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Using session types as an effect system

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Side effects are a core part of practical programming. However, they are often hard to reason about, particularly in a concurrent setting. We propose a foundation for reasoning about concurrent side effects using session types. Primarily, we show that session types are expressive enough to encode an effect system for stateful processes. This is formalised via an effect-preserving encoding of a simple imperative language with an effect system into the π-calculus with session primitives and session types (into which we encode effect specifications). This result goes towards showing a connection between the expressivity of session types and effect systems. We briefly discuss how the encoding could be extended and applied to reason about and control concurrent side effects.

1 Introduction

Side effects such as input-output and mutation of memory are important features of practical programming. However, effects are often difficult to reason about due to their implicit impact. Reasoning about effects is even more difficult in a concurrent setting, where interference may cause unintended non-determinism. For example, consider a parallel program:\[ \text{put}(x ((\text{get}(x) + 2)) | \text{put}(x ((\text{get}(x) + 1)) \]

where \(x\) is a mutable memory cell. Given an initial assignment \(x \mapsto 0\), the final value stored at \(x\) may be any of 3, 2, or 1 since calls to \(\text{get}\) and \(\text{put}\) may be interleaved.

Many approaches to reasoning, specifying, and controlling the scope of effects have therefore been proposed. Seemingly orthogonally, various approaches for specifying and reasoning about concurrent interactions have also been developed. In this paper, we show that two particular approaches for reasoning about effects and concurrency are in fact non-orthogonal; one can be embedded into the other. We show that session types [12] for concurrent processes are expressive enough to encode effect systems [3, 11] for state. We formalise this ability by embedding/encoding a simple imperative language with an effect system into the π-calculus with session types: sessions simulate state and session types become effect annotations. Formally, our embedding maps type-and-effect judgements to session type judgements:

\[
\Gamma \vdash M : \tau, F \quad \text{embedding: } \quad [\Gamma]; res :!\tau, end, eff : [F] \vdash [M]
\]

That is, an expression \(M\) of type \(\tau\) in context \(\Gamma\) performing effects \(F\), is mapped to a process \([M]\) which sends its result over session channel \(res\) and simulates effects by interactions \([F]\) (defined by an interpretation of the effect annotation) over session channel \(eff\).

We start with the traditional encoding of a mutable store into the π-calculus (Section 2) and show how its session types provide a kind of effect system. Section 2 introduces a simple imperative language, which we embed into the π-calculus with sessions (sometimes called the session calculus) (Section 3). The embedding is shown sound with respect to an equational theory for the imperative language. Section 4 discusses how to extend the encoding to parallel composition in the imperative language and how the effect information can be used to safely introduce implicit parallelism in the encoding.

Update: since PLACES’15, this work has been greatly expanded upon. Much of the further work suggested in this paper is covered in our later paper Effects as Sessions, Sessions as Effects (Orchard, Yoshida) appearing in the proceedings of POPL’16.
Our embedding has been partly formalised in Agda and is available at https://github.com/dorchard/effects-as-sessions (Appendix B gives a brief description). This is used to verify the syntactic soundness of the embedding (essentially, that types and effects are correctly translated and preserved).

The main result of this paper is foundational and technical, about the expressive power of the π-calculus with session primitives and session types. This result has a number of possible uses:

- **Effects systems for the π-calculus**: rather than adding an additional effect system on top of the π-calculus, we show that existing work on session types can be reused for this purpose.
- **Semantics of concurrency and effects**: our approach provides an intermediate language for the semantics of effects in a concurrent setting.
- **Compilation**: Related to the above, the session calculus can be used as a typed intermediate language for compilation, where our embedding provides the translation. Section 4 demonstrates an optimisation step where safe implicit parallelism is introduced based on effect information and soundness results of our embedding.

Effect systems have been used before to reason about effects in concurrent programs. For example, Deterministic Parallel Java uses an effect system to check that parallel processes can safely commute without memory races, and otherwise schedules processes to ensure determinism [1]. Our approach allows state effects to be incorporated directly into concurrent protocol descriptions, reusing session types, without requiring interaction between two distinct systems.

## 2 Simulating state with sessions

### 2.1 State via processes

A well-known way to implement state in a process algebra is to represent a mutable store as a server-like process (often called a variable agent) that offers two modes of interaction (get and put). In the get mode, the agent waits to receive a value on its channel which is then “stored”; in the put it sends the stored value. This can be implemented in the π-calculus with branching and recursive definitions as follows (Figure 1 describes the syntax; the calculus is based on the second system in [12] using the dual channels from [6] instead of a polarity-based approach):

\[
\text{def } \text{Store}(x,c) = c > \{ \text{get} : c!\langle x \rangle \cdot \text{Store}(x,c), \text{put} : c?\langle y \rangle \cdot \text{Store}(y,c), \text{stop} : 0 \} \text{ in } \text{Store}(i,\text{eff}) \quad (2)
\]

where \(\text{Store}\) is parameterised by the stored value \(x\) and a session channel \(c\). That is, \(\text{Store}\) provides a choice (by \(\triangleright\)) over channel \(c\) between three behaviours labelled get, put, and stop. The get branch sends the state \(x\) on \(c\) and then recurses with the same parameters, preserving the stored value. The put branch receives \(y\) which then becomes the new state by continuing with recursive call \(\text{Store}(y,c)\). The stop branch provides finite interaction by terminating the agent. The store agent is initialised with a value \(i\) and channel \(\text{eff}\).

