Shared Channels etc.

Peter Welch (p.h.welch@kent.ac.uk) Computing Laboratory, University of Kent at Canterbury

Co631 (Concurrency)

Copyright P.H.Welch

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

Unshared Channel-Ends

So far, all channels have been strictly *point-to-point* ...



Only one process may output to it ...

And only **one** process may input from it ...



Here is a channel whose writing-end is shared ...



Any number of processes may output to it ...

Only one process may input from it ...

However, only **one** of outputting processes may use it at one time ... they form an orderly **(FIFO)** queue for this.

Here is a channel whose writing-end is shared ...



The process at the *reading-end* sees a normal channel ...



The process at the *writing-end* sees a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!) ... smiley code body

> **smiley** is aware that its end of the channel is **SHARED**.

A **SHARED** channel must be *claimed* before it can be used ...



PROC smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!) SEQ

26-Mar-07







Copyright P.H.Welch





Here is a channel whose *reading-end* is **SHARED** ...



Any number of processes may input from it ...

Only one process may output to it ...

However, only **one** of inputting processes may use it at one time ... they form an orderly **(FIFO)** queue for this.

Here is a channel whose *reading-end* is **SHARED** ...



The process at the *writing-end* sees a normal channel ...



PROC generator (CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!)

... normal coding

generator is unaware that the other end of its output channel is SHARED. **generator** does not care which process takes its messages.

The process at the *reading-end* sees a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL in?) ... smiley code body

> **smiley** is aware that its end of the channel is **SHARED**.













Here is a channel both of whose ends are **SHARED** ...



Any number of processes may output to it ...

Any number of processes may input from it ...

However, only one outputting process and one inputting process may use it at one time ... they form an orderly (FIFO) queue at each end.

Here is a channel both of whose ends are **SHARED** ...



The processes at the *writing-end* see a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC blue.smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!)

... blue.smiley code body

blue.smiley is aware that its end of the channel is SHARED. blue.smiley will have to CLAIM its 'out!' channel to be able to use it.

The processes at the *writing-end* see a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC blue.smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!)

... blue.smiley code body

blue.smiley is unaware of the sharing status at the other end.

blue.smiley must not care which process takes its messages.

The processes at the *reading-end* see a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC green.smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL in?)

... green.smiley code body

green.smiley is aware that its end of the channel is SHARED. green.smiley will have to CLAIM its `in?' channel to be able to use it.

The processes at the *reading-end* see a **SHARED** channel ...



PROC green.smiley (SHARED CHAN MY.PROTOCOL in?)

... green.smiley code body

green.smiley is unaware of the sharing status at the other end.

green.smiley must not care which process sends it messages.



PROBLEM: once a *sender* and *receiver* process have made their claims, they can do business across the shared channel bundle. Whilst this is happening, all other *sender* and *receiver* processes are locked out from the communication resource.

SOLUTION: use the shared channel structure just to enable **senders** and **receivers** to find each other and pass between them a **mobile** private channel. Then, let go of the shared channel and transact business over the private connection.



A sending process constructs both ends of an unshared mobile channel and claims the writing-end of the shared channel. When successful, it sends the reading-end of its mobile channel down the shared channel. This blocks until a reading process claims its end of the shared channel and inputs that reading-end of the mobile.

'Advanced' module ...



The sending and reading processes now exit their claims on the shared channel and conduct business over their private connection. Meanwhile, other senders and readers can use the shared channel similarly and find each other.

Once each *sending* and *reading* pair finish their business, there is a mechanism for the *reader* to return its *reading-end* of the *mobile* channel back to the *sender*, who may then reuse it to send to someone else.

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

A *variant* (or CASE) **PROTOCOL** can *extend* previously defined ones:



Processes with parameter channels carrying the A or B protocols may be plugged into channels carrying C:



Processes with parameter channels carrying the A or B protocols may be plugged into channels carrying C:



Processes with parameter channels carrying the A or B protocols may be plugged into channels carrying C:



The extended protocol carries a *merge* of the variants in the protocols it is inheriting.



