

# CONCURRENCY AND TYPES IN PROGRAMMING

Luís Caires

Universidade Nova de Lisboa

(based on work with Seco, Militão, Aldrich)



NOVA Laboratory for  
Computer Science and Informatics

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# types in programming

- Types at the heart of standard PLs (OCaml, Java, C#, Scala)
- Foundations in logic (a type system = a specialized logic)
- Highly modular, based on a “lego” of canonic constructions
- Still, “standard” types easy to use by common programmers
- Big impact on software quality (“WTP do not go wrong”)
- Big impact on programming discipline (“tame programmers”)
- Clearly a success story for theory / foundational research
- But what about programming with concurrency ?

# typing concurrent programming

- A program in a *typed* concurrent programming language should not go wrong !
- Unfortunately, it is still very hard to ensure it does not.
- Many relevant contributions from the community:
  - Many specific type systems for abstract models (pi, ambients) and properties (deadlock freedom, race absence, fidelity)
  - Emphasis on message passing (communication, sessions)
  - Often, introduced concepts are neither easy to transfer to “useful” programming languages or to (the engineers) minds
  - But even harder with general logics (so we stick to types)

# a challenge

- May one do for concurrent programming something like “classical type theory” did for general programming?
- What could be the core ingredients of a scalable and reasonably general type theory for concurrency?

Insights from process algebra and (sub)structural logics, suggest that notions of *behavioral types* may help to provide a uniform foundation for typing concurrent programs

“the essence of concurrency is interference” (also in aliasing)

In this talk, I discuss a bit this (not so recent) view, illustrating with some recent [popl’13, ecoop’14] and ongoing work

# a challenge

- May one do for concurrent programming something like “classical type theory” did for general programming?
- What could be the core ingredients of a scalable and reasonably general type theory for concurrency?
- Insights from process algebra and (sub)structural logics, suggest that notions of *behavioral types* may help to provide a uniform foundation for typing concurrent programs
- “the essence of concurrency is interference” (also in aliasing)
- In this talk, I discuss a bit this (not so recent) view, illustrating with some recent [popl’13, ecoop’14] and ongoing work

# programming language

|            |                                                                |                            |
|------------|----------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------|
| $e, f ::=$ | $x$                                                            | ( <i>Variable</i> )        |
|            | $\lambda x.e$                                                  | ( <i>Abstraction</i> )     |
|            | $e_1 e_2$                                                      | ( <i>Application</i> )     |
|            | <b>let</b> $x = e_1$ <b>in</b> $e_2$                           | ( <i>Definition</i> )      |
|            | <b>ref</b>                                                     | ( <i>Heap cell alloc</i> ) |
|            | <b>free</b> $e$                                                | ( <i>Heap cell free</i> )  |
|            | $a := e$                                                       | ( <i>strong Update</i> )   |
|            | $!a$                                                           | ( <i>Dereference</i> )     |
|            | $[l_1 = e_1 \mid \dots]$                                       | ( <i>Tuple</i> )           |
|            | $e.l$                                                          | ( <i>Selection</i> )       |
|            | <b>if</b> $(e_1 == e_2)$ <b>as</b> $x$ $e_3$ <b>else</b> $e_4$ | ( <i>Match</i> )           |
|            | $\#l(e)$                                                       | ( <i>Variant</i> )         |
|            | <b>case</b> $e$ <b>of</b> $\#l_i(x_i) \rightarrow e_i$         | ( <i>Conditional</i> )     |
|            | <b>fork</b> $e$                                                | ( <i>New thread</i> )      |
|            | <b>wait</b> $e$                                                | ( <i>Wait</i> )            |
|            | <b>res</b> $a$ <b>in</b> $e$                                   | ( <i>resource bundle</i> ) |
|            | <b>open</b> ( $a$ )                                            | ( <i>enter bundle</i> )    |
|            | <b>close</b> ( $a$ )                                           | ( <i>leave bundle</i> )    |

# a queue ADT

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  )
```

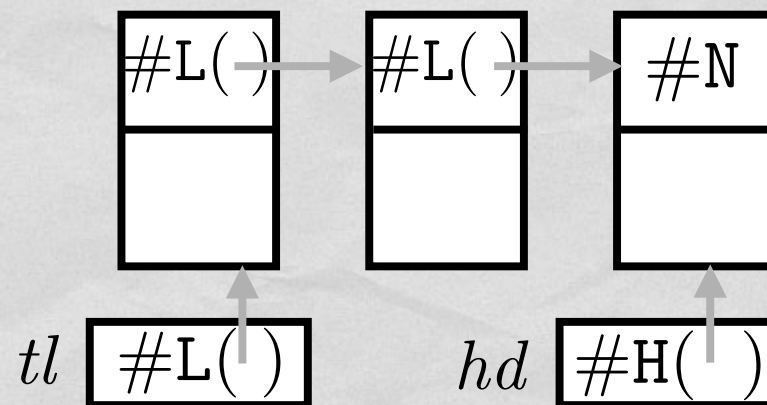
# typical queue configurations

