Logics and Processes Algebra

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Content

- <u>Part One</u>: Processes Algebras with LOTOS
- <u>Part Two</u>: SOCLA (<u>SC</u>enario-<u>Oriented Language</u>)

<u>Part One</u>: Processes Algebras with LOTOS

This material is developped on slides from the link <u>https://fr.slideserve.com/marged/chapitre-4-powerpoint-ppt-presentation</u> by Dr. Luigi

Algebras

- Algebras deal with expressions made up of constants, variables and operators
- They are provided with rules to transform the expressions: simplification, expansion...
- In process algebras, constants and variables represent processes

Process algebras

In process algebras, systems of communicating processes are represented by expressions of algebraic character, called:

- Behavioral expressions, "behavior expressions"
- A[]B to say that A and B are alternative, the next action must be taken either from expression A, or from expression B (the other being then discarded)
 - Sometimes also written A+B
- A||B to say that processes A and B are in parallel execution, the next action will be taken from A and B jointly (synchronous composition)
- Etc.

Algebraic Properties of Behavior Expressions

- Commutativity of choice:
 - A[]B = B[]A
- Commutativity of parallel composition:
 - A||B = B||A
- Zero absorption:
 - A[]stop = stop[]A = A
 - $A \| stop = stop \| A = stop$
- Associativity:
 - A[](B[]C) = (A[]B)[]C
 - A||(B||C) = (A||B)||C

Expressivity of process algebras

Process algebras provide formalisms in which it is possible to prove that the composition of two processes is equal to a third process

Different process algebra

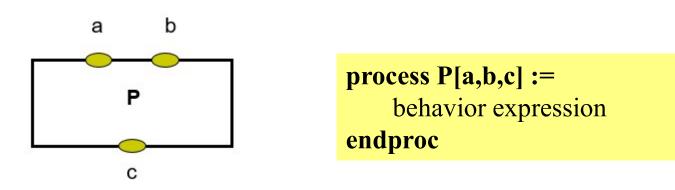
- Unfortunately, there is no agreement yet concerning process algebras
- Several algebras have been studied, and each working group continues to develop its own
- Milner developed the CCS: Calculus of Communicating Processes, in the 1970s-1980s
 - He further developed this concept in the π -calculus
- Hoare developed the CSP: Communicating Sequential Processes, more or less in the same years
- LOTOS was developed in the 1980s

LOTOS

- Language Of Temporal Ordering Specifications. But unrelated to the temporal logics
- Algebraic language for protocol specification
- Inspired mostly by Milner's CCS, takes some elements from Hoare's CSP
- ISO International Standard
- A new standard, called Extended LOTOS (E-LOTOS) was also developed, but it was never implemented (complex)
- Broad theory
- Used in practice in a large number of applications
- Tools and documentation can be obtained easily: CADP and WELL

LOTOS process

A LOTOS process is a 'black' box with points of contact with the environment: called gates

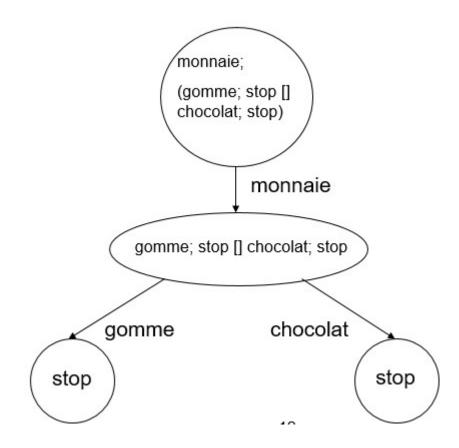


- The behavior expression defines the behavior of the system with respect to the gates and the environment
- Different processes or expressions of behavior can communicate through their gates by synchronous composition (operator ||).

Behavior expressions describe states

process Distributeur [monnaie, gomme, chocolat] := monnaie; (gomme; stop [] chocolat; stop)

endproc



The distributeur is ready to synchronize with the environment with the monnaie event, then with either gomme or chocolat

What happens if the environment tries to touch the gomme without having introduced money?

Internal action i

- Behaviors can have internal actions
- These actions denote an internal behavior of the machine without wanting to go into details
- Details left to successive refinements in design or implementation
- Internal action can be specified directly: mon; (i;gom;stop [] choc;stop)
- Or indirectly (these two expressions are equivalent) hide choc_fini in (mon; (choc_fini; gom; stop [] choc;stop))
- Internal action does not synchronize with the environment (it is invisible externally)

Action stop

- The stop action is the empty action
- It does nothing, it offers nothing to the environment
- Sometimes also called nil action

Main operators in LOTOS

- a;B: behaves like a (an action) then like B (an expression of behavior)
- B1 [] B2: behaves either like B1, or like B2
- B1 || B2: synchronous composition of B1 and B2 (must sync on all their actions)
- B1 ||| B2: interleaving of B1 and B2
- B1 [[a,b,c]] B2: B1 and B2 must synchronize on actions a,b,c and interleave with other actions
- hide a,b,c... in B: B is executed, but each time an action a, b, c... is executed, it is replaced by the internal action i

The latter cannot synchronize with other actions

Additional operators

LOTOS also has the following operators:

- >> enable: A >> B means that after an exit from A we do B. Like stop, exit ends a process but if there is an enable it allows you to move on to the next process
- [> disable: A [> B means that at any time during the execution of A, B can interrupt A by initiating its execution. A is no longer taken back.

Inference rules

The semantics of LOTOS operators are precisely defined by inference rules and axioms

In other words:

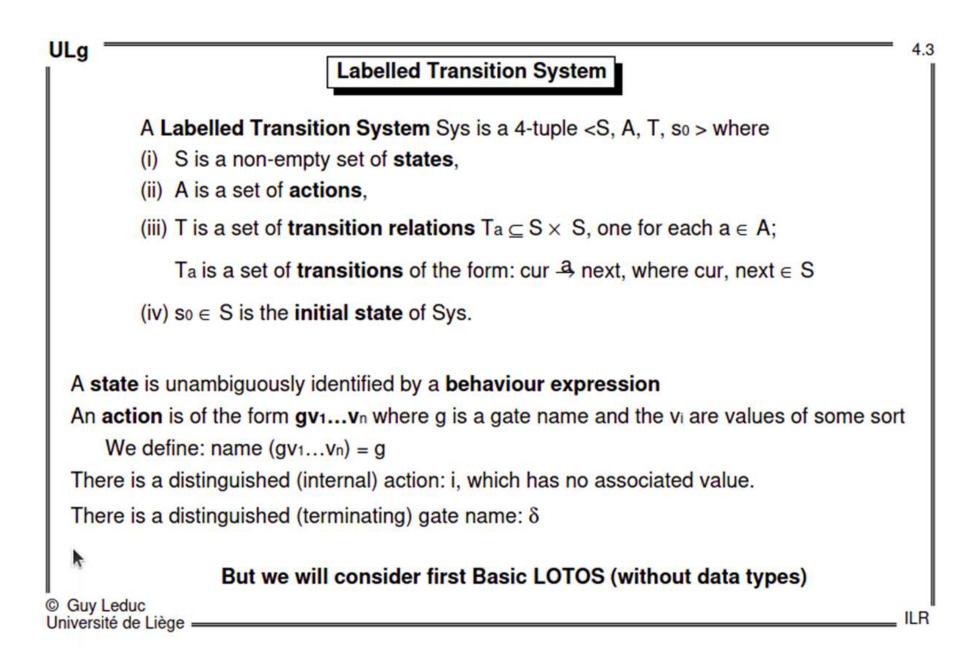
given an expression of behavior, an action transforms the behavior expression into another behavior expression

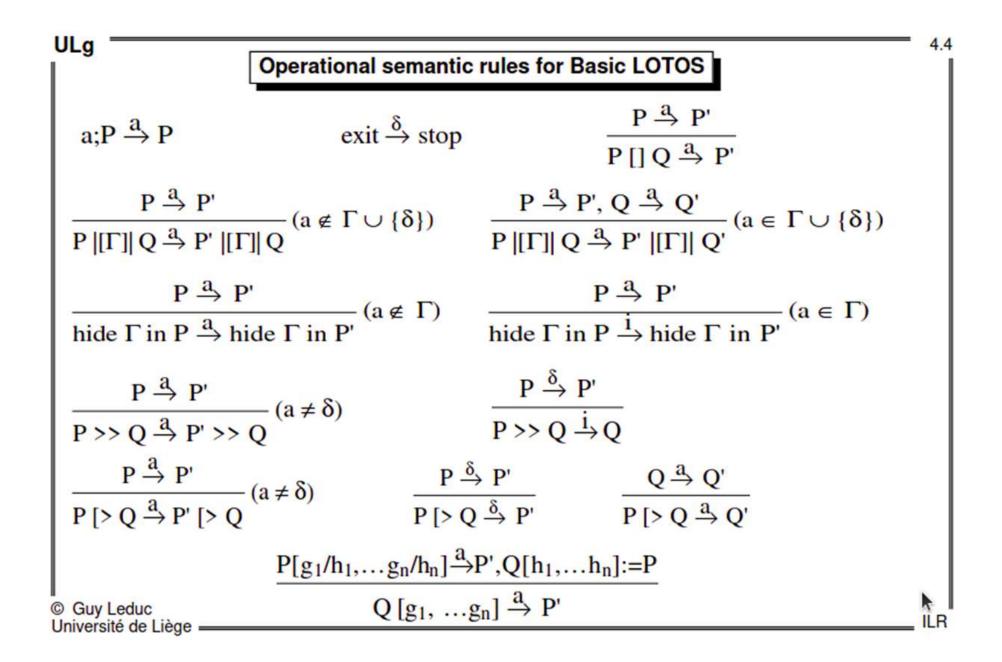
Inference rules

- Axiom of inference for the prefix: If we have a;B and a synchronizes with the environment, a;B becomes B.
- choice B1 [] B2: If B1 can synchronize with the environment on action a1 giving B1' as a result
- synchronous composition B1 || B2: If two behavior expressions are ready to synchronize on an action a then they can produce a common action a and then execute what remains
 - Warning: there is no synchronization on the internal action i. nor on the stop
- Interleave B1 ||| B2: An action is selected from one of the two behaviors, and executed. The other part of the behavior can still be selected later
- General parallelism B1|[A]|B2 Synchronization on some actions (set A), interleaving on others: combines the rules of synchronous and asynchronous compositions

Running inference rules

- Executing a LOTOS spec transforms the spec using inference rules
- The current spec (representing the current global state) can be transformed using any applicable rule
- The tree that represents all possible transformations is the labeled transition system (LTS) of the system
- It is also the accessibility tree showing all possible state transitions of the specified system
- This tree can also be represented as a LOTOS expression
- Deadlock is the case where no inference rule can be applied
- Impasse and stop are exactly the same thing in LOTOS:
 - There are no inference rules for stop





Full LOTOS

- What we saw is basic LOTOS without the ability to express data and values
- In Full LOTOS it is possible to define data and enter data into actions
- a!x Means that the process offers the value of the variable x to gate a
- a?x:nat Means that the process expects a natural number x at gate a
- a ?x !y At the same time, the process accepts one value and offers another
- We have the same synchronization rule as for basic LOTOS:
- Two actions synchronize if they are identical. E.g. a!3 and a?x:nat synchronize because: They offer the same gate. One offers a precise integer while the other offers any integer
- a?x:nat is equivalent to a!0 [] a!1[] a!2 [] a!3...

