An Integration-Oriented Approach for Designing Communication Protocols from Component-Based Service Specifications

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An Integration-Oriented Approach for Designing Communication Protocols from Component-Based Service Specifications

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Abstract

A large and complex protocol is constructed by integrating components, each of which corresponds to a subfunction specified in a service specification. The conventional approach to this construction is to integrate components on the protocol level using the existing protocol integration methods. In this approach, the reachability analysis of protocol components is required in the integration stage. So if the size of components becomes large, the integration stage would be a bottleneck because of the state explosion problem of the reachability analysis.

Therefore, we propose a new approach to construct the target protocol which at first integrates components on the service specification level and then transforms an integrated service specification into the target protocol by protocol synthesis technique. As the result, the construction of the target protocol from component service specifications can be efficiently executed in small state space without paying special attentions to the timing of protocol messages.

1 Introduction

The trend toward the enrichment of communication services in ISDN and IN has greatly increased the size and complexity of communication protocols which realize the services. In order to facilitate the design of such protocol specifications, the "component integration approach" is one of the most promising ones. The component integration approach involves the following three steps:

(1) Divide the functionality of the required service into subfunctions,
(2) Develop service specifications for the subfunctions as components (we call them component service specifications), and
(3) Obtain the target protocol (we call it integrated protocol specification) by the integration of subfunctions based on the component service specifications.

A major advantage of this approach is that we can develop each component with relatively smaller size and focus on single function without considering the interaction with other functions. The third step of deriving the integrated protocol specification from the component service specifications is the most difficult and interesting problem. Figure 1 shows the third step of derivation process schematically.

Figure 1: Derivation of integrated protocol specifications

Two approaches can be considered to obtain the integrated protocol specification from the component service specifications. Figure 1(a) shows the first and conventional approach: After transforming each component service specification into a component protocol specification one-by-one by applying conventional design and analysis techniques, we integrate them into single protocol specification. In this approach, we can utilize the existing methods for the integration of component protocol specifications. Several component integration methods on the protocol specification level have been proposed. Chow et.al. [3, 4] proposed a method for constructing multiphase protocol, which sequentially executes multiphases of behavior performing a distinct subfunction in each phase. Lin proposed two methods for integrating the component protocol specifications. One is for alternating function protocol [8] such that the user can select any one from multiple functions, but is restricted to execute only one function at a time. Another is for concurrent function protocol [9] which performs multiple functions concurrently. All of these methods require the validation of component protocols based on the reachability analysis to ensure the safety of the integrated protocol.
specification. Unfortunately, if the analyzed protocol becomes large, it is known that the reachability analysis exponentially takes a lot of time and cost because of state explosion problem[1, 7]. Thus, if the component protocol specifications become large, then the integration of the components would be bottleneck of the first approach.

On the other hand, Figure 1(b) shows another approach: At first, we integrate the component service specifications into single integrated service specification, then transform it to the integrated protocol specification. In this approach, the component integration is carried out on the service specification level which has much smaller state space and is more abstract than protocol specification level. Even if some analyses of components are required in the integration of the service specifications, it is much easier than that on the protocol specification level. However in this approach, since the integrated service specification becomes large, it is difficult to transform the integrated service specification into the integrated protocol specification. Therefore, an efficient and reliable procedure is required for the transformation.

In this paper, we try to implement the second approach and present three integration methods on the service specification level which correspond to the existing protocol integration methods proposed in [8, 3, 4]. Moreover, we use a protocol synthesis in the transformation from an integrated service specification to the integrated protocol specification. Protocol synthesis [2, 6, 11, 13] is one of the most reliable and efficient techniques that automatically derives a protocol specification from a service specification without specification errors.

Major advantages of the proposed method are summarized as follows:
(a) Since the integration of the components is carried out on the service specification level, we can operate it in small state space without paying special attentions to the timing of synchronizing messages (protocol messages).
(b) Since the sufficient conditions for ensuring correctness of the integrated protocol specification are presented in this paper for component service specifications, we can easily check the sufficiency of the conditions without complicated analysis.
(c) The automated transformation is applied for the integrated service specification to get the target protocol specification.

