

On the Expressiveness of Asynchronous Multiparty Session Types

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Background

- ▶ **Asynchronous** networks of **distributed** applications,
 - ▶ existence of **buffers** storing exchanged messages,
- ▶ **Verification** of **multiparty** protocols.
- ▶ **Sessions** as **behavioural** types for applications.
- ▶ **Rich** formalism:
 - ▶ **parallel** composition,
 - ▶ sequence **subtyping** (flexibility),
 - ▶ **interruptible** blocks, . . .

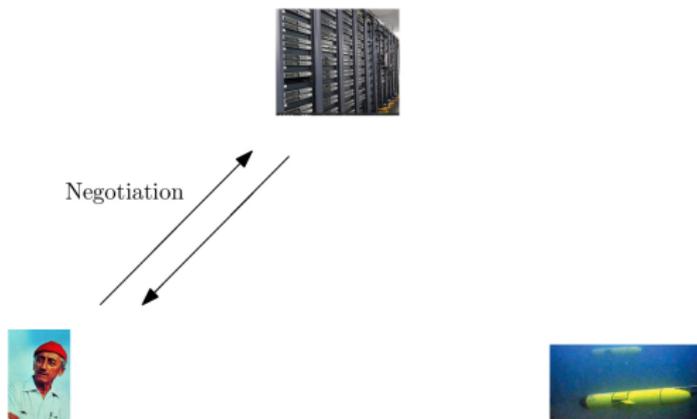
- ▶ **Expressiveness** of asynchronous multiparty sessions.
 - ▶ How to give a **denotational semantics** to sessions ?
 - ▶ How **buffers** affects semantics ?
 - ▶ Are **flexible** and **interruptible** sessions more expressive ?

Non-centralised Protocols



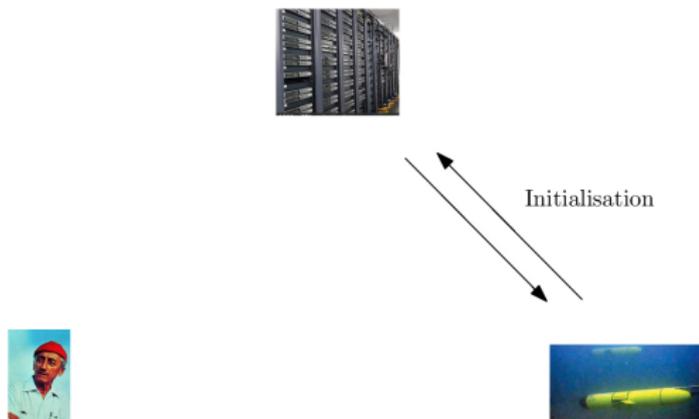
- ▶ Three **independent** applications (client, agent, instrument):
 - ▶ written in different **languages**,
 - ▶ with local **compilers** and **libraries**,
 - ▶ **message**-passing communication.
- ▶ **No global** control.
- ▶ **Goal**: **enforcing** interaction success.
 - ▶ **Message** layer soundness.
 - ▶ **Method**: **session types**.

Non-centralised Protocols



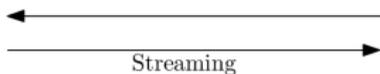
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Session Types

- ▶ **Behavioural Types.**
 - ▶ characterise **operational** semantics properties.
- ▶ Historically: **binary sessions**, *Languages Primitives and Type Discipline for Structured Communication-Based Programming*, Honda, Kubo, Vasconcelos, ESOP 1998
 - ▶ Domain: process algebras (π -calculi): **messages**-passing agents communicating on **channels**.
 - ▶ Motivation: build **types** to guide **interactions** between two agents on a **same channel**.
- ▶ **Principles:**
 - ▶ Formally describing interactions between two agents (a **session**) on a single channel s .
 - ▶ Using **communication** (directed choice, label), **choice**, **recursion**, session end.
 - ▶ **Dividing** the session in two **endpoint types** (similar to CCS processes).
 - ▶ **Validation**, (type system) of each participant w.r.t. its type.
- ▶ Use **sequence** inside π types:
 - ▶ **simple** types for π : $a : \#^i(((\mathbf{Nat}, \#^o(\mathbf{Bool})))$.
 - ▶ **session** types: $s : ?(\mathbf{Nat}); !(\mathbf{Bool})$.