Guarded expressions

See 'guarded commands' in some programming languages

[x>0] -> process1 [] [x=5] -> process2 [] [x<9] -> process2

Observe the possibility of expressing nondeterminism (three possibilities in the case of x=5)

Exercises (Series 1)

Exercise: Using the inference rules draw LTS of :

- 1. process one [a,b,c] a; (b; stop [] c; stop) endproc
- 2. process two [a,b,c] a; b; stop [] a; c; stop endproc
- 3. process3 := a; (b; d; stop [] c; stop)
- 4. process4 := a; b; d; stop [] a; c; stop

Exercises (Series 2)

Exercise 1: Give the LTS of: a; (b; stop [] c; stop) and a; b; stop [] a; c; stop. Then give a conclusion

Exercise 2: Give the LTS of each: A:= mon; (gom;stop [] choc; stop), B := mon; gom ;stop [] mon; choc; stop, C := mon; (i; gom; stop [] mon; choc; stop), and D := mon; (i; gom; stop [] i; mon; choc; stop)

Exercise 3: Marie and Abdel always eat together. They have three actions: Breakfast (b), lunch (l), dinner(d): Marie:= b; l; d; stop, Abdel:= b; l; d; stop, give the LTS of Marie || Abdel

Exercise 4: However, if Abdel is not used to having lunch:

Marie:= b; l; d; stop, Abdel:= b; d; stop, give the LTS of Marie || Abdel

Exercises (Series 3):

Exercise 1: prove the following equivalences:

- ((a; stop || a; stop) || a; stop) = a; stop
- ((hide a in (a; stop || a; stop)) || a; stop) = i; stop
- (hide a in ((a; stop || a; stop) || a; stop)) = i; stop

Exercice 2: Marie and Abdel have nothing to do with each other. They have two actions: Breakfast (b), lunch (l): Marie:= b; l; stop, Abdel:= b; l; stop. find Marie ||| Abdel

Exercise 3: Marie and Abdel make breakfast and dinner separately, however they always eat lunch together : Marie:= b; l; d; stop, Abdel:= b; l; d; stop. Give Marie |[1]| Abdel

Exercise 4: compute (a; b; stop [] c; d; stop) [[a,b]] (a; b; stop [] d; f; stop) and give its LTS

Exercise 5: compute a; b; c; stop [[b]] a; b; d; stop

Exercises (Series 4)

Exercise 1: verify

- 1. (a; b; stop) | [b] | (c; b; stop) = (a; c; b; stop) [] (c; a; b; stop)
- 2. (i; b; stop) | [b] | (c; b; stop) = (i; c; b; stop) [] (c; i; b; stop)
- 3. (i; b; stop) |[b]| (i; b; stop) = (i; i; b; stop) [] (i; i; b; stop) = (i; i; b; stop)
- 4. (a; b; stop) |[b]| (b; c; stop) = a; b; c; stop
- 5. (a; b; stop) |[a, b]| (b; a; stop) = stop = (a; b; stop) || (b; a; stop)
- 6. (a; b; stop [] d; f; stop) |[a, b]| (a; b; c; stop [] i; stop) = (a; b; c; stop [] d; (f; i; stop [] i; f; stop) [] i; d; f; stop)

Part Two: SCOLA (<u>SC</u>enario-<u>O</u>riented <u>Language</u>)

Taken from

https://altarica-association.org/Products/Software/S2ML+XToolbox/S2ML+XToolbox.html#Scola

by Antoine Rauzy

INTRODUCTION

Scola is a **domain specific modeling language**. Scola stands for <u>sc</u>enario-<u>o</u>riented <u>la</u>nguage. It is a **textual** language.

Scola aims at supporting systems architecture studies by giving the system architect a mean to describe and to play scenarios.

The idea of an scenario-based approach to systems engineering is inspired from Milner's π -calculus.

Scola involves three fundamental concepts:

- System architecture, i.e. the decomposition of the system under study into a hierarchy of nested components.
- Scenarios, i.e. sequences of actions that can be performed on the system and that may transform the system architecture.
- Processes that execute scenarios.

Scola provides constructs to structure models that are stemmed from object-oriented and prototype-oriented programming.

Scola Models

A Scola model is made of two parts:

- A description of the functional or physical **decomposition** of the system under study.
- A description of **scenarios** applying on this system.

The description of the system consists eventually in a hierarchy of nested blocks. Each **block** can compose any number of sub-blocks, ports and assertions. The system is represented by the top-most component, which is implicit. A **port** is a holder for an atomic value (Boolean, integer, real, symbol, string...). An **assertion** is an instruction that is applied to update the values of ports. Blocks, ports and assertions can be dynamically created, destroyed and moved.

Each **scenario** can compose any number of sub-scenarios.

Scenarios are made of **states**, **tasks** and **gateways**. Tasks contain lists of **instructions** that create, destroy and modify the system description. Gateways make choices about scenarios.

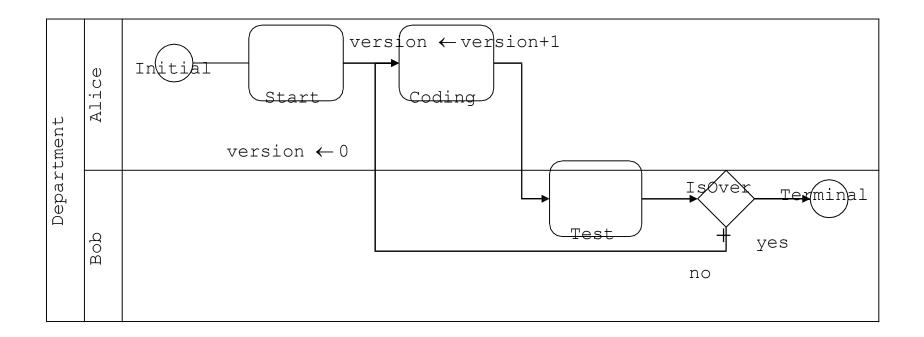
It is possible to attach a scenario to a particular block.

Scola models describe the evolution of the system via the execution of processes.

Getting Started

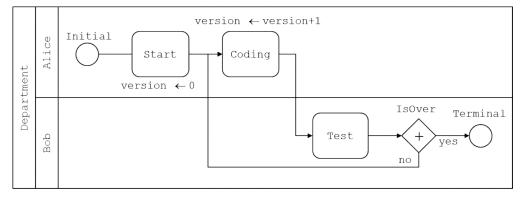
Scenarios & their graphical representation

Assume we want to represent the process of a small software development project in the R&D department of a company. Assume moreover that this project involves Alice and Bob. Alice and Bob works in turn: Alice codes the software, then Bob tests it. The project is achieved after a certain number of iterations. This progress of the project can be represented graphically as follows.



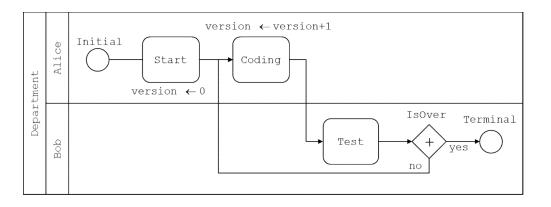
Scenarios, States, Tasks and Gateways

We have a system made of four components: The department, Alice, Bob and the software. Alice, Bob and the software "belong" to the department. Moreover, the software has a version number that evolves throughout the development process. The development process is represented as a scenario involving two sub-scenarios represented by lanes: one lane for Alice and one lane for Bob.



- 1. The scenario starts in the state Initial.
- 2. Alice performs the task Start in which a port (variable) version is reset to 0.
- 3. Alice performs the task Code, in which version is incremented.
- 4. Bob performs the task Test.
- 5. There is a choice, the choice gateway IsOver. If the branch yes is chosen, the scenario continues with the state Terminal, otherwise it goes back to task Code (of Alice).
- 6. The scenarios ends on task Terminal,

Code: System



block Department
 block Alice
 end
 block Bob
 end
 block Software
 integer version 0
 end
end

•Systems are represented by hierarchies of nested *blocks*. Each block represents thus a component or a function of the system.

•Blocks may also contain ports. *Ports* hold constant values (Booleans, integers, reals, symbols or strings).

•Like blocks, ports have a name. In addition, they are declared with a default value.

•Blocks are thus *containers* for blocks and ports. One says that they *compose* blocks and ports. Within a block, all objects should have different names.

•In our example, the system (which is an implicit block) composes on block Department, which itself composes three blocks: Alice, Bob and Software. The block Software composes the integer port version whose default value is 0.

Code: Scenario

```
scenario Development
  scenario AliceLane as Department.Alice
     state Initial
     task Start
        set owner.Software.version 0
     end
     task Code
        set owner.Software.version (add owner.Software.version 1)
     end
     next Initial Start

    Scenarios are containers for states, tasks,

     next Start Code
                                              gateways and other scenarios.
  end

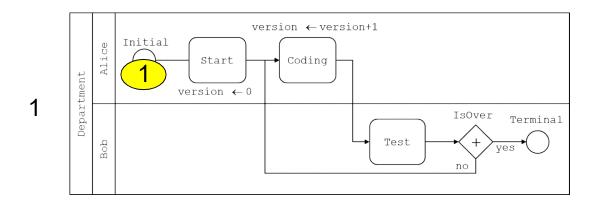
    Tasks are containers for instructions.

  scenario BobLane as Department.Bob
                                              •Next directives chain states, tasks and
     task Test end
                                              gateways. They are represented with
     choice IsOver
                                              arrows.
        case yes
                                              •The dot notation is used to refer elements
         case no
                                              inside containers. In the container Dialog,
     end
     state Terminal
                                              AliceLane. Code refers to the task Code of
     next Test IsOver
                                              the sub-container Alice. The keyword owner
  end
                                              refers to the parent block.
  next AliceLane.Code BobLane.Test

    The order of declarations is irrelevant.

  next BobLane.IsOver.no AliceLane.Code
  next BobLane.IsOver.yes BobLane.Terminal
end
```

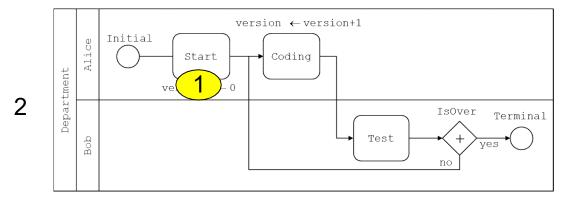
Executions & Processes (1)



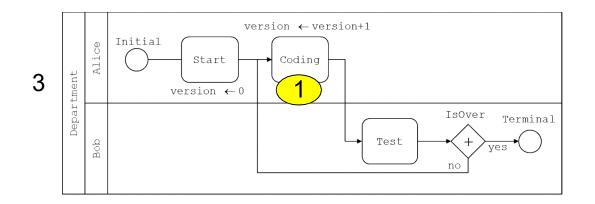
Scenarios are executed by processes. Here a process number 1 is created on the state Initial.