The following parameterised operations get and put then provide interaction with the store:

\[
\text{get}(c)\langle x \rangle.P = \overline{c} \triangleright \text{get}.\overline{c}!\langle x \rangle.P \quad \text{put}(c)\langle V \rangle.P = \overline{c} \triangleleft \text{put}.\overline{c}!\langle V \rangle.P \quad (3)
\]

where \(\overline{c}\) is the opposite endpoint of a channel, and get selects (by the \(\triangleleft\) operator) the get branch then receives a value which is bound to \(x\) in the scope of \(P\). The put operation selects its relevant branch then sends a value \(V\) before continuing as \(P\).

A process can then use get and put for stateful computation by parallel composition with \(\text{Store}\), e.g. \(\text{get}(\text{eff})\langle x \rangle.\text{put}(\text{eff})\langle x + 1 \rangle.\text{end} | \text{Store}(i,\text{eff})\) increments the initial value.
and likewise for session types, e.g.

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branch types is achieved by using session subtyping to extend select types with extra labels [2] (see branching process, which would be type

We use a variant of session typing where selection terms

For some state type

The session judgements for

and session variables

Throughout we used the usual convention of eliding a trailing 0, e.g., writing \( r(!x) \) instead of \( r!x \).0, and likewise for session types, e.g., \( ![\tau] \) instead of \( ![\tau].end \).


2.3 Effect systems  Effect systems are a class of static analyses for effects, such as state or exceptions [3, 7, 11]. Traditionally, effect systems are described as syntax-directed analyses by augmenting typing rules with effect judgements, i.e., $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau, F$ where $F$ describes the effects of $M$ – usually a set of effect tokens (but often generalised, e.g., in [7], to arbitrary semi-lattices, monoids, or semirings).

We define the effect calculus, a simple imperative language with effectful operations and a type-and-effect system defined in terms of an abstract monoidal effect algebra. Terms comprise variables, let-binding, operations, and constants, and types comprise value types for natural numbers and unit:

$$M, N ::= x \mid \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N \mid op M \mid c \quad \tau, \sigma ::= \text{unit} \mid \text{nat}$$

where $x$ ranges over variables, $op$ over unary operations, and $c$ over constants. We do not include function types as there is no abstraction (higher-order calculi are discussed in Section 5). Constants and operations can be effectful and are instantiated to provide application-specific effectful operations in the calculus. As defaults, we include zero and unit constants 0, unit $\in c$ and a pure successor operation for natural numbers $\nu c \in op$.

**Definition 1** (Effect system). Let $\mathcal{F}$ be a set of effect annotations with a monoid structure $(\mathcal{F}, \odot, I)$ where $\odot$ combines effects (corresponding to sequential composition) and $I$ is the trivial effect (for pure computation). Throughout $F, G, H$ will range over effect annotations.

Figure 3 defines the type-and-effect relation. The (var) rule marks variable use as pure (with $I$). In (let), the left-to-right evaluation order of let-binding is exposed by the composition order of the effect
Figure 3: Type-and-effect system for the effect calculus

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{(var)} & \quad x : \tau \in \Gamma \\
\text{(let)} & \quad \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, F \\
\text{(const)} & \quad \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash N : \tau, G \\
\text{(op)} & \quad \Gamma \vdash \text{let} x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N : \tau, F \bullet G \\
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
\Gamma \vdash c : C_{\tau}, C_F \\
\Gamma \vdash \text{op } M : Op_{\tau}, Op_F \\
\end{align*}
\]

---

2.4 State effects

The effect calculus can be instantiated with different notions of effect. For state, we use the effect monoid \( \text{List} \{ G \tau, P \tau \}, +, [\cdot] \) of lists of effect tokens, where \( G \) and \( P \) represent \( \text{get} \) and \( \text{put} \) effects parameterised by a type \( \tau \), \( ++ \) concatenates lists and \([\cdot]\) is the empty list. Many early effect systems annotated terms with sets of effects. Here we use lists to give a more precise account of state which includes the order in which effects occur. This is often described as a causal effect system.

Terms are extended with constant \( \text{get} \) and unary operation \( \text{put} \) where \( \emptyset \vdash \text{get} : \tau, [G \tau] \) and \( \Gamma \vdash \text{put} M : \text{unit}, [P \tau] \) for \( \Gamma \vdash M : \tau, I \). For example, the following is a valid judgement:

\[
\emptyset \vdash \text{let } x \leftarrow \text{get in put} \langle \text{suc } x \rangle : \text{nat}, [G \text{nat, Pnat}] \tag{5}
\]

Type safety of the store is enforced by requiring that any \( \text{get} \) effects must have the same type as their nearest preceding \( \text{put} \) effect. We implicitly apply this condition throughout.