- ▶ Global type / session:

$$G = p \rightarrow q : \text{price}.q \rightarrow p \begin{cases} \text{KO.end} \\ \text{OK}.p \rightarrow q : \text{order.end} \end{cases}$$

- ▶ Local types / end points:

$$T_p : !\text{price}.? \begin{cases} \text{KO.end} \\ \text{OK}!. \text{order.end} \end{cases}$$

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Multiparty Session Types

- ▶ Sessions with (at least) 3 participants [Honda Y. Carbone 08].
- ▶ Same principles (projection).
- ▶ Symmetry is lost.

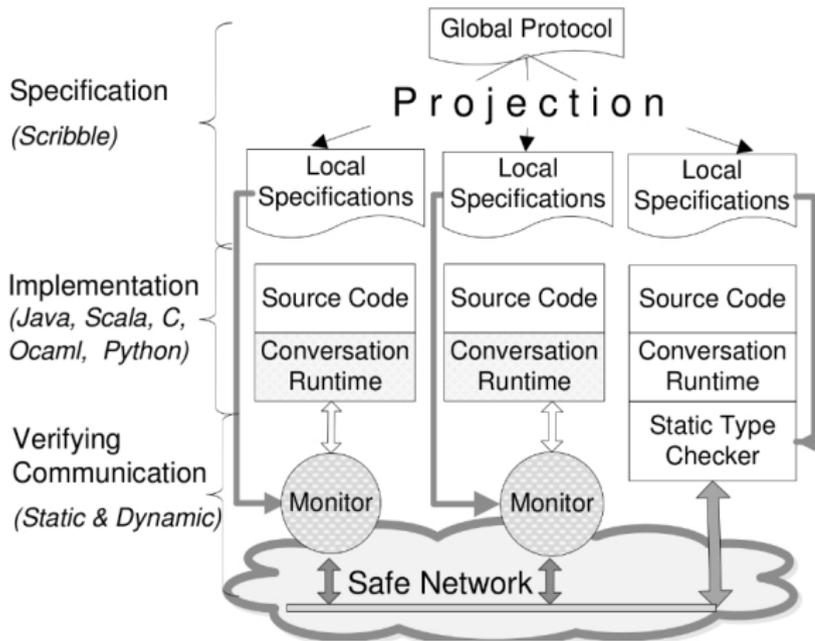
Example

- ▶ $G = r \rightarrow q : m, q \rightarrow p : m_1, r \rightarrow p : m_2.\text{end}$
 - ▶ $T_p : q?m_1.r?m_2.\text{end}$
 - ▶ $T_q : r?m.p!m_1.\text{end}$
 - ▶ $T_r : q!m.p!m_2.\text{end}$
-
- ▶ Semantics:
 - ▶ Let A, B be applications s.t. $\vdash A : T_r$ and $\vdash B : T_q$
 - ▶ A can send message m and B can receive it (giving A', B').
 - ▶ $\vdash A' : p!m_2.\text{end}$ and $\vdash B' : p!m_1.\text{end}$
 - ▶ At type level, reduction semantics:
 $q!m.p!m_2.\text{end} \mid r?m.p!m_1.\text{end} \rightarrow p!m_2.\text{end} \mid p!m_1.\text{end}$

- ▶ Verification of **networks** of services and applications:
 - ▶ **non-centralised** networks
 - ▶ message-passing communication,
 - ▶ no global control.
 - ▶ **specification**: **global** interaction choreographies between several participants.
 - ▶ **Theorem**: **local** type enforcement
⇒ **global progress** (according to the specification).
 - ▶ **Session refinement**: enforcing other **properties** (security, state).
- ▶ Endpoint **verification**:
 - ▶ **validation**: static analysis of the program (typechecker).
 - ▶ **monitoring**: runtime analysis of I/O.

Scribble language: algorithm for **projection** and **monitor** generation.

