Paired Simulation of I/O Automata

by

J. Antonio Ramírez-Robredo

Submitted to the Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of Master of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science at the MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY September 2000 © J. Antonio Ramírez-Robredo 2000. All rights reserved.

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Author

Department of Electrical Engineering and Computer Science

August 30, 2000

Certified by

Nancy A. Lynch

NEC Professor of Software Science and Engineering

Thesis Supervisor

Accepted by

Arthur C. Smith

Chairman, Department Committee on Graduate Students
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Abstract

An important principle that permeates theoretical work in distributed systems is that of successive refinement. This principle encourages the algorithm designer to start with a high-level description of the system, and to successively refine it down to lower-level implementations. For this purpose, it is common to relate two automata using a forward simulation relation, which is a mathematical relation between the states of the automata. Given the importance of this technique, it is desirable to have software tools to work with simulation relations.

In this thesis, I describe my design of a new simulator for the IOA language with the capability of simulating pairs of automata together, which are claimed to be related by a given simulation relation. This simulator is able to verify if the proposed simulation relation holds in a particular execution of the low-level automaton, given a step correspondence between the automata. The work to accomplish this goal included designing language extensions to IOA for specifying the step correspondence (in addition to the simulation relation) between the automata, as well as a new approach for resolving single-automaton nondeterminism.

I have provided documentation on the software implementation of the simulator and necessary support modules so that future work on the IOA toolkit (be it work on the simulator or on other tools) can be done using this software environment as a foundation.

Thesis Supervisor: Nancy A. Lynch
Title: NEC Professor of Software Science and Engineering
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Para mis padres.
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Chapter 1

Introduction

One of the most important research activities in the area of distributed systems is the development of mathematical tools for the formal modeling and verification of distributed algorithms. This mathematical machinery should permit a precise specification of allowable behaviors exhibited by a system, as well as applicable methods for determining the correctness of implementations. One such proposed tool is the Input/Output Automaton model [7], I/O automaton for short, which is a labeled transition system that allows for modular construction of concurrent systems from smaller components. This model has been influential in the distributed systems research community, and much of the work in the Theory of Distributed Systems (TDS) group has the formalism of I/O automata at its core.

1.1 Theoretical foundation

In this section I present a brief summary of the principal definitions on which the IOA Toolkit is founded. All of these definitions have been taken almost verbatim from the textbook Distributed Algorithms by Nancy A. Lynch [7]. The description below is terse, and the reader is referred to this textbook for a more detailed discussion of the definitions and their motivations.
1.1.1 I/O Automata

A signature $S$ is a triple consisting of three disjoint sets of actions:

- $\text{in}(S)$, the input actions,
- $\text{out}(S)$, the output actions,
- $\text{int}(S)$, the internal actions.

In terms of these components we also define:

- $\text{local}(S) := \text{out}(S) \cup \text{in}(S)$, the locally controlled actions,
- $\text{acts}(S) := \text{in}(S) \cup \text{inter}(S) \cup \text{out}$, all the actions.

An input/output automaton $A$ (I/O automaton for short) consists of five components:

- $\text{sig}(A)$, a signature,
- $\text{states}(A)$, a (not necessarily finite) set of states,
- $\text{start}(A) \subseteq \text{states}(A)$, a nonempty set, known as the start or initial states of $A$.
- a set $\text{trans}(A) \subseteq \text{states}(A) \times \text{acts}(\text{sig}(A)) \times \text{states}(A)$ of transitions of $A$, with the property that for every state $s$ and every input action $\pi$ there exists a transition $(s, \pi, s') \in \text{trans}(A)$.
- $\text{tasks}(A)$, a partition $\text{local}(\text{sig}(A))$ into at most countably many classes.

1.1.2 Executions and traces

An execution fragment of an I/O automaton $A$ is either a finite sequence $s_0, \pi_1, s_1, \ldots, s_r$, or an infinite sequence $s_0, \pi_1, s_1, \ldots, \pi_r, s_r, \ldots$, of alternating states and actions of $A$ such that $(s_k, \pi_{k+1}, s_{k+1})$ is a transition of $A$ for each $k \geq 0$. If $s_0$ is a start state of $A$, then the execution fragment is called an execution. A state of $A$ is said to be reachable if it is the final state of a finite execution of $A$. The trace of an execution
fragment $\alpha$, denoted by $\text{trace}(\alpha)$, is the subsequence of $\alpha$ consisting of all external actions, and it represents the externally-observed behavior of $A$ during the execution of $\alpha$.

### 1.1.3 Simulation Relations

A *forward simulation relation* (or just simulation relation) from automaton $A$ to automaton $B$ is a binary relation $f \subseteq \text{states}(A) \times \text{states}(B)$ such that:

1. If $s \in \text{start}(A)$, then $f(s) \cap \text{start}(B) \neq \emptyset$.

2. If $s$ is a reachable state of $A$, $u \in f(s)$ is a reachable state of $B$, and $(s, \pi, s') \in \text{trans}(A)$, then there is an execution fragment $\alpha$ of $B$ starting with $u$ and ending with some $u' \in f(s')$, such that $\text{trace}(\alpha) = \text{trace}(\pi)$,

where $f(s)$ stands for $\{u : (s, u) \in f\}$. Simulation relations are an important tool in the study of distributed systems, and their relevance stems from the following:

**Theorem.** If there is a simulation relation from $A$ to $B$, then $\text{traces}(A) \subseteq \text{traces}(B)$.

In other words, the existence of the simulation relation shows that $A$ implements $B$. Not every trace inclusion can be proved using forward simulation relations. For this reason, there exist further variants of this definition; see Lynch and Vaandrager [8] for a number of them. In this document, I will only consider forward simulation relations.

### 1.2 The IOA Toolkit and its motivation

Along with the abstract mathematical tools, it is highly desirable to have as a counterpart to the theory a set of software tools to aid with the processes of analysis and implementation of algorithms. An ongoing project at the TDS group is the creation of the *IOA Toolkit*, a suite of software tools that address these concerns. My own work forms part of this toolkit.
At the core of the IOA Toolkit is the programming language IOA, which closely shadows I/O automata in notation and semantics. The language is described in [3], [4]. IOA inherits several properties from the I/O automaton model that make it an unusual programming language; for example, rather than having an explicit flow of control, executions are specified through actions, which may be enabled or disabled according to the current state. Multiple actions may be enabled at a given point in time, and hence this programming language is nondeterministic. Moreover, the language permits the manipulation of mathematical objects of unbounded size, a feature that contributes to its lack of orthodoxy. Needless to say, these properties raise difficult implementation issues. The motivation for these design choices is a desire to develop systems starting with the strong foundation of the I/O automaton model. Thus, rather than imposing limitations on the computational model because of implementation concerns, the approach is to enforce a high degree of closeness to an a-priori model, hence making the language simple, general, and easy to reason about. The extra generality has the tradeoff of making the implementation of some tools more involved. IOA has been specified as an application of the Larch Shared Language (LSL) [5], which allows the IOA toolkit to tap into the rich theorem-proving system Larch.

Throughout this document, I will assume some familiarity with the content of the IOA User and Reference Manual [3].

1.3 The IOA simulator

Anna E. Chefter designed and implemented an IOA tool, called the IOA Simulator [1]. The simulator, given an IOA automaton specification, performs a software simulation of an execution of the I/O automaton that it represents. This tool is potentially a useful aid during the design of a system using IOA, since it allows the designer to see the algorithm in action. One of the difficulties in designing a simulator for IOA is resolving the nondeterminism present in this language, in order to select an execution to simulate among all the possible ones.
My Master of Engineering thesis project consists of the following:

- Improving the design of the simulator and the mechanisms for resolution of nondeterminism.

- Extending the simulator so that it allows invariant checking. This is a simple addition once the simulator exists, since it only entails evaluating each of the invariants of an automaton after each step. See Chapters 2 and 3 for a description of my design regarding this and the previous item.

- Extending the simulator to allow paired simulation: given a simulation relation between two automata, and a proposed step correspondence, use an execution of the low-level automaton to induce an execution of the high-level automaton using the step correspondence, while checking the validity of the simulation relation. This is the main part of my project. See Chapter 4 for more motivation on this problem and the way in which I addressed it.

- Developing a software environment that facilitates the implementation of future extensions of the simulator, and future tools in the IOA Toolkit. An introduction to the use of this software environment is given in Chapter 6.

1.4 Notes on terminology

I would like to clarify several points regarding the terminology that is used in the rest of the document

1. Some I/O automaton-related words are used with slightly different meanings, depending on whether they refer to the abstract I/O automaton model or to syntactic elements of an automaton specification written in IOA. For instance, an IOA transition block typically defines a family of transitions of the automaton that is being modeled, one for each value of its actual parameters and for each value of the explicit choices that may occur in its effect program. A similar remark is true for automaton actions and their parameters.
2. Throughout this document, the word "simulation" can refer to one of two different notions: on one hand, it means the act of using a software program to execute one or more I/O automata described in IOA; on the other, it refers to a mathematical simulation relation between two abstract I/O automata. It is usually clear from the context which of these two meanings is intended; otherwise, I have used the term "paired simulation" to refer to the software simulation of mathematical simulation relations (and hence the title of this thesis).

3. A large part of the discussion on resolution of nondeterminism pertains to the choose keyword in IOA. According to the formal grammar, explicit choices using this keyword are classed as "value" nonterminals, but I want to avoid the ambiguity between the explicit choice as a syntactic element and the value of the choice in a particular execution, and hence I avoid the expression "choose value". An alternative expression could be "choose term", but that is inaccurate since the choose keyword is not valid in every context that a term is valid. As a compromise, I have settled for the expression "choose statement": while not a statement itself, an explicit choice can only appear as the right-hand side of an assignment, which is a statement.

4. In the context of resolution of nondeterminism, I have made use of Larch code which is syntactically correct, but whose semantics, as interpreted by the simulator, do not conform to the semantics of Larch traits; in particular, the implementation uses a pseudo-random number generator, while Larch semantics dictate a deterministic implementation. This was done for convenience only, since the mechanism for specifying Larch traits was very close to what was needed to specify the signatures of certain nondeterministic operators used by the simulator. I will refer to items defined in this way as pseudotraits, to emphasize the contrast with genuine Larch traits. It is plausible to eventually add an extension to IOA to allow a form of this syntax to be used by the simulator. Refer to Section 2.5 for the specifics.
Chapter 2

Resolution of nondeterminism

One of the central goals of the IOA language is that of high expressivity for mathematical modeling of distributed systems. As part of this goal, IOA incorporates a family of nondeterministic constructs. In order to simulate an automaton, a particular execution must be chosen, and perhaps the main problem to be solved in this respect is to design a satisfactory mechanism for the resolution of nondeterminism. In this chapter I outline some desirable characteristics of such a mechanism, and the way in which I propose to achieve some of them. I will use the abbreviation NDR\(^1\) to refer to resolution of nondeterminism.

2.1 The problem

There are several of sources of nondeterminism in the IOA language; for instance:

- an automaton can have multiple enabled actions in a given state,

- a given enabled action can have multiple transition definitions associated with it,

- a given transition definition can take arbitrary actual parameter values, as long as they satisfy its where clause, and,

\(^1\)Nondeterminism resolution
• a transition definition can contain one or more choose statements, each of which may evaluate to an arbitrary value that satisfies the constraint in the where clause.

From the point of view of an IOA automaton specification, the sources of nondeterminism can be all regarded together as a black box that can yield both transitions to be scheduled and values to be assigned to choose statements in transitions. Thus the problem of resolution of nondeterminism can be regarded as that of providing an algorithmic means of obtaining these values and transitions as the need for them arises during the simulation of an automaton. To make the simulator a useful tool, it is desirable to make this mechanism:

• Broad. It should provide several ways to resolve nondeterminism, each suited to different situations and applications. For instance, it should allow choices and transitions to be resolved as deterministic functions of the automaton’s state, or using a pseudo-random number generator, or by querying the user, or any combination of these.

• Extensible. It should be sufficiently open-ended that future developers and advanced users can tailor it to specific needs without too much effort. For instance, if a new datatype implementation is added to the simulator, it should be possible to add useful NDR mechanisms to go with it.

• Usable. It should be reasonably easy to use, and it should not place cumbersome demands upon the user. It is my opinion that this is the most important of the three points: resolution of nondeterminism is an absolute necessity for nontrivial uses of the simulator, and it would be unfortunate that a lack of attention to usability considerations should discourage its use.

2.2 A previous approach to NDR

Anna E. Chefter designed an NDR mechanism for IOA automaton specifications [1]. The essentials of her approach are as follows: for each automaton to be simulated
there must exist a *determinator* specification. To handle choose nondeterminism, the
determinator provides for each choose statement in the automaton a finite set from
which its values are to be drawn. The simulator then uses these values to resolve the
choice, selecting them uniformly at random. To handle transition nondeterminism,
the determinator contains what amounts to a sequential program. This program is
presented as a series of if/then statements, which specify the transitions to sched-
ule. Thus it allows the specification of behavior like: “if any automaton [in some
composition] has more than fifty messages in its buffer, then give it priority to take
a step” [1]. Additionally, determinators provide a way to generate pseudo-random
numbers and query the user for values to be used as parameters to transitions. Be-
sides serving as an NDR mechanism, Chefter’s determinator also has the ability to
annotate scheduled transitions with simulated timing and “weight” information.

### 2.3 Motivation for a new approach

My own approach to NDR has several similarities with Anna E. Chefter’s method. For
example, the mechanism for resolution of automaton transitions is also presented as a
sequential program that can, among other things, use if/then rules to yield transitions
as a function of the automaton’s state. However, the determinator framework, as
described in [1], has some drawbacks, which I sought to address:

1. In determinators, choices can only be resolved using a pseudo-random num-
ber generator. Thus this mechanism is restrictive, since the value of a choose
statement may be consistently correlated with, say, a state variable of the au-
tomaton, and this might be a useful case to simulate. A second problem is that
the set of admissible values for a given choose statement may vary during an
execution, which is a situation not addressed by this mechanism.

2. A determinator specification has the advantage of being neatly separated from
the automaton itself. In particular, this property yields the benefit that no
changes to the IOA grammar itself are necessary in order to implement them.
Unfortunately, it also has the side effect of requiring each choose statement in
the automaton to have a unique name for its dummy variable, so that it can
be unambiguously referenced in the determinator. This is undesirable, since
it requires the designer to enforce this global uniqueness of names, which can
come a source of errors.

