#### Introduction to the ToolBus Coordination Architecture

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Introduction to the ToolBus Coordination Architecture

- The problem: component interconnection
- History & requirements
- Terms, types & matching
- The ToolBus architecture
- ToolBus scripts (Tscripts)
- Larger examples



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# The problem: component interconnection

- Systems become heterogeneous because we want to couple existing and new software components
  - different implementation languages
  - different implementation platforms
  - different user-interfaces
- Systems become distributed in local area networks
- Needed: interoperability of heterogenous systems



#### Component interconnection: reasons

- Reusing existing components decreases construction costs of new systems
- Decomposing large, monolithic systems into smaller, cooperating components increases
  - modularity
  - flexibility



#### Component interconnection: issues

- Data integration: exchange of data between components
- Control integration: flow of control between components
- User-interface integration: how do the userinterfaces of components cooperate?



# Data integration

- Data representations differ per
  - machine: word size, byte order, floating point representation, ...
  - language implementation: size of integers, emulation of IEEE floating point standard, ...
- How can we exchange data between components:
  - integers, reals, record => linear encoding
  - pointers => impossible in general



## Data integration

- Assume a common representation *R*
- For each component  $C_i$  (with data domain  $D_i$ ) there exist conversion functions

$$-f_i: D_i \to R \text{ and } f_i^{-1}: R \to D_i$$

- Convert a value  $d_i$  from  $C_i$  to  $C_i$  by  $f_i^{-1}(f_i(d_i))$
- Examples: IDDL, ASN-1, ...
- ToolBus uses ATerms as common representation



## Control integration

- Broadcasting: each component can notify other components of state changes
- Remote procedure calls: components can call each other as procedures
- General message passing: the most general approach
- In the ToolBus Tscripts are used to model the interactions between components



#### User-interface integration

- There is a general trend towards multi-threaded user-interfaces (concurrency)
- There is a general trend to use formal techniques to specify user-interfaces
- The ToolBus does not address user-interface integration as separate issue but can be used to achieve it



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#### Brief history of the ToolBus

- Around 1992 the first implementation of the ASF+SDF Meta-Environment was completed:
  - 200 KLOC Lisp code
  - Monolithic
  - Hard to maintain
- ... all traits of a legacy system



#### Time line

- 1992: Unsuccessful decomposition experiments
- 1994: First ToolBus
- 1995: Discrete time ToolBus
- 2001: Meta-Environment restructured
- 2002/3: preparing for the next generation ...



#### 1992



Old





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## 1993

- Difficult synchronization and communication problems problems start to appear
- PSF specification of communication; simulation reveals several deadlocks
- Problems with this specification:
  - complex (> 20 pages) and ad hoc
  - difficult to extend
  - cannot be used to directly coordinate the components



#### 1993/1994

- Idea of a "ToolBus" as general communication structure appeared
- First design and implementation
- Several experiments
  - Feature interaction in telephone switches (RUU/PTT)
  - Traffic control (Nederland Haarlem/UvA/CWI/RUU)
  - Management of complex bus stations (idem)
  - Definition of user interfaces (UvA)



#### 1994/1995

- Fall 1994: redesign based on this experience
- Spring 1995: design and implementation of Discrete Time ToolBus completed
- First experiments to prototype parts of the Meta-Environment started



#### More recently ...

- In 2001 a new implementation of the Meta-Environment based on the ToolBus was completed
- End 2002 we have started on a new generation ToolBus based on these experiences ...



