

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_recur
29 entry_type = random.choice(["entry",
30 if entry_type == "entry":
...
make_oplog_recursive()
Debug: TransactionHistoryIterator x
```

debugging

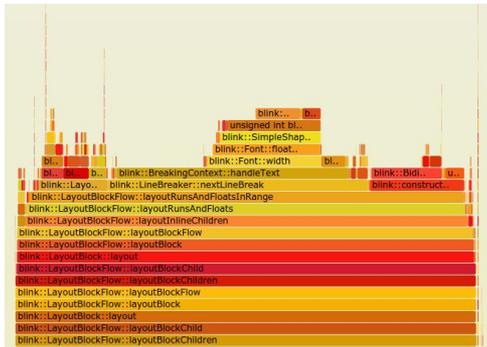
```
Sep 22 08:54:51 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:54:57 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd
Sep 22 08:55:01 As-MacBook-Pro Google Chrome Helper
Sep 22 08:55:07 --- last message repeated 14 times
Sep 22 08:55:07 As-MacBook-Pro Google Chrome Helper
Sep 22 08:55:08 As-MacBook-Pro com.apple.xpc.launchd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

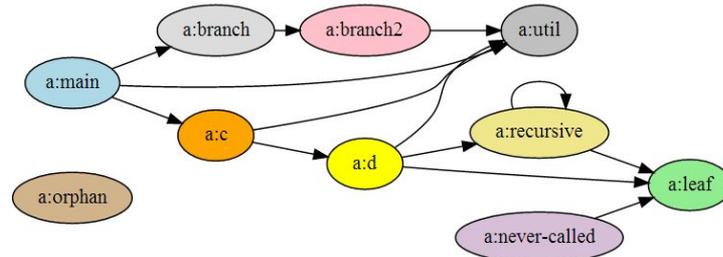
Name	Call Count	Time (ms)	Own Time (ms)
<built-in method builtin.compile>	2	6 66.7%	6 66.7%
<method 'find' of 'bytearray' objects>	5	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'get' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	4	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'values' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	2	0 0.0%	0 0.0%
<method 'items' of 'mappingproxy' objects>	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?

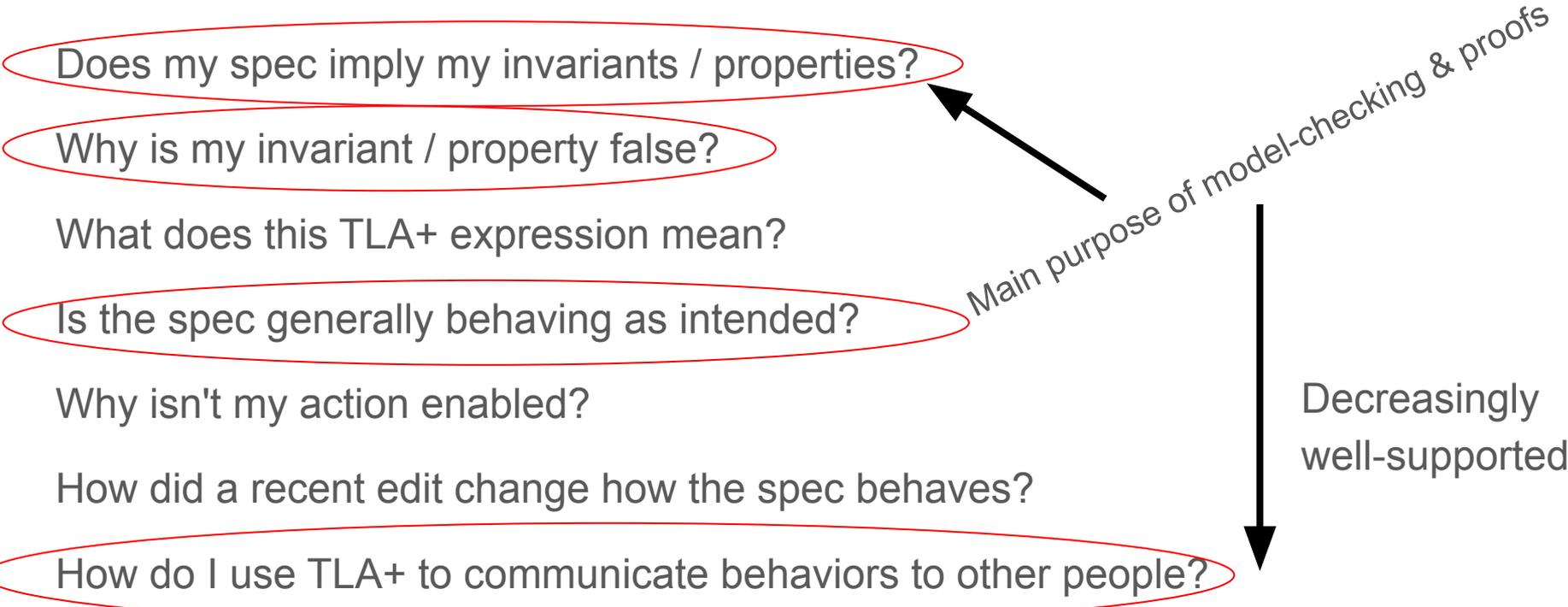
Is the spec generally behaving as intended?

