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An event structure semantics for general Petri nets. (English) Zbl 0872.68126
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Summary: We address the following question: What type of event structures are suitable for representing the behaviour of general Petri nets? As a partial answer to this question we define a new class of event structures called local event structures and identify a subclass called UL-event structures. We propose that UL-event structures are appropriate for capturing the behaviour of general Petri nets. Our answer is a partial one in that in the proposed event structure semantics, auto-concurrency is filtered out from the behaviour of Petri nets. It turns out that this limited event structure semantics for Petri nets is nevertheless a non-trivial and conservative extension of the (prime) event structure semantics of 1-safe Petri nets provided in *M. Nielsen, G. Plotkin and G. Winskel* [Theor. Comput. Sci. 13, 85-108 (1981; [Zbl 0452.68067](#))]. We also show that the strong relationship between prime event structures and 1-safe Petri nets established in a categorical framework in *G. Winskel* [Lect. Notes Comput. Sci. 255, 325-392 (1987; [Zbl 0626.68022](#))] can be extended to the present setting, provided we restrict our attention to the subclass of Petri nets whose behaviours do not exhibit any auto-concurrency. Finally, we show that Winskel's general and stable event structures can be smoothly related to local event structures and that similarly prime event structures can be related to UL-event structures.

MSC:

- [68Q85](#) Models and methods for concurrent and distributed computing (process algebras, bisimulation, transition nets, etc.)
- [68Q55](#) Semantics in the theory of computing
- [68Q45](#) Formal languages and automata

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