# Automatic Code Generation for Web Services Composition Based on a Formal Specification 

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#### Abstract

The web service oriented architecture (WSOA) design the software as services and uses the services as platforms. The orchestration of the services describes how Web services can interact with each other in an operational perspective, with control structures, including the order execution interactions. Many languages allow expressing executable processes to implementing Web services orchestration. These languages are used to describe how interactions between multiple services are coordinated to achieve a goal. However, the operational semantics of each of the structures of these languages is not formally defined and their limitations to the reasoning and verification of Web services compositions. This approach involves the automatic code generation for web services composition from formal specifications. We described the application using graphical notations (UML). Next, B automatic process of refinement can be applied to build a web services composition that satisfies the purpose of the web application. Due to the generic nature of the refinement rules, an automatic code generation tool (UML-BBPELASW) can be achieved, thereby reducing the cost of the development. A case study implementation of the proposed approach is developed using B tools.


Keywords: Web Service, UML, Formal Method B, Refinement Process, BPEL4SW

## 1. Introduction

In recent years, the security in the development of Web applications becomes a need and goal significant and crucial.

The Web $(2+)$ technologies such as SOA, design the software as services. More importantly, they are rethinking the services as platforms, rather than viewing services as products; these sets of technologies considered a service is primarily a brick whose role is allow to other services to build other services by using it. In such applications, the difficulty for designers' lies in writing programs that respect the integrity of all transactions and web services orchestration.

The aim of this paper is the definition of a formal approach to developing secure Web services compositions. In these compositions, designers tend to use methods such semiformal say: UML, CTT, OMT ... mainly based on graphical notations (classes, entities, states / transitions ...) or symbolic (as CTT) for intuitive representation, simplified and synthetic system to study. These methods represent undeniable advantages for modelling. They are an ideal medium for communication between the different actors of the system. Nevertheless, these methods still suffer from a lack of precise semantics of their concepts. This lack of semantic greatly reduces the possibility of formal reasoning and evidence obtained on modelling.

Our work depends on the generation of an implementation (BPEL4SW) from formal specifications B (mathematical notations). This generation is performed by successive
refinements of abstract specifications obtained by the translation phase of graphical notations. A set of generic rules refinement B has been defined. These rules consider the dynamic aspect (operations) of the web application. The objective of such a translation is obtaining the design model precise, concise and analyzable by tools (Control, evidence, simulation ...).

The rest of the article is organized as follows: Section 2 presents briefly the formal method B, then in section 3 presents briefly BPEL4SW language. Sections 4, presents the related works; next the general approach proposed is described in Section 5; in Section 6 we detail the approach through a case study. A synthetic study of work similar to our approach is given in Section 7. Section 8 concludes and describes potential prospects of our work.

## 2. Presentation of B Method

B Method [1] is first and foremost a new approach for the specification and design of software that ensures its safety and reliability. All of the specification, design and coding processes are therefore fully based on the realization of a certain number of mathematical proofs. It is only once a model has been mathematically proven that it is considered coherent and fault-free. The main objectives of this method are therefore:

- To create correct software by construction
- To model systems in their environment
- To formalize specifications
- To simplify programming
$B$ is a formal specification method which, thanks to an adequate language, allows for highly accurate expressions of the properties required by specifications. One can then prove in a fully automated fashion that these properties are unambiguous, coherent and are not contradictory. This then allows us to mathematically prove that these properties are taken into account as the design stages progress.

Therefore, this method and its associated proof allow for:

- Clear technical specifications and system specifications to be reached that are structured, coherent and unambiguous,
- The development of software that is contractually guaranteed to be fault-free,

B Method usually refers to the set that includes: B language, refinement, proof and related tools. B development starts with the writing of a concrete model that includes all of the defined needs. The main data processed by the system is described, as well as the fundamental properties of this data. Services ensure the processing of this data while preserving its properties. The B model thus obtained is a specification of what the system should create.

B model is then transformed (refined with B vocabulary) until a complete software installation of the software is obtained. B Method is therefore: "a proven construction approach (referred to as correct) based on B Language, refinement and proof." [2]

The B language basics are the abstract machine and refinement:
An abstract machine describes a system through a set of variables called states. Typing and constraints governing these variables, writings in a variation of the set theory Zermalo- Frankel (ZF), are expressed in the INVARIANT clause machine.

