

Extending propositional separation logic for robustness properties

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Separation logic and program verification

Hoare calculus is based on proof rules manipulating Hoare triples.

$$\{\varphi\} C \{\varphi'\}$$

where

- C is a program
- φ (precondition) and φ' (postcondition) are assertions in some logical language.

Any (memory) model that satisfies φ will satisfy φ' after being modified by C .

Programming languages with pointers

The so-called **rule of constancy**

$$\frac{\{\varphi\} \ C \ \{\varphi'\}}{\{\varphi \wedge \psi\} \ C \ \{\varphi' \wedge \psi\}} \quad \text{“}C \text{ does not mess with } \psi\text{”}$$

is generally not valid: it is unsound if C manipulates pointers.

Programming languages with pointers

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is generally not valid: it is unsound if C manipulates pointers.

Example:

$$\frac{\{\exists u. [x] = u\} \ [x] \leftarrow 4 \ \{[x] = 4\}}{\{[y] = 3 \ \wedge \ \exists u. [x] = u\} \ [x] \leftarrow 4 \ \{[y] = 3 \ \wedge \ [x] = 4\}}$$

not true if x and y are in aliasing.

Separation logic (Reynolds'02)

Separation logic add the notion of **separation** ($*$) of a state, so that the **frame rule**

$$\frac{\{\varphi\} \ C \ \{\varphi'\} \quad \text{modv}(C) \cap \text{fv}(\psi) = \emptyset}{\{\varphi * \psi\} \ C \ \{\varphi' * \psi\}}$$

is valid.

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- **Automatic Verifiers:** Infer, SLAyer, Predator
- **Semi-automatic Verifiers:** Smallfoot, Verifast

Also, see “Why Separation Logic Works” (Pym et al. ‘18)

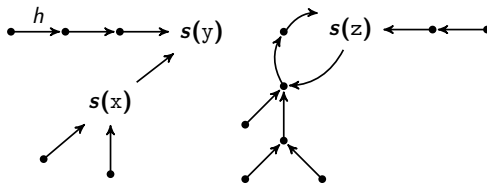
Memory states

Separation Logic is interpreted over **memory states** (s, h) where:

■ **store**, $s : \text{VAR} \rightarrow \text{LOC}$

■ **heap**, $h : \text{LOC} \rightarrow_{\text{fin}} \text{LOC}$

where $\text{VAR} = \{x, y, z, \dots\}$ set of (program) variables,
 LOC set of locations (typically $\text{LOC} \cong \mathbb{N} \cong \text{VAR}$).



■ Disjointed heaps: $\text{dom}(h_1) \cap \text{dom}(h_2) = \emptyset$

■ Sum of disjoint heaps $(h_1 + h_2) = \text{sum of partial functions}$

Propositional Separation Logic $\text{SL}(*, \neg*)$

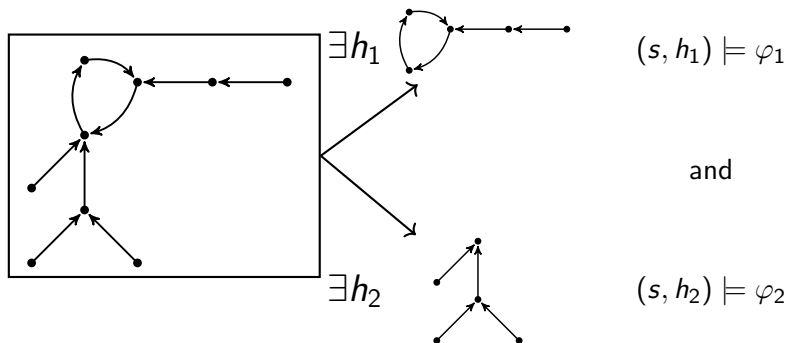
$$\varphi := \neg\varphi \mid \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \mid \text{emp} \mid \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \mid \mathbf{x} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{y} \mid \varphi_1 * \varphi_2 \mid \varphi_1 \neg* \varphi_2$$

Semantics

- standard for \wedge and \neg ;
- $(s, h) \models \text{emp} \iff \text{dom}(h) = \emptyset$
- $(s, h) \models \mathbf{x} = \mathbf{y} \iff s(\mathbf{x}) = s(\mathbf{y})$
- $(s, h) \models \mathbf{x} \hookrightarrow \mathbf{y} \iff h(s(\mathbf{x})) = s(\mathbf{y}), \text{ (previously } [\mathbf{x}] = \mathbf{y})$

Separating conjunction (*)

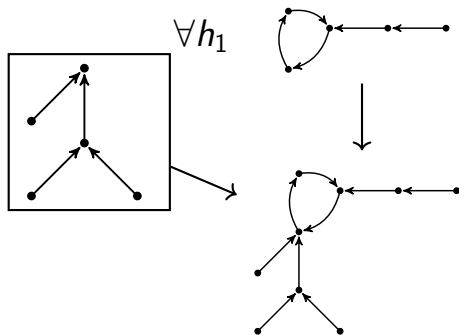
$(s, h) \models \varphi_1 * \varphi_2$ if and only if



There is a way to split the heap into two so that, together with the store, one part satisfies φ_1 and the other satisfies φ_2 .

Separating implication (\rightarrow^*)

$(s, h) \models \varphi_1 \rightarrow^* \varphi_2$ if and only if



$$\begin{aligned} \text{dom}(h) \cap \text{dom}(h_1) &= \emptyset \\ (s, h_1) &\models \varphi_1 \end{aligned}$$



$$(s, h + h_1) \models \varphi_2$$

Whenever a (disjoint) heap that, together with the store, satisfies φ_1 is added, the resulting memory state satisfies φ_2 .

Decision Problems

- Hoare proof-system requires to solve classical problems:
 - satisfiability/validity/entailment
 - weakest precondition/strongest postcondition

$$\frac{P \implies P' \quad \{P'\} C \{Q'\} \quad Q' \implies Q}{\{P\} C \{Q\}} \text{ consequence rule}$$

- satisfiability is PSPACE-complete for $SL(*, -*)$

Note: entailment and validity reduce to satisfiability for $SL(*, -*)$.

Robustness properties

- **Acyclicity** holds for φ iff every model of φ is acyclic
- **Garbage freedom** holds for φ iff in every model of φ , each memory cell is reachable from a program variable of φ

C. Jansen et al., ESOP'17

Checking for robustness properties is EXPTIME -complete for Symbolic Heaps with Inductive Predicates.

- Symbolic Heaps \implies no negation, no $\neg*$, no \wedge inside $*$
- Inductive Predicates: akin of Horn clauses where $*$ replaces \wedge

$$P(\vec{x}) \Leftarrow \exists \vec{z} \ Q_1 \overset{*}{\wedge} \dots \overset{*}{\wedge} Q_n \qquad \text{fv}(Q_i) \subseteq \vec{x}, \vec{z}$$

Our Goal

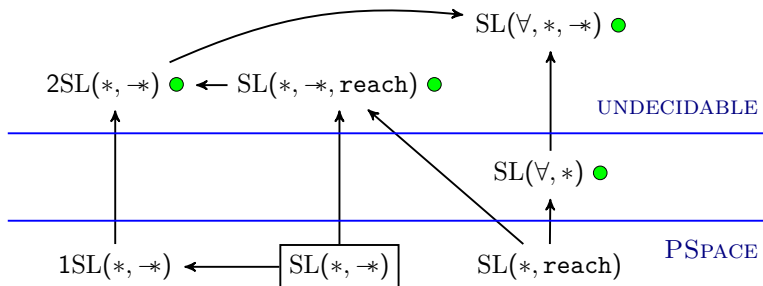
Provide similar results, but for **propositional** separation logic.

Desiderata

We aim to an extension of propositional separation logic where

- satisfiability, validity and entailment are decidable
- in PSPACE (as propositional separation logic)
- robustness properties reduce to one of these problems

Known extensions



SL(*, -*) + reachability and one quantified variable

- $(s, h) \models \text{reach}^+(x, y) \iff h^L(s(x)) = s(y) \text{ for some } L \geq 1$
- $(s, h) \models \exists u \varphi \iff \text{there is } \ell \in \text{LOC s.t. } (s[u \leftarrow \ell], h) \models \varphi$

It is only possible to quantify over the variable name u .

Robustness properties reduce to entailment

- **Acyclicity:** $\varphi \models \neg \exists u \text{ reach}^+(u, u)$
- **Garbage freedom:** $\varphi \models \forall u (\text{alloc}(u) \Rightarrow \bigvee_{x \in \text{fv}(\varphi)} \text{reach}(x, u))$

where $u \notin \text{fv}(\varphi)$ and

- $\text{alloc}(x) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x \hookrightarrow x \text{ } \ast \perp$
- $\text{reach}(x, y) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} x = y \vee \text{reach}^+(x, y)$

Restrictions

The logic $1SL(*, \rightarrow*, \text{reach}^+)$ is undecidable. We syntactically restrict the logic so that for each occurrence of $\text{reach}^+(x, y)$:

R1 it is not on the right side of its first $\rightarrow*$ ancestor
(seeing the formula as a tree)

R2 if $x = u$ then $y = u$ (syntactically)

For example, given φ, ψ satisfying these conditions,

- $\text{reach}^+(u, x) * (\varphi \rightarrow* \psi)$ only satisfies R1
- $\varphi \rightarrow* (\text{reach}^+(x, u) \rightarrow* \psi)$ satisfies both R1 and R2
- $\varphi \rightarrow* (\psi * \text{reach}^+(u, u))$ only satisfies R2

Note: robustness properties are expressible in this fragment.

Results

- 0 Weakening even slightly R1 leads to undecidability
- 1 $1SL_{R1}(*, \neg*, reach^+)$: satisfiability is NON-ELEMENTARY (more precisely, TOWER-hard)
- 2 $1SL_{R1}^{R2}(*, \neg*, reach^+)$: satisfiability is PSPACE-complete

Proof Techniques

- (1) reduce *Propositional interval temporal logic under locality principle* (PITL) to a logic captured by $1SL_{R1}(*, \neg*, reach^+)$
- (2) extend the *test formulae technique* used for $SL(*, reach)$

PITL (Moszkowski'83)

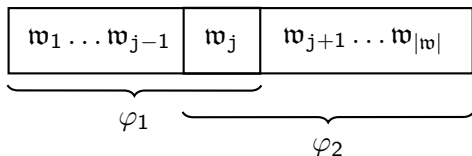
$$\varphi := \text{pt} \mid \text{a} \mid \varphi_1 \parallel \varphi_2 \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2$$

- interpreted on finite non-empty words over a finite alphabet Σ

- $w \models \text{pt} \iff |w| = 1$

- $w \models \text{a} \iff w$ headed by a (locality principle)

- $w \models \varphi_1 \parallel \varphi_2 \iff w[1:j] \models \varphi_1$ and $w[j:|w|] \models \varphi_2$
for some $j \in [1, |w|]$



- Satisfiability is decidable, but NON-ELEMENTARY

Auxiliary Logic on Trees (ALT)

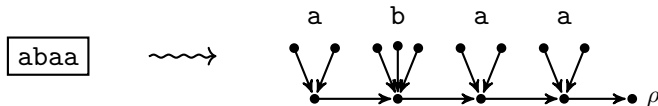
$$\varphi := \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi_1 * \varphi_2 \mid \exists u \varphi \mid T(u) \mid G(u)$$

- interpreted on acyclic memory states
- one *special* location: the root ρ of a tree
- $(s, h) \models T(u)$ iff $s(u) \in \text{dom}(h)$ and it does reach ρ
- $(s, h) \models G(u)$ iff $s(u) \in \text{dom}(h)$ and it does not reach ρ
- $\exists u \varphi$ and $\varphi_1 * \varphi_2$ as before

Note: ALT is captured by $1\text{SL}_{R1}(*, \neg*, \text{reach}^+)$.

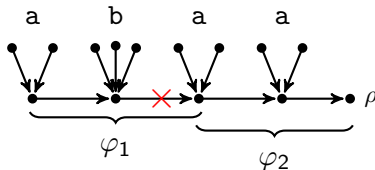
Reducing PITL to ALT

- Easy to encode words as acyclic memory states



- Set of models encoding words can be characterised in ALT
- However, difficult to translate $\varphi_1 \mid \varphi_2$:

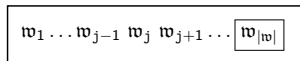
ALT cannot express properties about the set of locations in $\text{dom}(h)$ that do not reach ρ , apart from its size



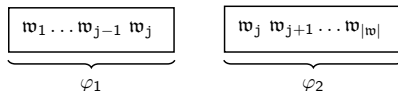
After the **cut**, left side does not reach ρ anymore.

Reducing PITL to ALT: alternative semantics for PITL

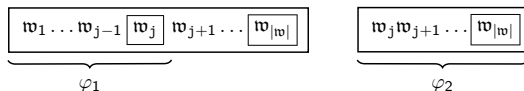
- \boxed{a} marked representation of a



- $\varphi \mid \psi$ on standard semantics:



- $\varphi \mid \psi$ on marked semantics (can be simulated in ALT)



- 1 ALT and $1SL_{R1}(*, \neg*, reach^+)$ are NON-ELEMENTARY
- 2 ALT is decidable in TOWER, as it is captured by $SL(\forall, *)$

$1SL_{R1}^{R2}(*, -*, \text{reach}^+)$ is in PSPACE

~~$1SL_{R1}^{R2}(*, -*, reach^+)$ is in PSPACE~~

Test Formulae “technique”

Test formulae example on a Toy Logic

$$\varphi := \neg\varphi \mid \varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \mid \varphi_1 * \varphi_2 \mid \exists u \varphi \mid \text{alloc}(u) \mid u \xrightarrow{2} u$$

where $(s, h) \models u \xrightarrow{2} u$ iff $h(s(u)) = \ell \neq s(u)$ and $h(\ell) = s(u)$.

Some formulae:

- $\# \text{loops}(2) \geq \beta \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \overbrace{\exists u \ u \xrightarrow{2} u * \dots * \exists u \ u \xrightarrow{2} u}^{\beta-1 \text{ times } *}$
- $H_1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists u \text{ alloc}(u) \wedge \neg(\exists u \text{ alloc}(u) * \exists u \text{ alloc}(u))$
- $\text{rem} \geq 0 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \top$
- $\text{rem} \geq \beta+1 \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \exists u : \text{alloc}(u) \wedge \neg u \xrightarrow{2} u \wedge ((\text{alloc}(u) \wedge H_1) * \text{rem} \geq \beta))$

Test Formulae

- 1 Design an equivalence relation on models, based on the satisfaction of atomic predicates (test formulae), e.g.

$$\#loops(2) \geq \beta \qquad \text{rem} \geq \beta$$

- 2 **Show that any formula of our logic is equivalent to a Boolean combination of test formulae, e.g.**

$$\#loops(2) \geq 3 * \#loops(2) \geq 5 \iff \#loops(2) \geq 8$$

- 3 Prove small-model property for the logic of test formulae.

(1) Designing Test Formulae

- Fix $\alpha \in \mathbb{N}^+$
- Let $\text{Test}(\alpha)$ be the **finite** set of predicates:
$$\{\# \text{loops}(2) \geq \beta, \text{rem} \geq \gamma \mid \beta \in [1, \mathcal{L}(\alpha)], \gamma \in [1, \mathcal{G}(\alpha)]\}$$

for some functions \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{G} in $[\mathbb{N} \rightarrow \mathbb{N}]$

Indistinguishability relation $(s, h) \approx_{\alpha} (s', h')$

for every $T \in \text{Test}(\alpha)$, $(s, h) \models T$ iff $(s', h') \models T$

Note: α is related to the number of occurrences of $*$ and \rightarrow^* in a formula of separation logic.

(2) * elimination Lemma

We want to design $\text{Test}(\alpha)$ so that the following result holds

Hypothesis:

- $(s, h) \approx_{\alpha} (s', h')$
- $\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^+$ s.t. $\alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha$
- $h_1 + h_2 = h$

Thesis: there are h'_1, h'_2 s.t.

- $h'_1 + h'_2 = h'$
- $(s, h_1) \approx_{\alpha_1} (s', h'_1)$
- $(s, h_2) \approx_{\alpha_2} (s', h'_2)$

Note: it can be restated as an EF-style game. Spoiler splits α and h , Duplicator has to mimic the split on h' so that \approx still holds.

