

Formal Methods for Communication Protocols

Harnessing distributed software design with behavioural contracts

Emilio Tuosto @ GSSI
– Lecture 2 –

3 - 12 March, 2026 - Novi Sad



Finanziato
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dell'Università
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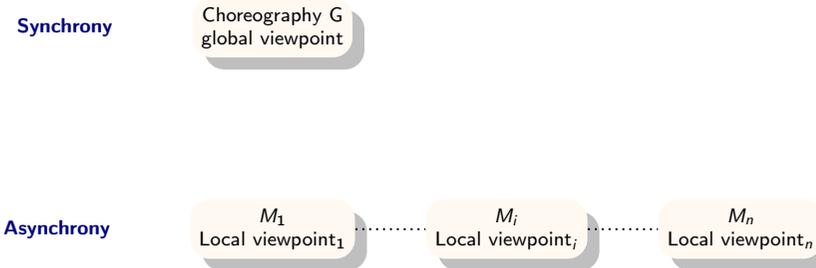
Developing
Shared
Knowledge

– Choreographic Models –

“Top-down”

Quoting W3C [7]

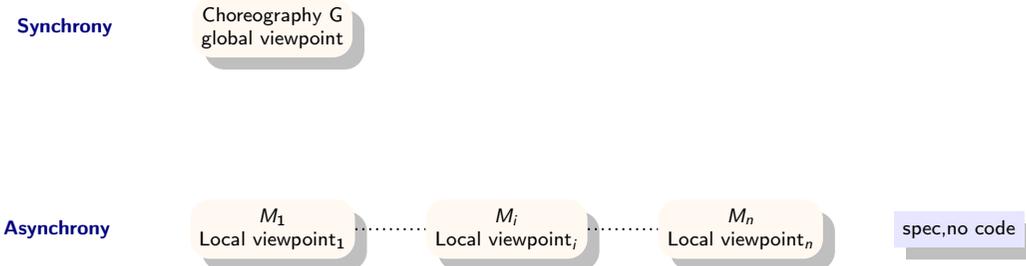
“Using the Web Services Choreography specification, a **contract** containing a global definition of the common **ordering conditions and constraints** under which **messages** are exchanged, is produced that describes, from a **global viewpoint** [...] observable behaviour of all the parties involved. **Each party** can then use the global definition to **build and test solutions that conform to it**. The global specification is in turn **realised by combination of the resulting local systems** [...]”



