Some occam-π **Basics**

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Co631 (Concurrency)

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Some occam $-\pi$ Basics

Communicating processes ...

A flavour of occom- π ...

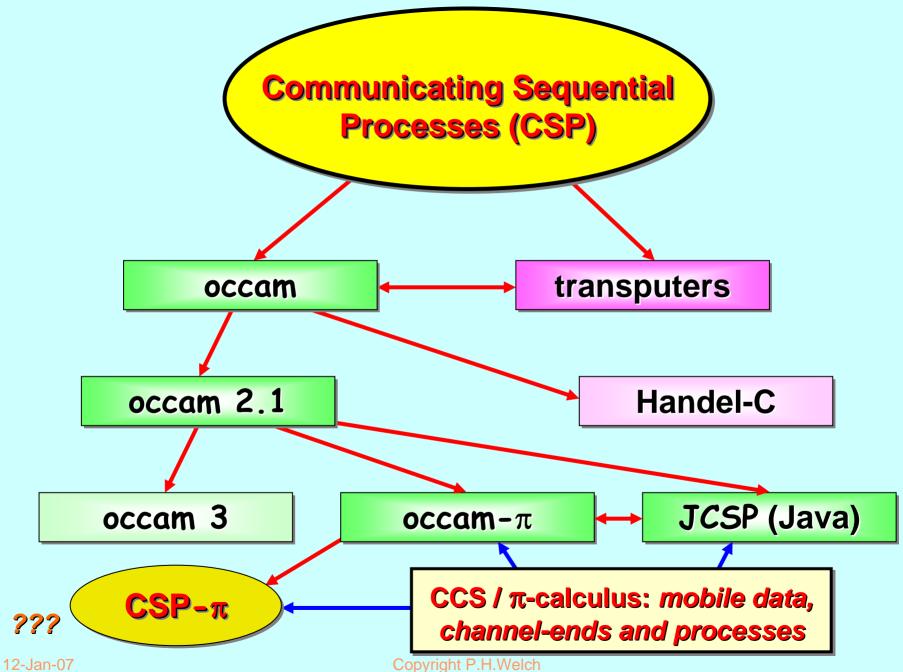
Networks and communication ...

Types, channels, processes ...

Primitive processes ...

Structured processes ...

'Legoland' ...



Communicating Sequential Processes (CSP)

A mathematical theory for specifying and verifying complex patterns of behaviour arising from interactions between concurrent objects.

CSP has a formal, and *compositional*, semantics that is in line with our informal intuition about the way things work.





- Encapsulates fundamental principles of communication.
- Semantically defined in terms of structured mathematical model.
- Sufficiently expressive to enable reasoning about deadlock and livelock.
- Abstraction and refinement central to underlying theory.
- Robust and commercially supported software engineering tools exist for formal verification.

Why CSP?

- **CSP** libraries available for Java (**JCSP, CTJ**).
- Ultra-lightweight kernels* have been developed yielding sub-microsecond overheads for context switching, process startup/shutdown, synchronized channel communication and high-level shared-memory locks.
- Easy to learn and easy to apply ...

* not yet available for JVMs (or Core JVMs!)

Why CSP?

- After 5 hours teaching:
 - exercises with 20-30 threads of control
 - regular and irregular interactions
 - appreciating and eliminating race hazards, deadlock, etc.
- **CSP** is (parallel) architecture neutral:
 - message-passing
 - shared-memory



So, what is CSP?

CSP deals with *processes*, *networks* of processes and various forms of *synchronisation* / *communication* between processes.

A network of processes is also a process - so **CSP** naturally accommodates layered network structures (*networks of networks*).

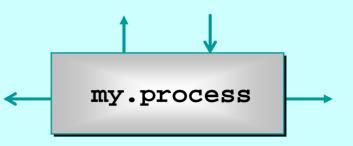
We do not need to be mathematically sophisticated to work with **CSP**. That sophistication is pre-engineered into the model. We benefit from this simply by using it.





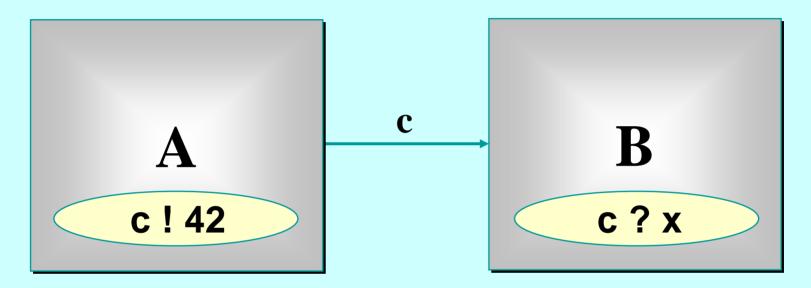
- A process is a component that encapsulates some data structures and algorithms for manipulating that data.
- Both its data and algorithms are private. The outside world can neither see that data nor execute those algorithms! [They are not objects.]
- The algorithms are executed by the process in its own thread (or threads) of control.
- So, how does one process interact with another?





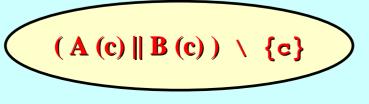
- The simplest form of interaction is synchronised messagepassing along channels.
- The simplest forms of channel are zero-buffered and point-to-point (i.e. wires).
- But, we can have *buffered* channels (*blocking/overwriting*).
- And *any-1*, *1-any* and *any-any* channels.
- And structured multi-way synchronisation (e.g. barriers) ...
- And high-level (e.g. CREW) shared-memory locks ...

Synchronised Communication



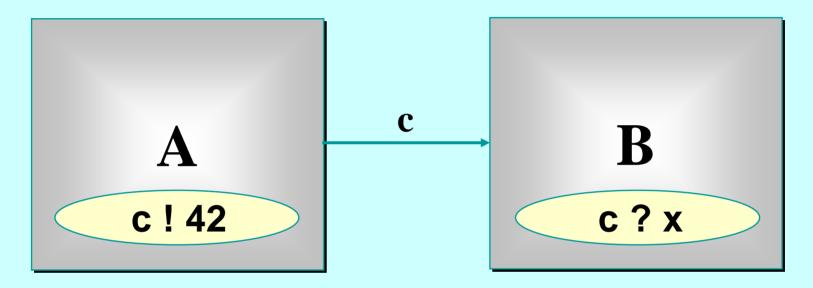
A may *write* on *c* at any time, but has to wait for a *read*.

B may *read* from *c* at any time, but has to wait for a *write*.

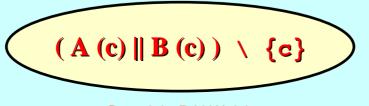


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Synchronised Communication



Only when both **A** and **B** are ready can the communication proceed over the channel **c**.



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'Legoland' ...

occam-π: Aspirations and Principles

Simplicity

- There must be a consistent (*denotational*) semantics that matches our intuitive understanding for *Communicating Mobile Processes*.
- There must be as direct a relationship as possible between the formal theory and the implementation technologies to be used.
- Without the above link (*e.g. using* C++/*pthreads or Java/monitors*), there will be too much uncertainty as to how well the systems we build correspond to the theoretical design.

Dynamics

 Theory and practice must be flexible enough to cope with process mobility, location awareness, network growth and decay, disconnect and re-connect and resource sharing.

Performance

 Computational overheads for managing (*millions of*) evolving processes must be sufficiently low so as not to be a show-stopper.

Safety

 Massive concurrency – but no race hazards, deadlock, livelock or process starvation.

occam- π

- Process, communication, networks (PAR)
- Choice between multiple events (ALT)
- Mobile data types
- Mobile channel types
- Mobile process types
- Performance

+ shared channels, channel bundles, alias checking, no race hazards, dynamic memory, recursion, forking, no garbage, protocol inheritance, extended rendezvous, process priorities, ...

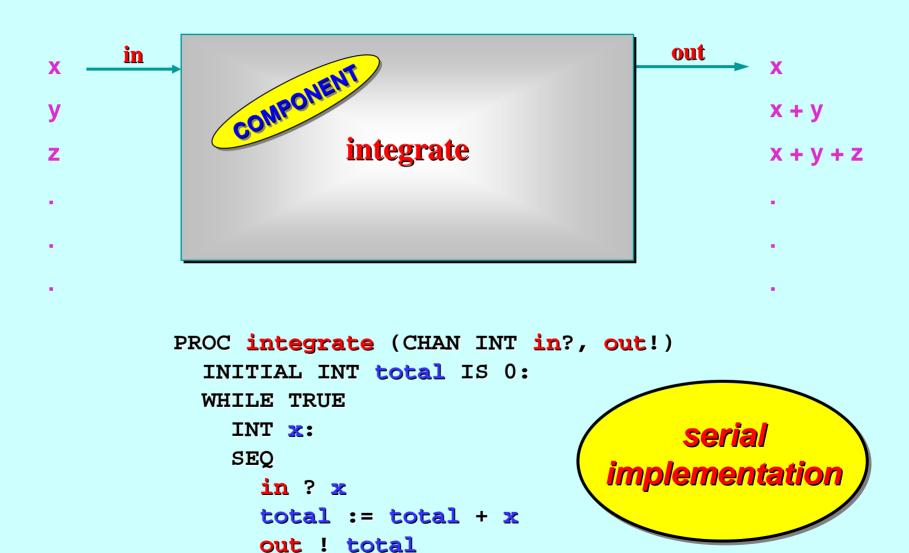
Processes and Channel-Ends



PROC integrate (CHAN INT in?, out!)

An **occam** process may only use a channel parameter *one-way* (either for input or for output). That direction is specified (? or !), along with the structure of the messages carried – in this case, simple **INT**S. The compiler checks that channel usage within the body of the **PROC** conforms to its declared direction.

Processes and Channel-Ends

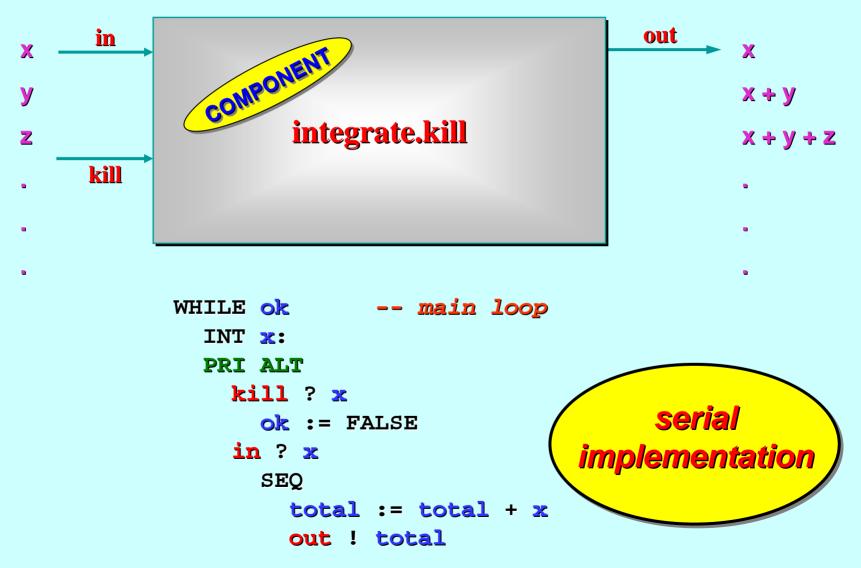


With an Added Kill Channel

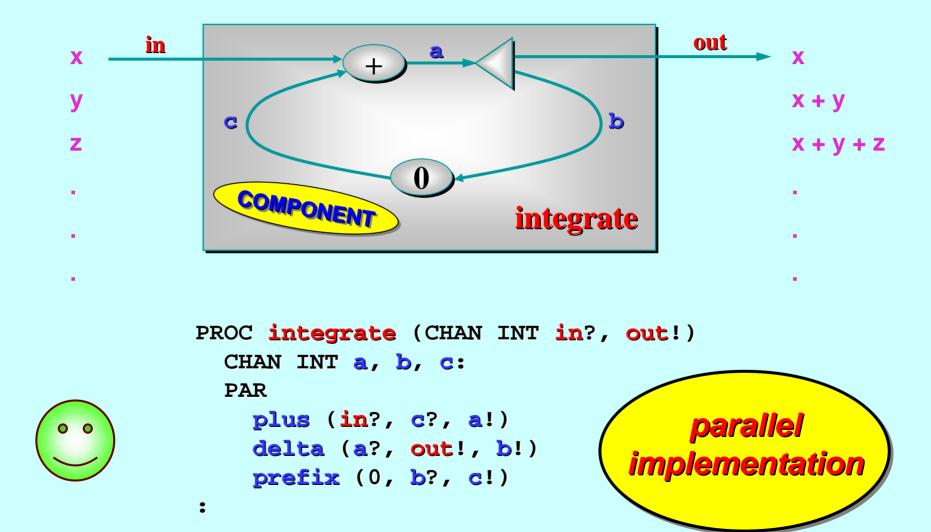


PROC integrate.kill (CHAN INT in?, out!, kill?)
INITIAL INT total IS 0:
INITIAL BOOL ok IS TRUE:
... main loop
:

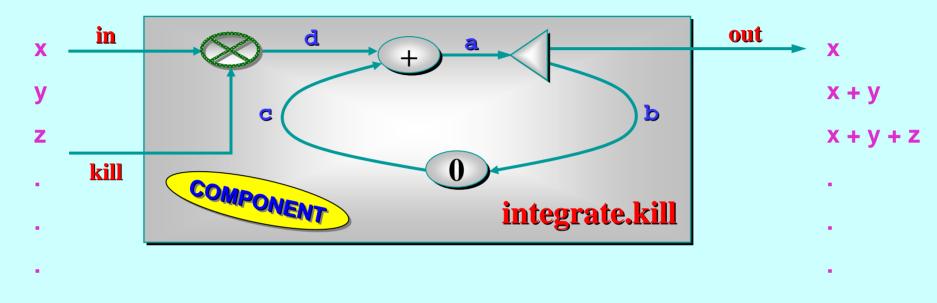
Choosing between Multiple Events



Parallel Process Networks



With an Added Kill Channel



```
PROC integrate.kill (CHAN INT in?, out !, kill?)

CHAN INT a, b, c, d:

PAR

poison (in?, kill?, d!)

plus (d?, c?, a!)

delta (a?, out!, b!)

prefix (0, b?, c!)
```

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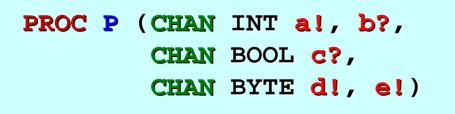
Structured processes ...

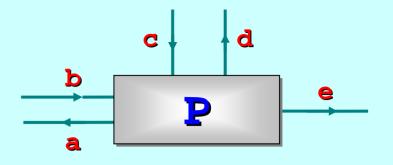
'Legoland' ...

occam-π

... from the top

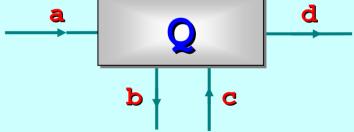
(components, networks and communication)









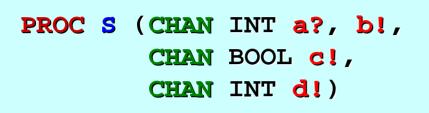


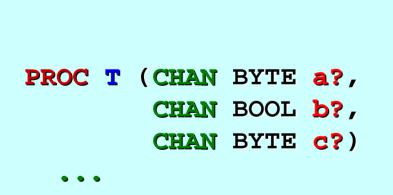


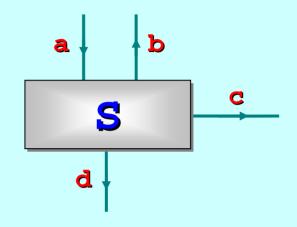


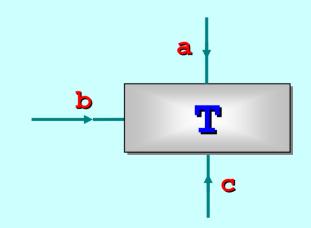


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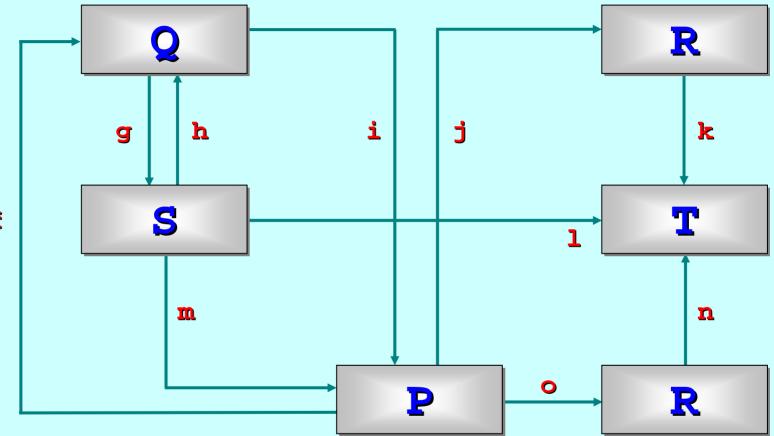




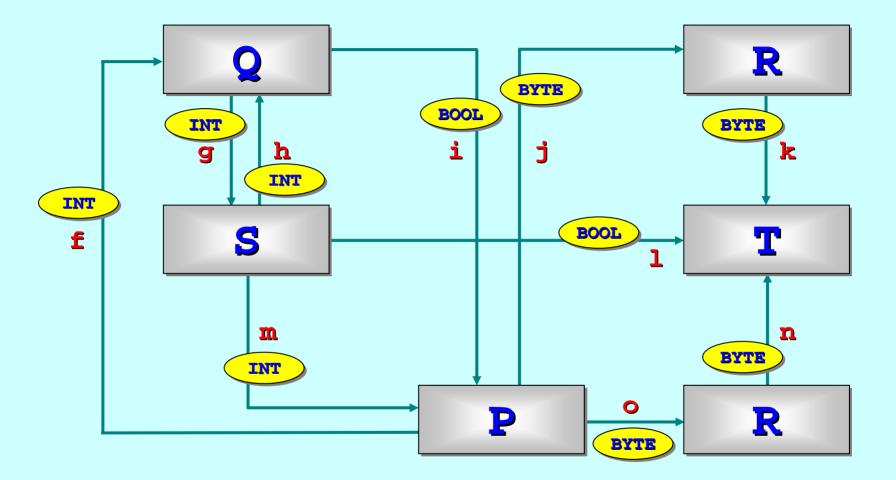


:

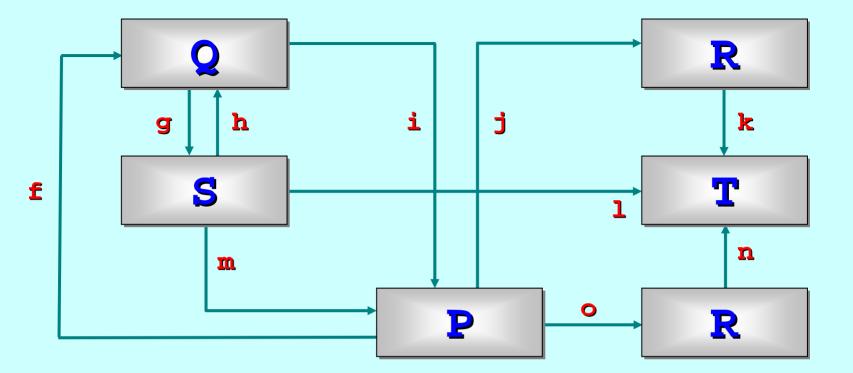
:



£



```
CHAN INT f, g, h, m:
CHAN BOOL i, l:
CHAN BYTE j, k, n, o:
```



```
CHAN INT f, g, h, m:

CHAN BOOL i, l:

CHAN BYTE j, k, n, o:

PAR

P (f!, m?, i?, j!, o!)

Q (f?, g!, h?, i!)

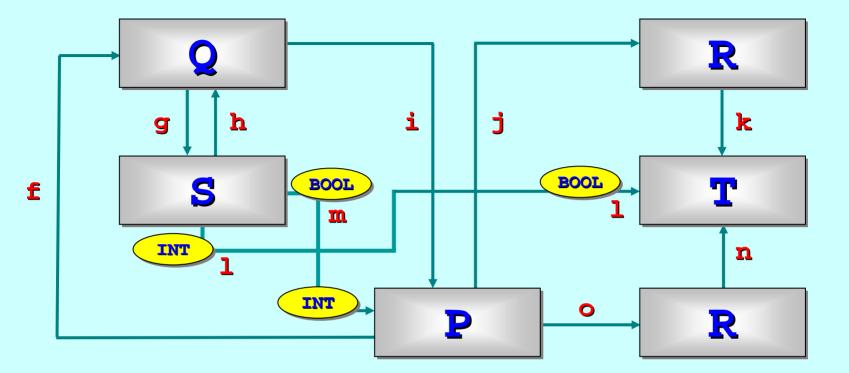
R (j?, k!)

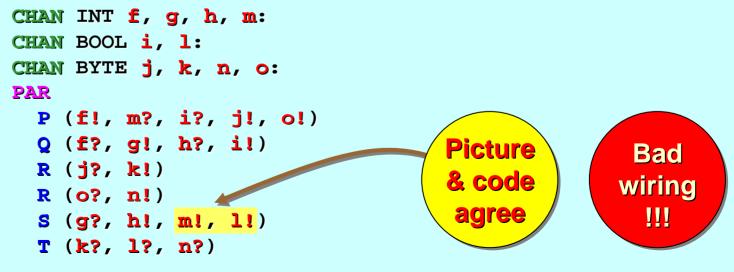
R (o?, n!)

S (g?, h!, m!, l!)

T (k?, l?, n?)
```

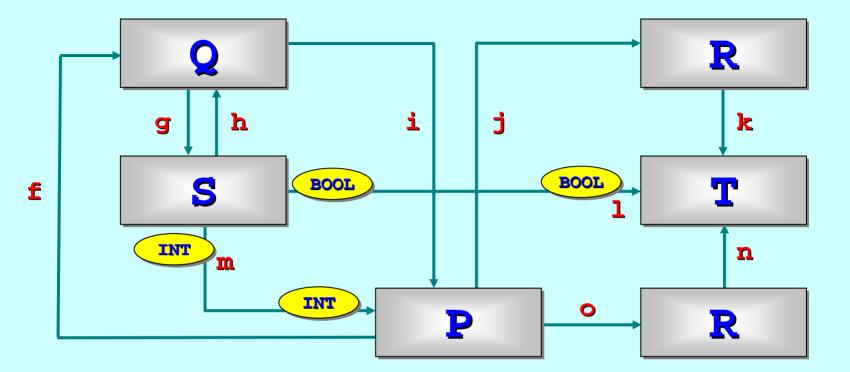


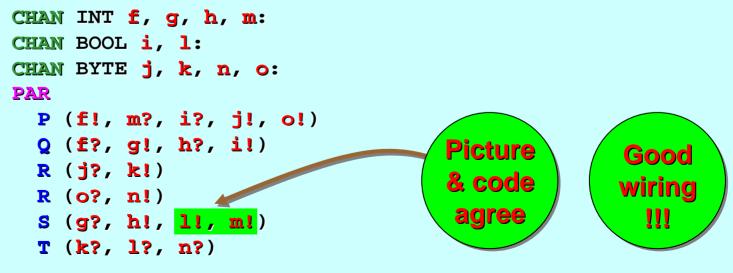




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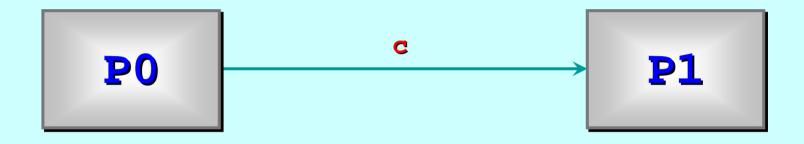




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Synchronised Unbuffered Communication



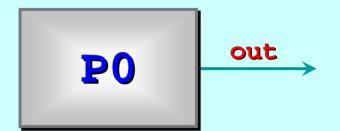
CHAN	INT C	•
PAR		
P0	(c!)	
P1	(<mark>C</mark> ?)	

