

Fair termination for resource-aware active objects

Francesco Dagnino^{*}, Paola Giannini[‡], Violet Ka I Pun[†], Ulises Torrella[†]

June 12, 2025, TYPES 2025

^{*} DIBRIS, Università di Genova, Italy

[‡] DiSSTE, Università del Piemonte Orientale, Italy

[†] Western Norway University of Applied Sciences, Norway

Resource Aware Active Objects

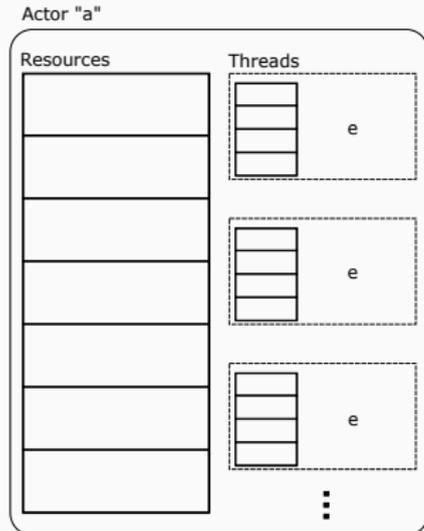
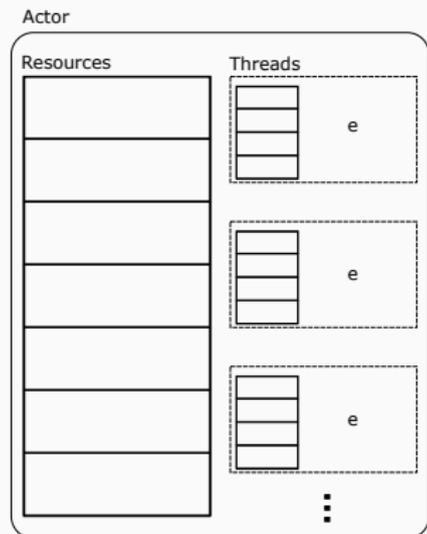
Resource aware active objects

We work on a **resource aware active object language**.

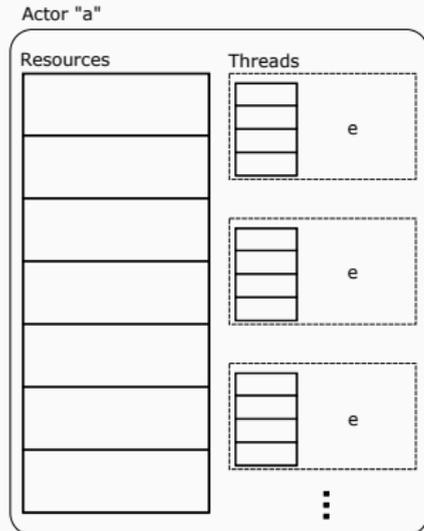
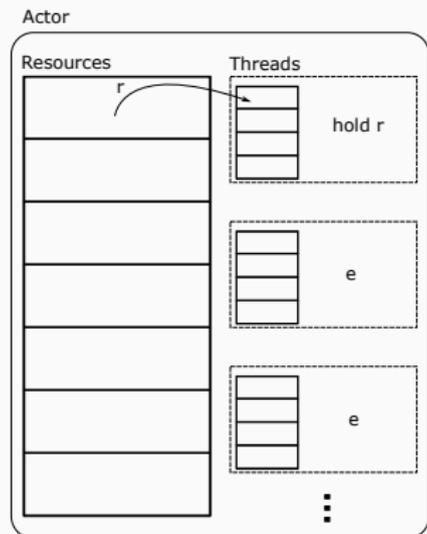
Goal

- model concurrent systems
 - where resources can be limited: linear, affine, bounded, etc.
- guarantee that the implementation has a *correct use of resources*

