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#### History ...

Explicit channel "ends" ...

Alting barriers ...

Output guards ...

Extended rendezvous ...

Poison ...

Future (broadcast channels, generics, networking) ...





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#### Channel "Ends" in JCSP



```
class P implements CSProcess {
```

```
... external channels and local state
```

```
public P (ChannelOutput out, ...) {...}
```

```
public void run () {
    ... initialise local state
    while (running) {
        ... do stuff
        out.write (value);
        ... more stuff
```

Each process gets its own "<mark>ends</mark>" of its external channels



#### Channel "Ends" in JCSP



class Q implements CSProcess {

.. external channels and local state

public Q (ChannelInput in, ...) {...}

Each process gets its own **"ends"** of its external channels

```
public void run () {
    ... initialise local state
    while (running) {
        ... do stuff
        x = (Stuff) in.read ();
        ... more stuff
}
```

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DANGER: any process, having been given a ChannelInput, can cast it into a ChannelOutput and write to it! And vice-versa.

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## **Class Hierarchy<sup>\*</sup> in JCSP 1.1**

ChannelOutput

public write (Object o)

ChannelInput

public Object read ()

One2OneChannel

public ChannelOutput out ()

public ChannelInput in ()

NO DANGER: users see only Java interfaces. The classes behind them are invisible, unrelated by class hierarchy and cannot be cast into each other. Processes must be given correct channel "ends".



All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

Decide whether the "ends" are to be shared:



All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

Decide whether the channels are to be buffered and, if so, how:

Channel.one2one (new Buffer (42))

Channel.any2one (new OverWriteOldestBuffer (8))

Channel.one2any (new OverFlowingBuffer (100))

Channel.any2any (new InfiniteBuffer ())

All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

Decide whether the channels are poisonable and, if so, their immunity:



All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

The channels may be buffered and poisonable:

Channel.one2one (new Buffer (42), 10)

immunity level ...

buffer type

and capacity ...

All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

Arrays of channels – all kinds – may be built in one go:



All channels are made using **static** methods of the **Channel** class.

Channels may be specialised to carry ints:

Channel.one2oneInt ()

Channel.any2oneIntArray (200, new Buffer (42), 10)

In future, channels will be specialised using Java generics ...

## **Channel Summary**

The JCSP process view and use of its external channels:

Unchanged - sees ChannelInput, AltingChannelInput, ChannelOutput, ChannelInputInt, etc.

Increased safety - cannot violate "endianness" ...

A process does not (usually\*) care about the kind of channel – whether it is shared, buffered, poisonable, ...

\* If a process needs to share an external channel-end between many sub-processes, it must be given one that is shareable – i.e. an **Any** end. JCSP 1.1 does cater for this.

## **Channel Summary**

The JCSP network view of channels:

Changed – the correct channel "ends" must be extracted from channels and plugged into the processes using them ...

Increased safety - cannot violate "endianness" ...

A wide range of channel kinds (fully synchronised, buffered, poisonable, typed) are built from the **Channel** class...

JCSP processes work only with *interfaces* both for channels (whatever their kind) and for channel-ends. We think this will prove safer than providing *classes*.



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# **Barrier Synchronisation**

The existing **JCSP Barrier** type corresponds to a multiway **CSP event**, though some higher level design patterns (such as *resignation*) have been built in.



Basic **CSP** semantics apply. When a process **synchronises** on a barrier, it blocks until **all** other processes **enrolled** on the barrier have also **synchronised**. Once the barrier has completed (i.e. all **enrolled** processes have **synchronised**), all blocked processes are rescheduled for execution.

# **Barrier Synchronisation**

The existing **JCSP Barrier** type corresponds to a multiway **CSP event**, though some higher level design patterns (such as *resignation*) have been built in.



However, once a process offers to *synchronise* on a **Barrier**, it is *committed*. In particular, it cannot offer this as part of an **Alternative** – so that it could timeout or choose another synchronisation (e.g. a channel communication or a different barrier) that *was ready to complete*! This is allowed by CSP.

# **Barrier Synchronisation**

The existing **JCSP Barrier** type corresponds to a multiway **CSP event**, though some higher level design patterns (such as *resignation*) have been built in.



Disallowing more than one party in a synchronisation from withdrawing an offer to synchronise ... has been a constraint applied to all practical CSP implementations to date.

The **JCSP AltingBarrier** overcomes this constraint – at least within a single JVM. It uses the fast **'Oracle'** mechanism for choice over multiway synchronisations (presented last year).

