

Static Verification of Message Passing Programs

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Writing software correctly is hard

Motivational examples

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\$400 million Pentium bug

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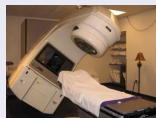
THERAC-25 radiation therapy machine

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Motivational examples



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THERAC-25 radiation therapy machine

Floyd & Hoare: Hoare logic

```
int value = 0;
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```
void increase(int n):  
    value ← value + n;
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ensures  $value = \text{old}(value) + n$ ;
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Hoare triple reasoning

$$\{P\}S\{Q\}$$

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$$\frac{\{P\}S\{Q\} \quad \{Q\}T\{R\}}{\{P\}S; T\{R\}}$$

$$\{P\}S; T\{R\}$$

etc...

Static verification

Hoare logic extensions

- **Reynolds:** Separation logic (2002)
- **Boyland:** Permission-based separation logic (2003)
- **Parkinson:** Separation logic for Java (2005)

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the VerCors toolset



Verification of concurrent software

Proving *data race freedom* and
functional program properties

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Research question

Can we leverage verification techniques for concurrent software to message passing programs?

Message Passing Interface

The MPI standard



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- **etc...**

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Our solution

- 1 Use separation logic for local correctness.
- 2 Capture communication behaviour in abstract models, called *futures*.
- 3 Model checking the futures to show functional correctness.

How to reason about distributed programs?

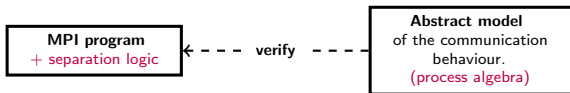
MPI program
+ separation logic

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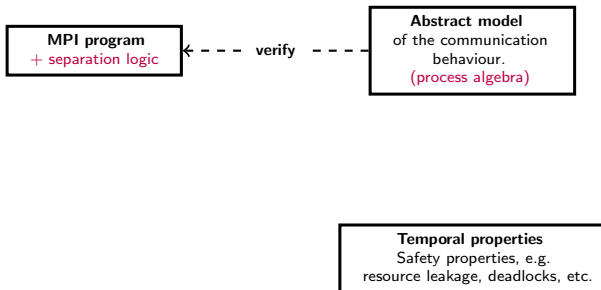
MPI program
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Abstract model
of the communication
behaviour.
(process algebra)

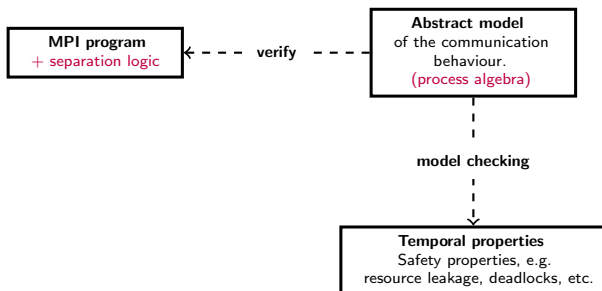
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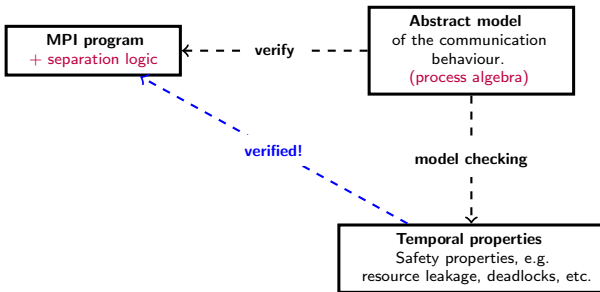
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mCRL2: Process algebra

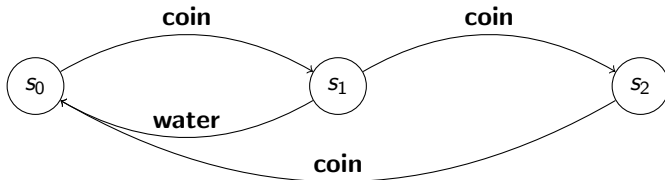
Example vending machine

$$\text{process Machine()} \equiv \text{coin} \cdot$$
$$(\text{water} \cdot \text{Machine()} + \text{coin} \cdot \text{cola} \cdot \text{Machine()}))$$

mCRL2: Process algebra

Example vending machine

process Machine() \equiv **coin** ·
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Abstracting MPI primitives

MPI primitives \rightsquigarrow corresponding actions

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- `MPI_Send(int dest, msg m)` • action `send` : `int` \times `msg`
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- `MPI_Bcast(msg m)` ● action **bcast** : `msg`
- `MPI_Barrier()` ● action **barrier**

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Finding a correspondence: Hoare-triple reasoning

$$\frac{}{\{\text{send}(i, m) \cdot F\} \text{MPI_Send}(i, m) \{F\}}$$

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$$\frac{}{\{\mathbf{recv}(i, v) \cdot F\} v := \text{MPI_Recv}(i) \{F\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\{\mathbf{bcast}(m) \cdot F\} \text{MPI_Bcast}(m) \{F\}}$$

$$\frac{}{\{\mathbf{barrier}() \cdot F\} \text{MPI_Barrier}() \{F\}}$$

Example program abstraction

Example MPI program