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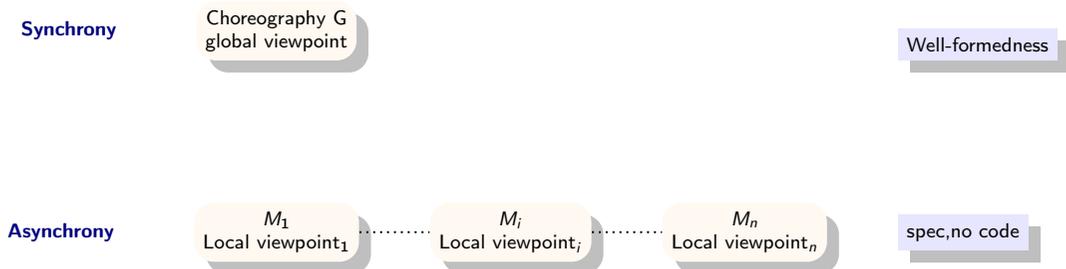
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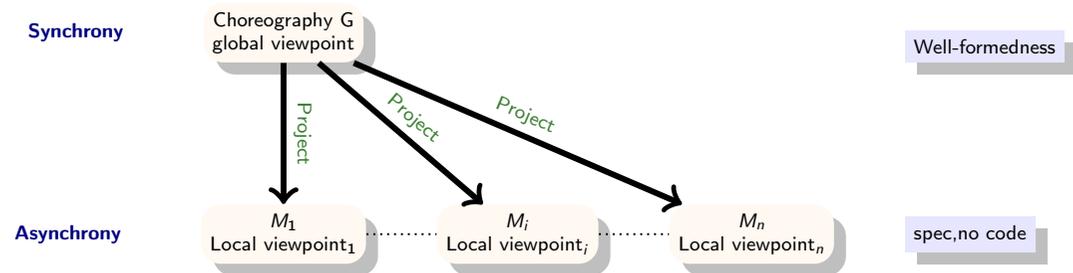
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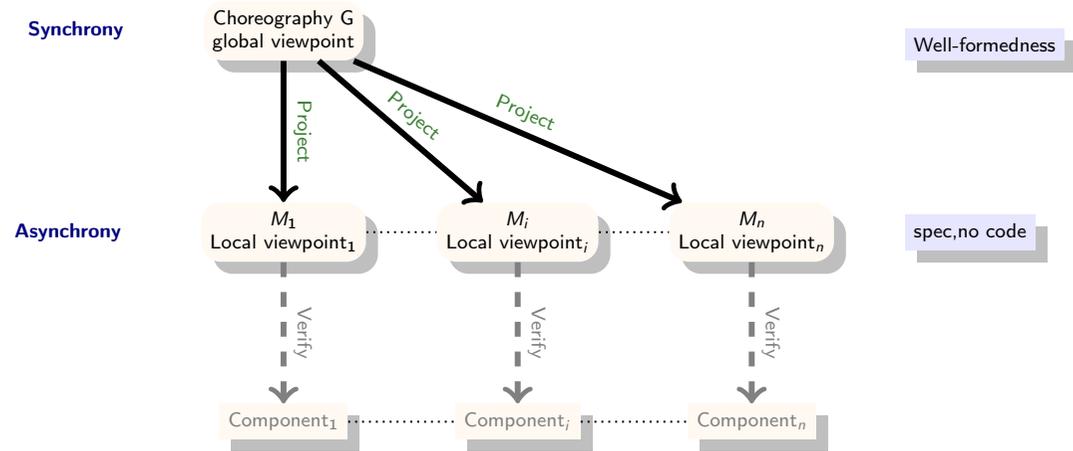
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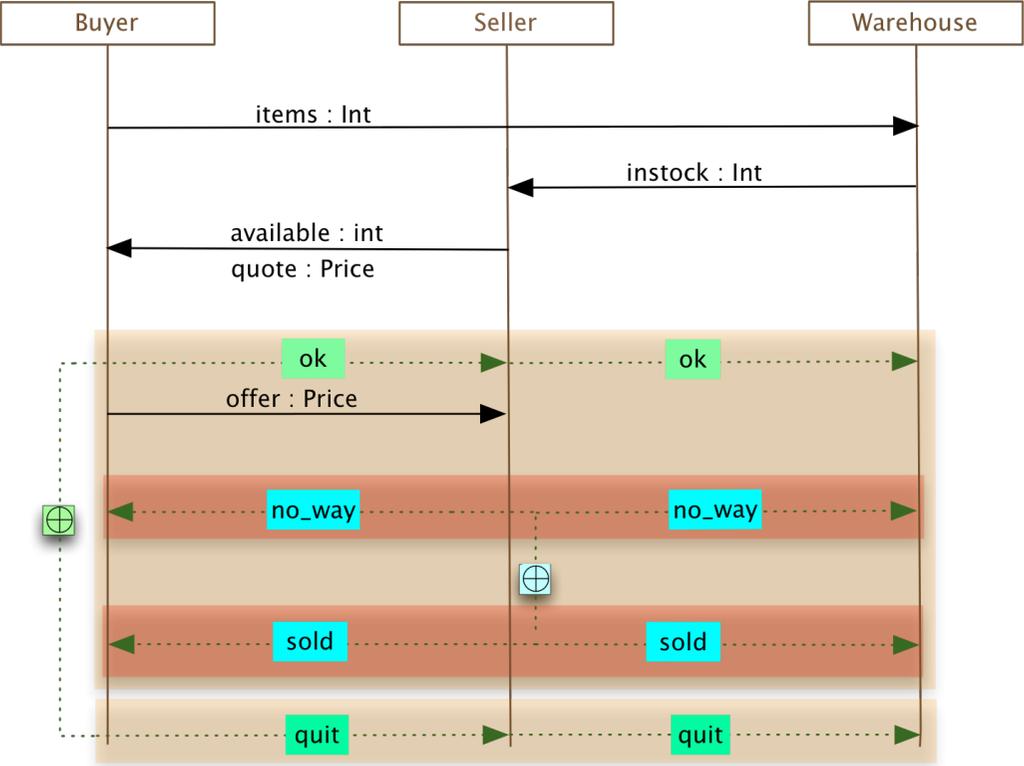
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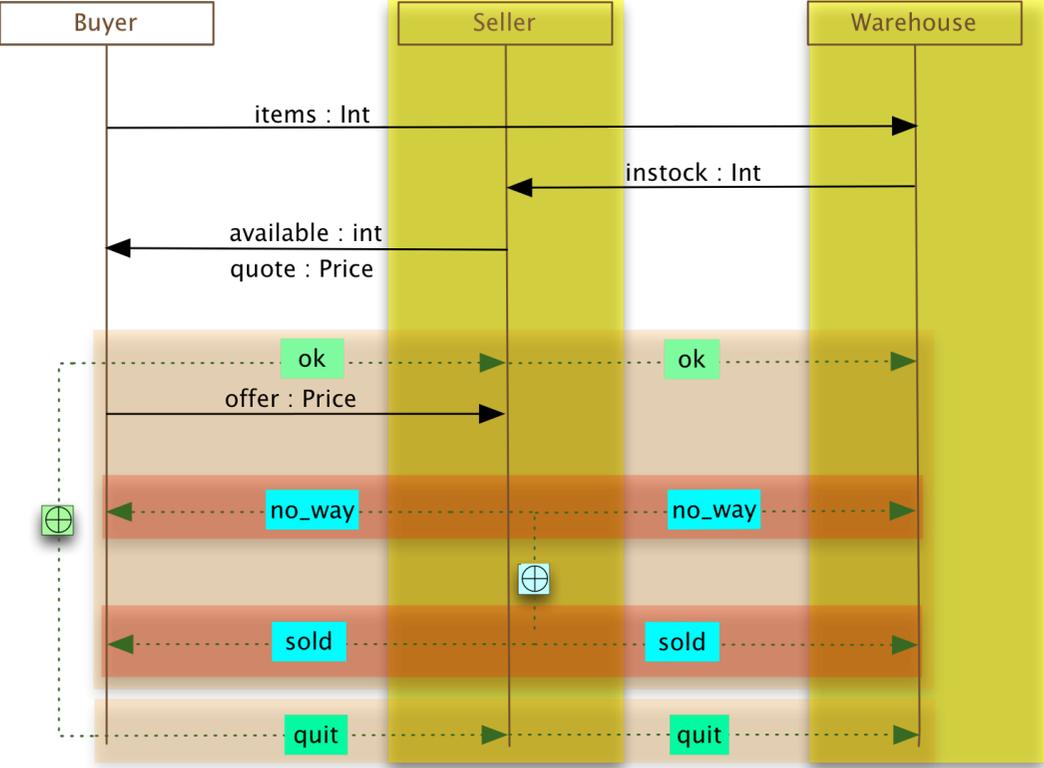


An intuitive account...