This paper is organized as follows. Section 2 gives definitions of service and protocol specifications and Section 3 formulates the protocol derivation problem to be discussed in this paper. In Section 4, the protocol synthesis method is proposed, and Section 5 discusses component integration methods on the service specifications level. Finally Section 6 concludes the paper with future researches.

2 Preliminaries
2.1 Communication Model

![Communication architecture model](image)

As shown in Figure 2, a communication service is specified by service primitives exchanged between users in the higher layer and processes in the lower layer through service access points (SAPs). The processes are also called protocol entities which are denoted by PEs in the following. A service is provided to users by PEs through SAPs and is defined by service specification. A protocol is a rule that govern the exchange of the protocol messages among the PEs through the communication channel and is defined by protocol specification.

In this paper, we assume that the number of PEs is two, that the communication channel is reliable and that message is delivered in FIFO order.

2.2 Service Specification

A service specification defines sequences of primitives to be realized as communication services, which are exchanged between users and processes through SAP.

A service specification S is modeled by a Finite State Machine (FSM) and is represented by a directed graph, which includes two types of transitions. One is a primitive transition p, which has, as an attribute, an index of SAP through which p passes. If primitive p passes through SAPi (i = 1, 2), then we define a function sap(p) = i, and also represent it by pi. Another is an L transition denoted by Lpi. L transitions Lpi's are the auxiliary transitions for the protocol synthesis procedure, which are translated into receptions of a message caused by execution of primitive pi. For simplicity, a transition labeled by p from node u to w is denoted by (u, p, w) in the following discussion.

We assume that all service specification S are deterministic, that is, no two outgoing transitions from any node have identical labels.

A node of S is a final node iff there is no outgoing transition from it. A node of S is a parallel node iff more than one primitive transition through different SAPs is leaving from it.

For any path $\rho = (v, p, v')(v', q, v'') \ldots (w, r, w')$ in S, nodes v and w' are called head node of $\rho$ and tail node of $\rho$, respectively, and primitive r is called last primitive of $\rho$. 
A path of S from a node w is a SAPI(or SAP2)-path from w iff the path consists entirely of SAP1's (SAP2's) primitives. A SAPI(or SAP2)-path is a SAPI(or SAP2)-cycle if its head node and tail node are identical. A SAP1(or SAP2)-path is a reachable SAPI(or SAP2)-path iff its tail node is final node.

A service specification S is well-formed iff S includes no parallel node or the following condition PL holds for any parallel node w in S.

Condition PL Consider a SAPi-path p and a SAPj-path μ from w (i, j = 1, 2, i ≠ j). Let p1 and qj be last primitives of p and μ, respectively. Then, (1) both p and μ form neither SAPk-cycle nor reachable SAPk-path (k = 1, 2), (2) For any node v on p, an L transition (v, LQj, v) exists in S, and (3) For any node r on μ and the tail node t of p, an L transition (r, LP, t) exists in S.

![Diagram](image)

Figure 3: A service specification S

An example of S is shown in Figure 3. All of the transitions are primitive transitions, and node 5 is a final node. Since there is no parallel node (Note that node 3 is not a parallel node because both outgoing primitives pass through identical SAP2), S is well-formed. From node 1, there is SAP1-path (1,C.req1,2), and from node 2 there are two SAP2-paths (2,C.ind2,3)(3,C.req2,6) and (2,C.ind2,3)(3,C.resp2,4).

This example represents a call setup function for one-way communication from user 1 to user 2. Primitives C.req, C.ind, C.resp, C.conf, C.req and Rel.ind describe connection request, indication, response, confirmation, reject and release indication, respectively.

2.3 Integration Expression

As discussed in Section 1, several service specifications (component service specifications), each of which specifies a subfunction of the target protocol, are integrated into one. Integration expression gives an information on how to integrate the components into one. The syntax of the integration expression is defined by a context free grammar IG shown in Table 1, where E is a start symbol and there are eight production rules.