The process 1 then moves to task Start.

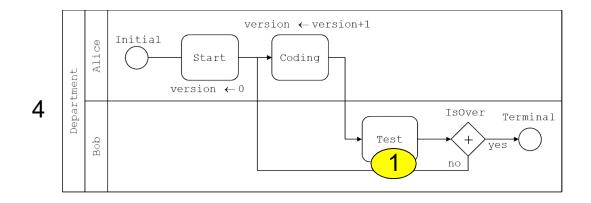
A process can perform a task if it can perform all instructions of the task. Tasks are atomic: instructions are performed without interruption.



Executions & Processes (2)





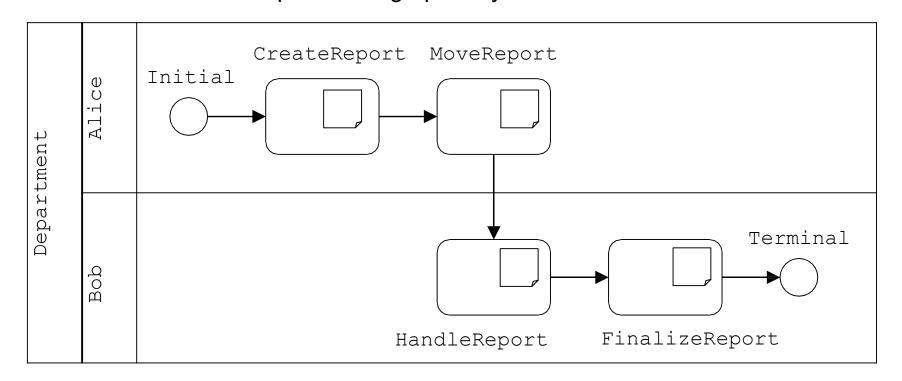


Sofware.version = 1

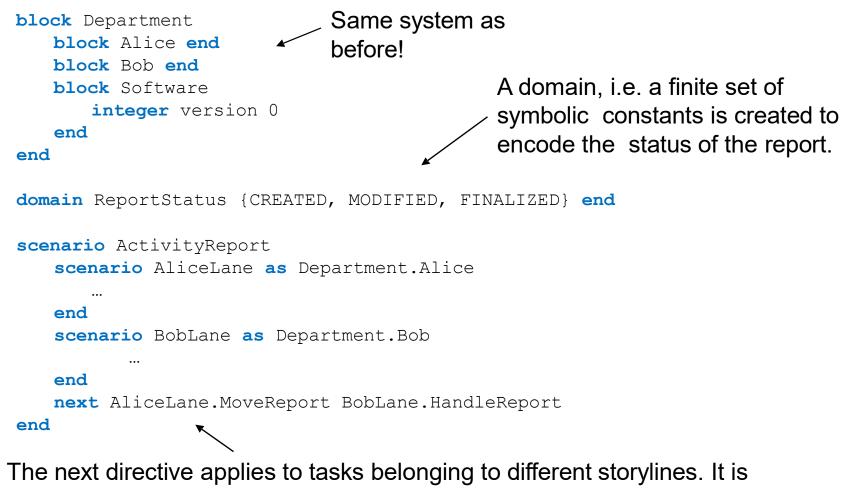
And so on...

Mobile Components

Scola makes it possible to describe mobile components, i.e. components that are possibly dynamically created, destroyed and moved from place to place in the system. As a illustration, assume that Alice wants now to write the activity report of the project that Bob will be in charge of finalizing. This report is a document that will be created by Alice, then moved to Bob. This scenario can be represented graphically:



Example: Activity Report (1)



here declared at the parent level.

Example: Activity Report (2)

```
scenario AliceLane as Department.Alice
state Initial
task CreateReport
    new block report
    new ReportStatus report.status CREATED
    new string report.title "Activity Report"
    new string report.content "Alice's contribution"
end
task MoveReport
    move report main.Department.Bob.report
end
next Initial CreateReport
next CreateReport MoveReport
end
```

• New blocks and ports are dynamically created.

• When a block or a port is created, it is inserted in the block the current storyline refers to (here Department.Alice).

• The keyword "main" refers to the model.

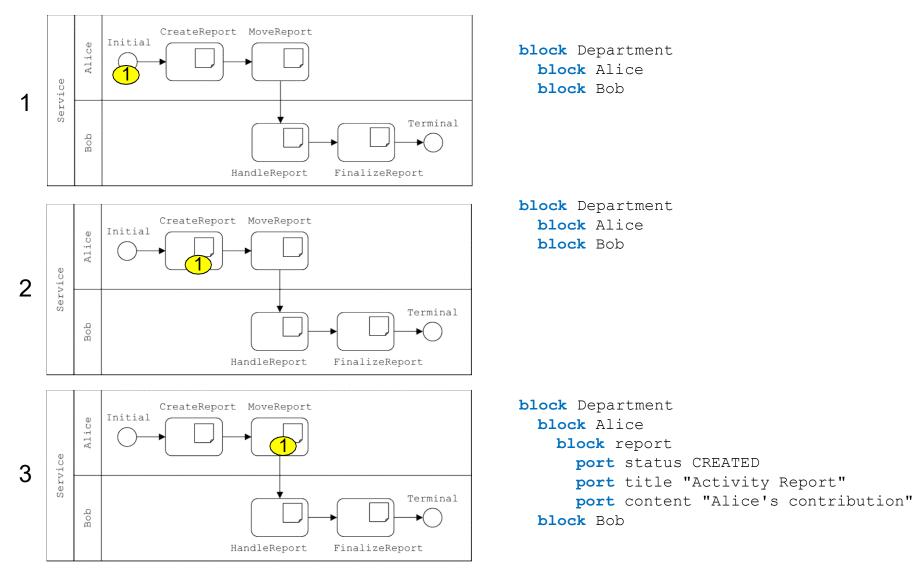
•Moving a block or a port requires that no item with the same name belongs to the target block. The process cannot perform the task until this condition is realized.

Example: Activity Report (3)

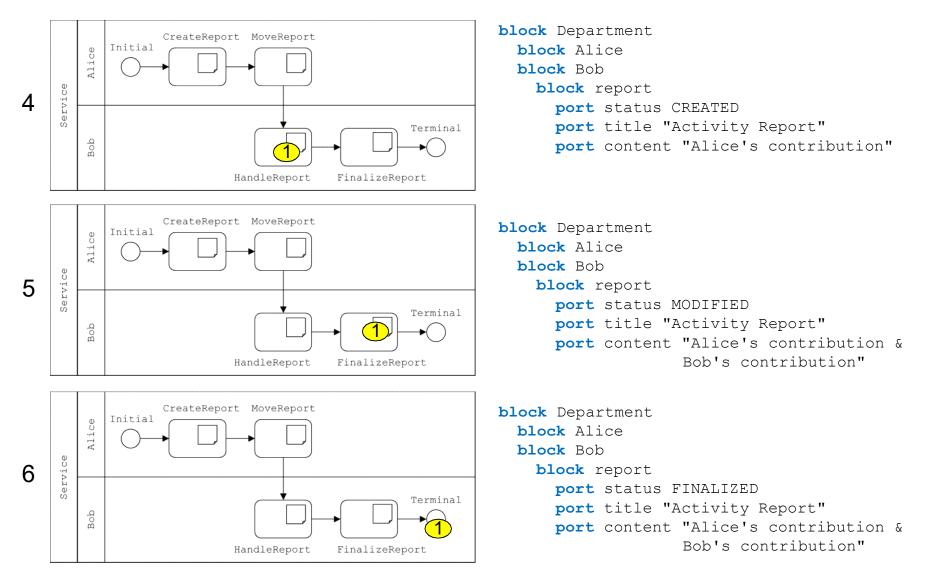
```
scenario BobLane as Department.Bob
task HandleReport
set report.content (append report.content " & Bob's contribution")
set report.status MODIFIED
end
task FinalizeReport
set report.status FINALIZED
end
state Terminal
next HandleReport FinalizeReport
next FinalizeReport Terminal
end
```

- The keyword "owner" refers to the parent container.
- Receptions of items are blocking: the process waiting the item stops until it receives the item.

Example: Activity Report (4)



Example: Activity Report (5)



Wrap-Up

- Scola models are made of systems (represented as hierarchies of blocks) and scenarios applying on these systems.
- Each scenario describes a particular facet or function of the system. There may be many scenarios applied to the same system.
- Blocks can compose other blocks and ports.
- **Ports** hold constant values (Boolean, integers, reals, symbols or strings).
- Blocks and ports can be dynamically created, destroyed and moved.
- Scenarios can compose other scenarios and be applied to a particular subsystem (which is graphically represented by a lane).
- Scenarios are made of states (represented by circles), tasks (represented by rounded rectangles) and gateways (represented by diamonds) which are linked together by means of next directives (represented by arrows).
- Tasks can compose **instructions** that modify the state of the system.
- Scenarios are executed by processes. The semantics of a Scola model is the set of all possible executions starting with a process located on each initial state (i.e. states without predecessors) and normally ending when all active processes have reached a terminal state (i.e. a state without successor).

Exercises (Series 5)

Exercise 1: Hello World!

Consider a system without subsystem and that performs a single actions: saying "Hello World". Give the code for this scenario and represent it graphically. Execute it.

Exercise 2: Greatest Common Divisor

Design a Scola model that calculates the greatest common divisor (GCD) of two integers. Execute it with a=96 and b=81.

Hint: recall that GCD(a, a) = a and that GCD(a, b) = GCD(a, b-a) if a < b.

Exercise 3: Syracuse Problem (Collatz conjecture)

Design a Scola model that takes any integer n and performs the following operations:

- If n is equal to 1, the execution stops.
- If n is even (n modulo 2 = 0), then the execution goes on with n/2.
- If n is odd (n modulo 2 = 1), then the execution goes on with 3n+1.

Execute this model for n=19.

Scola operations for multiplication and the modulo are respectively mul and mod.

Exercises (Series 6)

Exercise 1: At the restaurant.

At the restaurant, the client orders a pizza to the waiter. The waiter transmit the order to the cook, who bakes the pizza. Once the pizza is baked, the cook gives it to the waiter, who brings it to the client. Eventually, the client eats the pizza. Represent and execute this scenario.