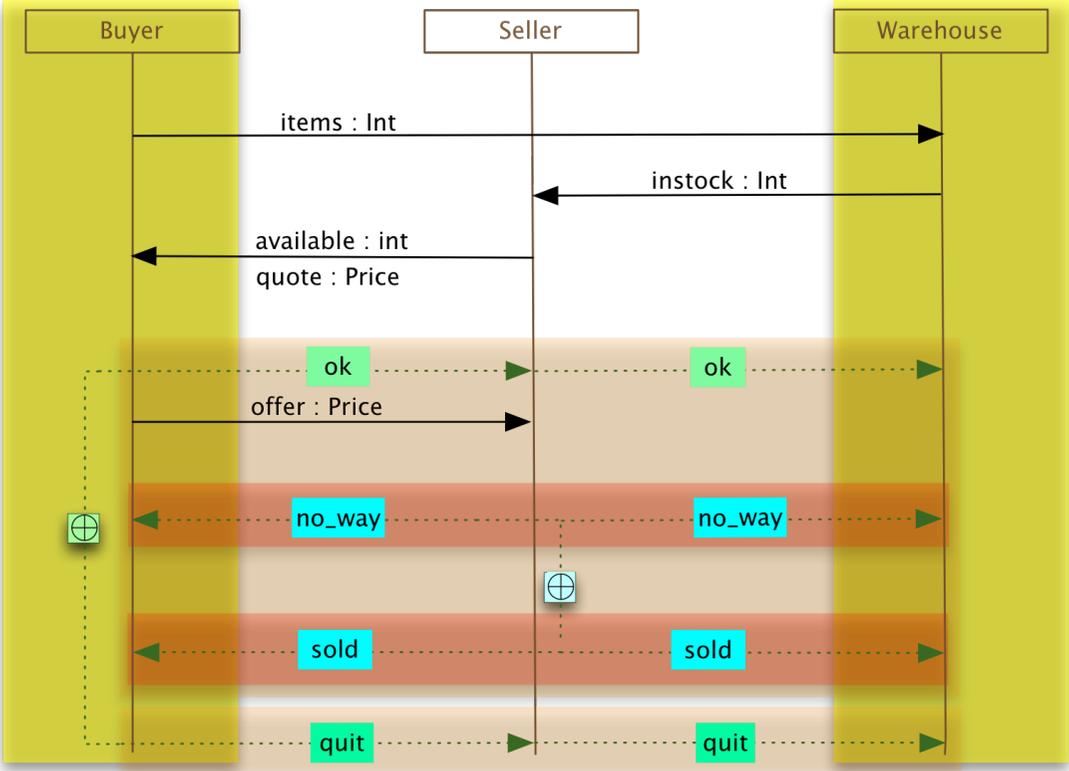
Global viewpoint

An intuitive account...



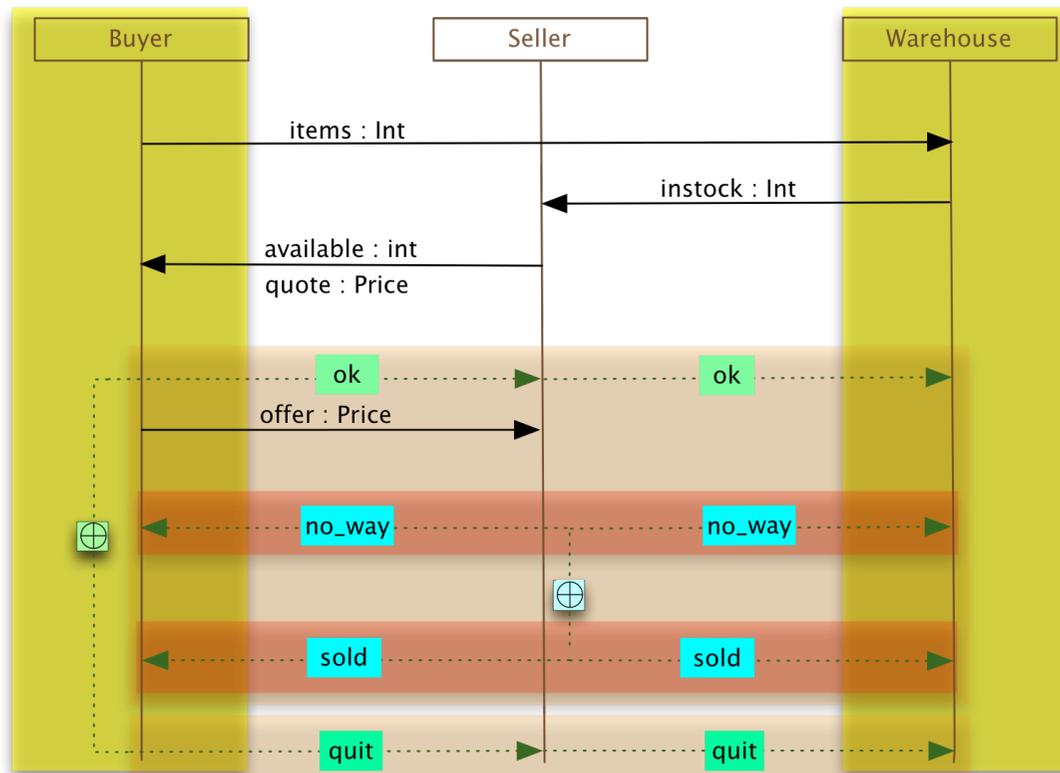
Projecting on **buyer**

An intuitive account...



