

Correctly Implementing Synchronous Message Passing in the Pi-Calculus by Concurrent Haskell's MVars

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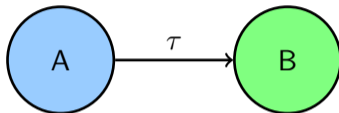
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LMU Munich

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General Motivation

- We are interested in the **correctness of translations** between programming languages



- Questions:
 - can language B **express** language A?
 - does τ **correctly implement** the primitives of A using the primitives of B?
- We focus correctness w.r.t. **contextual equivalence**.
 - equates programs if they **behave the same** (w.r.t. termination) in all contexts
 - it is a generic notion, **applicable for many** programming languages

Goals of the Current Work

π -calculus [Milner, Parrow, & Walker, 1992]

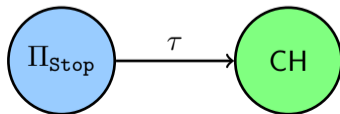
- a standard model for (mobile) processes with **message passing**
- we use the synchronous π -calculus with replication and a constant stop (called Π_{Stop})

Concurrent Haskell [Peyton-Jones, Gordon, & Finne, 1996]

- extends Haskell by concurrent threads and **shared-memory** (so-called MVars)
- we use the calculus CH (a variant of CHF, [S. & Schmidt-Schauß, 2011])

Questions:

- Can we encode/translate Π_{Stop} into CH?
- Which (correctness) properties hold for the translation?



The Source Language Π_{Stop} : The π -calculus with Stop

- we consider the synchronous π -calculus, with replication, without sums
- extended with a constant **Stop** to signal success [S. & Schmidt-Schauß 2015]

Syntax of Processes

$$P, Q \in \text{Proc}_\pi ::= P \mid Q \mid \underbrace{x(y).P}_{\text{input}} \mid \underbrace{\bar{x}y.P}_{\text{output}} \mid \nu x.P \mid !P \mid \mathbf{0} \mid \underbrace{\text{Stop}}_{\text{success}}$$

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Reduction contexts: $\mathbb{D} \in \text{PCtxt}_\pi ::= [\cdot] \mid \mathbb{D} \mid P \mid P \mid \mathbb{D} \mid \nu x.\mathbb{D}$

Reduction rule for interaction

$$x(y).P \mid \bar{x}z.Q \xrightarrow{ia} P[z/y] \mid Q$$

Standard Reduction \xrightarrow{sr} :

$$P \xrightarrow{sr} Q \text{ if } P \equiv \mathbb{D}[P'], P' \xrightarrow{ia} Q', \mathbb{D}[Q'] \equiv Q$$

Process P is **successful** if $P \equiv \mathbb{D}[\text{Stop}]$

The Target Language CH: Functional Language + Threads & MVars

Syntax of Processes:

$$P_i \in Proc_{CH} ::= P_1 \mid P_2 \mid \nu x.P \mid \underbrace{\leftarrow e}_{\text{thread}} \mid x = e \mid \underbrace{x \mathbf{m} e \mid x \mathbf{m} -}_{\text{MVars}}$$

Main-thread: a unique distinguished thread $\xleftarrow{\text{main}} e$

Syntax of Expressions:

$$e_i ::= \overbrace{x \mid \lambda x.e \mid (e_1 e_2) \mid c \vec{e}_1 \mid \text{case } e \text{ of } \textit{alts} \mid \text{seq } e_1 e_2 \mid \text{letrec } x_1=e_1, \dots, x_n=e_n \text{ in } e}_{\text{extended lambda-calculus}} \\ \mid \underbrace{\text{return } e \mid e_1 \gg e_2 \mid \text{forkIO } e}_{\text{IO-monad \& concurrency}} \mid \underbrace{\text{newMVar } e \mid \text{takeMVar } e \mid \text{putMVar } e_1 e_2}_{\text{monadic MVar-operations}}$$

CH: Operational Semantics (Excerpt)

Monadic Computations

$$\text{(lunit)} \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{return } e_1 \gg e_2] \quad \rightarrow \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[e_2 \ e_1]$$

$$\text{(fork)} \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{forkIO } e] \quad \rightarrow \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{return } ()] \mid \Leftarrow e$$

$$\text{(tmvar)} \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{takeMVar } x \mid x \ \mathbf{m} \ e] \quad \rightarrow \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{return } e] \mid x \ \mathbf{m} \ -$$

$$\text{(pmvar)} \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{putMVar } x \ e \mid x \ \mathbf{m} \ -] \quad \rightarrow \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\text{return } ()] \mid x \ \mathbf{m} \ e$$

...

Functional Evaluation

$$\text{(beta)} \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\mathbb{F}[(\lambda x.e_1) \ e_2]] \quad \rightarrow \quad \Leftarrow \mathbb{M}[\mathbb{F}[e_1[e_2/x]]]$$

...

