A Theory of Dynamic Evolution in Petri Net Models of Business Processes

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Presynopsis: Dynamic Evolution in Petri Net Business Processes

Business Processes

 Complex Flow of activities to achieve a business goal of an Organization

• Examples:	Domain	Business Process	
	Finance	Billing Process	
	Human Resource Management	Vacation Request/Approval Process	
	Banking	Account Opening Process	
	E-commerce	Product Delivery Process	
	Travel	Ticket Booking Process	
	Manufacturing	Product Assembly Process	
	Public Service	Passport Application Process	
	Academic	Admission Process	

• Activities in business process: manual tasks, user assisted automated tasks, web-services, other business processes etc.

Business Processes Modeling



Dynamic Evolution in Business Processes



Motivations

- Various approaches exist for model specific solutions
- Different situations require different notions of correctness
- Subtle interplays among notion of correctness, available algorithms and concepts not classified so far
- Requires consolidation of theoretical approaches to move forward in the research field
- Solutions not practice since theory has not developed enough
- Challenging problems in theory

Problem Statement

- Given old and new schema, explore the problem of state-transfer under different notions of correctness
- Algorithmic solution to state-transfer that avoids state-space search
- Theoretical approach general enough to adapt in different modeling approaches
- Explore properties and proofs related to the problem

Scope and Assumptions

- Control-flow structure of business processes
- Schema structures are correct
- Original and Evolved schema are provided
- Well-formed schema

Not in Scope

Access control and user perspectives, Data-flow concerns, Methodology involved in evolution, Unstructured workflows, Deployment issues

Contributions

Algorithms

YoYo algorithm for instance migration Algorithm for weak lookahead Accept/reject branching algorithm for strong lookahead PSCR computation algorithm Change region computation algorithm Distributed change region computation algorithm

Taxonomy Framework for Consistency Models

Structural equivalence Trail-based models history equivalence trace equivalence purged-history equivalence purged-trace equivalence Live model Lookahead models strong accommodative weak

Proofs

Non-migratability lemma Perfect Member lemma Overestimation lemma SCR & PSCR lemma Proof of correctness for algorithms

> Workflow Specification Languages CWS, ECWS

Properties

YoYo compatibility, peer patterns Generator of Concurrent Submarking (GCS) Dysfunctional C-tree and Break-off Set Marking Preserving Embedding (MPE) Change properties Perfect Member and Overestimation Perfect Structural Change Region (PSCR) Fragmentation

Representation Techniques for Analysis & Application

C-tree, Derivation Tree Token transportation catalog Token transportation bridge

New Consistency Models

Strong lookahead Accommodative lookahead Weak lookahead

Notions of Consistency

Consistency:

Formal criteria of correctness of **instance migration** (state-transfer/token transportation)

State: <u>Marking</u> in Petri net models

Old and New markings can be considered as migration equivalent (consistent) in various ways



lookahead-traces: t4 t6 t7 t8 t10

Past/Present/Future of a State

Taxonomy and New Models of Consistency

Consistency Models	Parameters								
	Past based	Present based	Future based		Trace based			Structure	
			equal	subset	superset	Set based	Sequence based	purged	based
Structural equivalence	✓	×	×	×	×	×	×	×	✓
Trace equivalence	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	×	\checkmark	×	×
History equivalence	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×
Purged-trace eq.	\checkmark	×	×	×	×		\checkmark	\checkmark	×
Purged-history eq.	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	\checkmark	×	\checkmark	×
Live	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	×	×	×	\checkmark
Strong lookahead	×	×	\checkmark	×	×	×	\checkmark	×	×
Accommodative lookahead	×	×	×	×	✓	×	✓	×	×
Weak lookahead	×	×	×	✓	×	×	\checkmark	×	×

Dynamic Instance Migration

State-transfer Approach

Vs.