For example, let S_A, S_B, S_C and S_D be component service specifications, then expressions S_A|S_B, S_A|S_B|S_C and (S_A|(S_B|S_C)|S_D) are all integration expressions.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>E ::= T</th>
<th>Rule5</th>
<th>T ::= (E)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rule2</td>
<td>E ::= T E</td>
<td>Rule6</td>
<td>T ::= t-spec</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule3</td>
<td>E ::= T_F E</td>
<td>Rule7</td>
<td>F ::= set of integer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rule4</td>
<td>E ::= T_F</td>
<td>Rule8</td>
<td>F ::= ε</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Table 1: Grammar IG for integration expression

Note that there are three kinds of operators in the integration expression, that is, "∪", "|" and "∪∪". These represent the following three integration operations on component service specifications: an alternative integration S_A|S_B, a sequential integration S_A|S_B and a recursive integration S_A. The definition of these operations will be presented in Section 5.

2.4 Protocol Specification

A protocol specification (or simply protocol) P consists of two FSMs and is represented by two directed graphs PE1 and PE2. PEi(i = 1, 2) includes three types of transitions. The first is a primitive transition which is the same as that of the service specification. The second is a sending transition labeled by \( m \), which means that a message \( m \) is transmitted to another PE. The third is a receiving transition labeled by \( ?m \), which means the reception of a message \( m \) from another PE.

A node of PE1 (or PE2) is a final node iff there is no outgoing transition from it. A node of PE1 (or PE2) is a receiving node iff all outgoing transitions from it are receiving transitions.

A global state of protocol P = (PE1, PE2) is a quad-tuple \( g = [v, w, x, y] \), where \( v \) and \( w \) are nodes in PE1 and PE2, respectively, and \( x \) and \( y \) are the concatenations of the protocol messages (Intuitively, \( v \) and \( w \) represent the current states of PE1 and PE2, respectively, and \( x \) and \( y \) represent messages stored in a communication channel from PE2 to PE1 and those from PE1 to PE2, respectively). The initial global state is \( g_0 = [v_0, w_0, ε, ε] \) where \( v_0 \) and \( w_0 \) are the initial nodes of PE1 and PE2, respectively, and \( ε \) is the empty string.

Assume that \( g = [v, w, x, y] \) is a global state of protocol P = (PE1, PE2). The next global state \( g' \) of \( g \) is defined exactly one of the following six conditions is satisfied. In the following, E1 and E2 are the primitives in PE1 and PE2, respectively, e represents a protocol message, and \( ε \) is concatenation operator.

1. If \((v, E_1, v')\) exists in PE1, then \( g' = [v', w, x, y] \).
2. If \((w, E_2, w')\) exists in PE2, then \( g' = [v, w', x, y] \).
3. If \((v, l, v')\) exists in PE1, then \( g' = [v', w, x, y, e] \).
4. If \((w, l, w')\) exists in PE2, then \( g' = [v, w', x, y, e] \).
5. If \((v, ε, v')\) exists in PE1 and \( x = ε \cdot x' \), then \( g' = [v', w, x', y] \).
6. If \((w, ε, w')\) exists in PE2 and \( y = ε \cdot y' \), then \( g' = [v, w', x, y] \).

A global state \( g \) is reachable iff \( g \) is an initial global
state or there exists at least one sequence of global states \( g_0, g_1, \ldots, g_n (= g) \) such that \( g_0 \) is the initial global state and \( g_{r+1} \) is the next global state of \( g_r \) (\( r = 0, \ldots, n - 1 \)).

A reachable global state \( g = [v, w, x, y] \) of protocol \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) is an unspecified reception state iff it satisfies at least one of the following conditions.

1. \( v \) is either a receiving node or a final node, \( x = e \cdot x' \) and no transition \( (v, e, v') \) exists in \( PE_1 \).
2. \( w \) is either a receiving node or a final node, \( y = e \cdot y' \) and no transition \( (w, e, w') \) exists in \( PE_2 \).

A reachable global state \( g = [v, w, x, y] \) of \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) is a deadlock state iff both \( v \) and \( w \) are receiving nodes and \( x = y = e \). Then, a protocol \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) is safe iff any reachable global state of \( P \) is free from both unspecified reception states and deadlock states.

Condition C2: In \( P \), the execution ordering of primitives prescribed in the component service specifications is kept in accordance with \( exp \).

A protocol specification \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) is correct iff both of conditions C1 and C2 are satisfied.

The proposed method consists of the following two stages.

Stage 1 (Component Integration) All of the component service specifications are integrated into one integrated service specification in accordance with the given integration expression.

