Verifying Strong Ground Bisimilarity of Quantum Programs

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— Abstract

Several bisimulations on quantum processes have been proposed. The symbolic quantum bisimulation is proposed for verifying programs with arbitrary iuput values, its "concrete" version still needs input but does not have problem on normalizing measurement result. This paper gives a strong ground bisimulation verification algorithm for quantum programs basing on the "concrete" version of quantum bisimulation. Furthermore, we implement the algorithm that enable us to make experiments on existing quantum communication protocols. As a preparation of the experiments, we encode the quantum communication protocol into a quantum program. Then we check whether a quantum program is bisimilar with its specification. According to the results, we make some improvements on the quantum programs.

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- 1 Introduction
- 2 Preliminaries
- 3 qCCS

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4 Bisimulation Verification

In this section, we give an algorithm to verify the strong ground bisimulation.

The algorithm 1 bases on the work of [?]. The main function is $\mathbf{Bisim}(t,u)$, its job is to initialize the start states pair (t,u), visited states pair W which is an empty set and then find the bisimulation basing on that initialization. The difference between it and the previous work in several aspects.

The algorithm keeps updating two sets, W for visited state pairs and N for non-bisimilar state pairs. The function $\mathbf{Match}(t, u, W)$ invokes a depth-first traversal to match a pair of states (t, u) with all their possible behaviors. The state pair will be non-bisimilar if one of their transitions are not matched or their quantum variables are not matched, so do the quantum registers. All the non-bisimilar state pairs are added into N.

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An auxiliary function $\mathbf{Act}(t,u)$ is called in \mathbf{Match} to discover the next action that both two states can behave. If both of two states have no more action to do it returns an empty set. In addition, if only one of them has no more action to do that will lead to a non-bisimilarity. It makes the algorithm more efficient as it terminates at an early time point if those pLTSs are indeed not bisimilar. Next we prove why we can ensure that.

- ▶ Lemma 1. Todo: prove that we can ensure in such case, the trace is longer than any other trace from another side or unmatched with them.
- ▶ **Theorem 2** (Early termination). If the algorithm reaches a leaf state of the tree-like pLTS while the state of the other pLTS is not a leaf state, then these two pLTSs are not bisimilar.
- Proof. We consider it on the aspect of the length of the traces. From the structure of the algorithm, each time **MatchAction** is called **Act** will be called before it. So we can ensure that two states have the same action to behave. There exists the trace that

$$T = \langle t_0, \rho \rangle \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} \dots \xrightarrow{\gamma_i} \langle t_i, \rho \rangle \text{ and } U = \langle u_0, \sigma \rangle \xrightarrow{\gamma_0} \dots \xrightarrow{\gamma_i} \langle u_i, \sigma \rangle.$$

Let |T| = |U| = n, if one of these states u_i is not a leaf, then there has a longer trace |U'| = n + 1. As there is no loop contained, the trace |T'| = n + 1 does not exist, so we can not find a trace has the same length as that one. According to the definition of the bisimulation, these two pLTS should not satisfy it.

The other set W is updated in $\mathbf{MatchAction}(\gamma, t, u, W)$. It discovers next state pairs according to the action γ and recursively invokes the function \mathbf{Match} when there is a pair of states or $\mathbf{MatchDistribution}$ when there is a pair of state distributions. The current state pair is added to W when the new function is invoked.

The MatchDistribution(Δ, Θ, R) is an extra step between Match and MatchAction if we match a pair of state distributions instead of a single pair of states. It returns a boolean value indicating if the distributions are bisimilar. It matches each pair of states from the distributions. After checking the bisimilarity of these state pairs, the function generates an equivalence relation of the state pairs those who are not contained in the non-bisimilar state pairs set N. Another auxiliary function $\mathbf{Check}(\Delta, \Theta, R)$ is used for checking the lifting condition of the bisimulation relation. Besides the lifting condition, we check the disjunction of the returning boolean value from Match functions. The function returns such result basing on the following definition.

