

Software Engineering using Formal Methods

Verification with SPIN

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SPIN: Previous Lecture vs. This Lecture

Previous lecture

SPIN appeared as a PROMELA **simulator**

This lecture

Intro to SPIN as a **model checker**

What Does A Model Checker Do?

Model Checker (MC) is designed to prove the user wrong.

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⇒ **Finding no counter example proves stated correctness properties.**

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- if/do statements

- :: guardX -> ...

- :: guardY -> ...

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For model checking PROMELA code,
two kinds of non-determinism to be resolved:

- ▶ explicit, local:
if/do statements
 :: guardX -> ...
 :: guardY -> ...
- ▶ implicit, global:
scheduling of concurrent processes
(see next lecture)

Model Checker for This Course: SPIN

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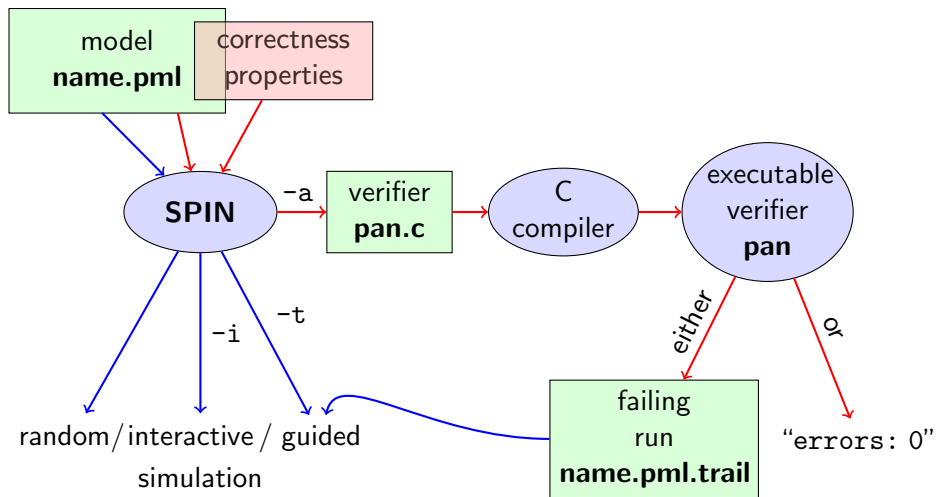
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- ▶ generating a **verifier**

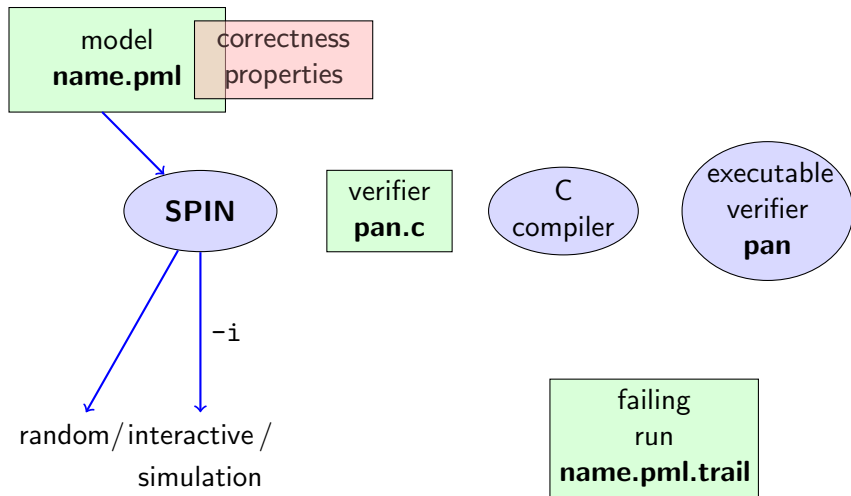
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model checking:

- ▶ exhaustively **checks** PROMELA **model** against correctness properties
- ▶ in case the check is negative:
generates a **failing run** of the model, **to be simulated by SPIN**

