Specification and verification of embedded systems with Event B

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Outline

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1. Introduction
2. Modelling with Event-B
3. Examples - Case studies
4. Case study: embedded system construction
5. Application
6. Software Specification
7. Case study: readers-writers
**Event-B: Some References**

- *Applying Event and Machine Decomposition to a Flash-Based Filestore in Event-B*. Damchoom, Kriangsak and Butler, Michael; 2009.
- *Faultless Systems: Yes We Can!*, Jean-Raymond Abrial, 2009
- *Closed-Loop Modelling of Cardiac Pacemaker and Heart*, Dominique Méry, Neeraj Kumar Singh, 2012

**Embedded systems features**

**Embedded system**
An embedded system is a computer system with a dedicated function within a larger mechanical or electrical system, often with real-time computing constraints. (Wikipedia)

**Main features**
Small/medium size; task specific; interaction with hardware; low power consumption; can run for long time in some devices; errors can be critical; cannot be repaired; can be standalone or not;

**Requirements**
Rigorous design and implementation mechanisms and techniques. **Software needs to be correct, reliable, dependable**: rigorous methods.
Introduction

Example: landing gear system

Figure: Architecture of a landing gear system (Boniol & Wiels, 2014)

Global architecture of embedded/control system

Figure: View of an embedded system (a)  Figure: View of an embedded system (b)

But, this is very abstract!

Details (refinement)

**Hard part** = Control Process Unit + Memory (ROM and RAM), Input Devices, Output Devices, Comm Interfaces, Specific devices/materials
**Introduction**

**Refined global architecture of embedded system**

![Diagram of embedded system architecture](image)

**Figure:** Architecture of embedded system

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**Introduction**

**Design of embedded system**

Ideally,

- codesign: System on Chip (SoC)
- System engineering → Top-down approach
- Hybrid modelling

**Some existing approaches and tools**

Tools like MatLab, Simulink, LabView, Esterel, SysML, ...
ICE (In Circuit Emulator) to integrate Hw/Sw (when Hw is unavailable); but specific to each processor.

**Event-B:** A top-down development method, dedicated to system engineering, equipped with tools, extensible.
Global architecture of embedded system in Event-B

Figure: Architecture of embedded system in Event-B

**Introduction**

**Event B Specification Approach**

Correct-by-construction: build correctly the systems (abstraction, modelling, refinement, composition/decomposition, proof)

Some hints to formal methods:

- Formal methods are **rigorous engineering tools**.
- Formal methods are **means to build** executable code from software requirement documents (informal, natural language).
- **Requirement Documents** (provided by clients) **should be rewritten** after analysis and understanding into **Reference Document** (where every thing is made clear and properly labelled for traceability).
B Method and Event B

- Event-B is an extension of the B-method (J-R. Abrial).
- It is devoted
  - for system engineering (both hardware and software), top-down approach
  - for specifying and reasoning about complex systems: concurrent and reactive systems.
- Event-B comes with a new modelling framework called Rodin.
  (like Atelier B tool for the classical B)
- The Rodin platform is an Eclipse-based open and extensible tool for B model specification and verification.
  It integrates various plugins: B Model editors, proof-obligation generator, provers, model-checkers, UML transformers, etc.

Yet used in various case studies and real cases:
- Train signalling system
- Mechanical press system
- Access control system
- Air traffic information system
- Filestore system
- Distributed programs
- Sequential programs
- Cardiac Pacemaker
- etc
**Introduction**

**Event B Modelling: principles**

*Observe* the behaviour of any system; what matters?

- A *set of changes* of its states.
- But, the *observation distance* does matter!
  (the details may be observed or not: parachutist paradigm)
- The *observation focus* does matter!
  (the observed changes are not the same)
- Different points of view = *several abstractions.*

---

**Remind B Specification Approach**

**Figure: Do it right with B**

```plaintext
VARIABLES
  x, y, z, ...
INARIANT
  Inv(x,y,z, ...)
OPERATIONS
  ti = ...
  tj = ...
  tk = ...
```

---
**B Method: general development approach**

**Event B Specification Approach**

Event B Specification: start with **Abstract system** or Abstract model

An **abstract system** is a mathematical model of an **asynchronous system behaviour**

System behaviour: described by **events** which are observed!