Change Region Approach

Marking Transfers <u>as it is</u> Outside change region, No consistent migration Inside change region (no explicit state-transfer)

Old ticket booking process

New ticket booking process

available

Dynamic Instance Migration

Citation to the Literature	Consistency	State-transfer	Change Region
Ellis et al. 1995, ACM COCS	Trace Equivalence	Some marking to Some marking	Inside: non-migratable/ migration to different marking Outside: migration as it is Construction: Not specified (intuition given for SESE region)
Van der Aalst, 2001, Info. Sys. Frontiers (Springer)	Live Consistency	Some marking to Same marking	Inside: non-migratable/migration as it is Outside: migration as it is Construction: minimal SESE region covering structural changes (modified SESE reg. black box, same state-space outside)
Sun et al., 2009, Info. Soft. Tech. (Elsevier)	Purged History Equivalence	Some marking to Some marking	Inside: non-migratable/ migration to different marking Outside: <u>migration as it is if every marking inside change region is migratable</u> Construction: minimal SESE region covering structural changes
Cicirelli et al., 2010, J. Sys. Soft. (Elsevier)	History Equivalence	Some marking to Same marking	Van der Aalst, 2001
Zou et al., 2010, IEEE Advanced. Serv. Comp.	Trace Equivalence	Some marking to Some marking	Inside: non-migratable/ migration to different marking Outside: migration as it is Construction: Van der Aalst, 2001
Hens et al.,2014, J. Sys. Soft. (Elsevier)	Live Consistency	Some marking to Same marking	Van der Aalst, 2001

Migration to same marking is Live Consistency

migration to different marking inside Change region violates Live consistency

Structural changes may retain state-reachability, e.g. loop to xor

For SESE change region, Migration as it is outside Change region may violate Trace/history based consistency e.g. downstream the change region

State-transfer Approach

History Equivalence Consistency Model



YoYo Approach

Token transportation by: Folding, transport, Unfolding







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Folding

Old Net:



New Net:











CWS Grammar



Derivation Tree



Colored Derivation Tree

	Node Type	Description			
	Leaf/Non-leaf 🔵	Unmarked folded/unfolded place	Red node:		
	Leaf	marked place in net	Color parent rec		
	Non-leaf	abstraction of null-executed subnet	Black node: Check if any transition Sibling has color at		
	Non-leaf	abstraction of subnets where at least one labeled transition has been fired			
		$\begin{array}{c} & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & \\ & & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & & & & \\ & &$	has color at right, If yes, color parent red; Else color parent black		

YoYo Compatibility



Both can generate the same sequence **t1 t2 t3 t4 t5 t6 t7 t8** \rightarrow *Folding order* exists

Folding Order



Token Transportation Catalog



Every possible Color-mapping Between peer patterns













Max. no. of Transportation Steps = no. of patterns (linear time complexity)

Correctness Proof

Catalog Completeness:

Token transportation catalog is complete w.r.t. the 6 change patterns

Lemma 1:

For two Yo-Yo compatible derivation trees, consistent coloring between the top peer patterns guaranties consistent coloring between their immediate child peer patterns

Lemma 2:

Lemma 1 can be repeated for all parent-child peer pairs across two Yo-Yo compatible derivation trees

Lookahead Consistency Models

Consistency Model Name	Description
Strong Lookahead	same lookahead trace sets of consistent marking
Accommodative Lookahead	old lookahead trace set preserved in new
Weak Lookahead	at least one old lookahead trace preserved in new



- 1. Determine existence of Weak Lookahead
- 2. Inferences about Strong/Accommodative Lookahead
- 3. Given Accommodative Lookahead, enforce Strong Lookahead



Gist of State-transfer Approaches

Petri Net is not trace-accumulative model, needs some kind of trace-replay in order to obtain trace-based consistent migrations

YoYo algorithm (for existing model of consistency)

Vertical trace-reply (through hierarchy of derivation tree) in comparison to traditional horizontal trace-replay (token game) Efficient due to ready-made solutions (catalog) Restricted scope to CWS-nets and pattern changes

Lookahead algorithms (for new models of consistency) based on trace-reply

Change Region Approach

Live Consistency Model


Change Region

Old State Space (green states are immediately migratable,i.e. have consistency mappings)

t2

Set of places that causes non-migratable markings



Existing Approach



Our Approach

- Structural Model of all possible markings C-tree
- Analyze causes of non-migratability Change Properties
- When false-negatives are unavoidable? overestimation
- Change region devoid of overestimation PSCR
- Computation of PSCR through change properties