```
void main(int k):  
  int v ← MPI_Recv(★)  
  MPI_Send(0, v + k)
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Predicted future

```
process P(int k) ≡  
  recv(★, i) · send(0, i + k)
```

Example program abstraction

Example MPI program

```
requires Future( $P(k) \cdot \epsilon$ )  
void main(int k):  
    int v  $\leftarrow$  MPI_Recv( $\star$ )  
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void `main`(**int** k):

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Predicted future

process $P(\text{int } k) \equiv$

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- Does the program correctly execute its predicted future?

Example program abstraction

Example MPI program

requires $\text{Future}(P(k) \cdot \epsilon)$

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void `main`(**int** `k`):

$[P(k) \cdot \epsilon]$

int `v` \leftarrow `MPI_Recv`(`*`)

`MPI_Send`(`0`, `v + k`)

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Predicted future

- process** P(**int** k) \equiv
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  MPI_Send( $0, v + k$ )  
  [ $\epsilon$ ]
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Predicted future

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process P(int k)  $\equiv$   
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```

- Does the program correctly execute its predicted future?
yes!

Tool support

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requires . . .  
requires Future( $P(k) \cdot F$ )  
ensures Future( $F$ )  
void main(int  $k$ ):  
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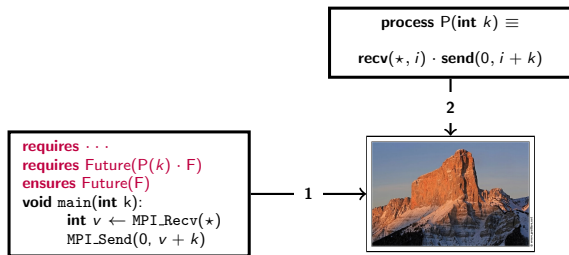
Tool support

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requires . . .  
requires Future(P(k) · F)  
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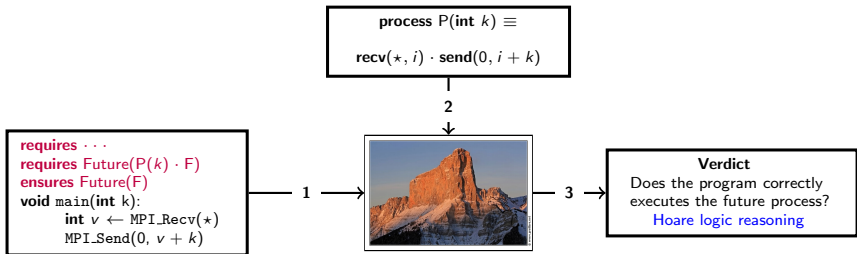
1 →



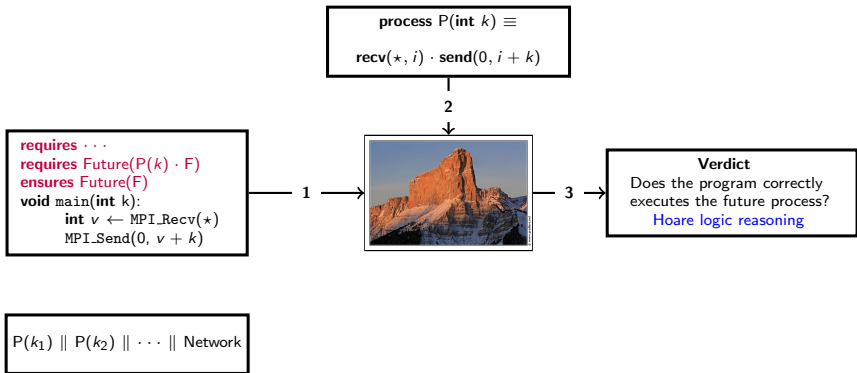
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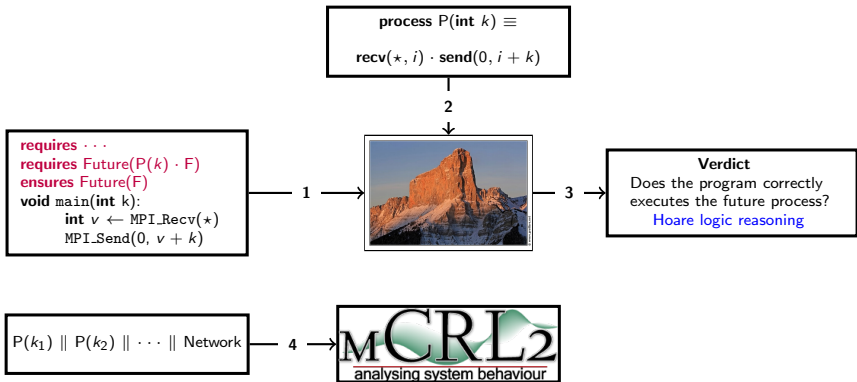
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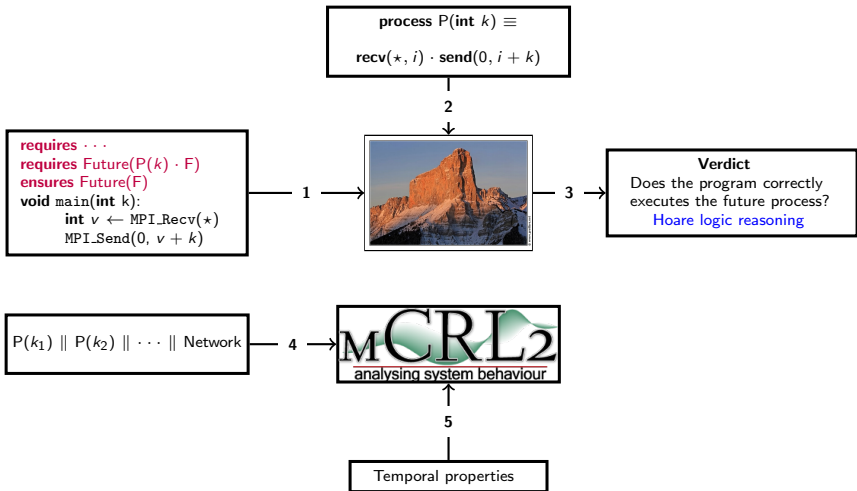
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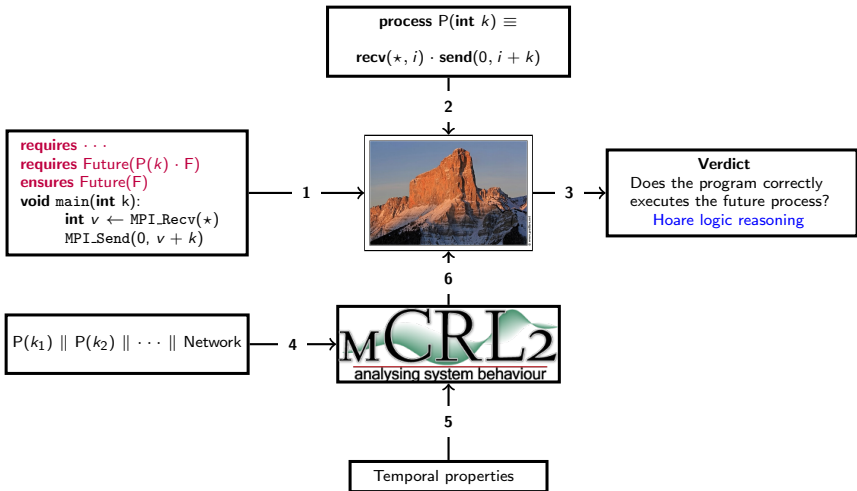
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