Standard Reduction \xrightarrow{sr} :

$$P \xrightarrow{sr} Q \text{ if } P \equiv \mathbb{D}[P'], P' \rightarrow Q', \mathbb{D}[Q'] \equiv Q$$

Process P is **successful** if

$$P \equiv \nu x_1 \dots x_n. \left(\xleftarrow{\text{main}} \text{return } e \mid P' \right)$$

Contexts:

$$\mathbb{M} ::= [\cdot] \mid \mathbb{M} \gg e$$

$$\mathbb{E} ::= [\cdot] \mid (\mathbb{E} \ e) \mid (\text{case } \mathbb{E} \ \text{of } \text{alts}) \mid (\text{seq } \mathbb{E} \ e)$$

$$\mathbb{F} ::= \mathbb{E} \mid (\text{takeMVar } \mathbb{E}) \mid (\text{putMVar } \mathbb{E} \ e)$$

$$\mathbb{D} ::= [\cdot] \mid \mathbb{D} \mid P \mid P \mid \mathbb{D} \mid \nu x. \mathbb{D}$$

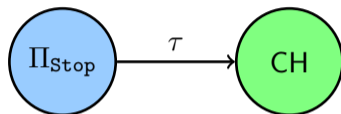
Observations:

- P **may-converges** ($P \Downarrow$) iff $P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P'$ and P' is successful.
- P **should-converges** ($P \Downarrow$) iff $\forall P' : P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P' \implies P' \Downarrow$

Contextual equivalence \sim_c

$$P_1 \sim_c P_2 \text{ iff } \forall C : C[P_1] \Downarrow \iff C[P_2] \Downarrow \text{ and } C[P_1] \Downarrow \iff C[P_2] \Downarrow$$

Task: Find a Translation ...



- that is correct w.r.t. \sim_c
- we present the main ideas of the translation step by step:
 - translation of the Stop-constant
 - translation of 0, parallel composition, replication
 - translation of channels (and interaction): with different variations

Translation of Stop:

$$\tau_0(P) = \stackrel{\text{main}}{\longleftarrow} \mathbf{do} \{ \text{stop} \leftarrow \text{newMVar } (); \\ \text{forkIO } \tau(P); \\ \text{putMVar } \text{stop } () \}$$

$$= C_{out}^\tau[\tau(P)]$$

$$\tau(\text{Stop}) = \text{takeMVar } \text{stop}$$

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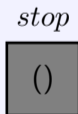
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main thread

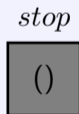


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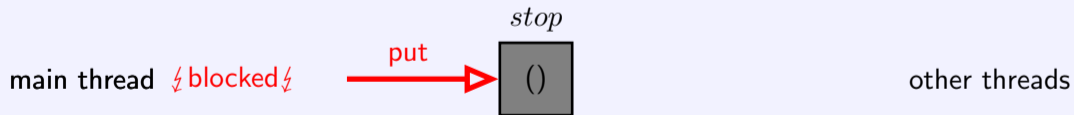
main thread



other threads

Translation

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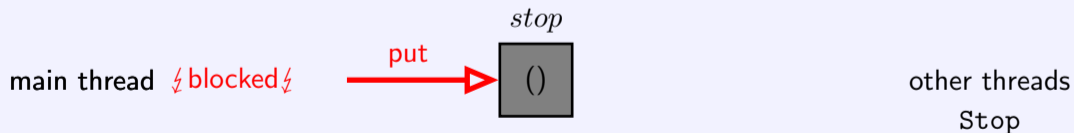
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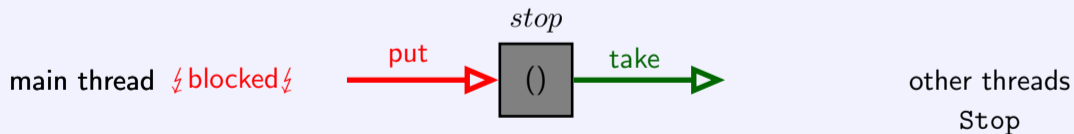
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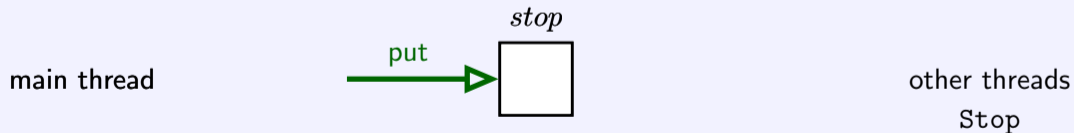
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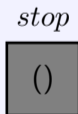
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main thread **successful**



other threads
Stop

Translation of Stop:

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Translation of 0, Parallel Composition, and Replication:

$$\begin{aligned}\tau(0) &= \text{return } () \\ \tau(P \mid Q) &= \mathbf{do} \{ \text{forkIO } \tau(Q); \tau(P) \} \\ \tau(!P) &= \text{letrec } f = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{forkIO } \tau(P); f \} \text{ in } f\end{aligned}$$

Translation of Channels and Message Passing

Two approaches to encode synchronous communication by several accesses to MVars

- Using a **private MVar** per communication

(similar to [Boudol 1992, Honda & Tokora, 1991] where private names guarantee correct communication while encoding the synchronous in the asynchronous π -calculus)