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 mod
\ alarmHr = 7
\ hr = 1
\ alarmOn = TRUE

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

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 [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?

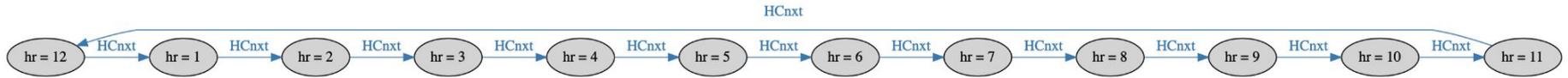
GraphViz

TLC command line parameters:

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

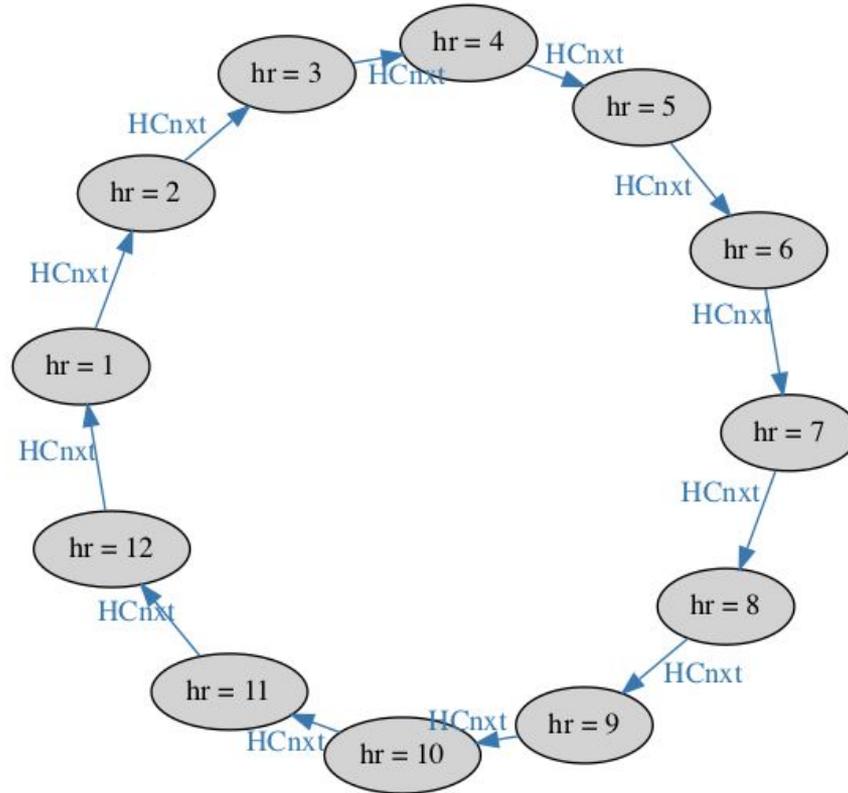
Is the spec behaving as intended?