```
let newQueue =  
  λ[].var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )
```



# typical queue configurations

```
let newQueue =  
  λ[].var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]
```



# queue Node code

```
let newNode =  $\lambda []$ .var nxt := #N in  
  res n in  
    [ setNxt =  $\lambda p$ .(open n;  
                      nx := #L(p); close n) |  
      getNxt = open n;  
        let p =!nxt in (close n; p) |  
      disp = (open n; free nxt; close n) ]
```

# enqueue operation code

```
enq = let n = (newNode nil) in  
  (  
    open s;  
    case hd of  
      #H(hv) → (hv.setNxt(n); hd := #H(n))  
      #F(fn) → (fn.setNxt(n); hd := #H(n); tl := fn);  
    close s  
  )
```

# dequeue operation code

```
deq = open s;  
      case hd of  
        #F(fn) → hd := #F(fn)  
        #H(hv) → (  
          case tl.getNxt of  
            #N → nil  
            #L(tv) → (tl.disp;  
                      if (hv == tv) as u  
                        (hd := #F(u))  
                      else (hd := #H(hv); tl := tv));  
      close s
```

# client code

```
let  $q = newQueue()$ in  
  let  $t_1 = fork(rec(X).q.enq; X)$ in  
    let  $t_2 = fork(rec(X).q.dec; X)$ in  
      (wait  $t_1$ ; wait  $t_2$ )
```

# structural types

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  )  
  
newQueue : 0  $\rightarrow$  [enq = 0 | dec = 0]
```

# behavioral types

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  
newQueue : !(0  $\mapsto$  rec(X).(enc & deq; X))
```

# behavioral types

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  
newQueue : 0  $\rightarrow$  rec(X).(enc & deq; X)
```

# behavioral types

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  )
```

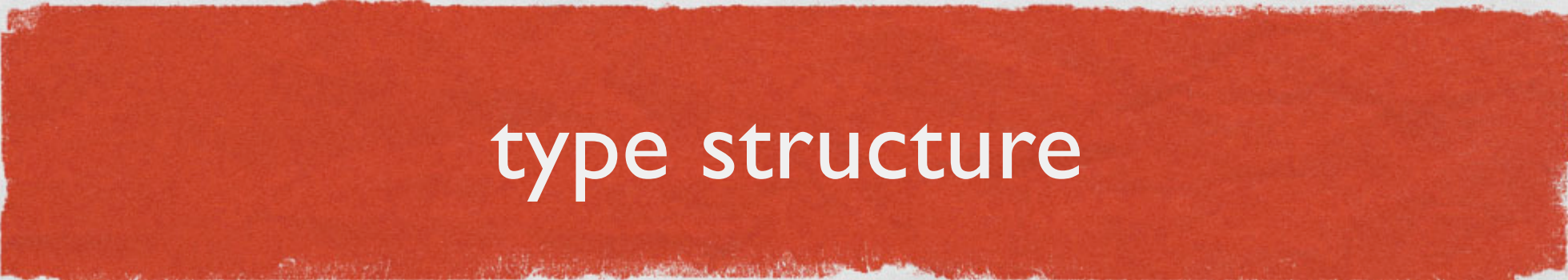
$\text{newQueue} : 0 \rightarrow \text{rec}(X).(enc; X) \mid \text{rec}(X).(deq; X)$

# behavioral types

```
let newQueue =  
   $\lambda []$ . var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  )  
  