- Using a fixed number of **global MVars** per channel

avoids to dynamically generate “garbage”

Translation with Private MVar

π -calculus-channels are translated into

```
data Channel = Chan (MVar (Channel, MVar ()))
```

```
 $\tau(\nu x.P) = \mathbf{do} \{ \mathit{chan}x \leftarrow \mathit{newEmptyMVar}; \mathbf{letrec} \ x = \mathbf{Chan} \ \mathit{chan}x \ \mathbf{in} \ \tau(P) \}$ 
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x



channel creation

νx

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sender

$\bar{x}z.Q$

x



receiver

$x(y).P$

Translation with Private MVar

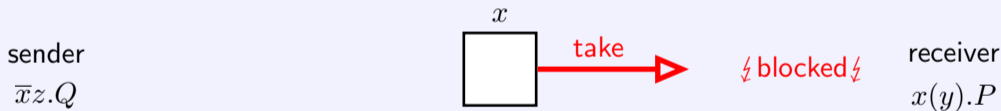
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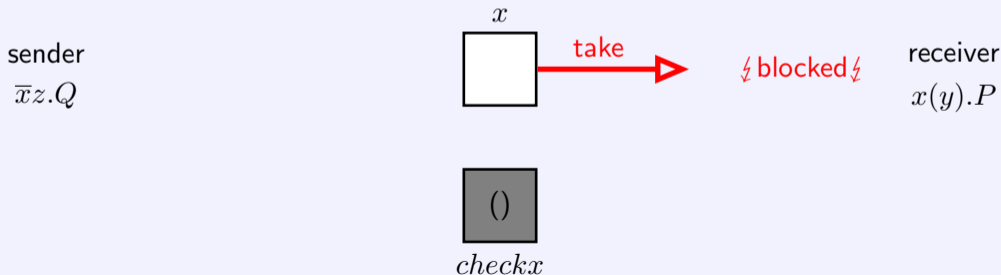
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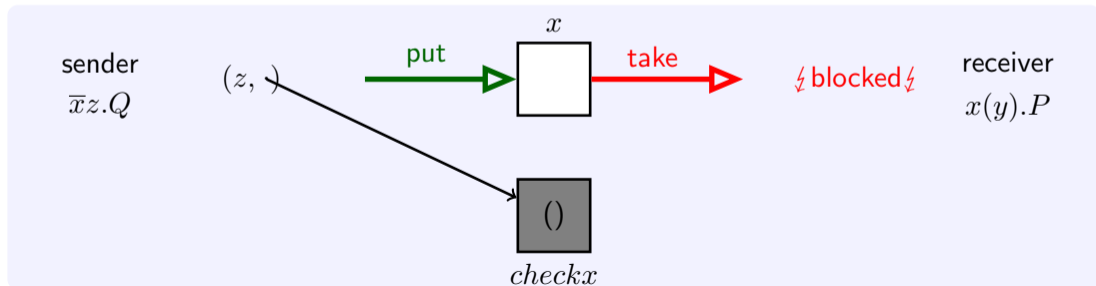
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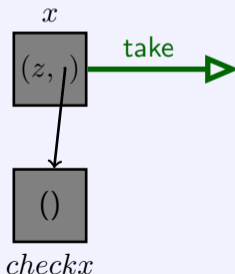
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sender
 $\bar{x}z.Q$



Translation with Private MVar

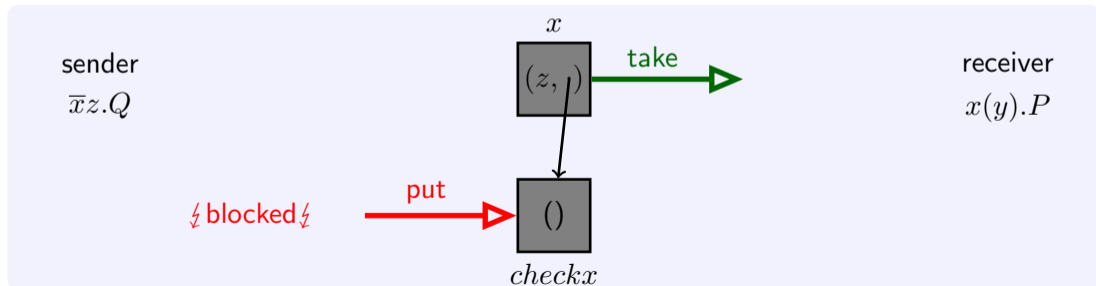
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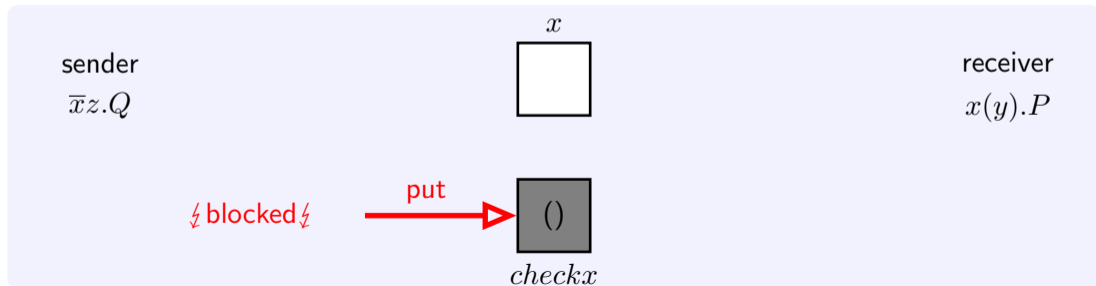
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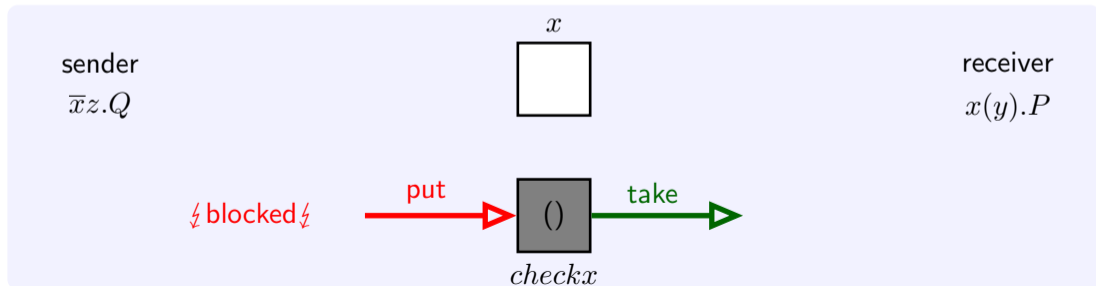
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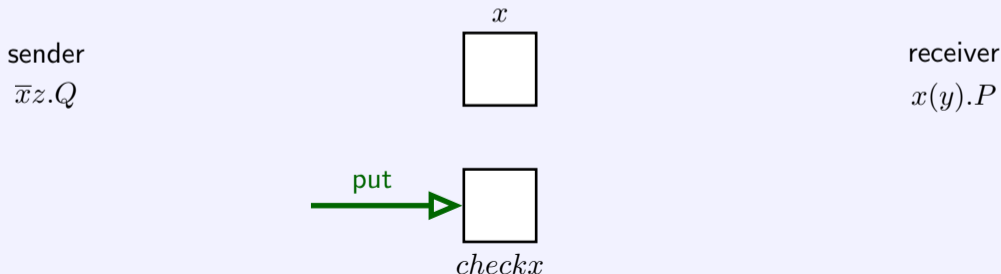
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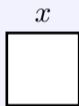
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```
 $\tau(\nu x.P) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{chan}x \leftarrow \text{newEmptyMVar}; \text{letrec } x = \text{Chan } \text{chan}x \text{ in } \tau(P) \}$ 
```

```
 $\tau(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{check}x \leftarrow \text{newMVar } ();$   
                   $\text{putMVar } (\text{unchan } x) (z, \text{check}x);$   
                   $\text{putMVar } \text{check}x (); \tau(Q) \}$   
 $\tau(x(y).P) = \mathbf{do} \{ (y, \text{check}x) \leftarrow \text{takeMVar } (\text{unchan } x);$   
                   $\text{takeMVar } \text{check}x; \tau(P) \}$ 
```