Exercise 2: Car assembly

In a car assembly line, the first station paints the car's body, the second assemble the engine and the third the wheels.

Represent and execute this scenario.

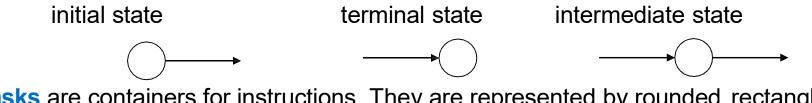
SCENARIOS

States and Tasks

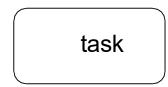
In Scola, there is a unique type of **state** and a unique type of **task**. States can be however sorted into three categories:

- **Initial states**, i.e. states that do not occur as the right member of a next directive.
- **Terminal states**, i.e. states that do not occur as the left member of a next directive.
- **Intermediate states**, the other.

Initial and terminal states play a very important role in the definition of scenarios. Intermediate states are accepted for the sake of the completeness, although it is always possible to remove them from scenarios without changing the semantics. States are graphically represented as circle.

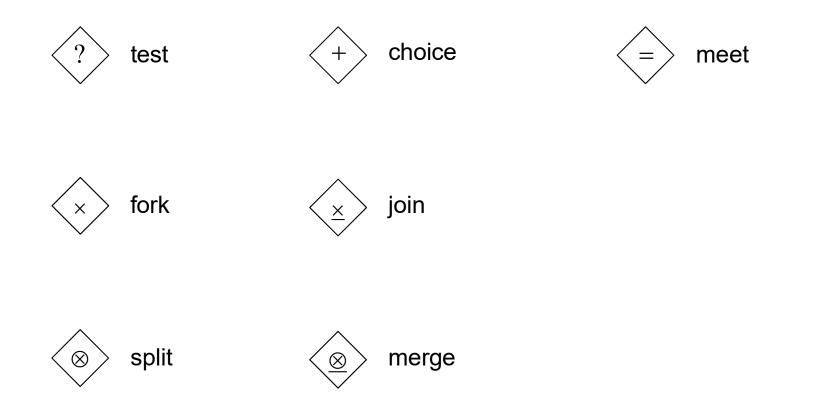


Tasks are containers for instructions. They are represented by rounded rectangles.

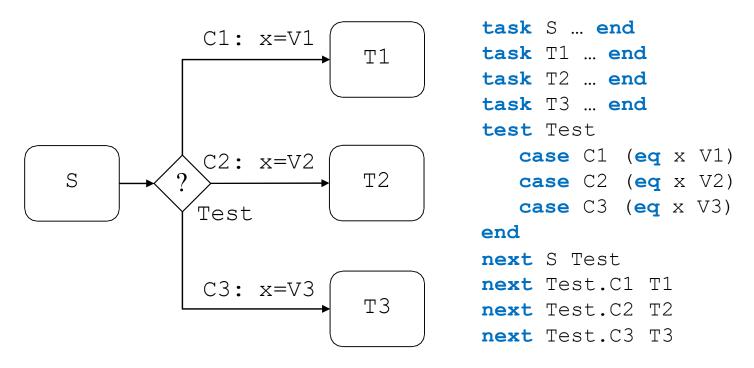


Gateways

Scola provides 7 types of gateways.

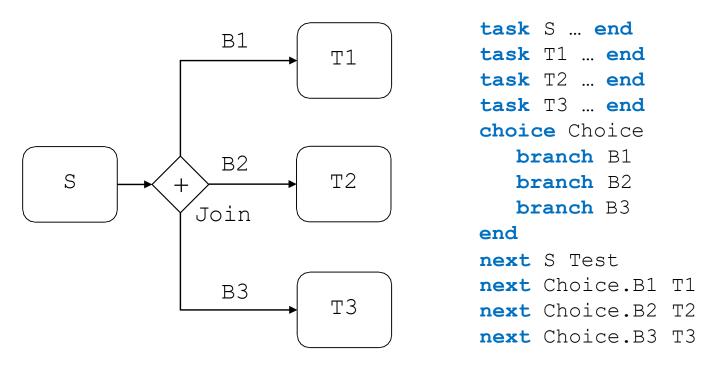


Test Gateways



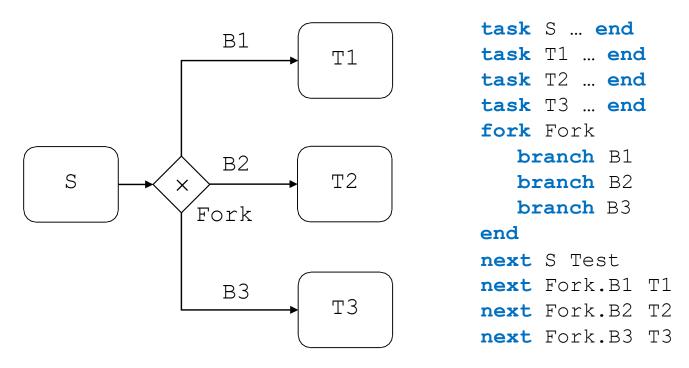
A test gateway can have any number of (output) case branches. A process (coming from the task S) located on the test gateway Test can move forward if one and only one of the conditions labelling the case branches is verified.

Choice Gateways



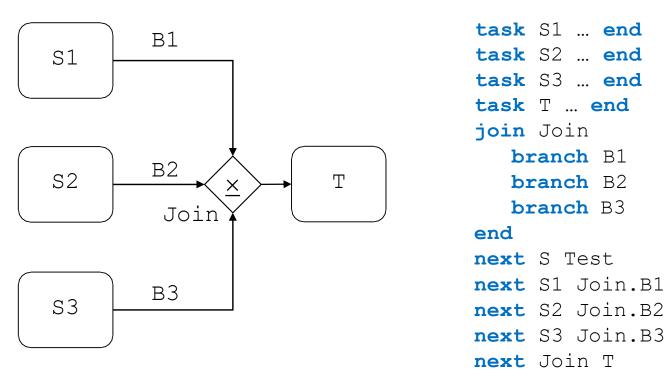
A choice gateway can have any number of (output) branches. A process (coming from the task S) located on the choice gateway Choice can move forward on any of the (output) branches.

Fork Gateways



A fork gateway can have any number of (output) branches. A process (coming from the task S) located on the fork gateway Fork can move forward. It is then deactivated (killed) and a new process is created on each branch of Fork. These new processes are not related to the process that created them.

Join Gateways

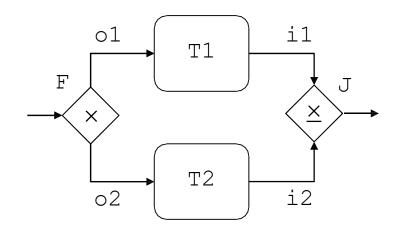


A join gateway can have any number of (input) branches.

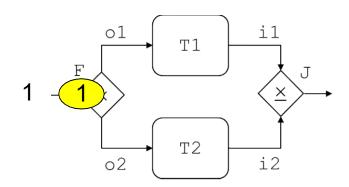
It does the opposite operation of a fork gateway. Processes arriving on input branches are stored into queues (first in, first out). When there is a process in the queue of each input branch (B1, B2, B3), they can move forward, which means that they are deactivated (killed) and that a new process is created on task T.

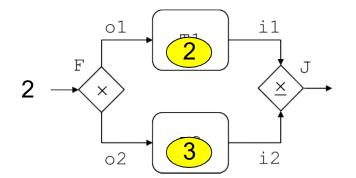
Example: Production Line (1)

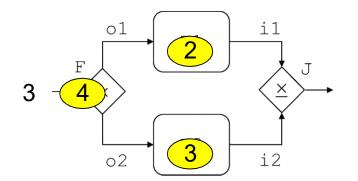
Consider (part of) a production line in which parts made of two components arrive on a conveyor belt to a first treatment unit \mathbb{F} (represented by a fork gateway) where they are separated. Once separated, components are sent respectively units of type T1 and T2. When treatments performed by units T1 and T2 are done, components are joined together in a unit J (represented by a join gateway). The important point here is that it does not matter to assemble components coming from different parts, as all the parts are the same.

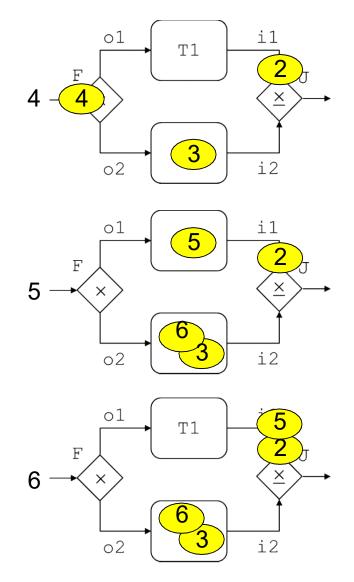


Example: Production Line (2)

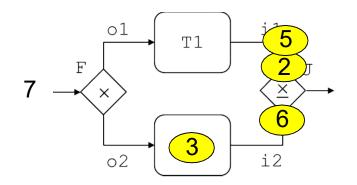


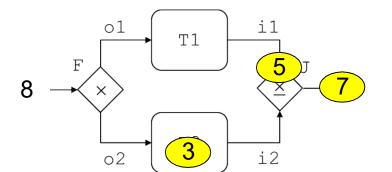


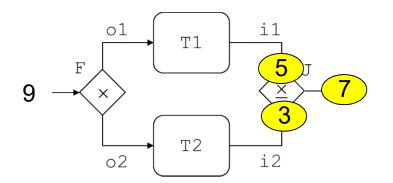


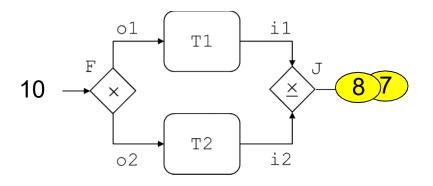


Example: Production Line (3)



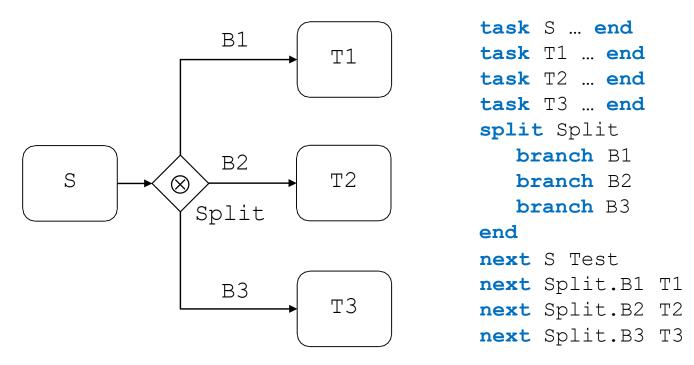






And so on...