#### ToolBus requirements

- Flexible interconnection architecture for software components
- Good control over communication
- Relatively simple descriptions
- Uniform data exchange format
- Multi-lingual: C, Java, Perl, ASF+SDF, ...
- Potential for verification

The Meta-Environment

• Use existing concurrency theory

# Coordination, Representation & Computation

- Coordination: the way in which program and system parts interact (procedure calls, RMI, ...)
- Representation: language and machine neutral data exchanged between components
- Computation: program code that carries out a specialized task

A rigorous separation of coordination from computation is the key to flexible and reusable systems



#### Architectural Layers



#### **Cooperating Components**



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Generic Representation Annotated Terms (ATerms)

- Applicative, prefix terms
- Maximal subterm sharing  $(\Rightarrow DAG)$ 
  - cheap equality test, efficient rewriting
  - automatic generational garbage collection
- Annotations (text coordinates, dataflow info, ...)
- Very concise, binary, sharing preserving encoding
- Language & machine independent exchange format The Meta-Environment





Introduction to the ToolBus Coordination Architecture

#### A term is ...

• a Boolean, integer, real or string

- true, 37, 3.14e-12, "rose"

- a value occurrence of a variable
  - X, InitialAmount, Highest-bid
- a result occurrence of a variable
  - X?, InitialAmount?



#### A term is ...

- a single identifier
  - f, pair, zero
- a function application
  - pair("rose", address("Street", 12345))
- a list
  - [a, b, c], [a, 1.25, "last"], [[a, 1], [b, 2]]
- a placeholder

- <int>, add(<int>,<int>)

The Meta-Environment

Introduction to the ToolBus Coordination Architecture

# Matching of terms

- Term matching is used to
  - determine which actions can communicate
  - to transfer data between sender and receiver
- Intuition:
  - terms match if the are structurally identical
  - value occurrence: use variable's value
  - result occurrence: assign matched subterm to variable (only if overall match succeeds!)



## Example of term matching



# Types

- The ToolBus uses its own type system
  - static checks & automatic generation of interface code
- bool, int, real, str
- list: list with arbitrary elements
- list(*Type*): list with *Type* elements
  list(int)
- *term*: arbitrary term

# Types

- *Id*: all terms with function symbol *Id* (allows partial type declarations)
  - f accepts f, f(1), f("abc",3), ...
- $Id(T_1, ..., T_n)$ 
  - f(int, str) accepts f(3,"abc") but not f(3)
- $[T_1, ..., T_n]$ : list of elements with given types

- [int, str] accepts [1,"abc"] but not [1,2,3]

# Types

- All variables have types
- Types are checked statically when possible
- Types play a role during matching:
  - I is int variable, S is str variable, T is term variable
  - match f(13) and f(I?)
- succeeds
- match f(13) and f(S?)
- match f(13) and f(T?)

fails

#### succeeds



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#### The ToolBus architecture





Introduction to the ToolBus Coordination Architecture
#### The ToolBus architecture

- Processes inside the ToolBus can communicate with each other
- Tools can not communicate with each other
- Tools can communicate using a fixed protocol:









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### ToolBus scripts: processes

- The ToolBus: a parallel composition of processes
- Private variables per process
- $P_1 + P_2$   $P_1 \cdot P_2$   $P_1 || P_2 P_1 * P_2$
- :=, if then else
- All data are terms that can be matched
- A limited set of built-in operations on terms
- No other support for datatypes

### ToolBus scripts: processes

- Send, receive message (handshaking)
- Send/receive notes (broadcasting)
- Subscription to notes
- Dynamic process creation
- Absolute/relative delay, timeout



### ToolBus scripts: tools

- Execute/terminate tools
- Connect/disconnect tools
- Communication between process and tool is synchronous
- Process can send evaluation request to tool (which returns a value later on)
- Tool can generate events to be handled by the ToolBus



# Hello World





# Hello World: string generated by tool



### Simple clock with user-interface





#### Simple clock with user-interface

process CLOCK is process-expression-1 tool clock is tool-definition-1

process UI is process-expression-2 tool ui is tool-definition-2

toolbus(CLOCK, UI)





#### User-interface



## Tscripts: revisited

- Process communication: messages & notes
- Composite processes
- Expressions & built-in functions
- Time primitives
- Tools