sender
 $\bar{x}z.Q$



receiver
 $x(y).P$



$\text{check}x$

Full Translation

$$\begin{aligned}\tau_0(P) &= C_{out}^\tau[\tau(p)] \\ \tau(\text{Stop}) &= \text{takeMVar } stop \\ \tau(0) &= \text{return } () \\ \tau(P \mid Q) &= \mathbf{do} \{ \text{forkIO } \tau(Q); \tau(P) \} \\ \tau(!P) &= \text{letrec } f = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{forkIO } \tau(P); f \} \text{ in } f \\ \tau(\nu x.P) &= \mathbf{do} \{ \text{chan } x \leftarrow \text{newEmptyMVar}; \text{letrec } x = \text{Chan } \text{chan } x \text{ in } \tau(P) \} \\ \tau(\bar{x}z.Q) &= \mathbf{do} \{ \text{check } x \leftarrow \text{newMVar } (); \\ &\quad \text{putMVar } (\text{unchan } x) (z, \text{check } x); \\ &\quad \{ \text{putMVar } \text{check } x (); \tau(Q) \} \\ \tau(x(y).P) &= \mathbf{do} \{ (y, \text{check } x) \leftarrow \text{takeMVar } (\text{unchan } x); \\ &\quad \text{takeMVar } \text{check } x; \tau(P) \}\end{aligned}$$

Theorem (Convergence Equivalence)

For closed $P \in \Pi_{\text{stop}}$: $P \Downarrow \iff C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \Downarrow$ and $P \Downarrow \iff C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \Downarrow$

Proof consists of four parts:

- (“ $\Downarrow \Rightarrow \Downarrow$ ”) $P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P', P'$ successful $\implies \exists Q : C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \xrightarrow{sr,*} Q, Q$ successful.
- (“ $\Downarrow \Leftarrow \Downarrow$ ”) $C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \xrightarrow{sr,*} Q, Q$ successful $\implies \exists P' : P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P', P'$ successful
- (“ $\Downarrow \Leftarrow \Downarrow$ ”) $P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P', P' \Uparrow \implies \exists Q : C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \xrightarrow{sr,*} Q, Q \Uparrow$.
- (“ $\Downarrow \Rightarrow \Downarrow$ ”) $C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \xrightarrow{sr,*} Q, Q \Uparrow \implies \exists P' : P \xrightarrow{sr,*} P', P' \Uparrow$

All parts require to **inductively construct reduction sequences from given ones**.

For parts (“ $\Downarrow \Leftarrow \Downarrow$ ”) and (“ $\Downarrow \Rightarrow \Downarrow$ ”), the given sequences $C_{\text{out}}^\tau[\tau(P)] \xrightarrow{sr,*} Q$ have to be reordered, cut and/or extended to “back-translate” them.

Correctness of Translation τ (Cont'd)

Theorem (Adequacy)

Translation τ **is adequate**, i.e. for all $P, P' \in \Pi_{\text{stop}}$: $\tau(P) \sim_{c, \tau_0} \tau(P') \implies P \sim_c P'$

Theorem

The translation τ is **not** fully abstract ($P \sim_c P' \iff \tau(P) \sim_{c, \tau_0} \tau(P')$).

On **closed** processes P, P' : $P \sim_c P' \iff \tau(P) \sim_{c, \tau_0} \tau(P')$

where $e_1 \sim_{c, \tau_0} e_2$ iff for all $C : FV(C[e_1]) \cup FV(C[e_2]) \subseteq \{\text{stop}\}$:

$$C_{out}^\tau[C[e_1]] \Downarrow \iff C_{out}^\tau[C[e_2]] \Downarrow \text{ and } C_{out}^\tau[C[e_1]] \Downarrow \iff C_{out}^\tau[C[e_2]] \Downarrow$$

Translations with Global MVars

Ideas:

- Translation of `stop`, `0`, `|`, `!` as before
- π -calculus-channels are translated into data of type

$$\text{data Channel} = \text{Chan } \underbrace{(\text{MVar Channel})}_{\text{content}} \underbrace{(\text{MVar } ()) \dots (\text{MVar } ())}_{\text{check-MVars}}$$

i.e. channel x becomes a binding $x = \text{Chan } \textit{content} \textit{check}_1 \dots \textit{check}_n$

- MVars $\textit{content}$, $\textit{check}_1, \dots, \textit{check}_n$ are created once and are (globally) visible via x
- Programs for sender $\bar{x}z$ and receiver $x(y)$ are **restricted**:
 - They exchange the message via the content-MVar
 - They perform `takeMVar` & `putMVar` on the **check-MVars** for synchronisation

Translations with Global MVars (Cont'd)

Reminder: a channel x becomes a binding $x = \text{Chan } \textit{content} \textit{ check}_1 \dots \textit{ check}_n$

Questions:

- Are there correct translations under these restrictions?
- How many check-MVars are required?
- What is the smallest correct translation?

Approach:

- enumerate all translations and automatically search for counter-examples
- check correctness of the remaining (potentially correct) translations by hand

Conjecture (Proved in the meantime, not yet published)

With the described restrictions two check-MVars are required.

Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{putMVar } (check_1 x) (), \\ \text{putMVar } (content x) z; \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_2 x); \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
$$T_1(x(y).P) = \mathbf{do} \{ y \leftarrow \text{takeMVar } (content x); \\ \text{putMVar } (check_2 x); T_1(P) \}$$

Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{putMVar } (check_1 x) (), \\ \text{putMVar } (content x) z; \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_2 x); \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
$$T_1(x(y).P) = \mathbf{do} \{ y \leftarrow \text{takeMVar } (content x); \\ \text{putMVar } (check_2 x); T_1(P) \}$$