SPIN Workflow: Overview



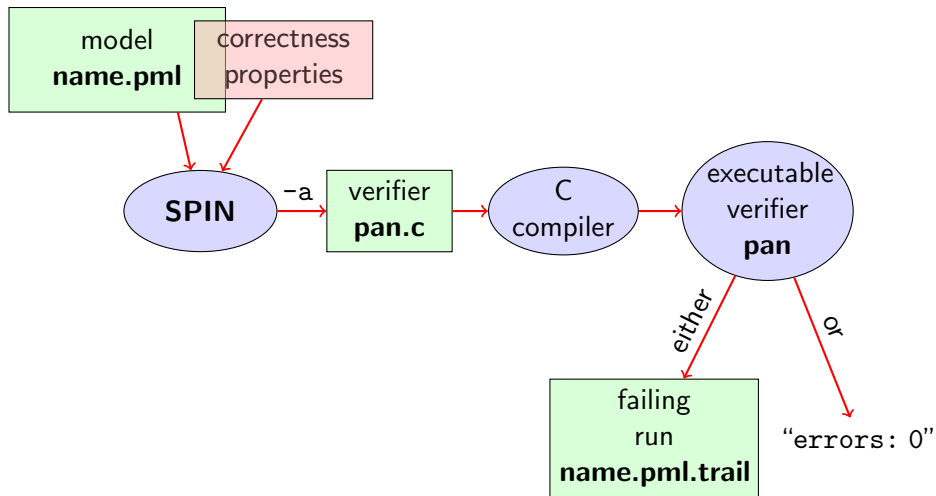
Plain Simulation with SPIN



Rehearsal: Simulation Demo

- ▶ run example, random and interactive
interleave.pml, zero.pml

Model Checking with SPIN



Meaning of Correctness w.r.t. Properties

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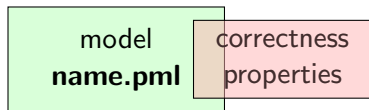
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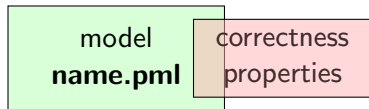
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But how to write Correctness Properties?

Stating Correctness Properties

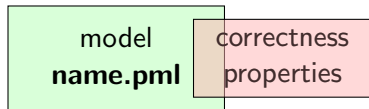


Stating Correctness Properties



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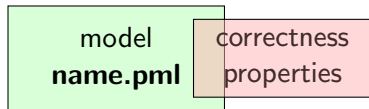


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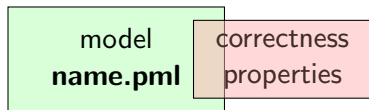


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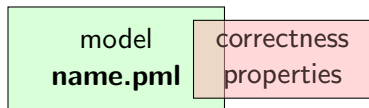
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Definition (Assertion Statements)

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```
...  
stmt1;  
assert(max == a);  
stmt2;  
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```
...                               ...
stmt1;                           if
assert(max == a);                :: b1 -> stmt3;
stmt2;                           assert(x < y)
...                               :: b2 -> stmt4
                                ...
```

Meaning of **Boolean** Assertion Statements

`assert(expr)`

- ▶ has **no effect** if *expr* evaluates to **true**
- ▶ triggers an **error message** if *expr* evaluates to **false**

This holds in both, simulation and model checking mode.

Meaning of **General** Assertion Statements

`assert(expr)`

- ▶ has no effect if *expr* evaluates to **non-zero value**
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⇒ general case covers Boolean case

Instead of using 'printf's for Debugging ...

```
/* after choosing a,b from {1,2,3} */  
if  
  :: a >= b -> max = a  
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Command Line Execution

(simulate, inject faults, add assertion, simulate again)

```
> spin [-i] max.pml
```

... we can employ **Assertions**

quoting from file **max.pml**:

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Now, we have a first example with a formulated **correctness property**.

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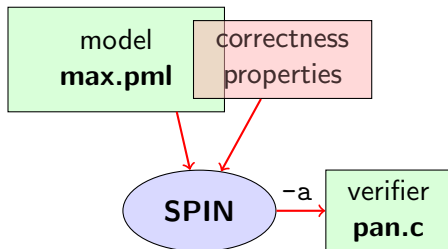
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(Historic moment in the course.)

