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1 The Syntax of Computation Tree Logic

Computation tree logic (CTL) was introduced by Turing award winners Clarke and Emerson [2]. The formulas of this logic consist of the constants true and false and so-called atomic propositions which are combined by means of several operators that we will discuss below. The atomic propositions are used to express basic facts about the states of the system. That is, these atomic propositions are state predicates. In the next section, we provide some concrete examples of atomic propositions in the context of Java code.

CTL contains the operators

- negation, denoted ¬,
- conjunction, denoted by \wedge ,
- disjunction, denoted ∨,
- implication, denoted \rightarrow , and
- equivalence, denoted \leftrightarrow .

Furthermore, it contains

- universal quantification, denoted \forall , and
- existential quantification, denoted \exists .

Finally, it contains the so-called temporal operators

- next, denoted (),
- until, denoted U,
- always, denoted \square , and
- eventually, denoted ◊.

Let us formally define the syntax of CTL. Let AP be the set of atomic propositions. The set of CTL formulas is defined by the following grammar.

$$\begin{split} \varphi ::= & \left(\varphi \right) \mid a \\ & | \text{true} \mid \text{false} \mid \neg \varphi \mid \varphi \land \varphi \mid \varphi \lor \varphi \mid \varphi \to \varphi \mid \varphi \leftrightarrow \varphi \\ & | \forall \bigcirc \varphi \mid \exists \bigcirc \varphi \mid \forall \varphi \lor U \varphi \mid \exists \varphi \lor U \varphi \mid \forall \Box \varphi \mid \exists \Box \varphi \mid \forall \Diamond \varphi \mid \exists \Diamond \varphi \end{split}$$

where $a \in AP$.

In order to make sense of a CTL formula such as

$$\forall \cap a \rightarrow b \rightarrow c$$

we need to define the precedence of the operators. Furthermore, we need to specify whether the binary operators are left or right associative. For the order of precedence, we use the commonly accepted order (from highest to lowest): \neg , \wedge , \vee , \rightarrow , and \leftrightarrow . According to Baier and Katoen [1], U takes precedence over \wedge , \vee , and \rightarrow (they do not consider \leftrightarrow). Usually, unary operators have higher precedence than binary ones. Hence, the operators, listed from highest to lowest precedence, are

The binary operators \land , \lor and \leftrightarrow are (left) associative. Usually, \rightarrow is considered right associative. According to Baier and Katoen [1], U is also right associative.

Using the above specified precedence and associativity rules, the above CTL formula is interpreted as

$$(\forall \bigcirc a) \to (b \to c)$$

To express the CTL formulas in ASCII, we use the following grammar.

$$\varphi ::= (\varphi) \mid a$$

$$\mid \texttt{true} \mid \texttt{false} \mid !\varphi \mid \varphi \& \& \varphi \mid \varphi \mid | \varphi \mid \varphi -> \varphi \mid \varphi <-> \varphi$$

$$\mid \texttt{AX} \varphi \mid \texttt{EX} \varphi \mid \varphi \texttt{AU} \varphi \mid \varphi \texttt{EU} \varphi \mid \texttt{AG} \varphi \mid \texttt{EG} \varphi \mid \texttt{AF} \varphi \mid \texttt{EF} \varphi$$

The ASCII representation of \neg , \wedge , and \vee is taken from Java. It is common practice to use A and E for universal (for *a*ll) and existential (*e*xists) quantification. In the seminal paper by Turing award winner Pnueli [4], the temporal operators \bigcirc , U, \square , and \Diamond are represented as X (next), U (*u*ntil), G (*g*lobally), and F (*f*uture). The representation of $\forall \varphi \cup \varphi$ as $\varphi \in A \cup \varphi$ is new, as far as we know. The above CTL formula is represented in ASCII as follows.

2 The Syntax of Computation Tree Logic for Java

The next operator \bigcirc expresses that something holds in the next state. For Java code, if one were to define the notion of next state, it would probably be the state after the next bytecode instruction has been executed. However, expressing properties of Java code in terms to steps taken at the bytecode level seems of limited, if any, use. Therefore, we do not consider the next operator \bigcirc .

Recall that atomic propositions are used to express basic facts about the states. For now, we restrict our attention to static Boolean fields. Such an atomic proposition holds in those states in which the field has the value true. In Java, static Boolean fields are of the form

- ⟨package name⟩ . ⟨class name⟩ . ⟨field name⟩ or
- (class name). (field name).

For example, the package java.awt contains the classes AWTEvent and InvocationEvent. The former contains the static field consumed and the latter contains catchExceptions. Hence, the static Boolean field java.awt.AWTEvent.consumed is an atomic proposition, as is java.awt.InvocationEvent.catchExceptions. Those fields are used as atomic propositions in the following CTL formula.

```
AG (java.awt.AWTEvent.consumed || EF !java.awt.event.InvocationEvent.catchExceptions)
```

3 A Lexer and Parser for CTL Formulas

A lexer and parser for CTL formulas have been developed using ANTLR [3]. The above described grammar can be specified in ANTLR format as follows.

```
formula
  : '(' formula ')'
                                          #Bracket
  | ATOMIC_PROPOSITION
                                          #AtomicProposition
  | 'true'
                                          #True
  I 'false'
                                          #False
   '!' formula
                                          #Not
   'AG' formula
                                          #ForAllAlways
   'AF' formula
                                          #ForAllEventually
   'EG' formula
                                          #ExistsAlways
  / 'EF' formula
                                          #ExistsEventually
  | <assoc=right> formula 'AU' formula
                                          #ForAllUntil
  | <assoc=right> formula 'EU' formula
                                          #ExistsUntil
  | <assoc=left> formula '&&' formula
                                          #And
  | <assoc=left> formula ' | ' formula
                                          #Or
  | <assoc=right> formula '->' formula
                                          #Implies
  | <assoc=left> formula '<->' formula
                                          #Tff
```

The operators AU, EU, and -> are specified as right associative. The other binary operators are left associative. The second column of the above rule contains the labels of the alternatives (see [3, Section 8.2]). We will discuss their role below.

The order of the alternatives is consistent with the precedence of the operators (if an operator has higher precedence, then its alternative occurs earlier). As a consequence, we had to order the operators AU and EU. We gave AU higher precedence than EU. Assume that a, b, and c are atomic propositions. The formula a AU b AU c is equivalent to a AU b AU b Since AU is right associative. The formula a AU b EU c is equivalent to a AU b EU b Since AU binds stronger than EU. For the same reason, the formula a EU b AU b EU b EU b AU b EU b EU b AU b EU b AU b EU b

Recall that the atomic propositions are static attributes. To specify these, we used relevant snippets of the ANTLR grammar for Java¹ Whitespace, that is, spaces, tabs, form feeds, and returns are skipped.

Later, we add here a discussion of error handling.

4 From Parse Tree to Abstract Syntax Tree

Next, we translate a parse tree, generated by the lexer and parser, to an abstract syntax tree. An abstract syntax tree for CTL is represented by an object of type Formula, which is part of the package ctl. A UML diagram with the classes of the ctl package can be found in Figure 1. The CTL formula

To implement this translation, we use the visitor design pattern. ANTLR supports this design pattern (see [3, Section 7.3]). From the CTL grammar, ANTLR generates a CTLVisitor interface. This interface contains a visit method for each alternative. For example, for the alternative labelled ExistsAlways, the interface contains the method visitExistsAlways.

¹See github.com/antlr/grammars-v4/tree/master/java/java8.

ANTLR also generates the CTLBaseVisitor class. This adapter class provides a default implementation for all the methods of the CTLVisitor interface. We implement our translation by extending this class and overriding methods. For example, when we visit a node of the parse tree corresponding to the alternative labelled And, we first visit the left child and obtain the Formula object corresponding to the translation of the parse tree rooted at that left child. Next, we visit the right child and obtain the Formula object for the parse tree rooted at that right child. Finally, we create an And object from those two Formula objects.

```
@Override
public Formula visitAnd(AndContext context) {
  Formula left = (Formula) visit(context.formula(0));
  Formula right = (Formula) visit(context.formula(1));
  return new And(left, right);
}
```

Since the implication operator is right associative, in the visitImplies method we visit the right child first.

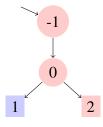
```
@Override
public Formula visitImplies(ImpliesContext context) {
  Formula right = (Formula) visit(context.formula(1));
  Formula left = (Formula) visit(context.formula(0));
  return new Implies(left, right);
}
```

5 Testing the Lexer, the Parser, and the Translation

6 A New Semantics for CTL

The normal semantics of CTL is described in [1, Section 6.2.2]. This normal semantics is defined for a transition system $(S, Act, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$. Such a transition system is defined in [1, Definition 2.1]. The new semantics considers a partial transition system. A partial transition system is a tuple $(S, F, Act, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$, where all components are defined as before and $F \subseteq S$ is a set of fully explored states. A transition system is called partial because the states $S \setminus F$ are not fully explored yet, that is, these states have transitions that have not been explored yet, that is, they are not part of \rightarrow .

Consider the following partial transition system.



State -1 is the initial state. The states -1 and 0 are fully explored, and states 1 and 2 are not fully explored. Consider, for example, the CTL formula $\exists \lozenge$ blue. This formula holds in the above partial transition system, since state 1 is blue and can be reached from the initial state. The CTL formula $\forall \Box$ red does not hold for the same reason. Now consider the CTL formula $\forall \Box$ (red \forall blue). The above partial transition system does not provide a counterexample to this formula as all states that can be reached from the initial state are either red or blue. However, since states 1 and 2 are not fully explored, either state may have a successor that is neither red nor blue. So, the best we can say is "don't know." Hence, whether a partial transition system satisfies a CTL formula can be answered as either yes (\top) , no (\bot) , or don't know (?).

Recall that the satisfaction relation \models , defined in [1, Definition 6.4], can be viewed as mapping a state s of a transition system and a CTL formula φ to a Boolean, that is, (s, φ) is mapped to true if $s \models \varphi$ and mapped to false otherwise. The satisfaction relation \models for CTL formulas on partial transition systems can be viewed as a mapping from states and formulas to \top , \bot , and ?.

We modify the definition of a transition system, as given in [1, Definition 2.1], as follows.

Definition 1. A partial transition system is a tuple $(S, F, Act, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ consisting of

- a finite set S of states,
- a set $F \subseteq S$ of fully explored states,
- a set Act of actions,
- a transition relation $\rightarrow \subseteq S \times Act \times S$,
- a set $I \subseteq S$ of initial states,
- a set AP of atomic propositions, and
- a labelling function $L: S \to 2^{AP}$.

The difference between a partial transition system and an ordinary transition system is the set F of fully explored states. Since the set Act of actions does not play in the remainder, we will drop it from the definition and simplify the transition relation to $\to \subseteq S \times S$. The partial transition system depicted above can be formally defined as (S, F, \to, I, AP, L) where

- $S = \{-1, 0, 1, 2\},\$
- $F = \{-1, 0\},$
- $\rightarrow = \{(-1,0), (0,1), (0,2)\},\$
- $I = \{-1\},$
- $AP = \{\text{blue}, \text{red}\}, \text{ and }$

• and the function $L: S \to 2^{AP}$ is defined by

$$L(-1) = \{\text{red}\}$$

$$L(0) = \{\text{red}\}$$

$$L(1) = \{\text{blue}\}$$

$$L(2) = \{\text{red}\}$$

Due to the presence of unexplored states, we also revisit the definition of paths. We fix a set S and we assume that for each partial transition system we have that $S \subseteq S$. We denote the set of nonempty and finite sequences of states in S by S^* , the set of infinite sequences of states in S by S^{ω} , and the set of nonempty finite or infinite sequences of states in S by S^{∞} .

Definition 2. Let $(S, F, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ be a partial transition system.

- The nonempty and finite sequence $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n$ in S^* , where $n \geq 0$, is a complete path if $s_i \to s_{i+1}$ for all $0 \leq i < n$ and $s_n \not\to \text{and } s_n \in F$.
- The infinite sequence $s_0 s_1 \dots$ in S^{ω} is a complete path if $s_i \to s_{i+1}$ for all $i \ge 0$.

Note that we require that the final state of a finite complete path is fully explored. We denote the set of complete paths that start in state s by CoPaths(s).

Definition 3. Let $(S, F, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ be a partial transition system.

• The nonempty and finite sequence $s_0s_1...s_n$ in S^* , where $n \ge 0$, is a partial path if $s_i \to s_{i+1}$ for all $0 \le i < n$.

We denote the set of partial paths that start in state s by PaPaths(s).

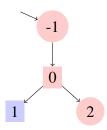
Definition 4. Let $(S, F, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ be a partial transition system.

- The nonempty and finite sequence $s_0s_1 \dots s_ns_{n+1} \dots s_{n+m}$ in \mathcal{S}^* , where $n \geq 0$ and $m \geq 1$, is a potential path if $s_i \to s_{i+1}$ for all $0 \leq i < n$ and $s_n \notin F$ and $s_n \not\to s_{n+1}$.
- The infinite sequence $s_0 s_1 \dots s_n s_{n+1} \dots$ in S^{ω} , where $n \geq 0$, is a potential path if $s_i \to s_{i+1}$ for all $0 \leq i < n$ and $s_n \notin F$ and $s_n \not\to s_{n+1}$.

In the first case, the sequence $s_0s_1 \ldots s_ns_{n+1} \ldots s_{n+m}$ consists of two parts: $s_0s_1 \ldots s_n$ traverses the explored part of the partial transition system, whereas $s_{n+1} \ldots s_{n+m}$ traverses the unexplored part. Note that we require that $s_n \not\to s_{n+1}$: otherwise s_{n+1} would belong to the explored part. Similarly, the sequence $s_0s_1 \ldots s_ns_{n+1} \ldots$ consists of the parts $s_0s_1 \ldots s_n$ and $s_{n+1} \ldots$

We denote the set of potential paths that start in state s by PoPaths(s). We denote the set of all paths that start in state s by Paths(s), that is, $Paths(s) = CoPaths(s) \cup PaPaths(s) \cup PoPaths(s)$.

Consider the following partial transition system.



We have that

$$CoPaths(-1) = \{-1 \ 0 \ 2\}$$

$$PaPaths(-1) = \{-1, -1 \ 0, -1 \ 0 \ 1\}$$

$$PoPaths(-1) = \{-1 \ 0 \ \pi \ | \ \pi[0] \not\in \{1, 2\} \land \pi \in S^{\infty} \} \cup \{-1 \ 0 \ 1 \ \pi \ | \ \pi \in S^{\infty} \}$$

Since state 0 is not fully explored yet, we know that this state may have more outgoing transitions than the two depicted in the above diagram. All the potential paths starting with $-1\ 0$ do not start with either $-1\ 0\ 1$ or $-1\ 0\ 2$. The sequence $-1\ 0\ 1$ is a partial path.

A partial transition system in which all states are fully explored, that is, an ordinary transition system, has no potential paths. Furthermore, each partial path can be extended to a complete path.

Proposition 1. If F = S then for all $s \in S$,

- 1. $PoPAths(s) = \emptyset$ and
- 2. for all $\pi \in PaPaths(s)$ there exists $\rho \in CoPaths(s)$ such that $|\rho| \ge |\pi|$ and for all $0 \le i < |\pi|$, $\pi[i] = \rho[i]$.

Proof.

- 1. Immediate from the definition of potential paths $(s_n \notin F)$.
- 2. Each partial path can be extended to a complete path since every state is fully explored.

The satisfaction relation \models for CTL for ordinary transition systems is defined in [1, Definition 6.4]. It can be viewed as a function $\llbracket \ \rrbracket$ that maps each CTL formula and state of a transition system to either true of false, that is, for each state formula φ and state s,

$$s \models \varphi \text{ iff } \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s) = \text{true}.$$

To deal with partial transition systems, we extend the range of the function $[\![\,]\!]$. Given a formula φ and a state s, we have that either

- $[\![\varphi]\!](s) = \top$: the formula φ holds in the state s,
- $[\![\varphi]\!](s) = \perp$: the formula φ does not hold in the state s, or

• $[\![\varphi]\!](s) = ?$: we cannot determine whether the formula φ holds in the state s since some states, relevant to φ , have not been explored.

For example, consider the partial transition system depicted above. Consider the formula $\forall \bigcirc$ red. We have that $\llbracket \forall \bigcirc \operatorname{red} \rrbracket (-1) = \top$ since the state -1 is fully explored and all its successor states are red. Furthermore, $\llbracket \forall \bigcirc \operatorname{red} \rrbracket (0) = \bot$ since one of the successor states of state 0 is not red. Finally, $\llbracket \forall \bigcirc \operatorname{red} \rrbracket (1) = ?$ since the state 1 is not fully explored and it does not have a successor that is not red.

We denote the set of three values, \top , \bot and ? by \mathbb{V} , that is,

$$\mathbb{V} = \{\top, \bot, ?\}.$$

We can extend the usual Boolean operators to V as follows. Negation is captured in the following table.

$$\begin{array}{c|c} v & \neg v \\ \hline \top & \bot \\ \bot & \top \\ ? & ? \end{array}$$

Conjunction is defined as follows.

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} v \wedge w & & w \\ & \top & \bot & ? \\ \hline & \top & \top & \bot & ? \\ \hline v & \bot & \bot & \bot & \bot \\ ? & ? & \bot & ? \\ \end{array}$$

Disjunction is defined as follows.

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} v \lor w & w & \\ \hline & \top & \bot & ? \\ \hline & \top & \top & \top & \top \\ v & \bot & \top & \bot & ? \\ ? & \top & ? & ? \end{array}$$

Implication is defined as follows.

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} v \rightarrow w & & w & \\ & \top & \bot & ? & \\ \hline & T & \top & \bot & ? & \\ v & \bot & \top & \top & \top & \\ ? & \top & ? & ? & \\ \end{array}$$

Equivalence is defined as follows.

$$\begin{array}{c|cccc} v \leftrightarrow w & & w \\ \hline & \top & \bot & ? \\ \hline & \top & \top & \bot & ? \\ \hline v & \bot & \bot & \top & ? \\ ? & ? & ? & ? \end{array}$$

We denote the length of a path π by $|\pi|$. If the path π is infinite, then $|\pi| = \omega$. We denote the set of CTL formulas by CTL.

Definition 5. Let $(S, F, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$ be a partial transition system. The function

$$[\![\,]\!]:CTL\to S\to \mathbb{V}$$

is defined by structural induction on the CTL formula as follows.

•
$$\llbracket a \rrbracket(s) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \top & \text{if } a \in L(s) \\ \bot & \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- [true](s) = T
- $\bullet \ [\![\mathtt{false}]\!](s) = \perp$
- $\llbracket \neg \varphi \rrbracket(s) = \neg \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s)$
- $\llbracket \varphi \wedge \psi \rrbracket(s) = \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s) \wedge \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(s)$
- $\llbracket \varphi \lor \psi \rrbracket(s) = \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s) \lor \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(s)$
- $\llbracket \varphi \to \psi \rrbracket(s) = \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s) \to \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(s)$
- $\llbracket \varphi \leftrightarrow \psi \rrbracket(s) = \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(s) \leftrightarrow \llbracket \psi \rrbracket(s)$

•
$$\llbracket \forall \Box \varphi \rrbracket(s) = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \top \quad \text{if } \forall \pi \in Paths(s) : \forall 0 \leq i < |\pi| : \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\pi[i]) = \top \\ \bot \quad \text{if } \exists \pi \in CoPaths(s) \cup PaPaths(s) : \exists 0 \leq i < |\pi| : \llbracket \varphi \rrbracket(\pi[i]) = \bot \\ ? \quad \text{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

•
$$\llbracket\exists\Diamond\varphi\rrbracket(s)=\left\{ egin{array}{ll} \top & \mbox{if }\exists\pi\in CoPaths(s)\cup PaPaths(s):\exists 0\leq i<|\pi|:\llbracket\varphi\rrbracket(\pi[i])=\top\\ \bot & \mbox{if }\forall\pi\in Paths(s):\forall 0\leq i<|\pi|:\llbracket\varphi\rrbracket(\pi[i])=\bot\\ ? & \mbox{otherwise} \end{array} \right.$$

- $\llbracket \forall \varphi \ \mathsf{U} \ \psi \rrbracket(s) = \text{details still need to be added here.}$
- $[\exists \varphi \ \mathsf{U} \ \psi](s) = \text{details still need to be added here.}$

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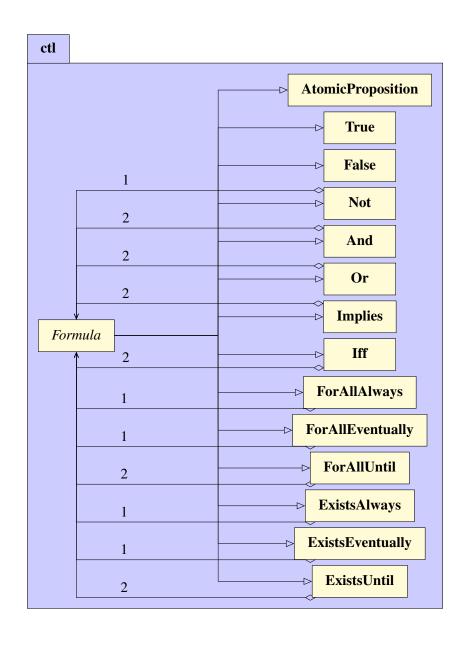


Figure 1: UML class diagram of the abstract syntax classes.