Projecting on **seller**

An intuitive account...



Projecting on **seller**

Life is harder...recall the bugs of pingpong

Global views...a bit more formally

G-choreographies [9, 5]

$$G, G' ::= \odot \mid A \rightarrow B : m \mid G \mid G' \mid G ; G' \mid G + G' \mid *G$$

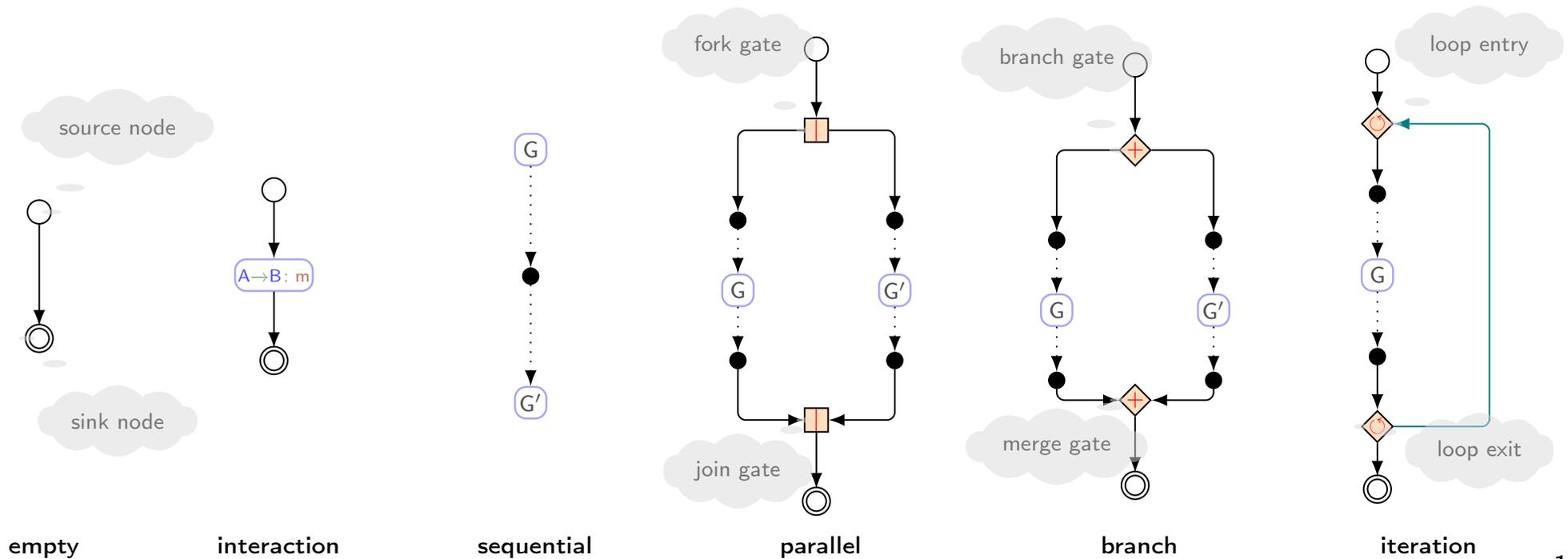
i.e., regular expressions (on an alphabet of **interactions**) with parallel composition

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Global views' semantics as pomsets

A **pomset** on a set \mathcal{E} of **events** is (an isomorphism class of) a **labelled partially-order** $(\mathcal{E}, \lambda, \leq)$, with

- ▶ $\lambda : \mathcal{E} \rightarrow \mathcal{L}$ a labelling function
- ▶ $\leq \subseteq \mathcal{E} \times \mathcal{E}$ reflexive, anti-symmetric, transitive

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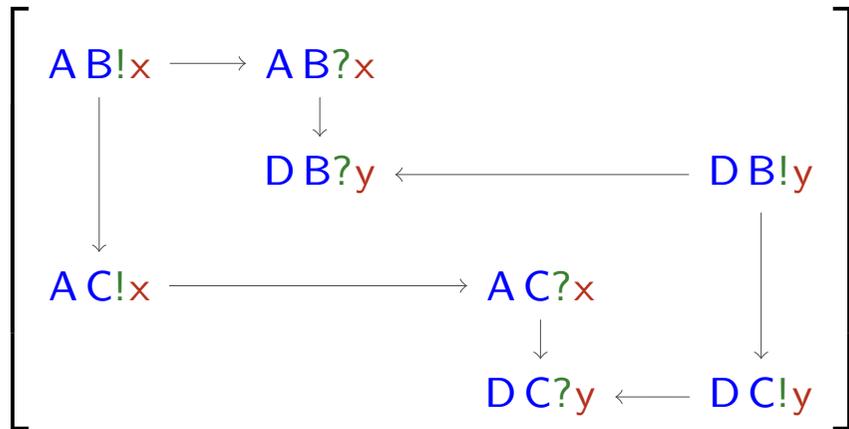
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Communication events: $\mathcal{E} = \mathcal{E}^! \cup \mathcal{E}^?$ where