3. When there are multiple transition definitions with the same signature, it is
necessary to distinguish among them in some way when referring to them. De-
terminators accomplish this by using the sequential position of the transition
definitions in the automaton. For instance, the determinator can distinguish
between “output myAction:[1]” and “output myAction:[2]”, if there are two tran-
sition definitions for the same output action with name “myAction”. While this
does the job, there is the possibility of modifying the automaton by altering
the order of the transitions, inadvertently changing the meaning of the deter-
miner. This reliance of the determinator semantics on the syntactic specifics
of the automaton can make it easy for the user to make mistakes, since local-
ized changes with no semantic effects on the automaton (e.g., reordering the
transitions) can modify the semantics of the determinator.

4. The schemes for user interaction and random number generation are fixed as
part of the determinator syntax. For example, there is no method to produce
pseudo-random reals between 0 and 1, and, more importantly, there is no way
to add such a method without modifying the determinator grammar itself.

The ways in which I address these points are as follows:

1. My proposed NDR scheme allows arbitrary rules for determining each choose
statement. These rules are described as sequential programs which can make
decisions based on the evaluation of arbitrary IOA terms.

2. My proposal requires the programmer to augment the automaton specification
itself with NDR-related information. Namely, it requires a schedule block for
resolving automaton transitions, and a det block for resolving the values of each
choose statement. Thus, it needs additions to the IOA grammar itself. However, since the NDR information is syntactically local to the explicit choices, no global unique-naming constraint is necessary.\(^2\)

3. In order to address the problem of disambiguation among transition definitions with the same signature, my proposal adds syntax to IOA for explicitly naming the transition definitions themselves. For example, now an automaton can have two transition definitions `output myAction case A` and `output myAction case B`. The token after the new `case` keyword can be an arbitrary identifier or a numeral, and it is used in the `schedule` and `det` blocks to refer to specific transition definitions. In this way, a permutation of the transition definitions does not affect the assignment of the `case` names, leaving the semantics of the `schedule` block intact.

4. The `schedule` and `det` blocks can evaluate arbitrary IOA terms to decide which transitions to schedule, or which values to yield for a choice. In addition, they can evaluate operators whose implementations perform pseudo-random number generation, or user prompting, to yield a result. This has the advantage that the NDR mechanism can be extended in essentially the same way that new datatypes are added to the simulator, as described in Chapter 6.

### 2.4 Overview of the proposed NDR mechanism

Generally speaking, my approach to NDR is to assign a program, called an *NDR program*, to each source of nondeterminism in an automaton. Each such program is capable of providing values that resolve a choice, or transitions to be scheduled, depending on the context. Thus there is an NDR program corresponding to every choose statement in an automaton, and an NDR program for scheduling the actions of the automaton. In this section I will illustrate the operation of the NDR mechanism

\(^2\)Contrast this with the situation in paired simulation, in Chapter 4, in which uniqueness of dummy variable names is required in the specification-level automaton in a simulation relation.
using simple examples. Refer to Chapter 3 for a more detailed and general description
of the interpretation of NDR programs by the simulator.

---

**Listing 2-1: Chooser. ioa**

```plaintext
automaton Chooser
signature
  output action1, action2(n: Int)
states
  chosen: Int % initially arbitrary
transitions
  output action1
    eff chosen := choose x where 1 <= x \ x <= 30
output action2(n)
  pre n = chosen
```

---

**Listing 2-2: Chooser. ioa, with NDR**

```plaintext
automaton Chooser
signature
  output action1, action2(n: Int)
states
  chosen: Int
transitions
  output action1
    eff chosen := choose x where 1 <= x \ x <= 30
    det do
      yield 1; yield 2; yield 3
    od
  output action2(n)
  pre n = chosen
schedule do
  while true do
    fire output action1;
    fire output action2(chosen)
  od
  od
```

Consider the IOA code in Listing 2-1. It is an artificial example that exhibits
nondeterminism both from choices and from transitions. It contains a transition
which is always enabled and whose effect nondeterministically chooses a value to
assign to the single state variable. A second transition definition has a parameter,
and it is enabled only when the state variable equals its parameters. This specification
can be augmented with NDR programs to resolve its nondeterminism, for example,
as shown in Listing 2-2. This example contains the basic features of my approach.

Notice these crucial points:

- The NDR program in the schedule block uses the `fire` statement to schedule
  transitions of the automaton, hence “firing” them. This statement allows the
  specification of the type of action (input, output, external) and its parameters,
  which may in turn depend on the values of state variables of the automaton.
Similarly, the NDR program associated with the choose statement uses the yield statement to specify the values of the choice.

- The NDR program associated with the choose statement has three successive yield statements. The semantics are as follows: when the simulator encounters the choose statement, it will start executing the NDR program until it encounters a yield statement. At this point, it will use the value provided by the statement as the value of the choose statement, and it will remember the current statement of the NDR program. The next time it encounters the same choose statement, the simulator will not start its NDR program from the beginning; rather, it will resume executing it where it left off. Thus, in the example in Listing 2-2, the choice will be resolved successively to 1, 2, and 3. Similarly, in the schedule block, the simulator will remember where it left off after a transition was fired and resume from there the next time it schedules a transition.3

- Moreover, in the case of choose statements, there is an implicit infinite loop surrounding the statements of the NDR program. Because of this, the choose statement in the example resolves to the values 1, 2, 3, 1, 2, 3, etc. This convention is not used in the case of the schedule block in the automaton, but the same effect can be obtained by explicitly writing an infinite loop, as shown.

There is a rationale for these design choices. I expect it to be common for a given choose statement to be resolved in the same way each time it is encountered: say, by invoking the same pseudo-random number generator, by prompting the user in the same manner, or by computing the same deterministic function. This is reflected in the NDR program as an infinite loop around a statement, which would be impractical for users to specify manually if this is indeed a common case. This is not a desirable convention in the schedule block: many automata do not have infinite executions, and for them, one must be able to express schedules that eventually stop producing transitions and halt. An implicit infinite loop

---

3 The semantics of yield and fire statements were inspired by the iterator construct in the programming language CLU. [6]
would disallow this.

- The simulator requires the NDR programs to only fire transitions that are enabled, and yield choice values that make the corresponding where clause true. If the simulator encounters a situation where either of these conditions does not hold, it will issue an error message and halt the simulation.

Listing 2-3 shows the output of the simulator on this automaton. The simulator takes as command line parameters the number of transitions to simulate, the name of the automaton to simulate, and the name of a file containing the intermediate language form of the IOA specification. For every step taken by the automaton (in-

```
Listing 2-3: Simulator output on Chooser automaton.
% java ioa.simulator.shell.SimShell 5 Chooser Chooser.il
[[]] begin initialization [][]
  EVENT: initialized simulator
  %%% Modified state variables:
    chosen --> 0
[[]] end initialization [][]
[[]] begin step 1 [][]
  EVENT: transition: output action1 in automaton Chooser
  %%% Modified state variables:
    chosen --> 1
[[]] end step 1 [][]
[[]] begin step 2 [][]
  EVENT: transition: output action2(1) in automaton Chooser
  %%% No modified state variables
[[]] end step 2 [][]
[[]] begin step 3 [][]
  EVENT: transition: output action1 in automaton Chooser
  %%% Modified state variables:
    chosen --> 2
[[]] end step 3 [][]
[[]] begin step 4 [][]
  EVENT: transition: output action2(2) in automaton Chooser
  %%% No modified state variables
[[]] end step 4 [][]
[[]] begin step 5 [][]
  EVENT: transition: output action1 in automaton Chooser
  %%% Modified state variables:
    chosen --> 3
[[]] end step 5 [][]
No errors
%```

including the initialization step), the simulator reports the transition that was executed, and the state variables that changed.
2.5 Other NDR features

There are a few important aspects of the NDR mechanism that are not illustrated by this example:

1. A schedule NDR program can fire input actions. This is provided for convenience, since otherwise it would be necessary to compose the automaton with an environment automaton in order to provide a full schedule. Once a satisfactory mechanism for simulation of compositions is in place, this feature might not be as important.

2. It is sometimes desirable to resolve choices and schedule transitions using pseudorandomness or user input as information. This issue can be addressed by providing extra operators that evaluate as random number generators and user prompters. One way to do this is to use a pseudotrait⁴ such as the one in Listing 2-4.

```
Listing 2-4: NonDet.lsl

NonDet: trait
  introduces
    randomNat: Nat, Nat -> Nat
    % uniformly random natural number in given range
    queryNat: Nat, Nat -> Nat
    % query user for natural number in given range
    randomInt: Int, Int -> Int
    % uniformly random integer in given range
    queryInt: Int, Int -> Int
    % query user for integer in given range
    randomBool: -> Bool
    % random boolean (each value with probability 0.5)
```

Each of these operators is either currently implemented by the simulator, or is easy to implement with the current software support. Using them, an alternative way of resolving the nondeterminism of Chooser is as follows:

⁴I would like to emphasize that LSL traits are meant to model deterministic mathematical operators, and that therefore this is not an orthodox use of Larch. For example, a zero-ary operator in an LSL trait represents a constant, and does not admit implementations that evaluate differently at different times. Because of this, the NonDet "trait" is not meant to be used in a general IOA context (e.g., inside an effect block); rather, it was introduced to be used only in NDR programs. This turns out to be a convenient and flexible way to incorporate these capabilities. For example, users of the simulator can extend the NDR capabilities in the same way that they can add implementations of specialized operators, as described in Chapter 6. I use the term "pseudotrait" to refer to this and other objects that are syntactically like LSL traits, but whose implementations by the simulator do not conform to LSL semantics. A possible future expansion would be to expand the syntax of IOA to allow declarations similar to the NonDet pseudotrait without abusing the semantics of LSL.
In a similar way, user prompting can be used instead of randomness.

3. There are circumstances in which it would be tedious to write a complete schedule by hand, and in which the simulator by itself can find an appropriate transition to schedule. The mechanism supports the statement fire with no arguments. When the simulator encounters a statement of this kind in an NDR context, it will:

   (a) examine in turn each locally-controlled transition definition of the automaton among those whose actual parameters are constants. For each of them, evaluate the precondition to see if it is enabled, and,

   (b) among those that are enabled, choose one uniformly at random and fire it in the usual way.

4. In IOA, multiple transition definitions can share the same action type, name and actual parameter sorts. In this scenario, the form of the fire statement shown in Listing 2-2 would be ambiguous. This problem is solved by using the case keyword in the transition definition to specify a name; it can be used, for example, as in Listing 2-6. The case name of the transition is local to the primitive automaton in which it is defined, and it can be a number or an alphanumeric identifier. Using the case identifier, the NDR program in the schedule block can distinguish between the two transitions.
2.6 Future work

The above-described syntax for resolution of nondeterminism, while flexible, might be regarded as requiring too much work for its use. For example, it demands that the user provide an NDR program associated with each choose statement in an automaton, which could result in repetitive code fragments scattered over the automaton's code, or in a schedule block that is too complex. Here I present some possible future additions to the current NDR syntax that would help remedy this to some extent. None of the extensions discussed here have been implemented, and the following chapters are independent of this section.

2.6.1 Per-sort choose NDR programs

One natural extension of the choice resolution syntax is the ability to specify a default NDR program associated to a given sort. This kind of feature would require a small effort to implement. One approach is to use syntactic sugar,\(^5\) making code like the following:

\(^5\)Strictly speaking, this transformation would not be “syntactic” sugar, since its implementation requires static semantic information on the types of choose variables.
automaton A

signature
  internal doThing
states
  x,y : Int
transitions
  internal doThing
    eff  x := choose ;
    y := choose det do yield 3; yield 4 od
choosing
  for w: Int do yield randomInt(-100,100) od

Thus, the choosing block would specify default NDR programs for sorts used in the
automaton; these programs could be overridden by NDR programs explicitly provided
in choose statements. Another possibility is to allow a global choosing block, besides
per-automaton ones. A mechanism of this style would perhaps go a long way towards
avoiding the repetitive NDR specification of many common cases. An adequate de-
development of this idea would include a specification of the semantics in the case that
some of the choose statements have where clauses.

2.6.2 Per-predicate choose NDR programs

In a given choose construct, of the general form

  choose x where P(x),


it could be advantageous to associate a default NDR program not with the sort of the `choose` statement, but with the predicate \( P \). For example, many common integer-valued `choose` statements have `where` predicates that restrict the range of the chosen value to some fixed finite set \( S \) of numbers, such as an interval. It is redundant, given a collection of `choose` statements restricted in this way, to specify NDR programs for each of them, if all that is wanted is to choose, say, a random element of \( S \) each time the choice is encountered. With the current mechanism, reasonable programs can result in repetitive NDR-augmented IOA code such as the following: \( ^6 \)

```plaintext
automaton A

: transitions

: eff y1 := choose x where 0 \leq x \land x \leq 20
    yield randint(0,20) ;
 y2 := choose x where 10 \leq x \land x \leq 30
    yield randint(10,30) ;
 y3 := choose x where -6 \leq x \land x \leq 28
    yield randint(-6,28) ;
 y4 := choose x where -20 \leq x \land x \leq 20
    yield randint(-20,20)
```

Each NDR program is essentially a repetition of the `where` clause, and it amounts to giving the simulator a license to select the value of the `choose` randomly from the corresponding interval. A way to avoid this repetition is to develop a language extension similar to the following:

```plaintext
automaton A

: transitions

: eff y1 := choose x where 0 \leq x \land x \leq 20 ;
 y2 := choose x where 10 \leq x \land x \leq 30 ;
 y3 := choose x where -6 \leq x \land x \leq 28 ;
```

\( ^6 \)This example also illustrates some syntactic sugar currently supported by the syntax: the construct "choose... yield t" is equivalent to "choose... det do yield t od". See Chapter 5 for the detailed grammar.
\[
y_4 := \textbf{choose } x \textbf{ where } -20 \leq x \land x \leq 20 ;
\]

::

choosing
\[
\textbf{for } q: \text{int } \textbf{ where } p: \text{int } \leq q \land q \leq r: \text{int}
\textbf{ do yield } \text{randomInt}(p, r) \textbf{ od}
\]

The \textit{choosing} block would associate NDR programs to families of predicates, specified in the form of patterns, which can appear as \textit{where} clauses. An implementation of this feature is likely to require typed pattern matching, and perhaps to place restrictions on the types of predicates \( P \) that are acceptable in this mechanism. I believe this is a promising extension, since it would result in the power to develop an “NDR library” of useful \textit{where} predicates in choices (e.g., real and integer intervals, finite sets, primes, etc.) with a variety of methods to resolve their nondeterminism, and the user would only have to select the NDR method from this library. It would be plausible to make the feature described in Section 2.6.1 a special case of this mechanism.

### 2.6.3 Per-task schedule NDR programs

A natural extension to the \textit{schedule} block is to allow a separate NDR program for each task of the automaton. This raises the questions of how to allocate execution steps among the provided programs, and what to do in the case when some of the tasks are parameterized.

### 2.6.4 Articulating simulability conditions

It would be useful to define a suitable set of syntactically-specified “simulability conditions” for IOA automaton specifications. These conditions should be narrow enough such that an automaton that satisfies them can be executed with few user-specified NDR decorations, or none at all; they should also be broad enough that writing IOA specifications satisfying the conditions is not difficult, and possible for many interesting cases. This is clearly an open-ended problem. In this section, I will discuss a few possible simulability conditions, in decreasing order of restrictiveness.
1. Disallow logical quantifiers, choose and for statements, and disallow automata that have actions with formal parameters. This permits an easy algorithm for simulation: iterate through the transition definitions, and for each of them evaluate the corresponding precondition; this can be done easily due to the absence of quantifiers. Choose a transition (perhaps randomly) among those whose precondition evaluates to true, and execute it.

2. As in 1, but allow formal parameters in actions, as long as they only appear as constant values in transition definitions. For example, a transition definition headed by “output act(1,false)” is allowed, but not one headed by “output act(n:Int, b:Bool)”. This is essentially the same as 1, and it makes the automaton easy to simulate for the same reasons.

3. As in 2, but allow arbitrary formal parameters in actions, as long as transition definitions are restricted to the form:

\[
\text{actionType actionName(var}_{1}:\text{sort}_{1}, \text{var}_{2}:\text{sort}_{2}, \ldots, \text{var}_{n}:\text{sort}_{n})
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{pre} & \quad \text{var}_{1} = \text{term}_{1} \land \\
& \quad \text{var}_{2} = \text{term}_{2} \land \\
& \quad \vdots \quad \\
& \quad \text{var}_{n} = \text{term}_{n} \land \\
& \quad \text{restPred} \\
\text{eff} & \quad \ldots 
\end{align*}
\]

where

- each \( \text{term}_{i} \) is an IOA term which depends only on the state variables of the automaton, and not on any of the variables \( \text{var}_{i} \), and

- \( \text{restPred} \) is an IOA predicate (without quantifiers).

This has the result that at most one value of the variables satisfies the precondition in a given state. In this way, the simulator can, for each transition, evaluate each \( \text{term}_{i} \) and verify whether \( \text{restPred} \) holds after the \( \text{var}_{i} \) have been substituted by the results of evaluating the \( \text{term}_{i} \).
4. As in 3, but relax the restriction on the form of transitions as follows:

\[
\text{actionType actionName(var}_1 : \text{sort}_1 , \text{var}_2 : \text{sort}_2 , \ldots , \text{var}_n : \text{sort}_n) \\
\text{pre } \text{term}'_1 = \text{term}_1 \land \\
\text{term}'_2 = \text{term}_2 \land \\
\vdots \\
\text{term}'_n = \text{term}_n \land \\
\text{restPred} \\
\text{eff } \ldots
\]

where

- each \( \text{term}'_i \) is of the form \( \text{op}_i(\text{var}_{i,1}, \ldots, \text{var}_{i,r_i}) \), \( \text{op}_i \) is an operator, and the \( \text{var}_{i,j} \) are terms involving only the state variables of the automaton,
- each \( \text{term}_i \) is an IOA term involving only the state variables of the automaton, and,
- \( \text{restPred} \) is an IOA predicate (without quantifiers).

This sort of automaton would be simulable, provided that the scheme for operator implementations presented in Chapter 6 is extended to allow certain operators to implement a \textit{search} operation. Given values \( a_{i,j} \) and \( c \) of the appropriate sorts, this operation would yield a value \( b_i \), if one exists, such that \( \text{op}_i(b_i, a_{i,1}, \ldots, a_{i,r_i}) = c \). This operation might not be implemented (or it might be impossible to implement efficiently) for all operators, and only those for which it is implemented would be allowed in this context.

The simulator could then, for each transition, evaluate each \( \text{term}_i \), invoke the appropriate \textit{search} operation on the implementation of operator \( \text{op}_i \), and if the search operation is valid for all \( i \), evaluate the predicate \( \text{restPred} \) after substituting each of the results of the search operations into their corresponding \( \text{var}_i \). Subsequently, the simulator can then select a transition definition with parameters among those for which this test is successful.

It is clear that further relaxations of these simulability conditions are conceivable, especially in the presence of the \textit{search} operation. For example, this operation would
allow the evaluation of a class of existential quantifiers. I have the impression that
restriction 3, along with versions of the NDR extensions proposed in the preceding
paragraphs, would go a long way towards making the simulator easy to use.

It would be useful to investigate simulability conditions that are preserved by
Anna E. Chefter's composer algorithm ([1]; see also remarks in Section 3.4.1). A
satisfactory simulability condition that is preserved by the composer algorithm would
greatly expand the scope of the simulator, since it would reduce the amount of nec-
essary user exposure to the output of the composer, which is possibly more difficult
to understand.
Chapter 3

Single-automaton simulation

In this chapter I describe how the simulator is designed, both regarding the IOA language support that it requires, and the algorithm that it follows to simulate an automaton. Additionally, I present examples of how the simulator is used. I do not treat details such as the management of operator and sort implementations. For more information regarding this and other software-related issues of the simulator, refer to Chapter 6.

3.1 Limitations of the simulator

The current implementation of the simulator has the following limitations:

1. No existential or universal quantifiers are permitted anywhere in the IOA automaton to be simulated. Often, the effect of an existential quantifier can be achieved using a suitably constrained choose statement, as described in [1], thereby reducing the problem of evaluating such quantifiers to the problem of nondeterminism resolution for choose statements. Evaluating universal quantifiers would require an essentially different mechanism.

2. There are restrictions on the actual parameters in transition definitions: each of them must be either a pure variable, or a term that contains no variables, so that it evaluates to a constant. Again, as explained in [1], this is not a
real restriction, since expression parameters can be replaced by variables that are suitably constrained by the where clause of the transition. It would not be difficult to modify the current implementation to remove this constraint, but some corresponding changes to the NDR mechanisms would be necessary. I did not investigate this possibility.

3. No for loops are permitted anywhere in the automaton to be simulated. The IOA for construct is very powerful and nondeterministic. There is no straightforward way to reduce its execution to the problem of choose determination, and it probably requires specialized language extensions and support from the type implementations. Additionally, the presence of choose statements inside the body of a for loop would raise serious questions regarding determination.

4. The simulator only supports primitive automaton specifications. Chefter's thesis[1] describes a transformation algorithm (the composer) which takes an IOA automaton composition specification as an input, and results in an IOA specification of a primitive automaton that is equivalent to it. This kind of algorithm, if implemented, would be usable with this simulator, assuming that the user is willing to provide the necessary NDR programs for the output of the composer. See Section 3.4.1 for further discussion on this approach to simulating composite automata.

3.2 The simulator algorithm

A good way to understand how the simulator interprets the NDR programs is through a description of the algorithm that it follows. Page 36 contains a pseudo-code description of this algorithm. It is organized in three procedures. The main one is SIMULATE($A$), where $A$ is the primitive automaton specification to be simulated. This procedure in turn uses two auxiliary ones, also presented in the figure. The algorithm does not describe the details of evaluating IOA programs or terms and focuses on the NDR mechanisms. Evaluating a term requires every operator in the term to have a
simulator implementation; refer to Chapter 6 for the details on matching operators and sorts with their implementations.

### Notation

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Symbol</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>$A.ndr$</td>
<td>The schedule NDR program for automaton specification $A$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A.pc$</td>
<td>A program counter for $A.ndr$. Its value can be a statement in $A.ndr$ or null.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A.invs$</td>
<td>The list of invariants of $A$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$A.simpleTrans$</td>
<td>The set of transition definitions in $A$ with constant actual parameters.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t.pre$</td>
<td>The precondition term for a transition definition $t$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t.where$</td>
<td>The where term for a transition definition $t$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$t.eff$</td>
<td>The effect program for a transition definition $t$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$c.ndr$</td>
<td>The choice NDR program for a choose statement $c$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$c.pc$</td>
<td>A program counter for $c.ndr$. Its value can be a statement in $c.ndr$ or null.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$c.var$</td>
<td>The dummy variable in a choose statement $c$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>$c.where$</td>
<td>The where term in a choose statement $c$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>trans($A$, $t$, $n$, $c$)</td>
<td>The transition definition of type $t$, name $n$ and case label $c$ in automaton $A$.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>eval($t$)</td>
<td>The result of evaluating a term $t$.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*SIMULATE($A$):

[ $A$: IOA primitive automaton ]
initialize a program counter $c.pc$ for each choose statement $c$ in $A$
initialize a program counter $A.pc$ for the schedule block of $A$
while $A.pc \neq \text{null}$ do
  call EXECUTESCHED($A$, $A.pc$)
  advance $A.pc$ to the next statement in $A.ndr$

*EXECUTESCHED($A$, $s$):

[ $A$: IOA primitive automaton
$s$: statement in $A.ndr$ ]
if $s$ is not a fire statement then
  execute $s$ (s is an assignment, a conditional, or a while construct;
  the semantics for these types of statements are the obvious ones)
else if $s = \text{"fire actionType actionName(actionActuals) case } c\text{"}$ then
  let $t := \text{trans($A$, actionType, actionName, c)}$
  assign actionActuals to the formal parameter variables of $t$
  if eval($t.pre$) = true and eval($t.where$) = true then
    execute the statements in $t.eff$ following IOA semantics;
    when a choose statement $c$ needs to be evaluated, call $\text{EvalChoice}(c)$
  else
    halt with an error
  for each $t \in A.invs$ such that eval($t$) = false do
    issue an invariant failure warning
else if $s = \text{"fire\"}$ then
  let $S = \{t \in A.simpleTrans \mid \text{eval($t.pre$)} = \text{true}\}$
  if $S \neq \emptyset$ then
    choose $t \in S$ uniformly at random
    execute the statements in $t.eff$ following IOA semantics;
    when a choose statement $c$ needs to be evaluated, call $\text{EvalChoice}(c)$

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**EVALCHOICE(c):**

```plaintext
[ c: choice statement ]

forever do
  if \(c.pc\) is not a yield statement then
    execute \(c.pc\) (\(c.pc\) is an assignment, a conditional, or a while construct)
    advance \(c.pc\) to the next statement in \(c.ndr\)
  else if \(c.pc\) is of the form "yield \(t\)", where \(t\) is a term then
    let \(v = eval(t)\)
    assign \(v\) to \(c.var\)
    if \(eval(c.where) \neq false\) then
      advance \(c.pc\) to the next statement in \(c.ndr\)
      exit EVALCHOICE
    else
      halt with an error
```

The procedure `SIMULATE` initializes a program counter for each NDR program in the automaton, including the schedule block and each choose statement. This means that the algorithm keeps a separate NDR program counter for each choose statement; this does not necessarily translate to keeping a separate program counter for each actual choice in the abstract automaton that is being simulated. For example, consider the following code:

Listing 3-1: ManyChoices.ioa

```plaintext
uses NonDet
automaton ManyChoices
  signature
    internal doThing(n:Int)
  states
    m: Int
  transitions
    internal doThing(n)
    eff m := choose det do yield 1; yield 2 od
    schedule do while true do
      fire internal doThing(randomInt(1,100))
    od od
```

The choose statement in the transition for `doThing` actually represents an infinity of choices, one for each value of the parameter \(n\) for `doThing`. A single program counter is kept for all of them, and one must bear this in mind when designing NDR programs. In this case, the consequence is that this choose statement is always resolved alternatively to 1 and 2, regardless of the parameter of the transition. An alternative architecture is possible in this respect: the simulator could dynamically allocate a new NDR program counter for each new set of parameter values that it
encounters for the transition, keeping all the allocated program counters in a table keyed by the parameter values. This raises concerns of memory efficiency, but is an interesting possibility.

### 3.3 Invariant checking

The simulator has the capability of checking whether the invariants of an automaton, stated using IOA syntax, hold throughout an execution. This is done simply by evaluating each of the invariants found in the IOA specification after each transition is executing, and issuing a warning message if any of them fail.

The code in Figure 3-2 is an IOA specification of an automaton, along with two proposed invariants of its state and suitable NDR programs. Figure 3-3 presents the corresponding output of the simulator; this output shows that one of the invariants did not hold on this particular execution.

---

Listing 3-2: Fibonacci.ioa

```ioa
automaton Fibonacci
signature internal compute
states
  a:Int := 1,
  b:Int := 0,
  c:Int := 1
transitions
  internal compute
    eff a := b ;
    b := c ;
    c := a + b

% true invariant:
invariant A of Fibonacci:
a + b = c

% false invariant:
invariant B of Fibonacci:
a - b = c
```

---

Listing 3-3: Simulator output with invariant checking on Fibonacci.ioa.

