Model Checking for π-Calculus Using Proof Search

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Abstract. Model checking for transition systems specified in π-calculus has been a difficult problem due to the infinite-branching nature of input prefix, name-restriction and scope extrusion. We propose here an approach to model checking for π-calculus by encoding it into a logic which supports reasoning about bindings and fixed points. This logic, called $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$, is a conservative extension of Church's Simple Theory of Types with a "generic" quantifier. By encoding judgments about transitions in pi-calculus into this logic, various conditions on the scoping of names and restrictions on name instantiations are captured naturally by the quantification theory of the logic. Moreover, standard implementation techniques for (higher-order) logic programming are applicable for implementing proof search for this logic, as illustrated in a prototype implementation discussed in this paper. The use of logic variables and eigenvariables in the implementation allows for exploring the state space of processes in a symbolic way. Compositionality of properties of the transitions is a simple consequence of the meta theory of the logic (i.e., cut elimination). We illustrate the benefits of specifying systems in this logic by studying several specifications of modal logics for pi-calculus. These specifications are also executable directly in the prototype implementation of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$.

1 Introduction

The π-calculus [16] provides a simple yet powerful framework for specifying communication systems with evolving communication structures. Its expressiveness derives mainly from the possibility of passing communication channels (names), restricting the scope of channels and scope extrusion. These are precisely the features that make model checking for π-calculus difficult. Model checking has traditionally been done with transitions which have finite state models. The name passing feature alone (input prefix) in π-calculus would yield infinite-branching transition systems, if implemented naively. Scope and scope extrusion add another significant layer of complexity, since in model checking the transition systems one has to take into account the exact scope and identity of various channel names. This is a problem which has been studied extensively,

of course, due to the importance of π-calculus. A non-exhaustive list of existing works includes the work on *history dependent automata* [6] model of mobile processes, specific programming logics and decision procedures for model checking mobile processes [3, 4], the spatial logic model checker [2] using Gabbay-Pitts permutation techniques [7], and implementation using logic programming [27].

The approach to model checking π-caculus (or mobile processes in general) taken in this paper is based on the proof theory of sequent calculus, by casting the problem of reasoning about scoping and name-instantiation into the more general setting of proof theory for quantifiers in formal logic. More specifically, we encode judgments about transitions in π-calculus and several modal logics for π-calculus [17] into a meta logic, and proof search is used to model the operational semantics of these judgments. This meta logic, called $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ [15], is an extension of Church's Simple Theory of Types (but without quantification over propositions, so the logic is essentially first-order) with a proof theoretical notion of *definitions* [22] and a new "generic" quantifier, ∇. The quantifier ∇, roughly summarized, facilitates reasoning about binders (more details will be given later). We summarize our approach as follows.

λ-tree syntax. We use the λ-tree syntax [14] to encode syntax with bindings. It is a variant of higher-order abstract syntax, where syntax of arbitrary system is encoded as λ-terms and the λ-abstraction is used to encode bindings within expressions. One of the advantages of adopting λ-tree syntax, or higher-order abstract syntax in general, is that all the side conditions involving bindings such as scoping of variables, α-conversion, etc., are handled uniformly at the level of the abstract syntax, using the known notions in λ-calculus. Another one is that efficient implementation techniques for manipulating this abstract syntax are well-understood, e.g., algorithms for doing pattern-matching and unification of simply typed λ-terms.

Definitional reflection. Proof search in traditional logics, e.g., variants of Gentzen's LJ or LK, is limited to model the *may-behaviour* of computation system. *Must-behaviour*, eg., notions like bisimulations, or in the interest of this paper, satisfiability of modal formulae, cannot be expressed directly in these logics. To encode such notions, it is necessary to move to a richer logic. Recent developments in the proof theory of *definitions* [10, 11] have shown that must-behaviour can indeed be captured in logics extended with this proof-theoretical notion of definitions. In a logic with definitions, an atomic proposition may be "defined" by another formula (which may contain the atomic proposition itself). Thus, a definition can be seen as expressing a fixed point equation. Proof search for a defined atomic formula is done by unfolding the definition of the formula. In the logic with definitions used in this paper, a provable formula like $\forall x.px \supset qx$, where p and q are some defined predicates, expresses the fact that for every term t and for every proof (computation) of pt, there is a proof (computation) of qt. If p and q are predicates encoding one-step transitions, then this formula expresses one-step simulation. If q is an encoding of some assertion in modal logics, then the formula expresses the fact that the modal assertion is true for all reachable "next states" associated with the transition relation encoded by p.

Eigenvariables and ∇. In proof search for a universal quantified formula, e.g., $\forall x.Bx$, the quantified variable x is replaced by a new constant c, and proof search is continued on Bc. Such constants are called *eigenvariables*, and in traditional intuitionistic or classical logic, they play the role of scoped constants as they are created dynamically as proof search progresses and are not instantiated during the proof search. In the meta theory of the logic, eigenvariables play the role of place holder for values, since from a proof for Bc where c is an eigenvariable, one can obtain a proof of Bt for any term t by substituting t into c. In the proof theory of definitions, these dual roles of eigenvariables are internalized in the proof rules of the logic. In particular, in unfolding a definition in a negative context (left-hand side of a sequent), eigenvariables are treated as variables, and in the positive context they are treated as scoped constants. Computation (or transition) states can be encoded using eigenvariables. This in conjunction with definitions allows for exploring the state space of a transition system symbolically.