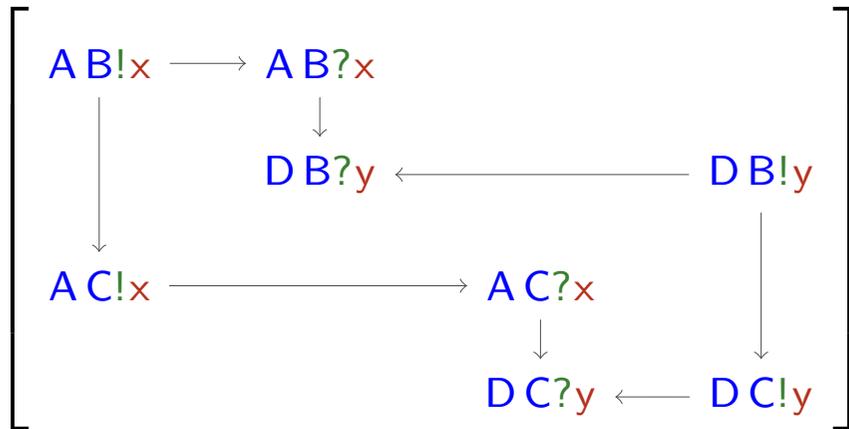
$$\mathcal{E}^! = \mathcal{C} \times \{!\} \times \mathcal{M}$$

$$\mathcal{E}^? = \mathcal{C} \times \{?\} \times \mathcal{M}$$

A simple pomset of communication events



A simple pomset of communication events



Exercise

Find a g-choreography that corresponds to the pomset on the left.
Another unfair question!

Pomsets semantics of g-choreographies

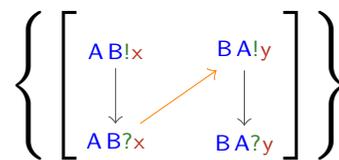
We define $\llbracket \cdot \rrbracket : G \mapsto \text{set of pomsets}$ as

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket \odot \rrbracket &= \{\epsilon\} \\ \llbracket A \rightarrow B : m \rrbracket &= \{[AB!m \rightarrow AB?m]\} \\ \llbracket G \mid G' \rrbracket &= \{[\text{disjoint union of } r \text{ and } r'] \mid (r, r') \in \llbracket G \rrbracket \times \llbracket G' \rrbracket\} \\ \llbracket G ; G' \rrbracket &= \begin{cases} \bigcup_{(r, r') \in \llbracket G \rrbracket \times \llbracket G' \rrbracket} \{\text{seq}(r, r')\} & \text{if } \forall (r, r') \in \llbracket G \rrbracket \times \llbracket G' \rrbracket : \text{ws}(r, r') \\ \text{undef} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \\ \llbracket G + G' \rrbracket &= \begin{cases} \llbracket G \rrbracket \cup \llbracket G' \rrbracket & \text{if } \text{wb}(G, G') \\ \text{undef} & \text{otherwise} \end{cases} \end{aligned}$$

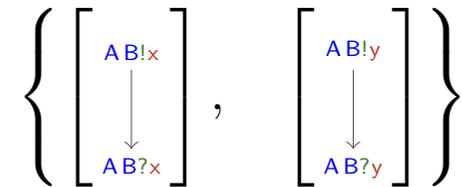
$A \rightarrow B : x \mid A \rightarrow B : y$



$A \rightarrow B : x ; B \rightarrow A : y$



$A \rightarrow B : x + A \rightarrow B : y$



Back to blackboard

Now we can solve the exercise on slide 18.

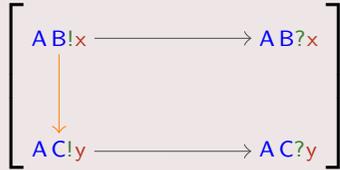
Well-sequencedness

$A \rightarrow B: x; A \rightarrow C: y$



Well-sequencedness

$A \rightarrow B: x; A \rightarrow C: y$



$r = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{sbj A} & \text{sbj B} \end{array} \right]$

$r' = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{sbj A} & \text{sbj B} \end{array} \right]$

Well-sequencedness

$A \rightarrow B: x; A \rightarrow C: y$



$$r = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{subj A} & \text{subj B} \end{array} \right]$$

$$r' = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{subj A} & \text{subj B} \end{array} \right]$$

$$\text{seq}(r, r') = \left[\begin{array}{cc} \text{subj A} & \text{subj B} \\ \text{~~~~~} & \text{~~~~~} \\ \text{subj A} & \text{subj B} \end{array} \right]$$

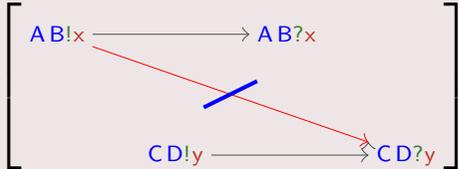
Well-sequencedness

$A \rightarrow B: x; A \rightarrow C: y$



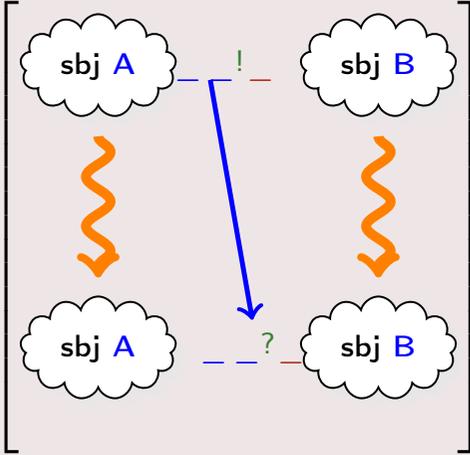
$A \rightarrow B: x; C \rightarrow D: y$

No minimal input "from the continuation"



(and no output in the continuation interfering with "left-inputs")