newQueue : 0  $\rightarrow$  (!enc | !deq)
```

# behavioral types

```
let newQueue =  
  λ[].var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deg = ...  
      ]  
      Single = hd:rd(#F(Node)) | tl:rd(#N)  
      Many = hd:rd(#H(Hv)) | tl:rd(Tv)  
      A = (Single ∨ Many); (hd:var | tl:var)  
      s : ρ(inv(A))
```



type structure

# behavioral separation types

|        |       |                            |                  |  |               |                    |
|--------|-------|----------------------------|------------------|--|---------------|--------------------|
| $T, U$ | $::=$ | $0$                        | $(stop)$         |  | $T \mapsto V$ | $(function)$       |
|        |       | $T ; U$                    | $(sequential)$   |  | $T \mid U$    | $(parallel)$       |
|        |       | $T \& U$                   | $(intersection)$ |  | $!T$          | $(shared)$         |
|        |       | $T \vee U$                 | $(union)$        |  | $l:T$         | $(field)$          |
|        |       | $\oplus_{l \in I} \#l:T_l$ | $(alternative)$  |  | $\rho(A)$     | $(bundle)$         |
|        |       | $\circ T$                  | $(isolated)$     |  | $\tau(T)$     | $(thread)$         |
|        |       | $\text{rec}(X)T$           | $(recursion)$    |  | $X$           | $(recursion\ var)$ |

- types express safe *usage* capabilities from *client perspective*
- enforces abstraction / information hiding

# linear $\lambda$ -calculus

$$\frac{A \mid x:U \vdash e : T}{A \vdash \lambda x.e : U \multimap T} \text{ (} VAbs \text{)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash e_1 : U \multimap T \quad B \vdash e_2 : U}{A \mid B \vdash e_1 e_2 : T} \text{ (} App \text{)}$$

$$0 \vdash \mathbf{nil} : 0$$

$$A, B ::= \mathbf{0} \mid x:T, A$$

$$\boxed{A <: B} \quad (A \text{ is a subtype of } B)$$

$$\boxed{A \vdash e : U} \quad (e \text{ yields value of type } U \text{ under } B)$$

# adding dynamics (cf. Hoare types)

$\boxed{A <: B}$     ( $A$  is a subtype of  $B$ )

$\boxed{A \vdash_z e :: B}$     ( $e$  types from  $A$  to  $z$  in  $B$ )

type assertions (cf. type environments as “global types”):

$A, B ::= \mathbf{0} \mid x:T \mid A; B \mid A|B \mid A \& B \mid A \vee B \mid !A \mid \circ A$

# (linear) arrow type

$$\frac{A \mid x:U \vdash_y e :: y:T}{A \vdash_z \lambda x.e :: z:U \multimap T} \text{ (VAbs)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e_1 :: z:U \multimap T \quad B \vdash_x e_2 :: x:U}{A \mid B \vdash_y e_1 e_2 :: y:T} \text{ (App)}$$

- symmetric monoidal closed:  $(T, 0, (- \mid -), \multimap)$

# structural rules

$$x:U \vdash_z x :: z:U \text{ (Id)} \quad \frac{A \vdash_x e_1 :: B \quad B \vdash_y e_2 :: C}{A \vdash_y \mathbf{let} \ x = e_1 \ \mathbf{in} \ e_2 :: C} \text{ (Let/Cut)}$$

$$\frac{A <: A' \quad A' \vdash_x e :: B' \quad B' <: B}{A \vdash_x e :: B} \text{ (Sub)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_x e :: B}{A \mid C \vdash_x e :: B \mid C} \text{ (Par)} \quad \frac{A \vdash_x e :: B}{A ; C \vdash_x e :: B ; C} \text{ (Seq)}$$

# laws for parallel and sequence

$$U ; (V ; T) \Leftrightarrow (U ; V) ; T \quad U ; 0 \Leftrightarrow U \quad 0 ; U \Leftrightarrow U$$

$$U | (V | T) \Leftrightarrow (U | V) | T \quad U | V \Leftrightarrow V | U \quad U | 0 \Leftrightarrow U$$

$$(A ; C) | (B ; D) \Leftarrow (A | B) ; (C | D)$$

( special case )  $A | D \Leftarrow A ; D$

# sample typing judgments

$\boxed{A <: B}$     ( $A$  is a subtype of  $B$ )

$\boxed{A \vdash_z e :: B}$     ( $e$  types from  $A$  to  $z$  in  $B$ )

$(f:U \mapsto V ; y:U) \mid x:U \vdash_z (f \ x) :: z:V ; y:U$     ✓

$(f:U \mapsto V ; y:U) \mid x:U \vdash_z (f \ y) ::$     ✗

$a:\mathbf{use} \vdash_z (\lambda x. a := x) :: z:\circ U \mapsto 0 ; a:\mathbf{rd}(\circ U)$     ✓

# field type

$$\frac{A \vdash_x e :: x:U}{A \vdash_z [\dots l = e \dots] :: z:l:U} (Field)$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e :: z:l:T}{A \vdash_x e.l :: x:T} (Sel)$$

# (linear) intersection type

$$\frac{A \vdash_y e :: B \quad A \vdash_y e :: C}{A \vdash_y e :: B \ \& \ C} (And)$$

$$U \ \& \ V \prec:: U$$