```console
% java ioa.simulator.shell.SimShell 5 Fibonacci Fibonacci.il
[[[[ begin initialization [[[[
  EVENT: initialized simulator
  XXXX Modified state variables:
    c --> 1
    b --> 0
    a --> 1
]]]] end initialization ]]]
[[[[ begin step 1 ][[[
    EVENT: transition: internal compute in automaton Fibonacci
    EVENT: invariant B failed
    XXXX Modified state variables:
      c --> 1
      b --> 0
      a --> 0
]]]] end step 1 ]]]
[[[[ begin step 2 ][[[
    EVENT: transition: internal compute in automaton Fibonacci
    EVENT: invariant B failed
```

---

1. This IOA specification gives names to the invariants, using a syntax that is not part of IOA as described in [3]. See Chapter 5 for a description of this extension. It was added merely for the convenience of allowing the simulator to refer to invariants by name.

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3.4 Future work

In this section I present areas in which the NDR mechanism described above is not entirely adequate, and outline possible directions of future improvement.

3.4.1 Simulating explicit compositions

Currently, the simulator cannot handle composite automata directly. As suggested above, it is possible to do the following:

1. Using an implementation of Chefter’s composer transformation, turn an explicit IOA composition of automata into an IOA primitive automaton specification.

2. After applying the composer, manually edit its output to augment it with the NDR programs that are requisite for simulation by this implementation.
While this approach would certainly work, it raises some usability considerations. For one, it is reasonable that users of the simulator will want to specify the nondeterminism resolution directly in the vocabulary of an explicit composition. Running it through the composer results in an equivalent automaton that, however, is likely to be more complex than the original input. Moreover, the composer will introduce extra variables and transitions that might obscure the function of the original automaton, making the task of specifying the NDR programs more difficult. I would like to stress the importance of usability: simulating an I/O automaton is not conceptually a hard problem, and it would be a mistake to make a simulator that is unnecessarily difficult to use. In this light, I think that an interesting direction of future research is to extend the simulator so that it can deal directly with (perhaps restricted) explicit compositions.

3.4.2 Graphical user interface

Graphical user environments have become the norm for complex software that requires user interaction. The simulator could benefit greatly from a well-designed graphical interface. For example, it could be possible to:

1. Graphically represent the state of the automata being simulated.

2. Use dialog boxes to query the user when necessary for NDR purposes.

3. Allow the user to change the NDR parameters of the automata in between simulations, without manually going back to the source and front-end.

4. Allow the user to select which invariants should be checked and which should be ignored.

The simulator’s software design already has some mechanisms that should be useful for a graphical user interface implementor; for example, it allows “listeners” to be registered. A listener is a Java object which is notified whenever an event occurs in the simulator. For example, the failure of an invariant and the execution of a transition are some of the events that can be handled in this way. A listener could, in
particular, use the event notification to update the graphical display in response to particular types of events. This event/listener architecture could be further refined to allow a given listener to receive only a particular subset of the events. Refer to Chapter 6 for more information.
In the study of distributed systems, it is common for complex systems to be analyzed through successive refinements: in the presence of an abstract specification $A$, one would like to show that another specification $B$ is an implementation of $A$. If $A$ and $B$ are I/O automata, this is modeled by the statement that

$$\text{traces}(B) \subseteq \text{traces}(A).$$

To prove a statement of this form, it is almost inevitable to use an argument by induction over the length of an execution of $B$. This inductive reasoning on automaton executions has been abstracted, yielding the method of simulation relations. Using this method, one seeks to construct a simulation relation $f$ from $B$ to $A$, as described in Section 1.1.3.

The IOA language includes syntax for asserting simulation relations between automaton specifications. One of the goals of IOA is to provide software tools to assist in the analysis of I/O automata. For example, given a proposed simulation relation $f$ from $B$ to $A$, it would be useful to test its validity when restricted to a particular execution of $B$. As in the case of invariants, a single execution in which $f$ is observed not to hold would suffice to show that $f$ is invalid. While continued verification of $f$ in different executions of $B$ does not prove the correctness of $f$, it does provide empirical evidence that $f$ may be true, before the user spending the necessary effort
In this chapter, I describe how the simulator described in Chapter 3 was extended to allow simulation of a pair of automata related by a mathematical simulation relation. The central problem here is this: the simulation relation itself, being merely a predicate that relates the states of two automata, is not sufficient to specify how each step in the implementation automaton corresponds to a sequence of steps in the specification automaton. In general, there might be multiple step correspondences that realize a given valid simulation relation between automata, and even if there is only one, it can be difficult to find it. From this point of view, the problem of deriving a specification-level execution from an implementation-level execution is analogous to that of deriving a deterministic execution of a single automaton from a specification that allows nondeterminism. Not surprisingly, the problem of programmatically specifying a step correspondence admits a similar solution.

**Related work** Jonsson, Pnueli, and Rump [9] define a new technique for proving trace inclusions between abstract transition systems. The method consists in defining a *transducer*, which takes as input an execution of the implementation-level system and outputs a corresponding execution of the specification-level system. They prove a soundness theorem for this method, which states, in essence, that the existence of a correct transducer between the systems implies trace inclusion. While the transducers used in [9] are mathematical constructs, this idea suggests doing software simulation of a pair of automata while verifying a step correspondence.

### 4.1 A language for encoding step correspondences

A step correspondence needs to specify, for a given low-level transition, a high-level execution fragment such that the simulation relation holds between the respective final states of the transition and the execution fragment. Thus, a step correspondence can be seen as a "attempted proof" of the simulation relation, missing only the reasoning that shows that the simulation relation is preserved. To specify the
proposed proof of a simulation relation, I extended the current syntax of the forward simulation IOA construct to include a new section called proof,\(^1\) for specifying the step correspondence. This section contains one entry for each possible transition definition in the low-level automaton, and each entry encodes an algorithm for producing a high-level execution fragment, using a program similar to the NDR programs used in automaton schedule blocks. In addition to these entries, the proof section also contains an initialization block, which specifies how to set the variables of the high-level automaton given the initial state of the low-level automaton, and an optional states section that declares auxiliary variables used by the step correspondence.

Figure 4-1 shows the general high-level structure of a simulation proof encoded using this language. Note that this syntax extends the syntax for forward simulation relations in IOA. Some of the sections in the proof block have a more flexible syntax than is depicted here, and some can be omitted; refer to Chapter 5 for the detailed grammar. The states block introduces auxiliary variables used in the proof, and their initial values. The initially block specifies how to initialize the state variables of the specification automaton as a function of the implementation automaton’s initial state, so as to satisfy the simulation relation.

Each proofEntry, is either the keyword ignore or a proof program, surrounded by do and od delimiters, according to the grammar rules for SimProofProgram as detailed in Chapter 5. Such a program is essentially an NDR program, of the form allowed in an automaton’s schedule block, except that the fire statements must now provide additional information to resolve the choose statements of the specification automaton. If a proof program is present, the simulator will execute it from beginning to end to produce a high-level execution fragment for that case, using the fire statements to schedule transitions in the specification automaton. A proof entry equal to ignore is equivalent to a proof program with no statements, and it is used to represent an

\(^1\)It was Dr. Stephen Garland who suggested calling the step correspondence a “proof”, and making it a new part of the simulation relation definition; my original idea was to append the correspondence to the low-level automaton, which would not have been as clean a solution. It is plausible to further extend this syntax to include a complete proof, in a form suitable for automated proof verification.
forward simulation
from autImpl to autSpec:
simPredicate
proof
states
  auxVar_1 : sort_1,
  auxVar_2 : sort_2,
  :
  auxVar_m : sort_m
initially
  v_1 := term_1;
  v_2 := term_2;
  :
  v_n := term_n
for actType_1 actName_1(actFormals_1)
  case caseId_1
  proofEntry_1
for actType_2 actName_2(actFormals_2)
  case caseId_2
  proofEntry_2
  :
  :
for actType_p actName_p(actFormals_p)
  case caseId_p
  proofEntry_p

Figure 4-1: Syntax of step correspondence.

fire actionType actionName(actionActuals)
  case caseId
  using term_1 for v_1,
  term_2 for v_2,
  :
  term_k for v_k

Figure 4-2: fire statements in proof blocks.
empty high-level execution fragment.

The fire statements allowed in proof programs have the structure depicted in Figure 4-2. This general fire statement has the meaning: "schedule the transition of type actionType, name actionName with actual parameters actionActuals, using the values of the terms term_1, ..., term_n to resolve the choose statements in the transition's effect having dummy variables v_1, ..., v_n". If present, the caseId label is used to disambiguate between transition definitions with the same signature.

This design imposes a constraint not present in the single-automaton case: it must be required that, for a given transition definition in the specification automaton, the choice statements in it have dummy variable names which are distinct. While in general it is undesirable to place unique-naming constraints for local dummy variables, I justify this design decision by arguing that, in the case or paired simulation, these are not just dummy variables, but serve also as natural names for the choices in a high-level transition. An alternative design would be to add syntax for explicitly naming the choice statements.

4.2 An illustrative example of paired simulation

Listing 4-1 contains a simple IOA specification containing a simulation relation with everything necessary for it to be executed. The automaton GreeterSpec is a specification for automata that produce the output action hello any number, perhaps infinite, of times. The automaton FiniteGreeter is a specialization of this automaton that only produces a finite (but arbitrary) number of hello outputs. FiniteGreeter has exactly one choice point, which occurs in its initialization of the maxGreets variable. To be able to simulate it, I provided an NDR program for it, consisting of the program that yields a random integer in the range 1...100 as the value of the choice. A point to notice here is that the choose statement in GreeterSpec's transition definition has a dummy variable even though it does not have a where clause constraining it; this is

\footnote{Note that the semantics of FiniteChooser allow it to output any finite number of hello actions; the addition of the yield does not change these semantics: it merely modifies the behavior of the simulator, in this case by having it choose a random number in that particular range.}
necessary if the simulation proof is to refer to it by name. This is another necessary IOA grammar change for paired simulation, and is described in Chapter 5.

Listing 4-1: Greeters.ioa: A simple simulation relation with step correspondence.

uses NonDet

automaton GreeterSpec
signature
output hello
states
stillGoing: Bool := choose
transitions
output hello
pre stillGoing
eff stillGoing := choose sg

automaton FiniteGreeter
signature
output hello
states
maxGreets: Int := choose yield randomInt(1,5),
count: Int := 0
transitions
output hello
pre count < maxGreets
eff count := count + 1

forward simulation from FiniteGreeter to GreeterSpec :
GreeterSpec.stillGoing <=>
(FiniteGreeter.count < FiniteGreeter.maxGreets)
proof
initially
stillGoing := (FiniteGreeter.count < FiniteGreeter.maxGreets)
for output hello do
fire output hello
using (FiniteGreeter.count < FiniteGreeter.maxGreets) for sg
od

Listing 4-2 is the output of the paired simulator on this IOA specification. As in the case of non-paired simulation, it outputs the transitions taken and state variables modified for every step of the implementation automaton. In addition, it outputs the transitions of the specification automaton induced by each implementation step. For each transition taken in either automaton, the simulator outputs the variables that were changed by the transition's effect. The absence of simulator error messages in the output indicates that the simulation relation was verified to hold, in this particular run, with this proposed step correspondence.

Listing 4-2: Paired simulator output on Greeters.ioa.
4.3 The paired simulator algorithm

As I did in Chapter 3 for the single-automaton case, here I present pseudocode for the paired simulator. The pseudocode is organized into several procedures, of which \texttt{SIMULATEPAIR} is the main one.

\begin{verbatim}
\* SIMULATEPAIR(R):
[ R: IOA simulation relation ]
let A := R.impl, B := R.spec, p := R.proof
call INITIALIZE(R)
simulate A as described in Chapter 3, except that:
for each transition t executed in A
call EXECCORRESPONDING(R,t) *
\end{verbatim}

\begin{tabular}{l l}
\textbf{Notation} & \\
$R.proof$ & The proof block in simulation relation $R$ \\
$R.impl$ & The implementation-level automaton in simulation relation $R$ \\
$R.spec$ & The specification-level automaton in $R$ \\
t.pre & The precondition term for a transition definition $t$. \\
t.where & The where term for a transition definition $t$. \\
t.eff & The effect program for a transition definition $t$. \\
c.var & The dummy variable in a choose statement $c$. \\
c.where & The where term in a choose statement $c$. \\
trans(A, t, n, c) & The transition definition of type $t$, name $n$ and case label $c$ in automaton $A$ \\
eval(t) & The result of evaluating a term $t$. \\
proofProg(R, t) & The proof program corresponding to $t$ in $R.proof$. \\
t must be a transition of $R.impl$ & \\
\end{tabular}
* INITIALIZE(R):
  [ R: IOA simulation relation ]
  let A := R.impl, B := R.spec, p := R.proof
  initialize the state of A (using its NDR mechanism if necessary)
  initialize the auxiliary variables in the states block of p
  initialize the state of B according to the initially block of p
  call CHECKSIMREL(R)

* EXEC CORRESPONDING(R, t):
  [ R: IOA simulation relation
t: a transition of R.impl ]
  let p := proofProg(R, t)
  let \ell be an empty sequence of transitions
  for each statement s in p do
    if s is not a fire statement then
      execute s (s is an assignment, a conditional, or a while construct)
    else
      let t' := trans(S.spec, actionType, actionName, caseId)
      call EXECSPECEFFECT(R, s, t')
      append t' to \ell
    call CHECKSIMREL(R)
  if trace(\ell) \neq trace(t) then
    halt with an error

* EXECSPECEFFECT(R, s, t):
  [ R: IOA simulation relation
   s: a fire statement of the form given in Figure 4-2
t: the transition of R.spec corresponding to s ]
  assign actionActuals to the formal parameters of t
  if eval(t.pre) = true and eval(t.where) = true then
    execute the statements in t.eff following IOA semantics;
    when a choose statement c needs to be evaluated, call EVALSPECCHOICE(R, s, t, c)
  else
    halt with an error

* EVALSPECCHOICE(R, s, t, c)
  [ R: IOA simulation relation
   s: a fire statement of the form given in Figure 4-2
t: the transition of R.spec corresponding to s
c: a choose statement in t.eff ]
  let r := eval(termi), where vi is the name of c.var
  assign r to c.var
  if eval(c.where) = false then
    halt with an error

* CHECKSIMREL(R)
  [ R: IOA simulation relation ]
  if eval(R.pred) = false then
    halt with an error

The procedure SIMULATEPAIR invokes the algorithm for single-automaton execution described in Chapter 3, except that it calls procedure EXEC CORRESPONDING for every
low-level transition \( t \) that is scheduled. The procedure \texttt{EXECCORRESPONDING} follows the proof program associated with \( t \) in the proof block of the simulation relation, executing each of the high-level transitions determined by \texttt{fire} statements. In addition, \texttt{EXECCORRESPONDING} verifies that the induced high-level transitions have the same trace as \( t \), and calls \texttt{CHECKSIMREL} to determine if the simulation relation holds at the end of the step. The procedure \texttt{EXECSPECEFFECT}, called by \texttt{EXECCORRESPONDING} for each high-level transition, executes the effect program of the transition as in the single-automaton case, except that procedure \texttt{EVALSPECCHOICE} is called for every explicit choice. The latter procedure evaluates a \texttt{choose} statement using the value provided in the using part of the \texttt{fire} statement that determined the high-level transition, provided that it satisfies the \texttt{where} predicate.

Notice that the low-level step is taken in full before its corresponding proof entry is examined, and the prior state of the low-level automaton is not recorded. This means that the proof program can only refer to the low-level state after the low-level step has taken place. Nevertheless, it is easy to modify an implementation automaton to make it keep track of relevant parts of its old state, or of the choices it makes. In this way, the proof can refer to this information, and the language can be very expressive. A possibility for future expansion is to extend the syntax so that it can refer explicitly to the state before and after the low-level step, and to the choices taken during the step.

4.4 Example 1: mutual simulation of simple communication channels

This example is drawn from [7], in which a version of it is used to illustrate basic ideas about simulation proofs.\(^3\) Listing 4-3 is an IOA specification of two channel automata, together with two simulation relations between them, one in each direction. Both automata have the same external signature, with an input action \texttt{send(n:Nat)}

\(^3\)In the textbook, the automaton corresponding to Channel2 is modeled as a composition of two copies of automata similar to Channel1.
and an output action `receive(n:Nat)`. The parameters to these transitions represent messages. Automaton `Channel1` uses a sequence with a first-in, first-out discipline to hold messages "in transit" in the channel. Automaton `Channel2` uses two queues, and has an additional internal action `transfer(n:Nat)` to move messages from the first queue to the second. This code includes schedule blocks for both automata, and proof blocks for both simulation relations. The schedule NDR programs use pseudo-random numbers to generate the various actions. Both simulations simply state that the concatenation of the queues of `Channel2` equals the queue in `Channel1`, and the step correspondences are, as expected, straightforward. Listing 4-4 shows the output of the paired simulator on the simulation from `Channel2` to `Channel1`, and Listing 4-5 shows the output on the opposite simulation.

---

**Listing 4-3: Channels.ica**