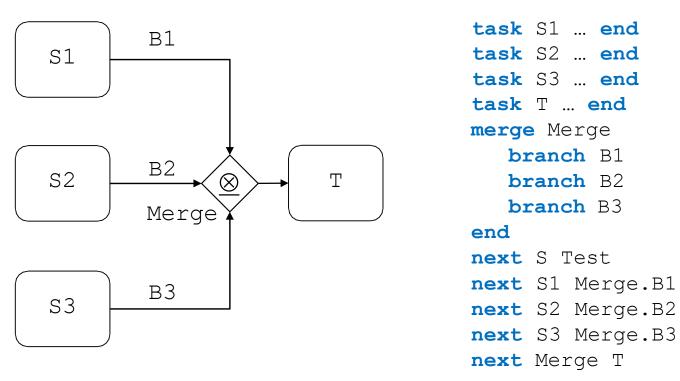
Split Gateways



A split gateway can have any number of (output) branches.

Split gateways are similar to fork gateways except that they link the deactivated process (parent process) with the created processes (children processes). A process (coming from the task S) located on the split gateway Split can move forward. It is then deactivated (killed) and a new child process is created on each branch of Split. These new processes are children of the killed process.

Merge Gateways



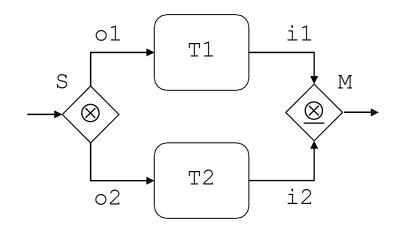
A merge gateway can have any number of (input) branches.

It does the opposite operation of a split gateway. Processes arriving on input branches are stored. When all the children processes of a parent process are in the sets associated with input branches (B1, B2, B3) of Merge, they can move forward, which means that they are deactivated (killed) and that the parent process is reactivated on task T.

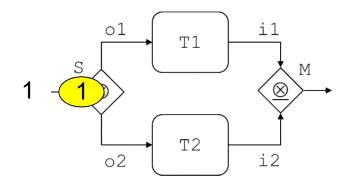
Example: Production Line revisited (1)

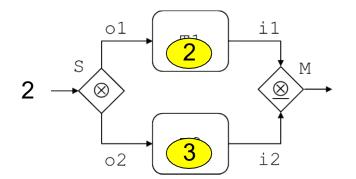
Consider (part of) a production line in which parts made of two components arrive on a conveyor belt to a first treatment unit S (represented by a split gateway) where they are separated. Once separated, components are sent respectively units of type T1 and T2. When treatments performed by units T1 and T2 are done, components are reassembled together in a unit M (represented by a merge gateway).

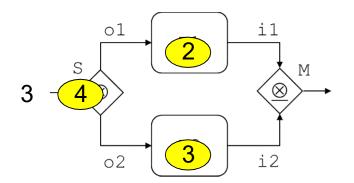
The important point here is that components of the same part must be reassembled together.

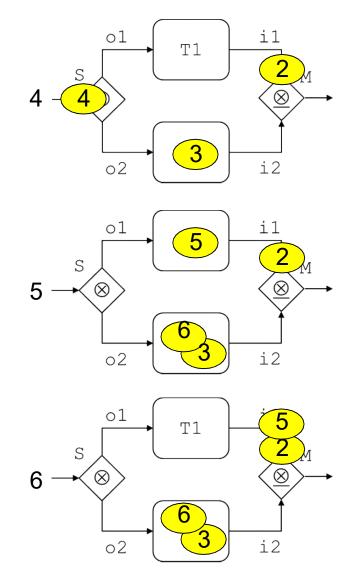


Example: Production Line revisited (2)



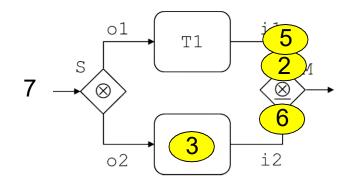


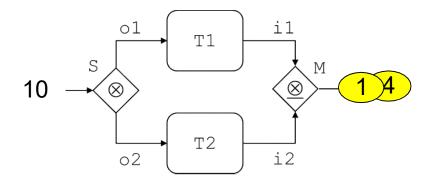




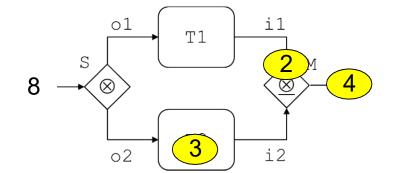
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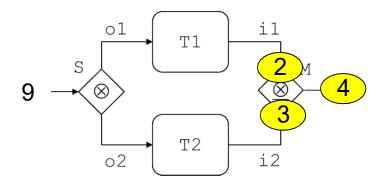
Example: Production Line revisited (3)



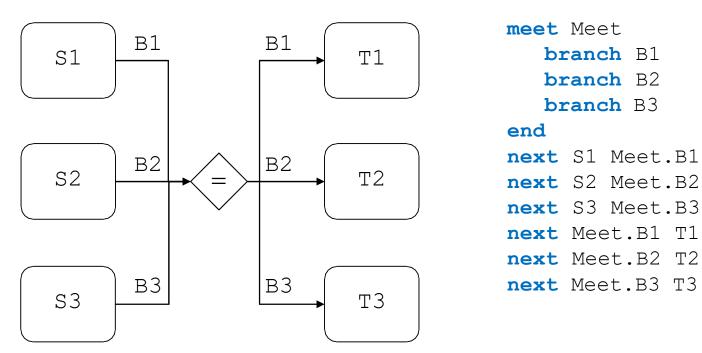


And so on...



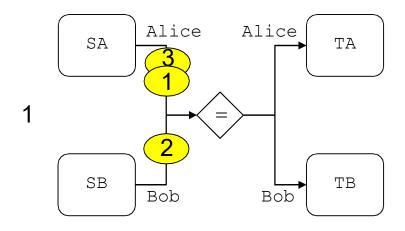


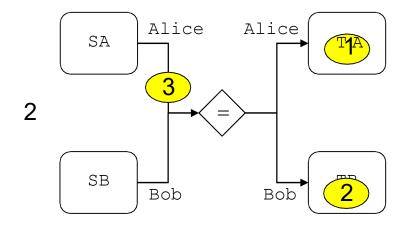
Meet Gateways



A meet gateway can have any number of branches. Branches are both input and output branches. Branches manages in-coming processes in queues (first in, first out). When there is a process in each queue, all first processes of each queue can move forward. They are just moved to the next locations of branches (here tasks T1, T2, T3).

Example: Rendez-Vous





Exercises (Series 7)

Exercise 1: Life-Cycle.

The life-cycle of a product is usually made of three phases: design, operation and decommissioning. The operation phase is itself decomposed into two sub-phases: production and maintenance.

Give the code that represent such a life-cycle and represent it graphically. Execute it.

Exercise 2: Ternary Meter

Design a Scola model to represent a meter with three wheels (like a kilometric meter) that counts in base 3.

Exercise 3: Tapes and Siphons

Design a Scola model that, at the one end, creates as many processes as the analyst wishes (a tape) and, at the other end, kills these processes (a siphon).

Exercise 4: Travel Reservation

Design a Scola model to represent a travel reservation (flight + hotel)

Exercises (Series 8)

Exercise: Dynamic Car Assembly

Consider a car assembly line. The process is as follows:

- A new car enters into the assembly line.
- It is then moved to a first station where is painted.
- It is then moved to the second station where the engine is assembled.
- It is then move to the third station where the wheels are assembled in two steps: first the front train, then the rear train.
- •The car is then delivered (taken out the production line).

Each car must have its own series number.

There can be at most one car at each place of the assembly line, i.e. at the beginning of the line and in each station.

<u>Hint:</u> Use test gateway to prevent a car to be moved to a place where there is already another car. The Boolean expression (is_block *path*) can be used to check the presence of a block at the give place.

BASE TYPES & EXPRESSIONS

Base Types

Base types for ports are: Boolean (true and false), integers, reals, symbols and string. A port is a holder for a base type.

Once declared with the directive port (or the instruction new) the value of a port can changed arbitrarily.

This behavior may be too loose (models may be hard to debug). It is thus possible to declare a port together with its type, which forces it to take only values of this type, e.g.

```
block
   port anything false
   Boolean working false
   integer count 0
   real distance 1.0e-4
   symbol _state WORKING
   string title "Activity Report"
end
```

Warning: even if a port is declared as a (generic) symbol, its value must be always belong to a defined domains.

Domains

It is possible to restrict further the possible values of symbolic ports by declaring domains, i.e. finite sets of symbolic constants, and declaring ports with these domains. E.g.

```
domain UnitState {WORKING, DEGRADED, FAILED} end
block Unit
    UnitState _state WORKING
end
```

We shall see a specific application of domains with assertions.

Expressions (1): Boolean operators

The current version of Scola implements a number of operators applying on Boolean, numbers, symbols and string.

Boolean operators

Operator	#arguments	Description
and	≥ 1	Boolean and
or	≥ 1	Boolean or
not	1	Boolean not

Expressions (2): Inequalities

Operator	#arguments	Description
eq	2	arg1 = arg2
df	2	arg1 ≠ arg2
lt	2	arg1 < arg2
gt	2	arg1 > arg2
leq	2	$arg1 \le arg2$
geq	2	$arg1 \ge arg2$

Operators eq and df are polymorphic: they apply on Boolean, numbers, symbols and strings.

The other operators compare only numbers.

Expressions (3): Associative Arithmetic Operators

Operator	#arguments	Description
add	≥ 1	addition
sub	≥ 1	subtraction
mul	≥ 1	multiplication
div	≥ 1	division (for integers, integral division)
min	≥ 1	minimum value
max	≥ 1	maximum value
count	≥ 1	counts the number of (Boolean) arguments that are satisfied

Expressions (4): Other Arithmetic Operators

Operator	#arguments	Description
орр	1	-X
inv	1	1/x
abs	1	absolute value
exp	1	exponential
log	1	logarithm
sqrt	1	square root
ceil	1	smallest integer greater than the argument
floor	1	biggest integer smaller than the argument
pow	2	Ху
mod	2	modulo
integer	1	casts the argument to the closest integer
real	1	casts the argument to real (e.g. to avoid integral division)

Expressions (5): String and Conditional Operations

Operations on strings

Operator	#arguments	Description			
append	≥ 1	concatenation			
string	1	casts the argument to a string			

Conditional expressions

Operator	#arguments	Description
if	3	if-then-else

Expressions (5): Path Operations

Path expressions

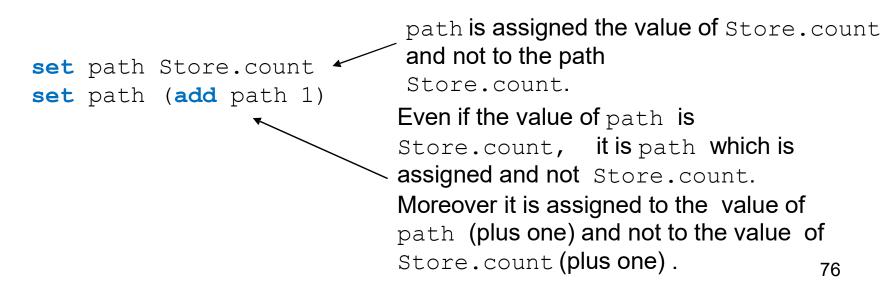
Operator	#arguments	Description
symbol	0	returns an empty path
symbol	1	casts the string argument into a path
identifier	1	returns the last identifier of a path
owner	1	returns the path minus its last identifier
append	≥1	concatenate the paths given as arguments
is_block	1	checks whether the argument is a path to a block
is_port	1	checks whether the argument is a path to a port
is_assertion	1	checks whether the argument is a path to an assertion
size	1	returns the number of elements of a block
element	2	returns the n-th element of a block.