Generate Verifier in C



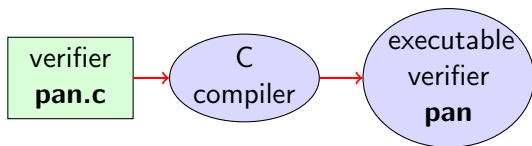
Command Line Execution

Generate Verifier in C

```
> spin -a max.pml
```

SPIN generates **Verifier** in C, called **pan.c**
(plus helper files)

Compile To Executable Verifier

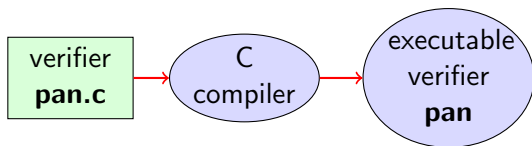


Command Line Execution

compile to executable verifier

```
> gcc -o pan pan.c
```

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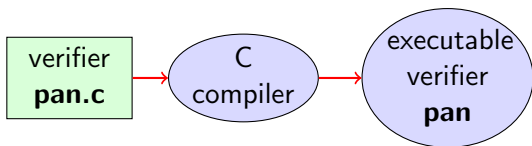
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C compiler generates **executable verifier pan**

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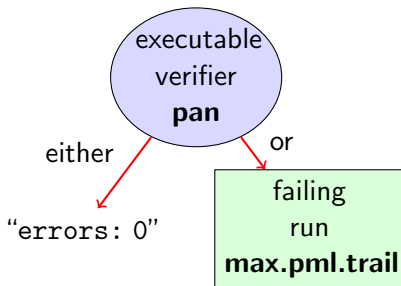
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C compiler generates **executable verifier pan**

pan: historically “**p**rotocol **a**nalyzer”, now “**p**rocess **a**nalyzer”

Run Verifier (= Model Check)

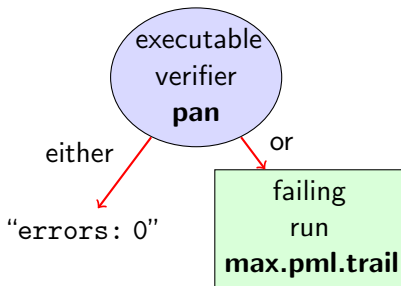


Command Line Execution

run verifier pan

> ./pan or > pan

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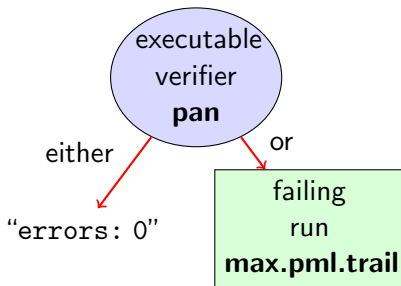
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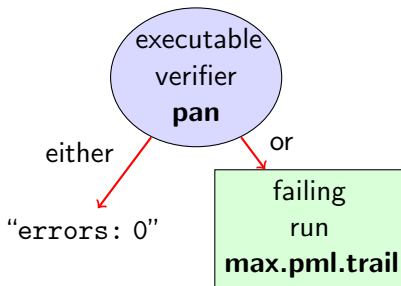
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► prints "errors: 0" ⇒ Correctness Property verified!

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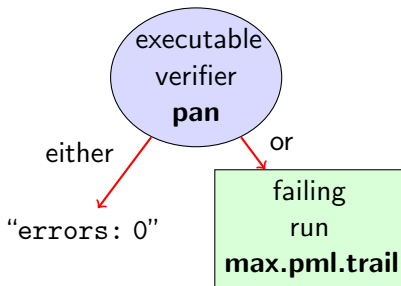
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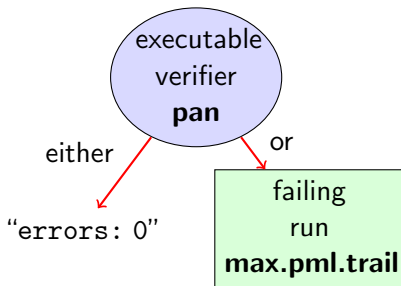
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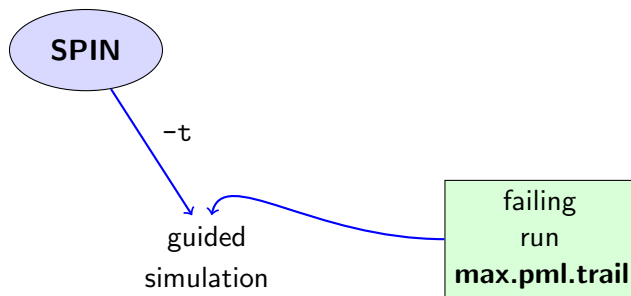
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records failing run in **max.pml.trail**

Guided Simulation

To **examine failing run**: employ **simulation mode**, “guided” by trail file.