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
```

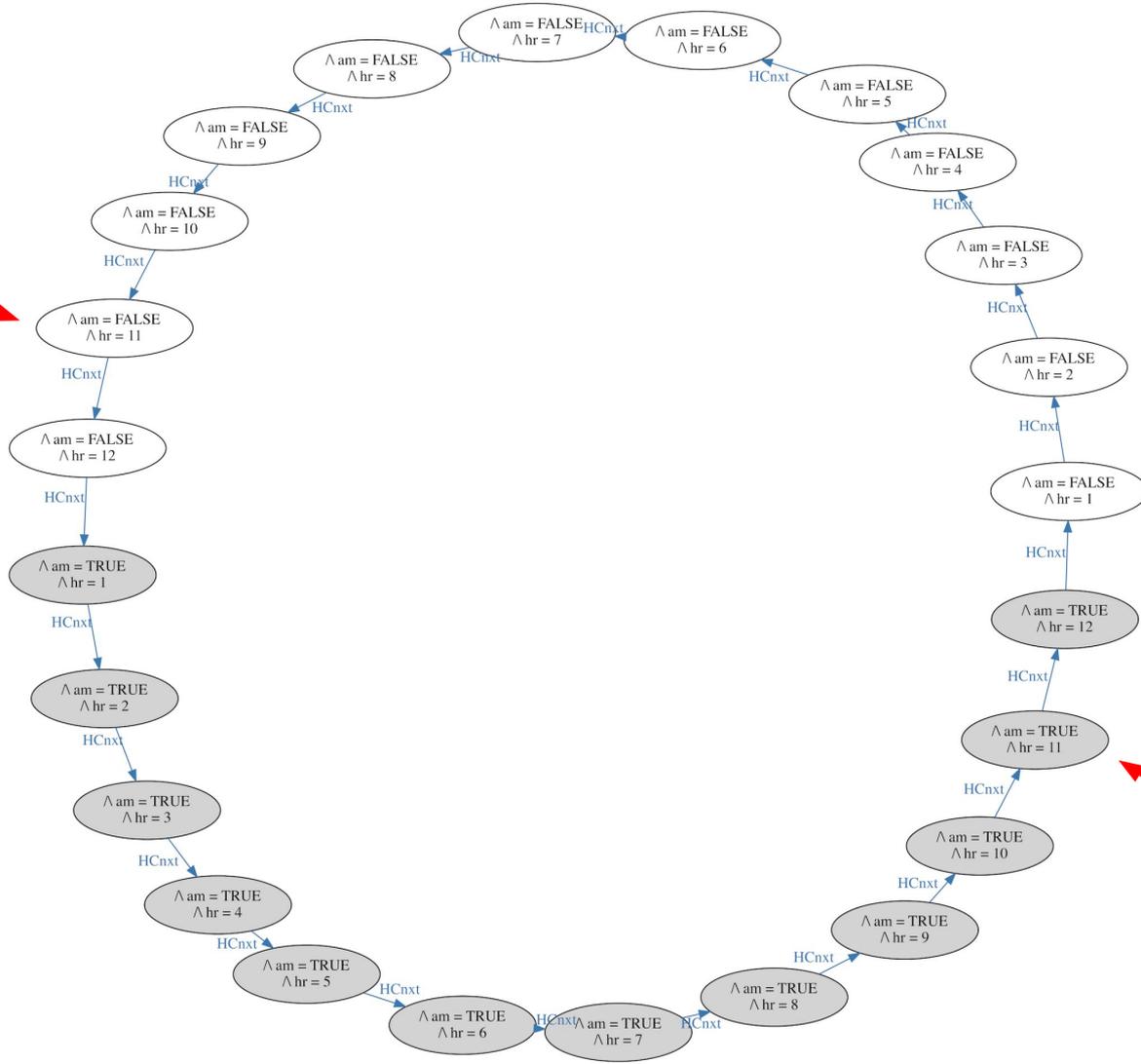
```
  \* Oops, AM/PM should flip at noon/midnight, not 1 o'clock.
```

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

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

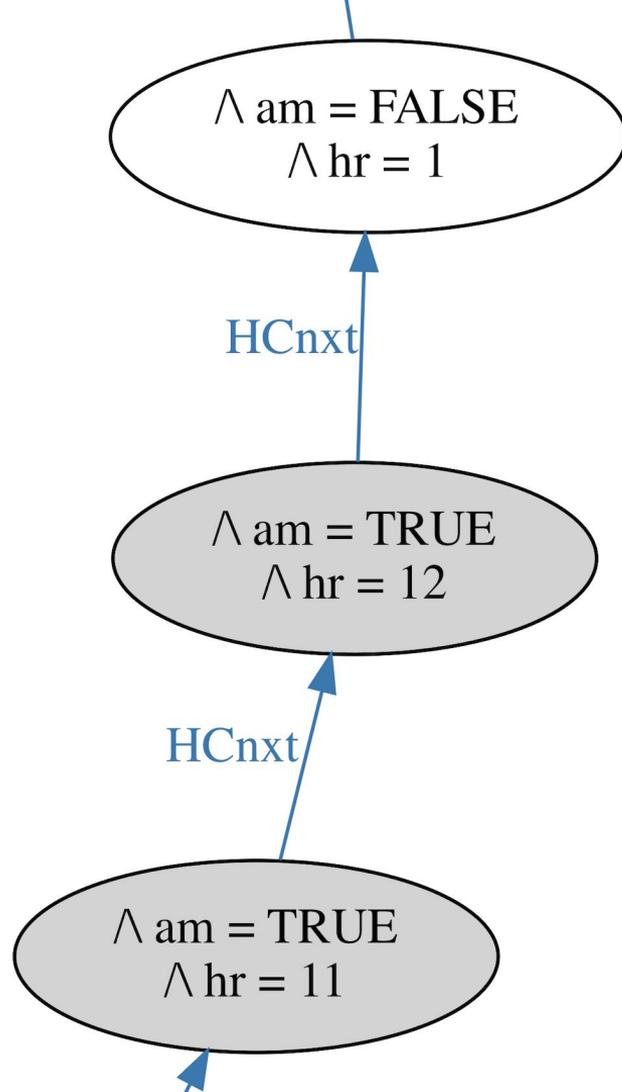
```
=====
```

am = FALSE



am = TRUE



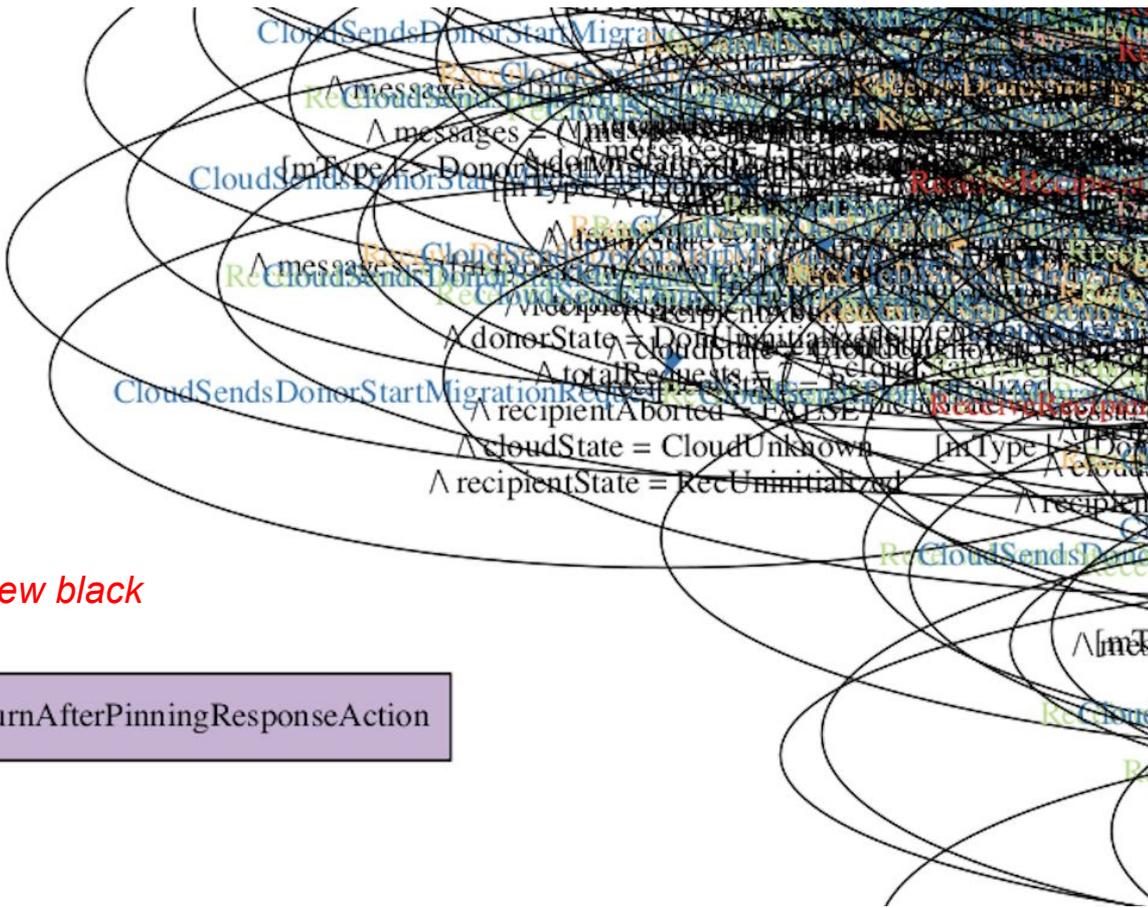


ReceiveDonorStartMigrationResponseAction



black is the new black

ReceiveRecipientSyncDataReturnAfterPinningResponseAction



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 $stack = \langle \langle \rangle \rangle \wedge stack = \langle \langle "y" \rangle \rangle$
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



Search the visualization

SEARCH

PARSER

Log lines

motifs

clusters

78 actions
(EWD098Chan(EWD098)terminatorDetected)

SendMsg

SendMsg

RecvMsg

SendMsg

Deactivate

Deactivate

RecvMsg

SendMsg

SendMsg

RecvMsg

SendMsg

Deactivate

Deactivate

SendMsg

SendMsg

RecvMsg

RecvMsg

Deactivate

RecvMsg

78 actions (EWD098Chan(EWD098)terminatorDetected) ~