## MODEL nameM

## REFINES nameR

SETS . . .
PROPERTIES...
VARIABLES . . .
INVARIANT . . .
ASSERTIONS . . .
INITIALISATION . .
EVENTS . . .

END
The dynamic part of the system is specified by a set of operations B. The operations are described in the language of Disjkstra substitutions:

Generalized substitutions:

$[x:=E] P \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad P(x / E)$
The basic substitution is assigning a value to a variable. The generalization of this language allows defining more sophisticated substitutions: non-deterministic replacing preconditioned substitution....

A preconditioned substitution is of the form:

## SELECT $p$ THEN $s$ END,

$p$ is a predicate and s is a substitution. If $p$ checked the substitution s is executed correctly; if not $s$ fails. The result of the execution of the substitution $s$ is unpredictable.

Method B offers several architectural clauses allowing to incremental specification. At the most abstract level, the most used link INCLUDES. A machine may be included more than once in a machine B: variable A can be read from B, the update of these variables is only possible through the use of operations of $A$. This restriction allows a separation of proof associated with two machines.

Indeed, at B, each refinement step is validated by the establishment of a set of proof obligations generated automatically, which guarantees the correction of various transformations wrought by the refinement.


Figure 1. Structuring of a Developing B [2]
However, in general, the refining process is still a manual task, relatively heavy, particularly in proof phase. Method B is implemented by various tools including Click'n'Prove / B4Free v2 [2].

## 3. Business Process Execution Language for Web Services (bpel4sw) Language

Business Process Execution Language (BPEL) [3] defines a notation for specifying business process behavior based on Web Services. Business processes can be described in two ways:

- Executable business processes model actual behaviour of a participant in a business interaction.
- Business protocols, in contrast, use process descriptions that specify the mutually visible message exchange behaviour of each of the parties involved in the protocol, without revealing their internal behaviour. The process descriptions for business protocols are called abstract processes.

BPEL is used to model the behavior of both executable and abstract processes. The scope includes:

- Sequencing of process activities, especially Web Service interactions
- Correlation of messages and process instances
- Recovery behavior in case of failures and exceptional conditions
- Bilateral Web Service based relationships between process roles [3].

Processes in BPEL export and import information by using web service interfaces. BPEL describe Web-service interactions, this interaction is ensured through Partnerlink. They represent the static part of a BPEL process and are described in a WSDL document.

The dynamic part of BPEL is described by two types of activities:
A. Basic activities: define basic operations of a business process as:

- <invoke> to invoke an operation in a service.
- <Receive>, wait a message from an external source.
- <reply>, in response to an external source.
- <wait>, wait for a period of time.
- <assign>, to copy data from one place to another.
- <throw> to launch a runtime error.
- <terminate>, to end the instance of service.
- <empty>, which does nothing (useful for synchronizing parallel activities).
B. Structural activities: define the order in which the nested activities are executed, such as:
- <sequence>, for sequential execution order.
- 〈flow>, for parallel execution.
- <switch>, for conditional execution routing.
- <while>, for loops.
- <pick> to wait an event.
- <scope>, activity allows decomposing the BPEL process into sub-processes.


Figure 2. Web Services Orchestration (BPEL4SW)

## 4. Related Work

To overcome the lack of formality in this area, several approaches have been proposed to this effect, based on the work related to transition systems [4-7], the process algebra [8] [9] or temporal theories [10-11]. These works are devoted to the formalization of Web services orchestrations and allow some checks of their behavior. This verification step will help to ensure a certain level of confidence in the internal behavior of an orchestration. It may be noted that all of this work includes both the expression of an
executable process, the expression properties, and validation of this process with regard to the different properties.

However, these proposals works are partial solutions to the problem of development of secure Web services composition. The specifications generated are too abstract to be directly supported by an implementation language. These specifications correspond to the conceptual level.

A refinement stage (coding) of these specifications is essential.

## 5. The Proposed Approach

An important concept in the design of the Web services composition is the task. These tasks describe the various interactions between web services (orchestration) to achieve a particular goal.