content x



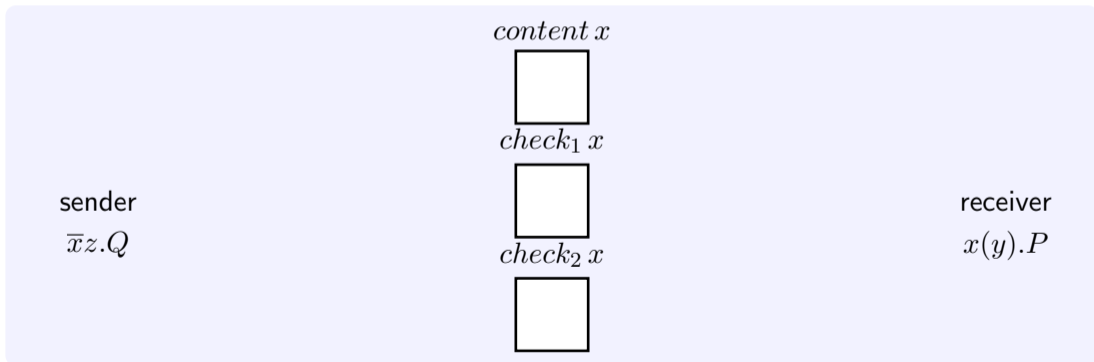
check₁ x



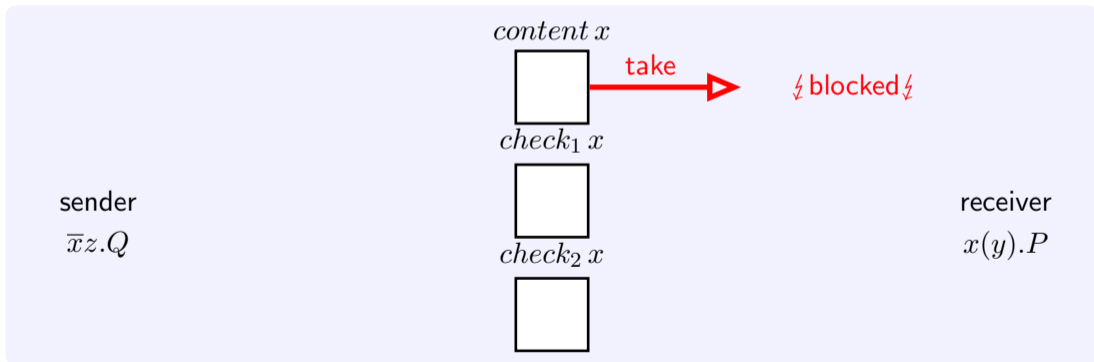
check₂ x



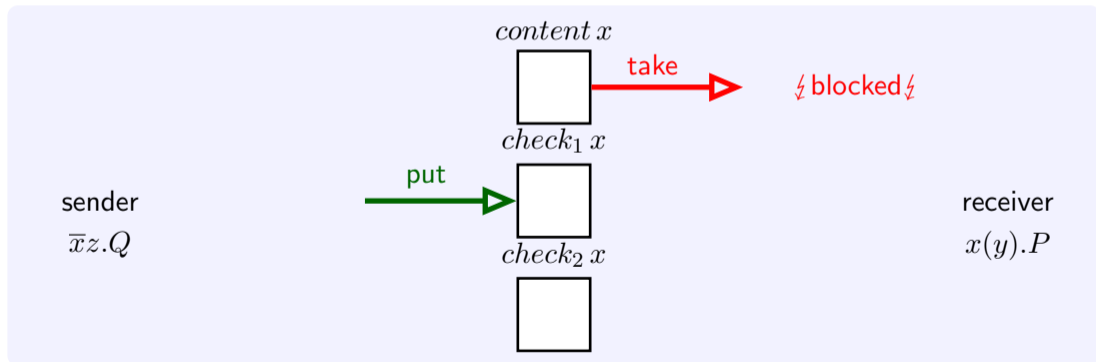
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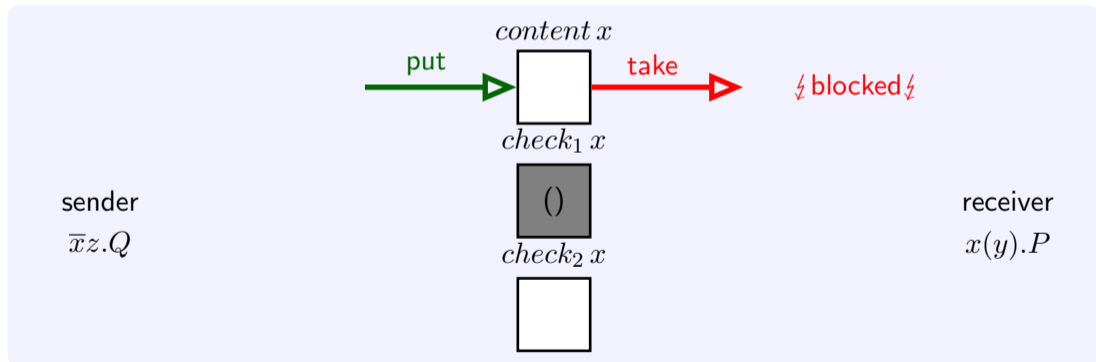
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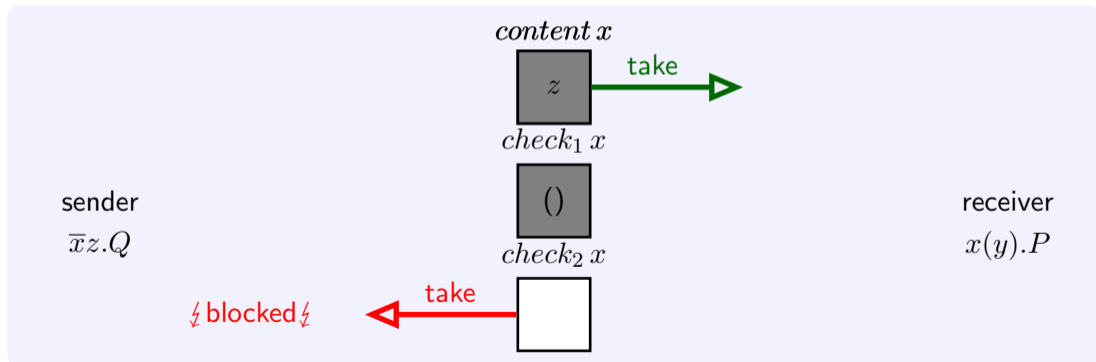
Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \mathbf{putMVar}(\mathit{check}_1 x) (), \\ \mathbf{putMVar}(\mathit{content} x) z; \\ \mathbf{takeMVar}(\mathit{check}_2 x); \\ \mathbf{takeMVar}(\mathit{check}_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
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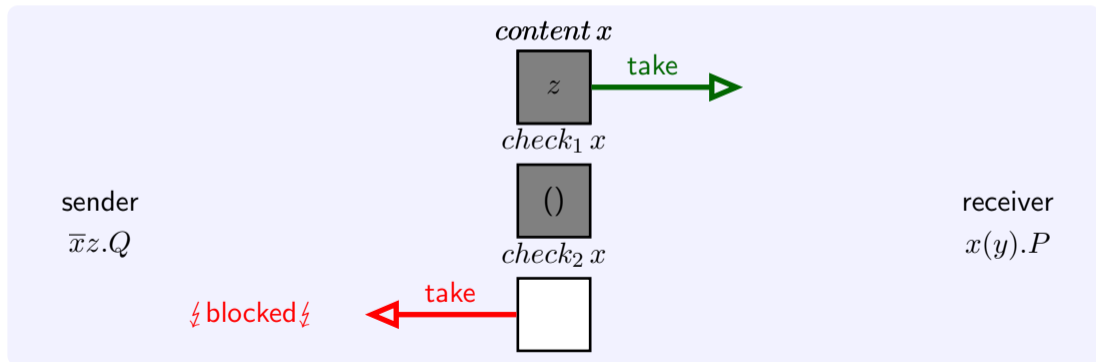
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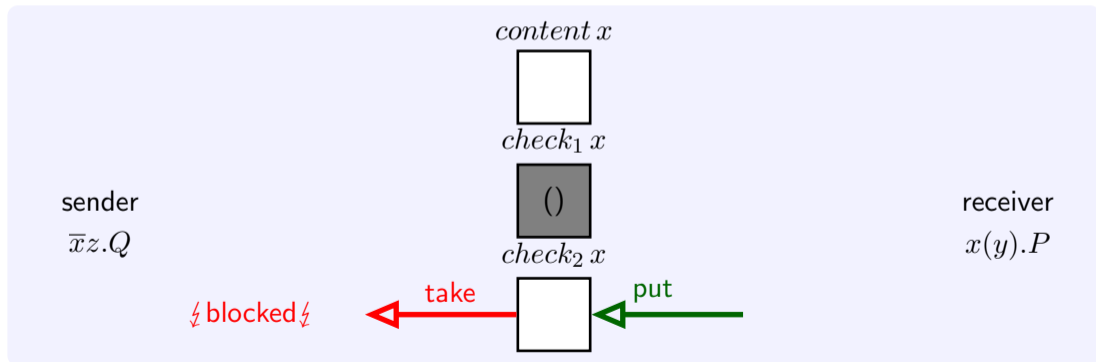
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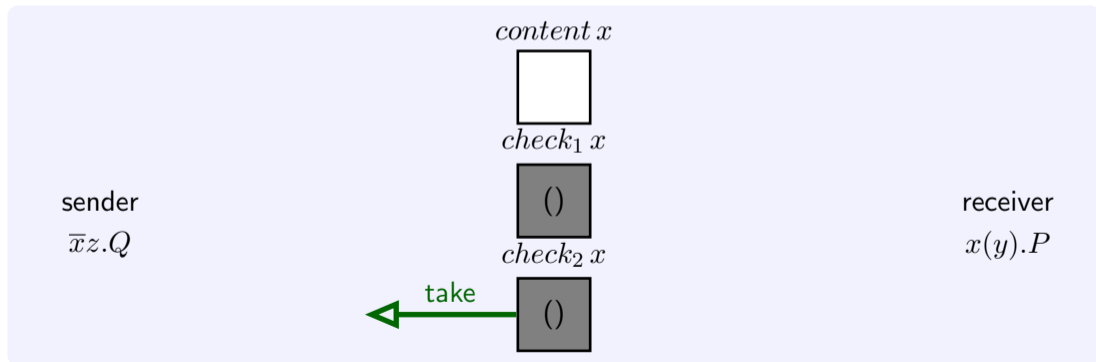
Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