$ws(r, r')$



Well-branchedness

In a branch $G_1 + G_2$

Well-branchedness

In a branch $G_1 + G_2$

- ▶ there should be **at most one active** participant

non-standard

Well-branchedness

In a branch $G_1 + G_2$

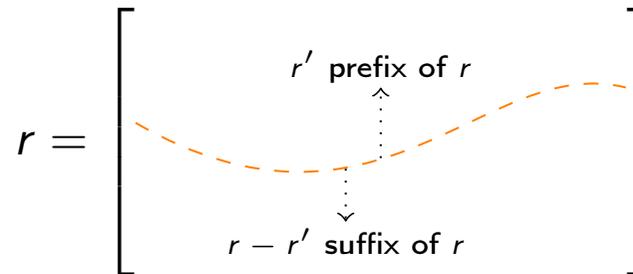
- ▶ there should be **at most one active** participant
- ▶ any non-active participant should be **passive**

non-standard

standard

Problem: Participants do not necessarily “enter” a choice “immediately”

An idea: find a “common part” of the branches for which participants behaves uniformly in G_1 and G_2



Class test

Figure out the graphical structure of the following terms and for each of them say which one is well-branched

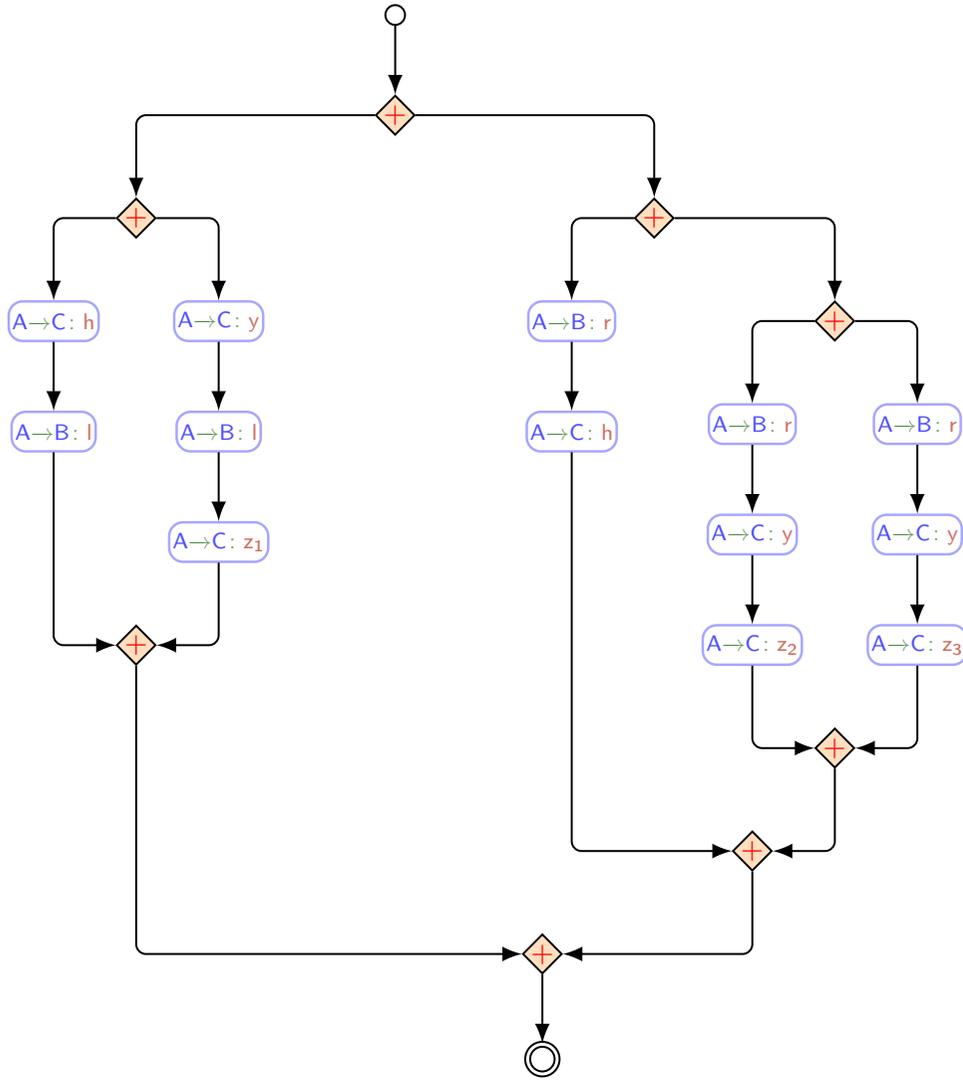
▶ $G_1 = A \rightarrow B: \text{int} + A \rightarrow B: \text{str}$

▶ $G_2 = A \rightarrow B: \text{int} + \odot$

▶ $G_3 = A \rightarrow B: \text{int} + A \rightarrow C: \text{str}$

▶ $G_4 = \left(\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow C: \text{int}; A \rightarrow B: \text{bool} \\ + \\ A \rightarrow C: \text{str}; A \rightarrow C: \text{bool}; A \rightarrow B: \text{bool} \end{array} \right)$

