

Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming

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Motivation: Concurrency and Time

Concurrent Systems: Multiple **agents (processes)** that interact among each other (e.g., Internet).

- Synchronous Systems:
Agents need to synchronize (e.g., phone calls).
- Mobile Systems:
Agents can change their communication links (e.g., *mobile phones*).
- **Timed Systems:**
Agents are constrained by timed requirements. (e.g., people at a company, music performance, micro-controllers).

Motivation: Our Goal

A CCP model for **describing and analyzing** timed systems.

- **Timed Systems** involve:
 - ▷ **constraints specifying** concurrent behavior
 - ▷ **partial information**
 - ▷ **specific domains** applications
- **CCP** used for:
 - ▷ **specifying** concurrency via **constraints**
 - ▷ manipulating **partial information**
 - ▷ defining **domain specific** programming languages.

The model we developed is the **ntcc calculus**; the subject of this talk.

Other models: Guidelines

- Models **confine** themselves to specific computational phenomena

E.g. The π calculus: *mobility* and *synchronous* communication.

- Models must be **simple, expressive, formal** and provide **techniques**.

E.g. The π calculus:

- ▷ **simple** idea of naming,
- ▷ full **expressive** power,
- ▷ **formal** process theory,
- ▷ bisimulation **techniques**.

- Modern models often arise as **generalizations (or extensions)** of mature models.

E.g., The π calculus: a **generalization** of CCS.

Our Model: The ntcc calculus.

- ntcc **confines** itself to timed systems where:
computation evolves in *discrete time intervals* (*or time units*).
- ntcc is **simple, expressive, formal and provide techniques**.
 - ▷ Simple ideas from concurrency and temporal logic.
 - ▷ It expresses interesting real-world temporal situations.
 - ▷ Formalization upon process algebra and logic.
 - ▷ Techniques from a denotational semantics and process logic.
- ntcc arises as a **generalization of tcc** (Saraswat et al, 94).
Extends the computational model of tcc to allow for nondeterminism and asynchrony.

Models for Concurrency: Key Issues Addressed.

- **Which process constructs fit the intended phenomena?**
E.g. atomic actions, parallelism, nondeterminism, hiding, recursion, etc.
- **How should these constructs be endowed with meaning ?**
E.g. Operational, denotational, or algebraic semantics
- **How should processes be compared ?**
E.g. Observable Behavior, process equivalences, congruences and their (un)decidability.
- **How should process properties be specified and proved ?**
E.g. Logic for expressing process specifications (Hennessy-Milner Logic)
- **How expressive are the constructs ?**
E.g., for the π calculus: Asynchronous vs. synchronous version.

Our Model: Key Issues Addressed.

- **Which process constructs fit discrete-timed systems?**
Nondeterminism, replication, unbounded delays, unit delays and time-outs.
- **How are these constructs given meaning ?**
Operational and Denotational Semantics.
- **How are ntcc processes compared ?**
Behavioral equivalences, associated congruences and their (un)decidability.
- **How are ntcc process properties specified and proved ?**
E.g., Process Logic and associated proof system.
- **How expressive are the ntcc constructs ?**
E.g., Expressive power hierarchy of variations of ntcc.

Our Model: The main benefit.

ntcc combines the **declarative** view of *temporal logic* with the **operational-behavioral** view from *process calculi*. Thus, it benefits from two well-established approaches in concurrency theory.

“... *One of the outstanding challenges in concurrency is to find the right marriage between **logic** and **behavioural** approaches*”. R. Milner.

General Contributions

1. A simple yet expressive **model** for timed systems.
2. Extending the **operational & temporal logic** interpretation of processes.
3. Adapting to CCP **techniques** used in **concurrency theory**
4. Using ntcc theory to study **pre-existing** CCP Languages:
 - *First Temp. CCP expressive-power hierarchy*
 - *(Un)Decidability results for their equivalences.*

That is, our work **extends** and **strengthens** the **CCP** theory of concurrency.