MPST as a Verification Method (II)



(from *Monitoring Networks through Multiparty Session Types*)

Asynchronous Networks

```
$.ajax({  
  url: "http://www.p.com?price",  
  dataType: "jsonp",  
  jsonpCallback: "callback",  
  success: "store_price" })
```

```
$.ajax({  
  url: "http://www.q.net?price",  
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- ▶ **Asynchronous** calls through the web.
- ▶ **Verification:**
 - ▶ **monitors** intercepting HTTP requests and responses.
 - ▶ **local** type: `p!price.p?answer.q!price.q?answer.end`

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 - ▶ **local** type: `p!price.p?answer.q!price.q?answer.end`
- ▶ **Asynchrony:** answer from **q** can arrive before answer from **p**.
- ▶ `p!price.p?answer || q!price.q?answer ?`
 - ▶ sending order is lost,
 - ▶ implementation of `||` .

Asynchronous Multiparty Session Types

- ▶ Models for real-life **networks**. [Bocchi Chen D. Honda Y. 13]
- ▶ Messages "**take time**" to reach their destination.
- ▶ **Queues** are used to model **travelling** messages.
 - ▶ **input** queues: inbox storing arriving messages.
 - ▶ **output** queues: buffer storing messages to be sent.
- ▶ **Order** of arriving messages can **change**.
 - ▶ order between messages with **same source** and **same target** is preserved.

Example

- ▶ $G = r \rightarrow q : m, q \rightarrow p : m_1, r \rightarrow p : m_2.\text{end}$
- ▶ with **asynchronous** semantics m_2 can arrive before m_1 .

$$\begin{aligned} G &::= \text{end} \mid \mu t. G \mid t \mid r_1 \rightarrow r_2 \{m_i. G_i\}_{i \in I} \\ T &::= \text{end} \mid \mu t. T \mid t \mid p? \{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I} \mid p! \{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I} \end{aligned}$$

- ▶ **Simple** presentation:
 - ▶ directed **choice** inside communication,
 - ▶ **recursion**.
- ▶ **Projection** divides communication into **input** and **output**.

AMST Semantics

How to give an **asynchronous** operational semantics to types ?

- ▶ usage of **queues** (store) at different places in the network.
- ▶ queues are **order-preserving**.

We compare the **expressiveness** of several type system:

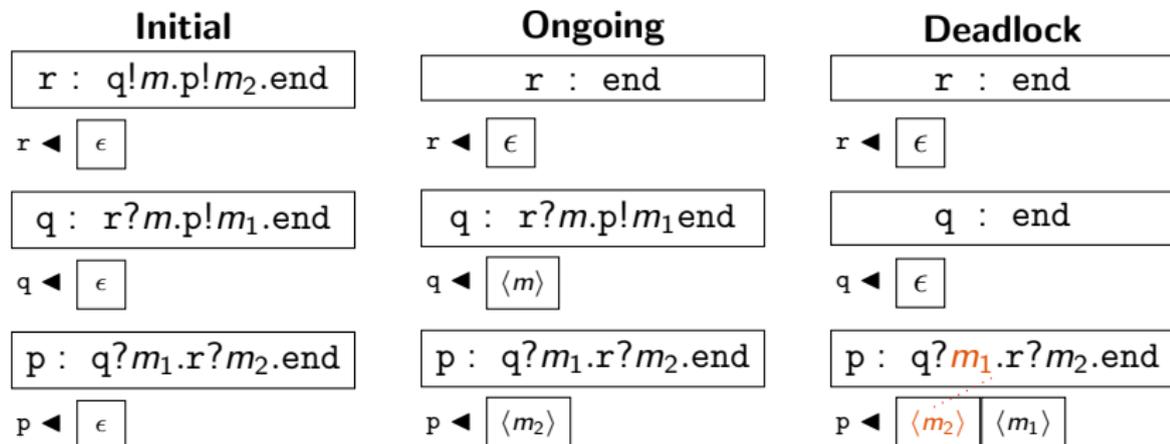
- ▶ Models with input and/or output **queues**,
- ▶ Sequence **subtyping** (switching interaction order at type level),
- ▶ **Parallel** composition.
- ▶ **Interruptible** sessions (encoding ?).

Queue models

Different **models** used in literature:

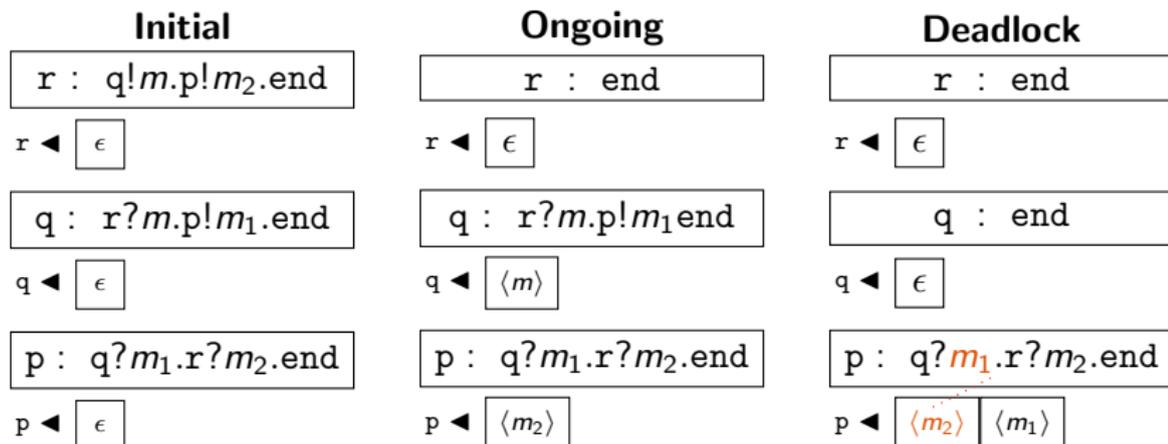
- ▶ **input** queues storing arriving messages:
 - ▶ **none**: participants consume messages from the network,
 - ▶ **one**: each participant has one inbox for **all** incoming messages,
 - ▶ **several**: each participant has one inbox for **each** other participant,