PROC PO (CHAN INT out!)

- •
- •
- •

out ! value

- •
- •
- •
- •



PROC P1 (CHAN INT in?)

:

Synchronised Unbuffered Communication

out ! value

- Output value down the channel out
- This operation does not complete until the process at the other end of the channel inputs the information
- Until that happens, the outputting process sleeps (possibly forever!)

Synchronised Unbuffered Communication



- Input the next piece of information from channel in into the variable x
- This operation does not complete until the process at the other end of the channel outputs the information
- Until that happens, the inputting process sleeps (possibly forever!)
- The inputting process can set "timeouts" on these inputs or choose between alternative inputs. [We will do this later]

Synchronised Unbuffered Communication ("Rendezvous")

- Unified concept of synchronisation and unbuffered communication.
- Asynchronous and buffered communication are easy to construct (later).
- Incoming communications are selectable.
- Hardware model: it is fast to implement.
- Hardware model: our intuition enables us to reason about it (see the Legoland slides).

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'Legoland' ...



... from the bottom



Primitive types

INT, BYTE, BOOL INT16, INT32, INT64 REAL32, REAL64

Arrays types (indexed from 0)

[100]INT [32][32][8]BYTE []REAL64

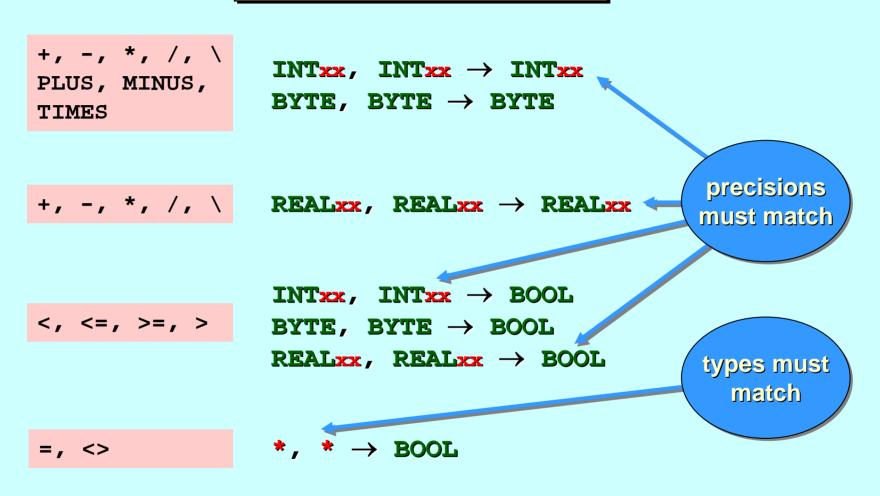
Record types

(later ...)

The precision of the **INT** type depends on the word-length of the target processor (e.g. 32 bits for the Intel Pentium)

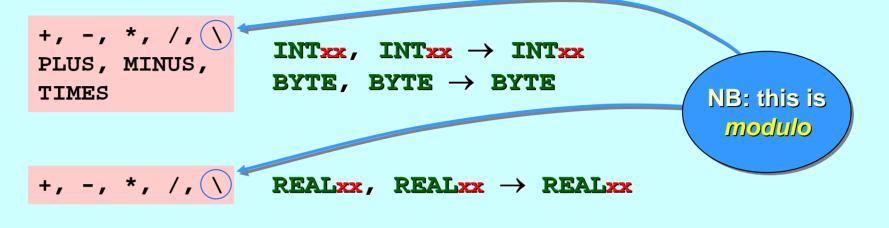
> When the compiler or run-time system can work it out, we don't have to specify array sizes.

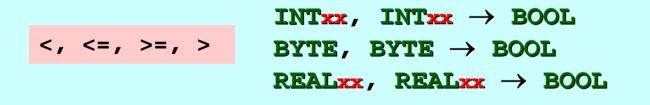
Operators



There is strong typing for all expressions ...







 $=, <> \qquad *, * \rightarrow BOOL$

There is strong typing for all expressions ...

Expressions

No *auto-coercion* happens between types: if x is a **REAL32** and i is an **INT**, then x + i is illegal ...

Where necessary, explicit casting between types must be programmed: e.g. x + (REAL32 ROUND i) ...

To cast between types, use the *target type name* as a prefix operator.

If **rounding mode** is significant, this must be specified (ROUND OF TRUNC) following the **target type name** (as above).

No *precedence* is defined between operators, we must use brackets: e.g. **a** + (**b***c) ...

Expressions

The operators +, -, * and / trigger run-time errors if their results overflow.

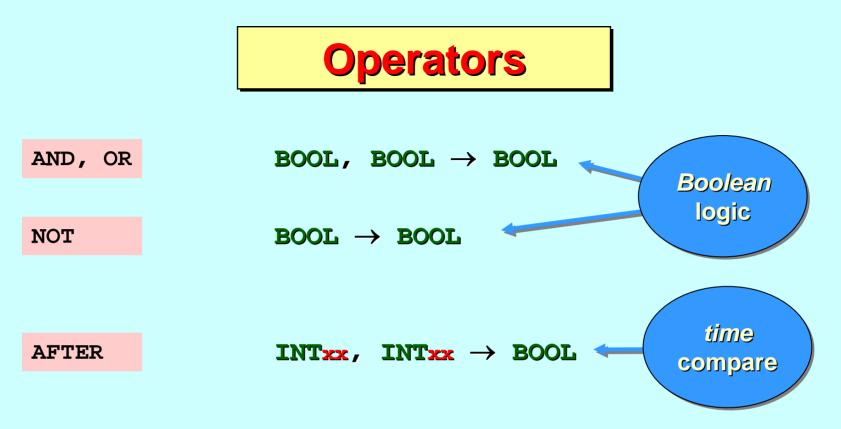
In Java and C, such errors are ignored.

Therefore, the operators + and * are *non-associative* and we must use more brackets: e.g. **a** + (**b** + **c**) ...

The INT operators PLUS, MINUS and TIMES Wrap-around (i.e. do not trigger run-time errors) if the results overflow.

The occam- π PLUS, MINUS and TIMES are the same as the Java/C +, - and *.

PLUS, MINUS and **TIMES** are mainly used for calculating *timeouts*.

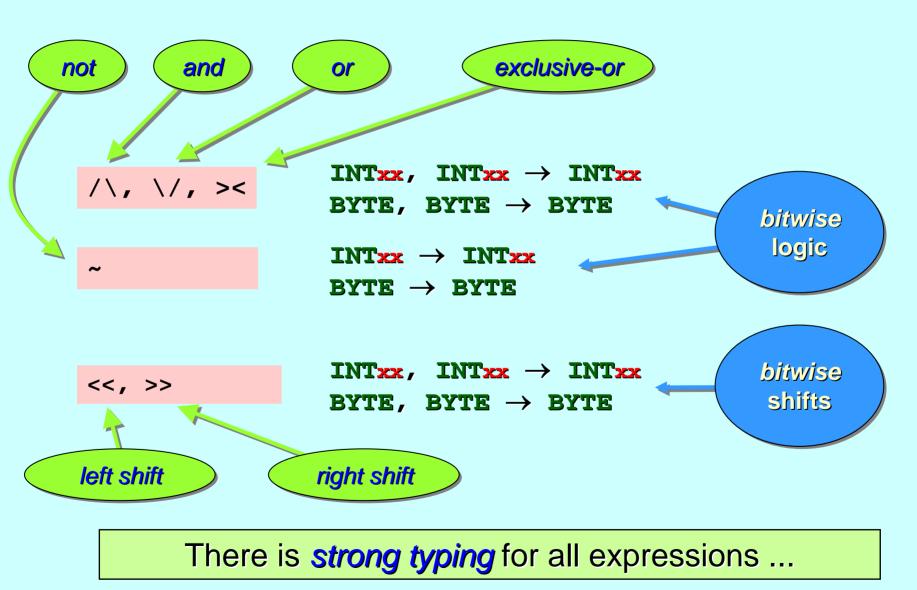


AFTER relates to > in the same way as **PLUS** relates to +.

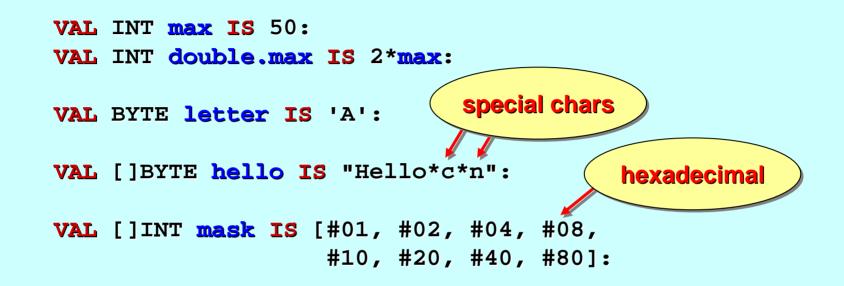
They both do arithmetic operations, but the former ignores overflow. If $(0 < t \le MOSTPOS INTEE)$, then (s PLUS t) is **AFTER s**, even if *wrap-around* occurs and (s PLUS t) is < s.

There is strong typing for all expressions ...





Values (named constants)



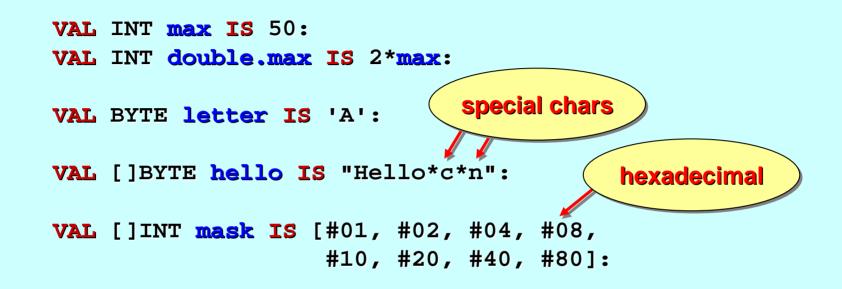
All declarations end in a colon ...

A declaration cannot be used before it is made ...

Character literals have type **BYTE** (their **ASCII** value) ...

String literals have type []BYTE ...

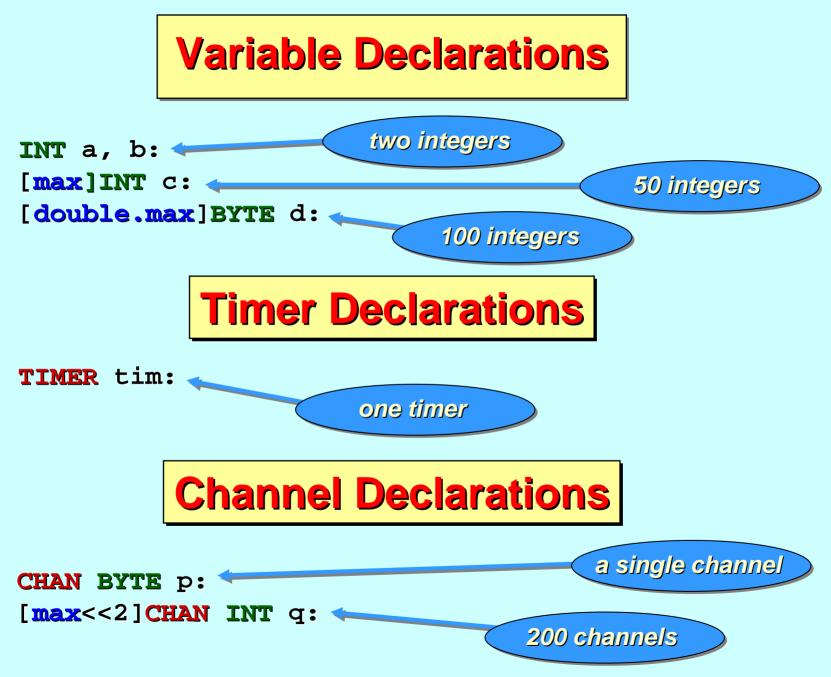
Values (named constants)