2.5 Sessions as effects

The session types of processes interacting with \( \text{Store} \) provide the same information as the state effect system. Indeed, we can define a bijection between state effect annotations and the session types of \( \text{get} \) and \( \text{put} \) (4):

\[
\begin{align*}
[\cdot] & = \text{end} \\
[\langle G \tau \rangle : F] & = \oplus \text{[get : ?}[\tau],[F]] \\
[\langle P \tau \rangle : F] & = \oplus \text{[put : !}[\tau],[F]] \\
\end{align*}
\]

where \( :: \) is the \( \text{cons} \) operator for lists. Thus processes interacting with \( \text{Store} \) have session types corresponding to effect annotations. For example, the following has the same state semantics as (5) and isomorphic session types:

\[
\emptyset; e^\text{eff} : [[G \text{nat, Pnat}]] \vdash \text{get} (\text{eff}) \langle x \rangle, \text{put} (\text{eff}) \langle \text{suc } x \rangle \tag{7}
\]

3 Embedding the effect calculus into the \( \pi \)-calculus

Our embedding is based on the embedding of the call-by-value \( \lambda \)-calculus (without effects) into the \( \pi \)-calculus [5, 10] taking \( \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N = (\lambda x. N) M \). Since effect calculus terms return a result and \( \pi \)-calculus processes do not, the embedding is parameterised by a result channel \( r \) over which the return value is sent, written \( [[-]]_r \). Variables and pure \text{let}-binding are embedded:

\[
[[\text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N]]_r = \nu q. ([[M]_q | q? (x), [[N]]_r])
\]

Variables are simply sent over the result channel. For \text{let}, an intermediate channel \( q \) is created over which the result of the bound term \( M \) is sent by the left-hand parallel process \( [[M]_q \rangle \) and received and bound to
$x$ by the right-hand process before continuing with $[[N]]_r$. This enforces a left-to-right, CBV evaluation order (despite the parallel composition).

Pure constants and unary operations can be embedded similarly to variables and let given suitable value operations in the $\pi$-calculus. For example, successor and zero are embedded as:

$$
[[\text{suc}M]]_r = \forall q. \left( [[M]]_q \mid \overline{q}?(x).r!\langle \text{suc} \rangle x \right) \quad [[\text{zero}]]_r = r!\langle \text{zero} \rangle
$$

(9)

Given a mapping $[-]$ from effect calculus types to corresponding value types in the $\pi$-calculus, the above embedding of terms (8),(9) can be extended to typing judgements as follows (where $[[\Gamma]]$ interprets the type of each free-variable assumption pointwise, preserving the structure of $\Gamma$):

$$
[[\Gamma \vdash M : \tau]]_r = [[\Gamma]]_r; r : ![\tau].\text{end} \vdash [[M]]_r
$$

(10)

**With effects** Our approach to embedding effectful computations is to simulate effects by interacting with an effect-handling agent over a session channel. The embedding, written $[-]_{\text{eff}}$, maps a judgement $\Gamma \vdash M : \tau, F$ to a session type judgement with channels $\Delta = (r : ![\tau].\text{end}, \text{eff} : ![F])$, i.e., the effect annotation $F$ is interpreted as the session type of channel $\text{eff}$. For state, this interpretation is defined as in eq. (6). The embedding first requires an intermediate step, written $([-])_{r,\text{eo}}$

$$
(\Gamma \vdash M : \tau, F)_{r,\text{eo}}^{ei,eo} = \forall g. \left( [[\Gamma]]_r; r : ![\tau], ei : ![F \bullet g], \overline{eo} : ![g] \mid (\langle M \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} \right)
$$

(11)

where $ei$ and $eo$ are channels over which channels for simulating effects (which we call *effect channels*) are communicated: $ei$ receives an effect channel of session type $[[F \bullet g]]$ (i.e., capable of carrying out effects $F \bullet g$) and $\overline{eo}$ sends a channel of session type $[[g]]$ (capable of carrying out effects $g$). Here the effect $g$ is universally quantified at the meta level. This provides a way to “thread” a channel for effect interactions through a computation, such as in the case of let-binding (see below).

The embedding of effect calculus terms is then defined:

$$
\langle \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} = \forall q, ea. \left( [[M]]_q^{ei, ea} \mid \overline{q}?(x).\langle N \rangle_{r, eo}^{ea, eo} \right)
$$

$$
\langle x \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} = ei?(c).r!\langle x \rangle, \overline{eo}!\langle c \rangle
$$

$$
\langle C \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} = ei?(c).\langle C \rangle, \overline{eo}!\langle c \rangle \quad \text{(when } C \text{ is pure)}
$$

$$
\langle \text{op } M \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} = ei?(c).\langle \text{op } M \rangle_{r, eo}^{ei, eo} \langle c \rangle \quad \text{(when } \text{op is pure)}
$$

(12)

The embedding of variables is straightforward, where an effect channel $c$ is received on $ei$ and then sent without use on $\overline{eo}$. Embedding pure operations and constants is similar, reusing the pure embedding defined above in equation (9).

