

Mechanisms to Map Correct Occam3 Constructs in Ada World

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Abstract: To obtain a broad view of parallelism, and fill a gap between wired systems exhibiting natural parallelism and sophisticated theory about high-level language parallel programming, we are building a compiler translating occam3 to Ada95. This study deals with mechanisms elaborated to map correctly Occam3 occam constructs in Ada95 Ada world. This differential study point out effects of those two approaches of parallelism. Trials and comparisons with others parallel systems will bring practical insight about procedures to make parallelism safe effective and usual.

Key words: Ada, communication, CSP occam, parallelism, synchronisation, communication, CSP

INTRODUCTION

Occam is built upon concepts founded by Tony Hoare in CSP and was intended as a low-level assembly language for the Transputer^[1-3] and was developed with a minimalist approach that avoids unnecessary duplication of language constructs. occam2 later extended the occam language with the introduction of data types. occam can be used to program a single Transputer or a network of transputers. The occam2 and occam3 programming language enables an application to be described as a collection of concurrent processes. Writing concurrent application is so difficult perhaps we have not the same view like in sequential programming, so we need to have tools for specifying and developing concurrent processes. We suggest that occam seems a good one. In this study we present how occam may be translated to Ada. Similar work was presented by Martin Stuart Mamo for translating occam2 to modula3^[4]. Remaki and al^[5] present schemata to translating Grafcet to occam2. Occam may then be a bridge for translating Grafcet to Ada which use a derived mechanism of CSP. The Concept of CSP interest more specialists in language development. Branch Hansen extend pascal with procedure call and channel, in super pascal^[6]. The Southampton portable occam compiler translate occam2 to ANSI C and Peter Welch implement CSP model in JCSP^[7]. In an attempt to enlighten analogies and differences, our implementation is done in Ada.

REPRESENTATION OF CHANNELS AND PROCESS

We are interested only by concurrency of the language at this time. And we present occam under this corner.

Occam is low-level Concurrent Concurrent Programming language^[2,8]. Occam is built onto two fundamental structures: PROCESS, CHANNEL. Implementing those structures depend upon disposable environment. Excepting the Transputer, we must choose between languages exhibiting concurrency, or Sequential Languages interfacing the operating systems. Our implementation is done in Ada95 in an attempt to enlighten analogies and differences.

Channels: A channel is a symmetric unbuffered two-point-two-point link, allowing two processes to communicate, it may be represented in Ada by an entry as a rendezvous for two communicating tasks^[3] an entry is a derived form of DP^[9].

Processes: In Occam, the second corner-stone is the process. A process is an action or a set of actions, executed sequentially or parallel, or by selecting one among several waiting alternatives. The corresponding entity is the Task.

Synchronization and communication: synchronization Synchronization and communication in both languages are derived from CSP^[8].

Input/Output primitives: In occam, Input/Output primitives are basic operations realizing both synchronization and communication.

Input from a channel: For a process P, awaiting a value from channel C is denoted by local command
 $C?<variable>$;
 a corresponding Ada construct is given by an ACCEPT on an entry point C for a task P denoted by
 $accept\ C(<parameter>);$

Output to channel: For a process P, sending a value to a process Q via a channel C is denoted by a local Command
 $c! <expression>$;
 A corresponding Ada construct is given by Q asking a rendezvous on the entry point C of the task P, denoted by P.C(<expression>)

Process Construct:

- SEQ Construct correspond to Ada block, each process component correspond to an action.
- PAR construct correspond to an adaAda block, each process component correspond to a task .task.
- ALT construct correspond to a select statement for accept.
- WHILE Construct correspond to while statement
- IF construct correspond to IF endIF ENDIF statement.

Channel multiplexing: Occam enables to input a value from one channel among several ones, selecting the first disposable. Such a set of channels may be defined as an array or vector of channels.

In Ada, we may use an array of entries, being aware of the following differences. Occam allows sharing of vector of channels by several processes, communicating two by two via a shared element. But Ada assigns a family of entries to one task accepting a rendezvous on a sole entry at a time.

So Implementing Vector of channels by a family of Entries may be straightforward, but forbids equivalence of parallel schemata.

PRINCIPLES OF IMPLEMENTATION

Input/output and channels: Each element of vector of Channels should correspond to an entry. Each entry is defined in a different task.