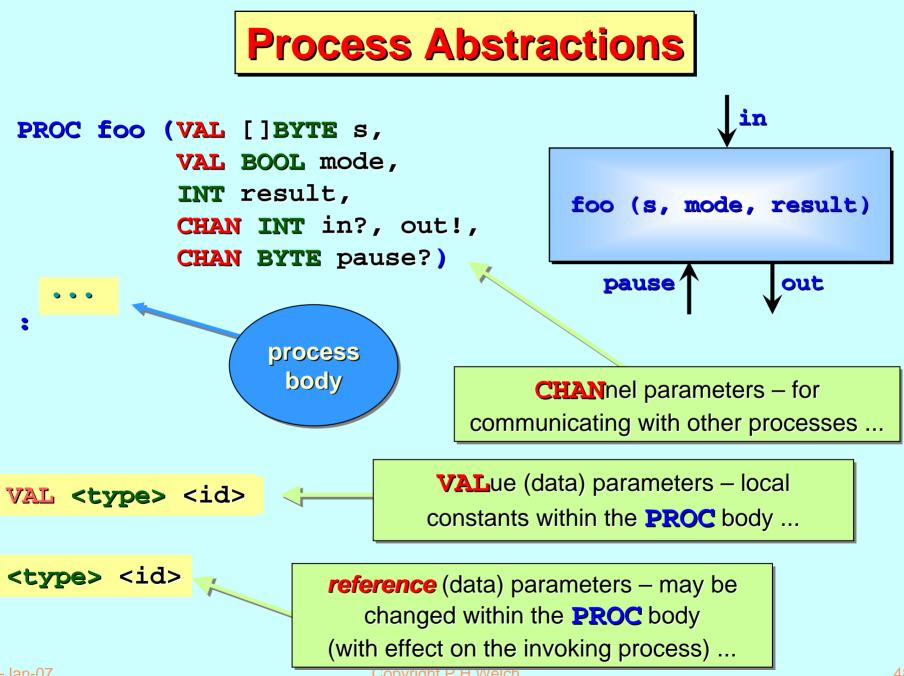


The compiler fills in the sizes of the hello and mask arrays for us. We could have done this ourselves ([7]BYTE and [8]INT respectively).

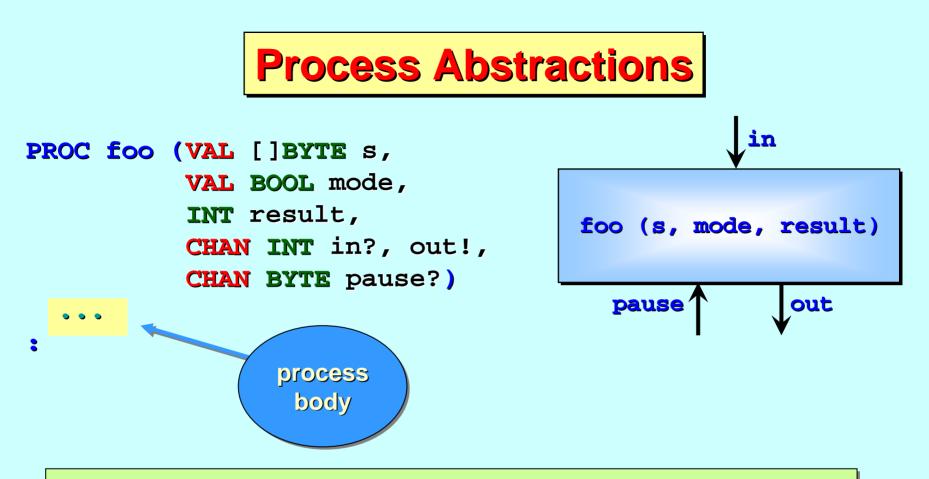
Declarations are aligned at the same level of indentation ...

Long lines may be broken after commas, etc. ...





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We have just used the *three dot notation* as a place holder for the **PROC** body. Code (including any local declarations) goes here. The *three dots* are not part of **occam**- π syntax!

Note that the **PROC** body is indented (two spaces) from its **PROC** header and closing colon.

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'Legoland' ...

An OCCam-π Process (syntax)

Syntactically, an **occam**- π process consists of:

... an optional sequence of declarations (e.g. values, variables, timers, channels, procs, channel protocols*, ports*, data types*, channel types*, process types*, barriers*, ...)

... a single executable process

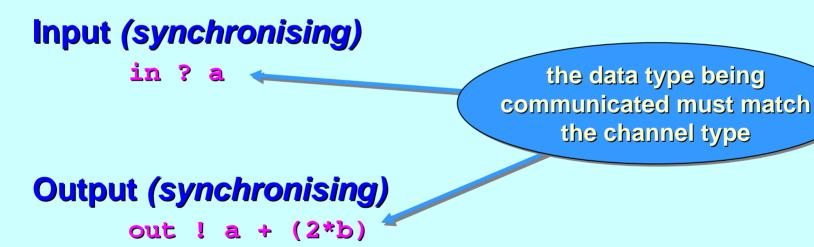
All the declarations – and the executable – are aligned at the same level of indentation.

* later ...

Primitive Processes



data types on either side of the assignment must match



There are strong typing rules ...

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Primitive Processes

What's the time?

tim ? t

Timeout (wait until specified time)

tim ? AFTER (t PLUS 3000)

Null (do nothing)

SKIP

Suspend (non-recoverable)

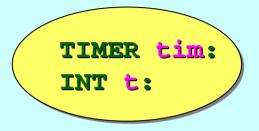
STOP



+ **BARRIER** synchronisation, ... (later)

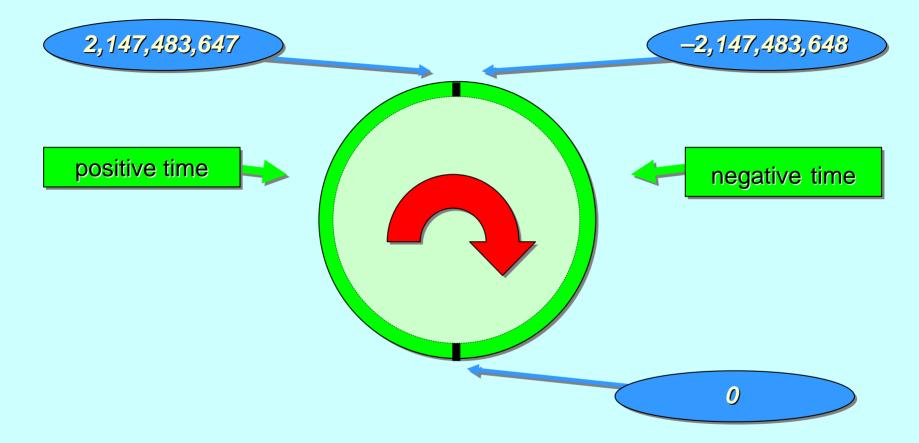
What's the time?

tim ? t

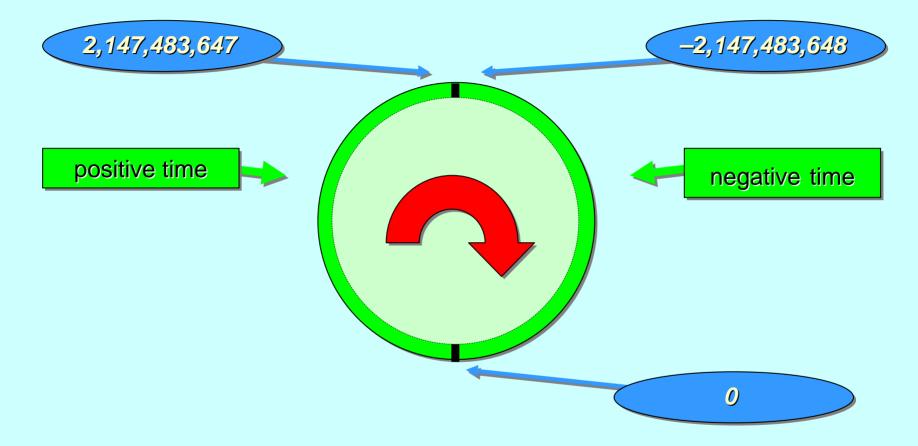


occam- π time values are **INT**s delivered by **TIMER**s. These values increment by one every microsecond (for all current, 10/2006, implementations).

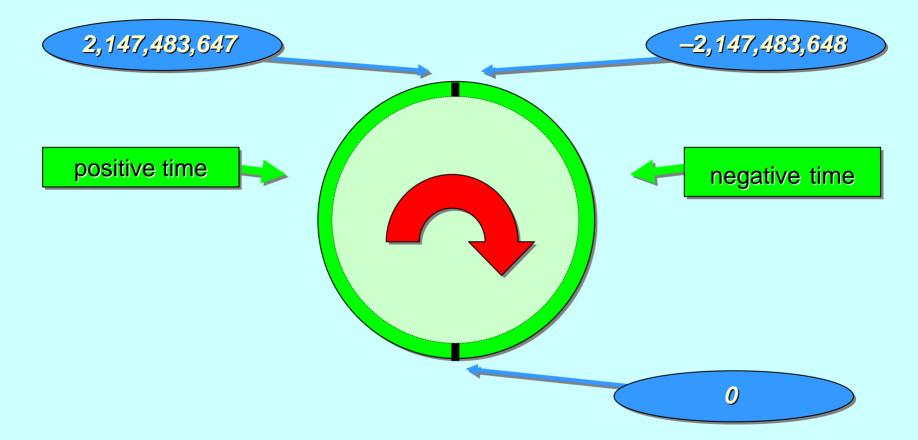
occam- π time values **cycle** through all **INT** values – from the most negative (**MOSTNEG INT**), through zero (**0**), to the most positive (**MOSTPOS INT**) and, then, back to the most negative again. **occam-** π time **starts** at an **arbitrary INT** value.



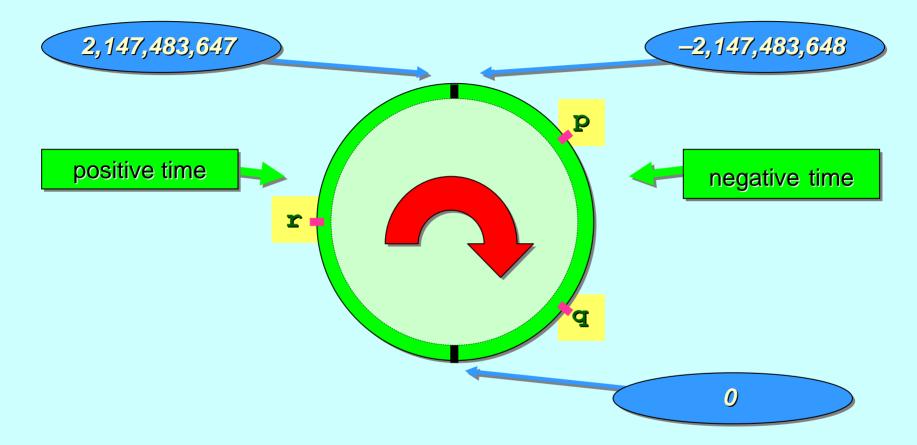
For 32-bit **INT**s incrementing every microsecond, **occam**- π time values **cycle** every **72** minutes (roughly).



Note that **occam**- π time values increment according to the rules for **PLUS** (wrap-around).

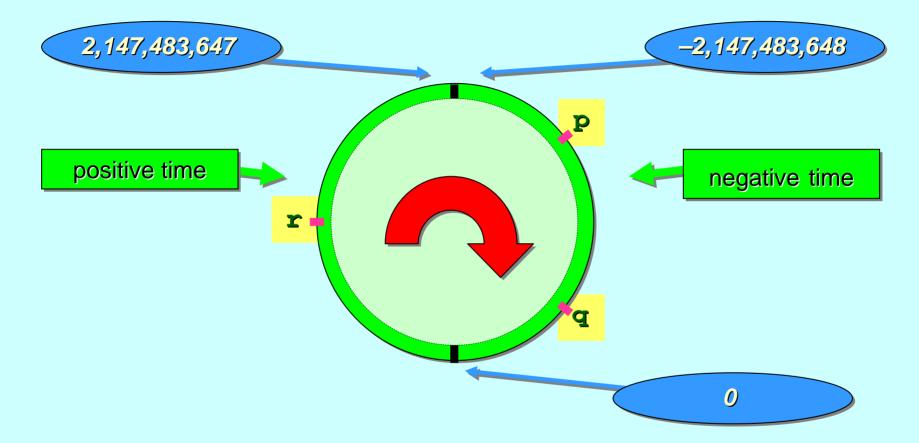


So, (**a** AFTER **b**) is **TRUE** if and only if the distance from **b** to **a** going *clockwise* – in the above diagram – is *less than* the distance going *anti-clockwise*.