ECWS Grammar for Workflow Nets



Sequence

p1 t1 p2 t2 p3





p1 [t1] [t2] p2





Net \rightarrow Pnet

- Pnet \rightarrow PLACE
 - Pnet TRANS PLACE

Pnet TRANS loop TRANS Pnet

Pnet TRANS and TRANS Pnet

Pnet xor Pnet

Tnet → TRANS | TRANS Pnet TRANS

 $\mathsf{loop} \rightarrow \{\mathsf{Pnet}\} \{\mathsf{Pnet}\}$

xor \rightarrow [Tnet] [Tnet] | [Tnet] xor

and \rightarrow (Pnet) (Pnet) | (Pnet) and

Parallel (AND)

p1 t1 (p2 t2 p3) (p4 t3 p5) t4 p6

Loop

{ p1 t1 p2 } { t2 }

Conjoint Tree (C-tree) abstracts all markings structurally: efficient to compare the old and the new set of markings



Generator of Concurrent Submarking (GCS): captures the concurrent part of the net w.r.t. a place



Dysfunctional C-tree & Break-off Set



Marking Preserving Embedding (MPE)



Definition:

An MPE of C in C' is a mapping from C to C' defined recursively: (i) places(root(C)) is subset of places(root(C')), and (ii) C-blocks in root(C) are *injectively* mapped to C-blocks in root(C') such that within each C-block to C-block mapping pair (b,b'), there is a *bijective* MPE of the children C-trees of b to those of b'.

Non-migratability Lemma:

Given two C-trees C and C', if an MPE of C in C' does not exists, then at least one marking constructible from C cannot be constructed from C'. The converse is also true.

Effect of Concurrency of a place on Migratability

Case id	Concurrent in Old Net	Concurrent in New Net	Migratability
C1	\checkmark	\checkmark	Conditionally Migratable
C2	\checkmark	×	Non-migratable
C3	×	\checkmark	Non-migratable
C4	×	×	Migratable
C5	Don't care	Absent	Non-migratable

Example: C1: $\{p1,p2\} \rightarrow \{p1,p2\}; \{p1,p2\} \rightarrow \{p1,p2,p3\}...$ C2: $\{p1,p2\} \rightarrow \{p1\}$ C3: $\{p1\} \rightarrow \{p1,p2\}$ C4: $\{p1\} \rightarrow \{p1\}$ C5: $\{p1\}$ or $\{p1,p2\} \rightarrow$ no marking with p1 available

A concurrent place has more than one marking in an ECWS-net

A non-concurrent place has only one marking in an ECWS-net

Change Properties

Old net N, New net N', Old C-tree C, New C-tree C' p is the place to be inspected for its effect on non-migratability

(C5) Removal

No marking involving p is reachable in N'. (p is present in C, p is absent in C').

(C2) Lost Concurrency

Markings involving p are concurrent in N but not in N' (p in a non-root node in C but in the root node in C').

(C3) Acquired Concurrency

Only one standalone marking involving p in N, but concurrent markings in N' (p is in root node of C but in a non-root node in C').

(C1.1) Weak Reformed Concurrency

(i) p is in concurrent markings in both N and N' (p in non-root nodes in both C and C')
(ii) at least one concurrent marking involving p in N is not reachable in N' due to addition or reduction of concurrency of p (GCS(p,C) does not have an MPE in GCS(p,C').)

(C1.2) Strong Reformed Concurrency

- (i) p is in concurrent markings in N and N' (p in non-root nodes both in C and C')
- (ii) all concurrent markings involving p in N are not reachable in C'. (either the set of places {places(GCS(p,C)) places(GCS(p,C'))} is a break-off set w.r.t. C-tree GCS(p,C), or the set of places {places(GCS(p,C')) places(GCS(p,C))} is a break-off set w.r.t. C-tree GCS(p,C').)

Justification: p in non-root nodes implies involvement in concurrency. When condition is satisfied, it means that the places which are concurrent to p in both nets are not capable of generating any common valid marking involving p.