Command Line Execution

inject a fault, re-run verification, and then:

```
> spin -t -p -l max.pml
```

Output of Guided Simulation

can look like:

Starting P with pid 0

```
1: proc 0 (P) line 8 "max.pml" (state 1) [a = 1]
      P(0):a = 1
2: proc 0 (P) line 14 "max.pml" (state 7) [b = 2]
      P(0):b = 2
3: proc 0 (P) line 23 "max.pml" (state 13) [((a<=b))]
3: proc 0 (P) line 23 "max.pml" (state 14) [max = a]
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spin: text of failed assertion:
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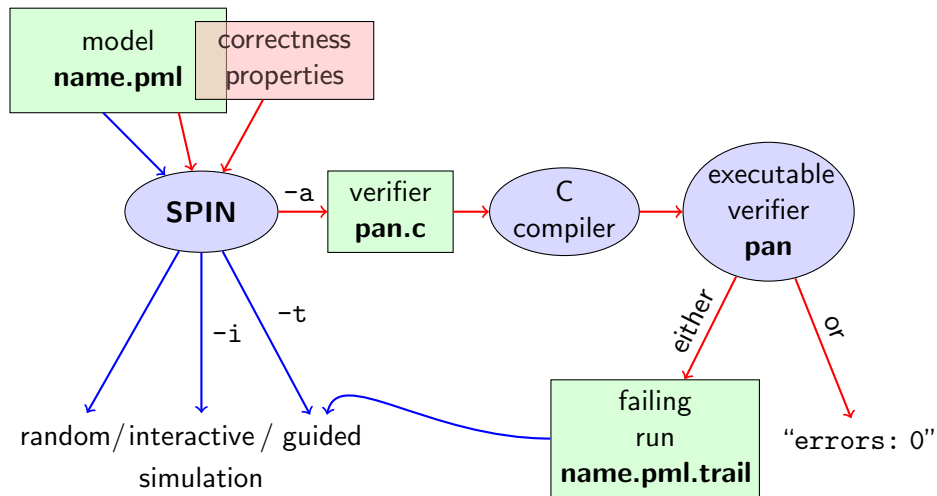
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assignments in the run

values of variables whenever updated

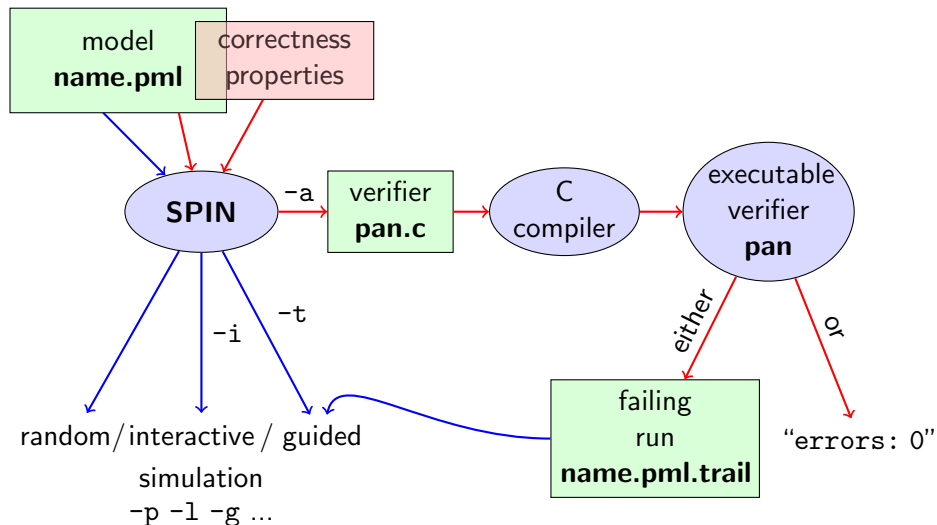
What did we do so far?

following whole cycle (most primitive example, assertions only)



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Further Examples: Integer Division