- ▶ same choices for **output** queue design.
- ▶ yields **9** different queue **policy** $(0, 0)$, $(1, 0)$, $(M, 1)$, \dots

Example: One input queue



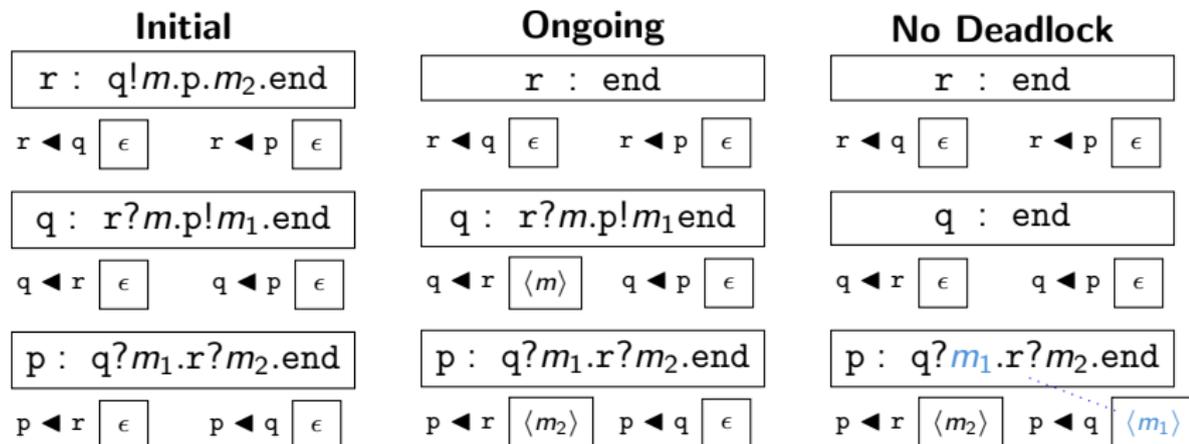
- ▶ Single **input** queue: one **inbox** per participant.
- ▶ **Asynchrony** let m_2 arrive before m_1 .
 - ▶ p expects to receive m_1 first.
- ▶ System is **deadlocked**.

Example: One input queue



- ▶ Single **input** queue: one **inbox** per participant.
- ▶ **Asynchrony** let m_2 arrive before m_1 .
 - ▶ p expects to receive m_1 first.
- ▶ System is **deadlocked**.
- ▶ Single input queues \rightarrow **wrong** semantics.

Example: Multiple input queues



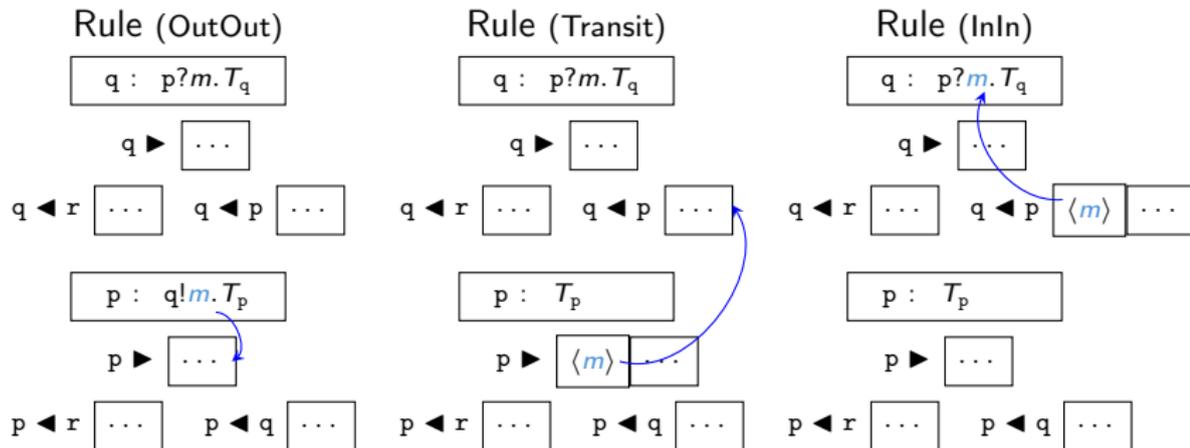
- ▶ Multiple **input** queues: one **inbox** per pair of participants.
- ▶ **Asynchrony** let m_2 arrive before m_1 .
 - ▶ p expects to receive m_1 first.
- ▶ System can **progress** because m_1 is available in one input queue.
- ▶ Multiple input queues semantics is **safe**.

Configuration Semantics

$$\Delta ::= \emptyset \mid p : T, \Delta \mid Q, \Delta \quad h ::= \epsilon \mid \langle p, q, m \rangle . h$$

$$Q ::= (p \blacktriangleleft q : h) \mid (p \blacktriangleright q : h) \mid (p \blacktriangleleft : h) \mid (p \blacktriangleright : h)$$

- **Configuration**: composition of **participants** (local types) and **queues**,
- **Input** \blacktriangleleft and **output** \blacktriangleright queues.
- **Single** $p \blacktriangleleft$ and **multiple** $p \blacktriangleleft q$ queues.
- Global type $G \rightarrow$ **initial** configuration (projection and empty queues).
- **Rules** enforces message **transfer**.



Configuration Semantics Rules

(Com)	$p : q!\{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I}, q : p?\{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I}$	$\xrightarrow{pq:m_j}$	$p : T_j, q : T_j$	$j \in I$
(InIn)	$q : p?\{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I}, (q \triangleleft p : \langle p, q, m_j \rangle . h)$	$\xrightarrow{p?q:m_j}$	$p : T_j, (q \triangleleft p : h)$	$j \in I$
(OutIn)	$p : q!\{m_j. T_i\}_{i \in I}, (q \triangleleft p : h)$	$\xrightarrow{plq:m_j}$	$p : T_j, (q \triangleleft p : h. \langle p, q, m_j \rangle)$	$j \in I$
(InOut)	$q : p?\{m_i. T_i\}_{i \in I}, (p \triangleright q : h. \langle p, q, m_j \rangle)$	$\xrightarrow{p?q:m_j}$	$p : T_j, (p \triangleright q : h)$	$j \in I$
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(Transit)	$(p \triangleright q : h. \langle p, q, m \rangle), (q \triangleleft p : h)$	$\xrightarrow{\tau}$	$(p \triangleright q : h), (q \triangleleft p : \langle p, q, m \rangle . h)$	
(Par)	$\Delta_1 \xrightarrow{\ell} \Delta'_1$	\implies	$\Delta_1, \Delta_2 \xrightarrow{\ell} \Delta'_1, \Delta_2$	