$$U \ \& \ V \prec:: V$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_y e :: B_1 \ \& \ B_2}{A \vdash_y e :: B_i} (AndE)$$

$$U \prec:: U \ \& \ U$$

- unlabeled choice (e.g., exporting multiple interfaces)
- **examples:**  $A \vdash [up = e_1 | dn = e_2] :: x:(up:\mathbf{0} \ \& \ dn:\mathbf{0})$

# separation types

$$0 \vdash_y v :: 0 \text{ (} VStop \text{)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_y v :: C \quad B \vdash_y v :: D}{A ; B \vdash_y v :: C ; D} \text{ (} VSeq \text{)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_y v :: C \quad B \vdash_y v :: D}{A \mid B \vdash_y v :: C \mid D} \text{ (} VPar \text{)}$$

- concurrent Kleene algebra:

$$(T, (- \& -), (- \mid -), (- ; -), 0)$$

# (linear) labeled sum type

$$\frac{A \vdash_y e_c :: y : \oplus_{l \in I} \#l : T_l \quad x_i : T_i \mid B \vdash_z e_i :: C}{A \mid B \vdash_z \mathbf{case} \ e_c \ \mathbf{of} \ \#l(x) \rightarrow e :: C} \text{ (Case)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e :: z : T_i}{A \vdash_z \#l_i(e) :: z : \oplus_{l \in I} \#l : T_l} \text{ (Option)}$$

- labeled choice (cf. variant type)

# (linear) union type

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e :: C \quad B \vdash e :: C}{A \vee B \vdash_z e :: C} \text{ (UnionCase)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e :: z:T_i}{A \vdash_z e :: z: \forall l \in I T_l} \text{ (InUnion)}$$

- unlabeled union (e.g., exporting some interface)
- **examples:**  $s : \text{rec}(X).(empty?:\#T; push \vee empty?:\#F;(pop \& push); X)$

# types for sharing and isolation

$$\frac{!A_1 \mid \dots \mid !A_n \vdash_x v :: B}{!A_1 \mid \dots \mid !A_n \vdash_x v :: !B} \text{ (VShr)}$$

$$\frac{\circ A_1 \mid \dots \mid \circ A_n \vdash_x e :: B}{\circ A_1 \mid \dots \mid \circ A_n \vdash_x e :: \circ B} \text{ (Iso)}$$

- monoidal co-monads:  $\circ(-)$  isolated  
 $!(-)$  shared

# laws for sharing (cf. linear logic !)

$$!U \multimap U$$

$$!U \multimap !!U$$

$$0 \multimap !0$$

$$!U \mid !V \multimap !(U \mid V)$$

$$!U \multimap 0$$

$$!U \multimap !U \mid !U$$

# reference type

$\vdash_x \mathbf{ref} :: x:\mathbf{var} \ (Ref)$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z e :: x:\mathbf{var}}{A \vdash_x \mathbf{free} e :: x:0} \ (Free)$$

$\mathbf{var} <: \mathbf{use}; \mathbf{var}$

$\mathbf{use} <: \mathbf{use}; \mathbf{use}$

$\mathbf{use} <: \mathbf{wr}(U); \mathbf{rd}(U)$

$\mathbf{wr}(0) <: 0 \quad \mathbf{rd}(0) <: 0$

$\mathbf{rd}(U; V) <: \mathbf{rd}(U); \mathbf{rd}(V)$

$\mathbf{rd}(U \mid V) <: \mathbf{rd}(U) \mid \mathbf{rd}(V)$

$\mathbf{rd}(!U) <: !\mathbf{rd}(!U)$

$\mathbf{rd}(\circ U); \mathbf{var} <: \circ(\mathbf{rd}(\circ U); \mathbf{var})$

# reference type

$$a:\mathbf{rd}(U) \vdash_x !a :: x:U \text{ (} RdVB \text{)}$$

$$a:\mathbf{rd}(U); \mathbf{use} \vdash_x !a :: x:U \mid a:\mathbf{use} \text{ (} RdVF \text{)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z v :: z:\circ U \mid a:\mathbf{wr}(\circ U)}{A \vdash_z a := v :: 0} \text{ (} WrVF \text{)}$$

$$\frac{A \vdash_z v :: z:U \mid a:\mathbf{use}}{A \vdash_z a := v :: a:\mathbf{rd}(U)} \text{ (} WrVB \text{)}$$

# resource bundle types

- region type assigns bundle a *rely-guarantee* protocol  $R$

$$r : \rho(R)$$

- a *rely-guarantee* protocol is given by:

$$R ::= 0 \mid \{A\}\{B\}; R \mid \{B\}; R \mid R \vee R \mid \text{rec}(X)R \mid X$$

- let sub-typing laws:

$$\rho(A \vee B) <: \rho(A) \vee \rho(B)$$

binary projection op:  $\bowtie$

$$\rho(R) <: \rho(R_1) \mid \rho(R_2) \quad \text{if } R \bowtie (R_1 \mid R_2)$$

- projection* splits  $R$  into *compatible* protocols  $R_1, R_2, \dots$   
ensuring coordinated progress of several views / aliases

# resource bundle types

$$\frac{r:\rho(\{A\}\{0\}) \mid C \vdash_x e :: r:\rho(\{B\}\{0\}) \mid D}{A \mid C \vdash_x \mathbf{res} \ r \ \mathbf{in} \ e :: B \mid D}$$

$$r:\rho(\{A\}\{B\}; R) \vdash_x \mathbf{open} \ r :: A \mid r:\rho(\{B\}; R)$$

$$B \mid r:\rho(\{B\}; R) \vdash_x \mathbf{close} \ r :: r:\rho(R)$$

- expressing a simpler invariant:

$$inv(A) \triangleq \mathbf{rec}(X).\{A\}\{A\}; X$$

# queue typing

```
let newQueue =  
  λ[].var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deq = ...  
      ]  
    )  
  )  
  
newQueue : 0 → (!enc | !deq)
```

type checking ensures concurrent safety

# region type for queue

```
let newQueue =  
  λ[].var hd, tl in (  
    hd := #F(newNode nil); tl := #N;  
    res s in (  
      [  
        enq = ...  
        |  
        deg = ...  
      ]  
      Single = hd:rd(#F(Node)) | tl:rd(#N)  
      Many = hd:rd(#H(Hv)) | tl:rd(Tv)  
      A = (Single ∨ Many); (hd:var | tl:var)  
      s : ρ(inv(A))
```

# typing queue nodes

```
let newNode =  $\lambda[]$ .var nxt := #N in  
    res n in  
        [ setNxt =  $\lambda p$ .(open n;  
            nx := #L(p); close n) |  
          getNxt = open n;  
            let p = !nxt in (close n; p) |  
          disp = (open n; free nxt; close n) ]
```

$newNode \triangleq 0 \rightarrow \circ Node$

$Node \triangleq Hv \mid Tv$

$Tv \triangleq \mathbf{rec}(X).getNxt:\#L(Tv) ; disp:0 \vee getNxt:\#N ; X$

$Hv \triangleq setNxt:(Tv \mapsto 0)$

# typing node bundle

```
let newNode = λ[].var nxt := #N in
  res n in
    [ setNxt = λp.(open n;
                      nx := #L(p); close n) |
      getNxt = open n;
              let p = !nxt in (close n; p) |
      disp = (open n; free nxt; close n) ]
```

$n : \rho\{nxt : \text{rd}(\#N); \text{var}\}\{0\}$

$<:$

$n : \rho \text{rec}(X).( \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#L(Tv)); \text{var}\}\{nxt:\text{var}\}; \{nxt:\text{var}\}\{0\}$   
 $\quad \vee \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N); \text{var}\}\{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N); \text{var}\}; X )$

|

$n : \rho\{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N); \text{var}\}; \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#L(Tv)); \text{var}\}$

# typing node bundle

```
let newNode = λ[].var nxt := #N in
  res n in
    [ setNxt = λp.(open n;
                      nx := #L(p); close n) |
      getNxt = open n;
              let p = !nxt in (close n; p) |
      disp = (open n; free nxt; close n) ]
```

$\{nxt : \text{rd}(\#N) ; \text{var}\} \{0\}$

=

$\text{rec}(X).( \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#L(Tv)) ; \text{var}\} \{nxt:\text{var}\} ; \{nxt:\text{var}\} \{0\}$   
 $\vee \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N) ; \text{var}\} \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N) ; \text{var}\} ; X )$

⊗

$\{nxt:\text{rd}(\#N) ; \text{var}\} ; \{nxt:\text{rd}(\#L(Tv)) ; \text{var}\}$

(projection)

# credits

- separation logics
- spatial logics for concurrency
- session and conversation types
- linear logic ( + connections with session / behavioral types )
- behavioral separation types
- rely-guarantee protocols

# closing thoughts

- A program in a typed concurrent programming language should not go wrong ! But it does (concurrency “bugs”) !
- An open challenge for the CTC: how to ensure safety by typing of concurrency in realistic programming ?
- A broader understanding of the notion of behavioral type may contribute to better foundations for typing general concurrency, while preserving a healthy relationship with key core type theoretical (and logical) concepts.
- Behavioral specs in our sense (cf. regular expressions) are likely to facilitate adoption, as they seem to match software engineer (naive) reasoning about how “the program” works.

