

Interactive TLA+

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MongoDB

Two ways to understand a system

Precise

Does the system obey a particular invariant / property?



Lots of powerful tools for this.

Holistic

Does the system generally conform to my theory of it?

Holistic understanding usually requires interaction or visualization.



Few tools, mostly prototypes.

Programmers understand programs holistically through interaction

```
26 return [], set([next_tenant_id])
27
28 children, tenant_ids = make_oplog_re
29 entry_type = random.choice(["entry",
30 if entry_type == "entry":
    make_oplog_recursive()
Debug: TransactionHistoryIterator x
```

debugging

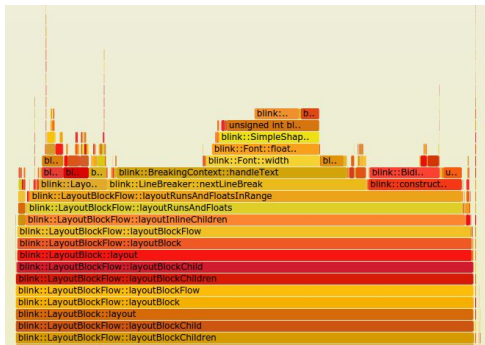
```
Sep 22 08:54:51 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:54:57 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:01 As-MacBook-Pro Google Chrome Helper
Sep 22 08:55:07 --- last message repeated 14 times
Sep 22 08:55:07 As-MacBook-Pro Google Chrome Helper
Sep 22 08:55:08 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:20 --- last message repeated 1 time
Sep 22 08:55:20 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:21 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:21 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:23 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
```

logging

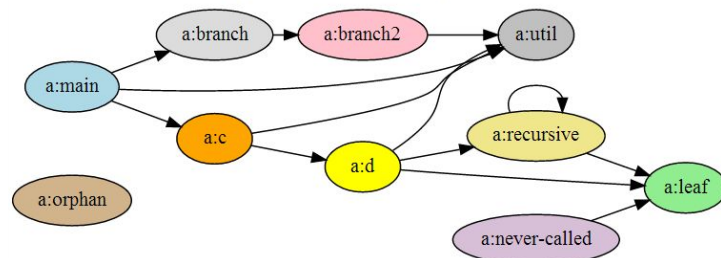
Name	Call Count	Time (ms)	Own Time (ms)
<built-in method builtins.compile>	2	6 66.7%	6 66.7%
<method 'find' of 'bytearray' objects>	5	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'get' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	4	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'values' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	2	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'items' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	2	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'append' of 'list' objects>	27	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'extend' of 'list' objects>	4	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'pop' of 'list' objects>	7	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'bit_length' of 'int' objects>	12	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'get' of 'dict' objects>	24	0 0.0%	0 0.0%

profiling

...and visualization



flame charts



call graphs

TLA+ feels like math.

Interaction and visualization are less well-developed for TLA+ than for code.

Let's make it more like programming:
interactive, visual.

Our mission

Review existing tools.

Propose ways to make TLA+ easier for programmers via interaction and visualization.

Your mission

Tell us what tools and techniques we overlooked.

Share your ideas.

Spec authors ask different questions at different times

Does my spec imply my invariants / properties?

Why is my invariant / property false?

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

Is the spec generally behaving as intended?

Why isn't my action enabled?

How did a recent edit change how the spec behaves?

How do I use TLA+ to communicate behaviors to other people?

Main purpose of model-checking & proofs

Decreasingly
well-supported

Why is my invariant / property false?

You have a wrong hypothesis about your spec.

What precisely is the mismatch?

Specifying Systems §14.5.2 "Debugging a Specification"

Why is my invariant / property false?

Error traces

.out file

TLA+ Toolbox

VS Code

tla-trace-formatter
(Siyuan Zhou)

The following behavior constitutes a counter-example:

```
@!@!@ENDMSG 2264 @!@!@
@!@!@STARTMSG 2217:4 @!@!@
1: <Initial predicate>
/\ alarmHr = 1
/\ hr = 1
/\ alarmOn = FALSE

@!@!@ENDMSG 2217 @!@!@
@!@!@STARTMSG 2217:4 @!@!@
2: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>
/\ alarmHr = 7
/\ hr = 1
/\ alarmOn = TRUE

@!@!@ENDMSG 2217 @!@!@
@!@!@STARTMSG 2217:4 @!@!@
3: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>
/\ alarmHr = 2
/\ hr = 1
/\ alarmOn = TRUE
```

Error-Trace	
Name	Value
▼ ▲ <Initial predicate>	State (num = 1)
■ alarmHr	1
■ alarmOn	FALSE
■ hr	1
▼ ▲ <SetAlarm line 13,...	State (num = 2)
■ alarmHr	7
■ alarmOn	TRUE
■ hr	1
▼ ▲ <SetAlarm line 13,...	State (num = 3)
■ alarmHr	2
■ alarmOn	TRUE
■ hr	1
▲ <Stuttering>	State (num = 4)

Errors

Temporal properties were violated.

Error Trace [Filter](#) [Hide unmodified](#)

▼ 1: Initial predicate

alarmHr	1
alarmOn	FALSE
hr	1

▼ 2: SetAlarm in AlarmClock >>

alarmHr	M 11
alarmOn	M TRUE
hr	1

▼ 3: SetAlarm in AlarmClock >>

alarmHr	M 8
alarmOn	TRUE
hr	1

▼ 4: Stuttering

TLA+ Trace

State 1: <Initial predicate>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
1	1	FALSE

State 2: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
7	1	TRUE

State 3: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
11	1	TRUE

State 4:

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
---------	----	---------

Why is my invariant / property false?

github.com/visualzhou/tla-trace-formatter

TLA+ Trace

State 1: <Initial predicate>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
1	1	FALSE

State 2: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
7	1	TRUE

State 3: <SetAlarm line 13, col 5 to line 16, col 23 of module AlarmClock>

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
11	1	TRUE

State 4:

alarmHr	hr	alarmOn
---------	----	---------

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL
```

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL
```

```
Enter a constant-level TLA+ expression.
```

```
(tla+)
```

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL
```

```
Enter a constant-level TLA+ expression.
```

```
(tla+) SetToBag({"a", "b"})
```

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL  
Enter a constant-level TLA+ expression.  
(tla+) SetToBag({"a", "b"})  
[a |-> 1, b |-> 1]
```

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL
Enter a constant-level TLA+ expression.
(tla+) SetToBag({"a", "b"})
\[a |-> 1, b |-> 1\]
(tla+) SetToBag({1, 2})
```

What does this TLA+ expression mean?

TLC REPL