```
----- MODULE EWD998ChanID_shiviz -----  
EXTENDS EWD998ChanID, Json
```

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

```
Alias ==
```

```
[
```

```
  Host |-> host
```

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

```
  ,active |-> active
```

```
  ,color |-> color
```

```
  ,counter |-> counter
```

```
  ,inbox |-> inbox
```

```
]
```

```
=====
```



#motif



10 INSTANCES IN VIEW



SendMsg

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

249 actions

n4

n2

n5

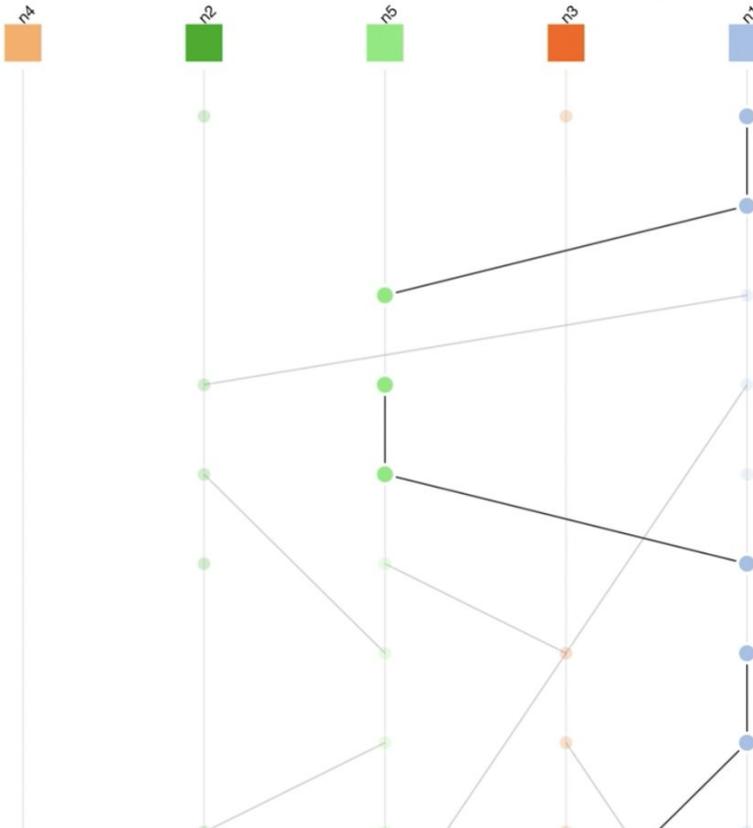
n3

n1

host: n3

active:

```
(n1 => FALSE
@@ n2 => TRUE
@@ n3 => TRUE
@@ n4 => TRUE
@@ n5 => TRUE
@@ n6 => TRUE
@@ n7 =>
TRUE)
/4 = "host"
```



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:

- Left Panel (VARIABLES):** Shows the current state of variables. Under the `Action` section, the state is:
 - `am`: TRUE
 - `am'`: ?
 - `hr`: 2
 - `hr'`: 3Under the `Trace` section, the execution history shows:
 - Step 2: `<HCnxt line 7, col 5 to line 8, col 40 of module ...>` with `am`: ? and `hr`: 3.
 - Step 1: `<HCini line 5, col 10 to line 5, col 38 of module...>` with `am`: TRUE and `hr`: 2.
- Right Panel (Source Code):** Shows the TLA+ code for `HourClockAMPM`. The code is:

```
1 ----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----
2 EXTENDS Naturals, TLC
3 VARIABLES hr, am
4
5 HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE
6 HCnxt ==
7   /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
8   /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am
9 HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>
```

Line 8 is highlighted in yellow, and a yellow arrow points to the condition `hr = 12`. A red dot and a yellow arrow also point to the `IF` statement on line 7.
- Top Panel (RUN AND DEBUG):** Contains standard debugger controls: play, refresh, step down, step up, refresh, and stop buttons.

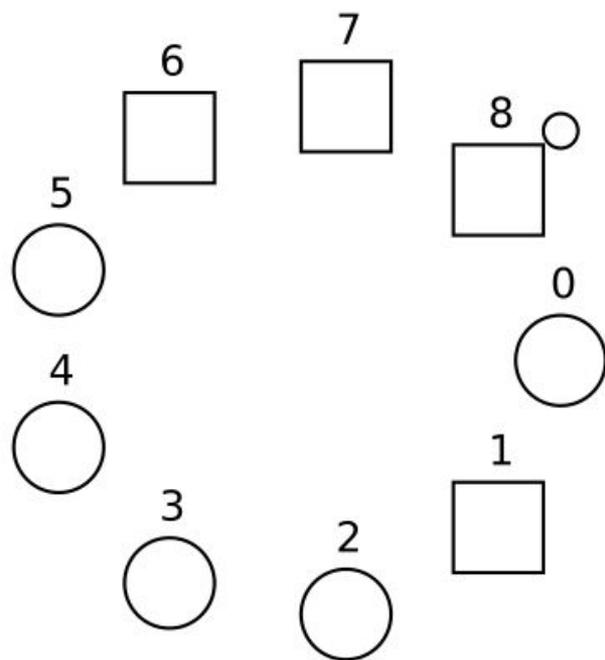
How do I use TLA+ to communicate behaviors to other people?

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 x
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 image shows a screenshot of the TLA+ Debugger interface. On the left, the 'RUN AND DEBUG' panel is open, displaying the current state of variables and the execution trace. The 'VARIABLES' section shows the current state of variables: `am : TRUE`, `am' : FALSE`, `hr : 12`, and `hr' : 1`. The 'Trace' section shows the current step: `2: <HCnxt line 8, col 5 to line 10, col 40 of module...>`, with `am : FALSE` and `hr : 1`. On the right, the source code for `HourClockAMPM.tla` is displayed. The code defines the `HourClockAMPM` module, extending `Naturals` and `TLC`, and defining variables `hr` and `am`. The `HCini` and `HCnxt` expressions are defined. The `HCnxt` expression is highlighted, and a watchpoint is set on the `am'` variable in the `IF` statement. The watchpoint is represented by a yellow diamond icon next to the `am' =` assignment. 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>>
12
13  =====
14
```

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, split into two main panels: the left sidebar and the right editor.