#### Process communication: messages

- Messages used for synchronous, two-party communication between processes
- snd-msg and rec-msg synchronize sender/receiver
- Communication is possible if the arguments match
- There is two-way data transfer between sender and receiver (using result variables)



#### Process communication: notes

- Notes used for asynchronous, broadcasting communication between processes
- Each process must subscribe to the notes it wants to receive
- Each process has a private note queue on which snd-note, rec-note and no-note operate



#### Process communication: notes

- subscribe to notes of a given form
  - subscribe(compute(<str>,<int>))
- unsubscribe from certain notes
- snd-note to all subscribers
  - snd-note(compute(E,V))
- rec-note: receive a note of a given form
- no-note received of given form

## Composite process expressions

- One of the atomic processes mentioned above
- delta (deadlock), tau (silent step)
- $P_1 + P_2$ : choice (non-deterministic)
- $P_1$ .  $P_2$ : sequential composition
- $P_1 || P_2$ : parallel composition
- $P_1 * P_2$ : repetition

### Composite process expressions

- $P(T_1, T_2, ...)$ : a named process (with optional parameters) will be replaced by its definition
- create(P(T<sub>1</sub>, T<sub>2</sub>, ...), Pid?): dynamic process creation
- V := Expr: evaluate Expr and assign result to V
- if Expr then  $P_1$  else  $P_2$  fi
- if Expr then  $P_1$  fi = if Expr then  $P_1$  else delta fi

#### Expressions

- An expression is evaluated in the current environment of the process in which it occurs
- Constants evaluate to themselves: a
- Variables evaluate to their current values
- Lists evaluate to a list of their evaluated elements
- Some function symbols have a built-in meaning



#### **Built-in functions**

- Booleans: not, and, or
- Integers: add, sub, mul, mod, less, less-equal, greater, greater-equal
- Lists: first, next, get, put, join, member, subset, diff, inter, size
- Miscellaneous: equal, not-equal, process-id, process-name, current-time, quote



# Time primitives

- A (relative or absolute) delay or time out may be associated with each atomic process
- Relative time: delay(Expr) or timeout(Expr)
- Absolute time: abs-delay(y, mon, d, h, min, s) or abs-timeout(y, mon, d, h, min, s)
- Example:
  - printf("expired") delay(10)
  - printf("Renew account") abs-timeout(2004,4,1,12,0,0)

#### Process definitions

- Process definition: process *Pname Formals* is *P*
- *Formals* are optional and contain a list of formal parameter names

- process MakeWave(N: int) is ...

- All variables (including formals) must be declared and have a type
- let *VarDecls* in *P* endlet introduces variables:

```
- let E : str, V : int in ... endlet
```

# Tools

- Tools have to be executed or connected before they can be used
- Requires a tool definition: tool ui is { ... }
- Introduces a new type, e.g. ui

The Meta-Environment

- Execute a tool: execute(ui, Uid?)
- Receive connection request: rec-connect(ui, Uid?)
- Tool identification is assigned to Uid (of type uid)

## Tools

- snd-terminate: terminate an executing tool
  - snd-terminate(Tid)
- rec-disconnect: receive disconnection request from tool
  - rec-disconnect(Uid)
- shutdown: terminate the whole ToolBus
  - shutdown("Auction ends")



# Tools

• snd-eval, rec-value: request tool to evaluate a term, and receive the resulting value from tool

- initiative: ToolBus

- snd-do: request tool to perform some action, there is no reply
  - initiative: ToolBus
- rec-event, snd-ack-event: receive event from tool, acknowledge it after appropriate processing
  - initiative: tool

The Meta-Environment

# Tscripts

- A Tscripts consists of
  - a list of process and tool definitions
  - a single ToolBus configuration
- A ToolBus configuration describes the initial set of active processes in the ToolBus:
  - toolbus( $Pname_1, ..., Pname_n$ )
  - Eache *Pname* is optionally followed by parameters



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#### Example: calculator





### Example: calculator

- CALC: the calculation process
- BATCH: reads expressions from file, calculates their value, writes result back to file
- UI: the user-interface
- LOG maintains a log of all calculations
- CLOCK provides current time



#### Process CALC



### Process BATCH





# User-interface



- When the user presses <u>Calc</u>, a dialog window aetExpr appears to enter an expression plus(3,4)
- The result is diplayed in a separate window
- Pressing showLog display all calculations so far
- Pressing <u>showTime</u> displays the current time
- Pressing <u>Quit</u> ends the application



Give expression:

Cancel

Value is: 7

ok.