```plaintext
uses NonDet

automaton Channel1
  signature
    input send(n:Nat)
    output receive(n:Nat)
  states
    queue: Seq[Nat] := {}
  transitions
    input send(n:Nat)
      eff queue := n \- \ queue
    output receive(n:Nat)
      pre len(queue) \= 0 /\ last(queue) = n
      eff queue := init(queue)
  schedule
    do while true do
      if randomBool then
        fire input send(randomNat(1,100))
      fi;
      if randomBool /\ len(queue) \= 0 then
        fire output receive(last(queue))
      fi
    od od

automaton Channel2
  signature
    input send(n:Nat)
    output receive(n:Nat)
    internal transfer(n:Nat)
  states
    queue1: Seq[Nat] := {},
    queue2: Seq[Nat] := {}
  transitions
    input send(n:Nat)
      eff queue1 := n \- \ queue1
    internal transfer(n:Nat)
      pre len(queue1) \= 0 /\ last(queue1) = n
      eff queue2 := n \- \ queue2;
    queue1 := init(queue1)
    output receive(n:Nat)
      pre len(queue2) \= 0 /\ last(queue2) = n
      eff queue2 := init(queue2)
  schedule
```

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do while true do
  if randomBool then
    fire input send(randomNat(1,100))
  fi;
  if randomBool \&\& len(queue1) <= 0 then
    fire internal transfer(last(queue1))
  fi:
  if randomBool \&\& len(queue2) <= 0 then
    fire output receive(last(queue2))
  fi
od od

forward simulation from Channel2 to Channel1:
Channel1.queue = Channel1.queue1 || Channel12.queue2
proof
  initially
  queue := Channel12.queue1 || Channel12.queue2
  for input send(n:Nat) do
    fire input send(n)
  od
  for output receive(n:Nat) do
    fire output receive(n)
  od
  for internal transfer(n:Nat)
    ignore
  od

forward simulation from Channel1 to Channel2:
Channel1.queue = Channel12.queue1 || Channel12.queue2
proof
  initially
  queue1 := Channel1.queue;
  queue2 := {}
  for input send(n:Nat) do
    fire input send(n)
  od
  for output receive(n:Nat) do
    fire internal transfer(n);
    fire output receive(n)
  od

— Listing 4-4: Paired simulator output on Channels.ioa (Channel2 implementing Channel1). —

% java ioa.simulator.shell.PairedShell 10 Channel2 Channel1 Channels-proof.il
[[[[ begin initialization ((((
  EVENT: initialized simulator
  XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    queue2 --> []
    queue1 --> []
  XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    queue --> []
)))]]) end initialization ]]]
[[[[ begin implementation step 1 ((((
    Executed impl transition: transition: input send(3) in automaton Channel2
  XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    queue1 --> [3]
    queue2 --> [3]
  XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    queue --> [3]
)))]]) end implementation step 1 ]]]
[[[[ begin implementation step 2 ((((
    Executed impl transition: transition: input send(90) in automaton Channel2
  XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    queue1 --> [90, 3]
    queue2 --> [90, 3]
  XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    queue --> [90, 3]
)))]]) end implementation step 2 ]]]
[[[[ begin implementation step 3 ((((
    Executed impl transition: transition: internal transfer(3) in automaton Channel2
  XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    queue1 --> [3]
    queue2 --> [3]
)))]]) end implementation step 3 ]]]
[[[[ begin implementation step 4 ((((

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Executed impl transition: transition: input send(56) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue --> [56, 90)

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(56) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue --> [56, 90, 3]

)] end implementation step 4 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 5 ][[[
Executed impl transition: transition: internal transfer(90) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue2 --> [90, 3]
queue1 --> [56]

]]] end implementation step 5 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 6 ][[[
Executed impl transition: transition: output receive(3) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue2 --> [90]

Executed spec transition: transition: output receive(3) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue --> [56, 90]

]]] end implementation step 6 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 7 ][[[
Executed impl transition: transition: internal transfer(56) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue2 --> [56, 90]
queue1 --> []

]]] end implementation step 7 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 8 ][[[]
Executed impl transition: transition: output receive(39) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue2 --> [56]

Executed spec transition: transition: output receive(39) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue --> [56]

]]] end implementation step 8 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 9 ][[[]
Executed impl transition: transition: input send(39) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue1 --> [39]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(39) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue --> [39, 56]

]]] end implementation step 9 ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 10 ][[[]
Executed impl transition: transition: input send(66) in automaton Channel2

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue1 --> [66, 39]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(66) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue --> [56, 39, 56]

]]] end implementation step 10 ]]]

>>> No errors

Listing 4-5: Paired simulator output on Channels.ioa (Channel1 implementing Channel2). —

% java ioa.simulator.shell.PairedShell 10 Channel1 Channel2 Channels-proof.i1
[[[ begin initialization [[[
EVENT: Initialized simulator
XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue --> []

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue2 --> []
queue1 --> []

]]] end initialization ]]]
[[[ begin implementation step 1 [[[
Executed impl transition: transition: input send(11) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue --> [11]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(11) in automaton Channel1

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 --> [11]

]]] end implementation step 1 ]]]
BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 2

Executed impl transition: transition: output receive(11) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue --> []

Executed spec transition: transition: internal transfer(11) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue2 --> [11]
queue1 --> []

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 3

Executed impl transition: transition: input send(92) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [92]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(92) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [92]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 3

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 4

Executed impl transition: transition: input send(87) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [87, 92]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(87) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [87, 92]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 4

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 5

Executed impl transition: transition: input send(44) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue1 -- > [44, 87, 92]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(44) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [44, 87, 92]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 5

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 6

Executed impl transition: transition: output receive(92) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [44, 87, 92]

Executed spec transition: transition: internal transfer(92) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [44, 87]
queue2 -- > [92]
queue1 -- > [44, 87]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 6

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 7

Executed impl transition: transition: input send(60) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [60, 44, 87]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(60) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [60, 44, 87]
queue2 -- > []
queue1 -- > [44, 87]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 7

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 8

Executed impl transition: transition: input send(38) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [38, 60, 44, 87]

Executed spec transition: transition: input send(38) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [38, 60, 44, 87]
queue2 -- > [87]
queue1 -- > [38, 60, 44]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 8

BEGIN IMPLEMENTATION STEP 9

Executed impl transition: transition: output receive(87) in automaton Channel1

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
queue -- > [38, 60, 44]

Executed spec transition: transition: internal transfer(87) in automaton Channel2

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
queue1 -- > [38, 60, 44]
queue2 -- > [87]

END IMPLEMENTATION STEP 9
4.5 Example 2: The Peterson mutual exclusion algorithm

Listing 4-6 is an IOA source file containing several elements:

- Automaton MutEx is an abstract IOA specification for a two-process mutual exclusion service. This automaton supports requests for a critical section from two users, in the form of input actions try_i, i = 0, 1. The automaton grants the critical section to user i by executing output action crit_i. When user i is finished with the critical section, it signals so with input action exit_i, after which the service eventually responds with output action rem_i. This response signals that the corresponding user has entered its remainder region, and may make another request for the critical section.

The service specification guarantees mutual exclusion; that is, it guarantees that the two processes will not be granted the critical section at the same time. This is stated in the form of an invariant for the MutEx automaton. However, this guarantee holds only provided that each user has a well-formed interaction with the service. This means that the trace of the execution, restricted to user i, has the form (try_i, crit_i, exit_i, rem_i, try_i, ...). In other words, a user will only request the critical section if it is in the remainder section, and it will only
request to exit the critical section if it is already in it. Refer to [7] for more on
the terminology of mutual exclusion.

- Automaton \texttt{Peterson2PMutEx} is an implementation of two-process mutual exclu-
sion that uses shared variables. This is the Peterson algorithm, and the reader
is referred to [7] for a correctness proof. The IOA form of this algorithm is taken
almost directly from [7], where it is presented both in a traditional sequential
style and as an I/O automaton in precondition-effect style. The automaton also
has a schedule block, which produces only well-formed executions. Listing 4-6
also includes an invariant for \texttt{Peterson2PMutEx}, asserting mutual exclusion.

- A forward simulation relation from \texttt{Peterson2PMutEx} to \texttt{MutEx} is included, along
with a step correspondence in the form of a proof block. Both the simulation
relation and the step correspondence are quite simple. The simulation relation
simply states that the region of each user is the same for the specification and the
implementation. The step correspondence ignores most low-level transitions,
except those that cause a region change for a user. The latter invoke the action
in the specification automaton that produces the same region change.

This file includes everything necessary to perform paired simulation between au-
tomata \texttt{Peterson2PMutEx} and \texttt{MutEx}, and the output of this is shown in Listing 4-7.

One of the intended uses of the paired simulator is the possibility of detecting
when a proposed simulation relation does \textit{not} hold. As an example of this type of
use, I altered automaton \texttt{Peterson2PMutEx} by introducing a bug. I changed the effect
of internal transition \texttt{setflag.0} to set variable \texttt{flag.0} to 0 instead of 1. With this
modification in place, I started the paired simulator for 400 steps. With luck, the
bug would be found in the execution randomly chosen by the schedule block, and the
simulator would halt with an error. This did indeed happen, and the result is shown
in Listing 4-8 (only the relevant parts of the output are shown).
Listing 4-6: MutEx. ioa: A mutual exclusion service with implementation

uses NonDet

% Automaton MutEx abstracts mutual exclusion for two
% agents sharing a resource. It assumes well-formedness
% of the inputs.

type region = enumeration of try, crit, exit, rem

automaton MutEx
signature
  input try_0, try_1    % Agent requests critical region
  output crit_0, crit_1 % Service grants critical region
  input exit_0, exit_1  % Agent exits critical region
  output rem_0, rem_1   % Agent may enter remainder region

states
  reg_0: region := rem,
  reg_1: region := rem

transitions
  input try_0
    eff reg_0 := try
  output crit_0
    pre reg_0 = try \/ \ reg_1 = crit
    eff reg_0 := crit
  input exit_0
    eff reg_0 := exit
  output rem_0
    pre reg_0 = exit
    eff reg_0 := rem
  input try_1
    eff reg_1 := try
  output crit_1
    pre reg_1 = try \/ \ reg_0 = crit
    eff reg_1 := crit
  input exit_1
    eff reg_1 := exit
  output rem_1
    pre reg_1 = exit
    eff reg_1 := rem

invariant A of MutEx :
  (reg_0 = crit \/ \ reg_1 = crit) % asserts mutual exclusion

% Automaton Peterson2PMutEx implements the Peterson two process mutual
% exclusion algorithm. It contains a schedule block for simulation,
% which also schedules input actions.

type pcVal = enumeration of rem, setflag, setturn, checkflag, checkturn,
  leavetry, crit, reset, leaveexit

automaton Peterson2PMutEx
signature
  input try_0, try_1    % Agent requests critical region
  output crit_0, crit_1 % Service grants critical region
  input exit_0, exit_1  % Agent exits critical region
  output rem_0, rem_1   % Agent may enter remainder region
  internal setflag_0, setflag_1
  internal setturn_0, setturn_1
  internal checkflag_0, checkflag_1
  internal checkturn_0, checkturn_1
  internal reset_0, reset_1

states
  turn: Int := 0,       % Takes values in \{0,1\} only
  flag_0: Int := 0,    % Writable by task 0 only
  flag_1: Int := 0,    % Writable by task 1 only
  pc_0: pcVal := rem,  % Writable/readable by task 0 only
  pc_1: pcVal := rem,  % Writable/readable by task 1 only
  reg_0: region := rem,
  reg_1: region := rem

transitions
  input try_0
    eff pc_0 := setflag ; reg_0 := try
  internal setflag_0
pre pc_0 := setflag
  eff flag_0 := 1 ;
  pc_0 := setturn
internal setturn_0
pre pc_0 := setturn
  eff turn := 0 ;
  pc_0 := checkflag
internal checkflag_0
pre pc_0 := checkflag
  eff if flag_1 = 0 then
    pc_0 := leaveentry
  else
    pc_0 := checkturn
  fi
internal checkturn_0
pre pc_0 := checkturn
  eff if turn = 0 then
    pc_0 := leaveentry
  else
    pc_0 := checkflag
  fi
output crit_0
pre pc_0 := leaveentry
  eff pc_0 := crit ; reg_0 := crit
input exit_0
  eff pc_0 := reset ; reg_0 := exit
internal reset_0
pre pc_0 := reset
  eff flag_0 := 0 ;
  pc_0 := leaveexit
output rem_0
pre pc_0 := leaveexit
  eff pc_0 := rem ; reg_0 := rem
input try_1
  eff pc_1 := setflag ; reg_1 := try
internal setflag_1
pre pc_1 := setflag
  eff flag_1 := 1 ;
  pc_1 := setturn
internal setturn_1
pre pc_1 := setturn
  eff turn := 1 ;
  pc_1 := checkflag
internal checkflag_1
pre pc_1 := checkflag
  eff if flag_0 = 0 then
    pc_1 := leaveentry
  else
    pc_1 := checkturn
  fi
internal checkturn_1
pre pc_1 := checkturn
  eff if turn = 1 then
    pc_1 := leaveentry
  else
    pc_1 := checkflag
  fi
output crit_1
pre pc_1 := leaveentry
  eff pc_1 := crit ; reg_1 := crit
input exit_1
  eff pc_1 := reset ; reg_1 := exit
internal reset_1
pre pc_1 := reset
  eff flag_1 := 0 ;
  pc_1 := leaveexit
output rem_1
pre pc_1 := leaveexit
  eff pc_1 := rem ; reg_1 := rem
schedule
states
die: Nat
do while true do
die := randomNat(1,7) ;
  if die = 1 then
if reg_0 = rem then
  fire input try_0
elseif reg_0 = crit then
  fire input exit_0
fi
else if die = 2 then
  if reg_1 = rem then
    fire input try_1
  elseif reg_1 = crit then
    fire input exit_1
  fi
else
  fire % (fire any enabled locally-controlled transition)
fi
od od

invariant B of Peterson2PMutEx :

\[(\text{reg}_0 = \text{crit} \land \text{reg}_1 = \text{crit})\] % asserts mutual exclusion

forward simulation
from Peterson2PMutEx
to MutEx : MutEx.reg_0 = Peterson2PMutEx.reg_0 \land
  MutEx.reg_1 = Peterson2PMutEx.reg_1

proof
initially
  reg_0 := Peterson2PMutEx.reg_0 ;
  reg_1 := Peterson2PMutEx.reg_1
for input try_0 do
  fire input try_0
od
for internal setflag_0 ignore
for internal setturn_0 ignore
for internal checkflag_0 ignore
for internal checkturn_0 ignore
for output crit_0 do
  fire output crit_0
od
for input exit_0 do
  fire input exit_0
od
for internal reset_0 ignore
for output rem_0 do
  fire output rem_0
od
for input try_1 do
  fire input try_1
od
for internal setflag_1 ignore
for internal setturn_1 ignore
for internal checkflag_1 ignore
for internal checkturn_1 ignore
for output crit_1 do
  fire output crit_1
od
for input exit_1 do
  fire input exit_1
od
for internal reset_1 ignore
for output rem_1 do
  fire output rem_1
od
Listing 4-7: Paired simulator output on MutEx.ioa