Definition 3 (Lifting Condition). Let $R \subseteq Dist(Con) \times Dist(Con)$ be the (strong) open bisimulation relation between two distributions, then for any $\mu, \nu \in Dist(Con)$, $\mu R \nu$ can imply that:

- 74 (1) The relation satisfies the lifting condition, that is $\mu = \sum_{i \in I} p_i C_i$, for each $i \in I$, $C_i R D_i$ for some D_i , and $\nu = \sum_{i \in I} p_i D_i$.
- 76 (2) The set I is not an empty set, s.t. $\exists C, D \in Con, \mu(C) > 0 \land \nu(D) > 0$.

After the introduction of the algorithm, we discuss its termination and correctness. They are presented in the theorem below.

Theorem 4 (Termination). Given two states t and u from two pLTSs, Bisim(t,u) always terminates.

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Proof. So far there is no while-loop in the qCCS, that brings convenience to the proof of
     termination. Starting at the initial pair of states, the next action to do will be detected in the
 82
     function Match. Then it invokes function MatchAction to find the next new pair of states
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     and recursively call function Match to check them. Each time function MatchAction calls
     function Match it adds the current states pair into W at the same time. If we reach the leaf
 85
     nodes, there is no more action, we only compare the quantum variables used and the state of
 86
     quantum registers. After that, the function terminates, so do the calls to the other functions.
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     Moreover, if there still exists actions to do in one of the pLTS while another one does not,
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     that means they are not strong bisimilar and then the whole algorithm terminates.
         Then we consider the correctness of the algorithm. First, we let (\theta, N) to be the return
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     pair of functions, moreover (\theta_{ij}, N_{ij}) is the return of the i \cdot j-th execution of the function with
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     state pair (t_i, u_j). To simplify the presentation, we use R(t, u, W, N) to mean the following
     condition is satisfied:
 93
     If (t', u') \notin N, then \forall t' \xrightarrow{\alpha} t'', u' \xrightarrow{\alpha'} u'', (t', u') \notin \{(t, u)\} \cup W such that:
 94
         • if \alpha \equiv a (including c?x) then \alpha' \equiv a and (t'', u'') \notin W \land (t'', u'') \notin N \implies t'' \sim u''.
         if \alpha \equiv c!e then \alpha' \equiv c!e' with e \neq e' or (t'', u'') \notin W \land (t'', u'') \notin N \implies t'' \sim u''.
         W \wedge (t'_i, u'_i) \notin N \implies t'_i \sim u'_i.
     ▶ Lemma 5. If N_1 \cap N_2 = \emptyset then R(t, u, W, N_1) and R(t, u, W, N_2) implies R(t, u, W, N_1 \cup N_2).
     Proof. Straightforward from the definition of R.
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         We define the verification conditions of our three matching functions.
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     Definition 6. Match(t, u, W) is true if the following condition is satisfied:
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         (C1) W \cap N = \emptyset and
103
         = if (t,u) \in W, then (t,u) \notin N,
         if (t, u) \notin W, then either \theta = true \land (t, u) \notin N or \theta = false \land (t, u) \in N.
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     \blacksquare (C2) R(t, u, W, N).
106
     Let \mathbf{Bisim}(t, u) = \mathbf{Match}(t, u, \emptyset).
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     ▶ Definition 7. MatchAction(\gamma, t, u, W) is true if the following conditions are satisfied:
     (M1) W \cap N = \emptyset, (t, u) \notin W and (t, u) \notin N.
        (M2) R(t, u, W, N).
110
         (M3) \forall t \xrightarrow{\alpha} t', \exists u \xrightarrow{\alpha'} u', (t', u') \notin \{(t, u)\} \cup W \text{ and }
111
         • if \alpha \equiv a (including c?x) then \alpha' \equiv a and (t', u') \notin W \land (t', u') \notin N \implies t' \sim u'.
112
         • if \alpha \equiv c!e then \alpha' \equiv c!e' with e = e' and (t', u') \notin W \land (t', u') \notin N \implies t' \sim u'.
             let t' \equiv \Delta and u' \equiv \Theta, if \alpha \equiv \tau then \alpha' \equiv \tau, \forall t_i \in [\Delta], u_i \in [\Theta], (t_i, u_i) \notin
114
             W \wedge (t_i, u_i) \notin N \implies t_i \sim u_i.
115
     ▶ Definition 8. MatchDistribution(\Delta, \Theta, W) is true if the following conditions are satis-
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117
      (D1) W \cap N = \emptyset, \forall t_i \in [\Delta], u_j \in [\Theta], (t_i, u_j) \notin W \text{ and } \exists (t_i, u_j) \notin N. 
     \blacksquare (D2) Let t \xrightarrow{\alpha} \Delta, u \xrightarrow{\alpha'} \Theta, R(t, u, W, N).
     Proposition 9. Let MatchAction_{\gamma}(\gamma, t, u, W) is the execution of the function with action
     \gamma. If MatchAction_{\gamma}(\gamma, t, u, W) is true for each action \gamma then Match(t, u, W) is also true,
     where it returns \theta = \bigwedge_{\gamma} \theta_{\gamma} and N = \bigcup_{\gamma} N_{\gamma}.
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Proof. The only time point (t, u) is added into W during the execution of MatchAction,
     according to the Definition 7, W \cap N = \emptyset.
124
         Since the verified pLTS is a finite tree, if they reach the leaf states of the pLTSs, there
125
     should be \theta = true and N = \emptyset, at the same time it satisfies that (t, u) \notin W \land (t, u) \notin N.
     According to the structure of the function, (t, u) will be added in to N if \theta is false.
127
         From condition (M2) and (M3), R(t, u, W, N_{\gamma}) exists. Lemma 5, we have that
128
     R(t, u, W, \bigcup_{\gamma} N_{\gamma}).
     ▶ Proposition 10. Suppose (t, u) \notin W. If Match(t_i, u_i, W \cup \{(t, u)\}) is true for all type
     \gamma \neq \tau \ derivations(t \xrightarrow{\gamma} t_i, u \xrightarrow{\gamma} u_i) \ or \ \textit{MatchDistribution}(\Delta_i, \Theta_i, W \cup \{(t, u)\}) \ is \ true \ for
     all type \gamma = \tau derivations (t \xrightarrow{\tau} \Delta_i, u \xrightarrow{\tau} \Theta_j) then
    MatchAction(\gamma, t, u, W \cup \{(t, u)\}) is true where \theta = \bigwedge_i (\bigvee_i \theta_{ij}) \land \bigwedge_j (\bigvee_i \theta_{ij}), N = \bigcup_i N_{ij}.
133
     Proof. From the structure of the function MatchAction, the first condition is satisfied.
134
         To show M2 and M3, we first consider the case where (t_i, u_i) is already the leaf of the
135
     finite tree, and if \theta_{ij} = qv(t_i) = qv(u_j) \wedge (tr_{\overline{qv(u_i)}}\rho_i) = tr_{\overline{qv(u_i)}}(\sigma_j) is true, (t_i, u_j) \notin N_{ij}
136
     then t_i \sim u_i.
137
         If it is not the leaf node, by (C2), we have R(t_i, u_j, \{(t, u)\} \cup W, N_{ij}). Since \theta = \bigwedge_i (\bigvee_i \theta_{ij}) \wedge
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     \bigwedge_{j}(\bigvee_{i}\theta_{ij}) and N=\bigcup_{ij}N_{ij}, if \theta is true, there exists \theta_{ij} are true, then from (t_i,u_j)\notin N_{ij},
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     we get (t'_i, u'_j) \notin N_{ij} \implies t'_i \sim u'_j. In the case \theta is false, (t, u) \in N has already distinguished
     the non-bisimilarity.
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         The final case we need consider is the distribution (\Delta, \Theta) instead of a node. If \theta is true,
     then Check returns \theta_{ij} is also true. So there must exist Match returns true implies that
    (t_i, u_i) \notin N \implies t_i \sim u_i.
     ▶ Proposition 11. Suppose \forall t_i \in [\Delta], u_i \in [\Theta], (t_i, u_i) \notin W. If Match(t_i, u_i, W) is true
     then {\it MatchDistribution}(\Delta,\Theta,W) is true where \Delta and \Theta satisfy the condition for lifting
     condition, \theta = \mathbf{Check}(\Delta, \Theta, R) \wedge \bigvee_{ij} \theta_{ij} \text{ and } N = \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij}.
     Proof. According to the verification conditions of March, as all the
     \mathbf{Match}(t_i, u_i, W) have been finished before we get R and call Check. If \Delta \sim \Theta, then we
     have (t_i, u_i) \notin N \implies t_i \sim u_i.
     Theorem 12 (Correctness). Given two states t and u from two pLTSs, Bisim(t, u) returns
     true if and only if they are bisimilar.
     Proof. We use the definition of bisimulation and the propositions proved above. From
     the verification condition of Match, we have that if \mathbf{Bisim}(t,u) = \mathbf{Match}(t,u,\emptyset) returns
     (true, N), we guarantee the bisimilarity t \sim u.
         At the end of this section, we compute the time complexity of the algorithm.
156
     ▶ Theorem 13 (Complexity). Let the number of nodes in two transition graphs reachable
     from t and u is n. The time complexity of function Bisim(t,u) is O(n^5/\log n) and the space
158
     complexity of it is O(n^2).
159
     Proof. The number of state pairs is bounded by n^2. Since the graphs there are finite trees,
     for each pair of states, the number of comparisons of transitions could be n^2 in the worst
161
     case. So the visited state pairs set W contains at most O(n^2) elements.
162
         And if in each call of MatchAction, it call MatchDistribution other than Match,
     there will cost more time checking the condition of lifting operation through Check. In
164
     previous work ??, we know Check cost time O(n^3/\log n). As a result, the execution of
     \mathbf{Bisim}(t, u) takes at most O(n^5/\log n) time in total.
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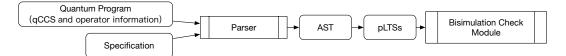


Figure 1 Verification workflow.

5 **Experimental Results**

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In this section, we report an implementation of our approach and provide several classical quantum communication protocols described in qCCS as the use cases for our experiment. We show that our approach is able to distinguish the bisimilarity, and we can make improvement by the result of the algorithm.

5.1 **Implementation** 172

Our tool is implemented in Python 3.7. Its workflow is illustrated in Fig. 1. The input is a quantum program and its specification, both of them are described in qCCS. Execution of the 174 tool yields a terminal output showing the details of the whole process, including the pLTS 175 generation and the checking algorithm, and the result of the checking by a table mapping each pair of pLTS states to its most general boolean. The tool invokes Z3 solver to verify the 177 most general boolean of the initial state pair. A counterexample will be given if the boolean can be unsatisfied.

pLTS Generation 180

The tool inputs programs codes containing three parts, a description of process behaviors, an initialization of their variables and a set of user-defined quantum gates. Process behaviors 182 are described in qCCS semantics. Processes are separated by semicolons. Quantum gates can be defined through a set of kraus operators, they are also separated by semicolons. The intermediate output of the module is the pLTS which will be used as the input of bisimilarity checking module.

Bisimulation Checking 187

We implement the previously defined ground bisimlarity checking algorithm to verify the 188 generated pLTSs. The input needs two pLTSs, one for protocol description and another for 189 specification description. They are processed by the pLTS generation module. We start 190 at the initial states of these two pLTSs. The result of the module is also the final result 191 of the tool presenting whether these two pLTSs are bisimilar, always with a set preserving 192 non-bisimilar state pairs. 193

Examples: Quantum Communication Protocols 5.2

Super-dense Coding Protocol 195

There are two roles Alice and Bob. To simplify the experiment, we only consider the smallest 196 case of the protocol, sending only one qubit. So there is totally one entanglement on two 197 qubits in this example. Besides the Clifford operators, we use a quantum operation Set^{Ψ} to 198 present the generation of Bell state instead of the combination of the quantum gates. The operation elements of Set^{Ψ} is $\{|\beta_{00}\rangle\langle 00|, |\beta_{00}\rangle\langle 01|, |\beta_{00}\rangle\langle 10|, |\beta_{00}\rangle\langle 11|\}$. The measurement is 208

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according to the computational basis $\{|00\rangle, |01\rangle, |10\rangle, |11\rangle\}$. The specification of the superdense protocol is defined as Bob sets the 2-qubit variable to the value according to the classical value he received from *Alice*.

Quantum Teleportation Protocol

In this example, there are still two roles. The operators we used here is similar with the last example containing Clifford operators, Set^{Ψ} and the measurement according to the computational basis. However, we need one more entanglement and one more qubit even if we just consider the smallest case. As there are more than one entanglements between these qubits, although the measurement is just applied on a part of them, it may also affect the rest qubits. We consider the final result of this protocol is presented on the third qubit, Bob's qubit. It should become the same value of the first qubit. So the specification of that can be presented by applying a SWAP operation between the first and the third qubit.

BB84 Quantum Key Distribution Protocol 213

In BB84 protocol, there is no entanglement at all, its method needs generating qubits on different basis and using different measurement method without any contacts in advance with 215 the other side. If someone tries intercepting the information, the qubits might be measured in wrong basis, it brings a possibility that Alice and Bob can be aware of the attack. So the protocol uses one more kind of measurement which is according to the diagonal basis $\{|+\rangle, |-\rangle\}$. In common use case, BB84 will send a sequence of the qubits while qubits will not influence each other. We consider two kinds of result of the communication. First case 220 is that Alice and Bob choose the same measurement then the results they get are also the same. Another case is that they choose different measurements then the result is discarded at this time. In the specification, we get results from the same sequence instead of two result sequence separately. Considering results from both sides is always the same, this operation will not bring any difference.

BB84 Protocol with an Eavesdropper

This example is an extension of the BB84 example, supposing there is an eavesdropper attending into the communication. There have three roles and the new role Eve also randomly choose the measurement just as what Alice and Bob do. The specification is also similar with the one without an eavesdropper. It is possible that the eavesdropper will be recognized. It is a new result of the program. We conclude these results into three messages: emitting through the channel alarm as the measurement methods are not matched; emitting through the channel fail as the measurement methods are matched while the eavesdropping is recognized; normal emitting as the communication finished without recognizing the eavesdropper.

5.3 **Experimental Results**

We conducted experiments on those quantum communication protocols, and improved our input program according to the experiment results. The results were obtained on a macOS machine with an Intel Core i7 2.5 GHz processor and 16GB of RAM.

Experimental Results and Improvement

Table 1 provides a summary of our experimental results over those four examples. In each case, we report the bisimilarity, the number of non-bisimilar states pair in N and the runtime of our checking algorithm.

We verify the super-dense coding with two different initial valuations of variable x in the first two lines. In the case x=1, we can check that protocol and its specification are bisimilar. However, in the case x=5, when none of the four branches is chosen, they are not bisimilar because of the different length of the trace. The result shows that the program misses the solution for the valuation out of the expected scale. We improve the program through adding a new branch solving all the unexpected value. The result of the improved program is presented on the third line.

Another example brings a non-bisimilarity is on the sixth line of the table, the BB84 protocol considering the eavesdropper. Alice and Bob will make an alert if their measurement methods are not matched. The parallelism between the final test process and them leads to the process continues behaving some actions. That is not what the specification exactly describes. To improve this program, we modify the behavior, move the alert to the test process. Alice and Bob only send messages when they find they use different measurements. As a result, on the last line of the table, we find the program is bisimilar with the specification.

258 Discussion

Not all the cases of Table 1 present the size of the non-bisimilar states set N, as the checking algorithm has terminated in advance. To ensure the bisimilarity between program with a large set of states and its specification requires much more time, over 24 times of the runtime of checking non-bisimilarity. However, the runtime of finding two pLTSs are non-bisimilar is not that long enables us to try making improvement in an acceptable time waiting feedback.

6 Conclusion and Future Works

In this paper, we have proposed a algorithm verifying strong ground bisimulation for quantum programs in qCCS. We also have given an implementation of the algorithm. To show its performance, we further made several experiments with it on several quantum communication protocols such as BB84. The result shows that the algorithm can figure out the non-bisimilarity and help us make improvement on the program. As an illustration, in verifying super-dense coding protocol, we found that the program we coded missed the case that an unexpected input value is given. Furthermore, we ensured that the program after modifying fulfills all the cases.

There are still many questions remaining for further study:

A Examples in qCCS

Super-dense Coding Protocol

$$\frac{Alice}{def} = \tag{1}$$

Program	Variables	Bisimilarity	Size of N	$\mathbf{Runtime}(s)$
Super-dense coding 1	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $x = 1$	Yes	0	2.2
Super-dense coding 2	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $x = 5$	No	ı	2.2
Super-dense coding (modified)	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $x = 5$	Yes	0	2.5
Teleportation	$q1 = 1\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $q3 = 0\rangle$	Yes	0	2.7
BB84	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$	Yes	304	4.7
BB84 (with eavesdropper)	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $q3 = 0\rangle$	No	-	74.6
BB84 (with eavesdropper & modified)	$q1 = 0\rangle$ $q2 = 0\rangle$ $q3 = 0\rangle$	Yes	17272	1834

Table 1 Experimental Results

- 280 Improved Super-dense Coding Protocol
- Quantum Teleportation Protocol
- BB84 Protocol
- **BB84 Protocol with an Eavesdropper**
- Improved BB84 Protocol with an Eavesdropper

Algorithm 1 Bisim(t,u)

Require: A pair of initial states for matching t,u.

Ensure: A boolean value θ showing if two pLTSs are bisimilar and a set of non-bisimilar state pairs N.

```
1: function \mathbf{Bisim}(t, u)
             return Match(t, u, W)
 2:
 3:
                                                                                                                      \triangleright t = \langle t, \rho \rangle \ and \ u = \langle u, \sigma \rangle
 4:
      function Match(t, u, W)
             if t, u \in W then
 5:
                   \theta := \mathsf{tt}
 6:
 7:
             else
                   for \gamma \in Act(t, u) do
 8:
                         (\theta_{\gamma}, N_{\gamma}) := \mathbf{MatchAction}(\gamma, t, u, W)
 9:
                   \theta{:=} \textstyle \bigwedge_{\gamma} \theta_{\gamma} \wedge qv(t) = qv(u) \wedge tr_{\overline{qv(t)}}(\rho) = tr_{\overline{qv(t)}}(\sigma)
10:
11:
                   if \theta = \text{ff then } N := N \cup \{(t, u)\}
12:
             return (\theta, N)
13:
14:
15: function MatchAction(\gamma, t, u, W)
             switch \gamma do
16:
                   case c!
17:
                         for t \xrightarrow{c!e_i} t_i and u \xrightarrow{c!e'_j} u_j do
18:
                               (\theta_{ij}, N_{ij}) := \mathbf{Match}(t_i, u_j, W \cup \{(t, u)\})
19:
                         return (\bigwedge_i (\bigvee_j (\theta_{ij} \wedge e_i = e'_j)) \wedge \bigwedge_j (\bigvee_i (\theta_{ij} \wedge e_i = e'_j)), \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij})
20:
21:
                         for t \xrightarrow{\tau} \Delta_i and u \xrightarrow{\tau} \Theta_j do
22:
                               (\theta_{ij}, N_{ij}) := \mathbf{MatchDistribution}(\Delta_i, \Theta_i, W \cup \{(t, u)\})
23:
                         return (\bigwedge_i (\bigvee_j \theta_{ij}) \land \bigwedge_j (\bigvee_i \theta_{ij}), \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij})
24:
                   otherwise
25:
                         for t \xrightarrow{\gamma} t_i and u \xrightarrow{\gamma} u_i do
26:
                               (\theta_{ij}, N_{ij}) := \mathbf{Match}(t_i, u_j, W \cup \{(t, u)\})
27:
                         return (\bigwedge_i (\bigvee_j \theta_{ij}) \land \bigwedge_j (\bigvee_i \theta_{ij}), \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij})
28:
29:
      function MatchDistribution(\Delta, \Theta, W)
30:
31:
             for t_i \in [\Delta] and u_i \in [\Theta] do
32:
                   (\theta_{ij}, N_{ij}) := \mathbf{Match}(t_i, u_j, W)
             R := \{(t_i, u_j) | (t_i, u_j) \notin \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij} \} *
33:
             return (Check(\Delta,\Theta,R) \land \bigvee_{ij} \theta_{ij}, \bigcup_{ij} N_{ij})
34:
```