Since eigenvariables are not used here entirely as scoped constants, to account for scoped names we make use of the ∇-quantifier, first introduced in the logic $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ [15], to help encode the notion of "generic judgment" that occurs commonly when reasoning with λ-tree syntax. The ∇ quantifier is used to introduce new elements into a type within a given scope. In particular, a reading of the truth condition for $\nabla x_\gamma.Bx$ is something like: if given a new element, say c, of type γ, then check the truth of Bc. The difference between ∇ and $\forall$ appears in their interaction with definition rules: the constants introduced by ∇ are not subject to instantiation. Note that intended meaning of the ∇-quantifier is rather different from the "new" quantifier of Gabbay and Pitts [7], although they both address the same issue from a pragmatic point of view. In particular, in Gabbay-Pitts setting, an infinite number of names is assumed to be given, and equality between two names are decidable. In our approach here, no such assumption is made concerning the type of names, not even the assumption that they are non-empty. Instead, new names are generated dynamically when needed, such as when inferring a transition involving extrusion of scopes.

An implementation of proof search. Proof search for $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ can be implemented quite straightforwardly, using only the standard tools and techniques used in higher-order logic programming and theorem provers. An automated proof search engine for a fragment of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ has been implemented [24]. It was essentially done by plugging together different existing implementation: higher-order pattern unification [12, 18], stream-based approach to back-tracking, and parser for λ-terms. On top of this prototype implementation several specifications of process calculi and bisimulation have been implemented.[1] In most cases, the specifications are implemented almost without any modifications (except for the type-setting of course). The specification of modal logics has also been implemented in this prototype.

Outline of the papers. The rest of the paper is organized as follows. In Section 2, an overview of the meta logic $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ is given. This is followed by the

[1] The prototype implementation along with the example specifications can be downloaded from the author's website: http://www.loria.fr/~tiu.

specification of the operational semantics of late π-calculus in Section 3. The materials in these two sections have appeared in [15, 26]; they are included here since the main results of this paper are built on them. Section 4 presents the specification of modal logics along with the adequacy results. Section 5 gives an overview of a prototype implementation of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ in which the specification of modal logics is implemented. These two sections constitute the main contribution of this paper. Section 6 discusses related and future work. An extended version of this paper containing detailed proofs is available on the web.

2 Overview of the meta logic

The logic $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ (pronounced "fold-nabla") is presented using a sequent calculus that is an extension of Gentzen's system LJ for first-order intuitionistic logic. A *sequent* is an expression of the form $B_1, \ldots, B_n \vdash B_0$ where $B_0, \ldots, B_n$ are formulas and the elongated turnstile $\vdash$ is the sequent arrow. To the left of the turnstile is a multiset: thus repeated occurrences of a formula are allowed. If the formulas $B_0, \ldots, B_n$ contain free variables, they are considered universally quantified outside the sequent, in the sense that if the above sequent is provable than every instance of it is also provable. In proof theoretical terms, such free variables are called *eigenvariables*.

A first attempt at using sequent calculus to capture judgments about the π-calculus could be to use eigenvariables to encode names in π-calculus, but this is certainly problematic. For example, if we have a proof for the sequent $\vdash Pxy$, where x and y are different eigenvariables, then logic dictates that the sequent $\vdash Pzz$ is also provable (given that the reading of eigenvariables is universal). If the judgment P is about, say, bisimulation, then it is not likely that a statement about bisimulation involving two different names x and y remains true if they are identified to the same name z.

To address this problem, the logic $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ extends sequents with a new notion of "local scope" for proof-level bound variables (originally motivated in [15] to encode "generic judgments"). In particular, sequents in $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ are of the form

$$\Sigma\,;\, \sigma_1 \triangleright B_1, \ldots, \sigma_n \triangleright B_n \vdash \sigma_0 \triangleright B_0$$

where Σ is a *global signature*, i.e., the set of eigenvariables whose scope is over the whole sequent, and σ_i is a *local signature*, i.e., a list of variables scoped over B_i. We shall consider sequents to be binding structures in the sense that the signatures, both the global and local ones, are abstractions over their respective scopes. The variables in Σ and σ_i will admit α-conversion by systematically changing the names of variables in signatures as well as those in their scope, following the usual convention of the λ-calculus. The meaning of eigenvariables is as before, only that now instantiation of eigenvariables has to be capture-avoiding, with respect to the local signatures. The variables in local signatures act as locally scoped *generic constants*, that is, they do not vary in proofs since they will not be instantiated. The expression $\sigma \triangleright B$ is called a *generic judgment* or simply a *judgment*. We use script letters $\mathcal{A}$, $\mathcal{B}$, etc. to denote judgments. We

write simply B instead of $\sigma \triangleright B$ if the signature σ is empty. We shall often write the list σ as a string of variables, e.g., a judgment $(x_1, x_2, x_3) \triangleright B$ will be written as $x_1x_2x_3 \triangleright B$. If the list x_1, x_2, x_3 is known from context we shall also abbreviate the judgment as $\bar{x} \triangleright B$.

The logical constants of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ are $\forall$ (universal quantifier), $\exists$ (existential quantifier), ∇, $\wedge$ (conjunction), $\vee$ (disjunction), $\supset$ (implication), $\top$ (true) and $\bot$ (false). The inference rules for the quantifiers are given in Figure 1. The complete set of inference rules can be found in [15]. Since we do not allow quantification over predicates, this logic is proof-theoretically similar to first-order logic (hence, the letters FO in $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$).

$$\frac{\Sigma, \sigma \vdash t : \gamma \qquad \Sigma\,;\, \sigma \triangleright B[t/x], \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}{\Sigma\,;\, \sigma \triangleright \forall_\gamma x.B, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}\ \forall\mathcal{L} \qquad \frac{\Sigma, h\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \sigma \triangleright B[(h\ \sigma)/x]}{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \sigma \triangleright \forall x.B}\ \forall\mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma, h\,;\, \sigma \triangleright B[(h\ \sigma)/x], \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}{\Sigma\,;\, \sigma \triangleright \exists x.B, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}\ \exists\mathcal{L} \qquad \frac{\Sigma, \sigma \vdash t : \gamma \qquad \Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \sigma \triangleright B[t/x]}{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \sigma \triangleright \exists_\gamma x.B}\ \exists\mathcal{R}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma\,;\, (\sigma, y) \triangleright B[y/x], \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}{\Sigma\,;\, \sigma \triangleright \nabla x\ B, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}\ \nabla\mathcal{L} \qquad \frac{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash (\sigma, y) \triangleright B[y/x]}{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \sigma \triangleright \nabla x\ B}\ \nabla\mathcal{R}$$

Fig. 1. The quantifier rules of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$.