```java
java ioa.simulator.shell.PairedShell 30 Peterson2PMutEx MutExMutEx.ia

[[[ begin initialization [[[
EVENT: initialized simulator

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_1 --> rem
reg_0 --> rem
pc_1 --> rem
pc_0 --> rem
flag_1 --> 0
flag_0 --> 0
turn --> 0

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_1 --> rem
reg_0 --> rem
]]] end initialization ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 1 ][[[
Executed impl transition: input try_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_1 --> try
pc_1 --> setflag

Executed spec transition: input try_1 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_1 --> try
]]] end implementation step 1 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 2 ][[[
Executed impl transition: input try_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_0 --> try
pc_0 --> setflag

Executed spec transition: input try_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_0 --> try
]]] end implementation step 2 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 3 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal setflag_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_1 --> setturn
flag_1 --> 1

]]] end implementation step 3 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 4 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal setflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pn_0 --> setturn
flag_0 --> 1

]]] end implementation step 4 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 5 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal setturn_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_1 --> checkflag
turn --> 1

]]] end implementation step 5 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 6 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_1 --> checkturn

]]] end implementation step 6 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 7 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal setturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pn_0 --> checkflag
turn --> 0

]]] end implementation step 7 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 8 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_1 --> leavetry

]]] end implementation step 8 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 9 ][[[
Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pn_0 --> checkturn

]]] end implementation step 9 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 10 ][[[
Executed impl transition: output crit_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

]]]
```

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Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_1 --> crit
pc_1 --> crit
Executed spec transition: output crit_1 in automaton MutEx

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_1 --> crit

[[[ end implementation step 10 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 11 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkflag

[[[ end implementation step 11 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 12 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkturn

[[[ end implementation step 12 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 13 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkflag

[[[ end implementation step 13 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 14 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkturn

[[[ end implementation step 14 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 15 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkturn

[[[ end implementation step 15 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 16 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkflag

[[[ end implementation step 16 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 17 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkturn

[[[ end implementation step 17 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 18 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkflag

[[[ end implementation step 18 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 19 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal checkturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_0 --> checkturn

[[[ end implementation step 19 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 20 ]]]

Executed impl transition: input exit_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_1 --> exit
pc_1 --> reset
Executed spec transition: input exit_1 in automaton MutEx

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_1 --> exit

[[[ end implementation step 20 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 21 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal reset_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
pc_1 --> leaveexit
flag_1 --> 0

[[[ end implementation step 21 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 22 ]]]

Executed impl transition: output rem_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

Modified state variables for impl automaton:
reg_1 --> rem
pc_1 --> rem
Executed spec transition: output rem_1 in automaton MutEx

Modified state variables for spec automaton:
reg_1 --> rem
begin implementation step 22

Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    pc_0 --> leavetry

]]] end implementation step 22 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 23 ]]]

Executed impl transition: output crit_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    pc_0 --> crit

]]] end implementation step 23 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 24 ]]]

Executed impl transition: output crit_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    reg_0 --> crit
    pc_0 --> crit

Executed spec transition: output crit_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    reg_0 --> crit

]]] end implementation step 24 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 25 ]]]

Executed impl transition: input exit_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    reg_0 --> exit
    pc_0 --> reset

Executed spec transition: input exit_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    reg_0 --> exit

]]] end implementation step 25 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 26 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal reset_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    pc_0 --> leaveexit
    flag_0 --> 0

]]] end implementation step 26 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 27 ]]]

Executed impl transition: output rem_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    reg_0 --> rem
    pc_0 --> rem

Executed spec transition: output rem_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    reg_0 --> rem

]]] end implementation step 27 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 28 ]]]

Executed impl transition: input try_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    reg_0 --> try
    pc_0 --> setflag

Executed spec transition: input try_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
    reg_0 --> try

]]] end implementation step 28 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 29 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal setflag_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    pc_0 --> setturn
    flag_0 --> 1

]]] end implementation step 29 ]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 30 ]]]

Executed impl transition: internal setturn_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
    pc_0 --> checkflag
    turn --> 0

]]] end implementation step 30 ]]]

>>> No errors

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Listing 4-8: Paired simulator output on buggy version of MutEx.ioa

```plaintext
% java ioa.simulator.shell.PairedShell 400 Peterson2PMutEx MutEx BrokenMutEx.il
[[[[ begin initialization]]]
EVENT: initialized simulator

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
  reg_1 -> rem
  reg_0 -> rem
  pc_1 -> rem
  pc_0 -> rem
  flag_1 -> 0
  flag_0 -> 0
  turn -> 0

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
  reg_1 -> rem
  reg_0 -> rem

]]] end initialization]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 1 ]]]
Executed impl transition: input try_0 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
  reg_0 -> try
  pc_0 -> setflag

Executed spec transition: input try_0 in automaton MutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for spec automaton:
  reg_0 -> try

]]] end implementation step 1 ]]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 34 ]]]
Executed impl transition: internal setturn_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
  pc_1 -> checkflag
  turn -> 1

]]] end implementation step 34 ]]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 35 ]]]
Executed impl transition: internal checkflag_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
  pc_1 -> leavetry

]]] end implementation step 35 ]]]]

[[[ begin implementation step 36 ]]]
Executed impl transition: output crit_1 in automaton Peterson2PMutEx

XXXX Modified state variables for impl automaton:
  reg_1 -> crit
  pc_1 -> crit

EVENT: invariant B failed
**** EVENT: attempted to schedule invalid transition: output crit_1 in automaton MutEx;
reason: precondition fails
**** [This event is an error; halting]
**** EVENT: FAILED simulation relation from Peterson2PMutEx to MutEx
**** [This event is an error; halting]
]]] end implementation step 36 ]]]]

>>> Some errors occurred during simulation

4.6 Future work

There are many directions in which this tool can be extended. Below are some suggestions for possible future projects.

4.6.1 Improving the step correspondence language

The language described in this chapter is already substantially flexible, and it might be argued that together with auxiliary automaton state variables and auxiliary variables
in the step correspondence, it allows one to express most of what is usually expressed in simulation proofs. However, to make easier to use, it might be desirable to have explicit syntax for:

- referring to state variable values both before and after the low-level transition, and,

- referring to the actual value to which an explicit choice was resolved in the low-level automaton.

Neither of these two additions should be hard to implement. For example, prior and posterior values of variables could be distinguished with a prime decoration on variable names. References to low-level explicit choice values could be done using another unique-naming-per-transition convention, this time in the low-level automaton.

### 4.6.2 Interfacing with a computer-assisted theorem prover

The paired simulator may provide counterexample executions where the proposed step correspondence does not hold, but it will never completely certify the proof, even if it provides empirical evidence of its correctness after multiple simulations. However, a version of this language could be used as an interface between the simulation relation stated in IOA and a theorem prover: the proof program can be used to drive the theorem prover in the major overall steps of the proof, reducing the amount of routine work that the user has to do.

### 4.6.3 Adding syntax for providing a complete proof

As it stands, the proof block is not a really a proof, since it is missing the reasoning that shows that each high-level execution fragment produced by a for block in the proof preserves the simulation relation, assuming the relation held true in the immediately preceding state. An interesting project would be to add syntax that would allow the inclusion of this reasoning, in a form suitable for automated proof verification.
Chapter 5

Grammar changes for simulator-related IOA extensions

In this chapter I present grammars for the additions to IOA used by the simulator. I only present those parts of the IOA grammar that were modified; the reader can refer to [3] for the rest of the IOA grammar, and for the grammar syntax conventions used here.

5.1 Labeling of transition definitions

As explained in Chapter 3, my approach to resolution of nondeterminism requires a way to refer to a transition definition in a primitive automaton. In general, it is not enough for this to specify the name and parameters of the transition: it is possible for two transitions with identical signature and where clause to be enabled in the same state. This addition to the IOA syntax remedies the situation by providing an explicit naming mechanism:

Original:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{transition} & \quad ::= \quad \text{actionHead} \, \text{chooseFormals?} \, \text{precondition?} \, \text{effect?} \\
\text{actionHead} & \quad ::= \quad \text{actionType} \, \text{actionName} \, (\text{actionActuals where?})?
\end{align*}
\]

Modified:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{transition} & \quad ::= \quad \text{actionHead} \, \text{chooseFormals?} \, \text{precondition?} \, \text{effect?} \\
\text{actionHead} & \quad ::= \quad \text{actionType} \, \text{actionName} \, (\text{actionActuals where?})?
\end{align*}
\]
5.2 Labeling of transition definitions

As explained in Chapter 3, my approach to resolution of nondeterminism requires a way to refer to a transition definition in a primitive automaton. In general, it is not enough for this to specify the name and parameters of the transition: it is possible for two transitions with identical signature and where clause to be enabled in the same state. This addition to the IOA syntax remedies the situation by providing an explicit naming mechanism:

Original:

\[\text{transition} ::= \text{actionHead chooseFormals? precondition? effect?}\]
\[\text{actionHead} ::= \text{actionType actionName (actionActuals where?)?}\]

Modified:

\[\text{transition} ::= \text{actionHead chooseFormals? precondition? effect?}\]
\[\text{actionHead} ::= \text{actionType actionName (actionActuals where?)?}\]
\[\text{transCase?}\]
\[\text{transCase} ::= \text{'case' idOrNumeral}\]

5.3 Labeling of invariants

It is convenient for invariants to have a name, so that the simulator can refer to the specific invariant in case it fails. This was accomplished with the following grammar change, which allows any numeral or identifier to be given as the name for an invariant.

Original:

\[\text{invariant} ::= \text{'invariant' 'of' automatonName ':' predicate}\]

Modified:

\[\text{invariant} ::= \text{'invariant' idOrNumeral? 'of' automatonName ':' predicate}\]
5.4 Resolution of nondeterminism

This modification defines a way for the programmer to specify how the nondeterminism in an automaton is to be resolved by the simulator. The modification has two parts:

1. Addition of a syntax for sequential programs that specify the values to choose or the transitions to schedule ("NDR programs").

2. Extensions to the existing syntax for automaton and choose that incorporate these sequential programs.

The semantics for these changes are explained in Chapter 3.

5.4.1 Syntax for NDR programs

This grammar is very similar to the existing program grammar in IOA, except that it permits the new fire and yield statements, used by the NDR mechanisms to schedule automaton actions and determine values of choices, as well as the while statement, which provides a looping construct with simple deterministic semantics. Note that, for a given context in which an NDRProgram is accepted, only one of the two statements fire and yield is permissible. Also, assignments whose right-hand sides are chooses are not permitted, since the NDR program must be deterministic to be any use. These constraints are enforced during the static checking phase of the front-end.

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{NDRProgram} & ::= \text{NDRStatement};* \\
\text{NDRStatement} & ::= \text{assignment} \\
& \mid \text{NDRConditional} \\
& \mid \text{NDRWhile} \\
& \mid \text{NDRFire} \\
& \mid \text{NDRYield} \\
\text{NDRConditional} & ::= \text{if} \ \text{predicate} \ \text{then} \ \text{NDRProgram} \\
& \text{elseif} \ \text{predicate} \ \text{then} \ \text{NDRProgram})* \\
& \text{else} \ \text{NDRProgram}? \ \text{fi}' \\
\text{NDRWhile} & ::= \text{while} \ \text{predicate} \ \text{do} \ \text{NDRProgram} \ \text{od}' \\
\text{NDRFire} & ::= \text{fire} \ \text{actionType} \ \text{actionName} \ \text{actionActuals}? \ \text{transCase}? \\
& \text{fire}' \\
\text{NDRYield} & ::= \text{yield} \ \text{term}
\end{align*}
\]
5.4.2 Syntax extensions to automaton and choose

These extensions might appear more wordy than necessary. For instance, it would be possible to avoid the do...od bracketing of NDRPrograms. The reason I decided for this slightly long-winded syntax is the possibility that, in the future, additional language support mechanisms for nondeterminism resolution might be designed, and this syntax allows the head keyword (i.e., schedule or det) to still be used by these potential syntax extensions.

Extension to primitive automaton syntax

This extension is straightforward: it simply provides a place to specify the schedule of a primitive automaton.

Original:
simpleBody ::= 'signature' formalActionList+ states transitions tasks?

Modified:
simpleBody ::= 'signature' formalActionList+ states transitions tasks?
schedule?
schedule ::= 'schedule' states? 'do' NDRProgram 'od'

Extension to choose syntax

This extension is also mostly straightforward. Besides providing a place to hold the NDRProgram, however, it does two additional things: first, it specifies a shorthand notation for a (presumably) common form of choice determination, and second, it allows for a choose statement to specify a variable name without a constraining where predicate. This is necessary for paired simulation, since the names of the chosen values in the specification automaton are still necessary to carry out the step correspondence, even in the absence of a where predicate.

Original:
choice ::= 'choose' (variable 'where' predicate)?

Modified:
choice ::= 'choose' (variable ('where' predicate)?)? choiceNDR?
choiceNDR ::= 'det' 'do' NDRProgram 'od' | NDRYield
5.5 Paired simulation

In addition to the mathematical statement of a simulation relation between automata, the simulator also needs a step correspondence between the automata which realizes the simulation relation. Hence, it was necessary to develop a language for specifying these correspondences. See Chapter 4 for the semantics of this language, and for justification of the approach and terminology.