Contrary to Ada, occam does not ask for the receiver at an omitted value, the channel being alone named in output command. However, Ada demands might be fulfilled, by associating receiving process to each channel. These associations are built statically by textual

analysis. But difficulties arise for multiplexed channels, when a channel is indexed by a dynamic expression. In such a case, static determination of the used channel(s) is not possible, hence the naming of receiving process. This solution is rejected.

An alternative solution creates a serving task for each element in each vector of channels, as illustrated by the following example.

```
Task type TCANAL is
  Entry LECTURE (Y: in out ELEM);
  Entry ECRITURE (X: in out ELEM)
End TCANAL;
Task body TCANAL is
Begin
  Loop
  Accept
    LECTURE (Y: in out ELEM)
  Do accept
    ECRITURE (X: in out ELEM)
  Do Y: =X End ECRITURE;
  End LECTURE
  End loop;
End TCANAL;
```

For the sake of regularity, this solution is extended to simple channels.

Hence a channel declaration in occam is translated into a task declaration in Ada. These Tasks will be activated but before running the body of their enclosing process.

B processes: Translating occam processes into ada Ada tasks is straightforward, except for the alternation ALT.

```
ALT
  Guard1
  Guarded process1;
  Guard2
  Guarded process2
...
```

Examples:

occam	Ada
CHAN A ^[10] , B	Tache_A:array(0..9) of TCANAL; Tache_B:TCANAL;
--receiving process A[exp]?x	Tache_A(exp).LECTURE(x);
-- emitting process	Tache_A(exp).ECRITURE(3*2+c);
A[exp]! 3*2+c	Tache_B.LECTURE(y);
B?y	Tache_B.EcritureECRITURE(result);
B! result	Tache_B.EcritureECRITURE(result);

Fig. 1: This rule covers all constructs except the alternation ALT

```

occam  Ada
-- exemple                               -- Code
      Task type tache_mere is
      Entry rv_alt1;
      Entry rv_alt2;
      Entry rv_alt3;
Alt
k>5 & B?x                               ....
      proc1                               End tache_mere;
      B?x                                 Task body tache_mere is
Proc2;                                     ....
k=5 & wait t                               Declare
      Proc3                               Tache_alt1:talt_input;alt1;
Wait t-1                                   Begin
      Proc4                               Select
K=3 & SKIP                                Wwhen k>5 => =>
      Proc5
.....
      accept rv_alt1_1;
      Ddo proc1 end;;
Or tache_B.LECTURE(x);
      Proc2;
      Or when k=5 =>
      accept rv_alt1_2
      Do proc3 end;                               End
select;
      End;
.....
      End tache_mere;
      Task type talt 1;
      Task body talt1_input is
      Begin
      select
      Tache_B.LECTURE(x);
      Tache_mere.rv_alt1_1;
Or delay t;  Tache_mere.rv_alt1_2
Or -- skip avoid  Tache_mere.rv_alt1_3
      End select;
      End;

```

Fig. 2: Code generated for ALT construct

whereWhere “guard owned 3 conditionalconditional cases:
conditionCondition & input -- k>5 & B?x
conditionCondition & wait -- i=2 & wait t
conditionCondition and SKIP -- a=2 & SKIP;

Here is an occam example

```

occam
ALT
  k>5 & B?x
  proc1
  k<5 & C?x
  Proc2

```

When we apply the rule Fig. 1 on this example we obtain

```

Select
  When k>5 => tache_B.lecture(x) ;
  Or when k<5 tache_C.lecture(x)
End select;

```

But when k>5 => tache_B.lecture(x) is an illegal construct in Ada, in, in this context (select accepts).

So a supplementary task is needed to circumvent this restriction. In 1987 we may suggested a task for each alternation^[11,12]. But now we propose a better proposal is

only one task for the entire ALT construct. Because at any time only one alternation will be satisfied, the select statement warranties that by choosing a unique alternation. That is using a select statement; we decrease the number of tasks generated and then execution time (less task switch). Translation schemata for these conditional alternations Fig. 2.

CONCLUSION

Translating occam parallelism into Ada parallelism seems very expensive if correct. A reason may be that a micro- parallelism between operations/operators tightly-coupled as in occam has no clear-cut image into the macro-parallelism exhibited by Ada, more oriented towards heavy processes loosely coupled.

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