G_{sad} : a difficult choice



$G_{\text{sad}} = G_1 + G_2$ where

$$G_1 = \left(\begin{array}{l} A \rightarrow C: h; A \rightarrow B: l \\ + \\ A \rightarrow C: y; A \rightarrow B: l; A \rightarrow C: z_1 \end{array} \right)$$

$$G_2 = A \rightarrow B: r; A \rightarrow C: h + G_{2a} + G_{2b}$$

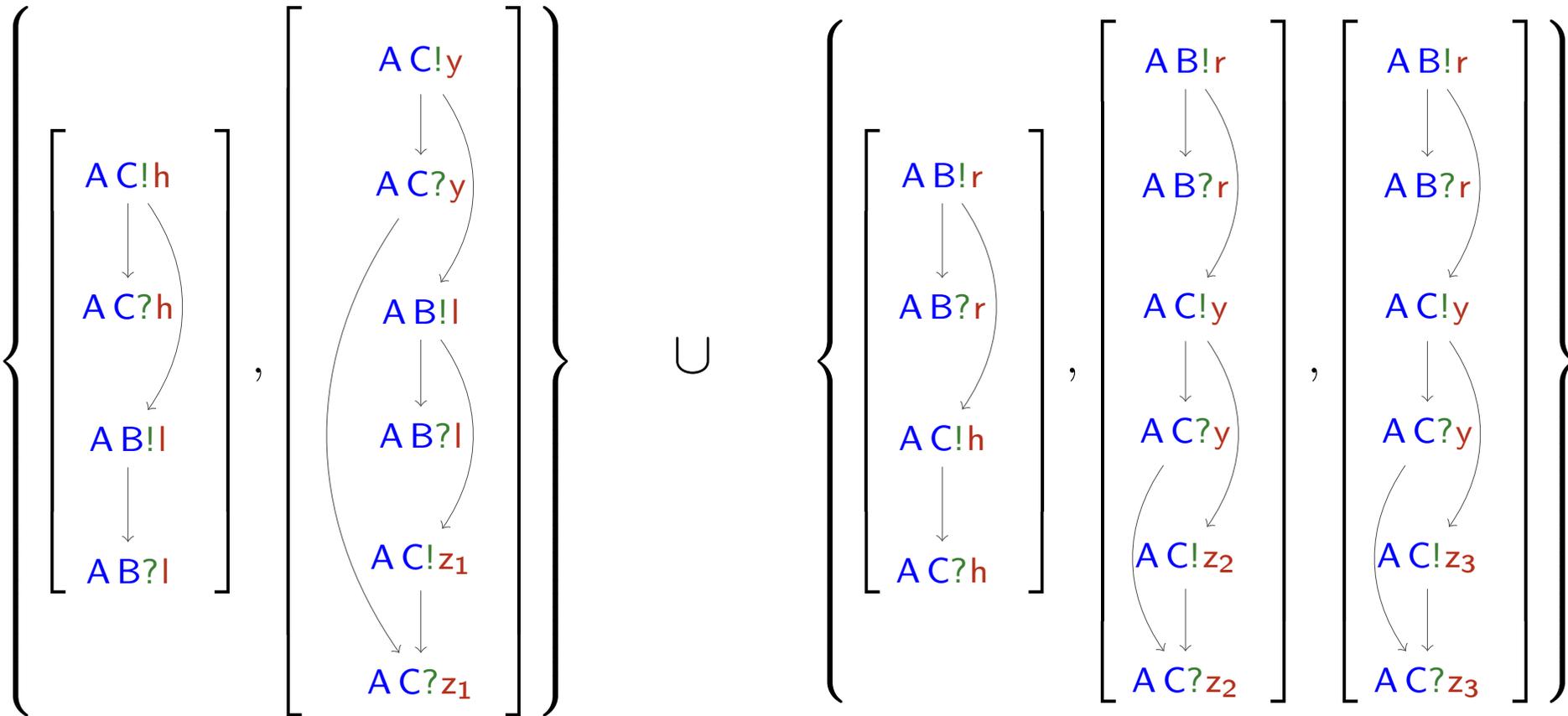
$$G_{2a} = A \rightarrow B: r; A \rightarrow C: y; A \rightarrow C: z_2$$