The let case resembles the pure embedding of let, but threads through an effect channel to each sub-expression. An intermediate channel $ea$ is introduced over which an effect channel is passed from the embedding of $M$ to $N$. Let $\Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, F$ and $\Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash N : \tau, G$ then in the embedding of $\text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N$ the universally quantified effect variable $\forall g$ for $\langle M \rangle_q^{ei, ea}$ is instantiated to $G \bullet h$. The following partial session-type derivation for the let encoding shows the propagation of effects via session types:

$$
q : ![\sigma], ei : ![F \bullet g], eo : ![g] \vdash (\langle M \rangle_q^{ei, ea} \mid g \rightarrow G \bullet h) \quad \overline{q} : ![\sigma], r : ![\tau], ea : ![G \bullet h], eo : ![h] \vdash \overline{q}?(x).\langle N \rangle_{r, eo}^{ea, eo}
$$

$$
q : ![\sigma], ei : ![F \bullet (G \bullet h)], eo : ![G \bullet h] \vdash (\langle M \rangle_q^{ei, ea} \mid q : ![\sigma], q : ![\sigma], \overline{eo} : ![h] \vdash \overline{q}?(x).\langle N \rangle_{r, eo}^{ea, eo}
$$

$$
q : ![\sigma], ei : ![F \bullet (G \bullet h)], eo : ![h] \vdash [N]_{r, eo}^{ea, eo} \vdash \forall q, ea. \langle [M] \rangle_q^{ei, ea} \mid \overline{q}?(x).\langle N \rangle_{r, eo}^{ea, eo}
$$
Associativity of \( \bullet \) is used in the last rule to give the correct typing for the embedding of \( \textbf{let} \).

The \( \text{get} \) and \( \text{put} \) operations of our state effects are embedded similarly to equation (3) (page 2), but with the receiving and sending of the effect channel which is used to interact with the store:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{get}^\text{ei,eo} & = e!?(c).c \prec \text{get}.c?(x).r!(x).\text{eo}(c) \\
\text{put}^\text{eo} & = \nu q. ([M]_q \mid e!?(c).q?!(x).c \prec \text{put}.c!(x).r!(\text{unit}).\text{eo}(c)) \quad (13)
\end{align*}
\]

The embedding of \( \text{get} \) receives channel \( c \) over which it performs its effect by selecting the \( \text{get} \) branch and receiving \( x \) which is sent as the result on \( r \) before sending \( c \) on \( \text{eo} \). The put embedding is similar to \( \text{get} \) and \( \text{let} \), but using the pure embedding \([M]_q \) since \( M \) is pure. Again, the effect channel \( c \) is received on \( \text{ei} \) and is used to interact with the store (the usual put action) before being sent on \( \text{eo} \).

The full embedding is then defined in terms of the intermediate embedding \( \| - \| \) as follows:

\[
\| \Gamma \vdash M : \tau.F \|^\text{eff} = \| \Gamma \|; r : \| \tau \|, \text{eff} : \| F \| \vdash \text{vei, eo}. ([\| \Gamma \vdash M : \tau.F \|^\text{ei, eo} \mid \text{ei!}(\text{eff}).\text{eo}(c))] \quad (14)
\]

where \( \text{eff} \) is the free session channel over which effects are performed. Note that \( c \) (received on \( \text{eo} \)) is never used and thus has session type \( \text{end} \).

Finally, the embedded program is composed in parallel with the variable agent, for example:

\[
\textbf{def} \ \text{Store}(x,c) = \ldots (\text{see eq. (2)}) \ \textbf{in} \ \text{Store}(0,\text{eff}) \ | \ [\textbf{let} x \leftarrow \text{get in put (suc.x)}]^{\text{eff}} \quad (15)
\]

### 3.1 Soundness

The effect calculus exhibits the equational theory defined by the relation \( \equiv \) in Figure 4, which enforces monoidal properties on effects and the effect algebra (assoc),(unitL),(unitR), and which allows pure computations to commute with effectful ones (comm). Our embedding is sound with respect to these equations up to weak bisimulation of session calculus processes (see, e.g. [4], for more on the weak bisimulation relation).

**Theorem 1** (Soundness). If \( \Gamma \vdash M \equiv N : \tau.F \) then \( \| \Gamma \|; r : \| \tau \|, \text{end} : \| F \| \vdash \| M \|^\text{r} \approx \| N \|^\text{r} \)

Appendix C gives the proof. Proof of soundness with respect to (comm) requires an additional restriction on the effect algebra, that:

\[
\forall F,G. \ (F \bullet G) \equiv I \ \Rightarrow \ (F \equiv G \equiv I) \quad (16)
\]

That is, if the composition of two effects is pure, then both components are themselves pure. This is equivalent to requiring that there are no inverse elements (with respect to \( \bullet \) in the effect set \( \mathcal{F} \)). The state effect system described here satisfies this additional effect-algebra condition since any two lists whose concatenation is the empty list implies that both lists are themselves empty.