During the search for proofs (reading rules bottom up), inference rules for $\forall$ and $\exists$ quantifier place new eigenvariables into the global signature while the inference rules for ∇ place them into the local signature. In the $\forall\mathcal{R}$ and $\exists\mathcal{L}$ rules, raising [13] is used when moving the bound variable x, which can range over the variables in both the global signature and the local signature σ, with the variable h that can only range over variables in the global signature: so as not to miss substitution terms, the variable x is replaced by the term $(h\, x_1 \ldots x_n)$, which we shall write simply as $(h\, \sigma)$, where σ is the list $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ (h must not be free in the lower sequent of these rules). In $\forall\mathcal{L}$ and $\exists\mathcal{R}$, the term t can have free variables from both Σ and σ. This is presented in the rule by the typing judgment $\Sigma, \sigma \vdash t : \tau$. The $\nabla\mathcal{L}$ and $\nabla\mathcal{R}$ rules have the proviso that y is not free in $\nabla x\ B$.

The standard inference rules of logic express introduction rules for logical constants. The full logic $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ additionally allows introduction of atomic judgments, that is, judgments which do not contain any occurrences of logical constants. To each atomic judgment, $\mathcal{A}$, we associate a defining judgment, $\mathcal{B}$, the *definition* of $\mathcal{A}$. The introduction rule for the judgment $\mathcal{A}$ is in effect done by replacing $\mathcal{A}$ with $\mathcal{B}$ during proof search. This notion of definitions is an extension of work by Schroeder-Heister [22], Eriksson [5], Girard [8], Stärk [23] and McDowell and Miller [10]. These inference rules for definitions allow for modest reasoning about the fixed points of definitions.

Definition 1. *A* definition clause *is written* $\forall \bar{x}[p\,\bar{t} \stackrel{\triangle}{=} B]$*, where* p *is a predicate constant, every free variable of the formula* B *is also free in at least one term in the list* $\bar{t}$ *of terms, and all variables free in* $p\,\bar{t}$ *are contained in the list* $\bar{x}$ *of variables. The atomic formula* $p\,\bar{t}$ *is called the* head *of the clause, and the formula* B *is called the* body*. The symbol* $\stackrel{\triangle}{=}$ *is used simply to indicate a definitional clause: it is not a logical connective. The predicate* p *occurs strictly positively in* B*, that is, it does not occur to the left of any* $\supset$ *(implication).*

Let $\forall_{\tau_1} x_1 \ldots \forall_{\tau_n} x_n.H \stackrel{\triangle}{=} B$ *be a definition clause. Let* $y_1, \ldots, y_m$ *be a list of variables of types* $\alpha_1, \ldots, \alpha_m$*, respectively. The* raised definition clause *of* H *with respect to the signature* $\{y_1 : \alpha_1, \ldots, y_m : \alpha_m\}$ *is defined as*

$$\forall h_1 \ldots \forall h_n.\bar{y} \triangleright H\theta \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \bar{y} \triangleright B\theta$$

where θ *is the substitution* $[(h_1\,\bar{y})/x_1, \ldots, (h_n\,\bar{y})/x_n]$ *and* h_i*, for every* $i \in \{1, \ldots, n\}$*, is of type* $\alpha_1 \to \ldots \to \alpha_m \to \tau_i$*. A* definition *is a set of definition clauses together with their raised clauses.*

The introduction rules for a defined judgment are as follow. When applying the introduction rules, we shall omit the outer quantifiers in a definition clause and assume implicitly that the free variables in the definition clause are distinct from other variables in the sequent.

$$\frac{\{\Sigma\theta\,;\, \mathcal{B}\theta, \Gamma\theta \vdash \mathcal{C}\theta \mid \theta \in CSU(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H}) \text{ for some clause } \mathcal{H} \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \mathcal{B}\}}{\Sigma\,;\, \mathcal{A}, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{C}}\ def\mathcal{L}$$

$$\frac{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{B}\theta}{\Sigma\,;\, \Gamma \vdash \mathcal{A}}\ def R, \quad \text{where } \mathcal{H} \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \mathcal{B} \text{ is a definition clause and } \mathcal{H}\theta = \mathcal{A}$$

In the above rules, we apply substitution to judgments. The result of applying a substitution θ to a generic judgment $x_1, \ldots, x_n \triangleright B$, written as $(x_1, \ldots, x_n \triangleright B)\theta$, is $y_1, \ldots, y_n \triangleright B'$, if $(\lambda x_1 \ldots \lambda x_n.B)\theta$ is equal (modulo λ-conversion) to $\lambda y_1 \ldots \lambda y_n.B'$. If Γ is a multiset of generic judgments, then $\Gamma\theta$ is the multiset $\{J\theta \mid J \in \Gamma\}$. In the $def\mathcal{L}$ rule, we use the notion of *complete set of unifiers* (CSU) [9]. We denote by $CSU(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H})$ the complete set of unifiers for the pair $(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H})$, that is, for any substitution θ such that $\mathcal{A}\theta = \mathcal{H}\theta$, there is a substitution $\rho \in CSU(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H})$ such that $\theta = \rho \circ \theta'$ for some substitution θ'. In all the applications of $def\mathcal{L}$ in this paper, the set $CSU(\mathcal{A}, \mathcal{H})$ is either empty (the two judgments are not unifiable) or contains a single substitution denoting the most general unifier. The signature $\Sigma\theta$ in $def\mathcal{L}$ denotes a signature obtained from Σ by removing the variables in the domain of θ and adding the variables in the range of θ. In the $def\mathcal{L}$ rule, reading the rule bottom-up, eigenvariables can be instantiated in the premise, while in the $def R$ rule, eigenvariables are not instantiated. The set that is the premise of the $def\mathcal{L}$ rule means that that rule instance has a premise for every member of that set: if that set is empty, then the premise is proved.