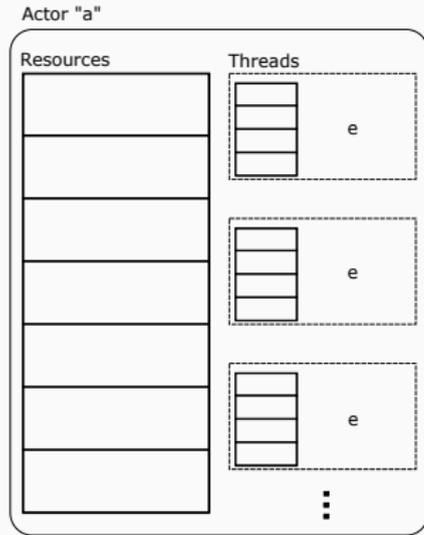
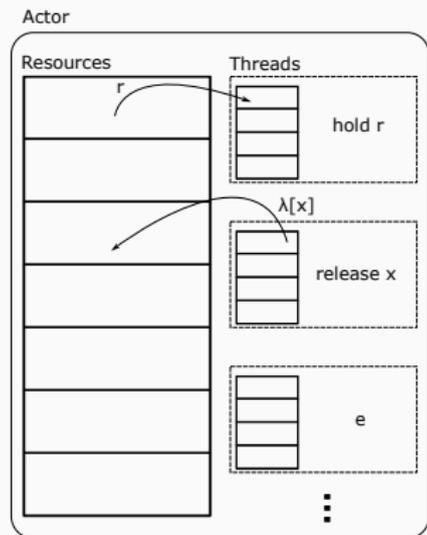
Resource aware active objects



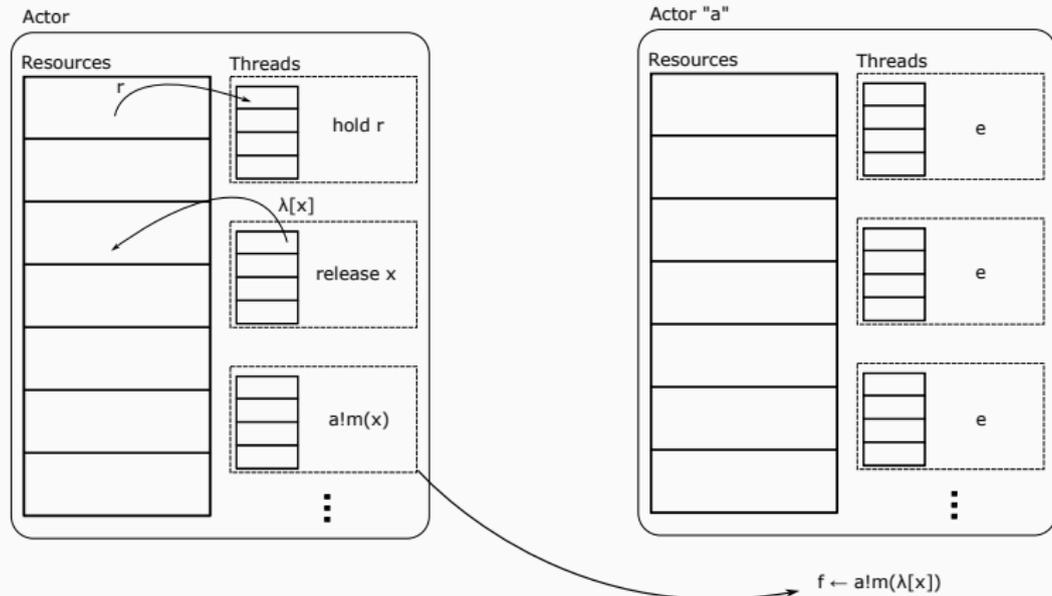
Resource aware active objects



Resource aware active objects



Resource aware active objects



Modelling resources with grades

Grades: Extra annotations on our syntax and type system

$$T^g, x^g, \text{hold } g \ r$$

- quantitatively: linearly, at most once, a bounded amount of times.
- qualitatively: privately or publicly, etc.

Subtractive grade algebra

A grade algebra parametrizes resource-awareness:

It is a structure $G = \langle |G|, \leq, +, \mathbf{0}, - \rangle$ where:

1. $\langle |G|, \leq, +, \mathbf{0} \rangle$ is an ordered commutative monoid
2. for all $g \leq \mathbf{0} \implies g = \mathbf{0}$

Subtractive grade algebra

A grade algebra parametrizes resource-awareness:

It is a structure $G = \langle |G|, \leq, +, \mathbf{0}, - \rangle$ where:

1. $\langle |G|, \leq, +, \mathbf{0} \rangle$ is an ordered commutative monoid
2. for all $g \leq \mathbf{0} \implies g = \mathbf{0}$
3. $-$ is a partial binary function such that for all $g, h, h' \in |G|$:
 - 3.1 if $h - g$ is defined and $h \leq h'$ then $h' - g$ is defined and monotone.
 - 3.2 $g + h' \leq h$ if and only if $h - g$ is defined and $h' \leq h - g$

Linear grade algebra

The linear modality is defined by $\langle |\text{Lin}|, \leq, +, \mathbf{0}, - \rangle$ is defined by $|\text{Lin}| = \{\mathbf{0}, 1, \infty\}$, with $0 \leq \infty$ and $1 \leq \infty$.

$$\mathbf{0} + x = x = x + \mathbf{0}$$

$$x - \mathbf{0} = x$$

$$1 + 1 = \infty$$

$$1 - 1 = \mathbf{0}$$

$$\infty + x = \infty = x + \infty$$

$$\infty - x = \infty$$

Privacy grade algebra

Is given by a join semi-lattice. With $+ = \vee$ and $-$ defined by $h - g = h \iff g \leq h$.

