleft T] =_{\alpha} [\{y/x\} M \triangleleft \{y/x\} T]$$

This is good. And bad.

Locations

$$\ell[M \triangleleft T]$$

Locations

$$\ell[M \triangleleft T]$$

Named Processes

Location-Aware Communication

Output $\bar{c}@l\langle e\rangle$ adds the name of the intended target;

Input $c@l(x)$ adds the name of the intended source;

- (i) Location-aware send actions fit to the intended application domain.
- (ii) Location-aware receive actions conveniently support suspicions.

Explicit States in Distributed Process Calculi — Semantics

Configurations

F  trim N

Configurations

F  trim N

Networks N

running with *failed locations* in F
with *trusted immortal* **trim**

Location-Aware Semantics

$$\text{(N-FAIL)} \frac{\text{trim} \neq k \notin F}{F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N \longmapsto F \cup k \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N}$$

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$$\text{(TRIM)} \frac{\text{trim} \in \mathcal{L}}{\emptyset \blacktriangleright N \longmapsto \emptyset \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N}$$

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$$\text{(N-STEP)} \frac{N \xrightarrow{\text{step}@\ell} N' \quad \text{step} \in \{\text{mem}, \text{local}, \text{snd}, \text{rcv}\} \quad \ell \notin F}{F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N \longmapsto F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N'}$$

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$$\text{(N-SUSP)} \frac{N \xrightarrow{\text{susp}(k) @ \ell} N' \quad k \neq \text{trim} \quad \ell \notin F}{F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N \longmapsto F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} N'}$$

Located Steps (I)



(DECL)

$$\ell[M \triangleleft \text{var } x.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{mem } @\ell} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto \top \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]$$

Located Steps (I)

$$\text{(DECL)} \frac{x \notin \text{dom}(M) \cup \text{fv}(\hat{T})}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{var } x.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{mem } @\ell} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto \top \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]}$$

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$$\text{(ASSIGN)} \frac{\phantom{\ell[M \triangleleft \langle x := e \rangle . T \mid \hat{T}]}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \langle x := e \rangle . T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{mem } @\ell} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto v \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]}$$

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$$\text{(ASSIGN)} \frac{x \in \text{dom}(M) \quad \text{[Redacted]}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \langle x := e \rangle.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{mem } @\ell} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto v \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]}$$

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$$\text{(ASSIGN)} \frac{x \in \text{dom}(M) \quad \text{eval}_M(e) = v \in \mathbb{V}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \langle x := e \rangle.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{mem } @\ell} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto v \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]}$$

Located Steps (II)

(SND)

$$\ell[M \triangleleft O.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{snd } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft O'.T \mid \hat{T}] \parallel \{ \mathbf{c}_{(\ell \rightarrow \text{trg})} \mathbf{v} \}$$

$\bar{c}@l\langle e \rangle \in O$ $O' = O \setminus \{ \bar{c}@l\langle e \rangle \}$

Located Steps (II)

$$\begin{array}{c} \bar{c}@l\langle e \rangle \in O \qquad O' = O \setminus \{\bar{c}@l\langle e \rangle\} \\ \text{eval}_M(c) = c \in \mathbb{C} \end{array} \quad \text{[Redacted]}\quad \text{[Redacted]} \\ \hline (\text{SND}) \quad \ell[M \triangleleft O.T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{snd}@l} \ell[M \triangleleft O'.T \mid \hat{T}] \parallel \{ \mathbf{c}_{(\ell \rightarrow \text{trg})} \mathbf{v} \}$$

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 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{(RCV)} \\
 \hline
 \begin{array}{ccc}
 \text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{c} \in \mathbb{C} & \text{eval}_M(l) = \text{src} \in \mathbb{L} & x \in \text{dom}(M)
 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 \ell[M \triangleleft e@l(x).T \mid \hat{T}] \parallel \{ \mathbf{c}_{(\text{src} \rightarrow \ell)} \mathbf{v} \} \xrightarrow{\text{rcv}@l} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto \mathbf{v} \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]
 \end{array}$$

Located Steps (II)

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 \hline
 \begin{array}{l}
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 \end{array} \\
 \hline
 \ell[M \triangleleft e@l(x).T \mid \hat{T}] \parallel \{ \mathbf{c}_{(\text{src} \rightarrow \ell)} \mathbf{v} \} \xrightarrow{\text{rcv}@l} \ell[M \langle x \mapsto \mathbf{v} \rangle \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]
 \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{(SUSP)} \\
 \hline
 \text{eval}_M(l) = \text{src} \in \mathbb{L} \\
 \hline
 \ell[M \triangleleft e@l(x).T \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{susp}(\text{src})@l} \ell[M \triangleleft T \mid \hat{T}]
 \end{array}$$

Located Steps (III)

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{t} \\ \hline (\text{TRUE}) \quad \ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_1 \mid \hat{T}] \end{array}$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{f} \\ \hline (\text{FALSE}) \quad \ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \end{array}$$

Located Steps (III)

$$\text{(TRUE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{t}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_1 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(FALSE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{f}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_2 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(IDENT)} \frac{\text{[Redacted]} \quad \text{[Redacted]} \quad \text{[Redacted]}}{\ell[M \triangleleft I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft G \mid \hat{T}]}$$