3 Logical specification of one-step transition

We consider the late transition system for the π-calculus in [16], but we shall follow the operational semantics of π-calculus presented in [21]. The syntax of processes is defined as follows

$$\mathtt{P} ::= 0 \mid \bar{x}y.\mathtt{P} \mid x(y).\mathtt{P} \mid \tau.\mathtt{P} \mid (x)\mathtt{P} \mid [x=y]\mathtt{P} \mid \mathtt{P}|\mathtt{P} \mid \mathtt{P}+\mathtt{P} \mid !P.$$

We use the notation $\mathtt{P}$, $\mathtt{Q}$, $\mathtt{R}$, $\mathtt{S}$ and $\mathtt{T}$ to denote processes. Names are denoted by lower case letters, e.g., a, b, c, d, x, y, z. The occurrence of y in the process $x(y).\mathtt{P}$ and $(y)\mathtt{P}$ is a binding occurrence, with $\mathtt{P}$ as its scope. The set of free names in $\mathtt{P}$ is denoted by $\mathrm{fn}(\mathtt{P})$, the set of bound names is denoted by $\mathrm{bn}(\mathtt{P})$. We write $\mathrm{n}(\mathtt{P})$ for the set $\mathrm{fn}(\mathtt{P}) \cup \mathrm{bn}(\mathtt{P})$. We consider processes to be syntactical equivalent up to renaming of bound names.

One-step transition in the π-calculus is denoted by $\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathtt{Q}$, where $\mathtt{P}$ and $\mathtt{Q}$ are processes and α is an action. The kinds of actions are *the silent action* τ, *the free input action* xy, *the free output action* $\bar{x}y$, *the bound input action* $x(y)$ and *the bound output action* $\bar{x}(y)$. The name y in $x(y)$ and $\bar{x}(y)$ is a binding occurrence. Just like we did with processes, we use $\mathrm{fn}(\alpha)$, $\mathrm{bn}(\alpha)$ and $\mathrm{n}(\alpha)$ to denote free names, bound names, and names in α. An action without binding occurrences of names is a *free action*, otherwise it is a *bound action*.

We encode the syntax of process expressions using higher-order syntax as follows. We shall require three primitive syntactic categories: n for names, p for processes, and a for actions, and the constructors corresponding to the operators in π-calculus. We do not assume any inhabitants of type n, therefore in our encoding a free name is translated to a variable of type n, which can later be either universally quantified or ∇-quantified, depending on whether we want to treat a certain name as instantiable or not. In this paper, however, we consider only ∇-quantified names. Universally quantified names are used in the encoding of open bisimulation in [26]. Since the rest of this paper is about the π-calculus, the ∇ quantifier will from now on only be used at type n. To encode actions, we use $\tau : a$ (for the silent action), and the two constants $\downarrow$ and $\uparrow$, both of type $n \to n \to a$ for building input and output actions. The free output action $\bar{x}y$, is encoded as $\uparrow xy$ while the bound output action $\bar{x}(y)$ is encoded as $\lambda y\ (\uparrow xy)$ (or the η-equivalent term $\uparrow x$). The free input action xy, is encoded as $\downarrow xy$ while the bound input action $x(y)$ is encoded as $\lambda y\ (\downarrow xy)$ (or simply $\downarrow x$). The process constructors are encoded using the following constants:

$$0 : p \qquad \tau : p \to p \qquad \mathit{out} : n \to n \to p \to p \qquad \mathit{in} : n \to (n \to p) \to p$$
$$+ : p \to p \to p \quad | : p \to p \to p \quad ! : p \to p$$
$$\mathit{match} : n \to n \to p \to p \quad \nu : (n \to p) \to p$$

We use two predicates to encode the one-step transition semantics for the π-calculus. The predicate $\cdot \stackrel{\cdot}{\longrightarrow} \cdot$ of type $p \to a \to p \to o$ encodes transitions involving free values and the predicate $\cdot \stackrel{\cdot}{\longrightarrow} \cdot$ of type $p \to (n \to a) \to (n \to p) \to o$ encodes transitions involving bound values. The precise translation of π-calculus syntax into simply typed λ-terms is given in the following definition.

Definition 2. *The following function* $[\![.]\!]$ *translates from process expressions to* $\beta\eta$*-long normal terms of type* p*.*

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
[\![0]\!] = 0 & [\![\mathtt{P}+\mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] + [\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] & [\![\mathtt{P}|\mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \mid [\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] \\
[\![\tau.\mathtt{P}]\!] = \tau\ [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] & [\![[x=y]\mathtt{P}]\!] = match\ x\ y\ [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] & [\![\bar{x}y.\mathtt{P}]\!] = out\ x\ y\ [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \\
[\![x(y).\mathtt{P}]\!] = in\ x\ \lambda y.[\![\mathtt{P}]\!] & [\![(x)\mathtt{P}]\!] = \nu\lambda x.[\![\mathtt{P}]\!] & [\![!\mathtt{P}]\!] = !\,[\![\mathtt{P}]\!]
\end{array}
$$

The one-step transition judgments are translated to atomic formulas as follows (we overload the symbol $[\![.]\!]$*).*

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
[\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\bar{x}y} \mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \xrightarrow{\uparrow xy} [\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] & [\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{x(y)} \mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \xrightarrow{\downarrow x} \lambda y.[\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] \\
[\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\tau} \mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \xrightarrow{\tau} [\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] & [\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\bar{x}(y)} \mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \xrightarrow{\uparrow x} \lambda y.[\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] \\
[\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{xy} \mathtt{Q}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \xrightarrow{\downarrow xy} [\![\mathtt{Q}]\!] &
\end{array}
$$

We abbreviate $\nu\lambda x.P$ as simply $\nu x.P$. Notice that when τ is written as a prefix, it has type $p \to p$, and when it is written as an action, it has type a.