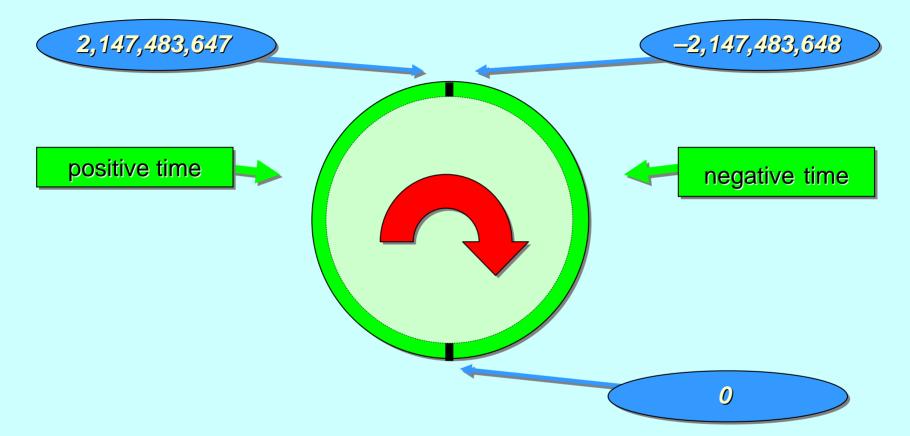


Above, we have $(\mathbf{q} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{p})$, $(\mathbf{r} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{q})$ and $(\mathbf{p} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{r})$. Think of \mathbf{p} , \mathbf{q} and \mathbf{r} as $\mathbf{2}$, $\mathbf{4}$ and $\mathbf{9}$ on a 12-hour clock face and ignore whether they represent *am* or *pm*.

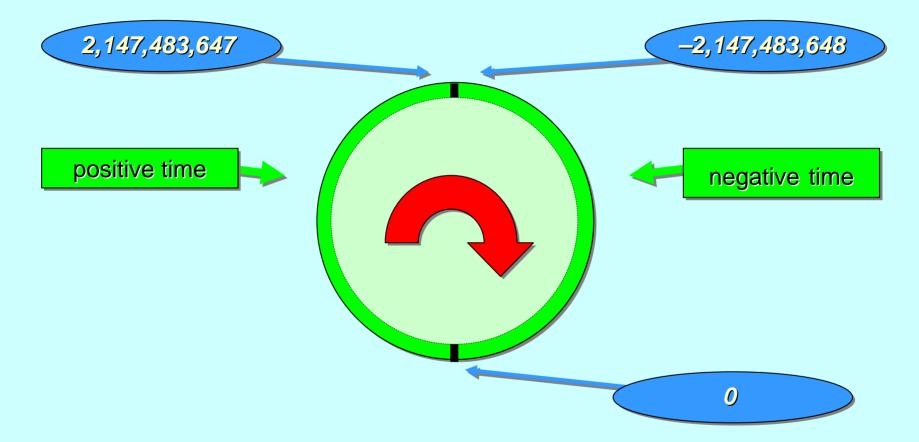
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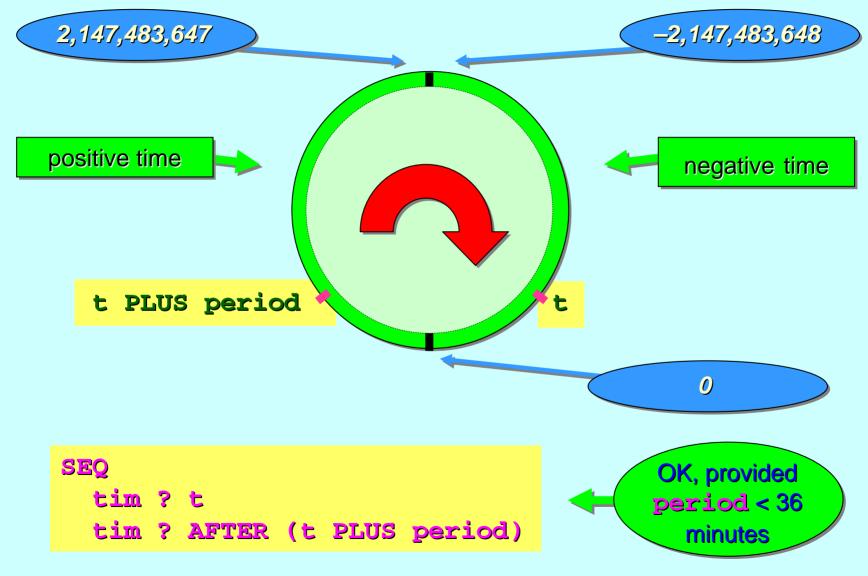
Above, we have $(\mathbf{q} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{p})$, $(\mathbf{r} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{q})$ and $(\mathbf{p} \text{ AFTER } \mathbf{r})$. Note that, using normal arithmetic, we have $(\mathbf{q} > \mathbf{p})$ and $(\mathbf{r} > \mathbf{q})$, but not $(\mathbf{p} > \mathbf{r})$.

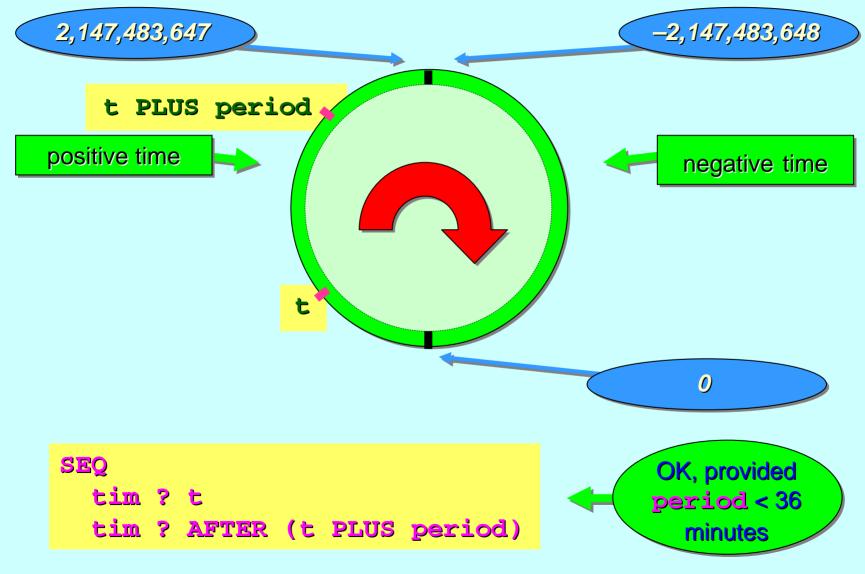


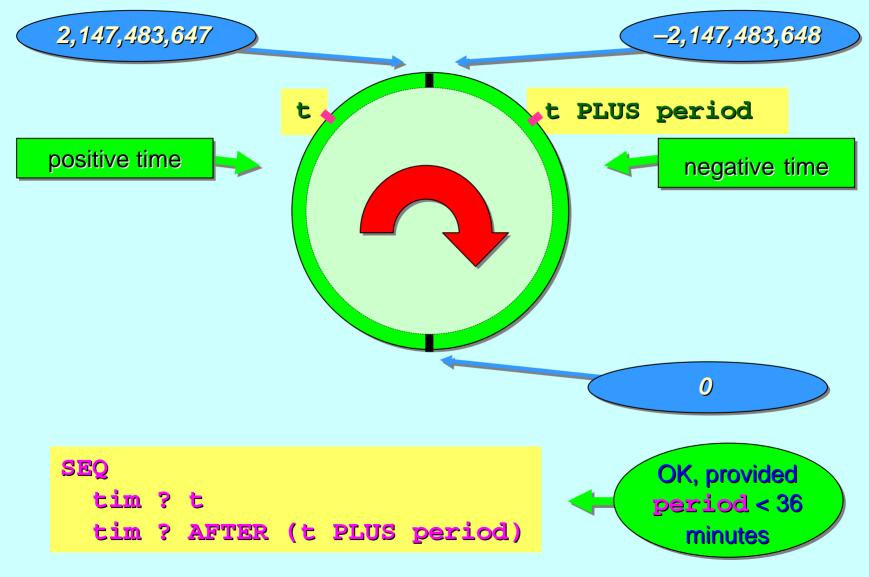
Therefore, so long as our *timeout periods* are less than **36** minutes (i.e. half the *time cycle*) and we calculate *absolute timeout values* using **PLUS**, the **AFTER** operator always gives the expected time comparisons – even if the time *wrap-around* occurs.



Real-time systems tend to deal in *microseconds* or *milliseconds*, so **36** minutes is a luxury! If we need to address longer timeouts, some extra (simple) programming effort is required.







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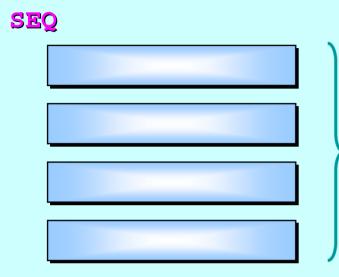
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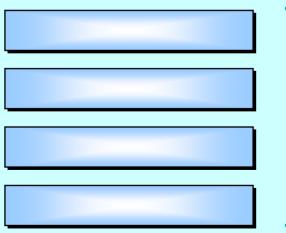
'Legoland' ...

Structured Processes (SEQ and PAR)



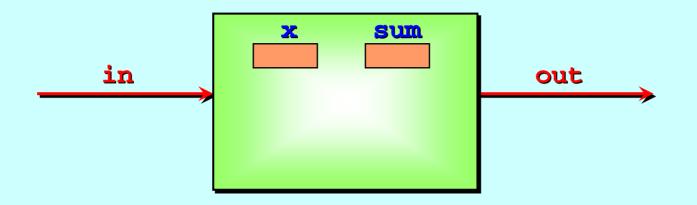
Do these 4 processes in the sequence written

PAR



Do these 4 processes in parallel

Structured Processes (SEQ example)

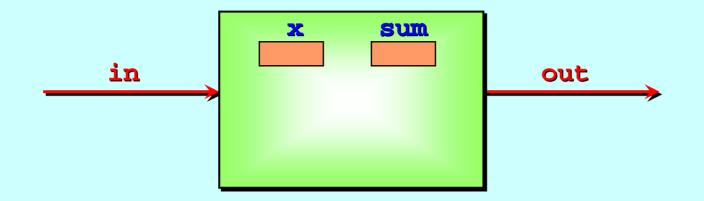


Here is a machine with internal *variables* **x** and **sum** – assume they are identical numeric types (e.g. **INT**).

Let's assume the external channels carry the same type.

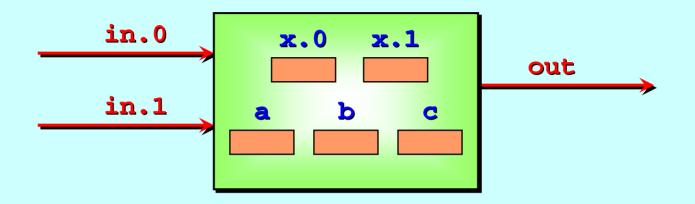
Consider the following fragment of code ...

Structured Processes (SEQ example)





Structured Processes (PAR example)

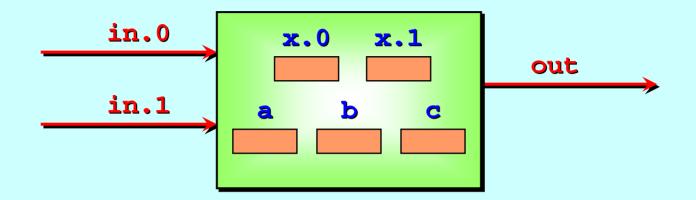


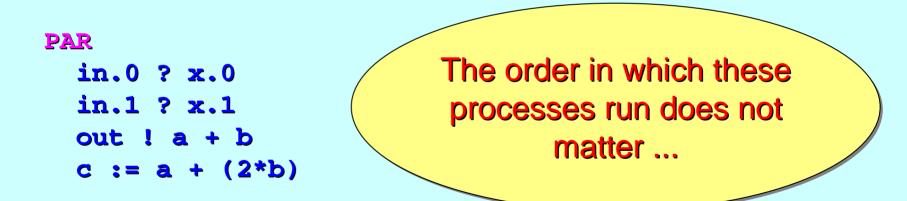
Here is another machine with internal variables \mathbf{x} .0, \mathbf{x} .1, \mathbf{a} , \mathbf{b} and \mathbf{c} – assume they are identical numeric types (e.g. **INT**).

