Overview of Ptolemy II

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Software Legacy of the Project

• Gabriel (1986-1991)
  - Written in Lisp
  - Aimed at signal processing
  - Synchronous dataflow (SDF) block diagrams
  - Parallel schedulers
  - Code generators for DSPs
  - Hardware/software co-simulators

• Ptolemy Classic (1990-1997)
  - Written in C++
  - Multiple models of computation
  - Hierarchical heterogeneity
  - Dataflow variants: BDF, DDF, PN
  - C/VHDL/DSP code generators
  - Optimizing SDF schedulers
  - Higher-order components

• Ptolemy II (1996-2022)
  - Written in Java
  - Domain polymorphism
  - Multithreaded
  - Network integrated
  - Modal models
  - Sophisticated type system
  - CT, HDF, CI, GR, etc.

Each of these served us, first-and-foremost, as a laboratory for investigating design.

• PtPlot (1997-??)
  - Java plotting package

• Tycho (1996-1998)
  - Itcl/Tk GUI framework

• Diva (1998-2000)
  - Java GUI framework

All open source.
All truly free software (cf. FSF).
Layered Software Architecture

Ptolemy II packages have carefully constructed dependencies and interfaces

Design Document

Volume 1: User-Oriented
Volume 2: Developer-Oriented
Volume 3: Researcher-Oriented
The Ptolemy II kernel provides an abstract syntax - clustered graphs - that is well suited to a wide variety of component-based modeling strategies, ranging from state machines to process networks.

MoML
XML Schema for this Abstract Syntax

Ptolemy II designs are represented in XML:

```xml
...<entity name="FFT" class="ptolemy.domains.sdf.lib.FFT">
    <property name="order" class="ptolemy.data.expr.Parameter" value="order"/>
</entity>
...<link port="FFT.input" relation="relation"/>
<link port="AbsoluteValue2.output" relation="relation"/>
...
```
Hierarchy
Composite Components

Kernel Classes
Support the Abstract Syntax
Actor Package
Supports Producer/Consumer Components

Basic Transport:

Services in the Infrastructure:
- broadcast
- multicast
- busses
- mutations
- clustering
- parameterization
- typing
- polymorphism

Focus on Actor-Oriented Design

- **Object orientation:**
  - class name
  - data
  - methods

  What flows through an object is sequential control

- **Actor orientation:**
  - actor name
  - data (state)
  - parameters
  - ports

  What flows through an object is streams of data
Actor-Oriented vs. Object-Oriented Interface Definitions

**Actor Oriented**
- Actor-oriented interface definition says "Give me text and I'll give you speech"

**Object Oriented**
- OO interface definition gives procedures that have to be invoked in an order not specified as part of the interface definition.

Examples of Actor-Oriented Component Frameworks

- Simulink (The MathWorks)
- Labview (National Instruments)
- Modelica (Linkoping)
- OCP, open control platform (Boeing)
- GME, actor-oriented meta-modeling (Vanderbilt)
- Easy5 (Boeing)
- SPW, signal processing worksystem (Cadence)
- System studio (Synopsys)
- ROOM, real-time object-oriented modeling (Rational)
- Port-based objects (U of Maryland)
- I/O automata (MIT)
- VHDL, Verilog, SystemC (Various)
- Polis & Metropolis (UC Berkeley)
- Ptolemy & Ptolemy II (UC Berkeley)
- ...
Basic Ptolemy II infrastructure:

- Director from a library defines component interaction semantics
- Large, polymorphic component library.

Polymorphic Components - Component Library
Works Across Data Types and Domains

- **Data polymorphism:**
  - Add numbers (int, float, double, Complex)
  - Add strings (concatenation)
  - Add composite types (arrays, records, matrices)
  - Add user-defined types

- **Behavioral polymorphism:**
  - In dataflow, add when all connected inputs have data
  - In a time-triggered model, add when the clock ticks
  - In discrete-event, add when any connected input has data, and add in zero time
  - In process networks, execute an infinite loop in a thread that blocks when reading empty inputs
  - In CSP, execute an infinite loop that performs rendezvous on input or output
  - In push/pull, ports are push or pull (declared or inferred) and behave accordingly
  - In real-time CORBA, priorities are associated with ports and a dispatcher determines when to add

By not choosing among these when defining the component, we get a huge increment in component re-usability. But how do we ensure that the component will work in all these circumstances?
Ptolemy II Component Library

