

The *must* preorder revisited

An algebraic theory for Web services contracts

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Web services in a nutshell

- distributed processes
- communicating through standard Web protocols (tcp, http, soap)
- exchanging data in platform-neutral format (xml)
- dynamically linked
- with machine-understandable descriptions

Technologies for Web services

Interface descriptions

- WSDL 1.1 (W3C note, 2001)
- WSDL 2.0 (W3C recommendation, 2007)

Behavioral descriptions

- WSCL 1.0 (W3C note, 2002)
- WSCI 1.0 (W3C note, 2002)
- WS – BPEL 2.0 (OASIS standard, 2007)

“Enabling users to describe business process activities as Web services and define how they can be connected to accomplish specific tasks”

Web services yellow pages (*registries*)

- UDDI 3.0.2 (OASIS standard, 2004)

“Defining a standard method for enterprises to dynamically discover and invoke Web services”

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Discovering Web services

Search key

- name
- industrial classification
- location
- ...
- **behavioral type!**

Problem

We need a *formal* notion of behavioral equivalence which

- preserves client satisfaction
- is abstract (based on the **described**, **observable** behavior)

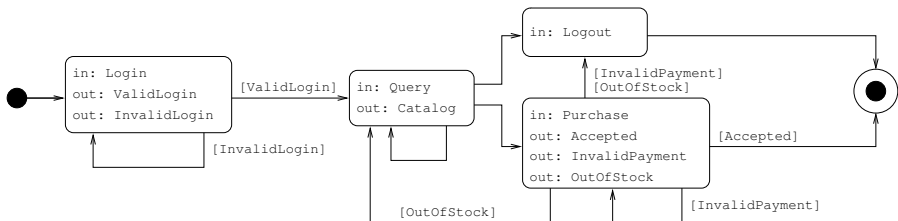
Plan

Synthesize *contracts* from Web service descriptions, give contracts a formal semantics, use contracts for searching (and possibly more...)

Summary

- 1 understand what contracts look like
- 2 define client satisfaction (*compliance*)
- 3 define contract equivalence (*subcontract*)
- 4 see how to query a registry (*duality*)
- 5 study the properties enjoyed by the equivalence w.r.t. common Web service scenarios (*choreographies*)

What's in a contract?



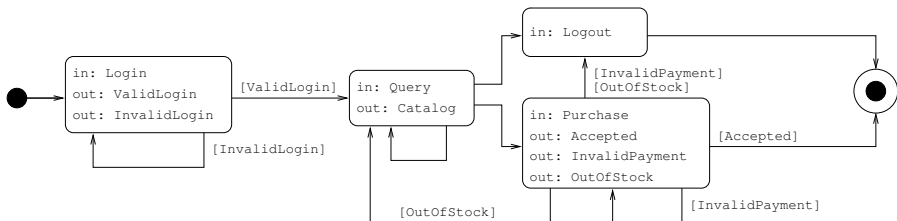
- the behavior of the service at Login is

$$\sigma = \text{Login}.\overline{(\text{InvalidLogin}.\sigma \oplus \text{ValidLogin}.\sigma')}$$

- the behavior of the service at Query is

$$\tau = \text{Query}.\overline{\text{Catalog}.\tau + \text{Logout} + \text{Purchase}.\tau'}$$

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A language for contracts – ccs without τ 's

Contracts are pairs $I : \sigma$

- the *interface* I is a finite set of *names*
- the *behavior* σ is defined by the grammar ($\alpha = a, \bar{a}$):

$\sigma ::=$	
0	(end of connection)
$\alpha.\sigma$	(action prefix)
$\sigma + \sigma$	(external choice)
$\sigma \oplus \sigma$	(internal choice)
x	(variable)
$\text{rec } x.\sigma$	(recursion)

Example

```
rec x.Login.( $\overline{\text{InvalidLogin}}.x \oplus \overline{\text{ValidLogin}}.\text{rec } y.$   
  Query. $\overline{\text{Catalog}}.(y + \text{Logout} + \text{rec } z.\text{Purchase}.$   
     $\overline{\text{Accepted}} \oplus \overline{\text{InvalidPayment}}.(z + \text{Logout}) \oplus \overline{\text{OutOfStock}}.(y + \text{Logout})))$ 
```

Behavior transition relation

$$\alpha.\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma \quad \frac{\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma'}{\sigma + \tau \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma'}$$

$$\sigma \oplus \tau \longrightarrow \sigma \quad \frac{\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma'}{\sigma + \tau \longrightarrow \sigma' + \tau} \quad \text{rec } x.\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma\{\text{rec } x.\sigma/x\}$$