The operational semantics of the late transition system for π-calculus is given as a definition, called $\mathbf{D}_\pi$, in Figure 2. In the figure, we omit the symmetric cases for par, sum, close and com. In this specification, free variables are schema variables that are assumed to be universally scoped over the definition clause in which they appear. These schema variables have primitive types such as a, n, and p as well as functional types such as $n \to a$ and $n \to p$.

Notice that as a consequence of the use of HOAS in the encoding, the complicated side conditions in the original specifications of π-calculus [16] are no longer present. For example, the side condition that $X \neq y$ in the open rule is implicit, since X is outside the scope of y and therefore cannot be instantiated with y. The adequacy of our encoding is stated in the following lemma and proposition (their proofs can be found in [25]).

Lemma 3. *The function* $[\![.]\!]$ *is a bijection between* α*-equivalence classes of expressions.*

Proposition 4. *Let* $\mathtt{P}$ *and* $\mathtt{Q}$ *be processes and* α *an action. Let* $\bar{n}$ *be a list of free names containing the free names in* $\mathtt{P}$*,* $\mathtt{Q}$*, and* α*. The transition* $\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathtt{Q}$ *is derivable in* π*-calculus if and only if* $.;. \vdash \nabla\bar{n}.[\![\mathtt{P} \xrightarrow{\alpha} \mathtt{Q}]\!]$ *in* $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ *with the definition* $\mathbf{D}_\pi$*.*

Note that since in the translation from π-calculus to $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ free names are translated to ∇-quantified variables, to get the completeness of the encoding, it is necessary to show that the transition in π-calculus is invariant under free-name renaming. This has been shown in [16]. In fact, most of the properties of interest in π-calculus, such as bisimulation and satisfiability of modal formulae, are closed under free-name renaming [17].

$$
\begin{array}{rr}
\textsc{tau:} & \tau\ P \xrightarrow{\ \tau\ } P \triangleq \top \\
\textsc{in:} & in\ X\ M \xrightarrow{\ \downarrow X\ } M \triangleq \top \\
\textsc{out:} & out\ x\ y\ P \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow xy\ } P \triangleq \top \\
\textsc{match:} & match\ x\ x\ P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } Q \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } Q \\
 & match\ x\ x\ P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } Q \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } Q \\
\textsc{sum:} & P + Q \xrightarrow{\ A\ } R \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } R \\
 & P + Q \xrightarrow{\ A\ } R \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } R \\
\textsc{par:} & P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\ A\ } P' \mid Q \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } P' \\
 & P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\ A\ } \lambda n(M\,n \mid Q) \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } M \\
\textsc{res:} & \nu n.Pn \xrightarrow{\ A\ } \nu n.Qn \triangleq \nabla n(Pn \xrightarrow{\ A\ } Qn) \\
 & \nu n.Pn \xrightarrow{\ A\ } \lambda m\ \nu n.P'nm \triangleq \nabla n(Pn \xrightarrow{\ A\ } P'n) \\
\textsc{open:} & \nu y.My \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow X\ } M' \triangleq \nabla y(My \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow Xy\ } M'y) \\
\textsc{close:} & P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\ \tau\ } \nu y.My \mid Ny \triangleq \exists X.P \xrightarrow{\ \downarrow X\ } M \wedge Q \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow X\ } N \\
\textsc{com:} & P \mid Q \xrightarrow{\ \tau\ } MY \mid Q' \triangleq \exists X.P \xrightarrow{\ \downarrow X\ } M \wedge Q \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow XY\ } Q' \\
\textsc{rep-act:} & !P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } P' | !P \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ A\ } P' \\
 & !P \xrightarrow{\ X\ } \lambda y(My | !P) \triangleq P \xrightarrow{\ X\ } M \\
\textsc{rep-com:} & !P \xrightarrow{\ \tau\ } (P' \mid M\ Y) | !P \triangleq \exists X.P \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow XY\ } P' \wedge P \xrightarrow{\ \downarrow X\ } M \\
\textsc{rep-close:} & !P \xrightarrow{\ \tau\ } \nu z.(Mz \mid Nz) | !P \triangleq \exists X.P \xrightarrow{\ \uparrow X\ } M \wedge P \xrightarrow{\ \downarrow X\ } N
\end{array}
$$

Fig. 2. Definition clauses for the late transition system.