The extended protocol carries a *merge* of the variants in the protocols it is inheriting. It is as though it were declared:

```
PROTOCOL C
CASE
red; INT; BYTE::[]BYTE
green; BYTE; BYTE; INT
blue; INT::[]REAL64
poison
```

Note: the above is *not* the same as before ... a channel carrying *this* version of the C protocol could *not* be plugged into processes expecting A or B channels.

Rule: protocols being extended together *either* have no *tag* names in common *or* the structures associated with common *tags* must be identical:



C will compile ... compatible variants (poison) from A and B

Rule: protocols being extended together *either* have no *tag* names in common *or* the structures associated with common *tags* must be identical:



C will not compile ... incompatible variants (poison) from A and B

Protocols extending other protocols may also add in their own variants:

```
PROTOCOL C EXTENDS A, B
CASE
mustard; INT; BYTE::[]BYTE
aubergine; REAL64; BYTE
;
```

Rule: extra variants so added must have *either* different *tag* names to any variants being inherited *or* identical structures.
Protocol Inheritance (Variant)

Current implementation restriction: all protocols in an inheritance hierarchy must be declared in the same file.



A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

Process Structures







The **<expression>** is evaluated.

The first **<process>** whose **<case-list>** contains the value of that **<expression>** is executed.

If no <*case-list>* contains the value of that <*expression>*, this process **SKIP**S.



```
CASE ch

'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u'

... deal with lower-case vowels

'A', 'E', 'I', 'O', 'U'

... deal with upper-case vowels

'0', '1', '2', '3', '4'

... deal with these digits

'?', '!', 'h', 'H', '**'

... deal with these symbols

ELSE

... none of the above
```

Java / C has a similar mechanism – the switch statement ...

Java switch Statement

```
switch (ch) {
  case 'a': case 'e': case 'i': case 'o': case 'u':
    ... deal with lower-case vowels
   break;
  case 'A': case 'E': case 'I': case 'O': case 'U':
    ... deal with upper-case vowels
   break;
  case '0': case '1': case '2': case '3': case '4':
    ... deal with these digits
   break;
  case '?': case '!': case 'h': case 'H': case '*':
    ... deal with these symbols
   break;
 default:
    ... none of the above
}
```

```
CASE ch

'a', 'e', 'i', 'o', 'u'

... deal with lower-case vowels

'A', 'E', 'I', 'O', 'U'

... deal with upper-case vowels

'0', '1', '2', '3', '4'

... deal with these digits

'?', '!', 'h', 'H', '**'

... deal with these symbols

ELSE
```

... none of the above

This could, of course, be done with an **TF** ...

... but it would be more complicated and slower in execution.

IF	
(ch =)	a') OR (ch = 'e') OR (ch = 'i') OR
(ch =)	'o') OR ($ch = 'u'$)
• • •	deal with lower-case vowels
(ch =)	A') OR $(ch = 'E')$ OR $(ch = 'I')$ OR
(ch =)	'O') OR (ch = 'U')
• • •	deal with upper-case vowels
(ch =)	'0') OR (ch = '1') OR (ch = '2') OR
(ch =)	'3') OR (ch = '4')
• • •	deal with these digits
(ch =)	?') OR $(ch = '!')$ OR $(ch = 'h')$ OR
(ch =)	'H') OR (ch = '**')
• • •	deal with these symbols
TRUE	but it would be
	none of the above more complicated and
	slower in execution

26-Mar-07

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

Multiple expressions can be assigned to multiple variables (of compatible types) *in parallel:*



Multiple expressions can be assigned to multiple variables (of compatible types) *in parallel:*



Swapping variables breaks no *parallel usage rules* and is, therefore, allowed:



INT b.tmp, c.tmp:	
SEQ	
PAR	
b.tmp := c	
c.tmp := b	
PAR	
b := b.tmp	
c := c.tmp	

Here's an example that breaks the *parallel usage rules* and, therefore, does not compile:



A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

This is a **convenience** – and it's free (no impact on run-time).