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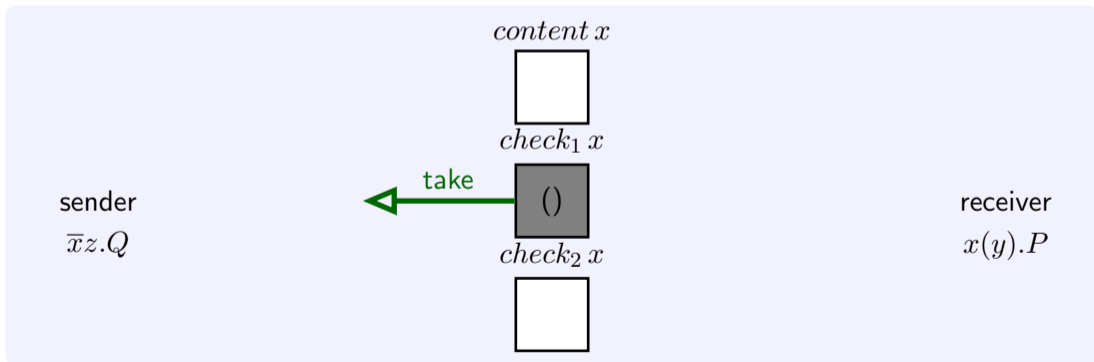
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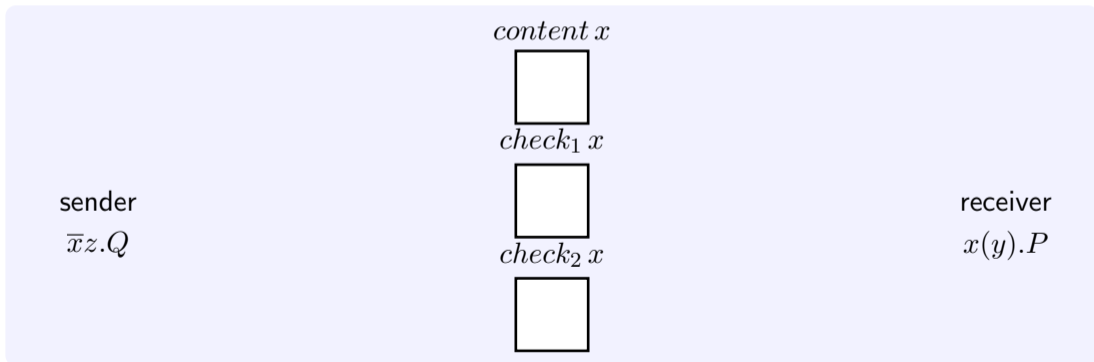
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Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{putMVar } (check_1 x) (), \\ \text{putMVar } (content x) z; \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_2 x); \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
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Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{putMVar } (check_1 x) (), \\ \text{putMVar } (content x) z; \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_2 x); \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
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Correct Translation with Two Check-MVars

$$T_1(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ \text{putMVar } (check_1 x) (), \\ \text{putMVar } (content x) z; \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_2 x); \\ \text{takeMVar } (check_1 x); T_1(Q) \}$$
$$T_1(x(y).P) = \mathbf{do} \{ y \leftarrow \text{takeMVar } (content x); \\ \text{putMVar } (check_2 x); T_1(P) \}$$

Theorem

T_1 is convergence-equivalent, adequate, and on closed processes also fully-abstract.

Main arguments:

- $\text{MVar } (check_1 x)$ is used as a mutex for the receivers on x
- execution of the sender/receiver protocol is non-overlapping

Translations with Global MVars and Interprocess Restriction

Interprocess restriction:

One put/take-pair for each check-MVar and it is distributed between sender/receiver.

Translations with Global MVars and Interprocess Restriction

Interprocess restriction:

One put/take-pair for each check-MVar and it is distributed between sender/receiver.

Theorem

Under the interprocess restriction, **three** check-MVars are **necessary** and **sufficient**.

Correct translation:

$$\begin{aligned} T_2(\bar{x}z.Q) = \mathbf{do} \{ & \text{putMVar}(\text{content } x) z; & T_2(x(y).P) = \mathbf{do} \{ & \text{takeMVar}(\text{check}_1 x); \\ & \text{putMVar}(\text{check}_1 x) (); & & \text{putMVar}(\text{check}_2 x); \\ & \text{takeMVar}(\text{check}_2 x); & & \text{takeMVar}(\text{check}_3 x); \\ & \text{putMVar}(\text{check}_3 x) (); T_2(Q) \} & & y \leftarrow \text{takeMVar}(\text{content } x); T_2(P) \} \end{aligned}$$

Results of the automated search for counter-examples:

- for 1 check-MVar 8 of 8 translations are refuted
- for 2 check-MVars 72 of 72 translations are refuted
- for 3 check-MVars 762 of 768 translations are refuted

Conclusion & Future Work

Conclusion

- Correct translations from Π_{stop} into Concurrent Haskell
- Translation with private MVars
- Smallest translations with global MVars
- Translations are convergence equivalent and adequate (fully abstract on closed processes)
- Refuted incorrect translations by automated search for counter-examples

Future Work

- Variations and extensions of Π_{stop} (recursion, sums, name matching, ...)
- Other target languages?
- Publish proof of conjecture