#### User-interface: process UI





## User-interface: CALC-BUTTON


# User-interface: LOG-BUTTON

```
process LOG-BUTTON(Tid : ui) is
  let N : int, L : term
  in
     rec-event(Tid, N?, button(showLog)).
     snd-msg(showLog).
     rec-msg(showLog, L?).
     snd-do(Tid, display-log(L)).
     snd-ack-event(Tid, N)
  endlet
```



# User-interface: TIME-BUTTON

```
process TIME-BUTTON(Tid : ui) is
  let N : int, T : str
  in rec-event(Tid, N?, button(showTime)).
     snd-msg(showTime).
     rec-msg(showTime, T?).
     snd-do(Tid, display-time(T)).
     snd-ack-event(Tid, N)
  endlet
```

process QUIT-BUTTON(Tid : ui) is rec-event(Tid, button(quit)) . shutdown("End of calc demo")

### Process LOG



### Process LOG1







### Process CLOCK

```
process CLOCK is
  let Tid : clock, T : str
  in
       execute(clock, Tid?).
            rec-msg(showTime).
        (
            snd-eval(Tid, readTime) .
             rec-value(Tid, time(T?)).
            snd-msg(showTime, T)
         ) * delta
  endlet
```



# **ToolBus Configuration**

toolbus (CALC, BATCH, UI, LOG, CLOCK)

Creates the processes for the calculator application

Start calculator application: toolbus calc.tb



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- How are bids synchronized?
- How to inform bidders about higher bids?
- How to decide when the bidding is over and the item is sold?
- Bidders may come and go during the auction







- The Auction process
  - executes master tool: user-interface of auction master
  - connection/disconnection of new bidders
  - introduces new items for sale (at the initiative of the auction master)
  - controls the bidding provess via OneSale
- A Bidder process is created for each new bidder



### **Process Auction**



tool master is { command = "wish-adapter -script master.tcl" }

### Process ConnectBidder





	process OneSale(Mid : master) is					
	let Descr : str,	%% Description of current item	for sale			
	InAmount : int,	%% Initial amount for item				
	Amount : int,	%% Current amount				
	HighestBid : int,	%% Highest bid so far				
	Final : bool,	%% Did we already issue a final call for bids?				
	Sold : bool,	%% Is the item sold?				
	Bid : bidder	%% New bidder tool connected during sale				
	in rec-event(Mid, new-item(Descr?, InAmount?)) .					
	HighestBid := InAmount .					
	<pre>snd-note(new-item(Descr, InAmount)) .</pre>					
	Final := false . Sold :	= false . Where	Where the action is			
	(		where the action is			
) * if Sold then snd-ack-event(Mid, new-item(Descr, InAmount)) fi						
endlet						
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( if not(Sold) then ... fi + if not(or(Final, Sold)) then ... fi + if and(Final, not(Sold)) then ... fi + ConnectBidder(Mid, Bid?) ... ) \* if Sold then ... fi