The Rest of this Talk: Overview of our work

Agenda

- ▷ CCP Intuitions.
- ▷ Ntcc intuitions.
- ▷ Operational Semantics.
- ▷ Denotational Semantics.
- ▷ Logic and Proof System.
- ▷ Applications.
- ▷ Behavioral equivalences, congruences and their decidability.
- ▷ Hierarchy of temporal CCP languages and (un)decidability of their equivalences.

CCP Intuitions: A Typical CCP Scenario



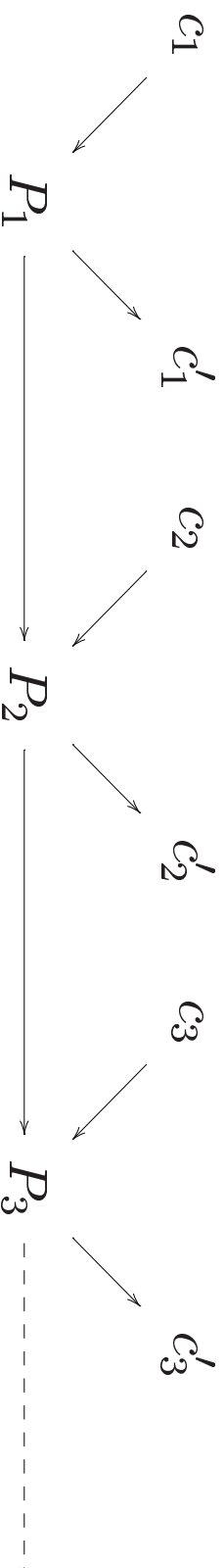
- **Partial Information** (e.g. temperature is some *unknown* value > 20).
- **Concurrent Execution** of Processes.
- **Synchronization** via Blocking-Ask.

CCP Intuitions: Representing Partial Information

Definition. A **constraint system** consists of a signature Σ and first-order theory Δ over Σ .

- **Constraints** a, b, c, \dots : formulae over Σ .
- **Relation** \vdash_{Δ} : decidable entailment relation between constraints.
- \mathcal{C} : set of constraints under consideration.

Ntcc Intuitions: Systems that Concern us



- **Stimulus** c_i : input information for P_i .
- **Response** c'_i : output information of P_i .
- **Stimulus-Response** duration: **time interval** (or **time unit**).

Examples: Programmable Logic Controllers (PLC's), LEGO RCX bricks and micro-controllers in general.

Ntcc Syntax : Basic tcc Processes

Processes	Description	Action within the time interval
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • tell(c) 	telling information	add c to the store
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • when c do P 	asking information	when c in the store execute P
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • local x in P 	hiding	execute P with local x
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • next P 	unit-delay	delay P one time unit.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • unless c next P 	time-out	unless c now in the store do P next
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • $P \parallel Q$ 	parallelism	execute P and Q

Ntcc Additional Basic Processes

- **Non Deterministic Behavior:** $\sum_{i \in I} \text{when } c_i \text{ do } P_i$

Guarded Choice.

- **Asynchronous Behavior:** $\star P$

Unbounded but finite delay of P

- **Infinite Behavior:** $!P$

Unboundedly many copies of P , one at a time: $P \parallel \text{next } P \parallel \text{next}^2 P \parallel \dots$

Some Derived Constructs

- **Inactivity:** $\text{skip} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i \in \emptyset} P_i$

$$P \parallel \text{skip} = P.$$

- **Abortion:** $\text{abort} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} !(\text{tell}(\text{false}))$

$$P \parallel \text{abort} = \text{abort}.$$

- **Fair asynchronous parallel:** $P \mid Q \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\star P \parallel Q) + (P \parallel \star Q)$

$$P \mid Q = Q \mid P \quad \text{and} \quad P \mid (Q \mid R) = (P \mid Q) \mid R.$$

- **Bounded ! and \star :** $!_I P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \prod_{i \in I} \text{next}^i P$ and $\star_I P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_{i \in I} \text{next}^i P$