	(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(0, M)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)	(1, M)	(M, 0)	(M, 1)	(M, M)
(Com)	✓								
(InIn)				✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
(OutIn)				✓			✓		
(InOut)		✓	✓						
(OutOut)		✓	✓		✓	✓		✓	✓
(Transit)					✓	✓		✓	✓

- ▶ Queue policy guides the semantics rules.
- ▶ $(p \triangleleft q : h)$ stands for either $(p \blacktriangleleft q : h)$ or $(p \blacktriangleleft : h)$.

- ▶ **Configuration traces** as a measure for expressiveness.
- ▶ A trace σ is a **mapping** from participants to **sequence of events**.
 - ▶ an **event** is either sending or receiving a message.
 - ▶ there is **no order** between events of **different** participants.
 - ▶ order is **kept** between events of a **same** participant.
 - ▶ transit of **messages** (from queue to queue) is **not observable**.
- ▶ A trace σ is **terminated** w.r.t. a type G if the initial configuration of G cannot progress after σ .
 - ▶ captures **deadlocks**.
 - ▶ depends on the queue **policy**.
- ▶ A trace σ is **completed** w.r.t. a type G if the initial configuration of G reaches **happy termination** after σ .
 - ▶ after σ participants reaches end and queues are empty.

Example

- ▶ **Global type:**

$r \rightarrow q : m, q \rightarrow p : m_1, r \rightarrow p : m_2.\text{end}$

- ▶ **Initial configuration for $(0, 0)$:**

$r : q!m.p!m_2, q : r?m.p!m_1, p : q?m_1.r?m_2,$

- ▶ **Initial configuration for $(M, 1)$:**

$r : q!m.p!m_2, q : r?m.p!m_1, p : q?m_1.r?m_2,$

$(p \triangleright : \epsilon), (q \triangleright : \epsilon), (r \triangleright : \epsilon), (p \triangleleft q : \epsilon), (p \triangleleft r : \epsilon),$

$(q \triangleleft p : \epsilon), (q \triangleleft r : \epsilon), (r \triangleleft p : \epsilon), (r \triangleleft q : \epsilon).$

- ▶ **Trace σ_e :**
$$\begin{cases} r \mapsto q!m.p!m_2 \\ q \mapsto r?m.p!m_1 \\ p \mapsto q?m_1.r!m_2 \end{cases}$$

is **completed** for both semantics.

- ▶ **Trace σ_t :**
$$\begin{cases} p \mapsto q!m \\ q \mapsto \epsilon \\ r \mapsto \epsilon \end{cases}$$

is a valid (uncompleted) trace for $(M, 1)$ and not for $(0, 0)$.

- ▶ **Trace σ_d :**
$$\begin{cases} r \mapsto q!m.p!m_2 \\ q \mapsto r?m.p!m_1 \\ p \mapsto \epsilon \end{cases}$$

is **terminated** for $(1, 0)$ but not for $(0, M)$.

Expressiveness Results

- ▶ $\mathbf{D}(G, \phi)$, the **denotation** of G under semantics (queue policy) ϕ is the **set of all terminated traces** from G according to ϕ .
- ▶ the **expressive power** of a session calculus (syntax + semantics) is defined as **the language of all completed traces for all well-formed types**.

Results

- ▶ **Single input** queue policy $(1, 0)$, $(1, 1)$, $(1, M)$ are **unsafe**.
 - ▶ they do not ensure **progress**.
 - ▶ all other semantics are **safe**.
- ▶ All safe semantics yield the same **denotations**.