I augmented the syntax of IOA forward simulations to permit the specification of a "proof", which embodies the step correspondence. This proof specifies, for each transition that the implementation automaton might take, a way to produce a sequence of transitions for the specification automaton. These are the additions:

**Original:**

\[
\text{simulation} \quad ::= \quad (\text{"forward" \mid "backward"}) \text{'}simulation\text{'} \text{'}from\text{'} \\text{automatonName \text{'}to\text{'} automatonName \text{'}::} \text{\'}predicate
\]

**Modified:**

\[
\text{simulation} \quad ::= \quad (\text{"forward" \mid "backward"}) \text{'}simulation\text{'} \text{'}from\text{'} \\text{automatonName \text{'}to\text{'} automatonName \text{'}::} \text{\'}predicate \\text{\textbf{simProof}}
\]

\[
\text{simProof} \quad ::= \quad \text{\'}proof\text{'} \text{\textbf{states}}? \quad (\text{\'initially\'} \ (\text{variable \text{':=} term}));+)? \text{\textbf{simProofEntry}}
\]

\[
\text{simProofEntry} \quad ::= \quad \text{\'}for\text{'} \text{\textbf{actionType actionName}} \text{\textbf{actionFormals}}\? \text{\textbf{transCase}}\? \quad (\text{\'do\'} \text{\textbf{simProofProgram \text{'}od\'} \mid \text{\'}ignore\'})
\]

\[
\text{simProofProgram} \quad ::= \quad \text{\textbf{simProofStatement}};+
\]

\[
\text{simProofStatement} \quad ::= \quad \text{\textbf{assignment}}\quad |\quad \text{\textbf{simProofConditional}}\quad |\quad \text{\textbf{simProofWhile}}\quad |\quad \text{\textbf{simProofFire}}
\]

\[
\text{simProofConditional} \quad ::= \quad \text{\'}if\text{'} \text{\textbf{predicate \text{'}then\'} simProofProgram} \quad (\text{\'elseif\'} \text{\textbf{predicate \text{'}then\'} simProofProgram})* \quad (\text{\'else\'} \text{simProofProgram})? \quad \text{\'}fi\'
\]

\[
\text{simProofWhile} \quad ::= \quad \text{\'}while\text{'} \text{\textbf{predicate \text{'}do\'} simProofProgram \text{'}od\'}
\]

\[
\text{simProofFire} \quad ::= \quad \text{\'}fire\text{'} \text{\textbf{actionType actionName}} \text{\textbf{actionActuals}}\? \text{\textbf{transCase}}\? \quad (\text{\'using\'} \ (\text{term \text{'}for\text{'} variable})),+)?
\]

Again, some front-end static checking is necessary, since this type of simulation proof only makes sense for forward simulations.
Chapter 6

The software environment

In this chapter I provide documentation for the Java interfaces and classes used in the implementation of the simulator and related software support. This is with the hope that future work can be done using this software environment as a basis. Through this chapter, mentions of the “IOA Toolkit distribution” refer to a software package (including source and Java executables) to be eventually made available by the Theory of Distributed Systems group, containing all of the IOA Toolkit and its documentation. The distribution is the best source of up-to-date and comprehensive documentation on the toolkit.

6.1 Review of the IOA Toolkit architecture

The IOA Toolkit is divided into a front-end and a back-end. The front-end, in general, takes IOA and LSL specifications as input, and, after checking syntax and static semantics, outputs an equivalent specification written in an intermediate language. Elements present in the intermediate language are meant to correspond rather directly with internal representations of IOA concepts that are designed to be used by IOA tools; this language is also intended to be easy to parse while still being human-readable with some effort. The current intermediate language is based on S-expressions and is very similar to the one described in [1], except for some modifications that make it more manageable in some cases. I will not present a detailed
grammar of the intermediate language, since for most purposes the existing parser and internal representation can be used without having to understand it. Moreover, the intermediate syntax is likely to evolve in response to the insight that has been gained while developing IOA tools.

Technically speaking, each IOA tool is in itself a separate back-end, which takes as input the intermediate form of an IOA specification and does some tool-specific work with it. However, there is common support for the IOA tools in the form of an intermediate language parser and an internal representation of IOA elements, in the form of a Java class hierarchy. Both the parser and the internal representation hierarchy were designed to be highly flexible and reusable by IOA tools; see Section 6.5 for more details.

Since understanding the architecture of the front-end will not typically be necessary for extending the simulator or the IOA Toolkit, the following sections only describe the internal representation, the intermediate language parser, and the means of extending the simulator.

### 6.2 The internal representation: design basics

The goal of the internal representation is to specify and implement a set of object interfaces to be used by IOA tools. There is meant to be an interface, and a corresponding implementation, for each element that may appear as part of an IOA specification, such as automata, actions, terms, programs, and invariants.

In designing the internal representation of IOA elements, it was important to keep in mind that particular IOA tools are likely to need specialized support from the objects they use. For example, a code generator is likely to require methods to compile automaton objects, while the simulator employs methods to evaluate term objects. Moreover, it is desirable to have shared software support: for example, it would be highly impractical to need a specialized intermediate language parser for each separate IOA tool due to minor intermediate language modifications. These two goals are somewhat conflicting, since the parser will need to create objects, which will
in turn have to use particular implementations of the interfaces. The solution to has
two parts:

1. The elements of the internal representation are specified not with Java classes
   (abstract or otherwise), but with Java interfaces. These interfaces are in the
   Java package ioa.ii, and their hierarchy is rooted at the interface ioa.ii.
   .ILElement.

2. The parser and other tool-independent support modules do not directly con-
   struct objects implementing these interfaces; rather, they use a globally-available
   factory object, which is a subclass of the ILFactory abstract class and has meth-
   ods for constructing objects for each of the leaves in the interface inheritance
   hierarchy. Thus, for example, it has methods named newPrimitiveAutomaton
   and newSimulationRelation. This allows implementors of IOA tools to re-
   place the global ILFactory with their own specializations of it, which may have
domain-specific knowledge. Furthermore, a specialized ILFactory can recognize
specialized IOA statements.¹

There is a set of basic implementations of these interfaces, along with an implementa-
tion of ILFactory (the BasicILFactory) which constructs instances in this set. These
basic implementations, as well as the BasicILFactory, are easy to subclass in order to
add tool-specific behavior. The use of a factory object is described, for example, in [2],
under the name “abstract factory pattern”. See section 6.5 for concrete information
on creating specialized factories.

See Figure 6-1 for the inheritance tree of the interface hierarchy used in the internal
representation. For details on the interfaces, refer to the IOA Toolkit distribution,
which contains the most up-to-date software and documentation.

¹For example, this is how the simulator-specific statements yield, while, and fire were implemented.
6.3 The parser

The parsing of IOA specifications from the intermediate language is done by the instances of the ILParser class. Listing 6-1 shows an example of usage of the ILParser. This code sample performs the following actions, which are representative of the general usage:

1. It installs a new ILFactory, which may construct specialized implementations of the ILElement interfaces. This step is optional, and the BasicILFactory is used by default.

2. It creates an object of class java.io.Reader, which is the Java class used to represent streams of text. In this case, the Reader comes from a specific named file, but the origin is not specified.

3. It creates an ILParser, using the Reader as parameter for the constructor.
4. It invokes the method `getSpec` on the parser, which performs the actual parsing and returns an object of the interface `ioa.il.Spec`, representing the IOA specification contained in the `Reader`.

5. After this, the `Spec` object can be used according to its interface, documented in the IOA Toolkit distribution. For instance, individual automata in the specification can be obtained from the `Spec` object.

Additionally, it is necessary to use Java exception handling in the case that errors occur during parsing, in which case the `getSpec` method will throw an exception of class `ioa.il.ILParseException`. The method `getSpec` is the only external functionality available in the `ILParser`. However, the `ILParser` also allows extensive tool-specific customization, allowing it to recognize specialized IOA statements and extensions to intermediate language elements; see 6.5 for a description of these capabilities.

--------------- Listing 6-1: Example usage of the `ILParser`. ---------------
```java
import ioa.il.*;
import java.io.InputStreamReader;
import java.io.FileInputStream;
import java.io.File;

public void useParser() {
    try {
        // 1. (Optional) Install a specialized ILFactory with domain-specific knowledge (by default, BasicILFactory will be used)
        ILFactory.setInstance(new MyILFactory);

        // 2. Create a Reader object (in this case, from a file)
        InputStreamReader in = (new InputStreamReader((new FileInputStream(new File("myFile.il"))));

        // 3. Create an ILParser with this Reader
        ILParser parser = new ILParser(in);

        // 4. Parse the Spec object
        Spec spec = parser.getSpec();

        // 5. Use it (for instance, get an automaton object from it)
        Automaton aut = spec.getAutomaton("myAutomaton");
    } catch(ILParseException e) {
        // 6. Handle parsing errors
        System.out.println("panic!");
    }
}
```
6.4 Adding simulator datatypes

Some applications of the simulator are likely to require support for datatypes beyond those in the current implementation. This section describes how to implement new datatypes (IOA sorts and operators), and how to have the simulator use these implementations.

Sort implementations are represented by objects implementing the interface `ioa.simulator.SortImp`, shown in Listing 6-2. A `SortImp` object has the necessary knowledge to create new objects of a given sort, either from scratch, or from an integer value, in the case of sorts that support numeric values. Note that, since IOA is a functional language, this is by no means the only way to construct objects: virtually every operator implementation has to create a new object to store the result it returns, as mutation is not possible.

Similarly, operator implementations are represented by objects implementing the interface `ioa.simulator.OpImp`, in Listing 6-3. The `OpImp` interface has a single method, `apply`, which returns the result of evaluating the operator that is being implemented on a given vector of operands. As noted above, this result will typically be a newly created object.

Both `OpImp` and `SortImp` handle objects implementing the interface `ioa.simulator.Entity`, shown in Listing 6-4. This is the interface for all the objects created during the simulation of an automaton. Its methods are very generic; they are enough, however, since the type-specific operations are all performed by suitable `OpImp` objects. The name "entity" was chosen to clearly differentiate IOA-level objects from Java Objects.

The simulator obtains implementations for sorts and operators by querying a global implementation registry. This registry is an object of class `ioa.simulator.ImplRegistry`, and it contains methods that, given an operator or a sort, return a corresponding implementation. This is an abstract class, and its interface is shown in Listing 6-5. As shown, the registry method `getImp` can return `SortImp` and `OpImp` objects corresponding to `Sort` and `Operator` objects, respectively.

---

Listing 6-2: The `SortImp` interface.
package ioa.simulator;

public interface SortImpl {
    /** This method constructs a new Entity of this sort, without
     * a specified initial value */
    public Entity construct() throws SimException;

    /** This method constructs a new Entity of this sort with the
     * specified integral initial value (to be implemented only by sorts
     * that accept literals */
    public Entity construct(int n) throws SimException;
}

Listing 6-3: The OpImpl interface.

package ioa.simulator;
import java.util.Vector;

/** Interface for implementations of operators. */
public interface OpImpl {
    /** Run the implementation code for applying the corresponding
     * operator to the given vector of operands, and return the result
     * */
    public Entity apply(Vector/*[Entity]*/ operands)
        throws SimException;
}

Listing 6-4: The Entity interface.

package ioa.simulator;
import ioa.il.*;

/** This interface represents an object in a simulation. Entities have
 * a Sort, and are created either from scratch by SimSorts or as a
 * result of evaluating SimOperators.
 * Note: I chose "Entity" to avoid confusing these objects with java
 * "objects". */
public interface Entity {
    /** Returns the sort of this entity */
    public Sort getSort();

    /** Returns a string representation of this entity */
    public String toString();

    /** Returns true if and only if this entity equals the given entity,
     * in some sense depending on the particular entity. */
    public boolean equals(Entity ent);
}

Listing 6-5: The ImplRegistry interface.

package ioa.simulator;
import ioa.il.*;
import java.util.Vector;

/** This is an abstract class that represents a mapping from sorts and
 * operators to sort and operator implementation (Sorts and Operators
 * to SortImpls and OpImpls). In addition it provides static methods
 * for setting and getting the unique global instance of the

6.4.1 The BasicImplRegistry: an overview

For typical applications, it will not be necessary to write an implementation of ImplRegistry from scratch; the package ioa.simulator.impl contains the implementation BasicImplRegistry, which supports both simple sorts and parameterized sorts. This is also the default implementation registry. In this section, I describe how to add type implementations using the BasicImplRegistry and related classes.

See Listing 6-6 for the public interface of the BasicImplRegistry. Some of these methods are inherited from the superclass ImplRegistry, others are used for constructing a new BasicImplRegistry, and the remaining ones are used for installing new implementations in the registry.

When it is initialized, the BasicImplRegistry goes through a list of implementation packages, each of which is represented by a Java class (not a Java object). An implementation package is meant to include sorts and operators that are logically related. The package must have a static method, with the signature:

```
public static void install(BasicImplRegistry reg);
```

The BasicImplRegistry has a default list of implementation packages.² This list can be overridden by calling the BasicImplRegistry constructor with a Java Enumeration

²At the time of this writing, this list contains implementation packages for the sorts: Bool, Int, Nat, Array[A,B], and Seq[A]. In addition, the implementation package ioa.simulator.impl.NonDetImpl is installed by default, and it contains implementations of some of the operators for...
of strings which are fully-qualified names of implementation packages. Alternatively, the list can be overridden by setting the Java property `ioa.simulator.impl.packages` to a colon-separated list of fully-qualified package names.

For each implementation package, the `BasicImplRegistry` calls the corresponding `install` method, passing itself as the argument. This method, in turn, can call the methods `BasicImplRegistry installSortImpl`, `installOpImpl`, `installSortPreImpl`, and `installOpPreImpl`. The former two are used to install simple sorts and associated operators, while the later two are used to handle parameterized sorts. The following subsections explain the use of each of these methods.