4 Specification of modal logics

We now consider the modal logics for π-calculus introduced in [17]. In order not to confuse meta-level ($FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$) formulas (or connectives) with the formulas (connectives) of modal logics under consideration, we shall refer to the latter as object formulas (respectively, object connectives). We shall work only with object formulas which are in negation normal form, i.e., negation appears only at the level of atomic object formulas. As a consequence, we introduce explicitly each dual pair of the object connectives. Note that since the only atomic object formulas are either true or false, by de Morgan duality $\neg$true $\equiv$ false and $\neg$false $\equiv$ true. Therefore we are in effect working with positive formulas only. The syntax of the object formulas is given by

$$
\begin{array}{rl}
\mathtt{A} ::= & \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \mathtt{A} \wedge \mathtt{A} \mid \mathtt{A} \vee \mathtt{A} \mid [x = z]\mathtt{A} \mid \langle x = z\rangle\mathtt{A} \\
 & \mid \langle\alpha\rangle\mathtt{A} \mid [\alpha]\mathtt{A} \mid \langle\bar{x}(y)\rangle\mathtt{A} \mid [\bar{x}(y)]\mathtt{A} \mid \langle x(y)\rangle\mathtt{A} \mid [x(y)]\mathtt{A} \\
 & \mid \langle x(y)\rangle^{L}\mathtt{A} \mid [x(y)]^{L}\mathtt{A} \mid \langle x(y)\rangle^{E}\mathtt{A} \mid [x(y)]^{E}\mathtt{A}
\end{array}
$$

In each of the formulas (and their dual 'boxed'-formulas) $\langle\bar{x}(y)\rangle\mathtt{A}$, $\langle x(y)\rangle\mathtt{A}$, $\langle x(y)\rangle^{L}\mathtt{A}$ and $\langle x(y)\rangle^{E}\mathtt{A}$, the occurrence of y in parentheses is a binding occurrence whose

(a) Propositional connectives and *basic* modality:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
\text{(true :)} & P \models \text{true} & \triangleq \ \top. \\
\text{(and :)} & P \models A \& B & \triangleq \ P \models A \wedge P \models B. \\
\text{(or :)} & P \models A \hat{\vee} B & \triangleq \ P \models A \vee P \models B. \\
\text{(match :)} & P \models \langle X \doteq X \rangle A & \triangleq \ P \models A. \\
\text{(match :)} & P \models [X \doteq Y] A & \triangleq \ (X = Y) \supset P \models A. \\
\text{(free :)} & P \models \langle X \rangle A & \triangleq \ \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{X} P' \wedge P' \models A). \\
\text{(free :)} & P \models [X] A & \triangleq \ \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{X} P' \supset P' \models A). \\
\text{(out :)} & P \models \langle \uparrow X \rangle A & \triangleq \ \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\uparrow X} P' \wedge \nabla y.P'y \models Ay). \\
\text{(out :)} & P \models [\uparrow X] A & \triangleq \ \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\uparrow X} P' \supset \nabla y.P'y \models Ay). \\
\text{(in :)} & P \models \langle \downarrow X \rangle A & \triangleq \ \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \wedge \exists y.P'y \models Ay). \\
\text{(in :)} & P \models [\downarrow X] A & \triangleq \ \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \supset \forall y.P'y \models Ay).
\end{array}
$$

(b) *Late* modality:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
P \models \langle \downarrow X \rangle^l A & \triangleq & \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \wedge \forall y.P'y \models Ay). \\
P \models [\downarrow X]^l A & \triangleq & \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \supset \exists y.P'y \models Ay).
\end{array}
$$

(c) *Early* modality:

$$
\begin{array}{lll}
P \models \langle \downarrow X \rangle^e A & \triangleq & \forall y \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \wedge P'y \models Ay). \\
P \models [\downarrow X]^e A & \triangleq & \exists y \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \supset P'y \models Ay).
\end{array}
$$

Fig. 3. Modal logics for π-calculus in λ-tree syntax

scope is $\mathtt{A}$. We use $\mathtt{A}, \mathtt{B}, \mathtt{C}, \mathtt{D}$, possibly with subscripts or primes, to range over object formulas. Note that we consider only finite conjunction since the transition system we are considering is finitely branching, and therefore (as noted in [17]) infinite conjunction is not needed. Note also that we do not consider free input modality $\langle xy \rangle$ since we restrict ourselves to late transition system (but adding early transition rules and free input modality does not pose any difficulty). We consider object formulas equivalent up to renaming of bound variables.

We introduce the types o' to denote object-level propositions, and the following constants for encoding the object connectives.

$$
\begin{array}{c}
\text{true} : o', \qquad \text{false} : o', \qquad \& : o' \to o' \to o', \qquad \hat{\vee} : o' \to o' \to o' \\
\langle \cdot \doteq \cdot \rangle \cdot : n \to n \to o' \to o', \qquad [\cdot \doteq \cdot] \cdot : n \to n \to o' \to o', \\
\langle \cdot \rangle \cdot : \mathrm{a} \to o' \to o', \qquad [\cdot] \cdot : \mathrm{a} \to o' \to o', \\
\langle \downarrow \cdot \rangle \cdot : n \to (n \to o') \to o', \qquad [\downarrow \cdot] \cdot : n \to\!\to (n \to o') \to o' \\
\langle \downarrow \cdot \rangle^l \cdot : n \to (n \to o') \to o', \qquad [\downarrow \cdot]^l \cdot : n \to (n \to o') \to o' \\
\langle \downarrow \cdot \rangle^e \cdot : n \to (n \to o') \to o', \qquad [\downarrow \cdot]^e \cdot : n \to (n \to o') \to o'
\end{array}
$$

The precise translation from object-level modal formulas to λ-tree syntax is given in the following.