Standard notation

$$\Longrightarrow, \quad \sigma \xRightarrow{\alpha} \sigma', \quad \sigma \uparrow, \quad \sigma \downarrow, \quad \text{init}(\sigma) = \{\alpha \mid \sigma \xRightarrow{\alpha}\}$$

Remark

Same transition relation as the one of ccs without τ 's

- $a + (b \oplus c) \longrightarrow a + b$
- $(a + b) \oplus (a + c) \longrightarrow a + b$

Compliance = graceful termination

Client/service interaction

$$\frac{\rho \longrightarrow \rho'}{\rho \mid \sigma \longrightarrow \rho' \mid \sigma} \quad \frac{\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma'}{\rho \mid \sigma \longrightarrow \rho \mid \sigma'} \quad \frac{\rho \xrightarrow{\alpha} \rho' \quad \sigma \xrightarrow{\bar{\alpha}} \sigma'}{\rho \mid \sigma \longrightarrow \rho' \mid \sigma'}$$

Compliance (e indicates client's satisfaction)

ρ is *compliant with* σ ($\rho \dashv \sigma$) if $\rho \mid \sigma \Longrightarrow \rho' \mid \sigma'$ implies

- 1 if $\rho' \mid \sigma' \not\rightarrow$, then $\{e\} \subseteq \text{init}(\rho')$
- 2 if $\sigma' \uparrow$, then $\{e\} = \text{init}(\rho')$

Examples

- $a.e + b.e \dashv \bar{a} \oplus \bar{b}$ and $a.e + b.e \dashv \bar{a}$
- $a.e \oplus b.e \not\dashv \bar{a} \oplus \bar{b}$
- $e + \bar{a}.e \dashv 0$ and $e + \bar{a}.e \not\dashv \cdot$ ($\cdot = \text{rec } x.x$)

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Querying the registry with the right **key**

Searching services with compliance

$$\text{query}(K : \rho) = \{I : \sigma \mid K \subseteq I \text{ and } \rho \dashv \sigma\}$$

- effective but not efficient
- still don't have equivalence for contracts

Idea: **subcontract relation**

$$\llbracket I : \sigma \rrbracket = \{K : \rho \mid K \subseteq I \text{ and } \rho \dashv \sigma\}$$

$$I : \sigma \preceq J : \tau \iff \llbracket I : \sigma \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket J : \tau \rrbracket$$

- 1 compute ρ^\perp such that $\rho \dashv \rho^\perp$
- 2 $\text{query}(K : \rho) = \{I : \sigma \mid K : \rho^\perp \preceq I : \sigma\}$ (**cached!**)
- 3 make sure $K : \rho^\perp$ is the *principal dual contract*

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Subcontract relation: examples

- $I : \tau \preceq I : \sigma$
- $\{a, b\} : \bar{a} \oplus \bar{b} \preceq \{a, b\} : \bar{a}$
- $\{a, b\} : \bar{a} \oplus \bar{b} \preceq \{a, b\} : \bar{a} + \bar{b}$
- $\{a\} : \bar{a} \preceq \{a, b\} : \bar{a} + \bar{b}$ (width extension)
 - Query + Logout + Purchase \preceq
Query + Logout + Purchase + SaveForLater
- $\{a\} : \bar{a} \preceq \{a, b\} : \bar{a}.\bar{b}$ (depth extension)
 - Purchase. $\overline{\text{Accepted}}$ \preceq Purchase. $\overline{\text{Accepted}}$. $\overline{\text{Invoice}}$
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Subcontract relation: déjà vu?

Contracts for WS's
being compliant

\preceq

Clients

$e + \bar{a}.b.e \not\vdash a$

$e \oplus e \vdash \cdot$

Services

$\{a\} : a \preceq \{a, b\} : a + b$

$\{a\} : a \preceq \{a, b\} : a.b$

Testing framework
“passing a test”

$\sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}$

Tests

$a \text{ must } e + \bar{a}.b.e$

$\cdot \text{ must } e \oplus e$

Processes

$a \not\sqsubseteq_{\text{must}} a + b$

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Theorem

$I : \sigma \preceq I : \tau$ if and only if $\sigma \sqsubseteq_{\text{must}} \tau$

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Principal dual contracts

Problem: given a (client) contract $K : \rho$ compute the least (\preceq) contract $K : \rho^\perp$ such that $\rho \dashv \rho^\perp$

Attempt 1: complement actions and swap choices

- $(a.e + b.e)^\perp = \bar{a} \oplus \bar{b}$
- swapping does not preserve equivalence
 $\{a, b, c\} : a.\bar{b}.e + a.\bar{c}.e \simeq \{a, b, c\} : a.(\bar{b}.e \oplus \bar{c}.e)$, but
 $\{a, b, c\} : \bar{a}.b \oplus \bar{a}.c \not\simeq \{a, b, c\} : \bar{a}.(b + c)$