Characterization of Change Region

Structural Change Region (SCR)

Given a migration net pair N and N', SCR(N,N') is a subset of places in N s.t. for every non-migratable marking M from N to N', M includes a member from SCR(N,N').

Perfect Structural Change Region (PSCR)

Given a migration net pair N and N', PSCR(N,N') is a subset of places in N s.t.

- i. for every place p in PSCR(N,N'), there exists a non-migratable marking from N to N' involving p,
- ii. for every non-migratable marking M from N to N', M includes a member from PSCR(N,N').

Perfect Member

A place p in the old net N is a perfect member in N, w.r.t. the new net N' iff all markings in N involving p are nonmigratable.

Overestimation

A place p in the old net N is an overestimation w.r.t. the new net N', iff there exists a migratable marking and also a non-migratable marking involving p in N.

Safe Member

A place p in the old net N is a safe member w.r.t. the new net N', iff every marking involving p in N is migratable.

Change Region Lemmas

SCR Lemma

The union of all overestimations and all perfect members in old net N w.r.t. new net N' is SCR in N w.r.t. N'.

PSCR Lemma

PSCR exists in a given old net N w.r.t. new net N' iff every non-migratable marking in N includes at least one perfect member. (the proof constructs the set of perfect members as the PSCR)

Perfect Member Lemma

If a place p in old net N satisfies one of Removal, Lost Concurrency, Acquired Concurrency and Strong Reformed Concurrency w.r.t. new net N', then the place is a perfect member and vice-versa.

Overestimation Lemma

If a place p in old net N satisfies Weak Reformed Concurrency but not Strong Reformed Concurrency w.r.t. new net N', it is an overestimation w.r.t. N' and the vice-versa.

Computation of PSCR

Old C-tree C, New C-tree C', set of Perfect Members in C w.r.t. C' be *Perf.* If there is no overestimation in C, $PSCR \leftarrow Perf.$ *Else if* PSCR exists as per the following table, $PSCR \leftarrow Perf.$

C has markings without Perfect Members	C' has markings without Perfect Members	All markings without Perfect Members in C can be generated from C'	PSCR Exists
× Perf is break-off set for C	Don't care	Don't care	√
✓ Perf is not break-off set for C	×Perf is break-off set for C'	Don't care	×
✓ Perf is not break-off set for C	✓ Perf is not break-off set for C'	x delete(C,Perf) doesn't have MPE in delete(C',Perf)	×
✓ Perf is not break-off set for C	✓ Perf is not break-off set for C'	✓ delete(C,Perf) has a MPE in delete(C',Perf)	✓

Experimental Results



SP start SP_end CCH CCH_completed CCH enabled ready Acoto com AcsC to start FPR completed AcptC completed ССН CCH start enc AcsC start AcsC end ocess enabled npleted end star CIS_enabled CIS_start CIS completed **Claims Process**



Hypothetical Process

Distributed Business Processes

- Business processes often cross departments, organizations
- Distributed deployments lack centralized view
- Individual process-fragments may evolve independently
- Individual change regions can be globally conflicting



Employee Transfer Process

Fragmented Net has no Global View

p9

f6

f2

f3

t10

f1

Boundaries

p9

t9

Places with one pre- and posttransitions in the global net are Eligible to be boundaries



p8

p8

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Conflict resolution between fragments using boundaries





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The Distributed Algorithm using Asynchronous Events: Hierarchical CPN based description