Power Saver Example

▷ **A power saver :**

```
!(unless (lights = off) next ★ tell(lights = off))
```

▷ **A refined power saver :**

```
!(unless (lights = off) next ★[0,60] tell(lights = off))
```

▷ **A more refined one; deterministic power saver:**

```
!(unless (lights = off) next tell(lights = off))
```

Operational Semantics

▷ **Internal Transitions:**

$$RT \frac{}{\langle \text{tell}(c), a \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \text{skip}, a \wedge c \rangle}$$

$$RG \frac{a \vdash c_j}{\langle \sum_{i \in I} \text{when } c_i \text{ do } P_i, a \rangle \longrightarrow \langle P_j, a \rangle}$$

$$RB \frac{}{\langle !P, a \rangle \longrightarrow \langle P \parallel \text{next} !P, a \rangle}$$

$$RS \frac{}{\langle \star P, a \rangle \longrightarrow \langle \text{next}^n P, a \rangle} \quad (n \geq 0)$$

▷ **Observable Transition**

$$RO \frac{\langle P, a \rangle \longrightarrow^* \langle Q, a' \rangle \not\rightarrow}{P \xrightarrow{(a, a')} \mathbf{F}(Q)} = \begin{cases} Q' & \text{if } Q = \text{next } Q' \\ Q' & \text{if } Q = \text{unless } (c) \text{ next } Q' \\ \mathbf{F}(Q_1) \parallel \mathbf{F}(Q_2) & \text{if } Q = Q_1 \parallel Q_2 \\ \text{local } x \text{ in } \mathbf{F}(Q') & \text{if } Q = \text{local } x \text{ in } Q' \\ \text{skip} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

Observations to Make of Processes

▷ Stimulus-response interaction

$$P = P_1 \xrightarrow{(c_1, c'_1)} P_2 \xrightarrow{(c_2, c'_2)} P_3 \xrightarrow{(c_3, c'_3)} \dots$$

denoted by $P \xrightarrow{(\alpha, \alpha')} \omega$ with $\alpha = c_1.c_2 \dots$ and $\alpha' = c'_1.c'_2 \dots$

Observable Behavior

- ▷ **Input-Output** $io(P) = \{(\alpha, \alpha') \mid P \xrightarrow{(\alpha, \alpha')} \omega\}$
- ▷ **Output** $o(P) = \{\alpha' \mid P \xrightarrow{(\text{true}^\omega, \alpha')} \omega\}$
- ▷ **Strongest Postcondition** $sp(P) = \{\alpha' \mid P \xrightarrow{(-, \alpha')} \omega\}$

Strongest-Postcondition Denotational Semantics

$$\llbracket \text{tell}(a) \rrbracket = \{c \cdot \alpha \in C^\omega : c \vdash a, \}$$

$$\llbracket P \parallel Q \rrbracket = \llbracket P \rrbracket \cap \llbracket Q \rrbracket$$

$$\llbracket !P \rrbracket = \{ \alpha : \text{for all } \beta \in C^*, \alpha' \in C^\omega : \alpha = \beta \cdot \alpha' \text{ implies } \alpha' \in \llbracket P \rrbracket \}$$

$$\llbracket \star P \rrbracket = \{ \beta \cdot \alpha : \beta \in C^*, \alpha \in \llbracket P \rrbracket \}$$

$$\llbracket \sum_{i \in I} \text{when}(a_i) \text{ do } P_i \rrbracket = \bigcup_{i \in I} \{ c \cdot \alpha : c \vdash a_i \text{ and } c \cdot \alpha \in \llbracket P_i \rrbracket \} \cup \left(\bigcap_{i \in I} \{ c \cdot \alpha : c \not\vdash a_i, \alpha \in C^\omega \} \right)$$

Definition. P is **locally-independent** iff its guards depend on no local variables.

