

# LOTOSphere: Software Development with LOTOS



# LOTOSphere: Software Development with LOTOS

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# CONTENTS

<b>PREFACE</b>	xiii
<b>Part I INTRODUCTION AND OVERVIEW</b>	1
<b>1 LOTOSPHERE, AN ATTEMPT TOWARDS A DESIGN CULTURE</b>	
<i>Chris A. Vissers, Luís Ferreira Pires, Jeroen van de Lagemaat</i>	3
1 Introduction	3
2 Elements of a Design Culture	5
3 The Lotosphere Project	15
4 Lotosphere and the Elements of a Design Culture	16
5 Conclusions	25
REFERENCES	25
<b>2 THE LOTOSPHERE DESIGN METHODOLOGY</b>	
<i>Juan Quemada, Arturo Azcorra and Santiago Pavón</i>	29
1 Introduction	29
2 Design by Stepwise Refinement using LOTOS	30
3 Formal Design	36
4 Implementation or Prototyping	45
5 Assessment	48
6 Example: The Two Key System	54
REFERENCES	58
<b>3 DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGIES</b>	
<i>Jeroen Schot, Luís Ferreira Pires</i>	59
1 Introduction	59
2 Structuring of the Implementation Phase	60
3 Correctness Preserving Transformations	63
4 Requirements for Implementation	66
5 Mapping onto Implementation Components	70
6 An Implementation Example	72
7 Conclusions	84

REFERENCES	84
<b>4 GETTING TO USE THE LOTOSPHERE INTEGRATED TOOL ENVIRONMENT (LITE)</b>	
<i>José A. Mañas</i>	87
1 Introduction	87
2 A Sample Specification: The Case of NIM	89
3 Getting the Specification Right	91
4 Getting the Right Specification	92
5 Realizing the Specification	102
6 <i>lite</i> and Minilite Components	104
7 Conclusions	106
REFERENCES	107
<b>5 LOTOS INDUSTRIAL APPLICATIONS</b>	
<i>Edwin Wiedmer</i>	109
1 Introduction	109
2 LOTOS Application: ISDN and Mini-Mail	110
3 LOTOS Application: OSI Transaction Processing	113
4 Experience with Methods and Tools	114
5 Some Industrial Users of LOTOS	117
6 Conclusion	119
REFERENCES	119
<b>6 APPLYING LOTOS TO OSI APPLICATION LAYER PROTOCOLS</b>	
<i>Robert E. Booth</i>	121
1 Introduction	121
2 The OSI Context	123
3 OSI Perspectives on the Lotosphere Methodology	124
4 A Hybrid Development Trajectory	129
5 Achievements	131
6 Conclusions	132
REFERENCES	133
<b>Part II SPECIFICATION AND TRANSFORMATION</b>	135
<b>7 LOTOS SPECIFICATION STYLE FOR OSI</b>	
<i>Ken J. Turner, Marten van Sinderen</i>	137
1 Introduction	137
2 Specification Elements for OSI Services	139
3 Specification Elements for OSI Protocols	149

4	Conclusion	158
	REFERENCES	158
<b>8</b>	<b>CORRECTNESS PRESERVING TRANSFORMATIONS FOR THE EARLY PHASES OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
	<i>Tommaso Bolognesi, David De Frutos, Rom Langerak, Diego Latella</i>	161
1	Introduction	161
2	The running example: a Programmable Sound Sequencer	162
3	Gate splitting	164
4	Inverse expansion	168
5	Splitting processes	173
6	Regrouping parallel processes	175
7	Conclusions	179
	REFERENCES	180
<b>9</b>	<b>CORRECTNESS PRESERVING TRANSFORMATIONS FOR THE LATE PHASES OF SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT</b>	
	<i>Alessandro Fantechi, B. Mekhanet, Elie Najm, P. Cunha, J. Queiroz</i>	181
1	Introduction	181
2	Transformations applicable to the late phases of the design trajectory	182
3	Description of Museum Security System	188
4	A 3-way to 2-way rendez-vous transformation	189
5	LOTOS to LOTOMATON phase	193
6	Realisation phase	195
7	Discussion and Conclusion	198
	REFERENCES	198
<b>10</b>	<b>A CASE STUDY ON PROTOCOL DESIGN</b>	
	<i>Jean-Pierre Courtiat, Djamel-Eddine Saïdouni</i>	201
1	Introduction	201
2	Specification of the user's requirements	202
3	The design trajectory	205
4	Assessment	213
5	Conclusion	216
	REFERENCES	217
	<b>Part III ANALYSIS</b>	219

## 11 EXECUTING LOTOS SPECIFICATIONS: THE SMILE TOOL

<i>Henk Eertink</i>	221
1 Introduction	221
2 Symbolic simulation	221
3 Symbolic simulation in SMILE	226
4 Functionality of SMILE	228
5 Advanced functionalities of SMILE	231
6 Implementation	233
7 Future developments and availability	233
REFERENCES	234

## 12 A PRAGMATIC APPROACH TO VERIFICATION, VALIDATION AND COMPILATION

<i>Tomas de Miguel, Arturo Azcorra, Juan Quemada and José A. Mañas</i>	235
1 Introduction	235
2 Validation	236
3 Verification	243
4 Compilation	247
5 Conclusions	252
REFERENCES	253

## 13 AN EXERCISE IN PROTOCOL VERIFICATION

<i>Stefania Gnesi, Eric Madelaine, Gioia Ristori</i>	255
1 Introduction	255
2 Behaviour Oriented Style versus Basic Lotos	257
3 Verification tools in lite	259
4 A Secure Datagram Protocol	262
5 Conclusion	277
REFERENCES	277

## 14 A TOOL FOR CHECKING ADT COMPLETENESS AND CONSISTENCY

<i>Dietmar Wolz</i>	281
1 Introduction	281
2 Algebraic Specifications with Conditional Equations	282
3 Criteria for the applicability of narrowing and rewriting	284
4 Example for data type checking	288
5 Implementation, limitations and performance	290
6 Relation to Persistency and Completion	291

7	Conclusion	292
	REFERENCES	293
<b>15</b>	<b>DERIVING TESTS FROM LOTOS SPECIFICATIONS</b>	
	<i>Clazien D. Wezeman</i>	295
1	Introduction	295
2	Notation	296
3	The CO-OP method and LOTOS	297
4	Concise presentations of Compulsory and Options	301
5	Initial behaviour of a tester	303
6	Subsequent tester behaviour.	306
7	The alternative CO-OP method.	308
8	The full LOTOS CO-OP method	309
9	Conclusions	313
	REFERENCES	314
<b>Part IV</b>	<b>IMPLEMENTATION</b>	317
<b>16</b>	<b>THE COLOS COMPILER</b>	
	<i>Ken Warkentyne and Eric Dubuis</i>	319
1	Introduction	319
2	Functional Description	320
3	Restrictions and Annotations	321
4	Some Hints on Using COLOS	327
5	Future Work	329
	REFERENCES	329
	APPENDIX A The $\alpha$ Predicate	330
	A.1 The $\beta$ Predicate	330
<b>17</b>	<b>TP PROTOCOL FROM SPECIFICATION TO IMPLEMENTATION</b>	
	<i>Ing Widya, Gert-Jan van der Heijden, François Juillot</i>	333
1	Introduction	333
2	Transaction Processing	334
3	The Design Methodology	335
4	TP Design Trajectory	336
5	First Design Cycle	337
6	Second Design Cycle	345
7	Status of the Specifications	345
8	Experiences	346
9	Conclusions	347



REFERENCES	348
<b>18 REALIZATION OF CCR IN C</b>	
<i>Val Jones</i>	349
1 Introduction	349
2 The Lotosphere Development Trajectory	350
3 Compilation using TOPO	351
4 Transformation to “high-level” C	355
5 Comparison of the two approaches	364
6 Conclusions	366
REFERENCES	367
<b>19 ALTO: AN INTERACTIVE TRANSFORMATION TOOL FOR LOTOS AND LOTOMATON</b>	
<i>Elie Najm, A. Serhrouchni, A. Lakas, Eric. Madelaine, Robert. de Simone</i>	369
1 Introduction	369
2 The LOTOMATON Framework	370
3 The ALTO Tool	384
4 Conclusion	387
REFERENCES	388
<b>Part V GRAPHICAL LOTOS</b>	389
<b>20 G-LOTOS: A GRAPHICAL LANGUAGE FOR CONCURRENT SYSTEMS</b>	
<i>Tommaso Bolognesi, Elie Najm, Paul A.J. Tilanus</i>	391
1 Introduction	391
2 Processes and actions	392
3 Behaviour diagrams	395
4 Data	411
5 Complete specification	414
6 A movie interpretation	424
7 LOTOS specification of the Museum Control System	428
8 Textual LOTOS to G-LOTOS conversion table	430
9 Conclusions	435
REFERENCES	436
<b>21 GLOW 3.0 - A GRAPHICAL LOTOS BROWSER</b>	
<i>Tommaso Bolognesi, Maurizio Caneve, Elena Salvatori</i>	439
1 Introduction	439
2 The user’s view	439
3 Tool architecture	446

*Contents*

xi

4	Conclusions	450
	REFERENCES	450
<b>Part VI</b>	<b>LOTOS ENHANCEMENTS</b>	<b>451</b>
<b>22</b>	<b>ENHANCEMENTS OF LOTOS</b>	
	<i>Ed Brinksma, George Leih</i>	453
1	Introduction	453
2	Design Principles of Modular LOTOS	454
3	Data Revisions	456
4	Modularization Concepts	460
5	Discussion	464
	REFERENCES	465
<b>23</b>	<b>DATA SPECIFICATIONS IN MODULAR LOTOS</b>	
	<i>Rudolph Roth, Jan de Meer, Silke Storp</i>	467
1	Introduction	467
2	Data Specification Case Study	467
3	Modular LOTOS Enhancements for Data Specifications	470
4	Conclusion	478
	REFERENCES	479
<b>INDEX</b>		<b>481</b>

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# PREFACE

## Introduction

Although LOTOS (Language of Temporal Ordering Specification) has become an international standard in 1989 (ISO standard IS8807), the application of preliminary versions of the language to communication services and protocols of the ISO-OSI family (Open Systems Interconnection) dates back to around 1984. Thus, when the 'Lotosphere' project started, in 1989, a five-year experience of writing LOTOS specifications of varying sizes was available, ranging from the usually small examples presented at the IFIP WG6.1 International Conferences on Protocol Specification, Testing, and Verification, to the complex specifications of OSI protocols and services produced within ISO Working Groups. The production of reference documents providing abstract and unambiguous descriptions of these protocol and service standards was indeed one of the primary motivations, in ISO, for the development of LOTOS. However, due to the experiences gained in those five years, with the language spreading outside the ISO community, it soon became clear that much higher advantages than the pure production of standard reference documents were to be expected from the investment in, and usage of, formal description techniques such as LOTOS. At the same time, it also became clear that these advantages could not be achieved at a low price, and that much work remained to be done beyond the formal definition of the language.

## The Lotosphere project

The Lotosphere Project, partially funded by the Commission of the European Communities under the ESPRIT II Programme (Project N. 2304, 1989-92), has represented the most substantial international effort centered on the LOTOS specification language, with a budget of 11 MEcu, having involved 16 European partners for a total of about 96 man/years, including all the major European contributors to the design of the language and those that had been more active in the development of prototype LOTOS tools.

The main goal of Lotosphere was to pull LOTOS out of the ISO palace, and throw it into software engineering practice: LOTOS, with its associated theory, was to become a vehicle for efficient, yet formally based, industrial software specification, design, verification, implementation, and testing. More precisely, the objectives of the Lotosphere project were:

- defining a comprehensive LOTOS based design and implementation methodology,

- developing a coherent, integrated, open-ended toolset supporting this methodology,
- carrying out and assessing some realistic industrial product developments using the above methodology and toolset.