Event Substrate: example for EVOLVE event type







RTO D12 \rightarrow throw Local start_SBR M2 Change catch M5 throw M1 SBR catch M1 <u>SAFE_B(....)</u> Region D10 Computation end_SBR Ó p4 start_TPF end_SC start SC start_VO p28 TPF VO CR end_TPF p18 end_VO catch ВЗ p19 p15 catch start_JO start_TS M2 <u>З</u> JO **P8** start IJR 60 TSR throw TS L S SR end_JO О IJR end end_TS p16 O end IJR UM p7 LocalC R PLACESET Boundary CR_B_ CR throw Broadcast_medium CRs starf intersect FRAG CRBBBM1 s ShB crbset М3 PLACESET `"yes' old end UM CR_B fragmen ▶ publish CR_B p8 crset crbset p22 Ô Out Can be empty set (crset,safeset) ICBBN enabled local omplet ICBBN result computeCR (f,f') CRnSAFE SAFE_B(<set of places>) safebset publish SAFE_B safeset SAFE B new NewFrag safebset fragmen Boundary SAFE SAFEs SAFE_B_ FRAG intersect CR_B(<set of places>) ocalSafe Broadcast_medium s ShB PLACESET PLACESET SBBBM1 ShB is constant value, the list of boundary places in the old fragment

Initial Change Region, Broadcast Boundary Notifications (Module 2)

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Receive Boundary Notifications (Module 3)









If a safe boundary & other relevant places are made unsafe, CHANGE event is published with additional boundaries that became unsafe

Termination (Module 5)

Local boundaries arriving with CHANGE event are put in set CR_ext to investigate further conflict in next round of Module 4 (loop)

When everybody sent *NOCHANGE*, and the node itself sent *NOCHANGE* in Module 4, Algorithm terminates



Conflict Resolution & Termination (Module 4+5) (iteration 1)



Conflict Resolution & Termination (Module 4+5) (iteration 2)





Proof of Correctness

Lemma 1

The effect of deletion of a place in the change region in a fragment is fully covered by the fragment in which the place is deleted.

Lemma 2

If there is any change in concurrency of a place in the global net, some fragment detects it.

Bounded Wait

Termination

Gist of Change Region Approach

- Focus on Marking Reachability (effect of changes) rather than structural changes
- Structural Modeling of markings through C-tree
- Capturing non-migratability through properties
- Approach restricted to structured nets (ECWS grammar) structured AND is mandatory for C-tree construction, unstructured XOR, LOOP can be handled in C-tree since they are all sequential (w.r.t. token game) regions. Specification through balanced parenthesis is convenient for programming.
- Centralized and Distributed Computation algorithms developed

Future Work

- Distributed instance migration
- Interplay among consistency models and change operations
- Extending the theory for unstructured workflows
- Implementation Issues

Publications

Presented Works:

- Distributed Change Region Detection in Dynamic Evolution of Fragmented Processes by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi in the International Workshop on Petri Nets and Software Engineering 2016, co-located with the 37th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency Petri Nets 2016 and the 16th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design ACSD 2016, Torun, Poland, June 20-21, 2016.
- Lookahead Consistency Models for Dynamic Migration of Workflow Processes by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi in the International Workshop on Petri Nets and Software Engineering 2015, co-located with the 36th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency Petri Nets 2015 and the 15th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design ACSD 2015, Brussels, Belgium, June 22-23, 2015.
- Catalog-based Token Transportation in Acyclic Block-Structured WF-nets by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi in the International Workshop on Petri Nets and Software Engineering 2015, co-located with the 36th International Conference on Application and Theory of Petri Nets and Concurrency Petri Nets 2015 and the 15th International Conference on Application of Concurrency to System Design ACSD 2015, Brussels, Belgium, June 22-23, 2015.
- Token transportation in Petri net models of workflow patterns by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi in the 7th India Software Engineering Conference 2014, Chennai, ISEC 2014, Chennai, India, February 19-21, 2014.

Unpublished Works:

- A Structural Approach to Dynamic Migration in Petri Net Models of Structured Workflows by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi [under review in IEEE TSE]
- A Survey of Consistency Models for Dynamic Workflow Migration by Ahana Pradhan and Rushikesh K. Joshi [in preparation]
Thank You



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Outcomes

Algorithms

YoYo algorithm for instance migration Algorithm for weak lookahead Accept/reject branching algorithm for strong lookahead PSCR computation algorithm Change region computation algorithm Distributed change region computation algorithm

Taxonomy Framework for Consistency Models

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Representation Techniques for Analysis & Application

C-tree, Derivation Tree Token transportation catalog Token transportation bridge

New Consistency Models

Strong lookahead Accommodative lookahead Weak lookahead