The soundness proof for (comm) is split into an additional lemma that shows the encoding of effectful terms marked as pure with \( I \) can be factored through the encoding of pure terms (shown at the start of Section 3). That is, in an appropriate session calculus context \( C \), then:

\[
C[[\| \Gamma \vdash M : \tau.I \|^\text{ei, eo}]] \approx C[e!?(c).\text{eo}(c) \mid [M]_r]
\]

Thus, the intermediate encoding of a pure term is weakly bisimilar to a pure encoding (without effect simulation) composed in parallel with a process which receives an effect-simulating channel \( c \) on \( \text{ei} \) and sends it on \( \text{eo} \) without any use. Appendix C provides the details and proof.
Using session types as an effect system

Concurrent effects In a concurrent setting, side effects can lead to non-determinism and race conditions. For example, the program \( \text{put (get} + 2) \text{| put (get} + 1 \) has three possible final values for the store due to arbitrarily interleaved \text{get} \text{ and put} \text{ operations.}

Consider an extension to the source language which adds an operator for parallel composition \( | \) (we elide details of the type-and-effect rule, but an additional effect operator describing parallel effects can be included). We might then attempt the following encoding, composing encodings of sub-terms in parallel:

\[
[M | N]^{\text{eff}} = \nu q_1, q_2 . ([M]^{\text{eff}} | [N]^{\text{eff}} | \overline{q_1}? (x) \cdot \overline{q_2}? (y) . r !(\langle x, y \rangle))
\]

where \( q_1 \) and \( q_2 \) are the result channels for each term, from which the results are paired and sent over \( r \). This encoding is not well-typed under the session typing scheme: the (par) rule (see Figure 2, p. 4) requires that the session channel environments of each process be disjoint, but \( \text{eff} \) appears on both sides. Thus, session types naturally prevent effect interference.

Concurrent programs with effects can be encoded by extending our session calculus with \textit{shared channels}, which can be used in parallel and over which session channels are initiated [12]. Shared channels can be used in the encoding of effectful operations (\text{get/put}) to lock the store, providing atomicity of each effectful interaction via the following redefinitions:

\[
def \text{Store}(x,k) = \text{accept } k(c).c \triangleright \{ \text{get : } c!(x), \text{Store}(x,k), \text{put : } c?(y), \text{Store}(y,k), \text{stop : } 0 \} \text{ in } \text{Store}(i,k)
\]

\[
\text{get}(k).(x).P = \text{request } k(c).c \triangleright \text{get . c?}(x).P \quad \text{put}(k).(V).P = \text{request } k(c).c \triangleright \text{put . c!}(V).P
\]

where \( k \) is a shared channel and \text{request/accept} initiate separate binary sessions between the store process and the effectful operations. This ensures atomicity of each side-effect interaction (selecting then send/receiving). Note however that the type of \( k \) will describe the behaviour of all possible initiated sessions. Via subtyping, this becomes \( \oplus \text{[get : } ?[\tau], \text{put : } ![\tau] \) which conveys no information about which effect operations occur, nor their ordering. This reflects the non-deterministic behaviour of concurrent effects, where each effectful operation (as an atom) could be arbitrarily interleaved.

Further work is to study various other kinds of concurrent effect interaction that could be described using the rich language of the session calculus and variations of our embedding.

Compiling to the session calculus One use for our embedding is as a typed intermediate language for a compiler since the \( \pi \) -calculus with session primitives provides an expressive language for concurrency. For example, even without explicit concurrency in the source language our encoding can be used to introduce implicit parallelism as part of a compilation step via the session calculus. In the case of compiling a term which matches either side of the (comm) rule above, a pure term \( M \) can be computed...
in parallel with \( N \), \( i.e. \), given terms \( \Gamma \vdash M : \tau_1, I \) and \( \Gamma \vdash N : \tau_2, F \) and \( \Gamma, x : \tau_1, y : \tau_2 \vdash P : \tau, G \) where 
\( x \not\in \text{FV}(N), y \not\in \text{FV}(M) \) then the following specialised encoding can be given:

\[
\begin{align*}
&\langle \text{let } y \leftarrow N \text{ in } \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } P \rangle_r^{e_i, e_0} = \\
&\langle \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } \text{let } y \leftarrow N \text{ in } P \rangle_r^{e_i, e_0} = v, q, s, e. (\langle M \rangle_q | \langle N \rangle_s | \tau ? (x). \bar{x}(y). \langle P \rangle_r^{e_i, e_0})
\end{align*}
\]

This alternate encoding introduces the opportunity for parallel evaluation of \( M \) and \( N \). It is enabled by the effect system (which annotates \( M \) with \( I \)) and it is sound: it is weakly bisimilar to the usual encoding (which follows from the soundness proof of (comm) in Appendix C).

5 Summary and further work

This paper showed that sessions and session types are expressive enough to encode stateful computations with an effect system. We formalised this via a sound embedding of a simple, and general, effect calculus into the session calculus. Whilst we have focussed on causal state effects, our effect calculus and embedding can also be instantiated for I/O effects, where \textit{input/output} operations and effects have a similar form to `get/put`. We considered only state effects on a single store, but traditional effect systems account for multiple stores via \textit{regions} and first-class reference values. Our approach could be extended with a store and session channel per region or reference. This is further work. Other instantiations of our effect calculus/embedding are further work, for example, for set-based effect systems.