Stage 2 (Protocol Synthesis) The integrated service specification obtained at Stage 1 is transformed into an integrated protocol specification.

Since the result of the protocol synthesis is needed to illustrate the dynamic behavior of the result of component integration, at first we explain the protocol synthesis stage in the next section, and then we discuss the component integration stage in Section 5.

4 Protocol Synthesis Stage

4.1 Protocol Synthesis Method

In this section, we discuss the protocol synthesis method to be applied in the "protocol synthesis stage", in which the transformation from an integrated service specification into an integrated protocol specification is performed.

The input/output relation of the protocol synthesis is as follows.

Protocol Synthesis:
Input: An integrated service specification \( S \) obtained at the component integration stage.
Output: An integrated protocol specification \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) satisfying the following conditions R1 and R2.

Condition R1: \( P \) is safe.

Condition R2: The execution ordering of primitives prescribed in \( S \) is kept in \( P \).

For limited pages, we will briefly explain the protocol synthesis. The detail of protocol synthesis can be referred in [6, 11]. In the following discussion, we suppose \( i, j = 1, 2 \), \( i \neq j \) unless especially specified.

Protocol synthesis in the proposed method consists of the following three steps.

Step 1: This step obtains two service specifications \( S_{Ai} \) (\( i = 1, 2 \)) by projecting a given service specification \( S \) onto each SAP\( i \) (\( i = 1, 2 \)). In the projection, each primitive transition of \( S \) not associated with SAP\( i \) is substituted by \( e \) in SAP\( i \).

Step 2: This step synthesizes the protocol specification \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) from the projected service specifications. This synthesis is performed by applying transition synthesis rules shown in Table 2. In Table 2, \( E_i \) denotes some primitives in SAP\( i \), and \( e \) denotes a protocol message which is uniquely generated by a primitive. Additionally, we define a function \( O(w) \) which returns a set of indices of primitives.
outgoing from a node $w$ in the service specification. Each pair of rules $Ak$ and $Bk$ ($1 \leq k \leq 3$) is applied to pairs of transitions $(v, Ei, w)$ in $SAP_i$ and $(v, e, w)$ in $SAP_j$, respectively.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Rule</th>
<th>Input</th>
<th>Condition</th>
<th>Output</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>A.1</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>$OUTv=1$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.1</td>
<td></td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.2</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$OUTv=1$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.2</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$OUTv=1$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A.3</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$Ei$</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>B.3</td>
<td></td>
<td>$SAP_i$</td>
<td>$PE_i$</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Step 3: Finally, $\varepsilon$ transitions are removed from the protocol specification by applying the $\varepsilon$ removal algorithm in [5]. Using this algorithm, the protocol specification obtained in Step 2 can be reduced to an equivalent FSM.

Figure 4 shows a protocol specification which is synthesized from the service specification shown in Figure 3.

4.2 Well-Formed Service Specification

In general, protocol specifications satisfying the conditions R1 and R2 cannot be always obtained from any service specifications by the protocol synthesis. In other words, a service specification from which a protocol satisfying R1 and R2 is synthesized belongs to a special class of the service specifications defined as well-formed (see Section 2.2).

Consider a service specification $S$ shown in Figure 5(a). According to the definition, $S$ is not well-formed because Condition PL is not satisfied for parallel node 1. This service specification specifies a connection setup function for two-way communication: from user 1 to user 2 and from user 2 to user 1. A protocol specification $P = (PE_1, PE_2)$ shown in Figure 5(b) is synthesized from $S$. $P$ performs correctly if only one of two connection requests is triggered by one user. However, if user 1 and user 2 simultaneously execute two primitives $Creq1$ and $Creq2$, respectively, then two connection requests cause a collision as shown in Figure 5(c) and $P$ may reach an unspecified reception state via the following sequence of global states: $[1,1,\varepsilon,\varepsilon], [100,1,\varepsilon,\varepsilon], [100,106,\varepsilon,\varepsilon], [2,106,\varepsilon,CRQ], [2,7,CRQ,CRQ]$. Then $P$ is not safe.