## **Alting Barriers – the User View**

An **AltingBarrier** is represented by a family of *front-ends*. Each process must use *its own* front-end (in the same way as a process must use a channel via one or other channel-end).



<pre>final AltingBarrier[] b = AltingBarrier.create</pre>	(n);
<pre>final Worker[] workers = new Worker[n]; for (int i = 0; i &lt; n; i++) {   workers[i] = new Worker (i, b[i]); }</pre>	
' new Parallel (workers).run ();	

## **Alting Barriers – the User View**

To offer to synchronise on an **AltingBarrier**, a process simply includes its *front-end* in a **Guard** array associated with an **Alternative** and invokes a **select()** method.



Its index will be returned *if-and-only-if* all processes currently enrolled on the **AltingBarrier** have made the same offer (using their *front-ends*). Either *all* these processes select their *front-end's* index – or *none* do.



If a process is able to **commit** to synchronise on an **AltingBarrier**, it may **sync()** on its **front-end** (rather than set up an **Alternative** with one **Guard**).

A further shortcut (over an **Alternative**) is provided to *pollwith-timeout* its *front-end* for completion of the **AltingBarrier**.



Further *front-ends* to an **AltingBarrier** may be made from an existing one (through **expand()** and **contract()** methods).

As for the earlier *(committed-only)* **Barrier** class, processes may temporarily **resign()** from an **AltingBarrier** and, later, re-**enrol()**.

A process may communicate a *(non-resigned)* AltingBarrier *front-end* to another process, which must mark() it before use. Only one process at a time may use a *front-end*. This is checked!



The **priselect()** method prioritises the guards *locally* for the process making the offers.

Suppose process  $\mathbf{A}$  offers alting barrier  $\mathbf{x}$  with higher priority than alting barrier  $\mathbf{y}$  ... and process  $\mathbf{B}$  offers  $\mathbf{y}$  with higher priority than  $\mathbf{x}$ . It would be impossible to resolve the choice in favour of either  $\mathbf{x}$  or  $\mathbf{y}$  in any way that satisfied the conflicting requirements of  $\mathbf{A}$  and  $\mathbf{B}$ .



However, **priselect()** is allowed for choices including barrier guards.

It *honours* the respective priorities defined between non-barrier guards.

It *honours* the respective priorities defined between a barrier guard and non-barrier guards (enabling, for example, priority response to *timeouts* or *channel interrupts* over ever-offered barriers).

Relative priorities between barrier guards are *inoperative*.

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The implementation guards against misuse, throwing an **AltingBarrierError** when riled:

Different threads trying to use the same front-end ...

Attempt to enrol whilst enrolled ...

Attempt to use as a guard whilst resigned ...

Attempt to resign, sync, expand, contract or mark whilst resigned ...
An array of **gadgets** control and react to an array of **display** buttons.

Each gadget may configure its button with colour and text and receives click signals if the button is pressed.

The gadgets coordinate "group actions" with an AltingBarrier.



Each **gadget** maintains an individual count. Each **gadget** has two modes of operation, switched **at any time** by a **click** event.

In *individual* mode, a gadget sets its button *green* and *increments* its count as fast as possible, displaying the value as text upon its button.



Each **gadget** maintains an individual count. Each **gadget** has two modes of operation, switched at any time by a click event.

In group mode, a gadget sets its button red and waits for all other gadgets to get into group mode. Whilst waiting, a click on its **button** would return it to **individual** mode.



Each **gadget** maintains an individual count. Each **gadget** has two modes of operation, switched **at any time** by a **click** event.

In *group* mode, a gadget sets its button *red* and waits for all other gadgets to get into *group* mode. Whilst waiting, a *click* on its *button* would return it to *individual* mode.



Each **gadget** maintains an individual count. Each **gadget** has two modes of operation, switched at any time by a click event.

Whilst all are in **group** mode, each **gadget** decrements its count in synchrony with all **gadgets** and as fast as possible, displaying the value as text upon its **button**.



Each **gadget** maintains an individual count. Each **gadget** has two modes of operation, switched **at any time** by a **click** event.

If any **gadget clicks** back to **individual** mode, the **group** work ceases.