**Events are guarded actions/substitutions**

Event occurrences involve a State-transition model.

A **system model** is a state-based model equipped with events
**Event B Development Structuring**

- Start with an Abstract system (or abstract model)

- **Refinement** of data and events
  The parachutist paradigm / microscope paradigm (JR Abrial)

- **Decomposition** (of a system into sub-systems, Hw, Sw)

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**B Abstract System**

- **Variables**

- **Predicate**

- **Events**

  ```
  SYSTEM
  SETS ...
  VARIABLES
  ...
  INVARIANT
  ...
  ... predicate
  INITIALISATION
  ...
  EVENTS
  ...
  END
  ```

  but structured more efficiently using **Contexts** and **machines**.
Remind! Capturing the correct state space and events

**Figure**: Events should preserve correct states

The behaviour of a discrete system is a sequence of changes (system transitions).

The changes may be internal or enabled by external signals.

Each event describes the occurrence of a change in the discrete system under modelisation.

\[
\text{event} = \text{when } \text{Conditions} \text{ then } \text{Effects}
\]

- Event B uses Guards and Actions [Dijkstra]
- But, the behaviour of a system may/should be captured gradually.
Formal Description of Events

An event has one of the following general forms (Fig. 10)

\[
\text{name } \equiv \text{/* event name */}
\]

\[
\text{WHEN } \text{/* the guard */}

P(gcv)
\]

\[
\text{THEN}

GS(gcv)
\]

\[
\text{END}
\]

(WHEN/SELECT Form)

\[
\text{name } \equiv \text{/* event name */}
\]

\[
\text{ANY } \text{bv WHERE}

P(bv, gcv)
\]

\[
\text{THEN}

GS(bv, gcv)
\]

\[
\text{END}
\]

(ANY Form)

Figure: General forms of events

gcv denotes the global constants and variables of the abstract;

bv denotes the local bound variables of the event;

\(P(bv, gcv)\) a predicate.

An event without guard has the following form:

\[
\text{name } \equiv \text{/* event name */}
\]

\[
\text{BEGIN}

GS(gcv)
\]

\[
\text{END}
\]
Abstract System (or a model, or a machine)

- The **guard** of an event with the WHEN form is: \( P(gcv) \).
- The **guard** of an event with the ANY form is: \( \exists (bv).P(bv, gcv) \).
- The WHEN form is a particular case of the other.
- The action associated to an event is modeled with a generalized substitution using the variables accessible to the event: \( GS(bv, gcv) \).

Abstract System: Semantics and Consistency

An abstract system describes a mathematical model that simulates the behaviour of a system.
Its semantics arises from the invariant and is ensured by proof obligations (PO).
The consistency of the model is established by such proof obligations.

Consistency of an event B model

- PO: the initialisation establishes the invariant
- PO: each event of the abstract system preserves the invariant of the model

\( I(gcv) \) the invariant and \( GS(bv, gcv) \) the generalized substitution modelling the event action.
Abstract System: Semantics and Consistency

- the initialisation establishes the invariant:
  \[ [U]Inv \]

- each event preserves the invariant:
  In the case of an event with the \textsc{Any} form, the proof obligation is:
  \[
  I(gcv) \land P(bv, gcv) \land \text{prd}_v(S_e) \Rightarrow [GS(bv, gcv)]I(gcv)
  \]

Moreover the events (e) terminate:
\[
I(Gcv) \land eGuard \Rightarrow fis(eBody)
\]

(note \( eBody = S_e \))

The predicate \( fis(S) \) expresses that \( S \) does not establish \( False \):
\[
fis(S) \leftrightarrow \neg [S]False
\]

ie
\[
I(Gcv) \land eGuard \Rightarrow \neg [S]False
\]

The predicate \( \text{prd}_v(S) \) is the \textit{before-after predicate} of the substitution \( S \); it relates the values of state variables just before (\( v \)) and just after (\( v' \)) the substitution \( S \), also written \( BA_v(v, v') \).