Theorem. $sp(P) \subseteq \llbracket P \rrbracket$ and, if P is a locally-independent, $sp(P) = \llbracket P \rrbracket$

A Logic à la Pnueli for ntcc

Syntax. $A ::= c \mid A \wedge A \mid \neg A \mid \exists_x A \mid \circ A \mid \diamond A \mid \square A$

Semantics. Say $\alpha \models A$ iff $\langle \alpha, 1 \rangle \models A$ where

$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models c$	iff	$\alpha(i) \vdash c$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models \neg A$	iff	$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \not\models A$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models A_1 \wedge A_2$	iff	$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models A_1$ and $\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models A_2$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models \circ A$	iff	$\langle \alpha, i + 1 \rangle \models A$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models \square A$	iff	for all $j \geq i$ $\langle \alpha, j \rangle \models A$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models \diamond A$	iff	there exists $j \geq i$ s.t. $\langle \alpha, j \rangle \models A$
$\langle \alpha, i \rangle \models \exists_x A$	iff	there is α' x -variant of α s.t. $\langle \alpha', i \rangle \models A$.

Collection of all models: $\llbracket A \rrbracket = \{\alpha \mid \alpha \models A\}$

Satisfaction: $P \models A$ iff $sp(P) \subseteq \llbracket A \rrbracket$ (i.e., all outputs of P satisfy A)

Proof System for $P \models A$

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{tell}(c) \vdash c \text{ (tell)} \\
 \\
 \frac{P \vdash A \quad Q \vdash B}{P \parallel Q \vdash A \wedge B} \text{ (par)} \qquad \frac{P \vdash A}{\text{local } x \text{ in } P \vdash \exists_x A} \text{ (hide)} \\
 \\
 \frac{P \vdash A}{\text{next } P \vdash \bigcirc A} \text{ (next)} \\
 \\
 \frac{P \vdash A}{!P \vdash \square A} \text{ (rep)} \qquad \frac{P \vdash A}{\star P \vdash \diamond A} \text{ (star)} \\
 \\
 \frac{\forall i \in I \ P_i \vdash A_i}{\sum_{i \in I} \text{when } c_i \text{ do } P_i \vdash \bigvee_{i \in I} (c_i \wedge A_i) \vee \bigwedge_{i \in I} \neg c_i} \text{ (sum)} \\
 \\
 \frac{P \vdash A \quad A \Rightarrow B}{P \vdash B} \text{ (rel)}
 \end{array}$$

Theorem. (*Completeness*) For every P, A

- ▷ $P \vdash A$ implies $P \models A$ and
- ▷ $P \models A$ implies $P \vdash A$, if P is locally-independent.

Applications: Cells

- **Cell** $x : (v)$ denotes a cell x with contents v .

$$x : (z) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{tell}(x = z) \parallel \text{unless change}(x) \text{ next } x : (z)$$

- The **exchange** operation $exch_f(x, y)$ models $y := x ; x := f(x)$.

$$exch_f(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \sum_v \text{when } (x = v) \text{ do } (\quad \text{tell}(\text{change}(x)) \quad \parallel \quad \text{tell}(\text{change}(y)) \quad \parallel \quad \text{next}(x : f(v)) \quad \parallel \quad y : (v))$$

Example. $x : (3) \parallel y : (5) \parallel exch_7(x, y) \xrightarrow{\quad} x : (7) \parallel y : (3)$.

Applications: Logic & Proof System at Work

Proposition.

$$\boxed{exch_f(x, y) \vdash (x = v) \Rightarrow \text{O}(x = f(v) \wedge y = v)}.$$