#### Play game ...





```
public void run () {
  final Alternative clickGroup =
    new Alternative (new Guard[] {click, group});
  final int CLICK = 0, GROUP = 1;
  int count = 0;
  while (true) {
                                                 click
    ... individual mode
                                       configure
    ... group mode
                                             gadget
                                                         group
```











{{{ make the AltingBarrier (front-ends)

final AltingBarrier[] group = AltingBarrier.create (n);

**}}}** 



```
{{{ make the gadgets
final Gadget[] gadgets = new Gadget[nUnits];
for (int i = 0; i < gadgets.length; i++) {
   gadgets[i] = new Gadget (event[i], group[i], configure[i]);
}
}}</pre>
```





This example has only a single alting barrier. The **JCSP** documentation provides many more examples – including systems with intersecting sets of processes offering multiple multiway barrier synchronisations (one for each set to which they belong), together with timeouts and ordinary channel communications. *There are also some games* ... ③ ④ ④.

The fast **Oracle** for choice over multiway synchronisations is a server database holding information for each barrier and for each process enrolled on a barrier. Its decisions have time complexity linearly dependent on the number of barriers offered – *it does not use a two-phase commit protocol*.

A process **atomically** offers the **Oracle** a set of barriers with which it is prepared to engage and blocks until the **Oracle** tells it which one has been breached.

The **Oracle** simply keeps counts of, and records, all the offer sets as they arrive. If a count for a particular barrier becomes complete (i.e. all enrolled processes have made an offer), it informs the lucky waiting processes and atomically withdraws all their other offers – **before considering any new offers**.

For **JCSP**, the **Oracle** mechanism needs adapting to allow processes to make offers to synchronise that include all varieties of **Guard** – not just **AltingBarrier**S.

The logic of the single Oracle process is also distributed to work with the usual enable/disable sequences implementing the select methods invoked on Alternative. These sequences already record all the offers that have been made – so we just need to maintain countdowns for each AltingBarrier.

The techniques used here for **JCSP** carry over to a similar notion of *alting barriers* for an extended occam- $\pi$ .

The **AltingBarrier.create(n)** method first constructs a hidden base object – *the actual alting barrier* – before constructing and returning the array of **AltingBarrier** frontends. These front-ends reference the base and are chained together. The base object is not shown to **JCSP** users and holds the first link to the chain of front-ends.



The **AltingBarrier** front-ends delegate their **enable()** and **disable()** to the base. The base **enable()** decrements its **nOffersLeft** count and, if zero, resets it to **nEnrolled** and returns **true**. The **disable()** returns **true** if **nOffersLeft** equals **nEnrolled** – otherwise, it increments **nOffersLeft** and returns **false**.



For the **Oracle** logic to work, each full offer set from a process to all its guards must be handled **automically**.

A global lock, therefore, must be obtained and held throughout any **enable** sequence involving an **AltingBarrier**.



For the **Oracle** logic to work, each full offer set from a process to all its guards must be handled **automically**.

A global lock, therefore, must be obtained and held throughout any **enable** sequence involving an **AltingBarrier**.

If the **enables** all fail, the lock must be released before the alting process blocks.

If a barrier **enable** succeeds, the barrier is complete and selected – ignoring any higher priority guards that may become **enabled** later. The lock must continue to be held throughout the consequent **disable** sequence **and** throughout the **disable** sequences of all the other processes that are enrolled on this barrier (triggered by the successful **enable**). **This lock needs to be a counting semaphore.** 

**Disable** sequences (triggered by the successful **non-barrier enable**) do not need to acquire this lock – even if an **AltingBarrier** guard is in the list.



The logic required for a correct implementation of **CSP** external choice is never easy ...

The **JCSP** version just for *channel input* synchronisation required *formalising and model checking* before we got it right.

Our implementation has not (yet) been observed to break under stress testing, but we shall not feel comfortable until this has been repeated for these multiway events. Full LGPL source codes are available from the **JCSP** website.



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#### **Output Guards**

Channel *output guards* were not supported by CSP languages or libraries for the same reason that general *multiway sync guards* were not supported – they enable more than one party to a synchronisation to withdraw, which spoils implementation via simple handshake.



A **SymmetricOne2OneChannel** is the same as an ordinary **One2OneChannel** – except that both its *input* and *output ends* may be offered as *guards* in an ALT.

#### **Output Guards**

**One2OneChannel + AltingBarrier** 

= SymmetricOne2OneChannel

A **SymmetricOne2OneChannel** consists of a **One2OneChannel** and an **alting barrier** with two **front-ends** (**AltingBarrier**s) – one for the **input-end** of the channel and one for the **output-end**.