Reference versus Value

Paths to elements of systems are used in two ways, as illustrated by in following assignment.

```
set Store.count (add Store.count 1)
```

The first occurrence of Store.count is a reference to the port Store.count, while the second one denotes the value of this port. Now, we may want to give the value Store.count to a port path, and then to use the value of the port path as the first argument of an assignment. The following instructions do not work.



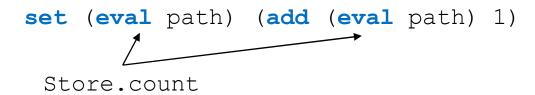
Quote & Eval (1)

To prevent a port to be evaluated, it is possible to **quote** it.

```
set Store.count 1
set path 'Store.count 
set path (quote Store.count) 
t
```

The value of path is the symbol Store.count and not the value of the port Store.count.

Symmetrically, to evaluate a symbol, i.e. to take the value of the port reachable with this path, it is possible to **eval** it.



The above assignment increments by 1 the value of Store.count.

Quote & Eval (2)

Functions quote and eval apply recursively to arguments of other functions:

```
(quote (append a b)) → (append (quote a) (quote b))
(eval (add a b)) → (add (eval a) (eval b))
```

Functions quote and eval cancel one another when applied to references:

```
(quote (eval a)) \rightarrow a(eval (quote a)) \rightarrow a
```

Instructions such as assignment quote implicitly their arguments referring to a port before evaluating them:

Exercises (Series 9)

Exercise: Largest port

A block Store contains an arbitrary number of integer ports. Design a scenario to get the name of the port with the largest value.

Hint: use instruction if condition then instruction and instruction block begin instructions end

INSTRUCTIONS

Instructions

Instructions are used in tasks and in assertions (see next section). Instructions can be divided into two groups:

- Assignment, conditional instructions, blocks of instructions that can be used both in tasks and assertions.
- Instructions to create, destroy and move components that can be used only in tasks. The special instruction fail enters also in this category.

The semantics of instructions of the first category is straightforward.

Assignment: set path-expression expression

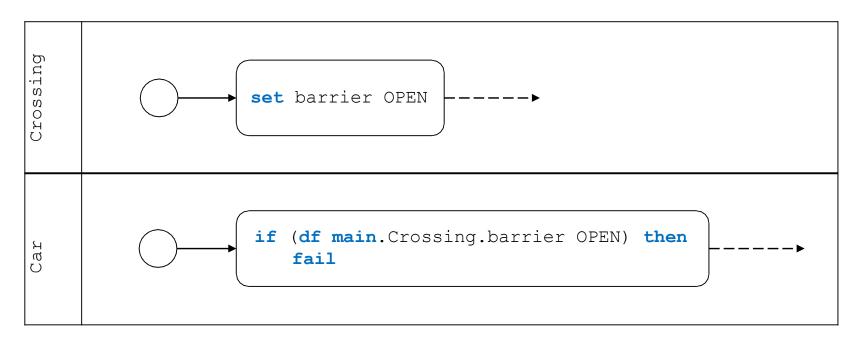
Conditional instruction if *Boolean-expression* **then** *instruction* [**else** *instruction*] # the else part is optional

Blocks of instructions begin instructions* end

Fail Instruction

The fail instruction always fails. It is used in combination with the conditional instruction to postpone the execution of a task until a certain condition is verified.

Consider for instance a car waiting at a railway crossing. The driver waits for the barrier to open before to go. In its simplest form, it could be as follows.



See exercise Dynamic Car Assembly Revisited for an illustration

Instructions to Create and to Destroy Components

• Instructions to create blocks and ports are as follows.

new port path-expression expression
new block path-expression

<u>Required:</u> there must be no component with the same name at the same place.

• The instruction to delete a block, a port or an assertion is as follows. delete path-expression

<u>Required:</u> the referred component must exist.

• The instruction to clone a component is as follows (this instruction should not to confuse with the clones directive)

clone path-expression path-expression

<u>Required:</u> the cloned component (first argument) must exist and there must be no component with the same name at the same place (second argument).

See example ActivityReport.scola for an illustration.

Instructions to Move Components

• The instruction to move a block or a port to another location is as follows. move path-expression path-expression

<u>Required:</u> the moved component (first argument) must exist and there must be no component with the same name at the same place (second argument). See example ActivityReport.scola for an illustration.

Instructions to move a block or a port in an asynchronous way are as follows.
 send path-expression path-expression

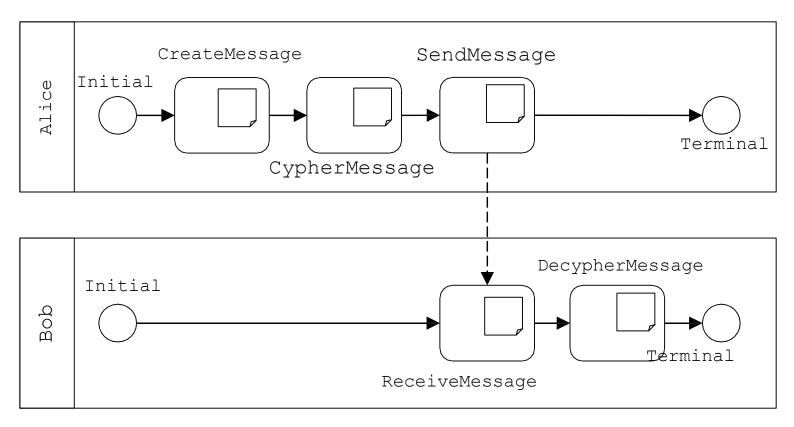
receive path-expression path-expression identifier

The first argument of the send instruction is the path to the sent component. The second argument is the path to the block in which it is sent.

The first argument of receive instruction is the path to the send component. The second argument is the path to the block that sends the component. The third argument is the identifier of the component once received.

<u>Required:</u> the sent component, the sending block and the receiving block must exist and there must be no component with the same name in the receiving block.

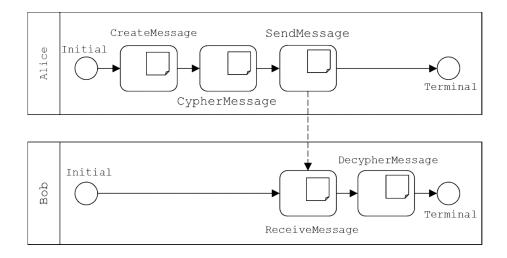
Example: Cryptography (1)



The two processes (one for Alice, one for Bob) are running in parallel.

Sending and reception of the message are asynchronous: once the send instruction executed, the sent component is removed from the sending block. It is inserted in the receiving block only once the receive instruction has been executed.. Reception is blocking.

Example: Cryptography (2)



block Alice end
block Bob end

•••

•••

scenario CypheredMessage
 scenario AlicePool as Alice

end

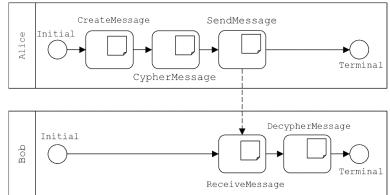
scenario BobPool as Bob

end

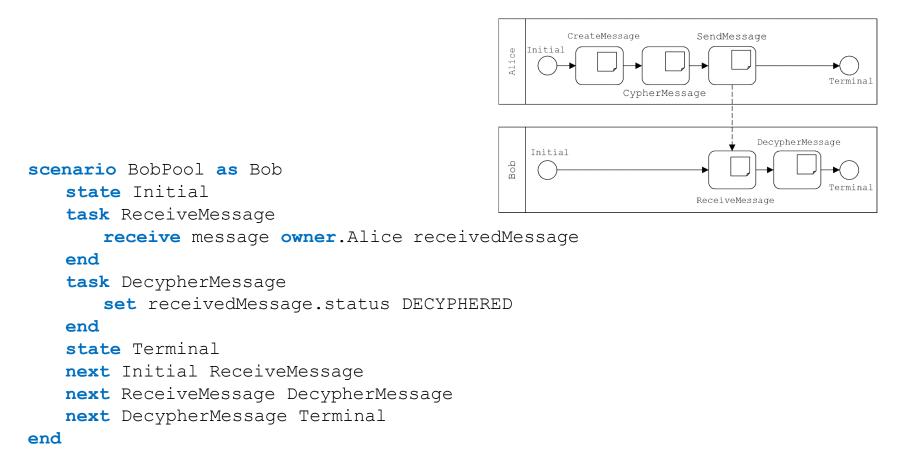
end

Example: Cryptography (3)

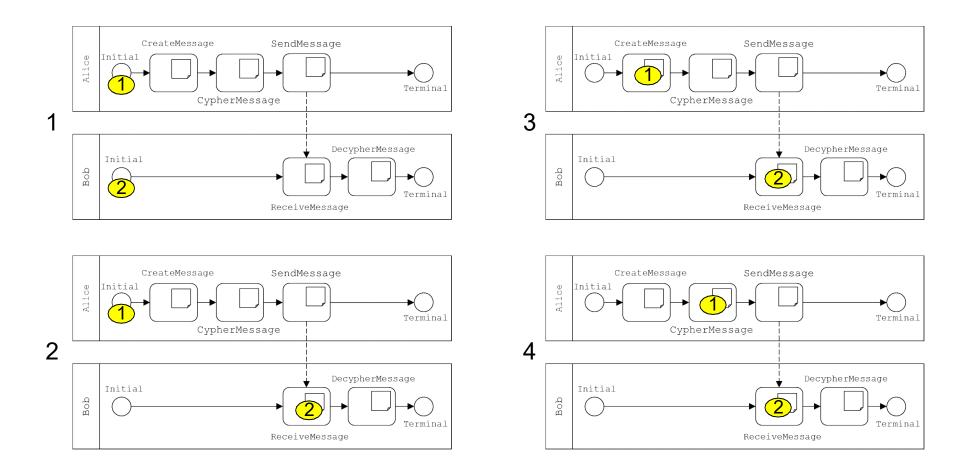
```
scenario AlicePool as Alice
   state Initial
   task CreateMessage
       new block message
       new port message.status CREATED
                                             Alice
                                               Initial
   end
   task CypherMessage
       set message.status CYPHERED
   end
   task SendMessage
                                                Initial
       send message main.Bob
                                             Bob
   end
   state Terminal
   next Initial CreateMessage
   next CreateMessage CypherMessage
   next CypherMessage SendMessage
   next SendMessage Terminal
end
```