```
int dividend = 15;
int divisor  = 4;
int quotient, remainder;

quotient = 0;
remainder = dividend;
do
    :: remainder > divisor ->
        quotient++;
        remainder = remainder - divisor
    :: else ->
        break
od;
printf("%d divided by %d = %d, remainder = %d\n",
       dividend, divisor, quotient, remainder)
```

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simulate, put assertions, verify, change values, ...

Further Examples: Greatest Common Divisor

greatest common divisor of x and y

```
int a, b;  
a = x; b = y;  
do  
    :: a > b -> a = a - b  
    :: b > a -> b = b - a  
    :: a == b -> break  
od;  
printf("The GCD of %d and %d = %d\n", x, y, a)
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full functional verification not possible here (why?)

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    :: b > a -> b = b - a  
    :: a == b -> break  
od;  
printf("The GCD of %d and %d = %d\n", x, y, a)
```

full functional verification not possible here (why?)

still, assertions can perform **sanity check**

Further Examples: Greatest Common Divisor

greatest common divisor of x and y

```
int a, b;  
a = x; b = y;  
do  
  :: a > b -> a = a - b  
  :: b > a -> b = b - a  
  :: a == b -> break  
od;  
printf("The GCD of %d and %d = %d\n", x, y, a)
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⇒ **typical for model checking**

Typical Command Lines

typical command line sequences:

random simulation

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model checking

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```
gcc -o pan pan.c
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```
./pan
```

and in case of error

```
spin -t -p -l -g name.pml
```

Ben-Ari produced **Spin Reference Card**, summarizing

- ▶ **typical command line sequences**
- ▶ **options for**
 - ▶ **SPIN**
 - ▶ gcc
 - ▶ pan
- ▶ **PROMELA**
 - ▶ datatypes
 - ▶ operators
 - ▶ statements
 - ▶ guarded commands
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⇒ **available from course page** (see 'Links, Papers, and Software')

Why SPIN?

- ▶ SPIN targets software, instead of hardware verification (*“Software Engineering using Formal Methods”*)
- ▶ 2001 ACM Software Systems Award (other winning software systems include: Unix, TCP/IP, WWW, Tcl/Tk, Java)
- ▶ used for safety critical applications
- ▶ distributed freely as research tool, well-documented, actively maintained, large user-base in academia and in industry
- ▶ annual SPIN user workshops series held since 1995
- ▶ based on standard theory of (ω -)automata and linear temporal logic

Why SPIN? (Cont'd)

- ▶ PROMELA and SPIN are rather simple to use
- ▶ good to understand a few systems really well, rather than many systems poorly
- ▶ availability of good course book (Ben-Ari)
- ▶ availability of front end JSPIN (also Ben-Ari)

What is JSPIN?

- ▶ graphical user interface for SPIN
- ▶ developed for pedagogical purposes
- ▶ written in JAVA
- ▶ simple user interface
- ▶ SPIN options automatically supplied
- ▶ fully configurable
- ▶ supports graphics output of transition system

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- ▶ supports graphics output of transition system
- ▶ makes back-end calls transparent

Command Line Execution

calling JSPIN

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> java -jar /usr/local/jSpin/jSpin.jar
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(with path adjusted to your setting)

or use shell script:

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play around with similar examples ...

Catching A Different Type of Error

quoting from file **max2.pml**:

```
/* after choosing a,b from {1,2,3} */  
if  
  :: a >= b -> max = a;  
  :: b <= a -> max = b;  
fi;  
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generate and execute **pan**

⇒ reports “errors: 1”

Note: no assert in **max2.pml**.

Catching A Different Type of Error

Further inspection of **pan** output:

```
...  
pan: invalid end state (at depth 1)  
pan: wrote max2.pml.trail  
...
```

Legal and Illegal Blocking

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⇒ “Deadlock”

in **max2.pml**, there exists a blocking run where no process can take over.

Valid End States

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- ▶ each location marked with an **end label**: "endxxx:"

End labels not useful in **max2.pml**, but elsewhere, they are.

Example: end.pml

Literature for this Lecture

Ben-Ari Chapter 2, Sections 4.7.1, 4.7.2