The \( \text{prd}_v(\text{\textsc{Any}} x \text{ WHERE } P(x, v) \text{ THEN } v := S(x, v) \text{ END}) \) \textit{is}:
\[
\exists x. (P(x, v) \land v' = S(x, v))
\]
Example: producer/consumer

Features: Concurrency and synchronization

- Concurrent running of a process consumer which retrieves a data from a buffer filled by another process producer.
- The consumer cannot retrieve an empty buffer and the producer cannot fill in a buffer already full.

An event-driven model of the system is as follows:

```
Machine ProdCons /* the abstract model */
sets
  DATA ; STATE = {empty, full}
variables
  buffer, bufferstate, bufferc
invariants
  bufferstate ∈ STATE ∧ buffer ∈ DATA ∧ bufferc ∈ DATA
initialization
  bufferstate := empty || buffer := DATA || bufferc := DATA
events
  produce ≜ /* if buffer empty */
    any dd where dd ∈ DATA ∧ bufferstate = empty
    then buffer := dd || bufferstate := full
  end ;
  consume ≜ /* if buffer is full */
    select bufferstate = full
    then bufferc := buffer || bufferstate := empty
  end
```

Figure: A Producer-Consumer Abstract System
Structuring Event-B Models

An event-B model is structured with
- **Contexts** that contain carrier sets, axioms and theorems (seen by various machines)
- **Machines** which see the contexts and define a state space (static part: variables + labelled invariants) and a dynamic part made of some events.
- A context may be extended; a machine may be refined.

### Refinement: principles

- **Data refinement**
  (as usually: new variables + properties; binding invariant)
- **Event Refinement** *(extended)*:
  - **Strengthening guards** (unlike with Classical B)
    More variables are introduced with their properties.
  - **Each event of the concrete system refines an event of the abstraction.**
  - **Introduction of new events** which refine skip, and use new variables.
Refinement: principles

Let $A$ with Invariant: $I(\text{av})$

$$\text{evt}_a \equiv /* \text{Abs. ev. } */$$
$$\text{when } P(\text{av})$$
$$\text{then } GS(\text{av})$$
$$\text{end}$$

avec $\text{prd}_v(...) = B_a(\text{av}, \text{av'})$

Refined with: Invariant $J(\text{av, cv})$

$$\text{evt}_r \equiv /* \text{Conc. ev. } */$$
$$\text{when } Q(\text{cv})$$
$$\text{then } GS(\text{cv})$$
$$\text{end}$$

avec $\text{prd}_v(...) = B_c(\text{cv}, \text{cv'})$

Proof obligation:

$$I(\text{av}) \land J(\text{av, cv}) \land Q(\text{cv}) \land B_c(\text{cv}, \text{cv'}) \Rightarrow \exists \text{cv'}.(B_a(\text{av}, \text{av'}) \land J(\text{av'}, \text{cv'}))$$

Event B Tools

- First generation tools
  - Translation into classical B
  - B4free, Click’n’Prove
- New generation tools: DataBase, Eclipse Plugins, ...
  - Rodin (From several EU Projects: Matisse, Deploy, etc)
Refinement: structuring models

Refinement = development technique: various refinement strategies.

Horizontal refinement (feature augmentation)
From a small and abstract to a larger abstract model. Details are gradually introduced in an abstract model in order to make it more precise (wrt to requirements).

Vertical refinement: From abstract to more concrete models
Details are gradually introduced in an abstract model
The specifier introduces new variables and makes some choices
Events may be split: event decomposition
machines may be split too: machine decomposition
Vertical Refinement: machine decomposition

A coarse grain event is analysed and described in a more detailed (fine grain) way. Think about the transfer of a file via a network.

- A given change consists of:
  - start by sub-change...;
  - follow by sub-change...;
  - end by sub-change...;
- Hence, at least one sub-change (an event), refines the abstract event.
Machine Decomposition: structuring models

A coarse grain model is analysed and described in a more detailed (fine grain) way. Think about a system involving software and physical devices.

- A given model is made of variables that model purely physical devices, and events are associated only to these variables.
- The splitting is based on variables splitting (but not always straightforward).
- Divide and conquer: a small model is more tractable than a huge one.

Decomposition enables one to break complexity, to structure and develop more easily.

Machine Decomposition: structuring models

Machine variables and events are partitioned into sub-machines.