Example: Cryptography (4)

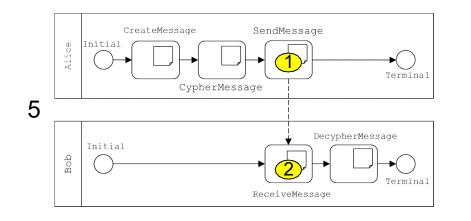


Example: Cryptography (5)

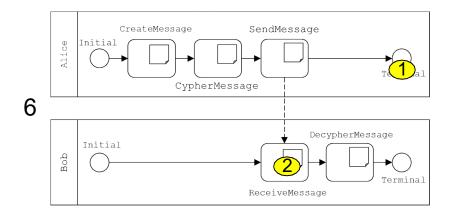


The process 2 is blocked until the reception of the message

Example: Cryptography (6)



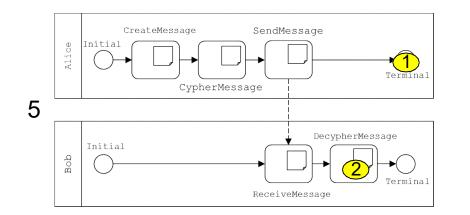
block Alice
 block message
 port status CYPHERED
 block Bob

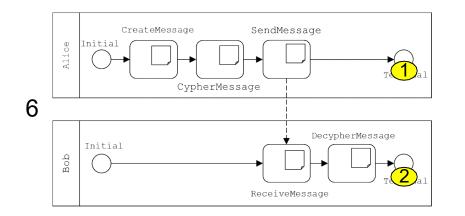


block Alice
block Bob

The message is sent but not yet received

Example: Cryptography (6)





block Alice
block Bob
block receivedMessage
port status CYPHERED

The name of the block has been changed

block Alice
block Bob
block receivedMessage
port status DECYPHERED

Exercises (Series 10)

Exercise 1: Dynamic Car Assembly (revisited)

Design a model that use fail instructions rather than test gateways to solve the dynamic car assembly exercise.

Exercise 2: Master Thesis

Bob is doing his master project under the supervision of Alice. He has to do some research and in parallel to write his master thesis. This requires some iterations with Alice until she gives eventually her approval.

Design a model to represent this process. First, just using ports, without any component creation. Second, with component creation and moving. Third with component creation, sending and reception.

Exercises (Series 11)

Exercise 1: Queues

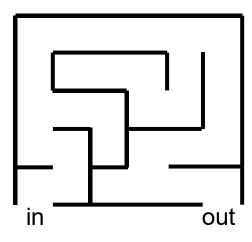
In an shop, clients must choose one of two queues at the cashier. They are served in the order of arrival in the queue they choose.

Design a model for such a system and simulate it.

Hint: use three processes, one to create new clients and one for each queue.

Exercise 2: Maze

Design a Scola model to get out of the following maze.



Hint: recall Tom Thumb.

Exercises (Series 12)

Exercise 1: Eratosthenes

Design a model to calculate prime numbers lower than 100 using Eratosthenes' Sieve. The idea is to have two nested loops: the outer one to generate candidate numbers (from 3 to 100 in order) and the inner one to test candidates. The test consist in comparing (via a modulo) the candidate with all prime numbers found so far. Hint: Prime numbers are store as integer ports p1=2, p2=3, p3=5... into a block Primes.

Exercise 2: Ferry

A ferry carries trucks from the left bank to the right bank of a river. It goes forth and back as long as there are trucks to carry. It can contain only one truck at a time. Design a Scola model to represent this ferry.

ASSERTIONS

Assertions

So far, descriptions of systems we have seen consisted in hierarchies of blocks, and ports.

It is however often suitable/necessary to describe not only the structural decomposition of the system, but also connections existing between its components. These connections makes the information circulate through the components of the system. Information is to be taken in a broad sense, including flow of matters, energy, information...

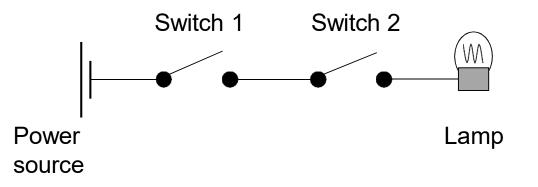
Scola provides the concept of assertion, stemmed from the AltaRica modeling language, to describe connections and their semantics.

An **assertion** is an instruction, or a group of instructions, that updates the values of ports after the execution of a task.

As assertions may be spread all over the system, the result of the update should not depend on the order of the execution of instructions of the assertion. This is the reason why, a **fixpoint mechanism** is used for assertions: the assertion is re-executed until the values of ports stabilized. It is up to the analyst to ensure that this stabilization process terminates.

Electric Circuit (1)

Consider a small electric circuit consisting of a power source two switches and a lamp in series. All components are assumed to be perfectly reliable.



Modeling this system is easy: the system is decomposed into four subsystems, one per component. The scenario is made of two lanes, one of each switch. The other components are actually passive.

However, we would like to determine automatically when the lamp is powered,

depending on the states of the switches. This is achieved by means of assertions.

Electric Circuit (2)

```
block ElectricCircuit
 block PowerSource
   Boolean outPower true
 end
 block Switch1
   Boolean closed true
   Boolean inPower false
   Boolean outPower false
   . . .
  end
 block Switch2
   Boolean closed true
   Boolean inPower false
   Boolean outPower false
   . . .
  end
 block Lamp
   Boolean on true
   Boolean inPower false
   . . .
  end
```

```
scenario Light as ElectricCircuit
  scenario SwitchlLane as Switchl
   state Initial
   task Switch
     set closed (not closed)
   end
  next Initial Switch
   next Switch Switch
 end
 scenario Switch2Lane as Switch2
   state Initial
  task Switch
    set closed (not closed)
   end
   next Initial Switch
   next Switch Switch
 end
end
```

Assertions must link all ports together

```
end
```

. . .

Electric Circuit (3)

```
block Switch1
    Boolean closed false
    Boolean inPower false
    Boolean outPower false
    assertion Powering
         set outPower (if closed inPower false)
    end
end
•••
                                         Assertions have a name.
block Lamp
    Boolean on false
                                         They consists of a block of instructions.
    Boolean inPower false
                                         They can be associated with any block.
    assertion Powering
         set on inPower
    end
end
...
assertion Powering
    set Switch1.inPower PowerSource.outPower
    set Switch2.inPower Switch1.outPower
    set Lamp.inPower Switch2.outPower
end
```

Electric Circuit (4)

At system level, we have the following assertions.

set Switch1.outPower (if Switch1. closed Switch1.inPower false)

set Switch2.outPower (if Switch2._closed Switch2.inPower false)

set Lamp.on Lamp.inPower

set Switch1.inPower PowerSource.outPower

set Switch2.inPower Switch1.outPower

set Lamp.inPower Switch2.outPower

	Power Source	Switch 1			Switch 2			Lamp	
step	outPower	_closed	inPower	outPower	_closed	inPower	outPower	on	inPower
0	true	true	false	false	true	false	false	false	false
1	true	true	true	false	true	false	false	false	false
2	true	true	true	true	true	true	false	false	false
3	true	true	true	true	true	true	true	false	true
4	true	true	true	true	true	true	true	true	true
5	true	true	true	true	true	true	true	true	true

Electric Circuit (5)

At system level, we have the following assertions.

set Switch1.outPower (if Switch1. closed Switch1.inPower false)

set Switch2.outPower (if Switch2. closed Switch2.inPower false)

set Lamp.on Lamp.inPower

set Switch1.inPower PowerSource.outPower

set Switch2.inPower Switch1.outPower

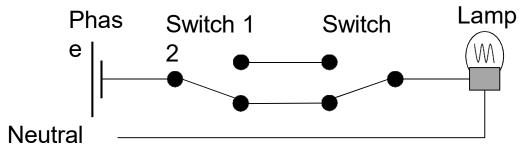
set Lamp.inPower Switch2.outPower

	Power Source	Switch 1			Switch 2			Lamp	
step	outPower	_closed	inPower	outPower	_closed	inPower	outPower	on	inPower
0	true	false	true	true	true	true	true	true	true
1	true	false	true	false	true	false	true	true	true
2	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	true
3	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	false
4	true	false	true	false	true	false	false	false	false

Exercises (Series 13)

Exercise 1: Two-Way Switch

Modify the code proposed in this section so to model a two-way switch.



Exercise 2: Wages

Alice, Bob and Carol are salespersons. Their monthly wages are calculated as follows.

Fixed salary +4% of the growth revenue they generate +800€ if the sum of the two preceding numbers is below 9000€ and 400€ if it above. Design a model to calculate their wages.

Name	Gr. Rev.	Salary	Var. Part	Bonus	Total
Alice	47 500	8 000	1 900	400	10 300
Bob	38 900	6 700	1556	800	9 056
Carol	51 600	9 000	2 064	400	11 464

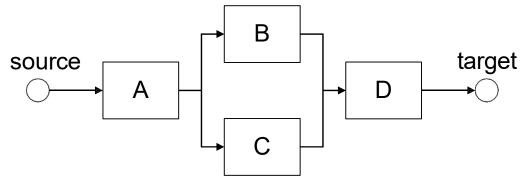
Exercises (Series 14)

Exercise 1: 2-out-of-3 system

A 2-out-of-3 system is a system that works if at least two out of its 3 components are working. Design a model for such a system and simulate it.

Exercise 2: Bridge

Components A, B, C and D of the following reliability block diagram may fail and be repaired. The system described by the diagram is working if there is a working path from the source node to the target node. Design a model for such a system and simulate it.



STRUCTURING CONSTRUCTS

Object-Oriented versus Prototype-Oriented Modeling

- It is often the case, when modeling a system (whether with Scola or with another language), that the system under study involves several identical or at least similar components, see e.g. the Bridge exercise of the previous section.
- So far, when such situation occurred we just duplicated the code, possibly for both component and scenario descriptions. This is both tedious and error prone.
- All advanced programming and modeling languages provide thus constructs to describe identical components only once, then to indicate that identical components are just copies of the reference one.