The strategy of forming the consortium was guided by the objective to achieve fast transfer from the academic to the industrial world. To this end, a combination of an industrial partner interested in the application of LOTOS, and an academic partner already knowledgeable in LOTOS, was formed in each participating country.

The five industrial partners in the consortium were: Alcatel Standard Electrica (E), Ascom Tech, British Telecommunications (UK), Océ Nederland (NL), and SYSECA Logiciel (F).

The six research centres in the consortium were: C.N.R.-CNUCE (I), Gesellschaft für Mathematik und Datenverarbeitung (D), C.N.R.-Istituto Elaborazione Informazione (I), Institut National de Recherche en Informatique et en Automatique (F), Laboratoire d'Automatique et d'Analyse des Systèmes du CNRS (F), PTT-Research Neher Laboratories (NL).

The four universities in the consortium were: Technische Universität Berlin (D), Universidad Politécnica de Madrid (E), University of Stirling (UK) and University of Twente (NL).

Lotosphere has terminated after three years of activity, leaving the clear impression to many of its participants that a train had been forced to stop shortly after it had reached its full speed. Furthermore, due to time constraints, the above mentioned main streams of activity, which would most naturally be conceived as sequential, had to be carried on by the corresponding working groups mainly in parallel, with more overhead and less effectiveness in the feedback loops linking 'providers' and 'consumers' of results. For example, industrial-level applications of elements of the methodology, and of their associated tools, could not be started before the industrial partners had reached sufficient expertise in the usage of the LOTOS language itself; we believe that, after three years, further feedback of consolidated experience from the industrial partners would have been increasingly beneficial for further tuning the methodology and adapting it to specific application areas and industrial needs.

## Purpose of this book

The purpose of this book is to illustrate the variety of results that were achieved in Lotosphere with respect to the above, closely concatenated objectives. There is no doubt that Lotosphere made substantial contributions to the state of the art in LOTOS theory and practice in all three directions, and we believe that the material collected in this book reflects these achievements in a fairly balanced way. Besides the initial overviews, the reader can indeed find chapters dealing with methodological aspects, providing guidelines for specification, transformation, verification and implementation, other chapters dealing with tools, and some others describing industrial applications.

## Structure and contents of this book

We must recall that Lotosphere has produced a large number of thick, sometimes multi-volume final deliverables, grouped according to the three main objectives of the project, some of which could be edited into self-standing books themselves. Furthermore, the LotoSphere library contains over 1500 technical reports. This book can obviously provide only a partial coverage of this material. In fact, rather than directly selecting from this huge documentation (which is largely available in electronic form), we have mainly collected here revisions of the papers that have been prepared by several authors explicitly for presenting the results of the project to the scientific and industrial communities. Early versions of most of these chapters have been presented at the Third LotoSphere Workshop & Seminar held at Pisa on September 14-16, 1992. While in principle the reader might have expected a three-part book precisely reflecting the three Lotosphere goals, we have preferred a presentation structure that perhaps suggests some fragmentation in the project results. We prefer this solution to giving an excessively optimistic impression of unity and coherence.

## The results presented in this book

The making of a new object, such as a software system, is by definition a creative process, and there can not exist any methodology which automatically (or ‘automagically’?) compensates for the lack of creativity and ingenuity of specifiers, designers and implementors.

Therefore the fully reliable, fully automated, highly efficient, LOTOS based software development methodology generally applicable to concurrent, distributed and reactive systems, can not be found in this book, nor in the Lotosphere documentation. Of course we are in good company, since this (fully naive) dream has not been realized for any other formal language.

In line with the actual meaning of word ‘methodology’ – a body of methods – what can be more realistically done, and has indeed been done in LotoSphere, is to put together a conceptual framework, that is, a number of inter-related conceptual tools, such as notions of specification styles, general patterns of design step, transformation and verification techniques, that support system developers by providing a rich panoply of useful conceptual tools along the specification-to-implementation trajectory. Such conceptual tools are less stringent than a precisely defined, fully deterministic recipe, and leave much room for creativity and ingenuity. Thus, the success in applying the Lotosphere methodology is still crucially dependent on the developers’ skills in exploiting these conceptual tools and methods, and in combining them in effective ways.

We believe that the degree of freedom left by the methodology is essential, and have indeed experienced in the project, during the early industrial-level experiences with it, that a rigid, recipe-like formulation of the development steps (in particular, a precisely defined sequencing of specification styles) may, depending on the system under development, introduce inefficiency and even lead to unnecessary work.

The issue of the relation between the methodology and the type of system to be developed can not be mentioned only cursorily. Clearly there exists some tradeoff between the width of an application area and the effectiveness of a corresponding methodology: the narrower the application area, the highest the (potential) effectiveness of the methods. The application area primarily addressed by Lotosphere, that of communication systems, is relatively wide, and the systems found in it exhibit a rich variety of behavioural aspects concerned with concurrency and data manipulation. Correspondingly, the LotoSphere methodology is quite general, and is likely to be applicable to other areas as well. We believe that only by selecting a very specific and sufficiently narrow application area, could one attempt to devise a more stringent methodology where less freedom and more guidance is offered to system developers. In this respect, we look with much interest to some of the new and sufficiently specialized areas that seem to be emerging today for LOTOS application, such as digital logic or neural networks.

This book has at least one ideal predecessor, published in 1989, presenting the results of the SEDOS project ESPRIT I number 410, which was a large ESPRIT Project, partly devoted to LOTOS. In many ways Lotosphere can be considered as a fruit originated from that initial 'seed'. For example, several tool developments in Lotosphere have built upon experiences conducted within SEDOS.

However, a substantial change of perspective has taken place in Lotosphere, which allows us to summarize the novelty offered by the present book with respect to its predecessor by a single keyword: transformation. In the SEDOS book a LOTOS specification is a static object, produced from scratch, perhaps in a burst of inspiration, much in the same way as a piece of art is created. In this LotoSphere book a LOTOS specification appears as dynamic object, which evolves along a trajectory of transformations and refinements for progressively achieving the requirements that originate the development. The evolution of this object can be driven and assisted by the conceptual tools offered by the methodology, and supported by their associated software tools. Thus, while the SEDOS book contained several examples of LOTOS specifications, we provide here several concrete examples of specification transformations, that represent in themselves a good basis for learning-by-example, and can be appreciated to a large extent even without going through the abstract descriptions of the various methods and tools.

## **How this book is organised.**

In Part 1 - Introduction and Overviews - Chapter 1 provides an overview of the objectives and results of Lotosphere, and relates them with the general needs of a design culture in software companies, Chapters 2 and 3 describe various aspects of the Lotosphere design and implementation methodology, Chapter 4 gives a quick introduction to the whole tool environment (LITE), and Chapters 5 and 6 offer an overview of some industrial applications carried on during the project.

In Part 2 - Specification and Transformation - Chapter 7 introduces a discipline for building LOTOS specifications of communication systems of the OSI family, Chapters

8 and 9 introduce techniques for transforming generic specifications, and Chapter 10 illustrates in detail some transformations of a realistic OSI-like communication service.

In Part 3 - Analysis - Chapter 11 describes SMILE, a tool offered by LITE for the analysis by execution of LOTOS specifications, Chapter 12 illustrates LOLA and TOPO which are tools that support key phases of the software life-cycle, Chapter 13 illustrates some verification approaches and tools, by applying them to the LOTOS specification of a datagram protocol, Chapter 14 introduces a tool of the LITE environment that supports its users in analysing LOTOS specifications of abstract data types, and Chapter 15 introduces a tool for deriving tests from LOTOS specifications.

In Part 4 - Implementation - Chapter 16 introduces one of the LOTOS compilers included in LITE, Chapters 17 and 18 describe the experiences of implementing, respectively, the OSI-TP and OSI-CCR protocols, starting from their LOTOS specifications and using LITE tools, and Chapter 19 introduces a model and technique for transforming LOTOS specifications into implementation-oriented specifications, and an associated tool.

