

The SPiM Language

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1 Introduction

This document presents the SPiM Language Definition. The Language is defined in BNF notation, where optional elements are enclosed in braces as *{Optional}*.

2 Programs

Syntax A *Program* consists of one or more *Declarations*, together with optional top-level *Directives* for sampling and plotting simulation results.

<i>Program</i>	::=	<i>{Directive</i> ₁ ... <i>Directive</i> _{M} <i>Declaration</i>₁...<i>Declaration</i>_N}	Directives, $M \geq 1$ Declarations, $N \geq 1$
<i>Directive</i>	::=	directive sample <i>Float</i> <i>{Integer}</i> directive graph directive plot <i>Point</i> ₁ ... <i>Point</i> _N	Sample Directive Graph Directive Plot Directive
<i>Point</i>	::=	!Channel <i>{as String}</i> ?Channel <i>{as String}</i> <i>Name</i> (<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _N) <i>{as String}</i>	Output Point Input Point Process Point, $N \geq 0$

Sample Directive

directive sample *Float* *{Integer}*

Specifies the maximum duration of a simulation, together with the maximum number of plots.

The maximum duration of the simulation is specified by the given *Float*. The units of simulation time are not given explicitly, but are determined by the reaction rates in the program. For example, if the rates are given in *seconds*⁻¹ then the simulation time is assumed to be in *seconds*. The simulation is halted when the simulation time exceeds the maximum duration.

The maximum number of plots is specified by the given *Integer*. This is used to compute the minimum interval of time between plots. For example, if the duration is 10.0 and the maximum number of plots is 1000 then there will be a minimum time of 0.01 between plots. This has the effect of sampling plots at regular time intervals. If no maximum number of plots is given then all of the plots are used.

If no sample directive is given then the simulation continues until the program terminates.

Graph Directive

directive graph

Instructs the simulator to output a graphical representation of the program in *.dot* format. The resulting file can be viewed using the Graphviz DOT layout engine¹, which can also be used to export a directed graph in *.ps* or *.png* format. The graphical representation corresponds to the program code, where top-level value, type and channel declarations are omitted. The graph directive is disabled for the GUI version of the simulator, which uses a menu command to export a graphical representation of the program that was last simulated.

Plot Directive

directive plot *Point*₁...*Point*_N

Specifies one or more points to be recorded at each time step. If no plot directive is given then the number of possible inputs and outputs on all channels is recorded at each time step.

¹Available from <http://www.graphviz.org/> compatible with version 2.8

The simulation results for a given SPiM program are stored in a corresponding *.csv* file as a sequence of comma-separated values. The first line of the file contains the headers for the remaining lines. The first header denotes the simulation time, and each subsequent header denotes the number of possible inputs $?x$ or outputs $!x$ on a given channel x , or the number of running processes $P(n)$ with parameters n . Each subsequent line contains the current simulation time, followed by the number of inputs, outputs or processes. A new line is written to the result file for each simulation step.

The result file can be viewed using a suitable spreadsheet in order to plot a graph of the results. For example, Microsoft Excel can be used to open the result file in order to plot a scatter diagram of selected inputs, outputs and processes over time. The result file can also be imported into Microsoft Excel as external data, which can be refreshed whenever the result file is updated during a simulation.

Points A point can be an output or input on a *Channel* or the *Name* of a process, together with an optional *String* header.

!Channel {as *String*}

Records the number of possible outputs on the given *Channel* at each time step, using the given *String* header. If no string header is specified then the header "*!Channel*" is used by default. If more than one channel is declared with the same name then the sum of all the outputs on these channels is recorded.

?Channel {as *String*}

Records the number of possible inputs on the given *Channel* at each time step, using the given *String* header. If no string header is specified then the header "*?Channel*" is used by default. If more than one channel is declared with the same name then the sum of all the inputs on these channels is recorded.

Name (*Value*₁, ..., *Value*_{*N*}) {as *String*}

Records the number of processes with the given *Name* and parameters (*Value*₁, ..., *Value*_{*N*}), using the given *String* header. If no string header is specified then the header "*Name*(*Value*₁, ..., *Value*_{*N*})" is used by default. Only processes of a certain form can be recorded, i.e. those that are defined as a choice of actions preceded by zero or more channel, type or value declarations. If no parameters are specified then the sum of all the processes with the given *Name* is recorded.

Declarations

*Declaration*₁ ... *Declaration*_{*N*}

Specifies one or more top-level declarations to be executed.

3 Declarations

Syntax A *Declaration* can be a *Channel*, *Type*, *Value* or *Process* declaration, or one or more mutually recursive *Definitions*.

<i>Declaration</i>	::=	new <i>Name</i> {@ <i>Value</i> }: <i>Type</i>	Channel Declaration
		type <i>Name</i> = <i>Type</i>	Type Declaration
		val <i>Pattern</i> = <i>Value</i>	Value Declaration
		run <i>Process</i>	Process Declaration
		let <i>Definition</i> ₁ and ... and <i>Definition</i> _{<i>N</i>}	Process Definitions, $N \geq 1$
<i>Definition</i>	::=	<i>Name</i> (<i>Pattern</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Pattern</i> _{<i>N</i>}) = <i>Process</i>	Process Definition, $N \geq 0$

Channel Declaration

new *Name*{@*Value*}:*Type*

Creates a new channel with rate *Value* and with the given *Type*, and assigns this channel to the given *Name*. The *Rate* is a floating point number that corresponds to the rate of an interaction on the channel. If no rate is specified then the channel is assumed to have an infinite rate.

Type Declaration

type *Name* = *Type*

Assigns the given *Type* to the given *Name*. If the *Name* occurs in the *Type* then a recursive type is declared.

Value Declaration

val *Pattern* = *Value*

Assigns the given *Value* to the given *Pattern*. If the *Pattern* is a *Name* then a single value is declared. If the *Pattern* is a tuple of *N* patterns *Pattern*₁, ..., *Pattern*_{*N*} then *N* values are declared.

Process Declaration

run *Process*

Executes the given *Process*.

Process Definitions

let *Definition*₁ **and** ... **and** *Definition*_{*N*}

Declares one or more mutually recursive processes.

Process Definition

Name (*Pattern*₁, ..., *Pattern*_{*N*}) = *Process*

Assigns the given *Process* to the given *Name*, parameterised by zero or more *Pattern* arguments. An instance of the given *Process* can be executed by invoking the given *Name* with corresponding *Value* arguments.

4 Processes

Syntax A *Process* can be Null, a Parallel Composition of processes, an Action, a Choice of actions, an Instance of a definition, a Replicated action, a Conditional process, a Pattern Matching process, a Repeated process or a collection of nested Declarations.

<i>Process</i>	::=	()	Null Process
		(<i>Process</i> ₁ ... <i>Process</i> _{<i>M</i>})	Parallel, <i>M</i> ≥ 2
		<i>Action</i> {; <i>Process</i> }	Action Process
		do <i>Action</i> ₁ {; <i>Process</i> ₁ } or ... or <i>Action</i> _{<i>M</i>} {; <i>Process</i> _{<i>M</i>} }	Choice, <i>M</i> ≥ 2
		<i>Name</i> (<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _{<i>N</i>}){; <i>Process</i> }	Instantiation, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
		replicate <i>Action</i> {; <i>Process</i> }	Replicated Action
		if <i>Value</i> then <i>Process</i> { else <i>Process</i> }	Conditional Process
		match <i>Value</i> case <i>Case</i> ₁ ... case <i>Case</i> _{<i>N</i>}	Matching, <i>N</i> ≥ 1
		<i>Integer</i> of <i>Process</i>	Repetition
		(<i>Declaration</i> ₁ ... <i>Declaration</i> _{<i>N</i>} <i>Process</i>)	Nested Declarations, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
<i>Case</i>	::=	<i>Value</i> -> <i>Process</i>	Match Case

Null

$()$

Terminates the execution of a process.

Parallel Composition

$(Process_1 \mid \dots \mid Process_M)$

Executes two or more processes in parallel.

Action Process

$Action\{;\ Process\}$

Tries to perform the given *Action* and then execute the given *Process*. If no *Process* is specified then nothing is executed after the action is performed.

Choice

do $Action_1\{;\ Process_1\}$ **or** ... **or** $Action_M\{;\ Process_M\}$

Tries to perform two or more competing actions simultaneously. Once a chosen $Action_i$ has been performed, any competing actions are discarded and $Process_i$ is executed. If no $Process_i$ is specified then nothing is executed after the action is performed.

Instantiation

$Name\ (Value_1, \dots, Value_N)\{;\ Process\}$

Spawns a copy of the process defined by the given *Name*, instantiated with the given *Value* arguments, in parallel with the given *Process*. If no *Process* is specified then nothing is executed in parallel with the instantiated process. From version 0.042, the use of the optional $\{;\ Process\}$ is deprecated.

A number of predefined processes are available: *print(s)* prints the given string *s* on the console, *println(s)* prints the given string *s* on the console followed by a new line character and *break()* halts the simulation until the user presses Enter.

Replicated Action

replicate $Action\{;\ Process\}$

Tries to perform the given *Action* and then spawn a copy of the given *Process*. This has the effect of repeatedly executing the given *Action* followed by the given *Process*.

Conditional

if $Value$ **then** $Process$ **{else** $Process$ **}**

Executes the first *Process* if the given *Value* is true. Otherwise, the optional second process is executed.

Matching

match $Value$ **case** $Case_1 \dots$ **case** $Case_N$

Tries to match the given *Value* with one or more *Cases*, where each $Case_i$ is of the form:

$Value_i \rightarrow Process_i$

The cases are matched in order, from first to last. For each $Case_i$, if the given *Value* matches $Value_i$ then $Process_i$ is executed. Otherwise, the next case is examined. Note that any variables in $Value_i$ are bound during matching. If none of the cases match the given *Value* then nothing is executed.

Repetition

Integer of Process

Executes zero or more copies of the given *Process*, as specified by the given *Integer*.

Nested Declarations

(Declaration₁ ... Declaration_N Process)

Executes zero or more nested declarations, followed by the given *Process*. The syntax is further constrained so that nested declarations cannot contain process definitions.

5 Actions

Syntax An *Action* can be a stochastic Delay or an Output or Input on a *Channel*.

<i>Action</i>	::=	<code>delay@Value</code>	Delay
		<code>!Channel {(Value₁, ..., Value_N)} {*Value}</code>	Output, $N \geq 0$
		<code>?Channel {(Pattern₁, ..., Pattern_N)} {*Value}</code>	Input, $N \geq 0$

Delay

`delay@Value; Process`

Waits for a period of time stochastically determined by the given *Value*, and then executes the given *Process*.

Output

`!Channel {(Value1, ..., ValueN)} {*Value}; Process`

Tries to send zero or more values on the given *Channel* and then execute the given *Process*. If there is a parallel input on the same channel then the values are sent over the *Channel* and the *Process* is executed. The rate of the reaction is multiplied by the given *Value*.

Input

`?Channel {(Pattern1, ..., PatternN)} {*Value}; Process`

Tries to receive zero or more values on the given *Channel*, assign them to the given patterns and then execute the given *Process*. If there is a parallel output on the same channel then values are received over the *Channel* and assigned to the patterns, and the *Process* is executed. The rate of the reaction is multiplied by the given *Value*.

6 Patterns

Syntax A *Pattern* can be a Wildcard, a Name with an optional type annotation, or a sequence of zero or more patterns enclosed in parentheses:

<i>Pattern</i>	::=	<code>-</code>	Wildcard Pattern
		<code>Name{:Type}</code>	Name Pattern
		<code>(Pattern₁, ..., Pattern_N)</code>	Patterns, $N \geq 0$

Assignment A *Value* can be assigned to a given *Pattern* inside a given *Process*, written

`Process{Pattern:=Value}`

7 Values

Syntax A *Value* can be a Constant, a Constructed value or an Expression:

<i>Value</i> ::=	<i>String</i>	String Value
	<i>Integer</i>	Integer Value
	<i>Float</i>	Float Value
	<i>Character</i>	Character Value
	true	Boolean True
	false	Boolean False
	int_of_float	Float to Integer
	float_of_int	Integer to Float
	sqrt	Square Root
	<i>Name</i>	Variable
	show <i>Value</i>	String Representation
	- <i>Value</i>	Negation
	<i>Value</i> + <i>Value</i>	Addition
	<i>Value</i> - <i>Value</i>	Subtraction
	<i>Value</i> * <i>Value</i>	Multiplication
	<i>Value</i> / <i>Value</i>	Division
	<i>Value</i> = <i>Value</i>	Equal
	<i>Value</i> <> <i>Value</i>	Different
	<i>Value</i> < <i>Value</i>	Less Than
	<i>Value</i> > <i>Value</i>	Greater Than
	<i>Value</i> <= <i>Value</i>	Less Than or Equal
	<i>Value</i> >= <i>Value</i>	Greater Than or Equal
	<i>Name</i> (<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Constructor Value, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
	[]	Empty List
	<i>Value</i> :: <i>Value</i>	List Value
	(<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Values, <i>N</i> ≥ 0

Constant Values A *String*, *Integer*, *Float* or *Character* constant, boolean **true**, or boolean **false**.

Constructed Values A sequence of zero or more values, enclosed in parentheses:

*(Value*₁, ..., *Value*_{*N*})

A data constructor consisting of a *Name* and a sequence of zero or more *Value* arguments:

Name (*Value*₁, ..., *Value*_{*N*})

A list, which can be either empty **[]** or of the form *Value*₁**::***Value*₂, where *Value*₁ is the first element of the list and *Value*₂ is the remainder of the list. Note that all values in a list must be of the same type:

*Value***::***Value*

Expressions A value expression can be a variable *Name* representing a predefined value, a prefix operator followed by a *Value* argument, or an infix operator between two *Value* arguments.

The prefix operator **show** *Value*₁ converts *Value*₁ to a string value. By definition, every value has a corresponding string representation. The prefix operators **int_of_float** and **float_of_int** perform float and integer conversions, respectively. The prefix operator **-** *Value* is defined in Table 1.

Infix operators take two arguments of any type, provided both types are the same. The comparison operators (**=**, **<**, **>**, **>=**, **<=**) return a result of boolean type and rely on an ordering

to compare both arguments. The arithmetic operators (+,-,*,/) return a result of the same type as their arguments. Table 1 describes the behaviour of the operators for each corresponding type of arguments. The - symbol means that the behaviour of the operator is unspecified, although the result will always be of the correct type.

Type	+	-	*	/	- (prefix)	= ,<>, >, >=, <=
String	Concatenate	-	-	-	-	Lexicographic Order
Integer	Add	Subtract	Multiply	Divide	Minus	Integer Order
Float	Add	Subtract	Multiply	Divide	Minus	Float Order
Character	-	-	-	-	-	ASCII Code Order
Boolean	Or	-	And	-	Not	Lexicographic Order
List	Append	-	-	-	-	Order of Elements
Data	-	-	-	-	-	Lexicographic Order
Other	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 1: Operator Definitions

8 Types

Syntax A *Type* can be a Constant type, a Constructed type or a type Expression:

<i>Type</i> ::=	string	String Type
	int	Integer Type
	float	Float Type
	char	Character Type
	bool	Boolean Type
	<i>Name</i>	Type Variable
	<i>'Name</i>	Polymorphic Type
	chan { (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})}	Channel Type, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
	proc (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Process Type, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
	<i>Name</i> (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Constructor Type, <i>N</i> ≥ 0
	<i>Type</i> ₁ ... <i>Type</i> _{<i>M</i>}	Data Type, <i>M</i> ≥ 2
	list (<i>Type</i>)	List Type
	(<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Types, <i>N</i> ≥ 0

Constant Types A *string*, *int*, *float*, *char* or *bool* type.

Constructed Types A channel that can carry zero or more values of given types:

chan{ (*Type*₁, ..., *Type*_{*N*})}

A process that can be instantiated with zero or more values of given types:

proc (*Type*₁, ..., *Type*_{*N*})

A sequence of zero or more types, enclosed in parentheses:

(*Type*₁, ..., *Type*_{*N*})

A data constructor consisting of a *Name* and a sequence of zero or more arguments of given types:

Name (*Type*₁, ..., *Type*_{*N*})

A data type consisting of a choice between two or more types:

$$Type_{e_1} \mid \dots \mid Type_M$$

A *list* that can contain values of a given type:

$$\mathbf{list}(Type)$$

Type Expressions A type expression can be a *Name* representing a predefined type, or a polymorphic type variable that can be instantiated with an arbitrary type.

Type-checking Before executing a given program, the simulator checks if the program is well-typed and reports any type errors. The type system for the SPiM Language is based on the type system for the Pict Language, available from <http://www.cis.upenn.edu/~bcpierce/papers/pict/>

9 Lexical Syntax

Regular Expressions Regular Expressions (*Regex*) are used to describe the syntax of Constants and Variables in the SPiM Language:

<i>Regex</i> ::=	<i>c</i>	Character
	<i>c</i> · · <i>c</i>	Character Range
	\bar{c}	Character Complement
	<i>Regex</i> <i>Regex</i>	Concatenation of Expressions
	<i>Regex</i> <i>Regex</i>	Alternative Expressions
	<i>Regex</i> ?	Optional Expression
	<i>Regex</i> *	Repetition of Expression
	<i>Regex</i> ⁺	Strict Repetition of Expression
	(<i>Regex</i>)	Nested Expression

Constants An *Integer* constant consists of an optional negative sign followed by one or more digits:

$$Integer ::= (-)^? (0 \dots 9)^+$$

A *String* constant consists of a sequence of zero or more characters enclosed in double quotes. The sequence can only contain a double quote if it is preceded by a backslash:

$$String ::= "((\bar{~}) | (\bar{\}))^*"$$

A *Float* constant consists of an *Integer*, followed by a decimal point and one or more digits, followed by an optional exponent. The exponent consists of *e* or *E*, followed by + or -, followed by one or more digits:

$$Float ::= Integer.(0 \dots 9)^+ ((e | E)(+ | -)(0 \dots 9)^+)?$$

A *Character* constant consists of any character enclosed in single quotes, apart from the single quote character. It can also consist of a backslash, followed by a special *escaped* character or a three-digit decimal number, enclosed in single quotes:

<i>Character</i> ::=	'(\bar{~})'	Regular Character
	'\"'	Single Quote
	'\\'	Backslash
	'\n'	Linefeed
	'\r'	Carriage Return
	'\t'	Horizontal Tabulation
	'\b'	Backspace
	'\ (0 \dots 9)(0 \dots 9)(0 \dots 9)'	ASCII Character Code

Variables A *Name* variable consists of a letter followed by zero or more letters, digits, under-scores or single quotes:

$$Name ::= (A \dots Z | a \dots z)(A \dots Z | a \dots z | 0 \dots 9 | _ | ')*$$

A *Channel* variable is a *Name* representing a *Channel* value:

$$Channel ::= Name$$

The following variable names are reserved keywords of the language:

and	as	bool	chan	char	delay	directive
do	else	float	float_to_int	if	in	int
int_to_float	false	let	list	new	out	or
of	plot	proc	replicate	run	sample	show
sqrt	string	then	true	type	val	

Comments A comment starts with the sequence of characters `(*` and ends with the sequence of characters `*)`. Comments can be nested, but they cannot occur inside single or double quotes.

10 Language Summary

This section presents a summary of the SPiM language definition, where optional elements are enclosed in braces as *{Optional}*. The syntax is further constrained so that nested declarations cannot contain process definitions.

<i>Program</i>	$::=$ $\{Directive_1 \dots Directive_M\}$ $Declaration_1 \dots Declaration_N$	Directives, $M \geq 1$ Declarations, $N \geq 1$
<i>Directive</i>	$::=$ directive sample <i>Float</i> $\{Integer\}$ directive graph directive plot $Point_1 \dots Point_N$	Sample Directive Graph Directive Plot Directive
<i>Point</i>	$::=$! <i>Channel</i> $\{\mathbf{as} \textit{String}\}$? <i>Channel</i> $\{\mathbf{as} \textit{String}\}$ <i>Name</i> $(Value_1, \dots, Value_N)$ $\{\mathbf{as} \textit{String}\}$	Output Point Input Point Process Point, $N \geq 0$
<i>Declaration</i>	$::=$ new <i>Name</i> $\{\textcircled{Value}\} : \textit{Type}$ type <i>Name</i> $= \textit{Type}$ val <i>Pattern</i> $= \textit{Value}$ run <i>Process</i> let <i>Definition_1</i> and \dots and <i>Definition_N</i>	Channel Declaration Type Declaration Value Declaration Process Declaration Definitions, $N \geq 1$
<i>Definition</i>	$::=$ <i>Name</i> $(Pattern_1, \dots, Pattern_N) = \textit{Process}$	Definition, $N \geq 0$
<i>Process</i>	$::=$ $()$ $(Process_1 \mid \dots \mid Process_M)$ <i>Name</i> $(Value_1, \dots, Value_N) \{; \textit{Process}\}$ <i>ActionProcess</i> do <i>ActionProcess_1</i> or \dots or <i>ActionProcess_M</i> replicate <i>ActionProcess</i> if <i>Value</i> then <i>Process</i> $\{\mathbf{else} \textit{Process}\}$ match <i>Value</i> case <i>Case_1</i> \dots case <i>Case_N</i> <i>Integer</i> of <i>Process</i> $(Declaration_1 \dots Declaration_N \textit{Process})$	Null Process Parallel, $M \geq 2$ Instantiation, $N \geq 0$ Action Process Choice, $M \geq 2$ Replicated Action Conditional Process Matching, $N \geq 1$ Repetition Nested Declarations, $N \geq 0$
<i>Case</i>	$::=$ <i>Value</i> $\rightarrow \textit{Process}$	Match Case
<i>ActionProcess</i>	$::=$ <i>Action</i> $\{; \textit{Process}\}$	Action Process
<i>Action</i>	$::=$ delay \textcircled{Value} ! <i>Channel</i> $\{(Value_1, \dots, Value_N)\} \{*Value\}$? <i>Channel</i> $\{(Pattern_1, \dots, Pattern_N)\} \{*Value\}$	Delay Output, $N \geq 0$ Input, $N \geq 0$
<i>Pattern</i>	$::=$ $-$ <i>Name</i> $\{ : \textit{Type} \}$ $(Pattern_1, \dots, Pattern_N)$	Wildcard Pattern Name Pattern Patterns, $N \geq 0$

<i>Value</i>	::=	<i>String</i>	String Value
		<i>Integer</i>	Integer Value
		<i>Float</i>	Float Value
		<i>Character</i>	Character Value
		true	Boolean True
		false	Boolean False
		int_of_float	Float to Integer
		float_of_int	Integer to Float
		sqrt	Square Root
		<i>Name</i>	Variable
		show <i>Value</i>	String Representation
		- <i>Value</i>	Negation
		<i>Value</i> + <i>Value</i>	Addition
		<i>Value</i> - <i>Value</i>	Subtraction
		<i>Value</i> * <i>Value</i>	Multiplication
		<i>Value</i> / <i>Value</i>	Division
		<i>Value</i> = <i>Value</i>	Equal
		<i>Value</i> <> <i>Value</i>	Different
		<i>Value</i> < <i>Value</i>	Less Than
		<i>Value</i> > <i>Value</i>	Greater Than
		<i>Value</i> <= <i>Value</i>	Less Than or Equal
		<i>Value</i> >= <i>Value</i>	Greater Than or Equal
		<i>Name</i> (<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Constructor Value, $N \geq 0$
		[]	Empty List
		<i>Value</i> :: <i>Value</i>	List Value
		(<i>Value</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Value</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Values, $N \geq 0$
<i>Type</i>	::=	string	String Type
		int	Integer Type
		float	Float Type
		char	Character Type
		bool	Boolean Type
		<i>Name</i>	Type Variable
		' <i>Name</i>	Polymorphic Type
		chan { (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})}	Channel Type, $N \geq 0$
		proc (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Process Type, $N \geq 0$
		<i>Name</i> (<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Constructor Type, $N \geq 0$
		<i>Type</i> ₁ ... <i>Type</i> _{<i>M</i>}	Data Type, $M \geq 2$
		list (<i>Type</i>)	List Type
		(<i>Type</i> ₁ , ..., <i>Type</i> _{<i>N</i>})	Types, $N \geq 0$

<i>Rege xp</i>	::=	<i>c</i>	Character				
		<i>c</i> .. <i>c</i>	Character Range				
		\neg <i>c</i>	Character Complement				
		<i>Rege xp Rege xp</i>	Concatenation of Expressions				
		<i>Rege xp</i> <i>Rege xp</i>	Alternative Expressions				
		<i>Rege xp</i> [?]	Optional Expression				
		<i>Rege xp</i> [*]	Repetition of Expression				
		<i>Rege xp</i> ⁺	Strict Repetition of Expression				
		(<i>Rege xp</i>)	Nested Expression				
<i>Character</i>	::=	'()'	Regular Character				
		'\"'	Single Quote				
		'\\'	Backslash				
		'\n'	Linefeed				
		'\r'	Carriage Return				
		'\t'	Horizontal Tabulation				
		'\b'	Backspace				
		'\ (0..9)(0..9)(0..9)'	ASCII Character Code				
<i>Channel</i>	::=	<i>Name</i>					
<i>Integer</i>	::=	(-) [?] (0..9) ⁺					
<i>String</i>	::=	"(() (\")) [*] "					
<i>Float</i>	::=	<i>Integer</i> .(0..9) ⁺ ((e E)(+ -)(0..9) ⁺) [?]					
<i>Name</i>	::=	(A..Z a..z)(A..Z a..z 0..9 _ ')*					
<i>Keywords</i>	::=						
<i>and</i>		<i>as</i>	<i>bool</i>	<i>chan</i>	<i>char</i>	<i>delay</i>	<i>directive</i>
<i>do</i>		<i>else</i>	<i>float</i>	<i>float_to_int</i>	<i>if</i>	<i>in</i>	<i>int</i>
<i>int_to_float</i>		<i>false</i>	<i>let</i>	<i>list</i>	<i>new</i>	<i>out</i>	<i>or</i>
<i>of</i>		<i>plot</i>	<i>proc</i>	<i>replicate</i>	<i>run</i>	<i>sample</i>	<i>show</i>
<i>sqrt</i>		<i>string</i>	<i>then</i>	<i>true</i>	<i>type</i>	<i>val</i>	

A comment starts with the sequence of characters (* and ends with the sequence of characters *). Comments can be nested, but they cannot occur inside single or double quotes.