

# Mobile Ambients

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- actually this is enough to represent mobility of terms  
(*Higher-Order  $\pi$ -calculus,  $HO\pi$* )
- **Mobile Ambients**: a model where term mobility is a primitive

## From $\pi$ -calculus to Mobile Ambients

$$\boxed{\pi} \quad P = \mathbf{0} \mid a(x).P \mid \bar{a}\langle x \rangle.P \mid (P_1 \mid P_2) \mid !P \mid (\nu a)P \mid P + Q$$

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+ *localities (ambients):*  
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$$\boxed{n[P]}$$

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constructs for *space*

+ localities (*ambients*):

$n[P]$

*spatial structure*

+ actions: *capabilities*

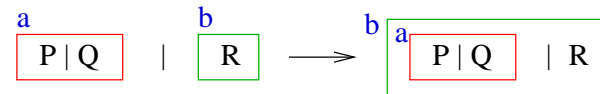
$M.P$

*make the spatial structure evolve*

Mobile Ambients – [Cardelli Gordon 1998]

$$P ::= \mathbf{0} \mid a[P] \mid P_1|P_2 \mid !P \mid (\nu x) P \mid M.P$$
$$M ::= \text{in } a \mid \text{out } a \mid \text{open } a$$

## Reduction, movement



$$a[\text{in } b.P \mid Q] \mid b[R] \rightarrow b[a[P|Q] \mid R]$$

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$$\overset{a}{\boxed{P|Q}} \mid \overset{b}{\boxed{R}} \longrightarrow \overset{b}{\boxed{\overset{a}{\boxed{P|Q}} \mid R}}$$

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Remark: movements are *subjective*

## Reduction, opening

$$a \boxed{P} \mid Q \longrightarrow P \mid Q$$

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- ▷ opening is “objective”
- ▷ an ambient disappears, its content is thrown in its enclosing ambient (capabilities act on a different locality)

Where does non-determinism come from in Mobile Ambients?

$a[\text{in } b.P \mid Q] \mid b[R] \rightarrow b[a[P Q] \mid R]$	in
$a[b[\text{out } a.P \mid Q] \mid R] \rightarrow b[P Q] \mid a[R]$	out
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$$a[P] \mid b[\text{in } a.Q \mid Q'] \mid a[R]$$

$$a[b[\text{in } b'.P \mid \text{out } a.P'] \mid b'[Q]]$$

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- $c$  is a secret that is carried along

## Firewall

- $n[P]$  a firewall named  $n$  enclosing  $P$
- capabilities  $\text{in } n, \text{out } n$  are needed in order to cross the firewall
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Example: an agent  $Agent = k'[\text{open } k.k''[B]]$ ,  
the firewall  $Firewall = w[k[\text{out } w.\text{in } k'.\text{in } w.0]|\text{open } k'.\text{open } k''.A]$

$$(\nu w) (Agent \mid Firewall) \approx (\nu w) w[B \mid A]$$

$(\nu w)(w[k[\text{out } w.\text{in } k'.\text{in } w.\mathbf{0}]\text{open } k'.\text{open } k''.A]) \mid k'[\text{open } k.k''[B]]$

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& \quad \downarrow \\
& (\nu w)w[A \mid B]
\end{aligned}$$

## Locks and sums

$acquire\ l.P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} open\ l.P$        $release\ l.P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} l[] \mid P$

handshake:  $acquire\ n.release\ m.P \mid release\ n.acquire\ m.Q$

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$$\llbracket n \Rightarrow P + m \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\nu p, q, r) ( \\ p[\text{in } n.\text{out } n.q[\text{out } p.\text{open } r.P]] \mid \\ p[\text{in } m.\text{out } m.q[\text{out } p.\text{open } r.Q]] \mid \\ \text{open } q \mid r[])$$

$$\llbracket n \Rightarrow P + m \Rightarrow Q \rrbracket \mid n[R] \rightarrow^* \approx P \mid n[R]$$

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- the model is “very distributed”
- ▷ movement every where, at any level (except under capabilities)
- ▷ autonomous movement: no synchronisation

## Mobile Ambients are Turing complete

- ribbon cells: nested Ambients  
“leftmost and rightmost cells”: Ambients to extend the ribbon
- every cell contains an Ambient that represents its state
- head of the machine: in **go right**, out **go left**

## Communications

what we have been discussing are *Pure Mobile Ambients*  
let us now put some  $\pi$ -calculus into the language

Messages:  $\langle M \rangle$     Abstractions:  $(x).P$

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- ▶ *local communications* (no medium)
- ▶ communication of *capabilities* in a broad sense  
(name, capability, path)

## Well-formed terms

$$P \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\nu n) P \mid \mathbf{0} \mid P_1 | P_2 \mid !P \mid M[P] \mid M.P \mid (x).P \mid \langle M \rangle$$
$$M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \mid n \mid \text{in } M \mid \text{out } M \mid \text{open } M \mid \epsilon \mid M_1.M_2$$

- variables  $(x)$  stand for names and capabilities
- badly formed terms:  $n.P$ ,  $(\text{in } n)[P]$
- a simple type system can be defined to rule out badly formed terms

$\pi$  in MA

$$\begin{aligned} \llbracket (\nu n) P \rrbracket &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\nu n) (n[!open\ io] \mid \llbracket P \rrbracket) \\ \llbracket n(x).P \rrbracket &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\nu p) (io[in\ n.(x).p[out\ n.\llbracket P \rrbracket]] \mid open\ p) \\ \llbracket \bar{n}m \rrbracket &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} io[in\ n.\langle m \rangle] \\ \llbracket P \mid Q \rrbracket &\stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \llbracket P \rrbracket \mid \llbracket Q \rrbracket \quad \llbracket !P \rrbracket \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} !\llbracket P \rrbracket \end{aligned}$$

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→ *remote inputs and outputs*

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*Mobile Ambients in Pure Mobile Ambients?*
- similarly:  
*are recursive definitions and replication equivalent in MA?*

## A young calculus

- since the 1998 paper “*Mobile Ambients*”, there have been numerous criticisms/counterproposals

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but then, what about a labelled transition system?