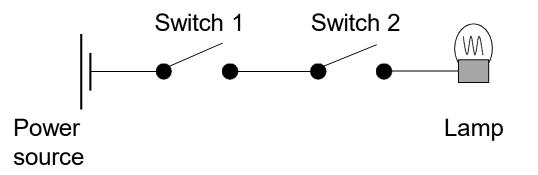
There are two paradigms to implement this mechanism:

- The **prototype-oriented paradigm**, in which it is possible to **clone** an already declared component.
- The object-oriented paradigm, in which reference components are declared separately as classes. It is then possible to introduce in the model instances, i.e. copies, of theses classes. Classes are thus on-the-shelf, reusable modeling components.

Scola, following in that S2ML, implements both paradigm.

Use Case

As an illustration, we shall consider again the small electric circuit of the previous section.



In this example, switches 1 and 2 are identical.

In the previous section, we simply duplicated the code for both the system and the scenario description.

Cloning (1)

The clones directive makes it possible to duplicate a block or a scenario.

```
block ElectricCircuit
                                scenario Light as ElectricCircuit
 block PowerSource
                                  scenario SwitchlLane as Switchl
   ...
                                    ...
  end
                                  end
 block Switch1
                                  clones SwitchlLane as SwitchlLane as Switchl
                                  end
   •••
 end
                                end
 clones Switch1 as Swicth2
  end
 block Lamp
   •••
  end
                           In our example, clones and cloned
  •••
                           components are strictly identical. It is
end
                           however possible to add more components to
                           the clone or to modify initial values of ports.
```

Cloning (2)

```
block Switch1
  Boolean closed true
  Boolean inPower false
  Boolean outPower false
  assertion Powering
     set outPower (if closed inPower false)
  end
end
clones Switch1 as Switch2
  set closed false
  integer number 1001
end
                                block Switch2
                                   Boolean closed false
                                   Boolean inPower false
                                   Boolean outPower false
                                   assertion Powering
                                      set outPower (if closed inPower false)
                                   end
                                   integer number 1001
                                end
```

Classes & Instances (1)

Another way to achieve the same goal consists in defining classes, i.e. on-the-shelf reusable modeling components, then to instantiate these classes into the model. Classes are thus independent from the model.

```
class Switch (block)
                                scenario SwitchLane (scenario)
  ...
end
                                end
block ElectricCircuit
                                scenario Light as ElectricCircuit
  block PowerSource
                                   SwitchLane SwitchlLane as Switchl end
                                   SwitchLane Switch2Lane as Switch2 end
     ...
  end
                                end
  Switch Switch1 end
  Switch Switch2 end
  block Lamp
     •••
                      The block ElectricCircuit declares two instances of
   end
                      the class Switch. The scenario Light declares two
                      instances of the class SwitchLane.
end
                      As for cloning, it is possible to change the initial values of
                      ports and to add new elements.
```

Classes & Instances (2)

```
class Switch (block)
  Boolean closed true
  Boolean inPower false
  Boolean outPower false
  assertion Powering
     set outPower (if closed inPower false)
  end
end
block ElectricCircuit
  ...
  Switch Switch2
     set closed false
                                    block Switch2
     integer number 1001
                                      Boolean closed false
  end
                                      Boolean inPower false
  ...
                                      Boolean outPower false
end
                                      assertion Powering
                                         set outPower (if closed inPower false)
                                       end
                                      integer number 1001
                                    end
```

Inheritance (1)

In the previous example, the class Switch inherits from the base class block, while the class SwitchLane inherits from the base class scenario. We say also that Switch derives from block and that SwitchLane derives from scenario. In Scola, a class may derive from another class. In any case, it derives eventually either from the base class block or from the base class scenario. If a class B derives from a class A, all elements of A are copied in B when B is instantiated.

```
class Connection(block) Boolean
    inPower false Boolean outPower
    false
end
class Switch(Connection) Boolean
    _closed true assertion Powering
      set outPower (if _closed inPower false)
    end
end
```

Inheritance (2)

More generally, it is possible in Scola to make any block inherit from another block and any scenario inherit from another scenario, with the following constraints:

- A prototype of block (resp. scenario) can inherit from another prototype of block (resp. scenario) or from a class deriving from block (resp. scenario).
- A class deriving from block (resp. scenario) can inherit from another class deriving from block (resp. scenario).

```
class Connection(block) Boolean
  inPower false Boolean outPower
  false
end
block Switch1
  inherits Connection Boolean
  _closed true assertion Powering
    set outPower (if _closed inPower false)
```

```
end end
```

Exercises (Series 15)

Exercise 1: Electric Circuit

Design the complete model of the electric circuit presented in this section. First without cloning nor classes, then with cloning and finally with classes.

Exercise 2: Bridge

Same question with the Bridge exercise of the previous section.

Exercise 3: Collaborative Report

Alice and Bob write a report. Alice makes version 0, then each of them read the report in turn. After reading they can decide either to finalize it, which stops the writing process, or to improve it and to pass it to their colleague.

Design a object-oriented Scola model for this scenario.

References

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GRAMMAR

Models

Model ::= Declaration*

Declaration ::=

DomainDeclaration

- | BlockDeclaration
- | ScenarioDeclaration
- | ClassDeclaration

```
DomainDeclaration ::=
    domain Identifier "{" Identifier ("," Identifier) * "}" end
```

Blocks & Ports

```
BlockDeclaration ::=

block Identifier BlockField* end
```

```
BlockField ::=
```

```
PortDeclaration | BlockDeclaration | AssertionDeclaration
```

- InheritsDirective | ClonesBlockDirective | BlockClassInstance
- | SetInstruction

```
PortDeclaration ::=
```

```
port Identifier Expression
```

SetInstruction ::=

```
set Expression Expression # set path-to-port value
```

Assertions

AssertionDeclaration ::=

assertion Identifier AssertionInstruction* end

AssertionInstruction ::=

fail

- | SetInstruction
- if Expression then AssertionInstruction (else AssertionInstruction)?
- begin AssertionInstruction* end

Scenarios, Connections, Tasks & States

```
ScenarioDeclaration ::=
```

scenario Identifier (as Path)? ScenarioField* end

ScenarioField ::=

StateDeclaration | TaskDeclaration | GatewayDeclaration

| ScenarioDeclaration | NextDirective

ClonesScenarioDirective | InheritsDirective | ScenarioClassInstance

StateDeclaration ::=

state Identifier

TaskDeclaration ::= task Identifier Instruction* end

NextDirective ::= next Path Path

Classes & Instances

```
ClassDeclaration ::=
BlockClassDeclaration | ScenarioClassDeclaration
```

```
BlockClassDeclaration ::
    class Identifier "(" block | Identifier ")" BlockField* end
```

```
BlockClassInstance ::=
Identifier Identifier BlockField* end
```

```
ScenarioClassDeclaration ::
    class Identifier "(" scenario | Identifier ")"
        (as Path)? ScenarioField* end
```

```
ScenarioClassInstance ::=
    Identifier Identifier (as Path)? ScenarioField* end
```

Clones & Inherits Directives

ClonesBlockDirective ::= **clones** Path BlockField* **end**

ClonesScenarioDirective ::= **clones** Path (**as** Path)? ScenarioField* **end**

InheritsDirective ::=
 inherits Path

Gateways (1)

GatewayDeclaration ::=

- TestDeclaration | ChoiceDeclaration
- | ForkDeclaration | JoinDeclaration
- | SplitDeclaration | MergeDeclaration
- | MeetDeclaration

TestDeclaration ::=

test Identifier CaseDeclaration+ end

CaseDeclaration ::=

case Identifier BooleanExpression

Gateways (2)

ChoiceDeclaration ::= choice Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end ForkDeclaration ::= fork Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end JoinDeclaration ::= join Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end SplitDeclaration ::= split Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end MergeDeclaration ::= merge Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end MeetDeclaration ::= meet Identifier BranchDeclaration+ end

BranchDeclaration ::=

branch Identifier

Instructions

Instruction ::=

- set Expression Expression
- # set path-to-port value
- new port Expression Expression
 - # new port path-to-port initial-value
- new block Expression
 - # new block path-to-block
- delete Expression
 - # delete path-to-item
- **move** Expression Expression
 - # delete path-to-source-item path-to-target-item
- send Expression Expression
 - # delete path-to-item path-to-receiver
- receive Expression Expression Expression
 - # receive path-to-item path-to-sender path-to-target-item
- clone Expression Expression
 - # clone path-to-source-item path-to-target-item
- | **if** Expression **then** Instruction (**else** Instruction)?
- begin instruction* end

Expressions & Boolean Expressions

```
Expression ::=
```

none

- Path
- | BooleanExpression | ArithmeticExpression | StringExpression
- | ConditionalExpression | PathExpression

```
Path ::= Identifier ("." Identifier)*
Identifier ::= [a-zA-Z ][a-zA-Z0-9 ]*
```

```
BooleanExpression ::=
    false | true
    | "(" BooleanOperator Expression+ ")"
    | "(" Comparator Expression Expression ")"
BooleanOperator ::= and | or | not
Comparator ::= eq | df | lt | gt | leq | geq
```

Arithmetic & String Expressions

```
ArithmeticExpression ::=
```

Number

```
"(" AssociativeArithmeticOperator Expression+ ")"
```

```
"(" UnaryArithmeticOperator Expression ")"
```

- "(" BinaryArithmeticOperator Expression Expression ")"
- "(" integer Expression ")"
- | "(" **real** Expression ")"

```
Number ::= [-+]?[0-9]+(.[0-9]*)([eE][-+]?[0-9]+)?
AssociativeArithmeticOperator ::= add | sub | mul | div | min | max | count
UnaryArithmeticOperator ::= opp | inv | abs | exp | log | sqrt | ceil | floor
BinaryArithmeticOperator ::= pow | mod
```

```
StringOperator ::= append
```

Conditional & Path Expressions

```
ConditionalExpression ::=
```

"(" if BooleanExpression Expression Expression ")"

PathExpression ::=

- "(" is port PathExpression ")"
- "(" is block PathExpression ")"
- "(" is assertion PathExpression ")"
- "(" **size** PathExpression ")"
- "(" element PathExpression ArithmeticExpression ")"
- "(" **append** PathExpression+ ")"
- "(" **symbol** StringExpression? ")"

SEMANTICS

Operational Semantics

The operational semantics of a Scola model is defined as the set of possible executions of

one or more processes making the system evolve.

An **execution** is a finite sequence of states.

- Each **state** is characterized by:
- A system
- A set of processes.

A **system** is a hierarchy of blocks and ports. Moreover, each block maintains a reception set. This **reception set** contains systems that have been sent to the block, but not yet received by the block.

A process is characterized by its number and its location.

The **location** of a process is either a state, a task or a

gateway. Moreover:

- Each process may have a **parent process** and a set of **child processes**.
- Join gateways maintain a set of in-coming processes.
- Merge gateways maintain a set of queues of processes, one queue per incoming location.