	(if not(Sold) then fi		Not yet sold, not asked for final bids			
	+ if not(or(Final, Sold)) then		Wait 10 sec, then ask for final bids			
	snd-note(any-higher-bid) delay(sec(10)) snd-do(Mid, any-higher-bid(10)) .	).	Inform auction master			
	Final := true •	Yes, now we have asked for final bio				
	+ if and(Final, not(Sold)) then • No			ot yet sold, but asked for final bids		
	snd-note(sold(HighestBid)) delay(sec(10 Sold := true fi Yes, item is now so	0)) .• 0ld		Wait 10 sec, then inform all bidders that item is sold		
	<pre>+ ConnectBidder(Mid, Bid?) .     snd-msg(Bid, new-item(Descr, HighestBid)) .     Final := false ) * if Sold then fi</pre>		Bidder is connected during sale Inform new bidder about progress Restart, final bids (if any)			



### Process Bidder

```
process Bidder(Bid : bidder) is
let Descr : str, Amount : int, Acceptance : term
in
    subscribe(new-item(<str>, <int>)) . subscribe(update-bid(<int>))
    subscribe(sold(<int>)) . subscribe(any-higher-bid) .
    ( ...
    )
    * delta
endlet
```



#### Get info about item for sale after connection

# Process Bidder



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# One-dimensional wave equation

Simulate a string attached at the two end points:







### One-dimensional wave equation

Amplitude at point *i* at  $t+\Delta t$  is given by:

$$y_i(t+\Delta t) = F(y_i(t), y_i(t-\Delta t), y_{i-1}(t), y_{i+1}(t))$$

and

$$F(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = 2z_1 - z_2 + (c \Delta t / \Delta x)^2 (z_3 - 2z_1 + z_4)$$

 $\Delta x$ : the (small) interval between sampling points

c: constant representing the propagation velocity of the wave



### Example: wave equation





# One-dimensional wave equation

- Auxiliary process F computes function F
- Process P models a sampling point
- Process Pend models the end points
- Process MakeWave constructs *N* connected instances of P and two end points
- Tool display visualizes the simulation



### Process F

Compute 
$$F(z_1, z_2, z_3, z_4) = 2z_1 - z_2 + (c \Delta t / \Delta x)^2 (z_3 - 2z_1 + z_4)$$





### Process P

```
process P(Tid : display, L : int, I : int, R : int, Dstart : real, Estart : real) is
 let AL : real, AR : real, D : real, D1 : real, E : real
 in
                                                    L: left, I: this point, R: right
   D := Dstart . E := Estart . •
   (( rec-msg(L, I, AL?)
                                                   D, E: amplitutes of this point
    || rec-msg(R, I, AR?)
    || snd-msg(I, L, E)
                                              Receive amplitudes of neighbours
    || snd-msq(I, R, E)
                                              Send our amplitude to neighbours
    || snd-do(Tid, update(I, E))
                                               Update our amplitude on display
    D1 := E .
    F(E, D, AL, AR, E?) ...
                                             Compute new versions of D and E
    D := D1
   ) * delta
 endlet
```







### Process MakeWave



# Tool definition and ToolBus configuration

tool display is { command = "wish-adapter -script ui-wave.tcl"}

toolbus(MakeWave(8))



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- Concluding remarks

# Not yet discussed: monitors

- A tool can act as a monitor for one or more ToolBus processes
- Monitors exist in three categories:
  - Loggers
  - Viewers
  - Controllers
- Depending on the category, monitors get all info about steps of the monitored processes they need



### A Monitor





# Loggers

- Non-interactive = processes don't wait for logger
- Non-intrusive = logger can't change process state
- Recording of bahaviour of processes
- Examples:
  - System logging
  - Generation of play back scripts for UI testing
  - Performance measurement
  - toolbus -logger calc.tb
## Viewers

- Interactive = processes wait for viewer
- Non-intrusive = viewer can't change state
- Viewing of processes
- Monitored processes wait for a continue message before proceeding
- Example:
  - Non-intrusive debugger
  - toolbus -viewer calc.tb

## Controllers

- Interactive & Intrusive control over processes
- Controlled processes wait for a continue message (containing new state/process expression)
- Examples:
  - Intrusive debugger
  - Advanced control applications that perform arbitrary computations on process expression in tool, but want to reuse other ToolBus tools
- Not implemented in current version!