```
$ java -cp tla2tools.jar tlc2.REPL
Enter a constant-level TLA+ expression.
(tla+) SetToBag({"a", "b"})
\[a |-> 1, b |-> 1\]
(tla+) SetToBag({1, 2})
<<1, 1>>
```

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Print() expressions are confusing in model-checking mode

```
----- MODULE HourClock -----  
EXTENDS Naturals, TLC  
VARIABLE hr  
HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12)  
HCnxt ==  
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1  
  /\ PrintT(<<"hr is ", hr, "hr' is", hr'>>)  
HC == HCini /\ [][HCnxt]_hr  
=====
```

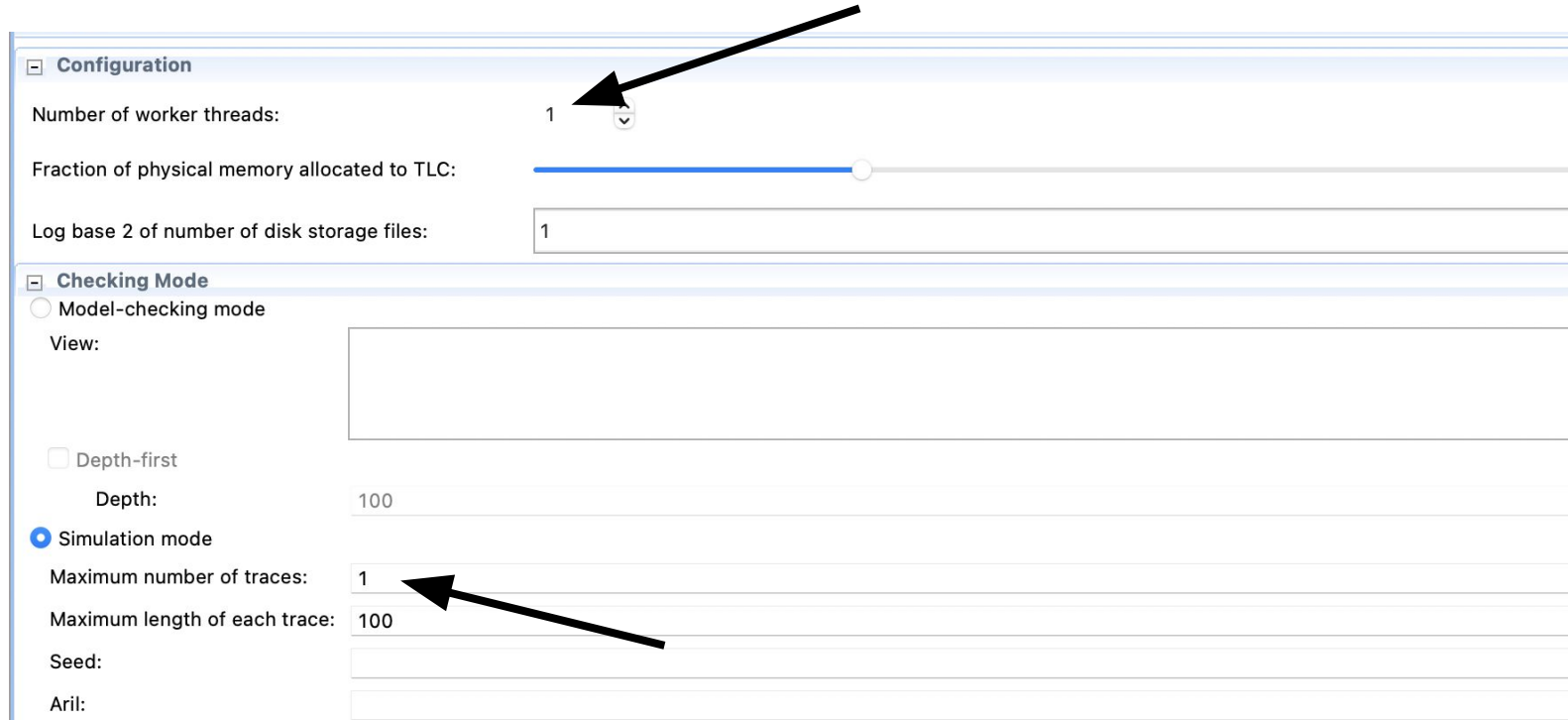

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Print() expressions are confusing in model-checking mode

```
<<"hr is ", 4, "hr' is", 5>>  
<<"hr is ", 3, "hr' is", 4>>  
<<"hr is ", 2, "hr' is", 3>>  
<<"hr is ", 5, "hr' is", 6>>  
<<"hr is ", 1, "hr' is", 2>>  
<<"hr is ", 6, "hr' is", 7>>  
<<"hr is ", 10, "hr' is", 11>>  
<<"hr is ", 8, "hr' is", 9>>  
<<"hr is ", 12, "hr' is", 1>>  
<<"hr is ", 11, "hr' is", 12>>  
<<"hr is ", 9, "hr' is", 10>>  
<<"hr is ", 7, "hr' is", 8>>
```

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Print() expressions plus **simulation mode**



Configuration

Number of worker threads: 1

Fraction of physical memory allocated to TLC:

Log base 2 of number of disk storage files: 1

Checking Mode

☐ Model-checking mode

View:

☐ Depth-first

Depth: 100

☒ Simulation mode

Maximum number of traces: 1

Maximum length of each trace: 100

Seed:

Aril:

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Print() expressions plus **simulation mode**

```
<<"hr is ", 4, "hr' is", 5>>  
<<"hr is ", 5, "hr' is", 6>>  
<<"hr is ", 6, "hr' is", 7>>  
<<"hr is ", 7, "hr' is", 8>>  
<<"hr is ", 8, "hr' is", 9>>  
<<"hr is ", 9, "hr' is", 10>>  
<<"hr is ", 10, "hr' is", 11>>  
<<"hr is ", 11, "hr' is", 12>>  
<<"hr is ", 12, "hr' is", 1>>  
<<"hr is ", 1, "hr' is", 2>>  
<<"hr is ", 2, "hr' is", 3>>  
<<"hr is ", 3, "hr' is", 4>>  
<<"hr is ", 4, "hr' is", 5>>  
<<"hr is ", 5, "hr' is", 6>>  
<<"hr is ", 6, "hr' is", 7>>
```

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Simulation mode — constraining the model to show interesting traces

☐ What is the behavior spec?

Initial predicate and next-state relation



Init:

hr = 4



Next:

HCnxt

Is the spec behaving as intended?

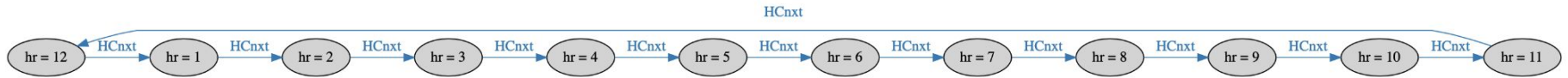
GraphViz

TLC command line parameters:

```
-dump dot,colorize,actionlabels HourClock.dot
```

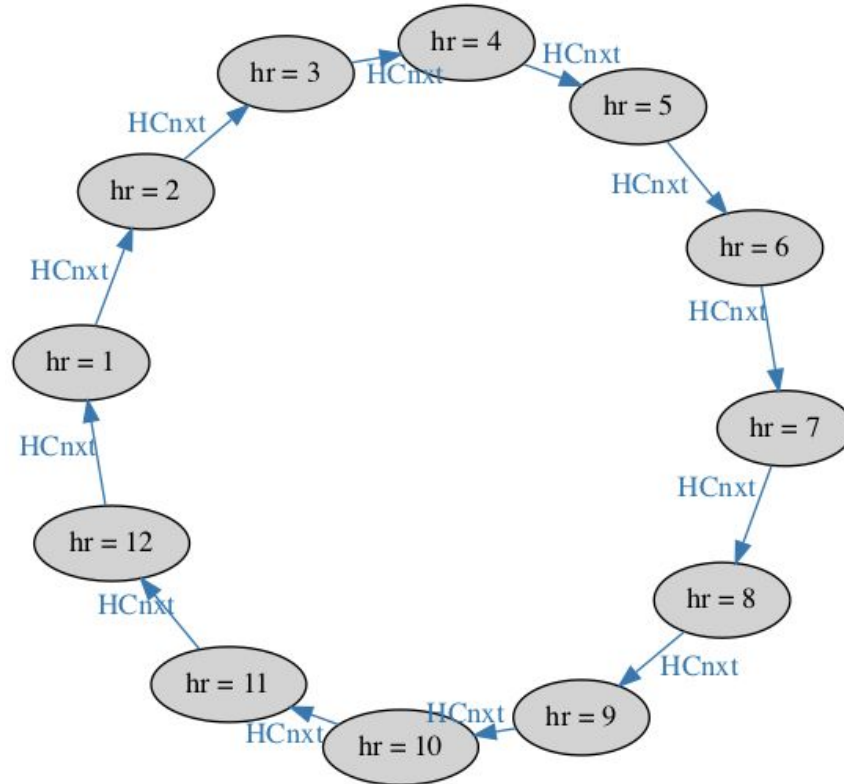
Is the spec behaving as intended?

GraphViz



Is the spec behaving as intended?

GraphViz



Is the spec behaving as intended?