Resource aware active objects

Some characteristics of our calculus

- Actors hold resources only accessible to their executing threads.
- Futures are first-class citizens, but linear.
- Non-deterministic branching.
- Recursion.

```
Actor a {  
   $\rho$ : [rg]  
  
  m1 (...) {...}  
  m2 (...) {...}  
  ...  
}
```

The semantics

The expression level is the code that is executed by *actors*.

The expression level

```
e ::= a!m( $\overline{ve}$ ) | ve?  
    | hold g r | release g ve  
    | let x = e1 in e2 | e1  $\oplus$  e2  
    | return ve  
ve ::= xg | x | v  
v  ::= rg | f | unit
```

The behaviour of expressions is defined by a labeled relation:

$$e \xrightarrow[r]{w} e'$$

The process level

$$\begin{aligned} P ::= & a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f \mid a^\circ[\lambda \mid e]^f \\ & \mid \text{idle}^a \mid \\ & \mid f \leftarrow v \mid f \leftarrow a!m(\bar{v}) \\ & \mid P \parallel Q \end{aligned}$$
$$\begin{aligned} \rho ::= & \overline{r^g} \\ \Phi ::= & \overline{a : \rho} \\ \sigma ::= & \Phi \parallel P \end{aligned}$$

The semantics

The process level

$$\begin{aligned} P & ::= a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f \mid a^\circ[\lambda \mid e]^f \\ & \mid \text{idle}^a \mid \\ & \mid f \leftarrow v \mid f \leftarrow a!m(\bar{v}) \\ & \mid P \parallel Q \end{aligned}$$

$$\begin{aligned} \rho & ::= \overline{r\bar{g}} \\ \Phi & ::= \overline{a:\rho} \\ \sigma & ::= \Phi \parallel P \end{aligned}$$

$$P \parallel Q \bowtie Q \parallel P$$

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{if } fp(P) \cap fr(Q) = \emptyset \\ & \text{and } fp(Q) \cap fr(P) = \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

$$\text{idle}^a \parallel a^\circ[\lambda \mid e]^f \triangleright a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f$$

$$a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f \triangleright \text{idle}^a \parallel a^\circ[\lambda \mid e]^f \quad \text{if } \lambda \mid e \xrightarrow{f' \leftarrow v}$$

The semantics

The process level

$$\begin{array}{l} P ::= a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f \mid a^\circ[\lambda \mid e]^f \\ \quad \mid \text{idle}^a \mid \\ \quad \mid f \leftarrow v \mid f \leftarrow a!m(\bar{v}) \\ \quad \mid P \parallel Q \end{array} \qquad \begin{array}{l} \rho ::= \overline{r^g} \\ \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho} \\ \sigma ::= \Phi \parallel P \end{array}$$

$$\text{(HOLD)} \frac{\lambda \mid e \xrightarrow{\text{hold } r^g} \lambda' \mid e'}{\Phi, a : \rho, r^h \parallel a^\bullet[\lambda \mid e]^f \longrightarrow \Phi, a : \rho, r^{h-g} \parallel a^\bullet[\lambda' \mid e']^f}$$

The Type System

The type system

Contexts

$$\Gamma ::= \overline{x : T} \quad \Sigma ::= \overline{f : \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle} \quad \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho}$$

Types

$$T ::= \text{Unit} \mid r^g \mid \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle$$

The type system

Contexts

$$\Gamma ::= \overline{x : T} \quad \Sigma ::= \overline{f : \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle} \quad \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho}$$

Types

$$T ::= \text{Unit} \mid r^g \mid \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle$$

To type an expression we consider resources going in and out:

$$\Phi \vdash e : T; \Phi'$$

The type system

Contexts

$$\Gamma ::= \overline{x : T} \quad \Sigma ::= \overline{f : \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle} \quad \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho}$$

The full typing judgement for expressions:

$$\Phi; \Sigma; \Gamma \vdash_a e : T; \Phi'$$

The type system

Contexts

$$\Gamma ::= \overline{x : T} \quad \Sigma ::= \overline{f : \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle} \quad \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho}$$