Effect reasoning is more difficult in higher-order settings as the effects of abstracted computations are locally unknown. Effect systems account for this by annotating function types with the \textit{latent effects} of a function which are delayed till application. A potential encoding of such types into session types is:

\[
\sigma \overset{F \circ G}{\rightarrow} = \sigma \| F \|_G \| ! G \| \| ! [F \tau] \| \| ! [G \tau] \|
\]

\( i.e. \), a channel over which four things can be sent: a \([\sigma]\) value for the function argument, a channel which can receive an effect channel capable of simulating effects \( F \cdot G \), a channel over which can be sent an effect channel capable of simulating effects \( G \), and a channel which can send a \([\tau]\) for the result. Thus, the encoding of a function receives effect handling channels which have the same form as the effect channels for first-order term encodings. A full, formal treatment of effects in a higher-order setting, and the requirements on the underlying calculi, is forthcoming work.

Effects systems also commonly include a (partial) ordering on effects, which describes how effects can be overapproximated [3]. For example, causal state effects could be ordered by prefix inclusion, thus an expression \( M \) with judgement \( \Gamma \vdash M : \tau, [G \tau] \) might have its effects overapproximated (via a subsumption rule) to \( \Gamma \vdash M : \tau, [G \tau, P \tau] \). It is possible to account for (some) subeffecting using subtyping of sessions. Formalising this is further work.

Whilst we have embedded effects into sessions, the converse seems possible: to embed sessions into effects. Nielsden and Nielson previously defined an effect system for higher-order concurrent programs which resembles some aspects of session types [8]. Future work is to explore mutually inverse embeddings of sessions and effects. Relatedly, further work is to explore whether various kinds of coeffect system (which dualise effect systems, analysing context and resource use [9]) such as bounded linear logics, can also be embedded into session types or vice versa.

Acknowledgements  Thanks to Tiago Cogumbreiro and the anonymous reviewers for their feedback. The work has been partially sponsored by EPSRC EP/K011715/1, EP/K034413/1, and EP/L00058X/1, and EU project FP7-612985 UpScale.
Using session types as an effect system

References


A Subtyping and selection

Our session typing system assigns selection types that include only the label \( l \) being selected ((select) in Figure 2). Duality with branch types is provided by subtyping on selection types:

\[
(sel) \quad \bigoplus \{ \tilde{I} : \tilde{S} \} \prec \bigoplus \{ \tilde{I} : \tilde{S}, \tilde{P} : \tilde{S}' \}
\]

(this is a special case of the usual full subtyping rule for selection, see [2, [SUB-SEL], Table 5, p. 4]). Therefore, for example, the get process could be typed:

\[
\Gamma, \Delta; \tilde{\tau} : \tilde{S} \vdash P \\
\begin{align*}
\Gamma; \Delta, \tilde{\tau} : \oplus \text{get} : \tilde{\tau}, \tilde{S} \rightarrow \text{get}(c)(x).P \\
\end{align*}
\]

However, such subtyping need only be applied when duality is being checked, that is, when opposing endpoints of a channel are bound by channel restriction, \( vc.P \). We take this approach, thus subtyping is only used with channel restriction such that, prior to restriction, session types can be interpreted as effect annotations with selection types identifying effectful operations.
B Agda encoding

The Agda formalisation of our embedding defines data types of typed terms for the effect calculus \(\_, \_, \_, \_)\, \rightarrow \, \rightarrow \, \rightarrow \) and session calculus \(\_\cdot \_\cdot \_\cdot \_\cdot \) indexed by the effects, types, and contexts terms:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{data}_\_\_\rightarrow \_\_ : \text{Effect} : (\Gamma : \text{Context Type}) \rightarrow \text{Type} \rightarrow (\text{Carrier} \, \text{eff}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \text{ where} \ldots \\
\text{data}_\_\_\rightarrow \_\_ : (\Phi : \text{Context VType}) \rightarrow (\Sigma : \text{Context SType}) \rightarrow (\tau : \text{Type}) \rightarrow \text{Set} \text{ where} \ldots
\end{align*}
\]

These type constructors are multi-arity infix operators. For the effect calculus type, the first index \(\text{eff} : \text{Effect}\) is a record providing the effect algebra, operations, and constants, of which the \(\text{Carrier}\) field holds the type for effect annotations. The embedding is then a function:

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{embed} : \forall \{\Gamma \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow F\} \rightarrow (e : \text{stEff}, \Gamma \vdash \tau, F) \\
\rightarrow (\text{map} \, \text{interpT} \, \Gamma \times ((\text{Em}, [\text{interpT} \, \tau \rightarrow \text{end}]), \text{interpEff} \, F) \vdash \text{proc}
\end{align*}
\]

where \(\text{interpT} : \text{Type} \rightarrow \text{VType}\) maps types of the effect calculus to value types for sessions, and \(\text{interpEff} : \text{List StateEff} \rightarrow \text{SType}\) maps state effect annotations to session types \(\text{SType}\). Here the constructor \(\exists\) \(\_\_\) is a binary data constructor representing the session type for send. The intermediate embedding has the type (which also uses the receive session type \(\exists\_\_\_\_\_\):)

\[
\begin{align*}
\text{embedInterm} : \forall \{\Gamma \rightarrow \tau \rightarrow F \rightarrow G\} \\
\rightarrow (M : \text{stEff}, \Gamma \vdash \tau, F) \\
\rightarrow (\text{map} \, \text{interpT} \, \Gamma \times ((\text{Em}, [\text{interpT} \, \tau \rightarrow \text{end}]), [\text{sess} \, (\text{interpEff} \, (F \rightarrow G)) \vdash \text{end}]) \\
\rightarrow (\text{sess} \, (\text{interpEff} \, G) \vdash \text{end}) \vdash \text{proc}
\end{align*}
\]

C Soundness proof of embedding, wrt. Figure 4 equations

**Theorem** (Soundness). If \(\Gamma \vdash M \equiv N : \tau,F\) then \([\Gamma] ; (r : ![\tau].\text{end}, e : ![F]) \vdash [M]_r \equiv [N]_r\)

**Proof** We make use of an intermediate lemma, which we call forwarding, where for all \(M\):

\[
\text{vea}.([M]_r^{ei,ea} | \overline{\tau!(c).ea!(c).P}) \equiv ([M]_r^{ei,eo} | P) \quad \land \quad \text{vea}.([M]_r^{eo,ea} | ei!(c).\overline{\tau!(c)}.P) \equiv ([M]_r^{ei,eo} | P)
\]

where \(e\) is not free in \(P\). This follows by induction on the definition of the intermediate embedding.

Since \([M]_r^{ei,eo} = \text{vea}.e.([M]_r^{ei,ea} | ei!(c).ea!(c).P)\) and \([N]_r^{ei,eo} = \text{vea}.e.([N]_r^{ei,ea} | ei!(c).ea!(c).P)\) (eq. 14) we need only consider \([M]_r^{ei,eo} \equiv [N]_r^{ei,eo}\) i.e., weak bisimilarity of the intermediate embeddings. We address each equation in turn. The relation \(\equiv\) denotes definitional equality based on \([\_\_\_]_r^{ei,eo}\).

(\text{unitL})
\[
\begin{align*}
&\langle \text{let } \_ \text{ in } M \rangle \equiv [M]_r^{ei,eo} \\
&\text{def } \equiv \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_q^{ei,ea} | \overline{\tau!(x).ea!(c).r!(x).\overline{\tau!(c)})} \\
&\approx \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_r^{ei,ea} | ea!(c).\overline{\tau!(c)}) \\
&\approx [M]_r^{ei,eo} \quad \square \quad \{\text{forwarding ea \rightarrow eo}\}
\end{align*}
\]

(\text{unitR})
\[
\begin{align*}
&\langle \text{let } \_ \text{ in } M \rangle \equiv [M]_r^{ei,eo} \\
&\text{def } \equiv \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_q^{ei,ea} | \overline{\tau!(y).\overline{\tau!(c)})} \\
&\approx \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_r^{ei,ea} | ei!(c).q!(x).\overline{\tau!(c)} | \overline{\tau!(y).\overline{\tau!(c)})} \\
&\approx \text{vea}.(\overline{\tau!(c)}.\overline{\tau!(c)} | [M]_r^{eo,ea}[x/y]) \\
&\approx [M]_r^{ei,eo}[x/y] \quad \square \quad \{\beta, \text{structural congruence}\}
\end{align*}
\]

\[
\begin{align*}
&\langle \text{let } \_ \text{ in } M \rangle \equiv [M]_r^{ei,eo} \\
&\text{def } \equiv \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_q^{ei,ea} | \overline{\tau!(y).\overline{\tau!(c)})} \\
&\approx \text{vea}.([\_\_\_]_r^{ei,ea} | ei!(c).q!(x).\overline{\tau!(c)} | \overline{\tau!(y).\overline{\tau!(c)})} \\
&\approx [M]_r^{ei,eo}[x/y] \quad \square \quad \{\text{forwarding ei \rightarrow eo}\}
\end{align*}
\]
Using session types as an effect system