Definition 5. *The following function* $[\![.]\!]$ *translates from object formulas to* $\beta\eta$*-long normal terms of type* o'*.*

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
[\![true]\!] = true & [\![false]\!] = false \\
[\![\mathtt{A} \wedge \mathtt{B}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{A}]\!] \& [\![\mathtt{B}]\!] & [\![\mathtt{A} \vee \mathtt{B}]\!] = [\![\mathtt{A}]\!] \hat{\vee} [\![\mathtt{B}]\!] \\
[\![[x = y]\mathtt{A}]\!] = [x \doteq y][\![\mathtt{A}]\!] & [\![\langle x = y\rangle \mathtt{A}]\!] = \langle x \doteq y\rangle [\![\mathtt{A}]\!] \\
[\![\langle\alpha\rangle\mathtt{A}]\!] = \langle\alpha\rangle[\![\mathtt{A}]\!] & [\![[\alpha]\mathtt{A}]\!] = [\alpha][\![\mathtt{A}]\!] \\
[\![\langle x(y)\rangle\mathtt{A}]\!] = \langle\downarrow x\rangle(\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!]) & [\![[x(y)]\mathtt{A}]\!] = [\downarrow x](\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!]) \\
[\![\langle x(y)\rangle^L\mathtt{A}]\!] = \langle\downarrow x\rangle^l(\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!]) & [\![[x(y)]^L\mathtt{A}]\!] = [\downarrow x]^l(\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!]) \\
[\![\langle x(y)\rangle^E\mathtt{A}]\!] = \langle\downarrow x\rangle^e(\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!]) & [\![[x(y)]^E\mathtt{A}]\!] = [\downarrow x]^e(\lambda y[\![\mathtt{A}]\!])
\end{array}
$$

The satisfaction relation $\models$ between processes and formulas are encoded using the same symbol, which is given the type $p \to o' \to o$. The inference rules for this satisfaction relation are given as definition clauses in Figure 3. Some of the definition clauses make use of the syntactic equality predicate, which is defined as the definition: $X = X \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \top$. Note that the symbol $=$ here is a predicate symbol written in infix notation. The inequality $x \neq y$ is an abbreviation for $x = y \supset \bot$. We shall use the abbreviation $x \neq \bar{y}$, where $\bar{y} = y_1, \ldots, y_n$, to mean $x \neq y_1 \wedge \ldots \wedge x \neq y_n$ or $\top$ if $n = 0$.

We refer to the definition shown in Figure 3 as $\mathcal{DA}$. This definition corresponds to the modal logic $\mathcal{A}$ defined in [17]. However, this definition is not complete, in the sense that there are true assertion of modal logics which are not provable using this definition alone. For instance, the modal judgment

$$x(y).x(z).0 \models \langle x(y)\rangle\langle x(z)\rangle(x = z \vee x \neq z)$$

is valid, but its encoding in $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ is not provable without additional assumption. It turns out that the only assumption we need to get completeness is the axiom of excluded middle on names:

$$\forall x \forall y. x = y \vee x \neq y.$$

Note that since we allow dynamic creation of scoped names (via ∇), we must also state this axiom for arbitrary extension of local signatures. We therefore define the following set of excluded middles on arbitrary finite extension of local signatures

$$\mathcal{E} = \{\nabla n_1 \cdots \nabla n_k \forall x \forall y (x = y \vee x \neq y) \mid \ k \geq 0\}$$

We shall write $\mathcal{X} \subseteq_f \mathcal{E}$ to indicate that $\mathcal{X}$ is a finite subset of $\mathcal{E}$.

We shall now state the adequacy of the encoding of modal logics. The proof of the adequacy result can be found in an extended version of this paper.

Proposition 6. *Let* $\mathtt{P}$ *be a process, let* $\mathtt{A}$ *be an object formula. Then* $\mathtt{P} \models \mathtt{A}$ *if and only if for some list* $\bar{n}$ *containing the free names of* $(\mathtt{P}, \mathtt{A})$ *and some* $\mathcal{X} \subseteq_f \mathcal{E}$*, the sequent* $\mathcal{X} \vdash \nabla\bar{n}.([\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \models [\![\mathtt{A}]\!])$ *is provable in* $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ *with definition* $\mathcal{DA}$*.*

Note that we quantify free names in the process-formula pair in the above proposition since, as we have mentioned previously, we do not assume any constants of type n. Of course, such constants can be introduced without affecting

$$
\begin{array}{lcl}
P \models_L \langle\uparrow X\rangle A & \triangleq & \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\uparrow X} P' \wedge \nabla y.P'y \models_{y::L} Ay). \\
P \models_L [\uparrow X] A & \triangleq & \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\uparrow X} P' \supset \nabla y.P'y \models_{y::L} Ay). \\
P \models_L \langle\downarrow X\rangle A & \triangleq & \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \wedge \nabla z \exists y.y \in (z :: L) \wedge P'y \models_{z::L} Ay). \\
P \models_L [\downarrow X] A & \triangleq & \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \supset \nabla z \forall y.y \in (z :: L) \supset P'y \models_{z::L} Ay). \\
P \models_L \langle\downarrow X\rangle^l A & \triangleq & \exists P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \wedge \nabla z \forall y.y \in (z :: L) \supset P'y \models_{z::L} Ay). \\
P \models_L [\downarrow X]^l A & \triangleq & \forall P'(P \xrightarrow{\downarrow X} P' \supset \nabla z \exists y.y \in (z :: L) \wedge P'y \models_{z::L} Ay).
\end{array}
$$

Fig. 4. A more concrete specification with explicit names representation.

the provability of the satisfaction judgments, but for simplicity in the meta-theory we consider the more uniform approach using ∇-quantified variables to encode names in process and object formulas. Note that adequacy result stated in Proposition 6 subsumes the adequacy for the specifications of the sublogics of $\mathcal{A}$.

5 Implementation of proof search

We now give an overview of a prototype implementation of a fragment of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$, in which the specification of modal logics given in the previous section is implemented. This implementation, called *Level 0/1 prover* [24], is based on the duality of finite success and *finite failure* in proof search, or equally, the duality of proof and refutation. In particular, the finite failure in proving a goal $\exists x.G$ should give us a proof of $\neg(\exists x.G)$ and vice versa. We experiment with a simple class of formulae which exhibits this duality. This class of formulae is given by the following grammar:

$$
\begin{array}{ll}
\text{Level 0:} & G := \top \mid \bot \mid A \mid G \wedge G \mid G \vee G \mid \exists x.G \mid \nabla x.G \\
\text{Level 1:} & D := \top \mid \bot \mid A \mid D \wedge D \mid D \vee D \mid G \supset D \mid \exists x.D \mid \nabla x.D \mid \forall x.D \\
\text{atomic:} & A := p\, t_1 \ldots t_n
\end{array}
$$

Notice that the level-0 formula is basically Horn-goal extended with ∇ to allow dynamic creation of names. Level-0 formula is used to encode transition systems (via definitions). Level-1 formula allows for reflecting on the provability of level-0 formulae, and hence exploring all the paths of the transition systems encoded at level-0.