$$G_{2b} = A \rightarrow B: r; A \rightarrow C: y; A \rightarrow C: z_2$$

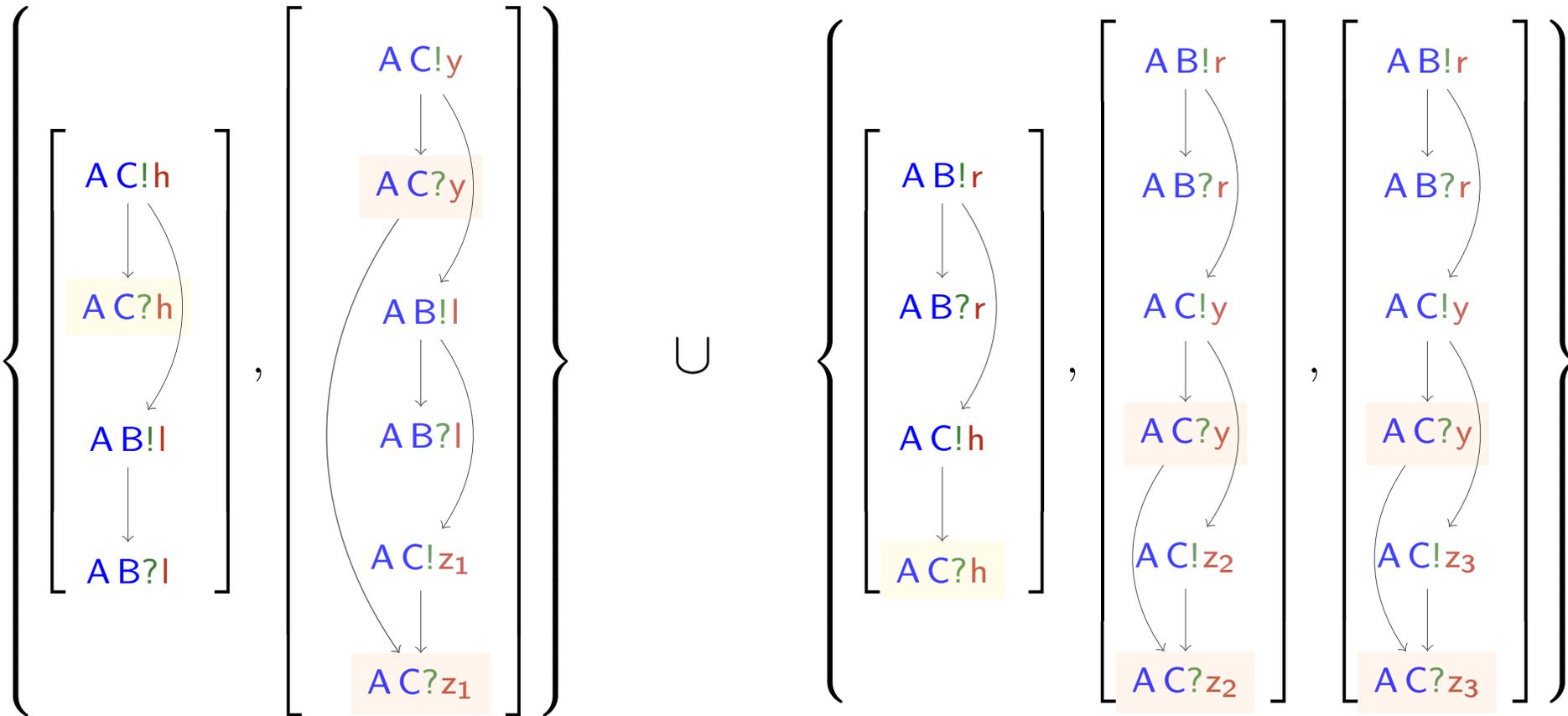
A chooses ... and

- ▶ Whatever B gets, he won't know if A and C exchanged or not h
- ▶ If C gets h, he won't know if A and B exchanged l or r

The pomsets of G 😊



The pomsets of G 😊 ...from C's point of view



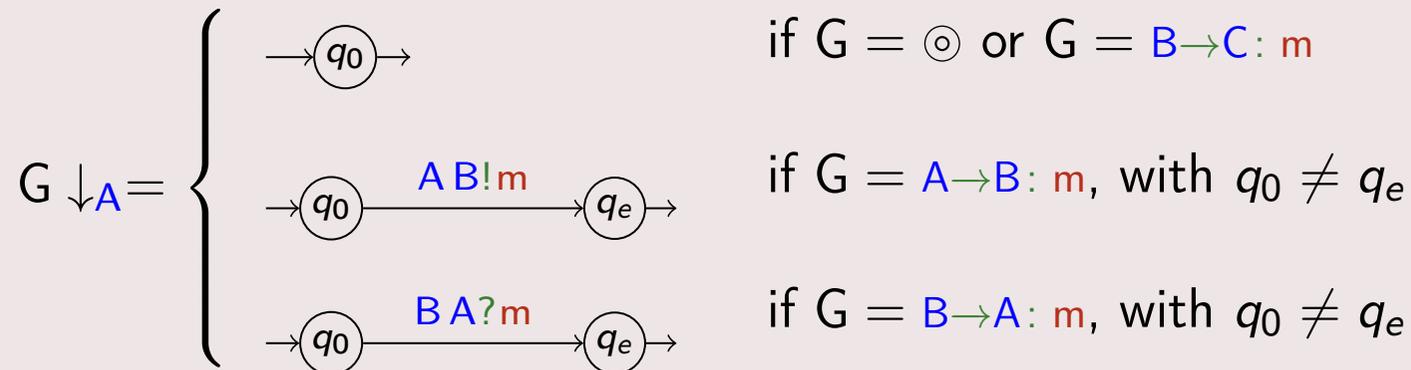
Projecting g-choreographies

Projecting g-choreographies

Technicalities

- ▶ Functions $_ \downarrow_A$ yield the projection of g-choreographies on the participant A as triplets (M, q_0, q_e) with q_0 and q_e initial and terminal states respectively
- ▶ If G_1 and G_2 are sub-terms of G then we “disjointly combine” the states of $G_1 \downarrow_A$ and $G_2 \downarrow_A$; for this we define $(M, q_0, q_e) \otimes \mathbf{1}$ which transforms each state q of M in $(q, 1)$ (and likewise for $(M, q_0, q_e) \otimes \mathbf{2}$)

Base cases



Projecting g-choreographies

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Sequential composition

$$(G_1; G_2) \downarrow_A = \left(M_1 \sqcup \left\{ q_e^1 / q_0^2 \right\} M_2, q_0^1, q_e^2 \right)$$

where $(M_1, q_0^1, q_e^1) = G_1 \downarrow_A \otimes \mathbf{1}$
and $(M_2, q_0^2, q_e^2) = G_2 \downarrow_A \otimes \mathbf{2}$

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Choice

$$(G_1 + G_2) \downarrow_A = \left(\left\{ q_e^2 / q_e^1 \right\} M_1 \sqcup \left\{ q_0^1 / q_0^2 \right\} M_2, q_0^1, q_e^2 \right)$$

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Parallel composition

$$(G_1 \mid G_2) \downarrow_A = (M_1 \times M_2, (q_0^1, q_0^2), (q_e^1, q_e^2))$$

where $(M_1, q_0^1, q_e^1) = G_1 \downarrow_A \otimes \mathbf{1}$
and $(M_2, q_0^2, q_e^2) = G_2 \downarrow_A \otimes \mathbf{2}$

Exercise

Verify that the projection of the g-choreography on 4 are the CFSM on the same slide.

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