- **Decomposition with Abrial’s style (shared variables):** the sub-machines may interact with each other via shared variables. Shared variables are duplicated, new external-events are introduced in each machine that has a shared variable in order to ensure consistency of changes.

- **Decomposition with Butler’s style:** the variables are not shared; an event which uses variables in separate machines, is shared (then separated-duplicated). The sub-machines may interact with each other via synchronisation over shared parameterised events.

Event-B Model Decomposition, C. Pascal(Systerel), R. Silva(Univ. of Southampton)
Event-B Model - Example: File transfer protocol

Specification of a file transfer between two sites: a sender and a receiver.

A file is made of a set of data records.
From a very abstract level, the transfer is done **instantaneously**.
But, a file is made of a set of data records which are to be transferred through a channel.

From a more concrete level, the transfer is achieved step by step, one record after the other.
There are some intermediary operations, to send data on the channel from the sender side, to receive data from the channel from the receiver side. In the same way acknowledgements are sent/received.

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Only after all the intermediary operations, the transfer will be completed.
Senderfile = some data records = \( 1..nr \rightarrow DATA \)

{1 \( \mapsto \) data1, 2 \( \mapsto \) data2, \( \cdots \) }

- A channel is a set of such data records.
- At each time, the channel contains a part (set inclusion) of the sender’s file.
- The receiver acknowledges the received records numbers.
- The file transfer is completed when all the records are acknowledged.
- Failure: loss of data/ack in the channels.

We have the model!
Event-B Model Example: File transfer protocol

MACHINE Transfer
SETS DATA
CONSTANTS nr /* file size : number of records */
PROPERTIES nr : NAT & nr > 1
VARIABLES sf /* sender file */
, rf /* receiver file */
INVARIANT
& sf : 1..nr –> DATA /* all records of sf */
& rf : 1..nr +-> DATA /* probably part of records of sf */
INITIALISATION
sf := {} || rf := {}

EVENTS
transf = /* instantaneous transfer, from far way */
BEGIN
rf := sf
END

/* but, technically, we will need to anticipate the intermediary events */

END

Examples - Case studies

Event-B Model Example: File transfer protocol

MACHINE Transfer
SETS DATA
CONSTANTS nr /* file size */
PROPERTIES nr : NAT & nr > 1
VARIABLES sf /* sender file */
, rf /* receiver file */
INVARIANT
& sf : 1..nr -> DATA /* all records of sf */
& rf : 1..nr +> DATA /* probably part of records of sf */
INITIALISATION
sf := {} || rf := {}

EVENTS
transf = /* instantaneous transfer, from far way */
BEGIN
rf := sf
END

/* the following events are introduced by anticipation of the forthcoming gradual refinement*/
; sendta = skip
; recdta = skip
; sendac = skip
; recvac = skip
/* the followings are events that simulate the non-reliability of channels */
; rmvData = skip
; rmvAck = skip
END
**Event-B Model Example: File transfer protocol**

---

REFINEMENT
Transfer_R1

REFINES Transfer

VARIABLES

cs /* current record to be sent */
, cr /* current record received */
, rf
, sf /* sender file */
, erf /* effectively received file */
, dataChan /* data channel */
, ackChan /* ack channel */

INVARIANT

cs : 1..nr+1 /* current to be sent */
& cr : 0..nr /* current received */
& cr <= cs <= cr+1 /* cr <= cs <= cr+1 */
& erf = (1..cr) <| sf
& dataChan <= (1..cs) <| sf
& ackChan <= 1.c
Case study: embedded system construction

Embedded System Construction

Figure: Final global view

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Case study: embedded system construction

Stepwise construction of ES: variable family

Figure: The variables of the model
Case study: embedded system construction

Stepwise construction: input variables

**Figure**: Reading the input variables

Case study: embedded system construction

Stepwise construction: monitoring/internal variables

**Figure**: Monitoring inputs
Case study: embedded system construction

Stepwise construction: output variables

Figure: Controlling outputs

Case study: embedded system construction

Stepwise construction: physical control simulation

Figure: The final step: abstract model
Decomposition: software and hardware parts

Figure: The final step: abstract model

Application

Application to the Light LGS study

Implementation of the approach with the light LGS
The system is composed of:

- a landing gear.