--- Listing 6-6: The public interface of the `BasicImplRegistry` class. ---

```
package ioa.simulator.impl;
import ioa.il.*;
import ioa.simulator.*;

public class BasicImplRegistry extends ImplRegistry {
    // Methods inherited from ImplRegistry
    public SortImpl getSortImpl(Sort _sort) throws SimException;
    public OpImpl getOpImpl(Operator _op) throws SimException;
    // Constructors
    public BasicImplRegistry();
    public BasicImplRegistry(Enumeration/*[String]*/ packages) throws SimException;
    // Methods for installing implementations, from implementation package
    // install methods.
    public void installSortPreImpl(String name, boolean isLiteral, BasicSortPreImpl preImpl);
    public void installOpPreImpl(String name, BasicOpPreImpl preImpl);
    public void installSortImpl(String key, boolean isLiteral, BasicSortImpl impl);
    public void installOpImpl(String key, BasicOpImpl impl);
    // Auxiliary methods for installing implementations
    public static String makeOpKey(String name,String range,String[] domain);
    public static String makeOpKey(String name,String range);
    public static String makeSortKey(String name);
}
```

**Simple sorts: installSortImpl and installOpImpl**

A *simple* sort is one that does not take other sorts as parameters. For example, the built-in sorts Int and Nat are simple sorts. An implementation package installs a

randomness and user interaction in the Larch pseudotrait NonDet, as described in Chapter 3. (This is an example of an implementation package that is not tied to a single IOA sort or sort constructor.)
simple sort by including a line of the form

```java
reg.installSortImpl(reg.makeSortKey(sortName),
                        isLiteral, sortImpl);
```

in its `install` method, where:

- `reg` is the `BasicImplRegistry` object passed to the `install` method,
- `sortName` is the name of the simple sort, given as a string,
- `isLiteral` is a boolean, which is true if this sort can be assigned values specified as numerals in the IOA source\(^3\), and
- `sortImpl` is an object of class `BasicSortImpl`, which is the sort implementation itself. This class is an implementation of the `SortImpl` interface, with some extra methods used internally by the `BasicImplRegistry`. It is often convenient to provide this argument by anonymously subclassing `BasicSortImpl`.

For example, this is the code used to install the implementation of the built-in sort `Int`:

```java
reg.installSortImpl(
                        reg.makeSortKey("Int"),
                        true,
                        new BasicSortImpl()
                        {
                            public Entity construct() { return new IntEntity(); }
                            public Entity construct(int n) { return new IntEntity(n); }
                        });
```

An operator whose signature involves only simple sorts is installed with a line of the form

```java
reg.installOpImpl(reg.makeOpKey(opName,range,domain),
                        opImpl);
```

where:

- `reg` is the `BasicImplRegistry` object,

\(^3\)This is likely to become obsolete, since the mechanism for handling literal values will probably change to become more general.
"name" a plain operator (example: "succ")
"_name" a prefix operator (example: "__!")
"name_" a postfix operator (example: "~-")
"_name_" an infix operator (example: "__+_")
(mixfix operators are specified similarly, using _ as a placeholder for arguments)
"@<sel><field" a selection operator for a field (IOA syntax: a.field)

Operator symbols are encoded as described in [3]; for example, the symbol "ε" is encoded as \in, which is written as the Java string \"\in\".

Figure 6-2: Conventions for names of operators in implementation packages.

- **opName** is the name of the operator, given as a string,
- **domain** is the name of the range sort, given as a string,
- **range** is a tuple of the names of the domain sorts, given as an array of strings,
- **opImpI** is an object of class BasicOpImpI, which is an implementation of the OpImpI interface. Again, this is conveniently provided using Java anonymous subclassing.

The name of the operator must follow the conventions in Figure 6-2. As an example, the following code installs the greater-than-or-equal operator for the built-in sort Int:

```java
reg.installOpImpI
  (reg.makeOpKey("__>=__", "Bool",
                 new String[] { "Int", "Int" } ),
   new BasicOpImpI()
   {
     public Entity apply(Vector/*[Entity]*/ opands)
     {
       IntEntity ent1 = (IntEntity) opands.elementAt(0);
       IntEntity ent2 = (IntEntity) opands.elementAt(1);
       return BoolEntity.make(ent1.n >= ent2.n);
     }
   });
```

**Parameterized operator and sort implementations**

The OpImpI and SortImpI mechanisms described above are not sufficient to specify implementations in full generality, for these reasons:
• IOA supports the notion of a sort constructor, which is essentially a family of sorts parameterized by other sorts. For example, Seq is a sort constructor, since Seq[A] is a sort representing a sequence of elements of any sort A.

• There are families of operators, all with the same name and number of parameters, which have essentially the same implementation, but different signatures. For example, the equality operator = takes two entities and determines if they are equal. It should be possible to specify a single implementation for all equality operators, regardless of the sort of entity that it does comparisons between. This is because the implementation can simply call the equals method in the Entity interface, without knowing the details of the particular Entity implementation.

This problem is addressed by providing a preimplementation. A preimplementation is an object which provides implementations for sorts (or operators) in some family. Given an IOA sort, in the form of a Sort object s, a sort preimplementation p determines if s belongs to the family represented by p, and, if so, p returns an appropriate SortImpl object for s. Operator preimplementations have a similar behavior. Sort and operator preimplementations are represented by the BasicSortPreImpl and BasicOpPreImpl abstract classes, respectively. See Listings 6-7 and 6-8 for their definitions and documentation on their member functions.

There exist more concrete implementations of each of these abstract classes:

• The abstract classes MatchSortPreImpl and MatchOpPreImpl provide a means to determine membership in the family by using an arbitrary boolean predicate.

• The abstract classes TemplateSortPreImpl and TemplateOpPreImpl are subclasses of BasicSortPreImpl and BasicOpPreImpl which can perform pattern matching. An example sort pattern is Sort1[Sort2[p, q],p], where Sort1 and Sort2 are names of IOA sort constructors, and p, q are variables which can match arbitrary IOA sorts.

I will not provide the source for any of these two specializations, and instead will show their usage through examples. Refer to the IOA Toolkit distribution for the
source. The Template preimplementation classes are the ones that are likely to be used most extensively, due to their generality, and I will explain them to more depth in the next paragraphs.

Listing 6-7: The BasicSortPreImpl abstract class.

```java
package ioa.simulator.impl;
import ioa.simulator.*;

/**
 * This class represents a family of sort implementations. The method
 * getSortImpl returns a SortImpl for a given Sort, provided that this
 * sort matches (belongs to) this family; otherwise, it returns null.
 * Concrete subclasses of this class must provide an implementation
 * for the construct method. There are two versions of this method.
 * The first version supports a parameter data, of type Object, which
 * provides implementation-dependent data generated during the
 * matching process. The second version does not include this
 * parameter, and is to be used by subclasses which ignore this data.
 */
public abstract class BasicSortPreImpl {
    /**
     * Given a sort which matches this preimplementation, construct
     * an Entity of this sort. Default implementation defers to construct(SimSort)
     * @param fullsort The sort being used, which matched this preimplementation
     * @param data Implementation-specific data produced by the matching process
     */
    public Entity construct(SimSort fullsort, Object data)
            throws SimException
    {
        return construct(fullsort);
    }

    /**
     * Given a sort which matches this preimplementation and an integer,
     * construct an Entity of this sort initialized to this integer (for
     * sorts that support integer values). Default implementation
     * defers to construct(SimSort,int)
     * @param fullsort The sort being used, which matched this preimplementation
     * @param data Implementation-specific data produced by the matching process
     * @param n The integer to use when constructing the Entity
     */
    public Entity construct(SimSort fullsort, Object data, int n)
            throws SimException
    {
        return construct(fullsort);
    }

    /**
     * Given a sort which matches this preimplementation, construct
     * an Entity of this sort. (This method is used when match data is ignored).
     */
    public Entity construct(SimSort fullsort)
            throws SimException
    {
        throw new SimImplException("*** unimplemented construct called");
    }

    /**
     * Given a sort which matches this preimplementation and an integer,
     * construct an Entity of this sort initialized to this integer (for
     * sorts that support integer values). (This method is used when match data is ignored).
     */
    public Entity construct(SimSort fullsort, int n)
            throws SimException
    {
        throw new SimImplException("construction from literal unsupported by sort");
    }
}
```
package ioa.simulator.impl;
import ioa.simulator.*;
import java.util.Vector;

abstract class BasicOpPreImpl
{
    public abstract Entity apply(SimOperator fullOp, Object data, Vector<Entity> operands) throws SimException;
    public abstract void assign(SimOperator fullOp, Object data, Vector<Entity> operands, Entity value) throws SimException;
}

Listing 6-8: The BasicOpPreImpl abstract class.

public void assign(SimOperator fullop, Vector/*[Entity]*/ operands, Entity value)
throws SimException
{
    throw new SimImplException("*** unimplemented assign called");
}

/**
 * Returns an operator implementation for the given operator, if
 * this PreImpl can provide one. Returns null otherwise.
 */
public abstract OpImpl getImpl(SimOperator fullop);

// For chaining (used internally by the BasicImplRegistry)
BasicOpPreImpl next = null;
BasicOpPreImpl last = null;

Templates A template is specified using an S-expression, given as a string parameter to the constructor of TemplateOpPreImpl or TemplateOpPreImpl. In the case or sorts, the S-expression can be either:

- An S-expression of the form (name p₁ ...pₙ), n ≥ 0, where name is a string and the pᵢ are sort templates. In this case, the template matches any sort obtained by applying the sort constructor of name name to any sorts s₁, ..., sₙ such that sᵢ matches pᵢ for all i. (The case n = 0 matches only simple sorts, and in this case the parentheses can be omitted.)

- An integer k ≥ 0, denoting a variable in the pattern. This matches any sort, provided that each integer is matched to the same sort throughout the template.

For example, a sort template that matches sorts of the form Sort₁[Sort₂[p₁ q₁ₚ₀] ] is ("Sort₁" ("Sort₂" 0 1) 0). In the case of operators, the S-expression is of the form (name (p₁ ...pₙ) p₀), where name is an operator name following the conventions in Figure 6-2. It matches any operator with name name, whose range matches the...
template p₀ and its range sorts s₁, ..., sᵢ are such that sᵢ matches pᵢ. For example, the pattern \("=_=_" (0 0) \("\text{Bool}\) \) matches all the equality operators.⁴

**Installing operator preimplementations** An implementation package installs an operator preimplementation for a family of operators by including a line of the form

\[
\text{reg.installOpPreImpl(name,preImpl);}
\]

where **name** is the name of the operator, following the conventions in Figure 6-2, **preImpl** is a preimplementation object and **reg** is the BasicImplRegistry. For example, this is the code used to install the len operator for the sort constructor Seq[A]

```java
// template: \("\text{len}\" (("Seq" 0)) \"Int\"
reg.installOpPreImpl
("len",
 new TemplateOpPreImpl("\"\text{len}\" ((\"Seq\" 0)) \"Int\")")
{
    public Entity apply(SimOperator fullop, Vector/*[Entity]*/ opands)
    {
        SeqEntity seq = (SeqEntity) opands.elementAt(0);
        return IntEntity.make(seq.size());
    }
}
```

**Installing sort preimplementations** Sort implementations are installed using a call of the form

\[
\text{reg.installSortPreImpl(name,isLiteral,preImpl);}
\]

where **name** is the name of the sort, **isLiteral** is a boolean, and **preImpl** is the corresponding preimplementation. An example is:

```java
reg.installSortPreImpl
("Seq",
 false, // isLiteral
 new MatchSortPreImpl()
{
    public Entity construct(SimSort fullsort)
    {
        return new SeqEntity(fullsort);
    }
    public boolean matches(SimSort fullsort)
    {
        return fullsort.getSubSorts().size() == 1;
    }
})
```

⁴One must bear in mind that the S-expression is given as a Java string parameter, and hence all the quotes and special characters inside the S-expression must be preceded by a backslash. For example, the S-expression \("=_=_" \("\text{Bool}\) (0 0)\), when encoded as a Java string, becomes \("\text{("=_=_") \("\text{Bool}\") (0 0)\)\)"
This example uses a MatchSortPreImpl, with a predicate that tests to see whether there is exactly one subsort given to the sort constructor Seq.

To learn more about providing simulator implementations, I recommend examining the source of the implementation packages provided with the simulator. This source will be included in the IOA Toolkit distribution.

6.5 Specializing the internal representation

The object oriented nature of Java allows the specialization of classes through subclassing, and this facility is the main tool for specializing the internal representation. However, this still leaves the problem of how to instruct the ILParser to create specialized versions of ILElement objects, rather than objects with the default implementation. This can be done by defining a new subclass of ILFactory. This class contains methods for creating each of the elements of the internal representation. Once a specialized subclass of ILFactory is defined, it can be installed as the default global ILFactory using the static method ILFactory.setInstance. The parser uses the installed factory to create objects of the internal representation.

All of the internal representation interfaces that are leaves of the inheritance tree in Figure 6-1 have a basic implementation. For every internal representation interface named X, its basic implementation is the class ioa.il.BasicX. For most IOA tools, it will be enough to specialize the Basic family. For example, if a particular tool needs to have a special-purpose method called special in each Automaton object it manipulates, it can accomplish this by:

1. Defining a subclass of BasicAutomaton, named, say, SpecialAutomaton. This class will add the metod special.

2. Defining a subclass of BasicILFactory, which redefines the method newAutomaton so that it creates objects of class SpecialAutomaton instead of BasicAutomaton.

3. Installing this new factory as the global factory, using ILFactory.setInstance.
4. Calling the parser to create an internal representation of an IOA intermediate language file.

After the last step, the returned Spec object will contain only Automaton objects which are actually of class SpecialAutomaton, and this hypothetical tool will be able to cast them into SpecialAutomaton to access the method special.

The ILFactory mechanism can also be used to allow the ILParser to recognize custom intermediate language statements. For more information on doing this, refer to the documentation in the IOA Toolkit distribution.

6.6 Modifying the simulator user interface

I attempted to provide some mechanisms that would allow a good user interface for the automaton to be implemented independently of the simulator itself. Towards this goal, I defined interfaces for simulator events and listeners. Simulator events are Java objects representing events that occur during a simulation of an automaton in an IOA specification, and they implement the interface SimEvent (Listing 6-9). A simulator listener is a Java object implementing the interface SimListener (Listing 6-10), which contains methods that are called whenever a simulator event occurs. For example, a transition taken in an automaton implements the SimEvent interface.

Since at the time of this writing there is only one (text-based) user interface for the simulator, it is by no means clear whether this mechanism is general enough to use as a basis for, say, a graphical user interface. For example, it could be necessary to make the listeners be event-specific. However, the architecture of the simulator is such that building on this event/listener scheme will probably not be difficult.
package ioa.simulator;

/**
 * An event that may be broadcast by the simulator.
 */
public interface SimEvent {
    /**
     * Returns true if this event is an error that should cause the
     * simulation to halt.
     */
    public boolean isError();

    /**
     * Returns a string with a human-readable description of this
     * simulator event.
     */
    public String eventDescription();
}

package ioa.simulator;

/**
 * An object that may receive events broadcast by the simulator
 */
public interface SimListener {
    /**
     * Handle the given event. Return false if simulator should not
     * continue, true otherwise.
     * @exception SimException if an error occurs during handling
     */
    public boolean handleSimEvent(SimEvent ev)
        throws SimException;
}
Bibliography