```
\* Incorrectly add am/pm to HourClock
```

```
----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----
```

```
EXTENDS Naturals
```

```
VARIABLE hr, am
```

```
HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
```

```
HCnxt ==
```

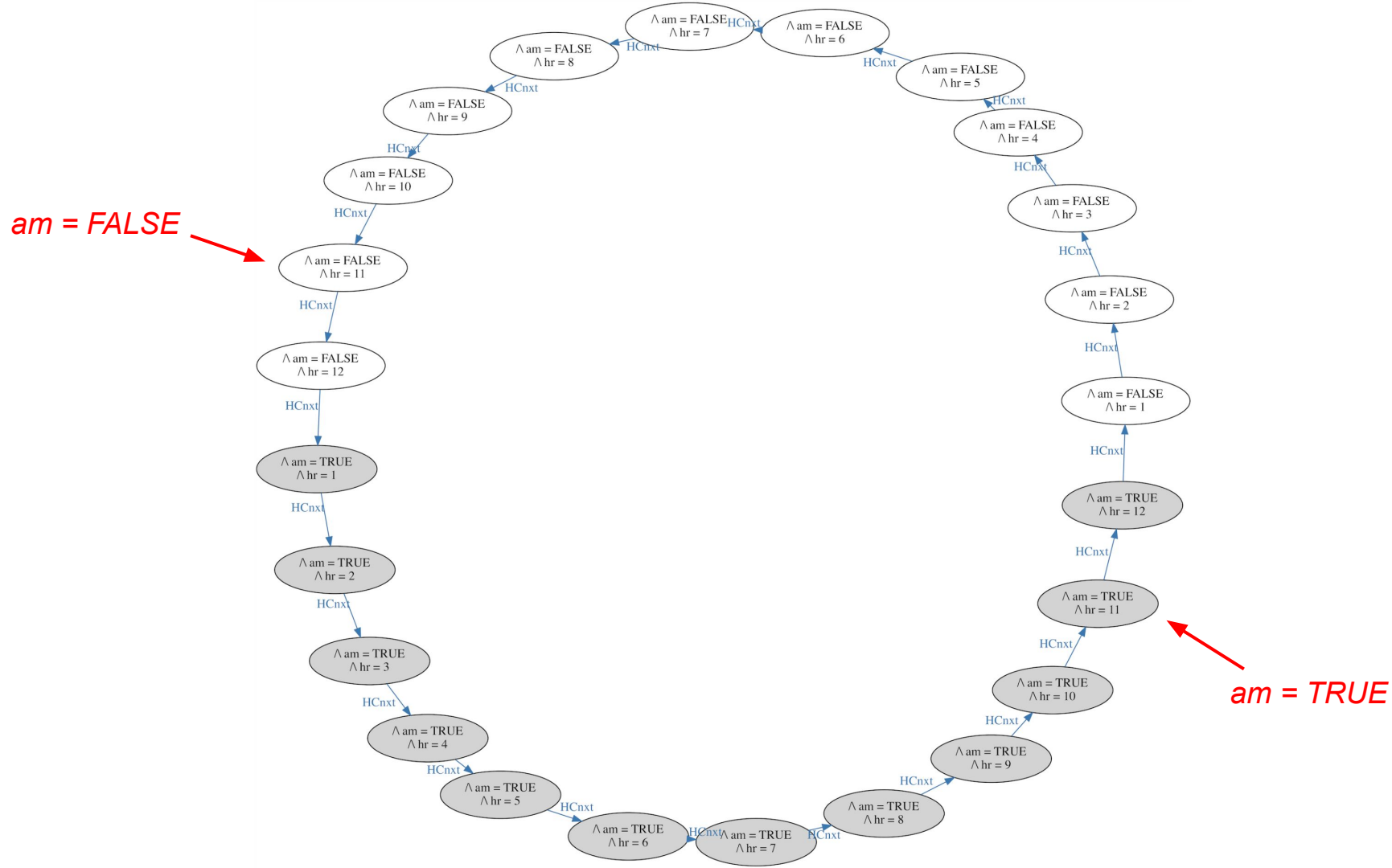
```
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
```

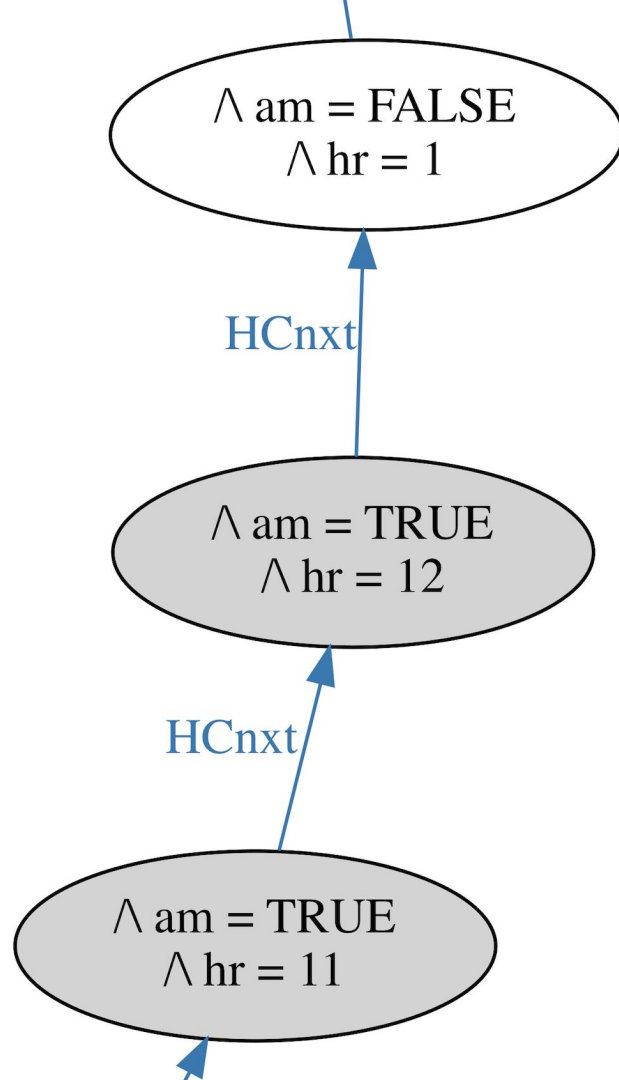
```
  \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock.
```

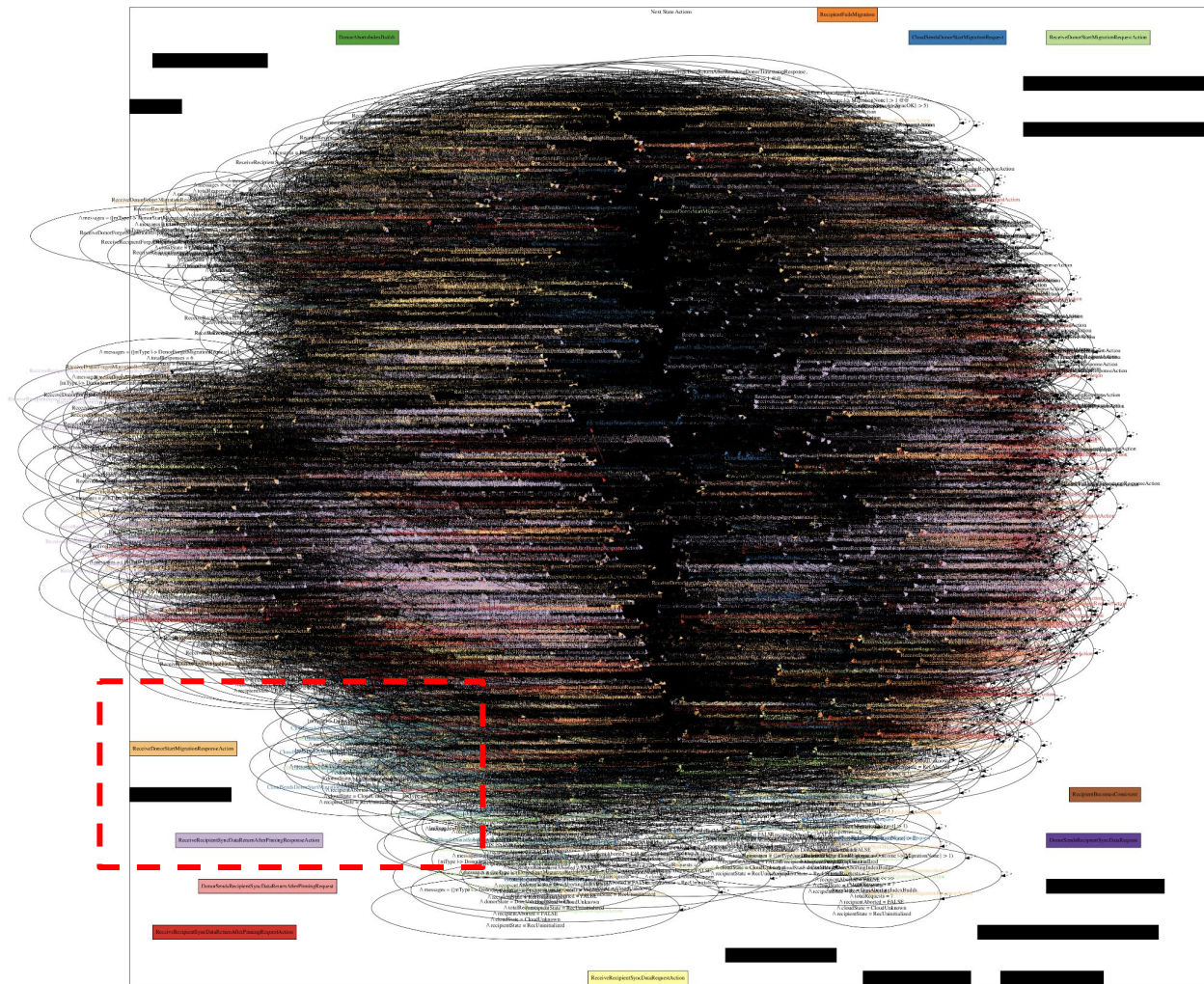
```
  /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
```