Let's assume the external channels carry the same type.

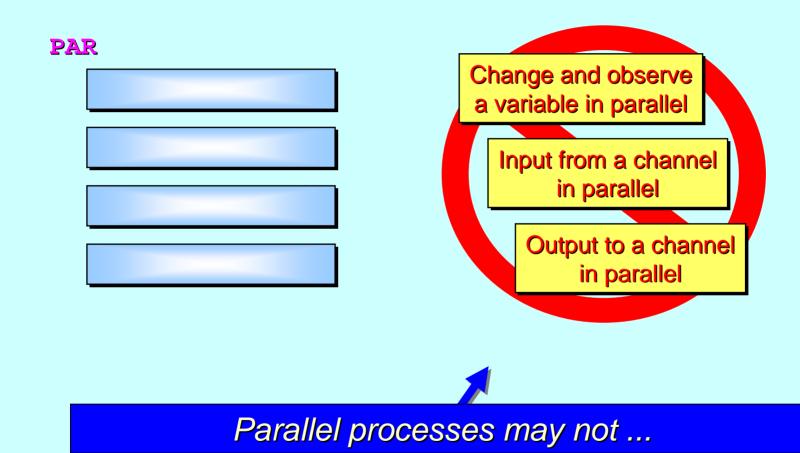
Consider the following fragment of code ...

Structured Processes (PAR example)

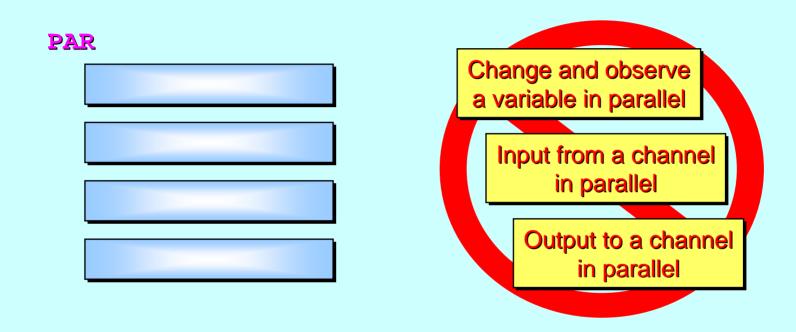




Structured Processes (PAR rules)

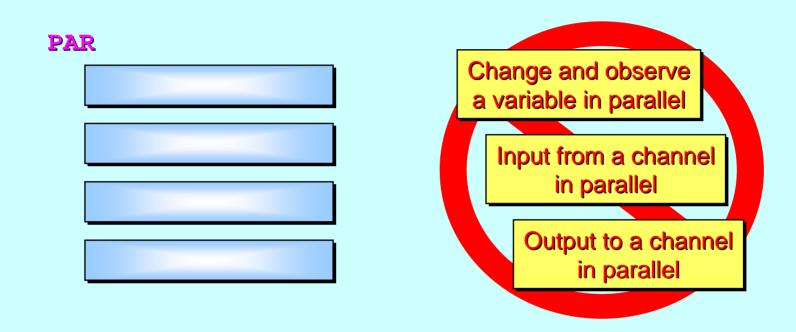


Structured Processes (PAR rules)



The effect of these rules is that the processes cannot interfere with each other's state. If they need to interact, they must explicitly communicate.

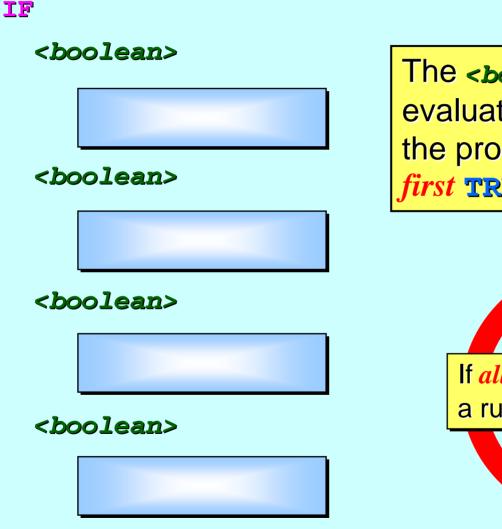
Structured Processes (PAR rules)



No *data race hazards* are possible. The processes are safe to be scheduled *in any order* (e.g. on a single-core processor) or *in parallel* (e.g. on a multi-core processor).



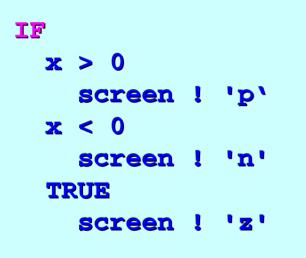
Structured Processes (IF)



The <boolean> conditions are evaluated in sequence. Only the process underneath the *first* TRUE one is executed.



Structured Processes (IF example)



The <boolean> conditions are evaluated in sequence. Only the process underneath the *first* TRUE one is executed.



Structured Processes (WHILE)

WHILE <boolean>





If the **<boolean>** is **TRUE**, the indented process is executed ... then ...

... the **<boolean>** is checked again ... if it is still **TRUE**, the indented process is executed again ... then ...

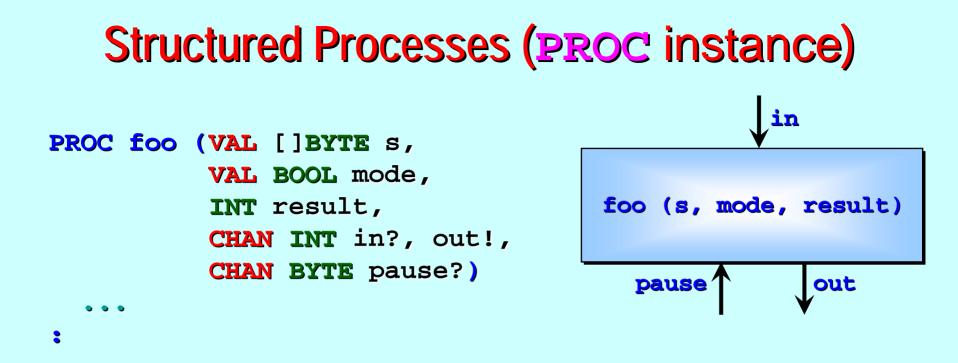
... etc. until ...

... the <boolean> is checked again ... and turns out to be **FALSE** ... in which case, this **WHILE** process terminates.

Structured Processes (WHILE example)

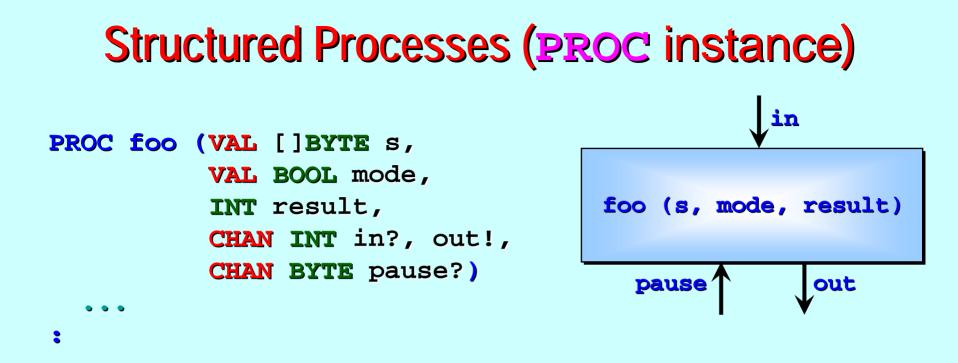
Here is a complete process (a 'chip') that doubles the values of the numbers flowing through it:

```
PROC double (CHAN INT in?, out!)
WHILE TRUE
INT x:
SEQ
in ? x
out ! 2*x
```



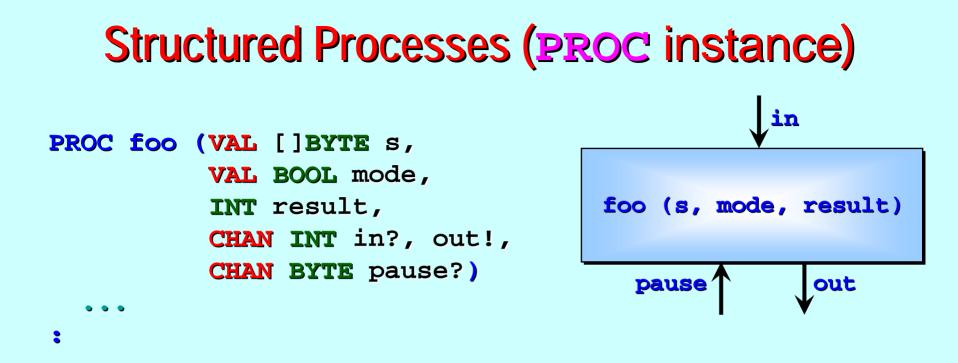
To create an instance, we must plug in correctly typed arguments – for example:

VAL parameters must be passed *expressions* of the correct type. An expression could be a simple *variable* or *literal*.



To create an instance, we must plug in correctly typed arguments – for example:

Reference parameters must be passed *variables* of the correct type. Changes to those parameters by the instanced process will be apparent in those *variables* when (if) the process instance terminates.



To create an instance, we must plug in correctly typed arguments – for example:

Channel parameters must be passed the correct ends (? or !) of correctly typed *channels*.

Structured Processes (proc instance)

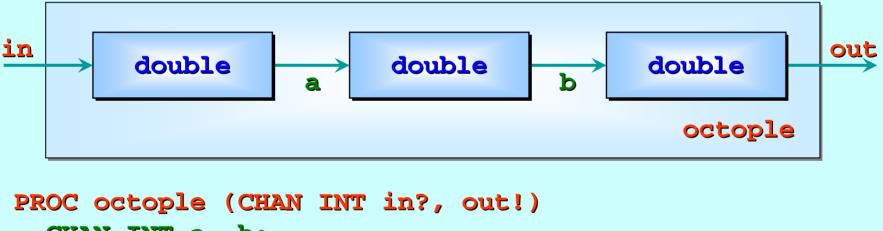
Process instances used in **SEQ**uence with other processes are sometimes referred to as *procedures*. For example:

```
INT answer:
SEQ
out.string ("The answer is ", 0, screen!)
... calculate answer
out.int (answer, 0, screen!)
out.string ("*c*n", 0, screen!)
```

The processes **out.string** and **out.int** are from the basic utilities library (**"course.lib"**) supporting this course. They output their given *string* (respectively *integer*) as ASCII text to their *channel* parameter and terminate. Their middle parameter is a minimum fieldwidth.

Structured Processes (proc instance)

Process instances used in **PAR**allel with other processes are are sometimes referred to as *components* (or just *processes*). For example:



CHAN INT a, b: PAR double (in?, a!) double (a?, b!) double (b?, out!)

12-Jan-07

Some occam- π Basics

Communicating processes ...

A flavour of occom- π ...