- ▶ The expressive power of safe semantics is **regular**.

Intuition: Local actions are constrained by type.

- ▶ Real applications often have **mechanisms** to accept messages in **different order**.
 - ▶ unordered data **structures**, **threads**, ...
- ▶ At the level of **local type**, modeled with **flexibility subtyping**:
 - ▶ exists in literature,
 - ▶ **rules** allow to **switch consecutive actions**.
 - ▶ 6 **subtyping policies** (\emptyset , $//$, OO , IO , OI , IO/OI)

Example ($//$)-flexibility

- ▶ $p?m_1.q?m_2.p!m_3.end$ **switches to** $q?m_2.p?m_1.p!m_3.end$.

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Example (II)-flexibility

- ▶ $p?m_1.q?m_2.p!m_3.end$ **switches to** $q?m_2.p?m_1.p!m_3.end$.
- ▶ $p? \left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_{11}.q?m_2.p!m_3.end \\ m_{12}.q?m_2.p!m_4.end \end{array} \right.$ **switches to** $q?m_2.p? \left\{ \begin{array}{l} m_{11}.p!m_3.end \\ m_{12}.p!m_4.end \end{array} \right.$

Subtyping Rules

$$C_1^q ::= [] \mid p?\{m_i.C_1^q\}_{i \in I} \quad (p \neq q)$$

$$C_{10}^q ::= [] \mid p?\{m_i.C_{10}^q\}_{i \in I} \mid r!\{m_i.C_{10}^q\}_{i \in I} \quad (r \neq q)$$

$$C_0^q ::= [] \mid q!\{m_i.C_0^q\}_{i \in I} \quad (p \neq q)$$

$$C_{01}^q ::= [] \mid p!\{m_i.C_{01}^q\}_{i \in I} \quad (p \neq q) \mid r?\{m_i.C_{01}^q\}_{i \in I}$$

$$(II) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q?m_k.C_1^p[T'_i] \quad q \neq p}{p?\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q?\{m_k.C_1^q[p?\{T'_i\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

$$(OO) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q!m_k.C_0^p[T'_i] \quad q \neq p}{p!\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q!\{m_k.C_0^q[p!\{T'_i\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

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- Formal definition of **flexibility** through **subtyping**.

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$$(II) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q?m_k.C_1^p[T_i'] \quad q \neq p}{p?\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q?\{m_k.C_1^q[p?\{T_i'\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

$$(OO) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q!m_k.C_0^p[T_i'] \quad q \neq p}{p!\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q!\{m_k.C_0^q[p!\{T_i'\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

$$(IO) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q!m_k.C_{10}^p[T_i'] \quad q \neq p}{p!\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q?\{m_k.C_{10}^q[p!\{T_i'\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

$$(OI) \frac{\forall(i, k), T_i \leq q!m_k.C_{01}^p[T_i'] \quad q \neq p}{p?\{m_i.T_i\}_{i \in I} \leq q!\{m_k.C_{01}^q[p?\{T_i'\}_{i \in I}]\}_{k \in K}}$$