Left Panel (RUN AND DEBUG):

- 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

Right Panel (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>>
```

A conditional breakpoint is set on line 10 of the code, with the condition `~am` highlighted in a white box. The breakpoint icon (a yellow diamond with a red dot) is visible to the left of the code line.

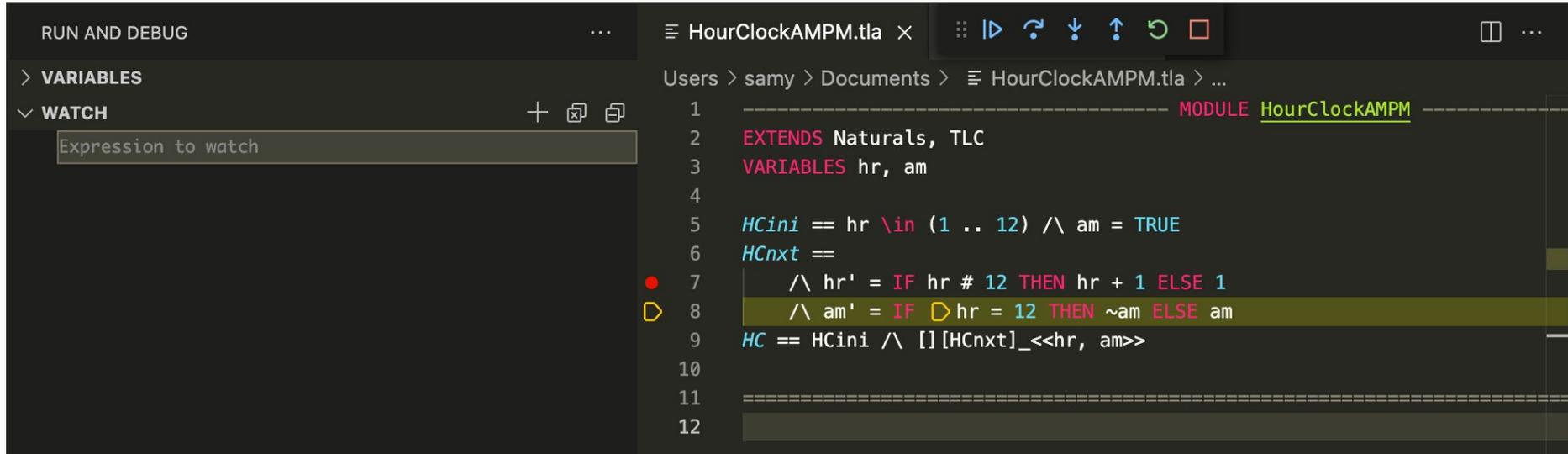
Iterative Spec Development

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



The image shows a screenshot of the TLA+ Debugger interface. On the left, there is a sidebar with a "WATCH" section containing a text input field labeled "Expression to watch". The main area displays the source code for a module named "HourClockAMPM.tla". The code is as follows:

```
1 ----- MODULE HourClockAMPM -----  
2 EXTENDS Naturals, TLC  
3 VARIABLES hr, am  
4  
5 HCini == hr \in (1 .. 12) /\ am = TRUE  
6 HCnxt ==  
7   /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1  
8   /\ am' = IF hr = 12 THEN ~am ELSE am  
9 HC == HCini /\ [] [HCnxt]_<<hr, am>>  
10  
11  
12
```

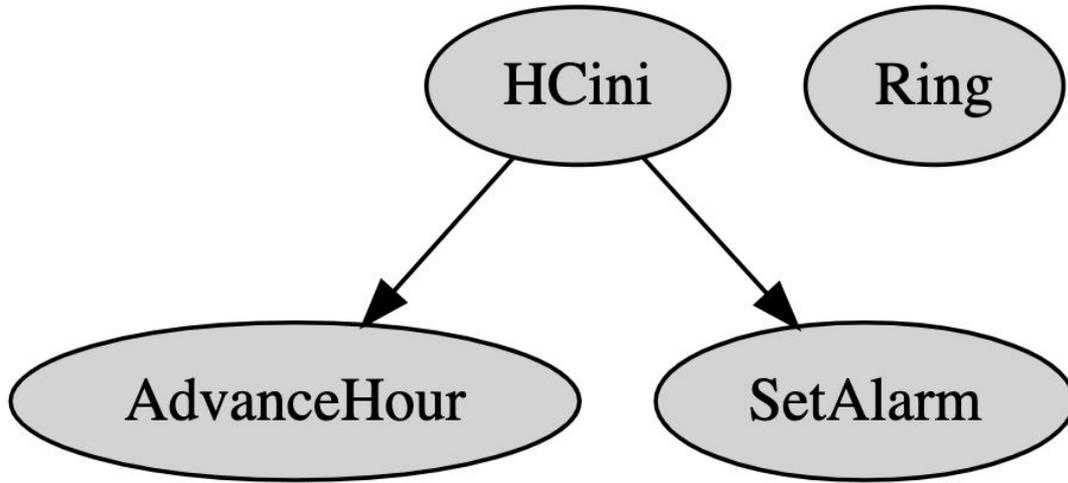
The line `8` is highlighted in green, and a yellow watch icon is visible in the left margin next to it. The top of the interface shows the "RUN AND DEBUG" tab and various control icons.

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



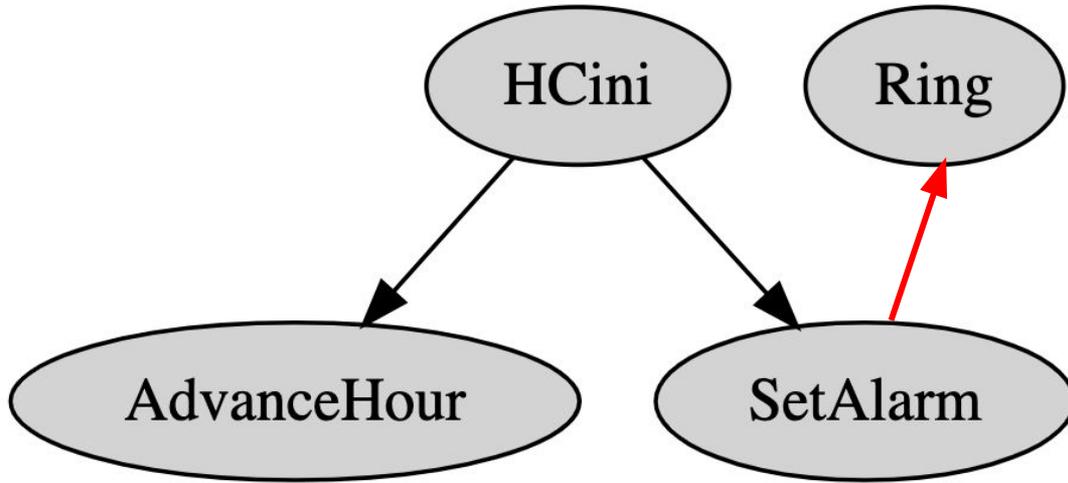
```
VARIABLES hr, alarmHr, alarmOn
vars == <<hr, alarmHr, alarmOn>>
HCini ==
  /\ hr \in (1 .. 12)
  /\ alarmHr \in (1..12)
  /\ alarmOn = FALSE
AdvanceHour ==
  /\ hr' = IF hr # 12 THEN hr + 1 ELSE 1
  /\ UNCHANGED <<alarmHr, alarmOn>>
SetAlarm ==
  /\ alarmHr' \in (1..12)
  \* Oops, forgot to set alarmOn' = 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  
  
ActionTwo ==  
  /* Oops, this could cause x' to be 11.  
  /\ x' = x + 1  
  
...  
=====
```

x \in 1..100

----- **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?