They can be used as **ALT** guards:



Here is an informal operational semantics:



The second version requires an extra channel and for both the sender and receiver processes to be modified.

Of course, it's not implemented that way!

- No new run-time overheads for normal channel communication.
- Implementation is very lightweight (approx. 30 cycles):
 - no change in outputting process code;
 - new occam Virtual Machine instructions for "??".

Take any communication channel ...



Question: can we tap the information flowing through the channel in a way that is not detectable by the existing network?

We may need to do this for data logging (*auditing/de-bugging*) or for inserting *network drivers* to implement the channel over a distributed system or ...

Take any communication channel ...



Question: can we tap the information flowing through the channel in a way that is not detectable by the existing network?

Answer: insert a process that behaves similarly to an id process, but uses an extended rendezvous to forward the messages ... and anything else it fancies (so long as it doesn't get blocked indefinitely) ...

Take any communication channel ...





Take any communication channel ...



Take any communication channel ...



Note: the channel has been *tapped* with no change to the sending and receiving processes.

The semantics of a communication between the original processes is unaltered. The sender cannot complete its communication until the receiver takes it ... and *vice-versa*.

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

Aliasing means having different names for the same thing.

Aliasing is uncontrolled in most existing languages (such as Java, C, Pascal, ...) and gives rise to semantic complexities that are underestimated. These complexities are subtle, easy to overlook and cause errors that are hard to find and remove.

Aliasing is strictly controlled in occam- π . Only VAL constants may have different names. Anything else (variable data, channels, timers, ...) is only allowed one name in any one context. If a new name is introduced (e.g. through parameter passing), the old name cannot be used within the scope of that new name.

As a result, **occom**- π variables behave in the way we expect variables to behave: *they vary if and only if we vary them*. \bigcirc

Abbreviations and Anti-Aliasing **Reference** Abbreviation: <data-type> CHAN <protocol> TIMER <specifier> <new-name> IS <old-name>: scope of process> <new-name> <old-name> is not allowed in here 26-Mar-07 Copyright P.H.Welch 64













Copyright P.H.Welch

Careful use of abbreviations can clarify code and increase efficiency.

Here's simple code for adding up the elements of a 1-D array:



Now, let's add up the rows of a 2-D array:



Copyright P.H.Welch
Abbreviations and Anti-Aliasing

This code contains some wasteful re-computations:

```
SEQ row = 0 FOR SIZE a
SEQ
sum[row] := 0
SEQ col = 0 FOR SIZE a[row]
sum[row] := sum[row] + a[row][col]
```

For each '**row**', the address of '**sum[row]**' is calculated (**2n+1**) times – where '**n**' is the size of the '**row**'.

For each 'row', the address of 'a[row]' is calculated (n+1) times – where 'n' is the size of the 'row'.

With abbreviations, the addresses of 'sum[row]' and 'a[row]' need only be calculated once for each 'row' ... a saving of (3*n*m) array index computations, over 'm' rows.



The neat thing is that, following the abbreviations, the inner loop code is *exactly the same* (bar variable names) as the original summation code for the 1-D loop:

```
SEQ

sum := 0

SEQ i = 0 FOR SIZE a

sum := sum + a[i]
```

An **occam-**π **PROC** call is formally defined as the *in-line replacement* of the invocation with the body of the **PROC**, proceeded by a sequence of abbreviations associating the formal parameters (*<new-names>*) with the actual arguments (*<old-names>* Or *<expressions>*) from the call.

Consider:



PROC foo (VAL INT id, INT a, b, REAL64[] row, CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!) ... body of foo (using id, a, b, row, out!) :

Now consider an invocation of **foo**:

foo (i+1, n, m, x[i], c!)