In Part 5 - Graphical LOTOS - we have included for completeness, as Chapter 20, a paper that has already appeared in *Computer Networks and ISDN Systems*, Vol. 26 (1994), which introduces the graphical syntax of the language but may serve also as a general introduction to LOTOS for the novice reader. Chapter 21 describes the G-LOTOS browser of LITE.

In Part 6 - Lotos Enhancements - Chapters 22 and 23 describe the main enhancements envisaged for LOTOS within LotoSphere.

Besides being grouped into six parts, the chapters of this book are interconnected in several useful ways. For instance some tools and transformations are discussed, from different viewpoints, in different chapters. This may offer alternative reading policies, and can be traced by consulting the index at the end of the book.

It is fair to say that the pre-requisites for reading the book vary across its chapters. If we exclude Part 1, a good knowledge of LOTOS is required for appreciating all the other chapters; the introduction to (LOTOS and) G-LOTOS can compensate only in part for the lack of experience with the language. More generally, knowledge of the basic concepts in process algebra, such as structural operational semantics and behavioural equivalences, is certainly beneficial for fully appreciating the proposed techniques and tools. The introduction to these concepts, discussed in hundreds of papers that have appeared in the last 15 years, is out of the scope of this book. Nevertheless we believe that, in the absence of these theoretical bases, the reader can still follow most of what is presented about the methodology and the tool functionalities. There has been an effort, in Lotosphere, for selecting and exploiting those ingredients of the LOTOS theory that best lend themselves to intuitive understanding and practical usage. An example is the use made of the notion of 'testing equivalence'.

Finally a few words about the references found at the end of each chapter. We have avoided pointers to Lotosphere technical reports, and have avoided duplication by collecting the most general and useful references at the end of this Preface. They are

grouped into three lists: LOTOS language, Lotosphere deliverables and other related publications.

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- [D24] The "Generalized Regrouping Parallel Transformation" Tool: Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/CPR/N0021/V01
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- [D29] The Auto front-end: theoretical basis Lo/WP2/T2 2/INRIA/N0001/V01
- [D30] A Verification Environment for LOTOS Lo/WP2/T2 2/CPR/N0011/V01
- [D31] Verification Widget Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/INRIA/N0013/V01
- [D32] Specification and Verification of a Sliding Window Protocol in LOTOS Lo/WP2/-T2 1/INRIA/N0024/V01
- [D33] EFSM to FC2 Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/INRIA/N0011/V01
- [D34] AST2CR Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/UPM/N0014/V03
- [D35] G-LOTOS-Browser Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/CPR/N0022/V01
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- [D37] Theory of Conditional Completion Lo/WP2/T2 2/RNL/N0009/V01
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- [D42] CrossReferences report generator Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/-UPM/N0028/V01
- [D43] Process Dependency Report Generator Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/INRIA/N0012/V01
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- [D48] Simulator Detailed Design Document Lo/WP2/T2 2/UT/N0010/V01
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- [D50] Toolsupport for Implementation Lo/WP2/T2 2/UPM/N0022/V02
- [D51] Behaviour Compiler performance: Synthetic Specifications Lo/WP2/T2 2/UPM/-N0025/V01
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- [D62] Task 3.2. *LOTOS Industrial Applications: ISDN Layer 3*. ESPRIT II Lotosphere Project, March 1992. Lo/WP3/T3.2/N0073/V01, Final Deliverable.

## Other sources of information

Smile, the simulator for LOTOS, can be obtained from ftp.cs.utwente.nl directory pub/-src/lotos-tools. On this server postscript versions of most deliverables can be found together with the full text of LOTOS specifications referred to in this book in directory pub/doc/lotos/lotosphere.

lotos@dit.upm.es is a public forum to discuss topics related to LOTOS. Subscribe by sending a request to listserv@dit.upm.es

A LOTOS newsletter is published by Prof. Ken Turner. [kjt@compsci.stirling.ac.uk](mailto:kjt@compsci.stirling.ac.uk)

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