```
HC == HCini /\ [][HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
```

```
=====
```

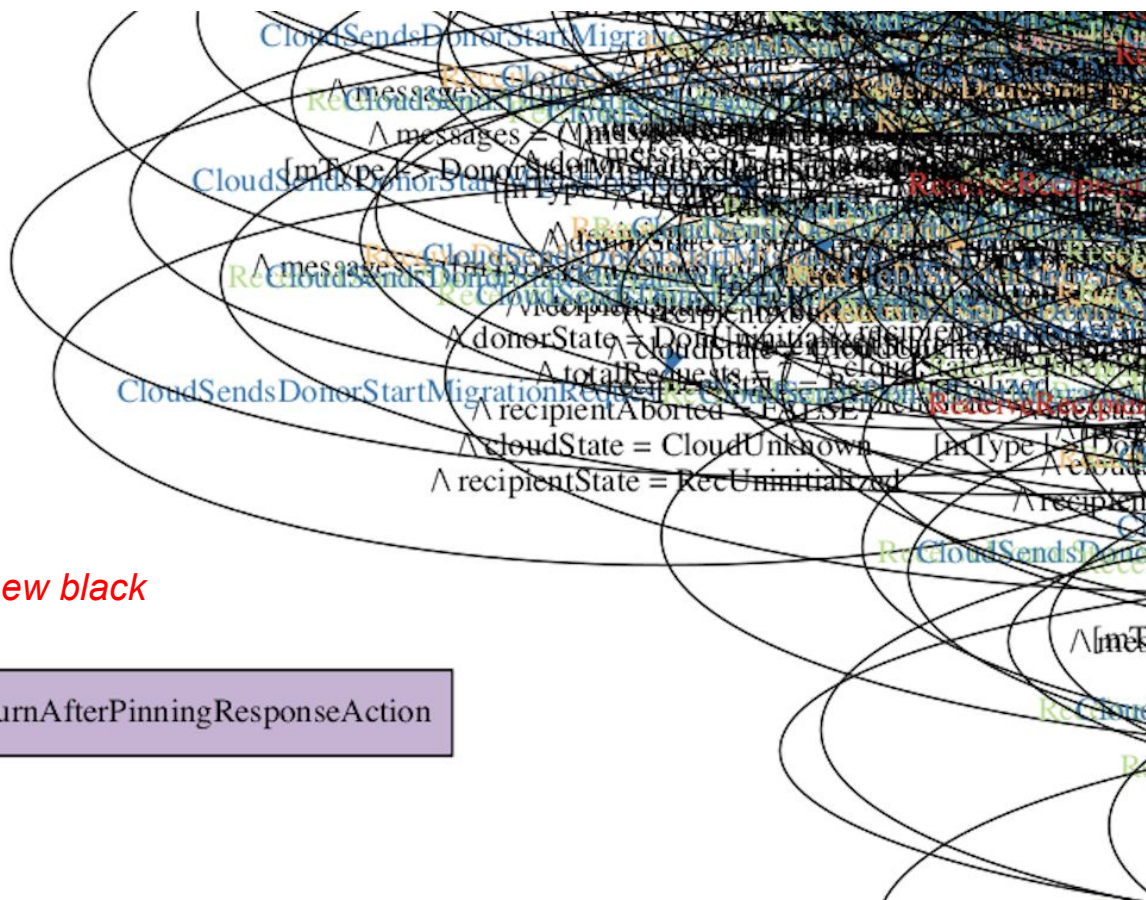




ReceiveDonorStartMigrationResponseAction

ReceiveRecipientSyncDataReturnAfterPinningResponseAction

black is the new black



Is the spec behaving as intended?

Profiling

New example: an alarm clock.

```
VARIABLES hr, alarmHr, alarmOn  
vars == <<hr, alarmHr, alarmOn>>  
HCini ==  
  /\ hr \in (1 .. 12)  
  /\ alarmHr \in (1..12)  
  /\ alarmOn = FALSE
```

```
AdvanceHour ==  
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1  
  /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, alarmOn>>
```

```
SetAlarm ==  
  /\ alarmHr' \in (1..12)  
  \* Oops, forgot to set alarmOn' = TRUE  
  /\ UNCHANGED <<hr, alarmOn>>
```

```
Ring ==  
  /\ alarmOn  
  /\ hr = alarmHr  
  /\ alarmOn' = FALSE  
  /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, hr>>
```

oops, alarmOn is always FALSE

```
HC == HCini /\ [] [AdvanceHour \/ SetAlarm \/ Ring]_vars /\ SF_vars(Ring)
```

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Profiling

Module	Action	Location	States Found	Distinct States
AlarmClock	AdvanceHour	line 9, col 1 to line 9, col 11	144	0
AlarmClock	SetAlarm	line 12, col 1 to line 12, col 8	1,728	0
AlarmClock	Ring	line 16, col 1 to line 16, col 4	0	0
AlarmClock	HCini	line 5, col 1 to line 5, col 5	144	144

Is the spec behaving as intended?

Profiling

```
1  ----- MODULE AlarmClock -----
2  EXTENDS Naturals
3  VARIABLES hr, alarmHr, alarmOn
4  vars == <<hr, alarmHr, alarmOn>>
5  HCini ==
6      /\ hr \in (1 .. 12)
7      /\ alarmHr \in (1..12)
8      /\ alarmOn = FALSE
9  AdvanceHour ==
10     /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
11     /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, alarmOn>>
12  SetAlarm ==
13     /\ alarmHr' \in (1..12)
14     \* Oops, forgot to set alarmOn' = TRUE
15     /\ UNCHANGED <<hr, alarmOn>>
16  IRing is never enabled.
17     /\ alarmOn
18     /\ hr = alarmHr
19     /\ alarmOn' = FALSE
20     /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, hr>>
21  HC == HCini /\ [] [AdvanceHour \/ SetAlarm \/ Ring]_vars /\ SF_vars(Ring)
22  =====
```


Is the spec behaving as intended?

Profiling

```
1  ----- MODULE AlarmClock -----
2  EXTENDS Naturals
3  VARIABLES hr, alarmHr, alarmOn
4  vars == <<hr, alarmHr, alarmOn>>
5  HCini ==
6    /\ hr \in (1 .. 12)
7    /\ alarmHr \in (1..12)
8    /\ alarmOn = FALSE
9  AdvanceHour ==
10   /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
11   /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, alarmOn>>
12  SetAlarm ==
13   /\ alarmHr' \in (1..12)
14   \* Oops, forgot to set alarmOn' = TRUE
15   /\ UNCHANGED <<hr, alarmOn>>
16  Ring ==
17   /\ alarmOn
18   /\ hr = alarmHr
19   /\ alarmOn' = FALSE
20   /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, hr>>
21  HC == HCini /\ [] [AdvanceHour \/ SetAlarm \/ Ring]_vars /\ SF_vars(Ring)
22  =====
```

*Feature proposal:
fail model-checking if
any action is never
enabled*

uh oh

Why isn't my action enabled?

"Staring really hard"?

This is an area for research.

Why isn't my action enabled?