This is formally defined to be:

```
VAL INT id IS i+1:
INT a IS n:
INT b IS m:
REAL64[] row IS x[i]:
CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out! IS c!:
... body of foo (using id, a, b, row, out!)
```



PROC foo (VAL INT id, INT a, b, REAL64[] row, CHAN MY.PROTOCOL out!) ... body of foo (using id, a, b, row, out!)

> The point is that the *anti-aliasing rules* carry over (from abbreviations) to parameter passing ...

2

The following invocation is illegal:

foo (i+1, n, n, x[i], c!)

This is formally defined to be:



This attempts to set up

a and b as aliases of n.

PROC foo (VAL INT id, INT a, b, REAL64[] row, CHAN MY. PROTOCOL out!) body of foo (using id, a, b, row, out!) 2 The following invocation is illegal: \odot \odot \odot Therefore, this does foo (i+1, n, n, x[i], c!) not compile. This is formally defined to be: VAL INT id IS i+1: INT a IS n: INT b IS n: We are not allowed to REAL64[] row IS x[i]: mention **n** here. CHAN MY. PROTOCOL out! IS c!: ... body of foo (using id, a, b, row, out!)

Recall, **occom**- π variables behave in the way we expect variables to behave: *they vary if and only if we vary them*.

Consider the fragment of code:



Everything we feel about algebra, variables, assignment and sequencing tells us: *the above code changes nothing*.

For all languages providing algebra, variables, assignment and sequencing – apart (currently) from **occam**- π – that intuition will lead us astray.

There is a potential semantic singularity below:



The above code changes nothing ... only if a and b reference different numbers.

If a and b reference the same number, they would both end up with zero! The value of b would vary without it being explicitly varied.

There is a potential semantic singularity below:



What You See Is What You Get (WYS/WYG)

That kind of nonsense does not happen in occam- π :



The above code changes nothing ... we know that a and b reference different numbers.

The *anti-aliasing* rules mean that *different variables* in the same context *must* refer to *different items*.

What You See Is Not What You Get (WYSINWYG)

Java has no aliasing problems with its primitive types ... but aliasing is part of the culture of *'Object Orientation'* ... it is endemic to *'OO' ... we have to work very hard to control it*.



where a and b are object variables of the same class ... with some private field holding an integer whose value is updated by the plus and minus methods in the obvious way ...

What You See Is Not What You Get (WYSINWYG)



What You See Is *Not* What You Get (WYSINWYG)

If Thing variables a and b
reference the same object, they
would end up holding zero in their
sum field! The value of b varies
without it being (explicitly)
updated.

What You See Is Not What You Get (WYSINWYG)

a.plus (b); a.minus (b); If **Thing** variables **a** and **b** reference the same object, *they would end up holding zero in their sum field!* The value of **b** *varies* without it being (explicitly) updated.

This is not an uncommon piece of coding ... we often write:



A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...



This allows us to declare variables in the middle of expressions and perform calculations *(serial logic only)*. If the result list has more than one item, this can only be the *Right-Hand-Side* of a parallel assignment.

VALOF Expressions



```
total := total +
 (REAL64 sum:
 VALOF
 SEQ
    sum := 0
    SEQ i = 0 FOR SIZE x
        sum := sum + x[i]
    RESULT sum
)
```

VALOF Expressions



a, b, c := (BYTE ch, sh: REAL32 z: VALOF

)

<compute ch, z, sh>

RESULT ch, z, sh

Functions



2

The content the content of the data, channels, ...).

Functions are *deterministic* and *side-effect* free (i.e. its body may not assign to global variables, <process> communicate on global channels, use timers or engage in any internal concurrency using **ALT** or **SHARED** channels.)

Short Functions

<type.list> FUNCTION <id> (<params>) IS

<list-of-expressions> :



BOOL FUNCTION capital (VAL BYTE ch) IS ('A' <= ch) AND (ch <= 'Z'):

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...

