

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE CSP SEMANTICS OF INTER-PROCESS COMMUNICATIONS USING THE C++11 STANDARD LIBRARY¹

Assoc. Prof. Milen Loukantchevsky, PhD, IEEE Member, ACM Member

Department of Computer Systems & Technologies,

University of Ruse

Phone: 0877 303 850

E-mail: mil@ieee.org

Abstract: *The theory of Communicating Sequential Processes (CSP) is a basis for analysis and synthesis of concurrent computer systems. Its uniqueness is in its simultaneous manifestation as an abstract model, a parallel systems specification language and a parallel programming language. Over its long history, CSP has found numerous of successful implementations - from transputers and its OCCAM language to modern Go and Python languages. The constructive potential of this parallel computational model despite of that is far from being expended.*

From engineering point of view CSP defines an abstract parallel machine, CSP machine. It consists of two subsystems: a set of computing nodes and a communicating environment. In each of the computing nodes are executed one or more concurrent asynchronous processes. The communicating environment consists of set of channels. The processes grouped by pairs could communicate only by message passing over a communication channel.

The CSP semantics of inter-process communications suggest the simplest possible kind of channels – unidirectional, one-to-one (1:1), unbuffered, with direct naming. Such channels do not actually imply flow control but required a special kind of bilateral synchronization known as “rendezvous”.

While `std::threads` could be regarded near close to `CSP::process` semantics, in C++ standard library there is not type even distant from `CSP::channel`. Hence the main goal set: proposal of suitable implementation of the CSP semantics of inter-process communications with C++11 standard library means. As result a `csp` namespace is defined. It includes the type `csp::chan`, nearly strong implementation of `CSP::channel` semantics, with two methods `csp::chan::send()` and `csp::chan::recv()` corresponding to CSP communications commands `!` and `?`. The alternative command for non-deterministic selection is implemented by the method `csp::alt()` using multiple wait on `std::condition_variable` and randomized choice between true guards.

Keywords: CSP, C++11, Multithreading, Concurrency, Non-deterministic Message Passing

ASJC Codes: 1701, 1712

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