```
Push(stack, x) ==  
  stack' = Append(stack, x)
```

```
Pop(stack) ==  
  stack' = SubSeq(stack, 1, Len(stack) - 1)
```

```
Init == myStack = <<"x">>
```

```
SomeAction ==
```

```
/\ Pop(myStack)  
/\ Push(myStack, "y")
```

← equivalent to $stack = \langle \rangle \wedge stack = \langle "y" \rangle$
which is FALSE

Proposal: prohibit contradictory uses
of a primed variable in an action

Is the spec behaving as intended?

ShiViz

For specs with multiple processes that exchange messages with a vector clock



78 actions

[EWD000Chan(EWD000TerminationDetected):

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

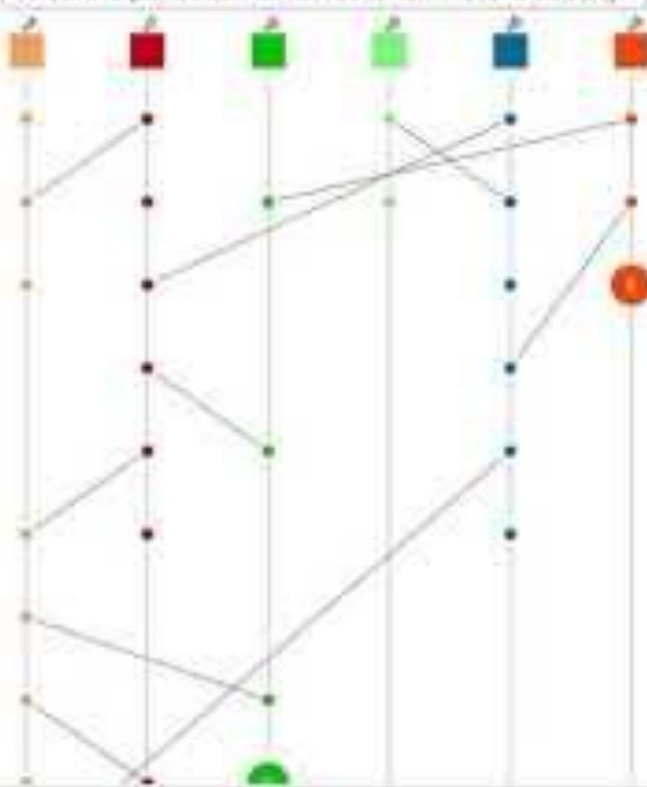
Sending

Sending

Sending

Sending

78 actions [EWD000Chan(EWD000TerminationDetected): ~



----- MODULE EWD998ChanID_shiviz -----

EXTENDS EWD998ChanID, **Json**

(* ... deleted code ... *)

Alias ==

[

Host |-> host

, Clock |-> **ToJsonObject**(clock[host])

, active |-> active

, color |-> color

, counter |-> counter

, inbox |-> inbox

]

=====



Log lines

Motifs

Clusters

Find network motifs:

- ☐ 2-event motifs
- ☒ 3-event motifs
- ☐ 4-event motifs

Motif 1 :



666 actions: 24 instances
► 249 actions: 10 instances

Motif 2 :



666 actions: 96 instances
249 actions: 37 instances
78 actions
(EWD998Chan!EWD998!terminationDetected): 10 instances

#motif



10 INSTANCES IN VIEW



249 actions



SendMsg

host: n3

active: (n1 :> FALSE
@@ n2 :> TRUE
@@ n3 :> TRUE
@@ n4 :> TRUE
@@ n5 :> TRUE
@@ n6 :> TRUE
@@ n7 :>
TRUE)

...
/n4 : "n4:10"

How did a recent edit change how the spec behaves?

```
\* Incorrectly add am/pm to HourClock
----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----
EXTENDS Naturals
VARIABLE hr, am
HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
HCnxt ==
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
  \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock.
  /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
HC == HCini /\ [][HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
=====
```


How did a recent edit change how the spec behaves?

TLA+ Debugger

The screenshot displays the TLA+ Debugger interface for the file `HourClockAMPM.tla`. The interface is divided into three main sections: **RUN AND DEBUG**, **VARIABLES**, and **Trace**.

RUN AND DEBUG: This section contains a toolbar with icons for running, stepping, and other debugging actions. A red dot and a yellow arrow icon are visible, indicating the current state of the debugger.

VARIABLES: This section shows the current state of the variables. The **Action** tab is selected, showing the state after the `HCnxt` action. The variables are:

- `am` : TRUE
- `am'` : ?
- `hr` : 2
- `hr'` : 3

Trace: This section shows the sequence of actions executed. The current step is:

- 2: <HCnxt line 7, col 5 to line 8, col 40 of module ...

The variables shown for this step are:

- `am` : ?
- `hr` : 3

HourClockAMPM.tla: The source code is displayed on the right. The current line being executed is line 8, which is highlighted in yellow. The code defines the `HourClockAMPM` module, extending `Naturals` and `TLC`, and defining variables `hr` and `am`. The `HCnxt` action is defined as:

```
HCnxt ==
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
  /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
```

The `HC` action is defined as:

```
HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
```

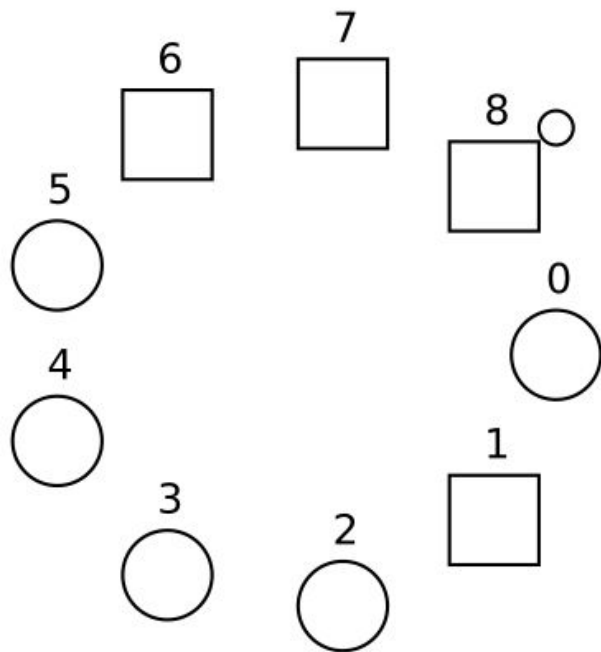

How do I use TLA+ to communicate behaviors to other people?

TLA+ Animation: https://github.com/will62794/tlaplus_animation

Circle: Active, Black: Tainted

Line: Message, Arrow: Receiver

Level: 1



Future of interactive TLA+ spec development

Tools already exist to address precise questions

Let's build more tools to help us better holistically understand specs

Iterative Spec Development

TLA+ Debugger is one way to achieve this

Key: Quickly see effects of our changes

Extensions to the TLA+ Debugger: Watchpoints

HourClockAMPM.tla ×



Users > samy > Documents > HourClockAMPM.tla > ...

```
1  \* Incorrectly add am/pm to HourClock
2  ----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----
3  EXTENDS Naturals, TLC
4  VARIABLES hr, am
5
6  HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
7  HCnxt ==
8      /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
9      \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock.
10     /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
11  HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
12
13  =====
```

Extensions to the TLA+ Debugger: Watchpoints

The screenshot displays the TLA+ Debugger interface, divided into three main sections: RUN AND DEBUG, VARIABLES, and the source code editor.

RUN AND DEBUG: This section shows the current state of the program. The **VARIABLES** pane on the left lists the current values of variables:

- Action:**
 - HCnxt:** [am |-> TRUE, am' |-> FALSE, hr |-> 12, hr' ...]
 - am:** TRUE
 - am':** FALSE
 - hr:** 12
 - hr':** 1
- Trace:**
 - 2:** <HCnxt line 8, col 5 to line 10, col 40 of module...>
 - am:** FALSE
 - hr:** 1
 - 1:** <HCini line 6, col 10 to line 6, col 38 of module...>
 - am:** TRUE
 - hr:** 12

The **Source Code** pane on the right shows the TLA+ code for **HourClockAMPM.tla**. The code is as follows:

```
1  \* Incorrectly add am/pm to HourClock
2  ----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----
3  EXTENDS Naturals, TLC
4  VARIABLES hr, am
5
6  HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
7  HCnxt ==
8      /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
9      \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock.
10     /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
11  HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
```

A yellow box highlights the line **am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am** in the source code, which corresponds to the state shown in the trace.

Extensions to the TLA+ Debugger: Conditional Breakpoints

Breakpoint that only pauses execution if the supplied predicate is true

```
hr = 12
```

```
hr \in {11, 12, 1}
```

```
am = false
```

Extensions to the TLA+ Debugger: Conditional Breakpoints

The screenshot displays the TLA+ Debugger interface with two main panels. The left panel, titled 'RUN AND DEBUG', contains a 'VARIABLES' section and a 'Trace' section. The 'VARIABLES' section shows the state of variables for the current action: `am : TRUE`, `am' : ?`, `hr : 12`, and `hr' : 1`. The 'Trace' section shows the sequence of actions being executed, with the current action being `2: <HCnxt line 8, col 5 to line 10, col 40 of module...>`. The right panel shows the source code of the `HourClockAMPM.tla` module. The code defines the initial state `HCini` and the next-state action `HCnxt`. A conditional breakpoint is set on line 10 of the `HCnxt` action, specifically on the condition `IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am`. The breakpoint is represented by a yellow icon with a red dot, and the condition is highlighted in a yellow box. The code also includes comments and a `MODULE` declaration.

Debugger Variables:

- Action:**
 - `HCnxt: [am |-> TRUE, am' |-> ?, hr |-> 12, hr' |-> ...`
 - `am : TRUE`
 - `am' : ?`
 - `hr : 12`
 - `hr' : 1`
- Trace:**
 - `2: <HCnxt line 8, col 5 to line 10, col 40 of module...>`
 - `am : ?`
 - `hr : 1`
 - `1: <HCini line 6, col 10 to line 6, col 38 of module...>`
 - `am : TRUE`
 - `hr : 12`

Source Code (HourClockAMPM.tla):