In order to resolve the unspecified reception caused by the above parallel execution of primitives, some receiving transitions must be added to the protocol specification. Before applying protocol synthesis, if we add some $L$ transitions to the service specification so that Condition PL holds for any parallel state, we can avoid the unspecified reception. $L$ transition $LP_i$ is such an auxiliary transition in a service specification which is translated into receiving transitions of a message caused by execution of primitive $p_i$ (see transition synthesis rule A3, B3 shown in Table 2).

In the example of Figure 5(a), if two $L$ transitions $(2, LC.req2, 2)$ and $(7, LC.req1, 2)$ are added to $S$ before applying protocol synthesis, two extra transitions $(2, CRQ', 2)$ and $(7, CRQ, 2)$ are synthesized in $PE_1$ and $PE_2$ respectively. Then, we can avoid the unspecified reception even if the parallel execution of $C.req1$ and $C.req2$ occurs. It is observed by the following sequence of global states from a global state $[2,7,CRQ',CRQ]: [2,7,CRQ',CRQ], [2,7,\varepsilon,CRQ], [2,2,\varepsilon,\varepsilon,\varepsilon]$, ...

Lemma 1 If a service specification $S$ is well-formed, then a protocol specification $P = (PE_1, PE_2)$ synthesized from $S$ satisfies Conditions R1 and R2.

5 Component Integration Stage

This section presents the integration method of the component service specifications. The component integration is carried out by the following three integration operations: alternative integration, sequential integration and recursive integration. We explain the alternative integration in Section 5.1, the sequential and recursive integrations in Section 5.2. Then,
Section 5.3 summarizes the component integration method.

5.1 Alternative Integration \( (S_A|S_B) \)

*Alternative integration* combines the initial nodes of two component service specifications \( S_A \) and \( S_B \). The integrated service specification is denoted by \( S_A|S_B \). The protocol \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) synthesized from \( S_A|S_B \) can perform the functions of either \( S_A \) or \( S_B \), but not simultaneously.

![Diagram of component service specifications and integrated service specification](image)

Figure 6: Example of an integrated service specification

For example, Figure 6(a) shows two component service specifications \( S_A \) and \( S_B \). As discussed before, \( S_A \) specifies a call setup function for one-way communication from user 1 to user 2. On the other hand, \( S_B \) specifies the one from user 2 to user 1. By joining the initial nodes of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \), we get the integrated service specification \( S_A|S_B \) shown in Figure 6(b). \( S_A|S_B \) specifies a half-duplex connection setup function, that is, either of two-way call setups can be executed.

Note that the above description is only for the minimal requirement of an alternative integration. It does not necessarily maintain the correctness of the synthesized protocol. To attain correctness, we must address a problem of *component competition* to be explained below.

A component competition arises when the protocol tries to initiate the execution of both components simultaneously. Consider again the integrated service specification in Figure 6(b). \( S_A|S_B \) is the same as \( S \) shown in Figure 5(a) and the protocol synthesized from \( S_A|S_B \) is the same as \( P = (PE_1, PE_2) \) in Figure 5(b). As discussed in Section 4.2, \( S_A|S_B \) is not a well-formed service specification and parallel execution of \( C_{req1} \) and \( C_{req2} \) induces the unspecified reception in the synthesized protocol.

The reason of the unspecified reception is considered as the competition of two service functions \( S_A \) and \( S_B \). Primitives \( C_{req1} \) and \( C_{req2} \) initiate the execution of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \), respectively. Suppose that two primitives \( C_{req1} \) and \( C_{req2} \) are executed simultaneously by user 1 and user 2, respectively. Then \( PE_1 \) initiates the function of \( S_A \) (call setup from user 1 to user 2), while \( PE_2 \) initiates the function of \( S_B \) (call setup from user 2 to user 1). Thus, functions of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \) compete with each other and the coordination between \( PE_1 \) and \( PE_2 \) is lost.

The component competition happens when the following condition CC holds.

**Competition Condition (CC):** Let \( v_0 \) and \( w_0 \) be the initial nodes of two component service specifications \( S_A \) and \( S_B \), respectively. If \( v_0 \) has at least one outgoing edge of primitive \( p \) such that \( sap(p) = i \), then \( w_0 \) has at least one outgoing edge of primitive \( q \) such that \( sap(q) = j \) \( (i, j = 1, 2; i \neq j) \).