- Data polymorphic components
- Domain polymorphic components

Domains - Provide semantic models for component interactions

- CI - Push/pull component interaction
- CSP - concurrent threads with rendezvous
- CT - continuous-time modeling
- DE - discrete-event systems
- DDE - distributed discrete events
- FSM - finite state machines
- DT - discrete time (cycle driven)
- Giotto - synchronous periodic
- GR - 2-D and 3-D graphics
- PN - process networks
- SDF - synchronous dataflow
- SR - synchronous/reactive
- TM - timed multitasking
Continuous-Time Models
Soft Walls Avionics System

Synchronous Dataflow (SDF)

SDF offers feedback, multirate, static scheduling, deadlock analysis, parallel scheduling, static memory allocation.
Parallel Scheduling of SDF Models

SDF is suitable for automated mapping onto parallel processors

Sequential (software) Parallel (hardware)

Other Dataflow Models

Process Networks

Detection of unknown signal (PSK in this case)

Challenge problem under DARPA Mobies (Model-based design of embedded software),

Output data sequence, at detected baud rate. (not known apriori)
Discrete Event Models

The DE domain uses an event queue to process events in chronological order, as in VHDL, Verilog, and a number of network simulation languages (e.g. NS).

Heterogeneous Models

Hybrid Systems

The FSM domain can be combined with other domains to create modal models.
Hierarchical Heterogeneity

Directors are domain-specific. A composite actor with a director becomes opaque. The Manager is domain-independent.

Object Model for Executable Components

A composite actor with a director becomes opaque. The Manager is domain-independent.
The send() and get() methods on ports are polymorphic. Their implementation is provided by an object implementing the Receiver interface. The Receiver is supplied by the director and implements the communication semantics of a model of computation.
Object-Oriented Approach to Achieving Behavioral Polymorphism

These polymorphic methods implement the communication semantics of a domain in Ptolemy II. The receiver instance used in communication is supplied by the director, not by the component.

Recall: Behavioral polymorphism is the idea that components can be defined to operate with multiple models of computation and multiple middleware frameworks.

Extension Exercise

Exercise

Build a director that subclasses SDFDirector to allow substitution of receiver classes in place of the default SDFReceiver. Such substitutions are to be specified by attaching a parameter named "receiverClass" to an input port whose (string) value is the class name of a receiver.

This illustrates a simple mechanism that could be used to support communication refinement.
Examples of Extensions
Self-Repairing Models

Concept demonstration built together with Boeing to show how to write actors that adaptively reconstruct connections when the model structure changes.

Examples of Extensions
Sensor Nets

Model of a network with a sound and radio channel.
- Wireless block diagram
- Parameterized icons
- Multiple channels
- Extends DE domain

Authors: Xiaojun Liu and Philip Baldwin, based on work by Cheng Tien Ee, Sanjeev Kohli, and Vinay Krishnan.
**Example Extensions**

**Python Actors and Cal Actors**

Cal is an experimental language for defining actors that is analyzable for key behavioral properties.

This model demonstrates the use of function closures inside a CAL actor.

The PrimeSieve actor uses nested function closures to realize the Sieve of Eratosthenes, a method for finding prime numbers. Its state variable, "filter," contains the current filter function. If it is "false" a new prime number has been found, and a new filter function will be generated.

The PrimeSieve actor expects an ascending sequence of natural numbers, starting from 2, as input.

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**Example Extensions**

**Using Models to Control Models**

This model illustrates the use of a "run composite actor" component. That component contains another Poltery II model. Each time it fires, it performs a complete execution of that other Poltery II model, rather than just one firing as would be typical of a composite actor.

This model generates Lissajous figures, which are plots of one sinusoid vs. another. On each execution, it generates one figure.

This is an example of a "higher-order component," or an actor that references one or more other actors.
Examples of Extensions
Mobile Models

Model-based distributed task management:

PushConsumer actor receives pushed data provided via CORBA, where the data is an XML model of a signal analysis algorithm.

MobileModel actor accepts a StringTokenizer containing an XML description of a model. It then executes that model on a stream of input data.

Data and domain type safety will help make such models secure.

Authors:
Yang Zhao
Steve Neuendorffer
Xiaojun Liu

Examples of Extensions
Hooks to Verification Tools

New component interfaces to Chic verification tool

Authors:
Arindam Chakrabarti
Eleftherios Matsikoudis
Examples of Extensions
Hooks to Verification Tools

Synchronous
assume/guarantee
interface specification
for Block1

UC Berkeley, Edward Lee
Branding

Ptolemy II configurations are Ptolemy II models that specify:
- welcome window contents
- help menu contents
- library contents
- File->New menu contents
- default model structure
- etc.

A configuration can identify its own "brand" independent of the "Ptolemy II" name and can have more targeted objectives.

An example is HyVisual, a tool for hybrid system modeling.

Configurable Tool Architecture

Ptolemy II configurations enable the construction of specialized tools with customized interfaces and selected portions of the infrastructure.