```
1  \* Incorrectly add am/pm to HourClock
2  ----- MODULE HourClockAMPM
3  EXTENDS Naturals, TLC
4  VARIABLES hr, am
5
6  HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
7  HCnxt ==
8      /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
9      \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock
10     /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
11  HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
12
13  =====
14
```

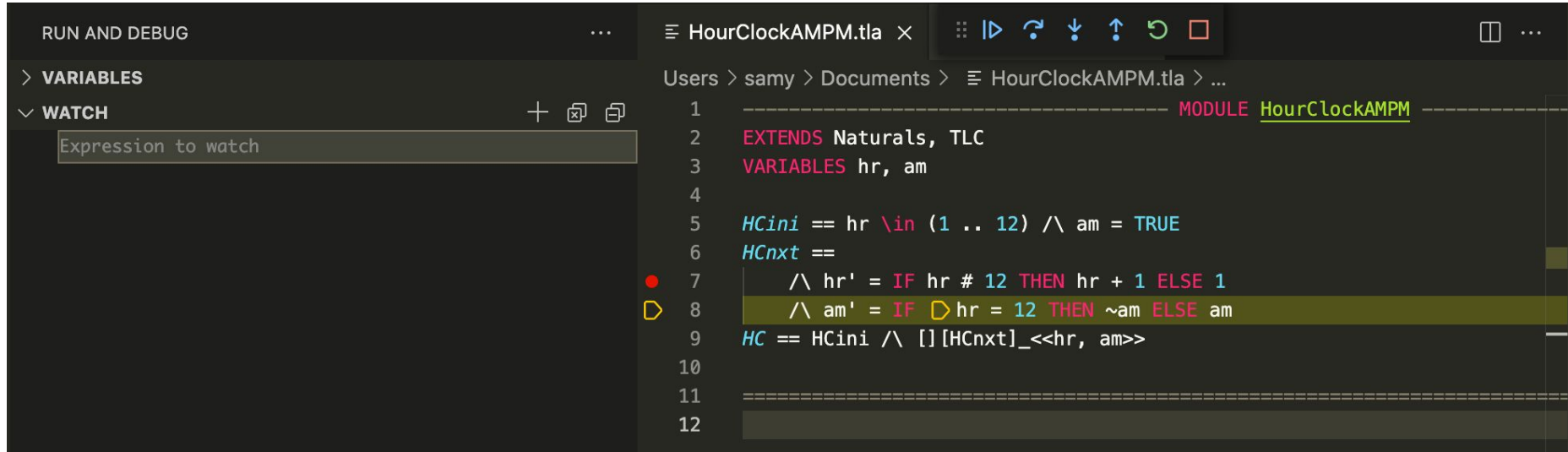
Iterative Spec Development

TLA+ Debugger is one way to achieve this

Key: Quickly see effects of our changes

Key: Experiment with expressions

Extensions to the TLA+ Debugger: Watch Expressions

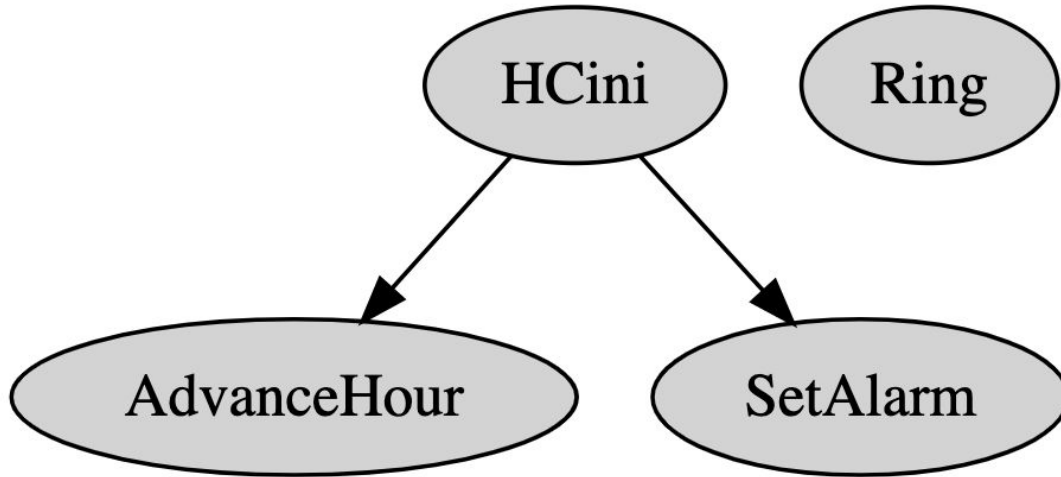


Iterative Spec Development

Should be able to better understand if our spec behaves as intended

Still doesn't take into account areas of the spec we *didn't* inspect

Graph of actions that enable other actions



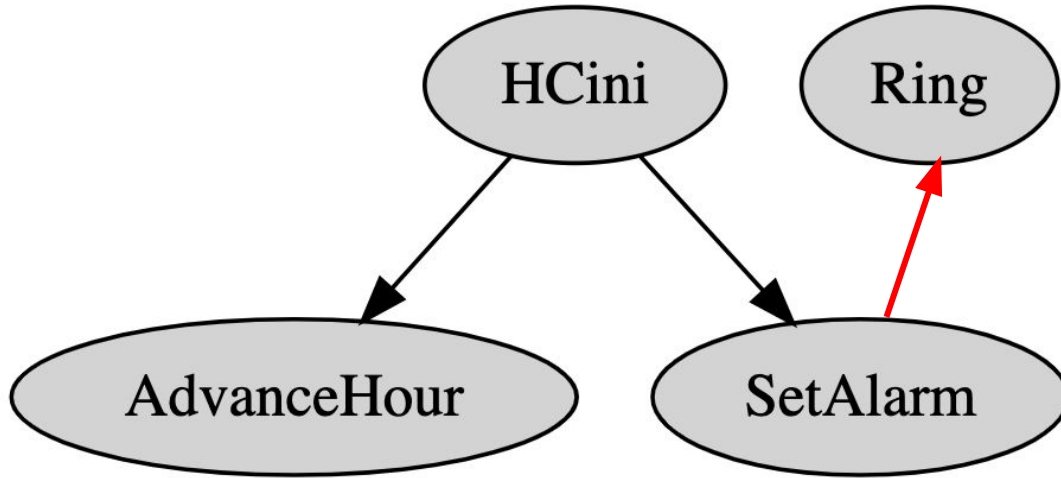
```
VARIABLES hr, alarmHr, alarmOn
vars == <<hr, alarmHr, alarmOn>>
HCini ==
  /\ hr \in (1 .. 12)
  /\ alarmHr \in (1..12)
  /\ alarmOn = FALSE
AdvanceHour ==
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
  /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, alarmOn>>
SetAlarm ==
  /\ alarmHr' \in (1..12)
  \* Oops, forgot to set alarmOn' = TRUE
  /\ UNCHANGED <<hr, alarmOn>>
```

```
Ring ==
  /\ alarmOn
  /\ hr = alarmHr
  /\ alarmOn' = FALSE
  /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, hr>>
```

oops, alarmOn is always FALSE

```
HC == HCini /\ [] [AdvanceHour \/ SetAlarm \/ Ring]_vars /\ SF_vars(Ring)
```

Graph of actions that enable other actions



“Always Be Suspicious of Success”

But where do we direct our suspicions?

We need more sanity checks that don't rely on us defining the perfect invariant

Sanity Check: Variable Ranges

----- **MODULE** Loop -----

EXTENDS Naturals

VARIABLE x

Init == x \in (1 .. 10)

ActionOne ==

/\ x = 10

/\ x' = 1

x \in 1..100

ActionTwo ==

* Oops, this could cause x' to be 11.

/\ x' = x + 1

...

=====

----- MODULE Loop -----

EXTENDS Naturals

VARIABLE x

Init == x \in BOOLEAN

Action ==

/\ x

* Oops, we meant $x' = \sim x$

/\ $x' = x$

...

Values of x:
TRUE: 95%
FALSE: 5%

=====

Questions for the Audience

What use cases did we miss? What questions have you had about a spec that you didn't know how to answer?

What features and tools did we miss? How can they be better promoted so programmers like us would find them next time?

What's the right direction for making TLA+ easier - more tools, or consolidate more features in one tool? Is that one tool the Toolbox or VS Code or what?