To resolve the competition, we prioritize the component service specifications in advance. When the competition occurs, the execution of low priority function is aborted. In order to realize such mechanism, we systematically add some \( L \) transitions to the integrated service specification.

Now, we present the alternative integration. In the following, we say that a SAPI-path \( \rho \) in \( S_A|S_B \) is inherited from \( S_A \) (or \( S_B \)) if, before the integration, \( \rho \) is included in \( S_A \) (or \( S_B \)).

**Alternative Integration \( S_A|S_B \):**

**Input:** Two service specifications \( S_A \) and \( S_B \). Let \( v_0 \) and \( w_0 \) be the initial nodes of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \), respectively. Without loss of generality, we assume that the priority of \( S_A \) is higher than that of \( S_B \).

**Output:** The alternative integrated service specification denoted by \( S_A|S_B \), obtained by Procedure \( S_A|S_B \).

**Procedure \( S_A|S_B \):**

**Step 1:** \( S_A|S_B \) is formed by combining the initial nodes of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \). The initial node of \( S_A|S_B \) is denoted by \( v_0, w_0 \).

**Step 2:** Check the condition CC. If CC is satisfied, then repeat the following substeps 2-a and 2-b as long as new \( L \) transitions can be added to \( S_A|S_B \).

**Substep 2-a:** If \( [v] \) is the last node of a SAPI-path from \( v_0, w_0 \) which is inherited from \( S_A \), and \( p_i \) is the last primitive of the SAPI-path, then \([w] \) is a node which is reachable from \( v_0, w_0 \) over a SAPI-path inherited from \( S_B \), then for each \( w \), add a transition \( (w, Lp_i, v) \) to \( S_A|S_B \).

**Substep 2-b:** If \( [q] \) is the last primitive of a SAPB-path from \( v_0, w_0 \) which is inherited from \( S_B \) and \([r] \) is a node which is reachable from \( v_0, w_0 \) over a SAPB-path inherited from \( S_A \), then for each \( r \) add a self loop \( (r, Lq_j, r) \).

Note that if \( S_A \) and \( S_B \) commonly include the same primitives outgoing from the initial states, then \( S_A|S_B \) is no longer deterministic as required. However, this problem can be resolved by relabeling the primitive in one of \( S_A \) and \( S_B \).
Figure 7: Illustration of alternative integration

Figure 7 (a) shows an integrated service specification $S_A | S_B$ obtained from the component service specifications $S_A$ and $S_B$ shown in Figure 6 by applying the alternative integration. Figure 7(b) shows the half-duplex connection setup protocol synthesized from $S_A | S_B$. Here, we suppose that the priority of $S_A$ is higher than that of $S_B$. Therefore, the connection request of user 2 is discarded when the collision happens as shown in Figure 7(c).

Now, we give the following lemma on the alternative integration.

Lemma 2 An integrated service specification $S_A | S_B$ is well-formed if [condition CC does not hold, but the following (1) holds] or [condition CC holds and the followings (1)-(3) hold].

1. Both $S_A$ and $S_B$ are well-formed.
2. Neither $S_A$ nor $S_B$ includes any SAPi-cycle containing the initial node.
3. Neither $S_A$ nor $S_B$ includes any reachable SAPi-path starting from the initial node.

5.2 Sequential Integration ($S_A | F S_B$) and Recursive Integration ($S_{AF}$)

Sequential integration combines two service specifications $S_A$ and $S_B$ by joining some final nodes of $S_A$ with the initial node of $S_B$. The integrated service specification is denoted by $S_A | S_B$. The protocol synthesized from $S_A | S_B$ can perform two functions of $S_A$ and $S_B$ as successive two phases. On the other hand, recursive integration combines one service specification $S_A$ with itself. The integrated service specification is denoted by $S_A^*$. The protocol synthesized from $S_A^*$ can perform one function of $S_A$ repeatedly.

In the following, we use $V_f(S)$ to denote a set of all final nodes in service specification $S$. Now, we present the sequential and recursive integrations.