Located Steps (III)

$$\text{(TRUE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{t}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_1 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(FALSE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{f}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_2 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(IDENT)} \frac{I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G \quad \color{blue} \boxed{\phantom{\ell[M \triangleleft I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \hat{T}]}} \quad \color{blue} \boxed{\phantom{\ell[M \triangleleft G \mid \hat{T}]}}}{\ell[M \triangleleft I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft G \mid \hat{T}]}$$

Located Steps (III)

$$\text{(TRUE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{t}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_1 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(FALSE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{f}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_2 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(IDENT)} \frac{I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G \quad \text{fv}(G) \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \quad \text{[Redacted]}}{\ell[M \triangleleft I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft G \mid \hat{T}]}$$

Located Steps (III)

$$\text{(TRUE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{t}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_1 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(FALSE)} \frac{\text{eval}_M(e) = \mathbf{f}}{\ell[M \triangleleft \text{if } e \text{ then } T_1 \text{ else } T_2 \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft T_2 \mid \hat{T}]}$$

$$\text{(IDENT)} \frac{I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} G \quad \text{fv}(G) \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \quad \{x_1, \dots, x_n\} \subseteq \text{dom}(M)}{\ell[M \triangleleft I^{x_1, \dots, x_n} \mid \hat{T}] \xrightarrow{\text{local } @\ell} \ell[M \triangleleft G \mid \hat{T}]}$$

Back to the Case Study ...

Algorithm & ...

Table 4. *The Rotating Co-ordinator Algorithm for Participant i*

```

1    $x_i := \text{input};$ 
2   for  $r := 1$  to  $n$  do { if  $r = i$  then broadcast  $x_i$ ;
3   if alive( $p_r$ ) then  $x_i := \text{input\_from\_broadcast}$  };
4   output  $x_i$ ;

```

$\underline{\underline{L}}_{\ell}^{\text{chan},x,r,\text{output}} \quad \underline{\underline{\text{def}}}$

② $\langle r := r + 1 \rangle.$

③ if $r \leq n$

then ④ if $r = n$

then ⑤ $\left(\biguplus_{\ell \neq j \in \{1, \dots, n\}} \overline{\text{chan}_{\downarrow r @ j} \langle x \rangle} \right).$ ① $\underline{\underline{L}}_{\ell}^{\text{chan},x,r,\text{output}}$

else ⑥ $\left(\text{chan}_{\downarrow r @ r}(x) \right).$ ① $\underline{\underline{L}}_{\ell}^{\text{chan},x,r,\text{output}}$

else ⑦ $\langle \text{output} := x \rangle.$ ⑧ 0

... & Environment

Consensus_(input₁, ..., input_n) $\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$

$\prod_{\ell \in \{1, \dots, n\}}$ ℓ [

$M_{\perp} \langle \text{chan} \mapsto (\mathbf{c}_1, \dots, \mathbf{c}_n) \rangle$

$\langle \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{input}_{\ell} \rangle$

$\langle \mathbf{r} \mapsto 0 \rangle$

$\langle \text{output} \mapsto \top \rangle$

◁

1 $\mathbb{L}_{\ell}^{\text{chan}, \mathbf{x}, \mathbf{r}, \text{output}}$

]

$\emptyset \blacktriangleright$ Consensus_(input₁, ..., input_n)

Informal Correctness Argument

Table 4. *The Rotating Co-ordinator Algorithm for Participant i*

1	$x_i := \text{input};$
2	for $r := 1$ to n do { if $r = i$ then broadcast x_i ;
3	if alive(p_r) then $x_i := \text{input_from_broadcast}$ };
4	output x_i ;

Before round t_i , “anything goes”.

In such a round, any process may receive the value proposed by any coordinator of the rounds until then. Or not. No guarantees ...

In round t_i , in which t_i is coordinator,
no process can suspect it to have failed, so all will adopt t_i 's proposal.

Formal Correctness Argument

If $\text{Consensus}_{(\text{input}_1, \dots, \text{input}_n)} \mapsto^* F \blacktriangleright_{\text{trim}} \mathcal{A} \parallel \prod_{\ell \in [1, n]} \ell [M_\ell \triangleleft pc \ T_\ell]$,
then $\forall \ell \in [1, n]$.

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \left(\begin{array}{l}
 M_\ell(r) < \text{trim} \quad \rightarrow M_\ell(\mathbf{x}) \in \text{Undecided} \\
 M_\ell(r) = \text{trim} \wedge i \neq \text{trim} \rightarrow \left(\begin{array}{l}
 (pc \in \{\mathbf{4}, \mathbf{5}, \mathbf{6}\} \rightarrow M_\ell(\mathbf{x}) \in \text{Undecided}) \\
 \wedge (pc \in \{\mathbf{7}, \mathbf{1}, \mathbf{2}\} \rightarrow M_\ell(\mathbf{x}) = M_{\text{trim}}(\mathbf{x}))
 \end{array} \right) \\
 M_\ell(r) > \text{trim} \quad \rightarrow M_\ell(\mathbf{x}) = M_{\text{trim}}(\mathbf{x}) \\
 M_\ell(r) > n \wedge pc = \{\mathbf{8}\} \rightarrow M_\ell(\text{output}) = M_\ell(\mathbf{x})
 \end{array} \right)
 \end{aligned}$$

Undecided $\triangleq \{\text{input}_1, \dots, \text{input}_n\}$

Conclusions

Open Problems

Does it work in sufficiently many **cases**?

What about **mechanization** support?

Do such calculi still qualify as process calculi?

What about the **meta theory** of such calculi?

Is it useful to extend them with **session types**?