Revision:

occam-π has a set of *primitive* types: BOOL, BYTE, INT, INT16, INT32, INT64, REAL32, REAL64

occam- π has *fixed-size anonymous array* types:

[n]<*type>*

where **n** is a *compiler-known* **INT** value and *<type>* is a *compiler-known* type (which could itself be an *array* type).

New:

occam- π allows new **named** types to be declared.



Records:

An *array* type groups together elements of the *same* type. A *record* type groups together elements of *different* types:

> DATA TYPE FOO RECORD INT size, weight: BYTE colour: REAL64 frequency: [10]BYTE name:

This gives a record with 5 *named fields*: two **INT** ones, one **BYTE**, one **REAL64** and one **BYTE** array (e.g. a string).

Records:

Now, we can declare variables of this new type:

```
FOO x, y, z:
[42]FOO database:
```

To access individual fields of a record, the notation is like array indexing:

```
SEQ
x[size] := 42
y[weight] := 77
z[name] := "Susan
z[size] := x[size]
y[name] := z[name]
```



Records:

Now, we can declare variables of this new type:

```
FOO x, y, z:
[42]FOO database:
```

Record literals let us assign all fields at once:

where, perhaps:

```
VAL BYTE green IS 6:
```



Records:

Record data types are *first class* types. We can assign them to each other or send them down appropriately typed channels:

Note: in **Java**, assignment between object variables just copies the reference. The source and target variables end up referring to the **same** object.

Records:

Record data types are *first class* types. We can assign them to each other or send them down appropriately typed channels:

Note: in **occam**- π , assignment between variables copies the data. The source and target variables end up referring to **different** pieces of data.



Note: in **occam**- π , assignment between variables copies the data. The source and target variables end up referring to **different** pieces of data.



Records:

Record data types are *first class* types. We can assign them to each other or send them down appropriately typed channels:





Records:

Record data types are *first class* types. We can assign them to each other or send them down appropriately typed channels:

```
PROC R0 (CHAN FOO out!)
FOO x:
SEQ
... Set up x
out ! x
... More stuff
out ! [21, 72, blue, 3.142, "Junction "]
:
```

Records:

Record data types are *first class* types. We can assign them to each other or send them down appropriately typed channels:

```
PROC R1 (CHAN FOO in?)
FOO x, y:
SEQ
in ? x
... Stuff
in ? y
... more stuff
:
```



Renamed Types:

We can just define a new type to be implemented by an existing type:

DATA TYPE COLOUR IS BYTE: DATA TYPE MATRIX IS [20][30]REAL64: DATA TYPE BAR IS FOO:

Now, **COLOUR**, **MATRIX** and **BAR** are **new** types, different to their underlying **BYTE**, [20][30]**REAL64** and **FOO** types.

occam-π enforces strong typing. So, colour and BYTE variables are not assignment compatible. Also, a colour variable cannot be the target of an input from a CHAN BYTE (or vice-versa).



OCCAM- π enforces strong typing. So, COLOUR and BYTE variables are not assignment compatible. Also, a COLOUR variable cannot be the target of an input from a CHAN BYTE (or vice-versa).

Example:

occam-π enforces *strong typing*. So, **colour** and **BYTE** variables are not assignment compatible. Also, a **colour** variable cannot be the target of an input from a **CHAN BYTE** (or *vice-versa*).

Example:

PROC foo (CHAN COLO	UR colour.in?,	colour.out!,
CHAN BYTE byte.in?, byte.out!)		
BYTE b:		
COLOUR C:		
SEQ		User re-named data
colour.in ? c	legal	types can give extra
colour.out ! c	legal	security against
byte.in ? b	legal	careless errors.
byte.out ! b	legal	
•	_	

OCCAM- π enforces strong typing. So, COLOUR and BYTE variables are not assignment compatible. Also, a COLOUR variable cannot be the target of an input from a CHAN BYTE (or vice-versa).
Type Equivalence:

occam- π types are **equivalent** if and only if they have the same name.