- ▶ Formal definition of flexibility through subtyping.
- ▶ An input action bypassing an output action can create deadlocks.
 - ▶ binary interaction: $!price.?OK \leq_{OI} ?OK.!price$

Expressiveness of Flexibility

Results

- ▶ **Safe** flexible semantics (queue policy + subtyping policy) are given below.
- ▶ The expressive power of flexible session is **strictly greater** than the one of standard session.

- ▶ **Intuition**: local type $\mu t.q! \begin{cases} m_1.r!m.t \\ m_2.\text{end} \end{cases}$ yields the **shuffling** of $(q!m_1)^n$ and $(r!m)^n$ for all n .

	(0, 0)	(0, 1)	(0, D)	(1, 0)	(1, 1)	(1, D)	(D, 0)	(D, 1)	(D, D)
\emptyset	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓
II	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OO	✓	✓	✓	×	×	×	✓	✓	✓
IO	×	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
OI	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	×
IO, OI	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

- ▶ Flexibility allows the safe use of **single input queues**.

Expressiveness of Parallel Composition

- ▶ Some session language in literature uses **parallel composition**.
- ▶ Parallel composition makes explicit **unordered set** of actions:
 $q!m_1.r!m_2$ **compared to** $q!m_1||r!m_2$
 - ▶ introduces flexibility at **type level**.

Result

Parallel sessions have a **strictly greater** expressive power than flexible sessions.

- ▶ **Intuition**: Parallel composition can be used to **simulate** subtyping rules.

Expressiveness of Interruptible Sessions

- ▶ **Interruptions**: describe interactions involving **exceptional** behaviours [D. Honda Hu Neykova Y. 2015].
- ▶ Adds **scope** constructions: $\{G\}^c \langle l \text{ by } r \rangle; G'$
- ▶ Notification of interruption (broadcast) is handled via **messages**.
 - ▶ interactions from an interrupted scope **proceed until** notification is received.
- ▶ $\{r \rightarrow p : m.(\mu t.p \rightarrow q : m_1.q \rightarrow p : m_2.t)\}^c \langle i \text{ by } r \rangle; q \rightarrow r : a.\text{end}$
 - ▶ **loop** of messages between p and q ,
 - ▶ scope c can be **interrupted** anytime by r .
 - ▶ after **being notified** of the interruption, q continues by sending a message to r .
- ▶ Can interruptions **be encoded** using standard sessions constructs ?

Result

Interruptible sessions have **different** expressive power compared to **parallel** and **flexible** sessions.

- ▶ **Intuition**: nested scopes with recursion yield $q!^n.q?^k$ with $k \leq n$

Conclusion

- ▶ Trace-based (denotational) models of **session** types to compare **expressiveness** of sessions.
- ▶ **Safety** results for different **asynchrony policies**.
- ▶ **No encoding** from interruptible to "standard sessions".
- ▶ Comparison of **expressive power**:

