



Hardware-based Runtime Verification with Embedded Tracing Units and Stream Processing

Lukas Convent Sebastian Hungerecker Torben Scheffel
Malte Schmitz **Daniel Thoma** Alexander Weiss

Institute for Software Engineering and Programming Languages,
University of Lübeck, Germany

The 18th International Conference on Runtime Verification

Outline

Interactive Hardware Monitoring Workflow

Monitoring Program Flow Trace

Monitoring Properties with Stream Processing

Example Scenario: Braking a Train With Punktförmige Zugbeeinflussung

Measuring Timing Constraints

Checking Event Ordering Constraints

Monitoring Data Values

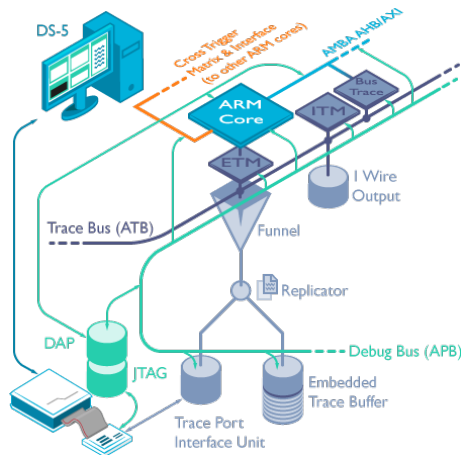
Practical Hardware Setup and Demonstration

Interactive Hardware Monitoring Workflow

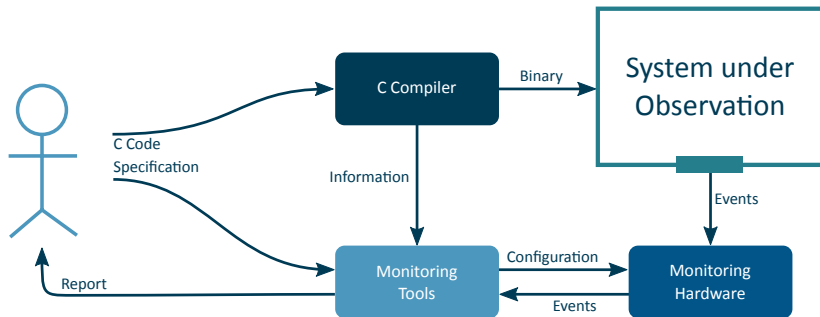
State of the Art Hardware Monitoring / Debugging

- ▶ Embedded, hybrid and cyber-physical systems have **tight time and resource constraints**.
- ▶ Comprehensive **logging** output in the software (e.g. via instrumentation) **decreases the performance** significantly.
- ▶ **Breakpoint**-based debugging features of the processor **are slow** due to the potentially high number of interruptions.
- ▶ Logging and breakpoints are **highly intrusive**.
Problematic for **concurrent programs** or **real-time** applications.

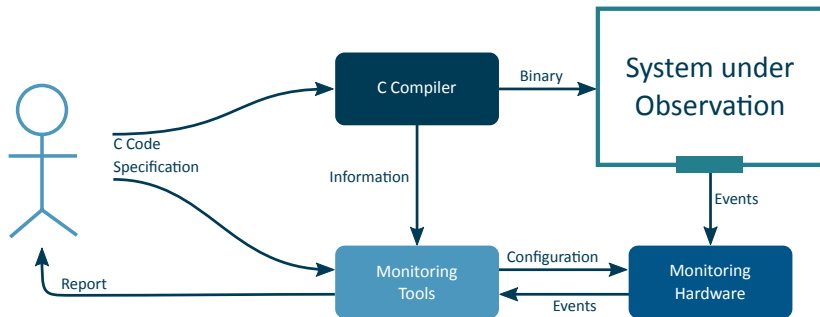
Embedded Tracing Unit: ARM CoreSight



Interactive Hardware Monitoring Workflow



Interactive Hardware Monitoring Workflow



Fast reconfigurability for interactive debugging sessions

Synthesized FPGA design

- ▶ Trace Reconstruction
- ▶ Monitoring Engine

configured through memory with

- ▶ program binary (LUT of jumps)
- ▶ monitoring specification

ICT-10-2016 COEMS

Continuous Observation of
Embedded Multicore Systems



UNIVERSITÄT ZU LÜBECK
INSTITUTE FOR SOFTWARE ENGINEERING
AND PROGRAMMING LANGUAGES

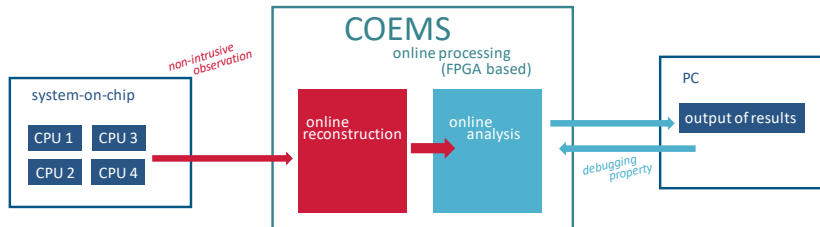


AIRBUS

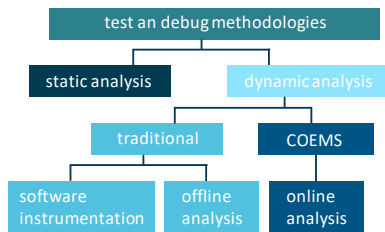


THALES

COEMS Hardware



COEMS Advantages



long observation
 non-intrusiveness
 multicore
 multiple focuses
 autonomous operation
 time and cost efficiency
 results immediately



well suited solution



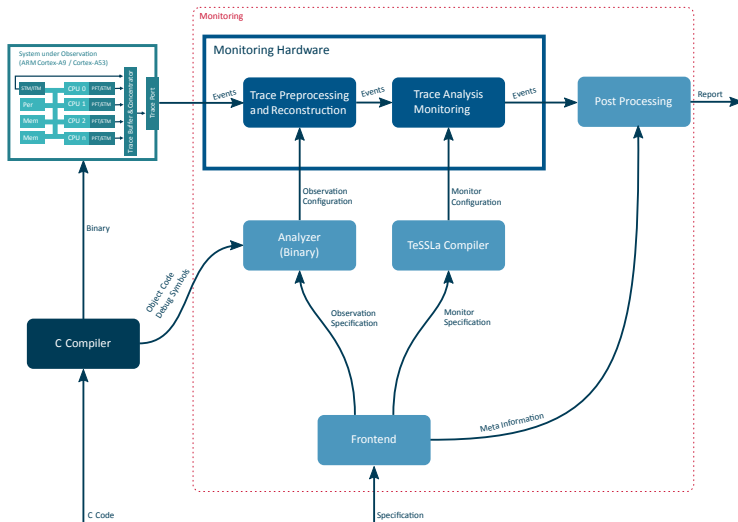
significant limitations



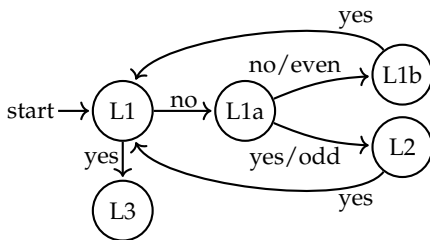
unsuitable in most cases

Monitoring Program Flow Trace

Monitoring Program Flow Trace: Tools



Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:      cmp $n, 1
          ble .L3

.L1a:     $tmp = $n % 2
          cmp $tmp, 0
          bne .L2

.L1b:     $n = $n / 2
          b .L1

.L2:     $n = 3 * $n
          $n = $n + 1
          b .L1

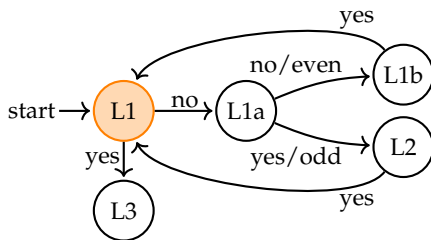
.L3:

```

Branch taken?

Events

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:
    cmp $n, 1
    ble .L3

.L1a:
    $tmp = $n % 2
    cmp $tmp, 0
    bne .L2

.L1b:
    $n = $n / 2
    b .L1

.L2:
    $n = 3 * $n
    $n = $n + 1
    b .L1

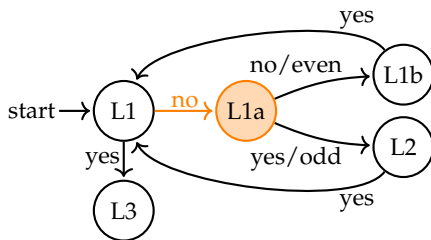
.L3:

```

Branch taken?

Events

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```
while (n > 1) {
```

```
    if (n % 2 == 0) {
```

```
        // even
```

```
        n = n / 2;
```

```
    } else {
```

```
        // odd
```

```
        n = 3 * n + 1;
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

Assembler

```
.L1:
```

```
    cmp $n, 1
```

```
    ble .L3
```

```
.L1a:
```

```
    $tmp = $n % 2
```

```
    cmp $tmp, 0
```

```
    bne .L2
```

```
.L1b:
```

```
    $n = $n / 2
```

```
    b .L1
```

```
.L2:
```

```
    $n = 3 * $n
```

```
    $n = $n + 1
```

```
    b .L1
```

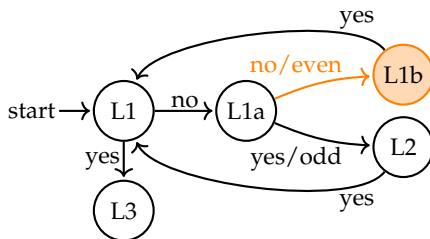
```
.L3:
```

Branch taken?

no

Events

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:      cmp $n, 1
          ble .L3

.L1a:     $tmp = $n % 2
          cmp $tmp, 0
          bne .L2

.L1b:     $n = $n / 2
          b .L1

.L2:      $n = 3 * $n
          $n = $n + 1
          b .L1

.L3:

```

Branch taken?

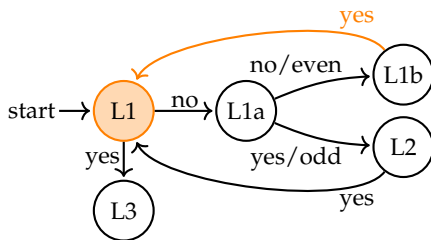
no

no

Events

even

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:
    cmp $n, 1
    ble .L3

.L1a:
    $tmp = $n % 2
    cmp $tmp, 0
    bne .L2

.L1b:
    $n = $n / 2
    b .L1

.L2:
    $n = 3 * $n
    $n = $n + 1
    b .L1

.L3:

```

Branch taken?

no

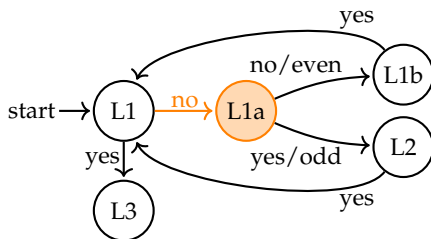
no

yes

Events

even

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```
while (n > 1) {
```

```
    if (n % 2 == 0) {
```

```
        // even
```

```
        n = n / 2;
```

```
    } else {
```

```
        // odd
```

```
        n = 3 * n + 1;
```

```
    }
```

```
}
```

Assembler

```
.L1:
```

```
    cmp $n, 1
```

```
    ble .L3
```

```
.L1a:
```

```
    $tmp = $n % 2
```

```
    cmp $tmp, 0
```

```
    bne .L2
```

```
.L1b:
```

```
    $n = $n / 2
```

```
    b .L1
```

```
.L2:
```

```
    $n = 3 * $n
```

```
    $n = $n + 1
```

```
    b .L1
```

```
.L3:
```

Branch taken?

no

no

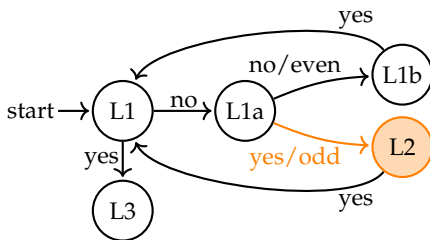
yes

no

Events

even

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:      cmp $n, 1
          ble .L3

.L1a:     $tmp = $n % 2
          cmp $tmp, 0
          bne .L2

.L1b:     $n = $n / 2
          b .L1

.L2:      $n = 3 * $n
          $n = $n + 1
          b .L1

.L3:

```

Branch taken?

no

no

yes

no

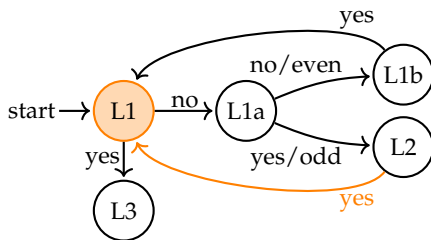
yes

Events

even

odd

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:
    cmp $n, 1
    ble .L3

.L1a:
    $tmp = $n % 2
    cmp $tmp, 0
    bne .L2

.L1b:
    $n = $n / 2
    b .L1

.L2:
    $n = 3 * $n
    $n = $n + 1
    b .L1

.L3:

```

Branch taken?

no

no

yes

no

yes

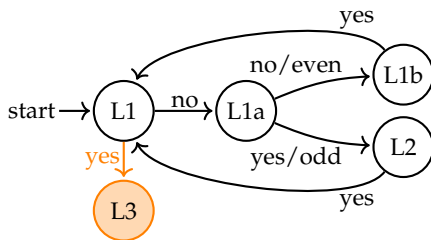
yes

Events

even

odd

Trace Reconstruction



C Code

```

while (n > 1) {

    if (n % 2 == 0) {

        // even
        n = n / 2;
    } else {
        // odd
        n = 3 * n + 1;
    }
}

```

Assembler

```

.L1:      cmp $n, 1
          ble .L3

.L1a:     $tmp = $n % 2
          cmp $tmp, 0
          bne .L2

.L1b:     $n = $n / 2
          b .L1

.L2:      $n = 3 * $n
          $n = $n + 1
          b .L1

.L3:

```

Branch taken?

no

no

yes

no

yes

yes

yes

Events

even

odd

Multithreading

Problem: Distinguish multiple threads

- ▶ We can only **distinguish instructions** traced from the **different cores**.
- ▶ Scheduler can execute **multiple threads on the same core**.
- ▶ Context switch reconfigures MMU
⇒ **Same logical addresses used in different threads**.

Solution: Context ID Register

1. OS writes **thread ID** to **context ID register**.
2. Tracing unit generates **context ID message**.
3. Trace reconstruction **changes lookup table**
for the program flow reconstruction information.

Monitoring Properties with Stream Processing

Stream Processing: Technical Prerequisites

- ▶ Multi-core CPUs generate large amounts of trace data.
⇒ Perform monitoring in hardware.
- ▶ FPGAs have limited amount of memory.
⇒ Explicit memory usage. Constant memory usage per operator.
- ▶ Properties and analyses might become very complex.
⇒ Combined monitoring on hardware and in software.
- ▶ Timing is crucial in embedded and cyber-physical systems.
⇒ Support time as first-class citizen.
- ▶ Properties and analyses might require data.
⇒ Support analyses and aggregation of data values.

TeSSLa Design Goals

- ▶ **Declarative** style: Specification rather than implementation
- ▶ **Modularity**: Allowing abstractions based on **few primitives**
- ▶ **Time** as first-class citizen
- ▶ Abstractions for both **events** and **signals**
- ▶ **Recursion** to reason about past
- ▶ Implementable with **limited memory**

Stream Processing with TeSSLa



`www.tessla.io`

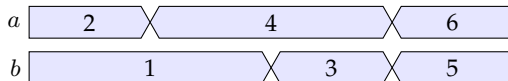


Lukas Convent, Sebastian Hungerecker, Martin Leucker, Torben Scheffel, Malte Schmitz, Daniel Thoma.

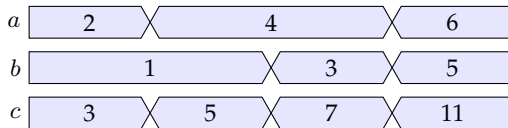
TeSSLa: Temporal Stream-based Specification Language.

SBMF 2018, CoRR abs/1808.10717.

TeSSLa by Example

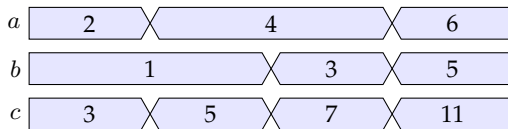


TeSSLa by Example



```
def c := a + b
```

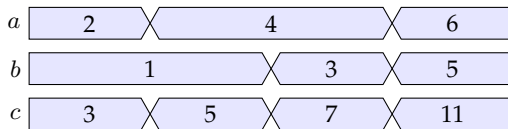
TeSSLa by Example



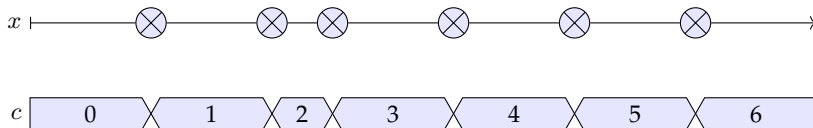
def $c := a + b$



TeSSLa by Example

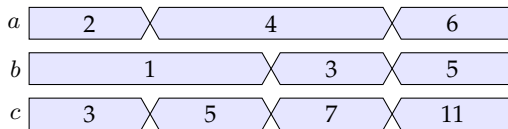


def $c := a + b$

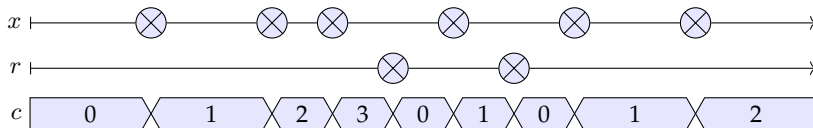


def $c := \text{eventCount}(x)$

TeSSLa by Example



```
def c := a + b
```



```
def c := eventCount(x, reset = r)
```

Why TeSSLa?

TeSSLa vs. timed LTL

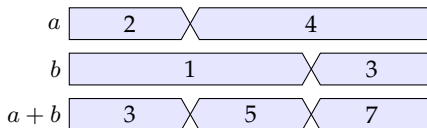
- ▶ timed TeSSLa fragment is equivalent to timed finite state transducers
- ▶ timed LTL is a logic
- ▶ TeSSLa is more than a logic
 - ▶ TeSSLa can check traces (like a logic)
 - ▶ TeSSLa can aggregate information
 - ▶ TeSSLa can compute statistics

TeSSLa vs. LOLA

- ▶ LOLA needs synchronous events on all input streams
- ▶ TeSSLa supports asynchronous (sparse) events on input streams with a global clock
- ▶ Time is first-class citizen in TeSSLa, every event has a timestamp

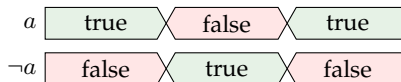
TeSSLa Operators: Signal Lift of Addition

- ▶ *Signal lift* allows to lift operations on arbitrary data types to streams.
- ▶ E.g. the *addition* on integer numbers can be lifted to streams of integers.



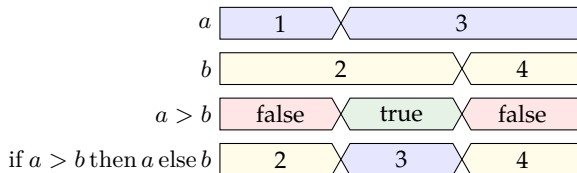
TeSSLa Operators: Signal Lift of Negation

- *Signal lift* allows to lift operations on arbitrary data types to streams.
- E.g. the *negation* of booleans can be lifted to a stream of booleans.



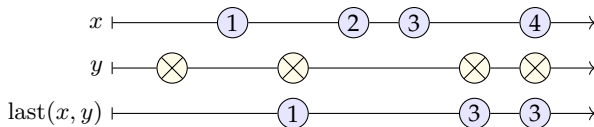
TeSSLa Operators: Signal Lift of If-Then-Else

- *Signal lift* allows to lift operations on arbitrary data types to streams.
- E.g. the ternary *if-then-else* function can be lifted to a stream of booleans and two streams of identical type.



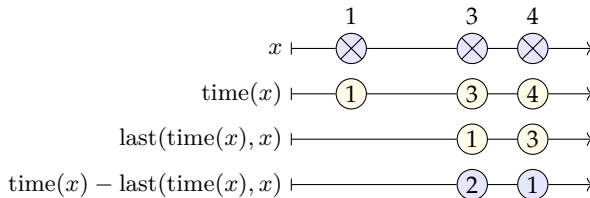
TeSSLa Operators: Last

- Needed to define properties over sequences of events.
- Last allows to refer to the values of events on one stream that occurred strictly before the events on another stream



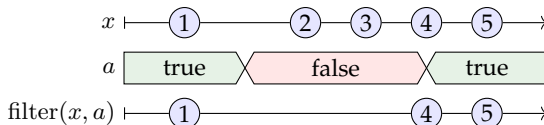
TeSSLa Operators: Time

- Provides access to the *timestamps* of events
- Produces events carrying their *timestamps as data value*
- Hence *all operators* for data values can be applied to timestamps.



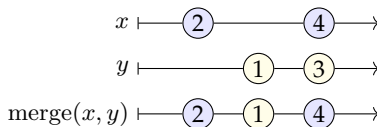
TeSSLa Operators: Filter

- Process streams in an *event-oriented fashion*
- *Filter* the events of one stream based on a second boolean stream interpreted as piecewise constant signal.



TeSSLa Operators: Merge

- ▶ Process streams in an *event-oriented fashion*
- ▶ *Merge* combines two streams into one, giving preference to the first stream when both streams contain identical timestamps.



TeSSLa Operators: Const and Nil

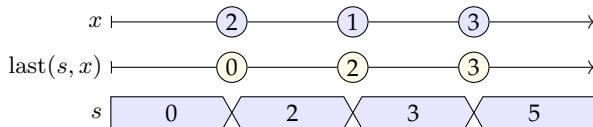
- ▶ The constant *nil* for the empty stream
- ▶ The operator *const* converting a value to a stream starting with that value at timestamp 0.

Implicit Conversions

- ▶ Integer and Boolean constants are converted to streams via *const*.
- ▶ Build-in operators on integers and Booleans are lifted to streams via *signal lift*.

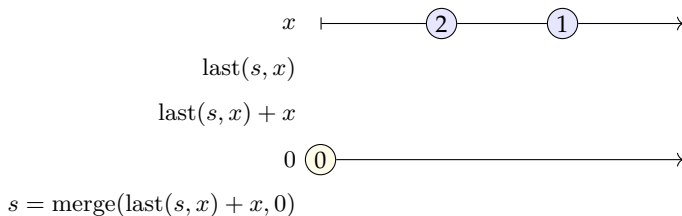
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa

- ▶ The *last* operator allows to write *recursive equations*
- ▶ The *merge* operation allows to *initialize* recursive equations with an initial event from an other stream.
- ▶ Express *aggregation* operations like the *sum* over all values of a stream.

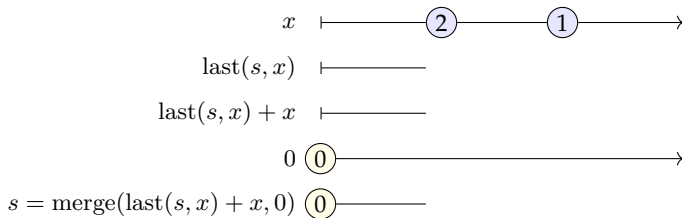


```
def s := merge(last(s, x) + x, 0)
```

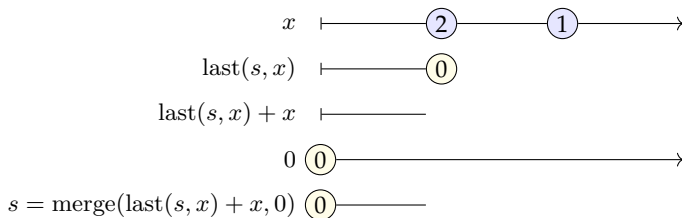
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



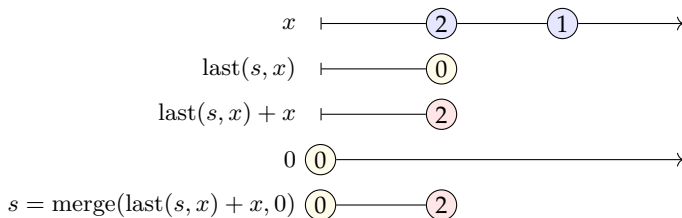
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



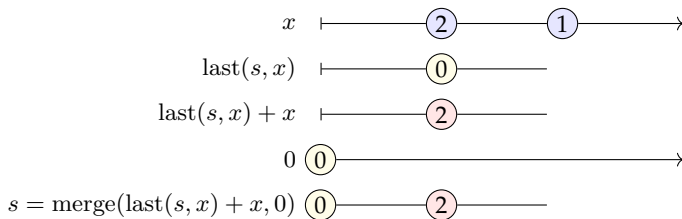
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



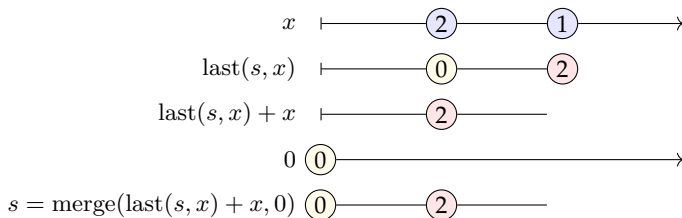
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



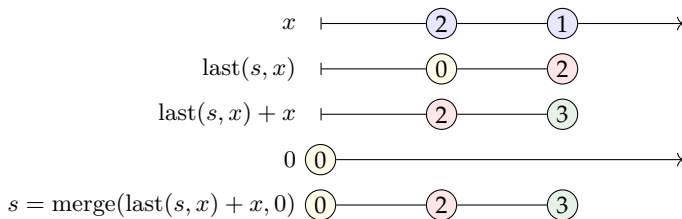
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



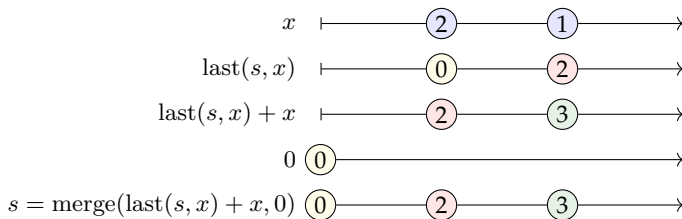
Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



Recursive Equations in TeSSLa: How It Works



Macros in TeSSLa: eventCount

```
# Count the number of events on `values`.  
def eventCount[A,B] (values: Events[A]) := {  
  def count: Events[Int] := merge(  
    # increment counter  
    last(count, values) + 1  
    , 0)  
  count  
}
```


Macros in TeSSLa: eventCount With Reset

```
# Count the number of events on `values`. Reset the output to 0
# on every event on `reset`.
def eventCount[A,B](values: Events[A], reset: Events[B]) := {
  def count: Events[Int] := merge(

    # `reset` contains the latest event
    if merge(time(reset) > time(values), false)
    then 0

    # `reset` and `values` latest event happen simultaneously
    else if merge(time(reset) == time(values), false)
    then 1

    # `values` contains the latest event --> increment counter
    else last(count, values) + 1

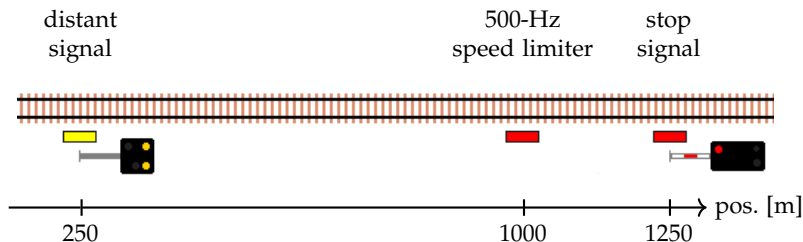
    , 0)
  count
}
```

Data Types in TeSSLa

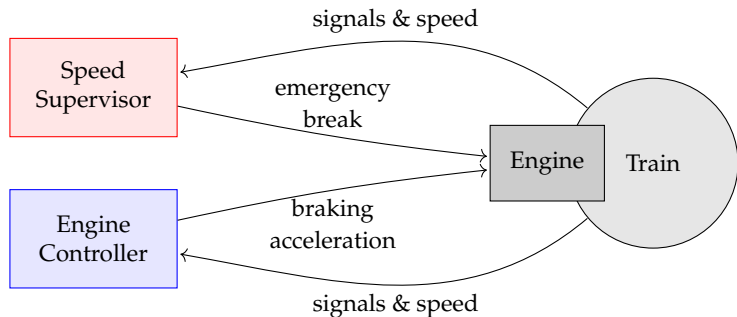
- ▶ TeSSLa is defined **agnostically** with respect to **any time or data domain**.
- ▶ **Different data structures** can be used to **represent time and data**.
- ▶ Monitoring in hardware:
atomic data types, e.g. int or float.
- ▶ Monitoring in software:
complex data structures like lists, trees and maps.

Example Scenario: Braking a Train With Punktförmige Zugbeeinflussung

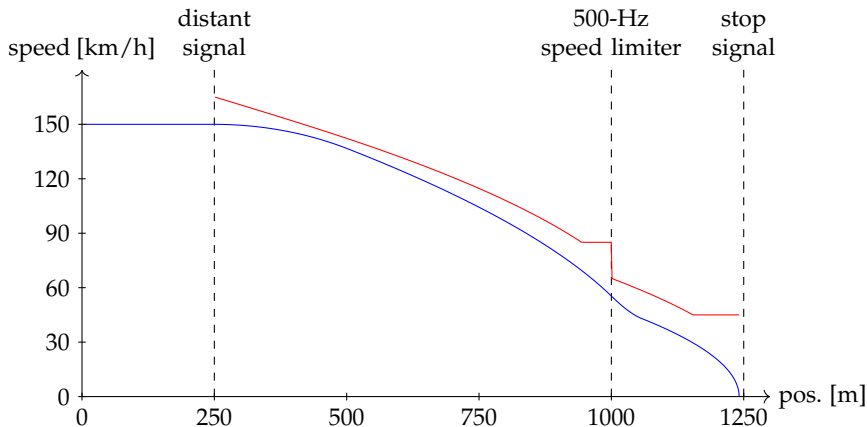
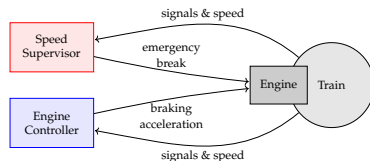
Example Scenario: Punktförmige Zugbeeinflussung



Example Scenario: Braking a Train



Example Scenario



Measuring Timing Constraints

Timing Constraints: Measuring Runtime

Property

Measure the runtime of one execution of the speed supervisor.

```
# specify events of interest  
def call := function_call("supervisor")  
def return := function_return("supervisor")  
  
# specify property over the events  
def supervisorRuntime := runtime(call, return)
```


Timing Constraints: Measuring Runtime

Property

Measure the runtime of one execution of the speed supervisor.

```
# specify events of interest  
def call := function_call("supervisor")  
def return := function_return("supervisor")  
  
# specify property over the events  
def supervisorRuntime := runtime(call, return)
```

TeSSLa standard library

```
def runtime(call: Events[Unit], return: Events[Unit]) :=  
  at(return, time(return) - time(call))  
  
def at[A,B](trigger: Events[A], values: Events[B]) :=  
  filter(values, time(trigger) == time(values))
```

Timing Constraints: Aggregate Statistics

Property

Measure the *maximal* runtime of the speed supervisor.

```
def maxSupervisorRuntime := max(supervisorRuntime)
```

Timing Constraints: Aggregate Statistics

Property

Measure the *maximal* runtime of the speed supervisor.

```
def maxSupervisorRuntime := max(supervisorRuntime)
```

TeSSLa standard library

```
# Return the event-wise maximum of two integer streams
```

```
def maximum(a: Events[Int], b: Events[Int]) :=  
  if a > b then a else b
```

```
# Aggregate the maximal event value of a given stream
```

```
def max(x: Events[Int]) := {  
  def result := merge(maximum(last(result), x), x), 0)  
  result  
}
```

Alternative Definition of Max Using Fold

```
# Aggregate all events' values of a given stream
def fold[T,R] (f: (Events[R], Events[T]) => Events[R],
  stream: Events[T], init: R) := {
  def result: Events[R] :=
    merge(f(last(result, stream), stream), stream), init)
  result
}

# Return the event-wise maximum of two integer streams
def maximum(a: Events[Int], b: Events[Int]) :=
  if a > b then a else b

# Aggregate the maximal event value of a given stream
def max(x: Events[Int]) := fold(maximum, x, 0)
```

Checking Event Ordering Constraints

Event Ordering Constraints: Order of Function Calls

Property

Every call to `getAllowedSpeed` leads to a call of `computeAllowedSpeedDistant` **or** `computeAllowedSpeedMagnet`.

```
# specify events of interest
def call := function_call("getAllowedSpeed")
def return := function_return("getAllowedSpeed")
def computeDistant :=
  function_call("computeAllowedSpeedDistant")
def computeMagnet :=
  function_call("computeAllowedSpeedMagnet")

# specify property over the events
def computation := on(return,
  time(computeDistant) > time(call) ||
  time(computeMagnet) > time(call))
```

Event Ordering Constraints: B Not Allowed After A

Property

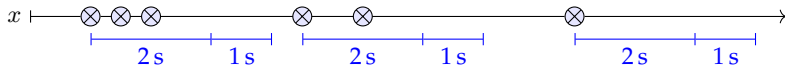
Once the function `computeAllowedSpeedMagnet` was called for the first time we must be past the 500 Hz inductor and hence the function `computeAllowedSpeedDistant` must not be called any more.

```
# specify events of interest
def computeDistant :=
  function_call("computeAllowedSpeedDistant")
def computeMagnet :=
  function_call("computeAllowedSpeedMagnet")

# specify property over the events
def magnetAfterDistant :=
  time(computeMagnet) > time(computeDistant)
```

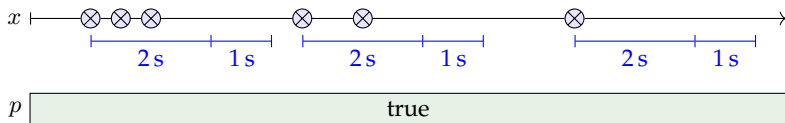
Burst Pattern

- Combination of timing and event ordering.
- AUTOSAR Timing Extension and EAST-ADL2 timing extension TADL2
- Pattern checks if events happen in bursts.



Burst Pattern

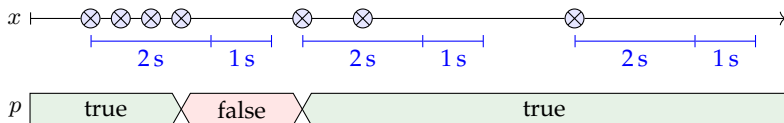
- Combination of timing and event ordering.
- AUTOSAR Timing Extension and EAST-ADL2 timing extension TADL2
- Pattern checks if events happen in bursts.



```
def p := bursts(x, burstLength = 2s,  
               waitingPeriod = 1s,  
               burstAmount = 3)
```

Burst Pattern

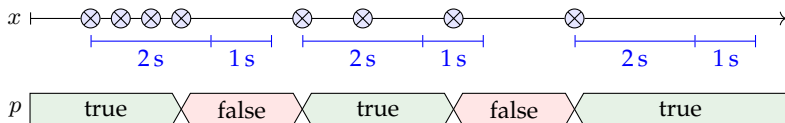
- Combination of timing and event ordering.
- AUTOSAR Timing Extension and EAST-ADL2 timing extension TADL2
- Pattern checks if events happen in bursts.



```
def p := bursts(x, burstLength = 2s,
               waitingPeriod = 1s,
               burstAmount = 3)
```

Burst Pattern

- Combination of timing and event ordering.
- AUTOSAR Timing Extension and EAST-ADL2 timing extension TADL2
- Pattern checks if events happen in bursts.



```
def p := bursts(x, burstLength = 2s,
               waitingPeriod = 1s,
               burstAmount = 3)
```

Checking Complex Events Patterns

Property

There are maximal 3 function calls in a period of 100 ms with at least half a second of silence between the bursts.

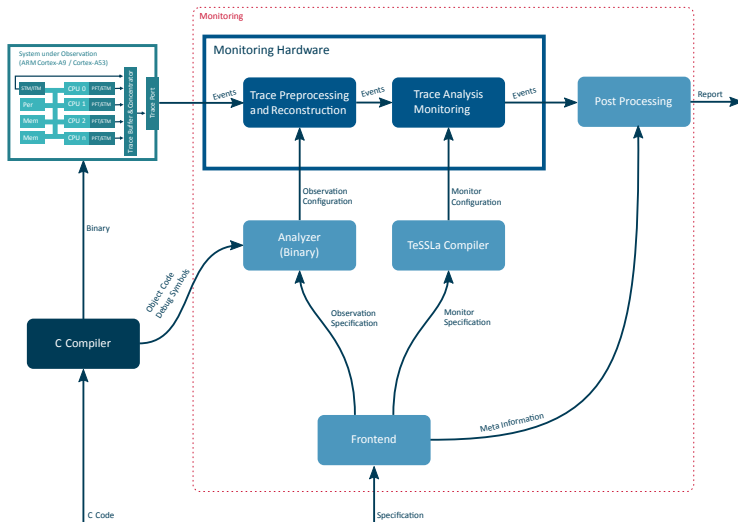
```
# specify events of interest
def calls := merge(
    function_call("getAllowedSpeed"),
    function_call("computeAllowedSpeedDistant"),
    function_call("computeAllowedSpeedMagnet"))

# specify property over the events
def b := bursts(calls, burstLength = 100ms,
               waitingPeriod = 500ms,
               burstAmount = 3)
```

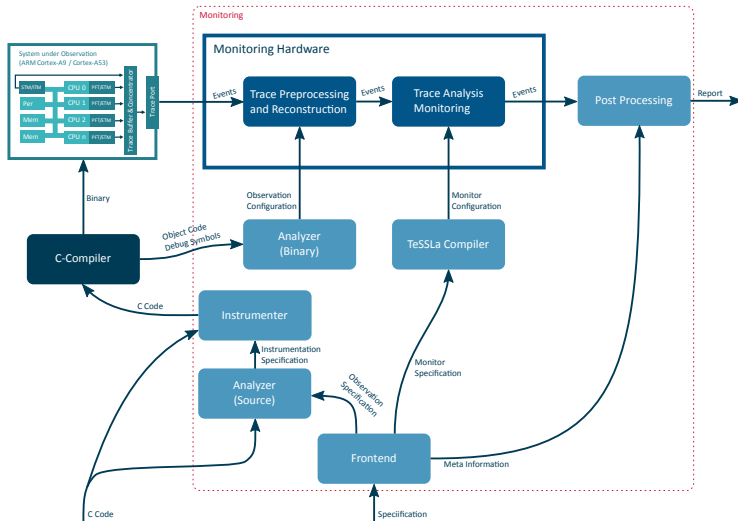
Such **pattern specifications** can spot **abnormal behaviour** which helps detecting **interesting parts of traces** of **partially unknown systems**.

Monitoring Data Values

Recall: Monitoring Program Flow Trace



Monitoring Data Values



Monitoring the Speed Supervisor

Property

23 s after the distant signal the allowed speed computed by the supervisor must be equal to 85 km/h.

```
# Specify values we are interested in
def signal := function_argument("getAllowedSpeed", 1)
def allowed_speed := function_result("getAllowedSpeed")

# Changes where signal becomes DISTANT_SIGNAL_CAUTION
def caution := filter(changes(signal),
                      signal == DISTANT_SIGNAL_CAUTION)

def valid :=
  # Either we are not yet 23s after the distant signal
  time(allowed_speed) - time(caution) <= 23s
  # or the allowed speed must be below 85~km/h
  || allowed_speed * 36 <= 85 * 1000
```


Monitoring Data Value: How It Works

```
# Specify values we are interested in  
def signal := function_argument("getAllowedSpeed", 1)  
def allowed_speed := function_result("getAllowedSpeed")
```

Instrumented C Code

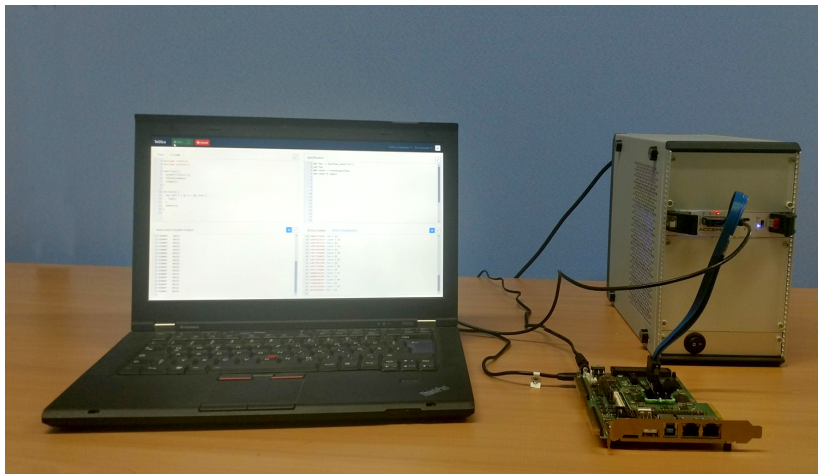
```
double getAllowedSpeed(  
    int signal, ...) {  
    tessla_debug(1, (int64_t)  
        signal);  
    double result = ...  
    tessla_debug(2, (int64_t)  
        (result * 1000));  
    return result;  
}
```

Updated Specification

```
in debug_slot: Events[Int]  
in debug_value: Events[Int]  
def signal :=  
    filter(debug_value,  
        debug_slot == 1)  
def allowed_speed :=  
    filter(debug_value,  
        debug_slot == 2)
```

Practical Hardware Setup and Demonstration

Practical Hardware Setup and Demonstration



Conclusion

1. COEMS provides **interactive** debugging and **continuous monitoring** for **embedded, hybrid and cyber-physical systems**.
2. **Continuous monitoring** of processor traces provided by **embedded tracing units (ETU)** requires
 - ▶ **online trace reconstruction** in hardware and
 - ▶ **monitoring in hardware**.
3. Using **TeSSLa** we can check
 - ▶ **event ordering** constraints,
 - ▶ **timing** constraints and
 - ▶ **complex event patterns** like the burst pattern.
4. TeSSLa can be used to **aggregate data** and compute **statistical data**.
5. Monitoring **data values** is possible with **lightweight instrumentation**.
6. **Specifications for data values** can be naturally written in **TeSSLa**.