$$\begin{array}{c} \frac{\frac{\frac{x : (g(w)) \vdash x = g(w)}{Pr.1} \quad \frac{y : (w) \vdash y = w}{Pr.1}}{x : (g(w)) \parallel y : (w) \vdash x = g(w) \wedge y = w} \text{LPAR}}{\frac{\text{next}(x : (g(w)) \parallel y : (w)) \vdash \text{O}(x = g(w) \wedge y = w)}{\text{LNEXT}}} \\ \frac{\text{tell}(\text{change}(x)) \parallel \text{tell}(\text{change}(y)) \parallel \text{next}(x : f(w) \parallel y : (w)) \vdash \text{O}(x = g(w) \wedge y = w)}{\text{Lem. (3)}} \\ \frac{\frac{\frac{exch_f(x, y) \vdash \dot{\bigvee}_{w \in \mathcal{D}} (x = w \dot{\wedge} \text{O}(x = g(w) \wedge y = w)) \dot{\bigvee}_{w \in \mathcal{D}} \dot{\bigwedge} \dot{\neg} x = w}{LCONS}}{exch_f(x, y) \vdash \dot{\bigwedge}_{w \in \mathcal{D}} (x = w \Rightarrow \text{O}(x = g(w) \wedge y = w))} \text{LCONS}}{exch_f(x, y) \vdash (x = v \Rightarrow \text{O}(x = g(v) \wedge y = v))} \text{LCONS} \end{array}$$

Applications: LEGO Zigzagging

Specification. Go forward (*f*), right (*r*) or left (*l*) but DO NOT go:

- ▷ *f* if preceding action was *f*,
- ▷ *r* if second-to-last action was *r*, and
- ▷ *l* if second-to-last action was *l*.

<i>GoForward</i>	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$f_{exch}(act_1, act_2) \parallel \mathbf{tell}(\text{forward})$
<i>GoRight</i>	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$r_{exch}(act_1, act_2) \parallel \mathbf{tell}(\text{right})$
<i>GoLeft</i>	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$l_{exch}(act_1, act_2) \parallel \mathbf{tell}(\text{left})$
<i>Zigzag</i>	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$($ $\mathbf{when}(act_1 \neq f) \mathbf{do} \textit{GoForward}$ $+ \mathbf{when}(act_2 \neq r) \mathbf{do} \textit{GoRight}$ $+ \mathbf{when}(act_2 \neq l) \mathbf{do} \textit{GoLeft})$ \parallel $\mathbf{next} \textit{Zigzag}$
<i>StartZigzag</i>	$\stackrel{\text{def}}{=}$	$act_1:(0) \parallel act_2:(0) \parallel \textit{Zigzag}$

Proposition. $StartZigzag \vdash \Box(\Diamond \text{right} \wedge \Diamond \text{left})$

Behavioral Equivalences

Definition. Let $l \in \{o, io, sp\}$. Define $P \sim_l Q$ iff $l(P) = l(Q)$.

But neither \sim_{io} nor \sim_o are congruences. Let \approx_{io} and \approx_o be the corresponding congruences.

Theorem. $\approx_{io} = \approx_o \subset \sim_{io} \subset \sim_o$.

Distinguishing Context Characterizations

Theorem. Let $\sim \in \{\sim_o, \sim_{io}, \sim_{sp}\}$. One can construct contexts $U[\cdot]$ and $C_{\sim}^{(P,Q)}[\cdot]$ such that for all P, Q :

- ▷ $P \sim_o Q$ iff $U[P] \sim_o U[Q]$ (for finite set of constraints).
- ▷ $P \sim Q$ iff $C_{\sim}^{(P,Q)}[P] \sim_o C_{\sim}^{(P,Q)}[Q]$.

- Interesting consequence of the theorem:

Decidability of all \sim_{io} , \sim_{sp} , \sim_o and \sim_{io} reduce to that of \sim_o .

- Interesting result introduced for the proof of the theorem:

Given P one can **construct a finite set** including all relevant inputs.

Behavioral Equivalence: Decidability.

Definition. A star-free P is **locally-deterministic** iff all its summations occur outside of its local processes.

Theorem. Given a locally-deterministic P one can effectively construct a Büchi automaton B_P that recognizes $\mathcal{O}(P)$.

As a corollary,

Theorem. $\approx_0, \approx_{io}, \sim_{io}, \sim_{sp}$ **are all decidable** for locally-deterministic processes.

Variants and their Expressive Power

Deterministic ntcc with the following alternatives for
infinite behavior.