**Sequential Integration $S_A | F S_B$:**

**Input:** Two service specifications $S_A$ and $S_B$, and a set of nodes $F \subseteq V_f(S_A)$.

**Output:** The sequential integrated service specification denoted by $S_A | F S_B$, obtained by Procedure $S_A | F S_B$. If $F = V_f(S_A)$, then it is denoted by $S_A | S_B$ omitting $F$.

**Procedure $S_A | F S_B$:** Join all the final nodes of $S_A$ in $F$ to the initial node of $S_B$. The initial node of $S_A$ becomes the initial node of $S_A | F S_B$.

**Recursive Integration $S_{AF}$:**

**Input:** A service specifications $S_A$ and a set of nodes $F \subseteq V_f(S_A)$

**Output:** The recursive integrated service specification denoted by $S_{AF}$, obtained by Procedure $S_{AF}$. If $F = V_f(S_A)$, then it is denoted by $S_A^*$ omitting $F$.

**Procedure $S_{AF}$:** Join all the final nodes of $S_A$ in $F$ to the initial node of $S_A$.

Note that the above two integrations cannot be executed if $S_A$ has no final node. As for these two integrations, the following Lemmas hold:

**Lemma 3** An integrated service specification $S_A | F S_B$ is well-formed if both component service specifications $S_A$ and $S_B$ are well-formed.

**Lemma 4** An integrated service specification $S_{AF}$ is well-formed if both component service specifications $S_A$ is well-formed.

5.3 Component Integration Method

Several component service specifications, which are given as the input of the component integration stage, are integrated into one by successive applications of three integration operations according to the given integration expression. The order of the applications is uniquely determined by syntax analysis of the given integration expression. After the integrated service specification is generated by the component integration operations, it is transformed into the target protocol specification in the protocol synthesis stage.

Now, we give the following theorem with respect to the correctness of the target protocol.

**Theorem 1** If the integrated service specification $S$ obtained at the component integration stage is well-formed, then the protocol specification $P$ finally derived from $S$ by the protocol synthesis method is correct.

Theorem 1 implies that the correctness of the target protocol can be checked on the service specification level. In other words, to check if the target protocol is
correct or not can be reduced to the decision problem if the integrated service specification is well-formed or not. Lemmas 2, 3 and 4 provide the sufficient conditions for the integrated service specifications to be well-formed. So, we can find the following guideline for designing the correct protocol specification.

**Component Integration:**

**Step 1:** Develop the component service specifications so that all of them are well-formed.

**Step 2:** Based on the integration expression, select two service specifications as the components which are integrated at this time (In the case of recursive integration, we select one service specification). Then, for the service specifications, check if the integrated service specification will be well-formed or not by using Lemmas 2, 3 or 4. If it will not be well-formed, then abort the procedure and redesign the component service specifications (at Step 1 again).

**Step 3:** Apply the integration operation to the service specifications. If some integration operations still remain, then go to Step 2. Otherwise, we can obtain the well-formed integrated service specification, which will be transformed into a correct protocol at protocol synthesis stage.

Step 2 can be easily implemented by using simple path trace algorithm for the service specifications, and it takes at most $O(n)$ state space, where $n$ is the total number of nodes of the component service specifications. Additionally, all of the three integration operations are quite simple procedures. These facts imply that the component integration requires no special knowledge or techniques of the protocol specification (e.g., reachability analysis) and that it can be executed in a reasonable time.

On the other hand, the previous component integration methods [3, 4, 8], which correspond to the proposed three integration operations, require the validation of the component protocol specifications based on the reachability analysis for checking some conditions (just like Step 2) in order to ensure the correctness of the integrated protocol. However, since the operational state space of protocol specification is generally even much larger than that of service specification, this validation exponentially takes a lot of time and space because of the state explosion problem of the protocol[1, 7], especially when the size of component becomes large.

**6 Concluding Remarks**

In this paper, we have proposed a framework for designing communication protocols from component service specifications. Important advantage of the proposed method is that the component integration can be performed with in the small state space and without special knowledge or techniques of communication protocol since it is carried out on the service specification level. The proofs of lemmas and theorems, numerical comparison with the previous method and application to more practical protocol are delegated to the paper[12].

Finally, we summarize the further research studies in the following.

(a) An extension of the proposed technique to $n \geq 2$ entities protocol model.

(b) An examination of the integration other than the three integrations.

**References**