The landing gear motion is performed by a set of actuating cylinders. The cylinder position corresponds to the landing gear position. The landing system has the following actuating cylinders:

- for the landing gear, a cylinder retracts and extends the landing gear.

Hydraulic power is provided to the cylinders by a set of electro-valves:

- One general electro-valve which supplies the specific electro-valves with hydraulic power from the aircraft hydraulic circuit.
- One electro-valve that sets pressure on the portion of the hydraulic circuit related to landing gear extending.
- One electro-valve that sets pressure on.

Each electro-valve is activated by an electrical order coming from the digital part. In the specific case of the general electro-valve, this electrical order goes through an analogical switch in order to prevent abnormal behavior of the digital part (e.g. abnormal activation of the general electro-valve).

A set of discrete sensors inform the digital part about the state of the equipments:

- gear is locked / not locked in the extended position.
- gear is locked / not locked in the retracted position.
- The hydraulic circuit (after the general electro-valve) is pressurized / not pressurized.

Each sensor delivers discrete values describing the situation ('gear locked in retracted', 'gear locked in extended', ...)
The digital part is made of one computing module, which is in charge of controlling the gear, of detecting anomalies, and of informing the pilot about the global state of the system and anomalies (if any). The digital part is part of a retroaction loop with the physical system, and produces commands for the distribution elements of the hydraulic system with respect to the sensors values and the pilot orders.

The inputs received by the digital part are:

- **handle**: \{up, down\}. From the pilot. It characterises the position of the handle.

The inputs from the controlled environment are:

- **gear\_extended** \in \{true, false\}. It is true if the gear is locked in the extended position and false in the other case.
- **gear\_retracted** \in \{true, false\}. It is true if the corresponding gear is locked in the retracted position and false in the other case.
- **circuit\_pressurized** \in \{true, false\} is returned by a pressure sensor on the hydraulic circuit between the general electro-valve and the maneuvering electro-valve. It is true if and only if the pressure is high in this part of the hydraulic circuit.

From these inputs, the module computes 3 electrical orders for the electro-valves (EV):

- **general\_EV** \in \{true, false\}
- **retract\_EV** \in \{true, false\}
- **extend\_EV** \in \{true, false\}

Similarly the module produces global boolean state variables to the cockpit:

- **gears\_locked\_down** \in \{true, false\}
- **gears\_maneuvering** \in \{true, false\}
- **anomaly** \in \{true, false\}
These outputs are synthesized by the module from sensors data and from the situation awareness.
If gears locked down is sent to the pilot interface with the value true, then the green light “gears are locked down” is on.
If gears maneuvering is sent to the pilot interface with the value true, then the orange light “gears maneuvering” is on.
If anomaly is sent to the pilot interface with the value true, then the red light “landing gear system failure” is on.

The aim of the software part of the system is twofold:
1. to control the hydraulic devices according to the pilot orders and to the mechanical devices positions;
2. to monitor the system and to inform the pilot in case of anomaly.

When the command line is working (in normal mode), the landing system reacts to the pilot orders by actioning or inhibiting the electro-valves of the appropriate cylinders. Anomalies are caused by failures on hydraulic equipment, electrical components, or computing modules. ...
An anomaly is detected each time a sensor is definitely considered as invalid.
If the hydraulic circuit is still pressurized 10 seconds after the general electro-valve has been stopped, then an anomaly is detected in the hydraulic circuit.
Application to the Light LGS study

Figure: Abstract model of the Light LGS

Case study: readers-writers

Case Study : Multiprocess specification (Readers/writers)

- Description
  - Multiple processes: readers, writers
  - Shared resources between the processes
  - Several readers may read the resource
  - Only one writer at a time

- Property:
  Mutual exclusion between readers and writers

- Improvement:
  no starvation → as a new property (using refinements)
Case study: readers-writers

Multiprocess specification

```plaintext
MACHINE
readWrite2
SETS
WRITER /* set of writer processes */
; READER /* set of reader processes */

VARIABLES
writers /* current writers */
, activeWriter
, waitingWriters
, readers /* current readers */
, waitingReaders
, activeReaders /* we may have svrl readers simultan. */
```