The proof search implementation for level-0 formula is the standard logic-programming implementation. It is actually a subset of λProlog (with $\forall$ replacing ∇). That is, existentially quantified variables are replaced by logic variables, ∇-quantified variables are replaced with (scoped) constants. The non-standard part in Level 0/1 prover is the proof search for level-1 goals. Proof search for a level-1 goal $G_1 \supset G_2$ proceeds as follows:

1. Run the prover with the goal G_1, treating eigenvariables as logic variables.

2. If Step 1 fails, then proof search for $G_1 \supset G_2$ succeeds. Otherwise, collect all answer substitutions produced in Step 1, and for each answer susbtitution θ, proceed with proving $G_2\theta$

There is some restriction on the occurrence of logic variables in Step 2, which however does not affect the encoding of modal logics considered in this paper. We refer the interested readers to [24] for more details.

We now consider the problem of automating model-checking for a given process $\mathtt{P}$ against a given assertion $\mathtt{A}$ of sublogics of $\mathcal{A}$. There are two main difficulties in automating the model checking: when to use the excluded middle on names, and guessing how many names to be provided in advance. There seems to be two extremes in dealing with these problems: one in which excluded middles are omitted and the set of names are fixed to the free names of the processes and assertions involved, the other is to keep track of the set of free names explicitly and to instantiate any universally quantified name with all the names in this set. For the former, the implementation is straightforward: we simply use the specification given in Figure 3. The problem is of course that it is incomplete, although it may cover quite a number of interesting cases. We experiment here on the second approach using explicit handling of names which is complete but less efficient. The essential modifications to the specification in Figure 3 are those concerning input modalities. We list some modified clauses in Figure 4, the complete "implementation" can be found in an extended version of this paper. We shall refer to this definition as $\mathcal{DA}'$ The satisfiability relation $\models$ now takes an extra argument which is a list of names. The empty list is denoted with nil and the list constructor with ::. Here we use an additional defined predicate for list membership. It is defined in the standard way (writing the membership predicate in infix notation): $X \in (X :: L) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} \top$ and $X \in (Y :: L) \stackrel{\triangle}{=} X \in L$.

Proposition 7. *Let* $\mathtt{P}$ *be a process, let* $\mathtt{A}$ *be an object formula and let* $\bar{n}$ *be a list containing the free names of* $(\mathtt{P}, \mathtt{A})$*. Then* $\mathtt{P} \models \mathtt{A}$ *if and only the formula* $\nabla\bar{n}.[\![\mathtt{P}]\!] \models_{\bar{n}} [\![\mathtt{A}]\!]$ *is provable in* $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ *with definition* $\mathcal{DA}'$*. Moreover, proof search in the Level 0/1 prover for the formula terminates.*

6 Related work and future work

Perhaps the closest to our approach is Mads Dam's work on model checking mobile processes [3, 4]. However, our approach differs from his work in that the proof system we introduce is modular; different transition systems can be incorporated via definitions, while in his system, specifications of transition systems (π-calculus) is tightly integrated into the proof rules of the logic. Another difference is that we use the labelled transitions to encode the operational semantics which yields a simpler formalization (not having to deal with structural congruence) while Dam uses commitment relation. Another notable difference is that the use of relativised correctness assertions in his work which make explicit various conditions on names. In our approach, the conditions on names are partly taken care of implicitly by the meta logic (e.g., scoping, α-conversion,

"newness"). However, Dam's logic is certainly more expressive in the sense that it can handle modal μ-calculus as well, via some global discharge conditions in proofs. We plan to investigate how to extend $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$ with such global discharge conditions.

History dependent automata (see, e.g., [6]) is a rather general model theoretic approach to model checking mobile processes. Its basis in automata models makes it closer to existing efficient implementation of model checkers. Our approach is certainly different from a conceptual view, so the sensible comparison would be in terms of performance comparison. However, at the current stage of our implementation, meaningful comparison cannot yet be made. A point to note, however, is that in the approach using history dependent automata, the whole state space of a process is constructed before checking the satisfiability of an assertion. In our approach, states of processes are constructed only when needed, that is, it is guided by the syntax of the process and the assertion it is being checked against.

Model checkers for π-calculus have also been implemented in XSB tabled logic programming [27]. The logic programming language used is a first-order one, and consequently, they have to encode bindings, α-conversion, etc. using first-order syntax. Such encodings make it hard to reason about the correctness of their specification. Compared to this work, our approach here is more declarative and meta theoretic analysis on the specification of the model checkers is available. Model checking for a richer logic than the modal logics we consider has been done in [2]. In this work, the issue concerning fresh names generation is dealt with using the permutation techniques of Gabbay-Pitts [7]. As in Dam's work, names here are dealt with explicitly via some algorithms for computing fresh names, while in our approach, the notion of freshness of names is implicit in their scoping. More in-depth comparison is left for the future work.

We plan to improve our current implementation to use the tabling methods in logic programming. Its use in implementing model checkers has been demonstrated in XSB [27] and also in [20]. Implementation of tabled deduction for higher-order logic programming has also been studied in [19], which can potentially be used in the implementation of $FO\lambda^{\Delta\nabla}$. We also plan to study other process calculi and their related notions of equivalences and modal logics, in particular the spi-calculus [1] and its related notions of bisimulation.

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