- **tccl[Rec]**

Recursive definitions $A(x_1, \dots, x_n) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P$ with $fv(P) \subseteq \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$.

- **tccl[Rec, Identical Parameters]**

As above but every call of A in P is of the form $A(x_1, \dots, x_n)$.

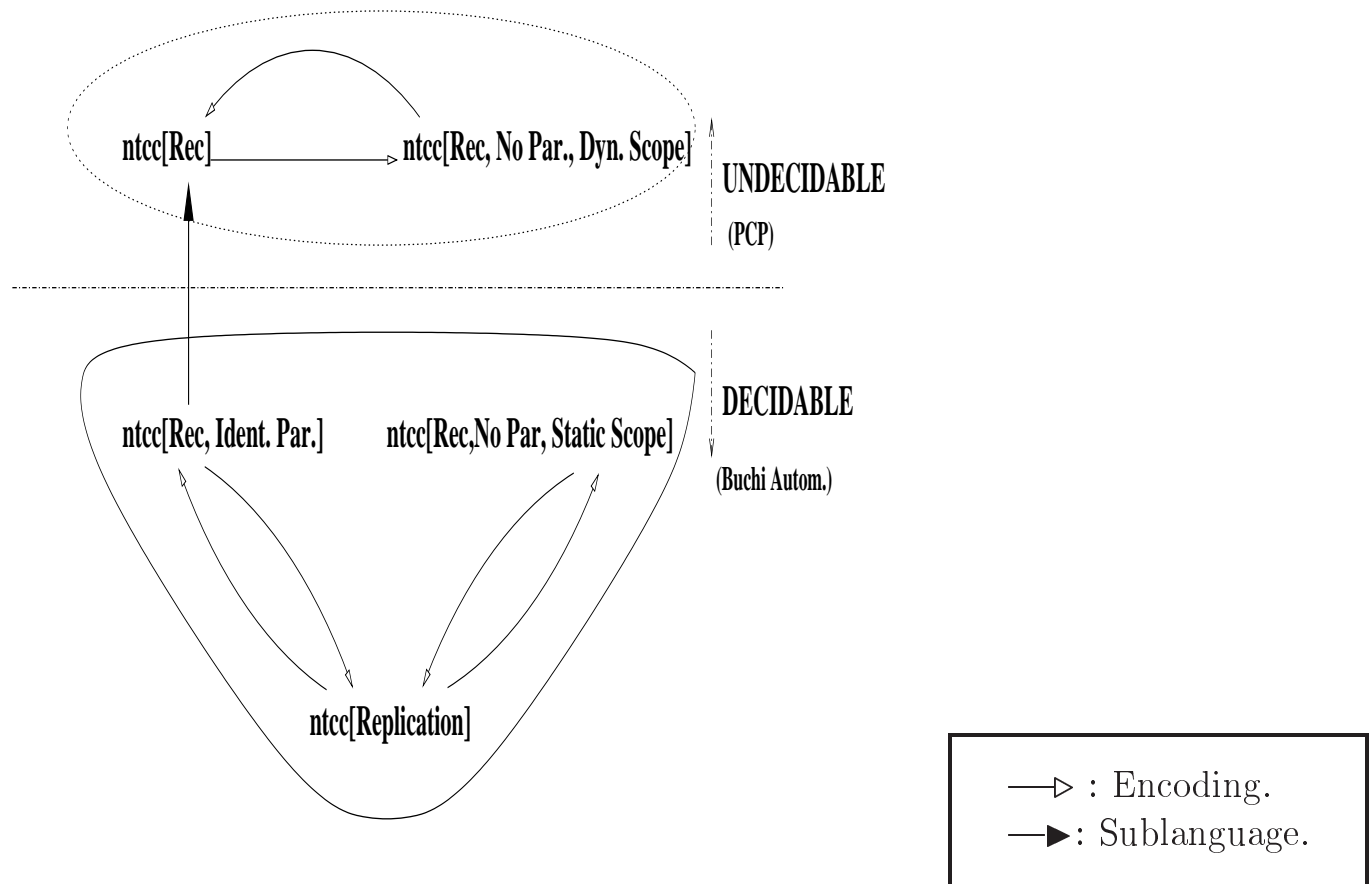
- **tccl[Rec, No Parameters, Dyn. Scoping]**

Recursive definitions $A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P$ with Dynamic Scoping

- **tccl[Rec, No Parameters, Static Scoping]**

Recursive definitions $A \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} P$ with Static Scoping.