DATA TYPE BAR IS FOO:



DATA TYPE WIPPY RECORD INT size, weight: BYTE colour: **REAL64 frequency:** [10]BYTE name:

Data types **FOO**, **BAR** and **WIPPY** have the same structure but are not equivalent.

Type Equivalence:

occam- π types are **equivalent** if and only if they have the same name.

DATA TYPE BAR IS FOO:



DATA TYPE WIPPY RECORD INT size, weight: BYTE colour: **REAL64 frequency:** [10]BYTE name:

FOO, **BAR** and **WIPPY** variables may not be directly **assigned** to each other – but their values may be **cast**.

Type Equivalence:

occam- π types are *equivalent* if and only if they have the same name.

```
FOO f:
WIPPY w:
SEQ
... set up f
w := f -- illegal: will not compile
... more stuff
w := WIPPY f -- legal
```

FOO, **BAR** and **WIPPY** variables may not be directly **assigned** to each other – but their values may be **cast**.

Copyright P.H.Welch

Type Equivalence:

occam- π types are **equivalent** if and only if they have the same name.

```
DATA TYPE MATRIX IS [20][30]REAL64:

MATRIX m:

[20][30]REAL64 x:

SEQ

... set up x

m := x -- illegal: will not compile

... more stuff

m := MATRIX x -- legal
```

MATRIX and **[20][30]REAL64** variables may not be directly **assigned** to each other – but their values may be **cast**.

Type Equivalence:

occam- π types are **equivalent** if and only if they have the same name.

Array types are **anonymous** – but any particular array type has an implicit (hidden) name that is **the same** for all occurrences of that type.

So, [20][30]REAL64 variables are always **assignable** to each other – wherever they happen to have been declared.



Operator Inheritance:

All arithmetic and logical operators on *primitive* types are *inherited* by types *renaming* them.

DATA TYPE COLOUR IS BYTE:

```
COLOUR red, green, yellow:

SEQ

... set up red and green

yellow := read /\ green

... stuff
```



Operator Inheritance:

All indexing and size operations on *array* types are *inherited* by types *renaming* them.

DATA TYPE MATRIX IS [20][30]REAL64:

```
MATRIX m:
SEQ
SEQ i = 0 FOR SIZE m
SEQ j = 0 FOR SIZE m[i]
m[j][i] := some.real64
... stuff
```

Operator Inheritance:

All field indexing operations on *record* types are *inherited* by types *renaming* them.

```
BAR b:
SEQ
b[size] := 42
b[weight] := 77
b[colour] := yellow
... stuff
```

```
DATA TYPE FOO
RECORD
INT size, weight:
BYTE colour:
REAL64 frequency:
[10]BYTE name:
:
DATA TYPE BAR IS FOO:
```

A Few More Bits of occam- π

SHARED channels ...

PROTOCOL inheritance ...

CASE processes ...

Parallel assignment ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Abbreviations and anti-aliasing ...

FUNCTIONS ...

RECORD data types ...

Array slices ...



Let a be an array. Then, the expression:

```
[a FROM start FOR n]
```

represents the *slice* of the array a from element a[start] through a[start + (n - 1)] inclusive. Also:

[a FOR n]

represents the *slice* consisting of the first **n** elements. Also:

[a FROM start]

represents the *slice* from element **a[start]** to its end.

The defined slices must lie within the bounds of the array.

Array Slices



Array Slices



Array Slices

	max-1
	max-2
([a FROM 8])	
	14
	13
	12
	11
	10
	9
	8
	7
	5
	4
	3
	2
	1
	0



An array slice may be the source or target of assignment:

[a FROM i FOR n] := [b FROM j FOR n]

The slice sizes must be the same.

[a FROM i FOR n] := [a FROM j FOR n]

The slices must not overlap.



An array slice may be the source or target of communication:





More flexible (and usual) would be a *counted array* protocol:

