#### **Future Conditions**

#### Temporal Property guided Program Analysis, Repair and Verification

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### My Research

PhD (2018 Aug – 2022 Dec)

Thesis: Symbolic Temporal Verification Techniques with Extended Regular Expressions

Keywords: Modularly (Scalability), Expressive Specification, Hoare-style Verification (source code level)

Event-based reactive systems [ICFEM 2020]

Applications | Synchronous languages like Esterel [VMCAI 2021]

User-defined algebraic effects and handlers [APLAS 2022]

Real-time systems [TACAS 2023]

Research Fellow (2023 Jan – now)

Staged Specification Logic (Regular expression + Separation logic):

Higher-order Imperative Programs [FM 2024]; Algebraic Effects and Handlers [ICFP 2024]

Temporal Property guided Program Analysis, Repair and Verification:

ProveNFix: Temporal Property guided Program Repair [FSE 2024]

Specifying and Verifying Future Conditions [Under Submission]

# Can temporal property analysis be modular?

"Each function is analysed only once and can be replaced by their verified properties."

### Can temporal property analysis be modular?

"Each function is analysed only once and can be replaced by their verified properties."

#### Three main difficulties:

- ☐ Temporal logic entailment checker.
- ☐ Writing temporal specifications for each function is tedious and challenging.
- ☐ The classic pre/post-conditions is not enough, e.g.,

"some meaningful operations can only happen if the return value of loading the certificate is positive"

#### **Future-condition**

```
Defined in header <stdlib.h>

void free( void* ptr );
```

```
void free (void *ptr);

// post: (ptr=null \land \epsilon) \lor (ptr\neqnull \land free(ptr))

\blacktriangleright // future: true \land G (!_(ptr))
```

The behavior is undefined if after free() returns, an access is made through the pointer ptr (unless another allocation function happened to result in a pointer value equal to ptr).

```
Defined in header <stdlib.h>

void* malloc( size_t size );
```

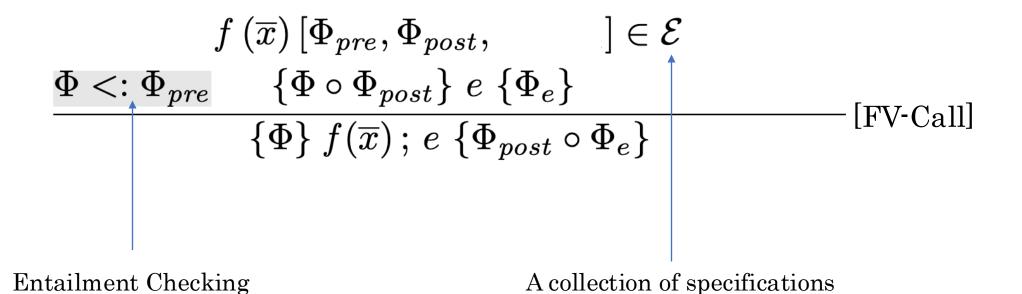
On success, returns the pointer to the beginning of newly allocated memory. To avoid a memory leak,

the returned pointer must be deallocated with free() or realloc()

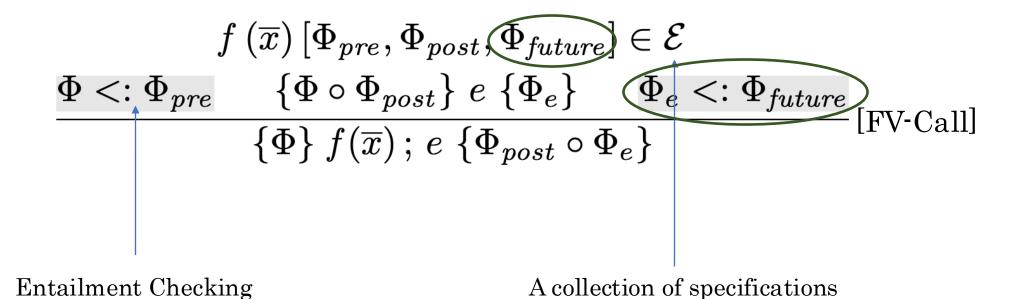
On failure, returns a null pointer.

```
void *malloc (size_t size);
// pre: size>0 \land _*
// post: (ret=null \land \epsilon) \lor (ret≠null \land malloc(ret))
*// future: ret≠null \rightarrow \mathcal{F} (free(ret))
```

### Future-condition based compositional analysis



# Future-condition based compositional analysis



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"some meaningful operations can only happen if the return value of loading the certificate is positive"

#### **Specification inference**

```
void *malloc (size_t size); // future: (ret=null \land G (!_(ret))) \lor (ret≠null \land F (free(ret))
```

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```
void *malloc (size_t size); // future: (ret=null \land \mathcal{G} (!_(ret))) \lor (ret≠null \land \mathcal{F} (free(ret))
```

```
int* wrap_malloc_III ()

// future: true \( \mathcal{F} \) (free(ret))

{ int* ptr = malloc (4);
    if (ptr == NULL) exit(-1);
    return ptr;}

int* wrap_malloc_IV ()

// future: true \( \lambda \)

{ int* ptr = malloc (4);
    if (ptr != NULL) free(ptr); // a repair

return NULL;}
```

Failed entailment: true  $\land \ \mathcal{E} \not\sqsubseteq \ \text{ptr} \neq \text{null} \ \land \ \mathcal{F} \ (\text{free}(\text{ptr}))$ 

#### Can temporal property analysis be modular?

"Each function is analysed only once and can be replaced by their verified properties."

#### Three main difficulties:

☐ Temporal logic entailment checker.

- Primitive spec + spec inference!
- ✓ Writing temporal specifications for each function is tedious and challenging.
- ✓ The classic pre/post-conditions is not enough, e.g., Future-condition!

"some meaningful operations can only happen if the return value of loading the certificate is positive"

#### Term rewriting system for regular expressions

- Flexible specifications, which can be combined with other logic;
- Efficient entailment checker with inductive proofs.

Fig. 10. Syntax of the spec language, *IntRE*.

#### Term rewriting system for regular expressions

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- Efficient entailment checker with inductive proofs.

#### **Examples:**

$$x>2 \land E \sqsubseteq x>1 \land (E \lor F)$$
  
 $x>0 \land E \not\sqsubseteq x>1 \land (E \lor F)$   
true  $\land E \not\sqsubseteq true \land (E . F)$ 

$$(a \lor b)^{\bigstar} \sqsubseteq (a \lor b \lor bb)^{\bigstar} \qquad [Reoccur]$$

$$\epsilon \cdot (a \lor b)^{\bigstar} \sqsubseteq \epsilon \cdot (a \lor b \lor bb)^{\bigstar} \qquad [Reoccur]$$

$$a \cdot (a \lor b)^{\bigstar} \sqsubseteq (a \lor b \lor bb)^{\bigstar} \qquad b \cdot (a \lor b)^{\bigstar} \sqsubseteq ...$$

$$(a \lor b)^{\bigstar} \sqsubseteq (a \lor b \lor bb)^{\bigstar}$$

# Can temporal property analysis be modular? Can!

"Each function is analysed only once and

can be replaced by their verified properties."



A term rewriting system for regular expressions

✓ Temporal logic entailment checker.

- Primitive spec + spec inference!
- ✓ Writing temporal specifications for each function is tedious and challenging.
- ✓ The classic pre/post-conditions is not enough, e.g., Future-condition!

"some meaningful operations can only happen if the return value of loading the certificate is positive"

### **Experiment 1: detecting bugs**

Primitive APIs	Pre	Post	Future	Targeted Bug Type		
open/socket/fopen/fdopen/opendir	X	X	✓	Resource Leak		
<pre>close/fclose/endmntent/fflush/closedir</pre>	X	✓	X	Resource Leak		
malloc/realloc/calloc/localtime	X	Х	✓	Null Pointer Dereference		
$\rightarrow$ (pointer dereference)	X	✓	X	Null Pointer Dereierence		
malloc	1	<b>√</b>	✓	Memory Usage		
free	1	✓	✓	(Leak, Use-After-Free, Double Free)		

- ❖ 17 predefined primitive specs.
- ProveNFix is finding 72.2% more true bugs, with a 17% loss of missing true bugs.

Project	kLoC	#NPD		#ML		#RL		Time	
Tioject	RLUC	Infer	ProveNFix	Infer	ProveNFix	Infer	ProveNFix	Infer	ProveNFix
Swoole(a4256e4)	44.5	30+7	30+23	16+4	12+16	13 <b>+1</b>	13+6	2m 50s	39.54s
lxc(72cc48f)	63.3	7+9	5+19	11+6	10+12	5+1	5 <b>+5</b>	55.62s	1m 28s
WavPack(22977b2)	36	23+7	20+21	3	3+9	0+2	0	27.99s	23.77s
flex(d3de49f)	23.9	14 <b>+4</b>	14+4	3	3+1	0	0+1	32.25s	47.75s
p11-kit	76.2	3 <b>+5</b>	2+2	13 <b>+3</b>	12+15	5	5+1	1m 57s	1m 4s
x264(d4099dd)	67.7	0	0	12	11+5	2	2+3	2m 33s	23.168s
recutils-1.8	81.9	25	22+8	13 <b>+10</b>	11+29	1	1+7	9m 10s	38.29s
inetutils-1.9.4	117.2	7+4	5+8	9 <b>+3</b>	7+10	1	1+5	30.26s	1m 5s
snort-2.9.13	378.2	44 <b>+12</b>	33+34	26 <b>+4</b>	15+ <b>16</b>	1+2	1+1	8m 49s	3m 13s
grub(c6b9a0a)	331.1	13+ <b>12</b>	6+5	1	1	0+3	0	_3m 27s_	<u>1m_1s</u>
Total	1,220.00	166 <b>+60</b>	137+124	107 <b>+30</b>	85+113	26 <b>+9</b>	27+29	31m 12s	10m 44s
								_ <del></del>	- <del> </del>

# Automated repair via deductive synthesis

**Algorithm 1** Algorithm for the Deductive Synthesis

```
Require: \mathcal{E}, (\pi \wedge \theta_{target})
Ensure: An expression e_R such that \mathcal{E} \vdash \{T \land \epsilon\} \ e_R \ \{\pi \land \theta_{target}\}\
 1: e_{acc} = ()
 2: for each nm(x^*) \mapsto [\Phi_{pre}, \Phi_{post}, \Phi_{future}] \in \mathcal{E} do
         if \theta_{target} = \epsilon then return if \pi then e_{acc} else ()
          else
             // there exist a set of program variables y^*
     \theta'_{target} = (\pi \wedge [y^*/x^*]\Phi_{post})^{-1}\theta_{target}
             e_{acc} = e_{acc}; nm(y^*)
          end if
 9: end for
10: return without any suitable patches
```

```
Example: true \Lambda \mathcal{E} \not\equiv \text{ptr} \neq \text{null } \Lambda \_^{\Lambda*}. (free(ptr)) \Rightarrow synthesis(ptr\neq \text{null } \Lambda \_^{\Lambda*}. (free(ptr)) \Rightarrow if (ptr != NULL) free(ptr);
```

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**Algorithm 1** Algorithm for the Deductive Synthesis

```
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Ensure: An expression e_R such that \mathcal{E} \vdash \{T \land \epsilon\} \ e_R \ \{\pi \land \theta_{target}\}\
 1: e_{acc} = ()
 2: for each nm(x^*) \mapsto [\Phi_{pre}, \Phi_{post}, \Phi_{future}] \in \mathcal{E} do
         if \theta_{target} = \epsilon then return if \pi then e_{acc} else ()
          else
 5: // there exist a set of program variables y^*
              \theta'_{target} = (\pi \wedge [y^*/x^*]\Phi_{post})^{-1}\theta_{target}
                                                                      Only supporting inserting/deleting calls.
             e_{acc} = e_{acc}; nm(y^*)
          end if
                                                                       Do need re-analysis.
 9: end for
10: return without any suitable patches
```

```
Example: true \land \ \not\sqsubseteq \   ptr\neqnull \land \  \  \_^{\land *}. (free(ptr)) \Rightarrow \   synthesis(ptr\neqnull \land \  \  \_^{\land *}. (free(ptr)) \Rightarrow \   if (ptr != NULL) free(ptrs);
```

#### **Experiment 2: Repairing bugs**

NPD ML RL Time		Time :	:: Infer-v0.9.3							
#	ProveNFix	#	ProveNFix	#	ProveNFix	11me   :	: # <b>ML</b>	SAVER	#RL	FootPatch
53	53	32	28	19	19	4.33s :	: 15 <b>+3</b>	11	6+1	6
26	24	23	22	10	10	3.882s :	: 3 <b>+5</b>	3	2 <b>+1</b>	0
44	41	12	12	0	0	11.435s :	: 1 <b>+2</b>	0	2	1
18	18	4	4	1	1	39.38s :	: 3+4	0	0	0
5	4	28	27	6	6	2.452s :	: 33 <b>+9</b>	24	2	1
0	0	17	14	5	5	6.375s :	: 10	10	0	0
33	30	42	36	8	8	1.261s :	: 10 <b>+11</b>	8	1	0
15	13	19	17	6	6	1.517s :	: 4 <b>+5</b>	4	2 <b>+1</b>	1
78	67	42	13	2	2	10.57s :	: 16 <b>+27</b>	10	0	0
18	11	1	1	0	0	40.626s :	: 0	0	0	0
290	261(90%)	220	174 (79%)	57	57 (100%)	2m 2s :	: 95 <b>+66</b>	70(73.7%)	15 <b>+3</b>	9(60%)
5 2 4 1 1 1	53 26 14 8 5 0 33 5 78	# PROVENFIX 53 53 26 24 44 41 8 18 5 4 0 0 33 30 55 13 78 67 8 11	# PROVENFIX # 53 53 32 26 24 23 44 41 12 88 18 4 5 4 28 0 0 17 63 30 42 5 13 19 78 67 42 8 11 1	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX 53 53 32 28 26 24 23 22 44 41 12 12 8 18 4 4 5 4 28 27 0 0 17 14 63 30 42 36 5 13 19 17 78 67 42 13 8 11 1 1	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # 19	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX    33	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX ::    13	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX : #ML    33	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX   # PROVENFIX   # #ML SAVER   SAVE	# PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX # PROVENFIX   # PROVENE   # PROV

- ❖ 90% fix null pointer dereferences,
- ❖ 79% fix memory leaks
- ❖ 100% fix resource leaks.

SAVER's pre-analysis time:

26.3 seconds for the flex project

39.5 minutes for the snort-2.9.13 project

# **Experiment 4: usefulness of spec inference**

- ❖ 2 predefined primitive specs, OpenSSL-3.1.2, 556.3 kLoC,
- ❖ 143.11 seconds to generate future-conditions for 128 OpenSSL APIs
- ❖ Example: SSL\_CTX\_new (meth); // future : ((ret=0) /\ return (ret))

<b>OpenSSL Applications</b>	kLoC	Issue ID	Target API	Github Status	ProveNFix	Time	
keepalive(843ffc80)	59.1	1003	SSL_CTX_new	✓	✓	5.62s	
Reepanve(04311C00)	39.1	1004	SSL_new	✓	✓	5.028	
thc-ipv6(011376c)	30.9	28	BN_new	✓	✓	3.32s	
the-ipvo(011376c)	30.9	29	BN_set_word	✓	×	3.328	
FreeRADIUS(94149dc)	258.9	2309	BIO_new	✓	✓	38.89s	
FIEERADIUS(941490C)	230.9	2310	i2a_ASN1_OBJECT	✓	✓	30.078	
	34.1	4292	SSL_CTX_new	✓	✓		
trafficserver(5ee6a5f)		4293	SSL_new	✓	✓	21.55s	
		4294	SSL_write	✓	✓		
sslsplit(19a16bd)	18.7	224	SSL_CTX_use_certificate	✓	✓	2.69s	
ssispin(19a1obu)		225	SSL_use_PrivateKey	✓	✓	2.098	
proxytunnel(f7831a2)	3.1	36	SSL_connect	✓	✓	0.62s	
	3.1	37	SSL_new	<b>✓</b>	<b>✓</b>	0.028	

# **Summary**

Contributions	Limitations			
✓ A novel future-condition	☐ Handle loops via unrolling			
✓ Compositional temporal analysis	☐ Inefficient (O(n²)) entailment checking			
✓ Light-weight specification inference	☐ On-demand path pruning			
✓ Fast and most-automated	☐ False negatives			
✓ Proof guided repair	☐ No machine checkable certification			
✓ Large-scale usability	☐ Limited expressiveness			

#### **Specifying and Verifying Future Conditions (FCs)**

Yahui Song, Darius Foo, Wei-Ngan Chin

(Under Submission)



### The existing solution

#### Three main limitations:

- $\square$  Inefficient (O(n<sup>2</sup>)) entailment checking
- ☐ Handle loops via unrolling
- ☐ Bug-finding (no incorrectly flagged safe code) over soundness (no missed violations)

# Inefficient (O(n²)) entailment checking

#### A use-after-free bug recorded from CWE-416

```
int main(int argc, char **argv) {
  char *buf1, *buf2, *buf3;
  buf1 = malloc(1);
  buf2 = malloc(1);
  free(buf2);
  buf3 = malloc(1);
  strncpy(buf2,argv[1],1); Use-after-free!
  free(buf1); free(buf3); }
```

# A new solution for reasoning FCs

```
2. char *buf1, *buf2, *buf3;
\{(\exists buf1, buf2, buf3. true; \epsilon; *)\}
                                                                                                                              Linear trace processing
      3. buf1 = malloc(1);
\{(\exists buf1, buf2, buf3. buf1 \neq null; malloc(buf1); \mathcal{F}(free(buf1)))\}
      4. buf2 = malloc(1):
\{(\exists buf1, buf2, buf3. buf1 \neq null \land buf2 \neq null; malloc(buf1) \cdot malloc(buf2); \}
      \mathcal{F}(free(buf1)) \land \mathcal{F}(free(buf2)))
      5. free(buf2);
\{(\exists buf1, buf2, buf3. buf1 \neq null \land buf2 \neq null; malloc(buf1) \cdot malloc(buf2) \cdot free(buf2); \}
      \mathcal{F}(free(\mathit{buf1})) \land \_^{\star} \land \mathcal{G}(!\_(\mathit{buf2})))
      6. \text{ buf3} = \text{malloc(1)};
\{(\exists \mathit{buf1}, \mathit{buf2}, \mathit{buf3}.\, \mathit{buf1} \neq \mathit{null} \land \mathit{buf2} \neq \mathit{null} \land \mathit{buf3} \neq \mathit{null} \, ; \, \mathit{malloc}(\mathit{buf1}) \cdot \mathit{malloc}(\mathit{buf2})\}
       \cdot \mathit{free}(\mathit{buf2}) \cdot \mathit{malloc}(\mathit{buf3}) \ ; \mathcal{F}(\mathit{free}(\mathit{buf1})) \land \mathcal{G}(!\_(\mathit{buf2})) \land \mathcal{F}(\mathit{free}(\mathit{buf3}))) \}
      7. strncpy(buf2,argv[1],1);
\{(\exists buf1, buf2, buf3. buf1 \neq null \land buf2 \neq null \land buf3 \neq null; malloc(buf1) \cdot malloc(buf2)\}
       \cdot free(buf2) \cdot malloc(buf3) \cdot strncpy(buf2); \mathcal{F}(free(buf1)) \wedge \bot \wedge \mathcal{F}(free(buf3))) \Leftarrow X
     FC Violation Found: subtracting "strncpy(buf2)" from "\mathcal{G}(! (buf2))" leads to false!
```

- Embed FCs into program states
- ❖ Trace conjunction + subtraction

# The existing solution

#### Three main limitations:

- ✓ Inefficient entailment checking Embed FCs into the states + Trace subtraction
- ☐ Handle loops via unrolling
- ☐ Bug-finding (no incorrectly flagged safe code) over soundness (no missed violations)

#### **Predicates for Bags of Traces and Future Conditions**

#### A false negative example from ProveNFix

```
void* mallocN(int n, void **arr,){
int i = 0;
while (i < n) {
   arr[i] = malloc(4); i = i+1;}
return *arr;}

void main () {
   void *arr[5]; mallocN (5, arr);
   free(arr[0]);/* memory leak */}</pre>
```

#### **Predicates for Bags of Traces and Future Conditions**

```
void* mallocN(int n, void **arr,) { mallocN(n, arr) \equiv \mathbf{req}: length(arr) > n
     int i = 0;
                                                                                ens: (\exists i. true ; pred_t([0..n), i) ; pred_t([0..n), i))
     while (i < n) {
        arr[i] = malloc(4); i = i+1;}
                                                               pred_t(B, i) \equiv \Lambda_i^B(arr[i] \neq null \land malloc(arr[i])) \lor (arr[i] = null \land \epsilon)
     return *arr;}
                                                               pred_f(B, i) \equiv \Lambda_i^B(arr[i] \neq null \land \mathcal{F}(free(arr[i])))
7 void main () {
     void *arr[5]; mallocN (5, arr);
     free(arr[0]);/* memory leak */}
                                                                                                   (Specification) [req: \pi ens: \Delta]
(Post Summary) \Delta ::= \bigvee (\pi; \theta; F)
```

#### When reasoning about main():

```
8. void *arr[5]; mallocN (5, arr);
\{(\exists arr, i. length(arr) = 5; pred_t([0..5), i); pred_f([0..5), i))\}
    9. free(arr[0]):
\big\{(\exists arr, i.\ length(arr) = 5 \ ; pred_t([0..5), i) \cdot free(arr[0]) \ ; pred_f([1..5), i) \land \mathcal{G}(!\_(arr[0])))\big\}
FC Violation Found: empty trace "\epsilon" does not satisfy the obligation "pred<sub>f</sub>([1..5), arr)"!
```

### The existing solution

#### Three main limitations:

- ✓ Inefficient entailment checking Embed FCs into the states + Trace subtraction
- ✓ Handle loops via unrolling Predicates for bags of traces and FCs
- ☐ Bug-finding (no incorrectly flagged safe code) over soundness (no missed violations)

#### **Soundness Formalization**

stack execution trace

- An instrumented semantics for the target language:  $[s, \rho, F, e] \longrightarrow [s', \rho', F', v]$
- Semantic model of trace specifications:  $s, \rho \models \pi \land \theta$
- A set of forward verification rules:  $\{(P; \theta_1; F_1)\}\ e\ \{(Q; \theta_2; F_2)\}$

```
Theorem soundness: forall P e Q t1 t2 rho1 rho2 s1 v s2 f1 f2 f3,

forward P t1 f1 e Q t2 f2 ->
P s1 ->
trace_model rho1 t1 ->
bigstep s1 rho1 f1 e s2 rho2 f3 v ->
Q v s2 /\ trace_model rho2 t2 /\ futureCondEntail f2 f3.
```

It only sound to strengthen the future conditions, so that we do not miss any violations.

### The existing solution

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- ✓ Inefficient entailment checking Embed FCs into the states + Trace subtraction
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#### **Coq formalization**

# **Experimental Results**

Category	Example APIs	Future Conditions
	fopen, open	Finally to close the file descriptor
1. File Ops	fclose, close	Globally do not access the file descriptor
		Read-only files cannot be written to
2. Threads	$pthread\_create$	Finally to pthread_join or detach the thread
2. Threads	pthread_mutex_lock	Finally to pthread_mutex_unlock
	free	Globally do not access the pointer
3. Memory	$\operatorname{malloc}$	Finally free the new pointer
5. Memory	m realloc	Globally the old pointer is not accessed
	Teanoc	& finally free the new pointer
4. Sockets	socket	Finally to close the socket
5. Database	sqlite3_open	Finally to sqlite3_close the connection
6. URV/NPD	fgets, gethostbyaddr	Check the return value immediately after calls

Write these future conditions manually

# **Experimental Results**

Category	LoC	PrimS	InferredS	${\bf Inferred Inv}$	${f Report/Exp.}$	$\overline{\text{Time(s)}}$
1	656	8	29	7	14/12	10.05
2	330	4	25	1	4/4	1.97
3	424	6	30	11	25/23	8.87
4	103	2	6	1	3/3	1.76
5	108	4	6	0	4/4	1.97
6	67	10	5	0	5/5	0.56
Total	1,688	34	101	20	$\boxed{55/51}$	25.18

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	reanoc	& finally free the new pointer
4. Sockets	socket	Finally to close the socket
5. Database	sqlite3_open	Finally to sqlite3_close the connection
6. URV/NPD	fgets, gethostbyaddr	Check the return value immediately after calls

#### False positive due to the limited expressiveness:

```
void false_positive1() {
int** ptr1= malloc(4);
int* ptr2= malloc(4);

*ptr1 = ptr2;
free(*ptr1);
free(ptr1);

*False positive: Memory Leak!
```

#### **Future Conditions**

Bug Finding a	and Repair
---------------	------------

- ✓ A novel future-condition
- ✓ Compositional temporal analysis
- ✓ Light-weight specification inference
- ✓ Fast and most-automated
- ✓ Proof guided repair
- ✓ Large-scale usability

#### Verification

- ✓ Handle loops via recursive predicates
- ✓ Efficient (linear) entailment checking
- ✓ Sound weakening when path explosion
- ✓ No false negatives
- No machine checkable certification
- ☐ Limited expressiveness