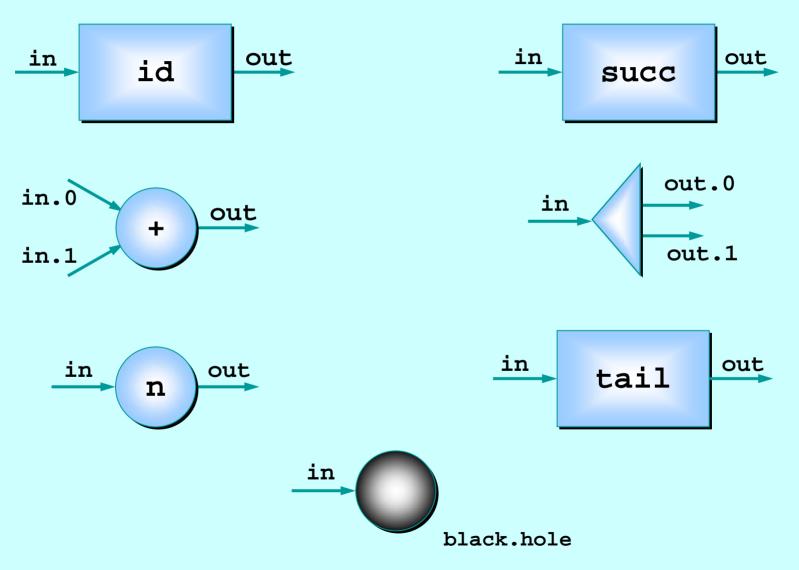
Networks and communication ...

Types, channels, processes ...

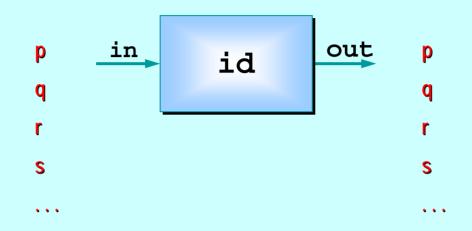
Primitive processes ...

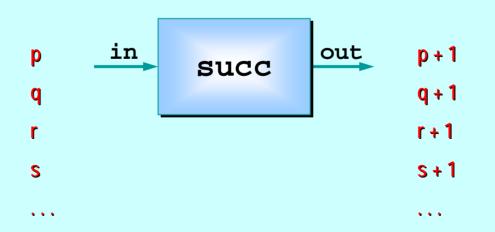
Structured processes ...

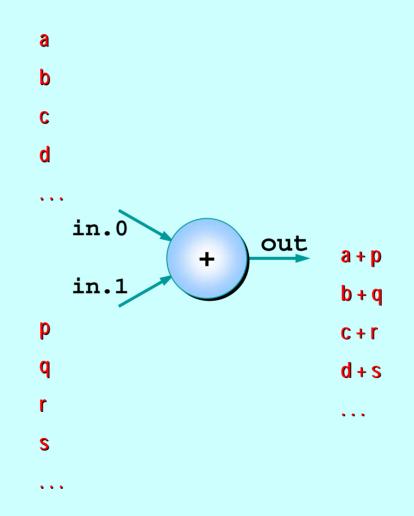
'Legoland' ...

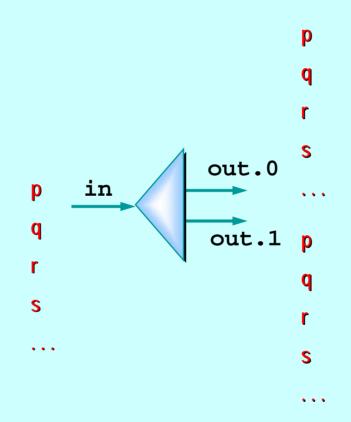


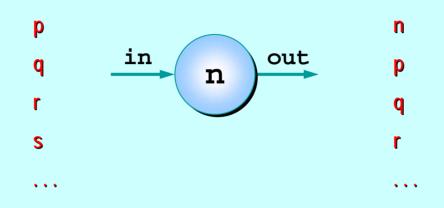
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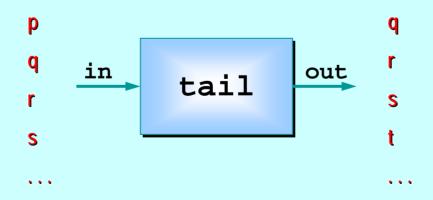


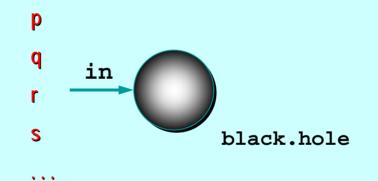












This is a catalog of fine-grained processes – think of them as pieces of hardware (e.g. chips).

They process data (**INT**s) flowing through them.

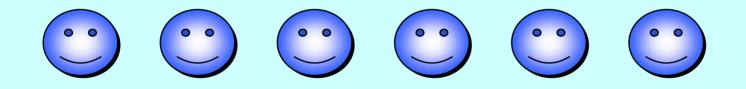
They are presented not because we suggest working at such fine levels of granularity ...

... they are presented in order to build up fluency in working with parallel logic.

Parallel logic should become just as easy to manage as serial logic.

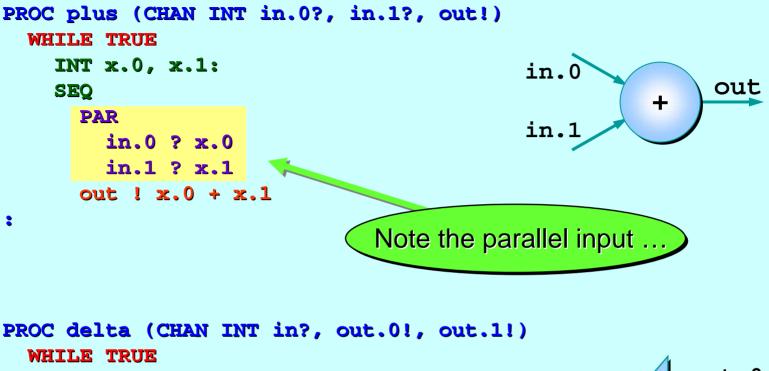
This is not the traditionally held view ...

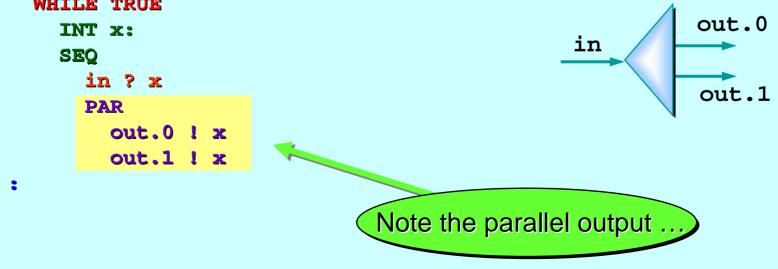
... but that tradition is **wrong**.

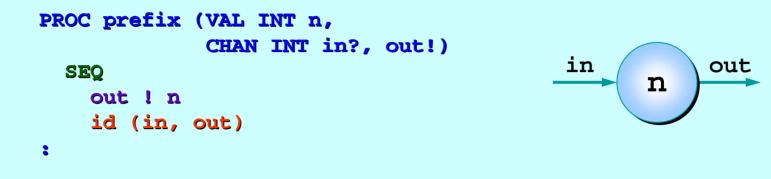


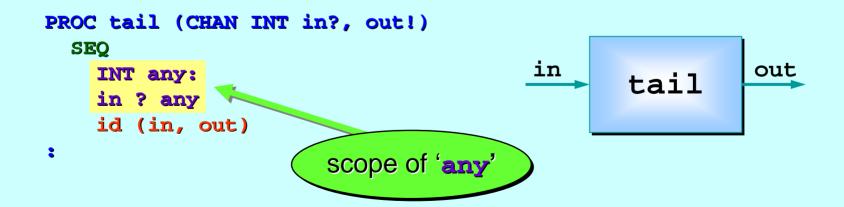
Let's look at some occam- π code for these processes ...

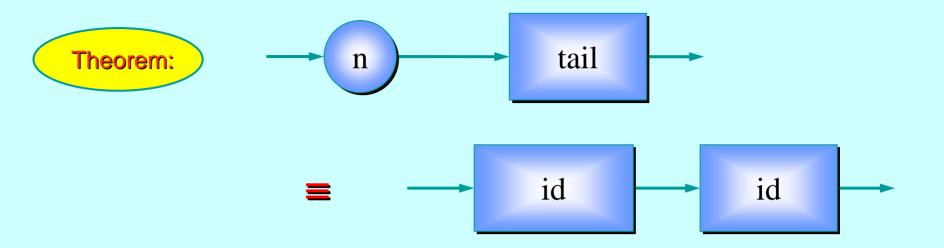
```
PROC id (CHAN INT in?, out!)
  WHILE TRUE
                                        in
                                                         out
                                                 id
    INT X:
    SEQ
      in ? x
      out ! x
:
PROC succ (CHAN INT in?, out!)
  WHILE TRUE
                                         in
                                                         out
    INT x:
                                               succ
    SEQ
      in ? x
      out ! x + 1
•
PROC black.hole (CHAN INT in?)
                                           in
  WHILE TRUE
    INT x:
    in ? x
•
```

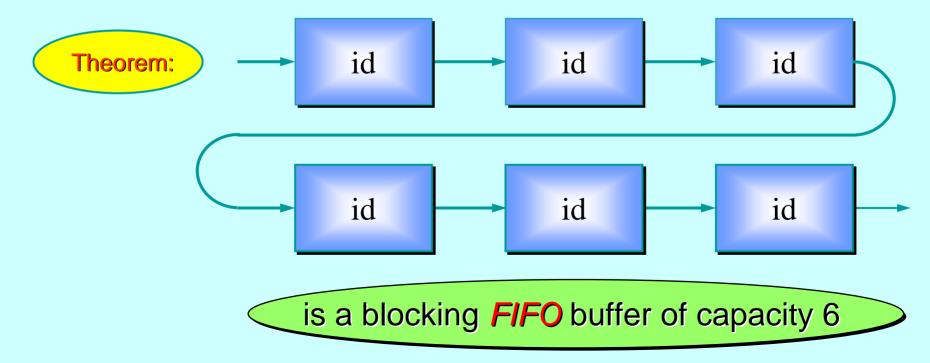










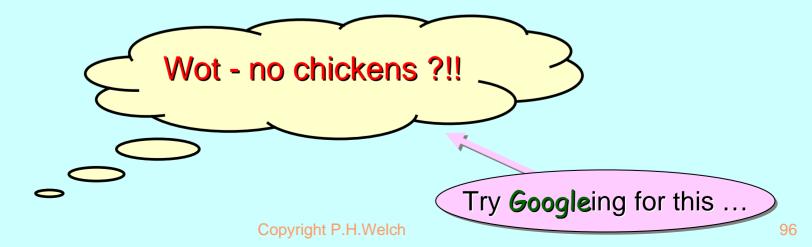




The good news is that we can 'see' this semantic equivalence with just one glance.

[CLAIM] CSP semantics cleanly reflects our intuitive feel for interacting systems.

This quickly builds up confidence ...

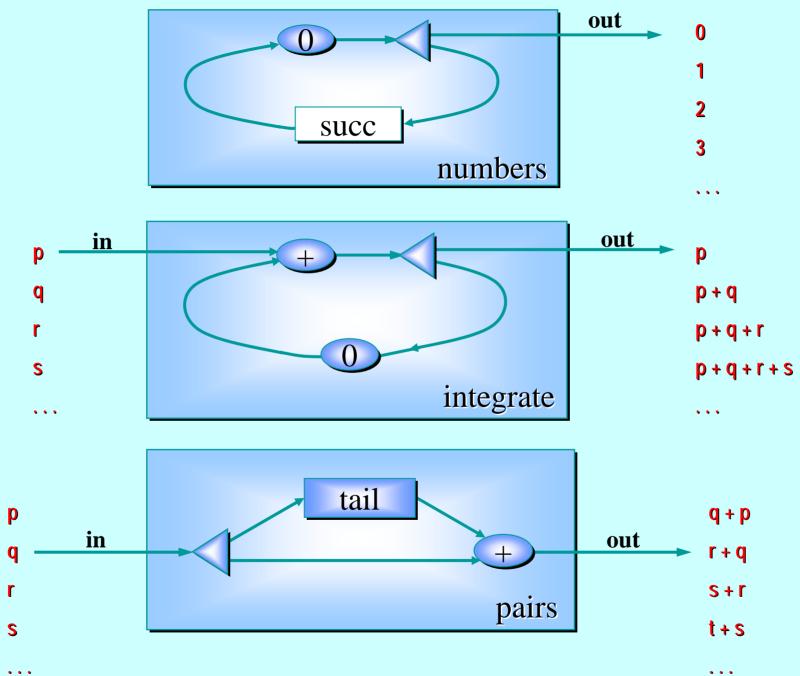




Let's build some simple circuits from these catalog components.