Attempt 2: normalize, then complement and swap

- $(a.\bar{b}.e + a.\bar{c}.e)^\perp = \bar{a}.(b + c)$
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Principal dual contracts: the definition at last

Ready set

$$\sigma \Downarrow r \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma \Longrightarrow \sigma' \text{ and } r = \text{init}(\sigma')$$

The dual operator is relative to the interface K and works for “canonical” clients only

$$\text{dual}(K : \rho) = \begin{cases} ; & \text{if } \text{init}(\rho) = \{e\} \\ \sum_{\rho \Downarrow r, r \setminus \{e\} \neq \emptyset} \left(\underbrace{0 \oplus}_{\text{if } e \in r} \bigoplus_{\alpha \in r \setminus \{e\}} \bar{\alpha}.\text{dual}(K : \bigoplus_{\rho \Longrightarrow \alpha} \rho') \right) \\ \quad + \underbrace{\left(0 \oplus \bigoplus_{\alpha \in (K \cup \bar{K}) \setminus \text{init}(\rho)} \bar{\alpha}.\cdot \right)}_{\text{if } (K \cup \bar{K}) \setminus \text{init}(\rho) \neq \emptyset}, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

where $\bar{K} = \{\bar{a} \mid a \in K\}$

Principal dual contracts: phew!

Examples

- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : a.e)$ $= \bar{a}. ' + (0 \oplus a.')$
 $\simeq \bar{a}. ' \oplus (\bar{a}. ' + a.')$ $\preceq \bar{a} + a$
- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : a.e \oplus e)$ $= \dots$ the same \dots
- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : a.e + e)$ $= (0 \oplus \bar{a}.') + (0 \oplus a.')$
 $\simeq 0 \oplus a. ' \oplus \bar{a}. '$
- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : ')$ $= \dots$ exercise \dots
- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : \text{rec } x.a.x)$ $= \bar{a}.\text{dual}(\{a\} : \text{rec } x.a.x) + (0 \oplus a.')$
 $\simeq \text{rec } x.(\bar{a}.x \oplus (\bar{a}.x + a. '))$

Theorem

Let $K : \rho$ be a (client) contract and $I : \sigma$ be a (service) contract. Then

- ① $\rho \dashv \text{dual}(K : \rho)$
- ② if $\rho \dashv \sigma$ and $K \subseteq I$, then $K : \text{dual}(K : \rho) \preceq I : \sigma$

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 $\simeq 0 \oplus a. \oplus \bar{a}.$
- $\text{dual}(\{a\} : .)$ $= \dots$ exercise \dots
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Theorem

Let $K : \rho$ be a (client) contract and $I : \sigma$ be a (service) contract. Then

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- ② if $\rho \dashv \sigma$ and $K \subseteq I$, then $K : \text{dual}(K : \rho) \preceq I : \sigma$

Principal dual contracts: phew!

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From services to choreographies

Web services and parallelism

- if $I : \sigma \preceq J : \tau$, the service $J : \tau$ can be used in place of $I : \sigma$
- what happens if $I : \sigma$ is part of a larger system?
- larger system = choreography
- a choreography description specifies which communications occur in the (parallel) composition of n services
- a choreography description can be projected to a term

$$\Sigma = (I_1 : \sigma_1 \mid \cdots \mid I_n : \sigma_n) \setminus L$$

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Lifting \preceq to choreographies

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$$I_k : \sigma_k \preceq J_k : \tau_k$$

Under which conditions can Σ' be safely used in place of Σ ?

- 1 $\bigcup_{k \in 1..n} I_k \setminus L = \bigcup_{k \in 1..n} J_k \setminus L'$
- 2 for every $1 \leq i, j \leq n$ with $i \neq j$ we have that
 $L' \cap (\text{names}(\tau_i) \setminus \text{names}(\sigma_i)) \cap (\text{names}(\tau_j) \setminus \text{names}(\sigma_j)) = \emptyset$

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If $K : \rho$ is compliant with Σ and Σ' is a refinement of Σ , then $K : \rho$ is also compliant with Σ'

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Wrap-up

- theory for *searching* and *reasoning about* services by their **contracts** (= behavioral types)
- \preceq gives **safe substitution** of services
- \preceq can **speed up** querying Web service registries
- \preceq behaves well in **choreographies**

With respect to $\sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}$

- \dashv has a (more) practical justification
- interfaces make \preceq more general than $\sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}$ (width and depth extensions are possible)
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Related work

Foundations

- acceptance trees (Hennessy)
- testing processes (De Nicola, Hennessy)
- ccs without τ 's (De Nicola, Hennessy)

Contracts aka...

- session types (Gay, Hole, Vasconcelos)
- interface automata (De Alfaro)

Variations on the theme

- "*Performance-oriented comparison of Web services via client-specific testing preorders*", FMOODS'07 (Bernardo, Padovani)
- "*A theory of contracts for Web services*", POPL'08 (Castagna, Gesbert, Padovani)

What next?

Languages

- checking and inferring contracts
- progress guarantees for choreographies

Implementations

- from contracts to session types (and back)
- asynchrony

Extensions

- names and *higher-order Web services* (WSDL 2.0)

Subcontract relation: alternative characterization

Coinductive subcontract relation

If $(I : \sigma, J : \tau) \in \mathcal{R}$, then $I \subseteq J$ and whenever $\sigma \downarrow$ then

- 1 $\tau \downarrow$, and
- 2 $\tau \Downarrow r$ implies $\sigma \Downarrow s$ and $s \subseteq r$, and
- 3 $\alpha \in I \cup \bar{I}$ and $\tau \xrightarrow{\alpha} \tau'$ implies $\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma_1, \dots, \sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma_n$ and $(I : \bigoplus_{1 \leq i \leq n} \sigma_i, J : \tau') \in \mathcal{R}$

Watch for condition 3

- $\{a, b, c\} : a.\bar{b} + a.\bar{c} \simeq \{a, b, c\} : a.(\bar{b} \oplus \bar{c})$
- no single a -derivative of $a.\bar{b} + a.\bar{c}$ is smaller than $\bar{b} \oplus \bar{c}$
- we take the internal choice of *all* the a -derivatives: $\bar{b} \oplus \bar{c}$

Theorem

\preceq is the largest coinductive subcontract relation

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An alternative compliance relation

ρ is *compliant with* σ ($\rho \dashv \sigma$) if $\rho \mid \sigma \Longrightarrow \rho' \mid \sigma'$ implies

- 1 if $\rho' \mid \sigma' \not\rightarrow$, then $\{e\} \subseteq \text{init}(\rho')$
- 2 if $\sigma' \uparrow$, then $\{e\} = \text{init}(\rho')$

Practical implications

- a client cannot *try* to perform an action: $e + a.e \not\neq 0$
- among the actions proposed by the client, at least one must succeed

Theoretical implications

- 0 and \cdot are indistinguishable
- depth extensions are possible without interfaces: $\{a\} : 0 \preceq \{a\} : a$
- weaker connection with $\sqsubseteq_{\text{must}}$, weaker precongruence properties

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The *must* preorder

- $\sigma_0 \mid \rho_0 \longrightarrow \sigma_1 \mid \rho_1 \longrightarrow \dots$ is *maximal* if either it is infinite or the last term $\sigma_n \mid \rho_n$ is such that $\sigma_n \mid \rho_n \not\rightarrow$
- σ *must* ρ if, for every maximal $\sigma \mid \rho = \sigma_0 \mid \rho_0 \longrightarrow \sigma_1 \mid \rho_1 \longrightarrow \dots$, there exists $n \geq 0$ such that $\rho_n \xrightarrow{e}$
- $\sigma \sqsubseteq_{\text{must}} \tau$ if and only if, for every ρ , σ *must* ρ implies τ *must* ρ

Lifting \dashv to choreographies

Notation

- $\Sigma[i \mapsto J : \rho]$ is Σ where the i -th participant replaced by $J : \rho$
- write Σ_L when we want to recall the private names of the choreography

Transition relation of choreographies

$$\frac{\sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma' \quad \text{names}(\alpha) \notin L}{\Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma] \xrightarrow{\alpha} \Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma']} \quad \frac{\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma'}{\Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma] \longrightarrow \Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma']}$$

$$\frac{i \neq j \quad \sigma \xrightarrow{\alpha} \sigma' \quad \rho \xrightarrow{\bar{\alpha}} \rho' \quad \text{names}(\alpha) \in L}{\Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma][j \mapsto J : \rho] \longrightarrow \Sigma_L[i \mapsto I : \sigma'][j \mapsto J : \rho']}$$

Compliance w.r.t. a choreography

$\rho \dashv \Sigma$ (overload \longrightarrow)

(Missing) parallelism

- we restrict to *finite-state* conversations
- we may need to *overestimate* the contract of clients
- we may need to *underestimate* the contract of services
- we can use the *expansion law* for describing finite (sub)processes

$$\begin{aligned}a \mid b &\simeq a.b + b.a \\ \bar{a} \mid a.b &\simeq (\bar{a}.a.b + a.(\bar{a} \mid b) + b) \oplus b \\ (\bar{a} \mid a.b) \setminus a &\simeq b\end{aligned}$$