**INVARIANT**

writers <: WRITER
& activeWriter <: WRITER & card(activeWriter) <= 1
& waitingWriters <: WRITER
& writers \ waitingWriters = {}
& activeWriter \ waitingWriters = {}
& activeWriter \ writers = {}
/* merge */
& readers <: READER
& waitingReaders <: READER
& activeReaders <: READER & card(activeReaders) >= 0
& readers \ waitingReaders = {}
& activeReaders \ waitingReaders = {}
& activeReaders \ readers = {}
/------safety properties ----*/
& not((card(activeWriter) = 1)&(card(activeReaders) >= 1))
Multiprocess specification

**INITIALISATION**

| activeWriter := {} |
| waitingWriters := {} |
| activeReaders := {} |

| readers :: POW(READER) |
| writers :: POW(WRITER) |
| waitingReaders := {} |

\[
\text{want2write} = \begin{array}{l}
/* \text{observed when a process wants to write} */ \\
\text{ANY } ww \text{ WHERE} \\
ww : \text{writers} \\
& ww /: \text{waitingWriters} \\
& ww /: \text{activeWriter} \\
\text{THEN} \\
\text{waitingWriters := waitingWriters } \setminus \{ww\} \\
\text{|| writers := writers } - \{ww\} \\
\text{END} \\
\end{array}
\]

\[
\text{writing} = \\
\text{ANY } ww \text{ WHERE} \\
ww : \text{waitingWriters} \\
& \text{activeReaders } = \{\} \& \text{activeWriter } = \{\} \\
\text{THEN} \\
\text{activeWriter := } \{ww\} \\
\text{|| waitingWriters := waitingWriters } - \{ww\} \\
\text{END}
\]
### Multiprocess specification

```
endWriting =
  ANY ww WHERE
  ww : activeWriter
  THEN
  writers := writers \ {ww}
  || activeWriter := {}
  END;
want2read =
  ANY rr WHERE
  rr : readers
  & rr /: waitingReaders
  & rr /: activeReaders
  THEN
  waitingReaders := waitingReaders \ {rr}
  || readers := readers - {rr}
  ENDendReading =
  /* one of the active readers finishes and leaves
  the competition to the shared resources */
  ANY rr WHERE
  rr : activeReaders
  THEN
  activeReaders := activeReaders - {rr}
  || readers := readers \ {rr}
  END
```

---

### Multiprocess specification

```
reading =
  ANY rr WHERE
  rr : waitingReaders
  & activeWriter = {}
  THEN
  activeReaders := activeReaders \ {rr}
  || waitingReaders := waitingReaders - {rr}
  END;
endReading =
  /* one of the active readers finishes and leaves
  the competition to the shared resources */
  ANY rr WHERE
  rr : activeReaders
  THEN
  activeReaders := activeReaders - {rr}
  || readers := readers \ {rr}
  END
```
newWriter = /* a new Writer */
ANY ww
WHERE ww : WRITER
& ww /: (writers \ waitingWriters \ activeWriter)
THEN
writers := writers \ {ww}
END
;
leaveWriters = /* a writer leaves the group */
ANY ww
WHERE
ww : writers
THEN
writers := writers - {ww}
END

newReader = /* a new reader joins the readers */
ANY rr WHERE
rr : READER
& rr /: (readers \ waitingReaders \ activeReaders)
THEN
readers := readers \ {rr}
END
;
leaveReader =
ANY rr WHERE
rr : readers & card(readers) > 1
THEN
readers := readers - {rr}
END
Case study: readers-writers

Conclusion

- Initiation rapide à B et Event-B
- Découverte d’une méthode de construction systématique des systèmes embarqués
- Reste à pratiquer, pratiquer, pratiquer

Event-B: Some References


- *Applying Event and Machine Decomposition to a Flash-Based Filestore in Event-B*. Damchoom, Kriangsak and Butler, Michael; 2009.

- *Faultless Systems: Yes We Can!*, Jean-Raymond Abrial, 2009


- *Closed-Loop Modelling of Cardiac Pacemaker and Heart*, Dominique Méry, Neeraj Kumar Singh, 2012