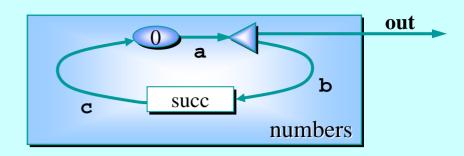
Can you see what they do ... ?

And how to describe them in occam- π ... ?



```
PROC numbers (CHAN INT out!)
CHAN INT a, b, c:
PAR
delta (a?, out!, b!)
succ (b?, c!)
prefix (0, c?, a!)
;
```

plus (b?, c?, out!)

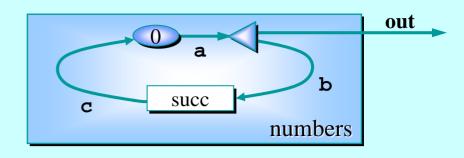


```
PROC integrate (CHAN INT in?, out!)
  CHAN INT a, b, c:
  PAR
                                     in
                                                                      out
    delta (a?, out!, b!)
    prefix (0, b?, c!)
                                                                b
    plus (in?, c?, a!)
                                             C
2
                                                            integrate
PROC pairs (CHAN INT in?, out!)
  CHAN INT a, b, c:
                                                     tail
                                                             b
                                               a
  PAR
    delta (in?, a!, c!)
                                                               +
                                     in
                                                                      out
    tail (a?, b!)
                                                      C
```

•

pairs

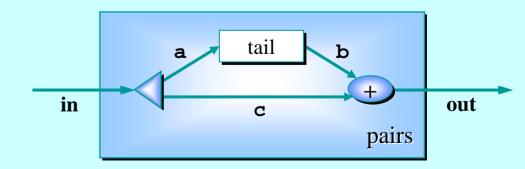
Note: this pushes numbers out so long as the receiver is willing to take it.



Note: this outputs one number for every input it gets.

in tegrate out

Note: this needs two inputs before producing one output. Thereafter, it produces one number for every input it gets.



Of course, these components also happen to have simple *sequential* implementations ...

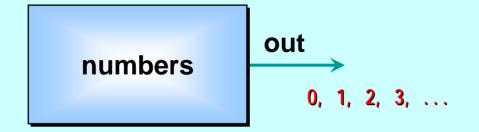
The *parallel* ones just shown were just to build fluency in CSP concurrency.

CSP (and **occam**- π) enables parallel and sequential logic to be built with equal ease.

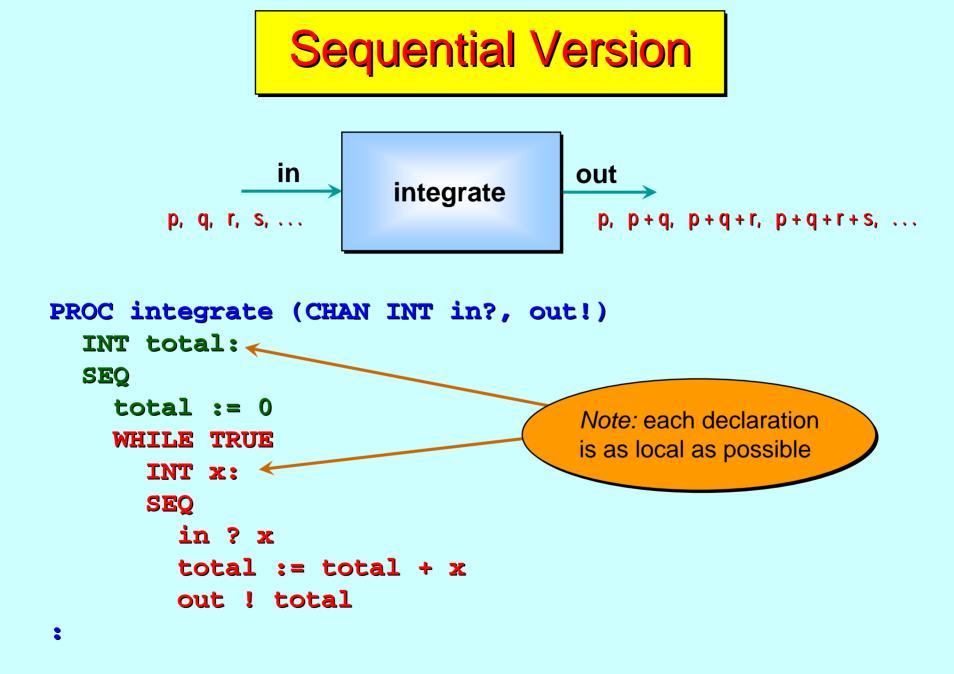
In practice, sometimes parallel and sometimes sequential logic will be most appropriate – *just choose the simplest*.

Parallel logic is not, by nature, especially difficult.





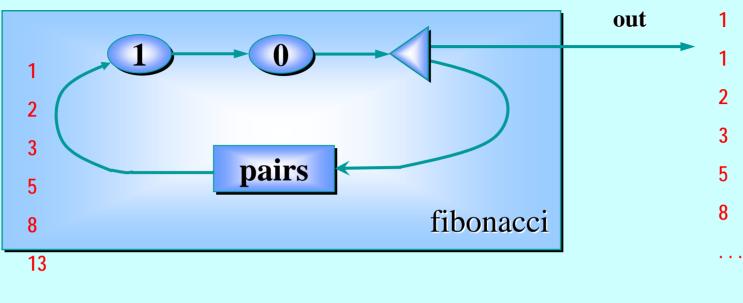
```
PROC numbers (CHAN INT out!)
INT n:
SEQ
n := 0
WHILE TRUE
SEQ
out ! n
n := n + 1
;
```



Let's build some more circuits from the components just constructed (either the sequential or parallel versions).

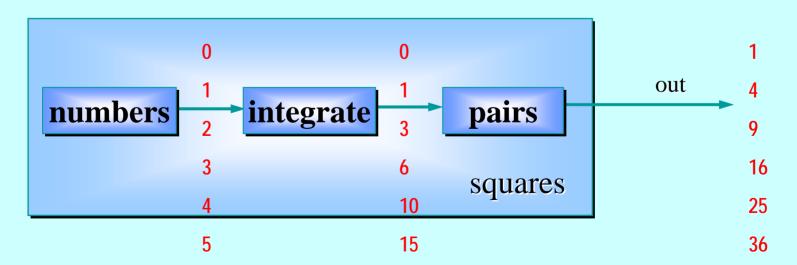
If we build using the parallel ones, we have *layered* networks – circuits within circuits.

No problem!



•••

. . .

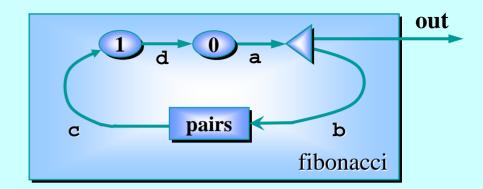


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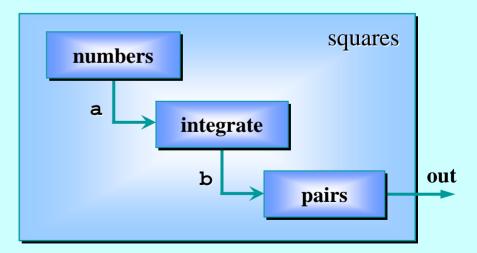
. . .

0

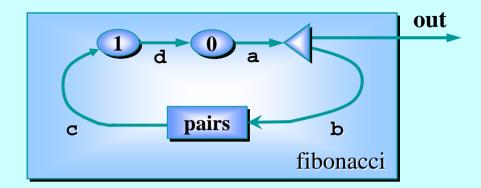
```
PROC fibonacci (CHAN INT out!)
CHAN INT a, b, c, d:
PAR
  delta (a?, b!, out!)
  pairs (b?, c!)
  prefix (0, d?, a!)
  prefix (1, c?, d!)
;
```



```
PROC squares (CHAN INT out!)
CHAN INT a, b:
PAR
numbers (a!)
integrate (a?, b!)
pairs (b?, out!)
;
```

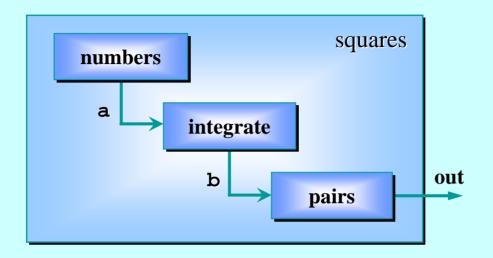


Note: the two numbers needed by **PairsInt** to get started are provided by the two **PrefixInt**S. Thereafter, only one number circulates on the feedback loop. If only one **PrefixInt** had been in the circuit, deadlock would have happened (with each process waiting trying to input).



Note: the traffic on individual channels:

<a>	=	[0,	1,	1,	2,	З,	5,	8,	13,	21,	•••]
<out></out>	=	[0,	1,	1,	2,	З,	5,	8,	13,	21,	•••]
	=	[0,	1,	1,	2,	З,	5,	8,	13,	21,	•••]
<c></c>	=	[1,	2,	З,	5,	8,	13,	21,	34,	55,	•••]
<d></d>	=	[1,	1,	2,	З,	5,	8,	13,	21,	34,	•••]

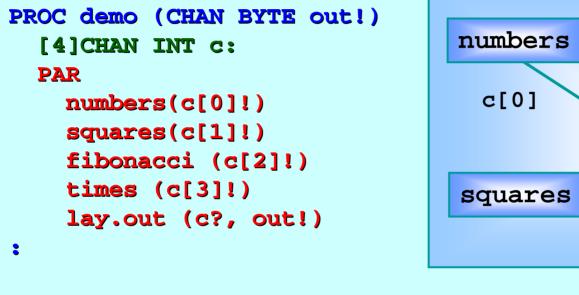


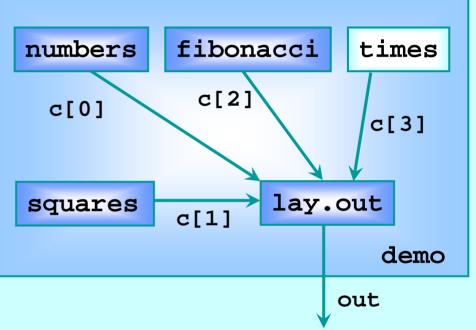
Note: the traffic on individual channels:

<a>	=	[0,	1,	2,	З,	4,	5,	6,	7,	8,	•••]
	=	[0,	1,	З,	6,	10,	15,	21,	28,	36,	•••]
<out></out>	=	[1,	4,	9,	16,	25,	36,	49,	64,	81,	•••]

Note: use of channel array

At this level, we have a network of **5** communicating processes.

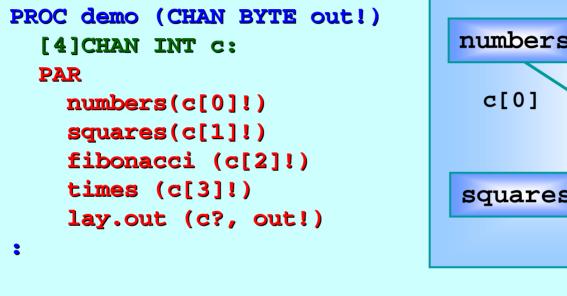


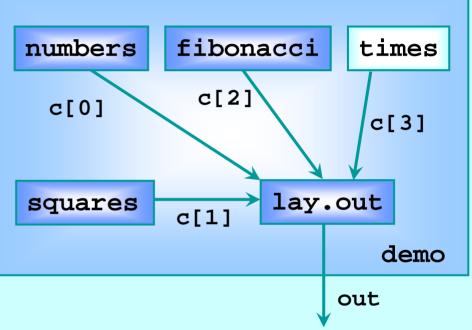


In fact, **28** processes are involved: **18** non-terminating ones and **10** low-level transients (repeatedly starting up and shutting down for parallel input and output). *BUT we don't need to know that to reason at this level* ... **③ ③ ③**

Note: use of channel array

At this level, we have a network of **5** communicating processes.





Fortunately, CSP semantics are compositional – which means that we only have to reason at each layer of the network in order to design, understand, code, and maintain it.