(2) * elimination Lemma

We want to design $\text{Test}(\alpha)$ so that the following result holds

Hypothesis:

- $(s, h) \approx_{\alpha} (s', h')$

- α

- h

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \# \text{loops}(2) \geq \beta, \mid \beta \in [1, \mathcal{L}(\alpha)] \\ \text{rem} \geq \gamma \mid \gamma \in [1, \mathcal{G}(\alpha)] \end{array} \right\}$$

Thesis

- h

- $(s \text{ find } \mathcal{L} \text{ and } \mathcal{G} \text{ so that lemma holds.})$

- $(s, h_2) \approx_{\alpha_2} (s', h'_2)$

Note: it can be restated as an EF-style game. Spoiler splits α and h , Duplicator has to mimic the split on h' so that \approx still holds.

Finding \mathcal{G} for $\text{rem} \geq \gamma$ formulae

Given $h = h_1 + h_2$, every location not in a loop of size 2 of h cannot be in a loop of size 2 of h_1 or h_2 . Then \mathcal{G} must satisfy

$$\mathcal{G}(\alpha) \geq \max_{\substack{\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^+ \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha}} (\mathcal{G}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_2))$$

Finding \mathcal{L} for $\# \text{loops}(2) \geq \beta$ formulae

Take $h = h_1 + h_2$. Given a loop of size 2 of h , two cases:

- both locations of the loop are in the same heap (h_1 or h_2);
- one location of the loop is in h_1 and the other is in h_2 .

$$\mathcal{L}(\alpha) \geq \max_{\substack{\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^+ \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha}} (\mathcal{L}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{L}(\alpha_2) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_2))$$

Finding \mathcal{L} and \mathcal{G}

We have the inequalities

$$\mathcal{G}(1) \geq 1 \quad \mathcal{G}(\alpha) \geq \max_{\substack{\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^+ \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha}} (\mathcal{G}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_2))$$

$$\mathcal{L}(1) \geq 1 \quad \mathcal{L}(\alpha) \geq \max_{\substack{\alpha_1, \alpha_2 \in \mathbb{N}^+ \\ \alpha_1 + \alpha_2 = \alpha}} (\mathcal{L}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{L}(\alpha_2) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_1) + \mathcal{G}(\alpha_2))$$

Which admit $\mathcal{G}(\alpha) = \alpha$ and $\mathcal{L}(\alpha) = \frac{1}{2}\alpha(\alpha + 3) - 1$ as a solution.

An indistinguishability relation built on the set

$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} \# \text{loops}(2) \geq \beta, \\ \text{rem} \geq \gamma \end{array} \middle| \begin{array}{l} \beta \in \left[1, \frac{1}{2}\alpha(n+3) - 1 \right] \\ \gamma \in [1, \alpha] \end{array} \right\}$$

satisfy the * elimination Lemma.

(3) Test formulae, after $*$ elimination

Hypothesis: Two family of test formulae, such that

- captures the atomic predicates of the Toy Logic
- satisfies the $*$ elimination Lemma (and \exists elimination Lemma)

Thesis: for every formulae φ of Toy Logic,
by taking $\alpha \geq |\varphi|$ we have

- If $(s, h) \approx_\alpha (s, h')$ then we have $(s, h) \models \varphi$ iff $(s, h') \models \varphi$.
- φ is equivalent to a Boolean combination of test formulae.

Small-model property

- 1 Small-model property for Boolean combination of test formulae carries over to Toy Logic.
- 2 All bounds are polynomial \implies test formulae in PSPACE
- 3 Toy Logic is in PSPACE

$1SL_{R1}^{R2}(*, \neg*, \text{reach}^+)$ is in PSPACE

$$\pi := x = y \mid x \hookrightarrow y \mid \text{emp} \mid \underline{\mathcal{A} \neg* \mathcal{C}} \text{ (R1)}$$

$$\mathcal{C} := \pi \mid \mathcal{C} \wedge \mathcal{C} \mid \neg \mathcal{C} \mid \exists u \mathcal{C} \mid \mathcal{C} * \mathcal{C}$$

$$\mathcal{A} := \pi \mid \underline{\text{reach}^+(v_1, v_2)} \mid \mathcal{A} \wedge \mathcal{A} \mid \neg \mathcal{A} \mid \exists u \mathcal{A} \mid \mathcal{A} * \mathcal{A}$$

where (R2) if $v_1 = u$ then $v_2 = u$

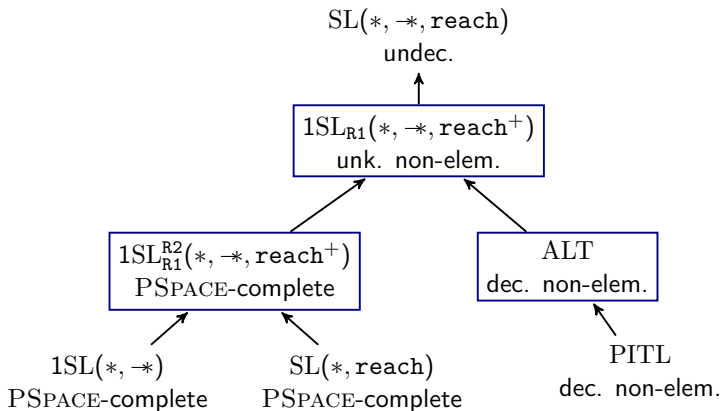
Not so easy...

- Find the right set of test formulae that capture the logic
- Asymmetric $\mathcal{A} \neg* \mathcal{C}$.
 - two indistinguishability relation, two sets of test formulae
 - two $*$ and two \exists elimination Lemmata
 - $\neg*$ elimination Lemma that glues the two relations

If you like bounds: $\text{Test}(X, \alpha)$ for the \mathcal{A} fragment

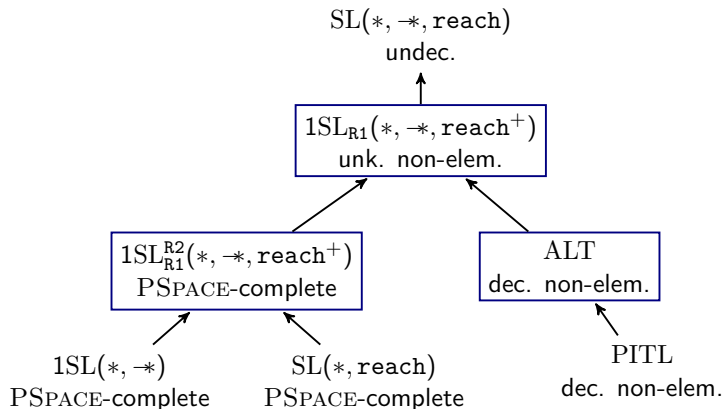
$$\left\{ \begin{array}{l} v_1 = v_2, \text{sees}_x(v_1, v_2) \geq \beta^{\downarrow} \\ \#\text{loop}_x(\beta) \geq \beta^{\circ}, \#\text{loop}_x^{\uparrow} \geq \beta^{\circ} \\ \#\text{pred}_x^A(x) \geq \beta, \text{size}_x^A \geq \beta \\ u \in \text{sees}_x(v_1, v_2) \geq (\overleftarrow{\beta}, \overrightarrow{\beta}) \\ u = v_1, u \in \text{loop}_x(\beta), u \in \text{loop}_x^{\uparrow} \\ u \in \text{pred}_x^A(x), u \in \text{size}_x^A \end{array} \right\} \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \beta^{\downarrow} \in [1, \frac{1}{6}(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)(\alpha+3)] \\ \beta^{\circ} \in [1, \frac{1}{2}\alpha(\alpha+3)-1], \beta \in [1, \alpha] \\ \overleftarrow{\beta} \in [1, \frac{1}{6}\alpha(\alpha+1)(\alpha+2)+1] \\ \overrightarrow{\beta} \in [1, \frac{1}{2}\alpha(\alpha+3)] \\ x \in X, v_1, v_2 \in \mathcal{A}\text{TERM}_x \end{array} \right\}$$

Recap



- $1SL_{R1}^{R2}(*, -*, \text{reach}^+)$ strictly generalise other PSPACE-complete extensions of propositional separation logic
- Can be used to check for robustness properties

Recap



- ALT seems to be an interesting tool for reductions, as it is a fragment or it is easily captured by many logics in $TOWER$
e.g. $QCTL(U)$, $MSL(\Diamond, \langle U \rangle, *)$, $2SL(*)$