C that for all \( F \) where \( \approx \equiv \) def \( \def \) = \( \nu \) \( \alpha \) (\( \ast \) (assoc)
\[
\langle \text{let } y \leftarrow (\text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } N) \text{ in } P \rangle^{\text{ei, eo}}_r
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ei, ea}}_q | \overline{q}? (y). \langle N \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_q | \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r)
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (v q, \overline{q} ? (y). \langle N \rangle^{\text{eb, ea}}_q | \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r)
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \overline{q} ? (y). (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ei, eb}}_q | \langle N \rangle^{\text{eb, ea}}_q | \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r) \quad \{ \text{structural congruence} \}
\]
\[
\langle \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } (\text{let } y \leftarrow N \text{ in } P) \rangle^{\text{ei, eo}}_r
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ei, ea}}_q | \overline{q}? (x). \langle \text{let } y \leftarrow N \text{ in } P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r)
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (\langle N \rangle^{\text{ea, eb}}_q | \overline{q}? (x). v q, \overline{q} ? (y). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r)
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \overline{q} ? (x). (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ei, eb}}_q | \langle N \rangle^{\text{eb, ea}}_q | \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r) \quad \{ \text{structural congruence, } x \notin fv(N) \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ei, ea}}_q | \langle N \rangle^{\text{eb, ea}}_q | \overline{q}? (x). \overline{q}? (y). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r) \quad \{ \text{purity lemma 1 on } M \}
\]
\[
\langle \text{let } y \leftarrow N \text{ in } (\text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } P) \rangle^{\text{ei, eo}}_r
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (\langle \overline{q}? (y). \langle \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } P \rangle^{\text{ea, eo}}_r \rangle)
\]
\[
\overset{\text{def}}{=} v, q, e. (\langle N \rangle^{\text{ei, ea}}_q | \overline{q}? (y). v q, \overline{q} ? (x). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r)
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \overline{q} ? (y). (\langle M \rangle^{\text{ea, eb}}_q | \overline{q}? (x). \overline{q}? (y). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r) \quad \{ \text{structural congruence, } y \notin fv(M) \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \overline{q} ? (y). \overline{q}? (x). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r \quad \{ \text{purity lemma 1 on } M \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \langle \overline{q}? (y). \langle \text{let } x \leftarrow M \text{ in } P \rangle^{\text{ea, eo}}_r \rangle \quad \{ \text{forwarding ea } \rightarrow \text{ eb} \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \langle \overline{q}? (x). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r \rangle \quad \{ \text{structural congruence} \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} v, q, e. \langle \overline{q}? (x). \langle P \rangle^{\text{eb, eo}}_r \rangle \quad \{ \text{reorder recv.} \}
\]
\[
\overset{(\ast)}{\approx} \square
\]

The proof of the commutativity axiom (comm) relies on an additional equation of the effect algebra, that for all \( F, G \) then \( F \circ G \equiv I \Rightarrow (F \equiv G \equiv I) \). The proof below is factored into an additional lemma about encodings of pure computations, given after in Lemma 1. Essentially, given the right session calculus context \( C \), then \( C[\langle \Gamma \vdash \tau : M \vdash_1 I \rangle^{\text{ei, eo}}_r] \approx C[\langle \xi ? (c) \cdot \exists \tau ! (c) \cdot [M]_r \rangle] \). That is, a pure computation can be factored into a pure encoding and a forwarding from the input effect-channel-carrying channel to the output channel.
Lemma 1 (Pure encodings, in context). If an effect system has the property that \( \forall F, G. (F \bullet G \equiv I) \Rightarrow (F \equiv G \equiv I) \) then, for all \( M, \Gamma, \tau, P, Q \) it follows that:

\[ \langle \Gamma \vdash M : \tau, I \rangle^\text{ei,eo} \mid eo?\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q \equiv \text{ei}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid [M]_r, eo?\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q \]

Proof. By induction over type-and-effect derivations with a pure effect in the conclusion.

- (var) Similar to (var), where \( \langle \Gamma \vdash C : C_{\tau}, I \rangle^\text{ei,eo} = \text{ei}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \) which has the same shape as the (var) encoding and thus follows a similar proof to the above.

- (op) Similar to the above, where \( \langle \Gamma \vdash opM : op_{\tau}, I \rangle^\text{ei,eo} = \text{ei}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \) which has the same shape as (var) and (const) encodings.

- (let) By the additional requirement that \( \forall F, G. (F \bullet G \equiv I) \Rightarrow (F \equiv G \equiv I) \) then the encoding of a type-and-effect derivation rooted in the (let) rule (with pure effect) is necessarily of the form:

\[ \langle \Gamma \vdash \text{let} x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N : \tau, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea} = \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash N : \tau, I \rangle^\text{ea,eo}_r)) \]

From the premises, the inductive hypothesis are:

(A) \( \langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q \equiv \text{ei}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid [M]_q \mid \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q \)

(B) \( \langle \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash N : \tau, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P' \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q' \equiv \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P' \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q' \)

From these the following weak bisimilarity holds:

\[ \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle \Gamma, x : \sigma \vdash N : \tau, I \rangle^\text{ea,eo}_r) \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q) \]

\[ \overset{\text{(B)}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{fwd}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{fwd}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle \Gamma \vdash M : \sigma, I \rangle^\text{ei,ea}_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{(A)}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{ei}(c)}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{fwd}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid \text{ea}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{fwd}}{\approx} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]

\[ \overset{\text{let}(x \leftarrow \text{Min}_N)_r}{\equiv} \text{vq}.\text{let}!\langle c \rangle.(\langle [M]_q \mid ?\langle x \rangle.(\langle [N]_r \mid \text{eo}\langle c \rangle.P \mid ?\langle x \rangle.Q)) \]