The full typing judgement for expressions:

$$\Phi; \Sigma; \Gamma \vdash_a e : T; \Phi'$$

The typing judgement for processes:

$$\Phi; \Sigma \vdash P :: \Sigma'$$

The type system

Contexts

$$\Gamma ::= \overline{x : T} \quad \Sigma ::= \overline{f : \text{Fut}\langle T, \Phi \rangle} \quad \Phi ::= \overline{a : \rho}$$

One more thing:

The full typing judgement for expressions:

$$\Phi; \Sigma; \Gamma \vdash_a^n e : T; \Phi'$$

The typing judgement for processes:

$$\Phi; \Sigma \vdash^n P :: \Sigma'$$

A terminated configuration is only conformed of idle actors and resolved messages ($f \leftarrow v$)

The type system

Typing a let expression must track resources:

$$\text{(T-LET)} \frac{\begin{array}{c} \Phi_1; \Sigma_1; \Gamma_1 \vdash_a^m e_1 : T'; \Phi'_1 + \Phi'_2 \\ \Phi_2 + \Phi'_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma_2, x : T' \vdash_a^n e_2 : T; \Psi_2 \end{array}}{\Phi_1 + \Phi_2; \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2; \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 \vdash_a^{1+n+m} \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : T; \Phi'_2 + \Psi_2}$$

The type system

Typing a let expression must track resources:

$$\text{(T-LET)} \frac{\begin{array}{c} \Phi_1; \Sigma_1; \Gamma_1 \vdash_a^m e_1 : T'; \Phi'_1 + \Phi'_2 \\ \Phi_2 + \Phi'_1; \Sigma_2; \Gamma_2, x : T' \vdash_a^n e_2 : T; \Psi_2 \end{array}}{\Phi_1 + \Phi_2; \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2; \Gamma_1 + \Gamma_2 \vdash_a^{1+n+m} \text{let } x = e_1 \text{ in } e_2 : T; \Phi'_2 + \Psi_2}$$

Typing a parallel composition must control futures:

$$\text{(T-PAR)} \frac{\begin{array}{c} \Phi_1; \Sigma_1 \vdash^n P :: \Sigma'_1, \Sigma''_1 \\ \Phi_2; \Sigma_2, \Sigma'_1 \vdash^m Q :: \Sigma'_2 \end{array}}{\Phi_1 + \Phi_2; \Sigma_1, \Sigma_2 \vdash^{n+m} P \parallel Q :: \Sigma'_2, \text{mark}(\Sigma'_1), \Sigma''_1} \quad \begin{array}{c} \text{dom}(\Sigma''_1) \\ \cap \\ \text{dom}(\Sigma_2) \end{array} = \emptyset$$

We say that our system is correct if it is resource-safe.

Resource safe: every hold will be successful

We say that our system is correct if it is resource-safe.

Resource safe: every hold will be successful

Theorem (Subject reduction)

If $\Phi; \Sigma \vdash_{\Theta}^n \sigma :: \Sigma'$ and $\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma'$, then it exists Ψ, m, Ω' such that $\Psi; \Sigma \vdash_{\Theta}^m \sigma' :: \Omega'$, where $\Omega' = \Sigma', \text{mark}(\Omega'')$ with Ω'' fresh.

Theorem (Weak termination)

If $\Phi; \emptyset \vdash^n \sigma :: \Sigma'$ then there exists a reduction $\sigma \longrightarrow^ \sigma'$ such that σ' is terminated.*

Theorem (Fair termination)

If $\Phi; \emptyset \vdash^n \sigma :: \Sigma'$, then if $\sigma \longrightarrow \sigma'$ implies σ' is weakly terminating.

Well-typed configurations are fairly terminating,

\implies we know it can never be stuck,

\implies it's **resource-safe**.

Moreover, it cannot be live-locked, and there cannot be orphan messages.

Conclusion and Future work

We introduce an active object language for workflow modelling with parametrized resource-awareness.

We implement a type system that guarantees that all modelled workflow systems are resource-safe.

Conclusion and Future work

We introduce an active object language for workflow modelling with parametrized resource-awareness.

We implement a type system that guarantees that all modelled workflow systems are resource-safe.

Future work:

- Make the system fully object-oriented
- Graded futures

Conclusion and Future work

We introduce an active object language for workflow modelling with parametrized resource-awareness.

We implement a type system that guarantees that all modelled workflow systems are resource-safe.

Future work:

- Make the system fully object-oriented
- Graded futures

Thanks for your attention,
questions?