Offering the *input-end* of the channel simply means offering to synchronise on the *input-end* AltingBarrier. If selected, the **read()** operation is then delegated to the **One2OneChannel**.

Offering the *output-end* of the channel simply means offering to synchronise on the *output-end* AltingBarrier. If selected, the write() operation is then delegated to the One2OneChannel.

#### **Output Guards**

**One2OneChannel + AltingBarrier** 

= SymmetricOne2OneChannel

A **SymmetricOne2OneChannel** consists of a **One2OneChannel** and an **alting barrier** with two **front-ends** (**AltingBarrier**S) – one for the **input-end** of the channel and one for the **output-end**.

A *non-alting (i.e. committed)* read() or write() operation must still be prefixed by a *(committed)* synchronisation on the *alting barrier* – because neither side knows whether the other party is actually committed!

This is a direct application of ideas and theorems proven in Alistair McEwan's thesis (and presented at CPA 2005).



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#### **Standard Communication**





#### **Extended Rendezvous API**

**ChannelInput** has two new methods:



#### **Buffered Extended Rendezvous**

- Extended rendezvous is now allowed on buffered channels.
- **FIFO** 
  - startRead() only "peeks" on FIFO buffers
    endRead() then removes
- Overwriting
   startRead() gets and removes
   endRead() does nothing



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#### Poison

- Used for terminating process networks.
- Poison renders a channel unusable …
   No antidote
- Attempting to use a poisoned channel throws a poison exception in the using process ...
  - Normal action on catching a poison exception:
    - Poison all channel-ends
    - Terminate
## **Poison Propagation**



#### Poison

JCSP introduces poison strength and channel immunity

- Each channel-end has a level of *immunity*.
  - It only succumbs to poison stronger than its immunity
  - Used to contain network poisoning within sub-regions
- Poison strength propagates throughout network:
  - Normally, a process poisons with the strength of the poison in the channel it tried to use.
  - This can result in *non-deterministic* behaviour if two (or more) wave fronts of poison are spreading at the same time.
  - Propagation may depend on the strength of the poison wave front that hits a process first.

#### **Poison Non-determinism**

Here's a happy system ...



The channels are labelled with their immunity levels ...

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# Schedule 1: all are poisoned

Poison (strength 10) hits B, then X, then Y ... all terminate.

Then, poison (strength 5) hits A ... but no further (X is dead).



The channels are labelled with their immunity levels ...

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### Schedule 2: one survives

Poison (strength 5) hits A, then X ... but can't reach Y.

Then, poison (strength 10) hits B ... but no further (X is dead).



The channels are labelled with their immunity levels ...

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#### **Poison API**

- Channel-ends have a new method:
  - void poison (int strength)
- All other channel methods may now throw a PoisonException
  - only if poisoned channels are used (not mandatory)
  - PoisonException has a getStrength() method
- Implementation uses Sputh's algorithm.











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### **Broadcast Channels**

- One-to-many channels
- Implemented with a write phase, then read phase:
  - enforced by barrier synchronisation.



### **Broadcast Channels**

- ALTing should be possible (via ALTing Barriers)
- Poison needs more work
  - Need to make barriers poisonable



# **Java 1.5**

- Channels could use generics
  - Iike C++CSP's templated channels
- New java.util.concurrent package
  - has channel-like objects
    - but no ALTing!
  - has a barrier object
    - but no dynamic enrollment / resignation
    - or ALTing
  - has very low level atomic operations (e.g. CAS)
    - consider re-implementing JCSP sync primitives using these
    - may win some performance

# **Networking**

- Networked barriers
  - currently only supported within a single JVM
- Networked ALTing barriers
  - distribute the Oracle structures?
    - ☞ implies network traffic for each enable/disable ⊗
  - use correct two-phase commit protocol
    - $\sim$  may imply as much network traffic as above  $\otimes$
    - ☞ plus cancelation overheads ⊗
  - combine local Oracle logic with the two-phase commit
    - fast local synchronisation with secure global synchronisation
    - imposing network traffic only when local syncs complete
    - ☞ tricky !!!



- Class re-organisation (internal), channel-ends, new API (for channel creation)
- ALTing barriers
  - Symmetric channels (output guards)
- Extended Rendezvous
- Poison
- Network integrated and extended (JCSP 1.1) released
- See paper for attribution and thanks (lots!)

#### **Resolution Oracle: occam-**π