Figure 3. Tools used (UML and B)

### 5.1. General Architecture of the Proposed Approach

The activity model that we have considered is described by the UML activity diagram.
The design of an orchestration calls particularly to descriptions of activities of Web services to describe the actions of task that a services are achieved using this orchestration.

Web services compositions (orchestration) can be specified by the composition of elementary tasks with the operator UML activity diagram. We represent the composition of web services using the refinement. This approach (Figure 4) allows the inclusion of UML activity models in the developments in the B event.


Figure 4. The Proposed Approach
Regarding the verification, two approaches can be differentiated:

- The first is translating the source code of application into a formal language in order to check as in the following Figure (4):


Figure 5. From BPEL4SW to Language B (ascending)
The second is to express a behavioural aspect of the process with a formal language, in order to check, and then translate it into source code, as in Figure 5:


Figure 6. From BPEL4SW to Language B (descending)

### 5.2. The Refinement of a Composition

Refinement is the process of transforming abstract specifications composition of web services to more concrete specifications. Generally, refinement step is the most critical and difficult phase of B project development. There is no precise method that would refine any abstract specification to a language. Indeed, such a method should be able, for each possible implementation, determining concrete variables and also the linking invariants binder these concrete variables to abstract variables of the specification. However, the definition of a special refinement process for a specific area is possible.

In our field (web services) the abstract specification of web services composition it's the specification of the nature of the composition between services, it can take two forms:

Order: a composition can execute the services components sequentially or in parallel.
Alternative: a composition may invoke alternative services until one of them successful.


Figure 7. Web Services Composition

In B, there are two types of refinement:
Data refinement: it is the replacement of an abstract data $D$ by concrete data $D^{\prime}$. In this case, a predicate J, called invariant bonding. This invariant establishes the link between the data D and $\mathrm{D}^{\prime}$. The invariant bonding J is specified in the INVARIANT clause.

In our field (web services) invariant bonding establishes the link between WSDL data (abstract Part: Types, messages, portType and concrete part: binding, service) of the services composed with the same WSDL date of the services components.

Algorithmic refinement: it is the transformation of an abstract substitution S in a less abstract substitution $\mathrm{S}^{\prime}$ (e.g., replacement of a simultaneous substitution by sequential substitution and elimination of preconditions).

In our field (web services) applying this type of refinement on basic operations of the services activities; we consider that each service as a set of operations interact with a set of messages.

### 5.3. Dependence of Messages

Dependence message defines the mapping of inputs and outputs messages. There are three types of dependence:

Synthesis: This type combines the output messages of the components services to form the output messages of the composed service.

Decomposition: This type decomposes the input message of the composed service to generate the input messages of components services.

Correspondence messages: allows the correspondence between the inputs and outputs messages of the services.

These two types of refinement (data and algorithmic) are not mutually exclusive: they can be operated in the same stage of refinement. Obviously any data refinement leads to an algorithmic refinement.

The last level of refinement of an abstract machine is called implementation (described in a language called B0). The language describing this implementation uses data structures and programs supported by the programming language chosen (BPEL4SW). The translation of this implementation (B0) to the BPEL4SW language becomes very natural and it can be automatically.

### 5.4. Translation Rules

B (Descending / Ascending) translation requires translation rules to represent the control structures:

## A. Descending translation (UML-B)

Capturing the behavior aspect (activity diagrams) of the composition process. Then represent the execution of services activities as a set of processes (sequential or parallel include assignments) in B. These assignments are scheduled by a set of control structures of B : sequential composition, loops, if then else ...

## B. Ascending translation (BPELASW-B)

Capturing the behavioral aspect of source code (BPEL4SW). Then represent the execution of these instructions as a set of processes: sequential or parallel assignments of B.

## C. Encoding Rules (B-BPEL4SW):

The abstract specifications (B), are refined until the level of abstraction (language B) corresponding to the formalization of the concepts of source code BPEL4SW. This level of abstraction is defined as a set of assignments. These assignments are scheduled by a set of control structures BPEL4SW: sequential composition loops, if then else...

The abstract model of Web services composition (orchestration process) consists of the main events are: Invoke Service 1 and Invoke Service $2, \ldots$.., Invoke service $n$ whose role is to invoke an operation in a partner services (Services 1 Service $2 \ldots$... Service n). It can be used for both synchronous and asynchronous communication. These events are synchronized by variables: invokeS1, invokeS1 ... invokeSn (which have a boolean behavior (1/0) to indicate that the service is called or not); and S1pick, S2pick, ..., Snpick variables (which have a Boolean behavior (1/0) to indicate that the service is in a state of waiting the arrival of an event or not).

Table 1. Translation Rules (UML-B-BPEL4SW)


| 4SW) | <sequence> $S 1$ $S 2$ $\cdots$ Sn <sequence> |
| :---: | :---: |
| UML Specifications (semi-formal) | Conditional compositions: <br> T(S1) $\square$ T(S2) |
| Model B <br> (Formal) <br> (Refinement) <br> (Proof) | VARIABLES <br> Invoke Service 1, Invoke Service 2 <br> INVARIANT <br> invokeS1 $\epsilon(0,1) \wedge$ invokeS2 $\epsilon(0,1)$ <br> S1 picke (0,1)^ S2 pick $\epsilon(0,1)$ <br> Cond $\boldsymbol{\epsilon}(0,1)$ <br> invokeSl= invokeS2 <br> S1 pick $\neq$ S2 pick <br> EVENTS <br> Invoke Service $1=$ SELECT <br> invokeS1=1^ S1pick $=1^{\wedge}$ Cond $=1$ <br> ... <br> THEN <br> invokeS1:= 0 ^ S1pick:= 0 II... <br> END; <br> Invoke Service 2 = SELECT <br> invokeS2=1^ S2pick $=1^{\wedge}$ Cond $=0$ <br> ... <br> THEN <br> invokeS2:= 0 ^ S2pick:= 0 II... <br> ... <br> END; <br> END; |
| Source code (BPEL 4SW) | if Cond then $\mathrm{T}(\mathrm{S} 1)$ else T(S2) |
| UML <br> Specifications (semi-formal) | Iterative loops composition: <br> T(S1) $\square$ to |
|  | VARIABLES |



Based on the previous rules (Table 1) we have developed [14] a code transformation tool (B-BEL4SW) and (BPEL4SW-B):


Figure 8. A Code Conversion Tool (B-BPEL4SW, BPEL4SW-B)

## 6. Case Study: Build the Complete Application (travel agency)

A travel agency (service01) provides the following services: reservation airline tickets, reservation hotel rooms and car rental. in order to providing these services to its clients, the agency should establish links with other services: airlines (service02), hotels (service03), car rental companies(service04) and banks (service05) to facilitate financial transactions between clients and the travel agency and between the agency and other partners. For this purpose, five web services can be offered:

- WS-AV: provides an interface with its clients, and establish links with other services,
- WS-VOL: used to flights reservation according to a specified date, the city of departure and arrival and number of people.
- WS-Hotel: used to hotel rooms reservation according to the date and the number of people.
- WS-LV: used to reserve cars by a specified date and number of days.
- WS-Bank: used to pay different reservations.

The following figure shows the services of our application:


Figure 9. Web Services of a Travel Agency
In this example the service (WS-AV) is the composition of four services (WS-VOL, WS-Hotel, WS-LV and WS -Bank).

The four services: Airline, Hotel, Car rent and Bank Web services have been exposed over the network and their WSDL file can be accessed by URLs as following:

Table 2. WSDL URLs for Web Services of a Travel Agency

| Web Services | URL |
| :--- | :--- |
| WS-VOL | http://localhost:8080/AirlineReservation/AilrlineReservationService?WSDL |
| WS-Hotel | http://localhost:8080/HotelReservation/HotelReservationService?WSDL |
| WS-LV | http://localhost:8080/CarrentReservation/CarrentReservationService?WSDL |
| WS -Bank | http://localhost:8080/BankPayer/BankPayerService?WSDL |

Netbeans tool enables also to import the WSDL files for any external web service provider. Thus, we import the five WSDL files for the five service providers with their xml Schema. WSDL of the process imports the WSDL of other web services providers and defines the partnerlink types for them.

The five partner link types are as following:

- ClientPartnerLink: used to describe the interaction between the client and the BPEL process itself. This interaction is synchronous. This partner link type is declared in the WSDL of the BPEL process.
- AirlinePartnerLink: used to describe the interaction between the Airline service provider and the BPEL process itself. This interaction is synchronous. This partner link type is defined in the BPEL process.
- HotelPartnerLink: used to describe the interaction between the BPEL process and the Hotel Reservation Web service. This interaction is synchronous. This partner link type is defined in the BPEL process.
- CarPartnerLink: describes the interaction between the BPEL process and the Car rent Web service. This interaction is synchronous. This partner link type is defined in the BPEL process.
- BankPartnerLink : describes the interaction between the BPEL process and the Bank Web service. This interaction is synchronous. This partner link type is defined in the BPEL process.


### 6.1 Application Development

The role of WS-AV is to organize the trip through the internet. The service provides to clients an interface to input the following information:

Departure date, return date, departure city, arrival city, number of persons and return the tickets and the total price of the trip.

The internal scenario that will lead the interactions between services is as follows: The WS-AV service will first connect both the WS-hotel services and WS-VOL through its methods reserveCHam respectively () and reserveVol (), later and after thes previous reservations, it will connect to the WS-LV Service by reserveVoiture () method. then it will send the price of each service to WS-Bank service to calculate the total price and paid by his method liabilities () as shown in the following UML activity diagram.


Figure 10. UML Activity Diagram of a Travel Agency

The application functionalities are described using UML activity diagrams. A precise semantics of these diagrams was defined in [13]. These diagrams are the entrance of the translation process by B. This is described by a set of formal rules defined in (V.C). The development of an orchestration will be by coding the expression of activity by refinements B using the operators' refinement patterns.

The specifications generated during the translation stage can be divided into several abstract machines (B) interconnected by the INCLUDES clause.


Figure 11. Model B of Travel Agency Web Service
The objective of such modularization is to reduce the size and complexity of the machines, thus improving the readability of the specifications and elucidate the proof phase.

```
MODEL AgenceVoya
    REFINES IIS-A
    SETS #ES SERVZCE, CIlenT
    VARIABLES
```



```
        Name. Type, Message PortType
        Name. Type, klessage P
    LNVARLANT
```



```
        Nune + Type - Mensoge ~ PorTYpe * Binfing & Pot | WEB SERVICE - STKNG *
```



```
    INTTLILIS.ATION...
    #S-AV,HS-Hosel, HS-VOL, MS-LV,WS-Bank Name, Type, Message, PoraTvpe
    cihent, Nom-cl.Num-cl
    0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0,0
    OPERATIONS
    clent_demandeVoya(Nom-e,Date dtpar, Vilit,Nbe-per,,Nbe-geca)-
    SELECT WZS-AV & DemandeNoywNom,Dite depart,Ville,Nbe-pers,Nbr-four)
    THEN
    Message AvHotel - reserveCHymp(Nom,Date separt,Ville.NEr-pen_Ntr-jour)
    Messagh AvVel - reserveVol (NomDate depmet, VibeNbepers_Norjour)
        sELECT WS-Hotel^ MessageAvHotel||TS-LV a Merrage AvNol
        THEN
```



```
        END
    MessageAvLv = renervelv (Nem Dutr depart,VHe,Norpers,Nor-jour)
        SELECT ws-LV^ MessapeAvLv
        THEN
        WS-AV - MessagelvAv(repO)
        END
    MessageAvBank-payer(pmi)
        SELECT WS-Bank ^ MeswageAvFark
        THEX
        WS.AV = MessageBlankAv(rep(0)
    END
```

Figure 12. Machine B for WS-AV

The abstract specifications, generated in the previous step, are refined until the level of abstraction (language B0) corresponding to the formalization of the concepts of source code BPEL4SW. A set of generic rules of basic instructions is defined in paragraph (5.4).

```
<process name="WS-AV"xmiversion="2.0"xmins="bpel2O" >
<partnerLinks>
    "partner\{nk numik="climent" purtmerhink+ypm="Cllent"/>
        <partnerLink nam|="Ws-Hotel" parthorLinil ypo="Class"//
        <partnerLink Mamo="WS Vol" partherLinklypo="Class"/s
        <partnerLink namo="WS-Lv" portnerLinkrypo="Class"/<
        cpartnerLink name="WS-Bank" portmenioflype="Class"/>
%/partnerLinks)
esequence:
recelve - |rmunumk="client" operation="Demandevoy()"/
<flow narm= =" Hotel & Vol" >
            <sequence:
            invoke partnerlim="WS-Hotel" oporntion=" reservecHam(Date)"/
            sreply partherlim|"Ws-Hotel" operation="Res_OK"/=
    */requence: -
    *sequence>
    *invoke partrimrLini="WS-Vol" opuiratiar=" reservevol(Date)"//
    <reply portmer|mi="WS-Vol" oprration="Res_OK"/>
    </sequence
</How:
lumuences 
    <reply partherLink="WS-LV" opmraHori="Res_OK"/>
</iequence:*
csequence>
sinvoke porthertink="WS-Bank" operation="paver(prix)"/s
<reply partharLimh="WS-Bank" cyaration="Res_OK"/=
/sequence>
<reply paitharLilil -"client" opuratiarim"Res_oк"/=
</sequence:*
```

Figure 13. BPEL 4SW Code for WS-AV

## 7. Comparison with Existing Works

In this section we propose a model for comparison between works and approaches in this field. The proposed model adopts the concepts: formalization, aspect and automation of development processes. The comparison shows the importance of the contribution presented in this paper.

Table 3. Comparison with Existing Works

| Approaches | Formalization | Aspect | Code <br> generation |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Our <br> approach | Formal | Behavior | Automatic <br> (BPEL4SW) |
| Transition <br> systems <br> LTSA-WS <br> [4] [6] [7] | Formal | Functional | not <br> automatic |
| Petri net [5]. | Semi-formal | Behavior | not <br> automatic |
| L- process <br> algebra- <br> ASDL[8] [9] | Formal | Functional | not <br> automatic |
| LOTOS/CA <br> DP[10] [11] | Formal | Functional | not <br> automatic |
| Diapason <br> [13]. | Formal | Behavior | not <br> automatic |
| UML- <br> Colombo- <br> WS [15]. | Formal | Behavior | automatic <br> (XML) |
| Le $\pi$-calcul <br> [16] [17] | Formal | Behavior | not <br> automatic |
| MDA-UML- <br> S [18] | Semi-formal | Behavior | not <br> automatic |

## 8. Conclusion and Perspectives

This work provides a solution for the formal modeling and automatic generation of the composition of web services. Indeed, many proposed approaches to formalizing and modeling of web services, however, these approaches are partial solutions to the problem of development of safe composition. The specifications generated are too abstract to be directly supported by an implementation language. These specifications correspond to the conceptual level considered development. A refinement stage (coding) of these specifications is essential.

Our approach is based primarily on the refinement B. The process described in this paper is dedicated to the generation of a BPEL4SW implementation from a semi-formal specification that reflects the activities of a web application described using UML diagrams. We have defined a set of rules which allows not only the refinement of the data but also the associated operations.
The approach presented in this article has several advantages:

- Reduced costs of development: automation phases specification, refinement, and automatic code generation
- Standardization of the generated code: the two phases of translation and refinement dictated by precise and deterministic rules. These code standards provide a better understanding and code maintenance and product.
- The proposed approach is a top-down / bottom-up approach to formal specification, the formal validation and automatic code generation orchestrations (BPEL4SW).

Our current research focuses on:

- The realization of an automatic refinement tool. This tool will be complement this tool, which allows the automatic generation of WSDL documents related to composed services.
- The realization of an automatic translation tool. This tool will complement this tool, allowing automatic translation of UML diagrams and specifications B.

So these tools, will aim to assist the designer during the development process of its web applications. Such a tool will relieve the designer of different manual and most costly phases of the development process.

We also work on the same ideas to apply them to another technology (AJAX) for aspect (dynamic web interfaces) of Web $2+$ applications.

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