TCC Hierarchy and \sim_{io} (un)decidability.



- The results clarify conjectures made in the literature.
- Qualitative distinction between dynamic and static scope.
- The results involve FSA, PCP, Encodings and Bisimulations.
- The results have inspired similar results for CCS.

Remarks and Future Work

We have presented

- ▷ ntcc; a calculus for discrete timed systems.
- ▷ Denotation, linear-time logic and proof system for ntcc.
- ▷ Examples illustrating the applicability of the calculus.
- ▷ Equivalences, congruence and (un)decidability results.
- ▷ Hierarchy of temporal CCP languages

Current and Future Work

- ▷ (Un)decidability results for the full calculus and process logic.
- ▷ Branching temporal logic for the calculus.
- ▷ Probabilistic extension of ntcc.
- ▷ Programming language for RCX controllers based on ntcc.
- ▷ *The role of ntcc (and CCP) in modeling security protocols.*

Paper Contributions.

- **Book Chapter.**

1. M. Nielsen and F. Valencia. *Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming: Applications and Behavior*. Formal and Natural Computing: Essays Dedicated to Grzegorz Rozenberg. Springer, LNCS 2300. 2002.

- **Journal article.**

2. M. Nielsen, C. Palamidessi and F. Valencia. *Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming: Denotation, Logic and Applications*. Nordic Journal of Computing, Vol. 9. 2002.

- **Proceedings of International Conferences.**

3. M, Nielsen, C. Palamidessi and F. Valencia. *On the Expressive Power of Concurrent Constraint Programming Languages*. In Proc. of PPDP 2002. ACM Press. 2002.

4. C. Rueda and F. Valencia. *Proving musical properties using a temporal concurrent constraint calculus*. In Proc. of ICMC 2002. ICMC 2002.

5. F. Valencia. *Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming* (Ext. Abstract). In Proc. of CP2001. Springer-Verlag, LNCS 2239. 2001.
6. C. Palamidessi and F. Valencia. *A Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming Calculus*. In Proc. of CP2001. Springer-Verlag, LNCS 2239. 2001.
- **Workshops and Newsletters.**
 7. Mogens Nielsen and Frank D. Valencia. *Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming: A Framework for Discrete-Timed Systems*. Vol 15 n. 4 of the Association for Logic Programming (ALP) Newsletter. 2003
 8. Camilo Rueda and Frank D. Valencia. *Formalizing Timed Musical Processes with a Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming Calculus*. CP2001.
 9. Mogens Nielsen, Catuscia Palamidessi and Frank D. Valencia. *A Calculus for Temporal Concurrent Constraint Programming*. EXPRESS'01. 2001.

Examples of Observables

$$\underbrace{\text{when } a \text{ do next} + \text{when } b \text{ do next tell}(d) + \text{when } c \text{ do next tell}(e)}_P, \underbrace{\text{when } a \text{ do next when } b \text{ do next tell}(d) + \text{when } a \text{ do next when } c \text{ do next tell}(e)}_Q$$

Assuming a, b, c, d and e mutually exclusive:

- $o(P) = o(Q) = \{\text{true}^\omega\}$.
- $io(P) \neq io(Q)$: If $\alpha = a.c.\text{true}^\omega$ then $(\alpha, \alpha) \in io(Q)$ but $(\alpha, \alpha) \notin io(P)$
- $sp(P) \neq sp(Q)$: If $\alpha = a.c.\text{true}^\omega$ then $\alpha \in sp(Q)$ but $\alpha \notin sp(P)$.