**Cover Letter (and the plan before rebuttal)**

**ORIGINAL MESSAGE----------------------------------**

VSTTE 2020 <vstte2020@easychair.org> Fri, Jun 12, 2020 at 12:38 PM

To: Alessandro Trindade <alessandro.b.trindade@gmail.com>

Dear Alessandro Trindade,

We are excited to inform you that your paper

Synthesis of Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Optimal Sizing Comparison

has been accepted for presentation at VSTTE'20.

Since VSTTE publishes post-proceedings, acceptance for presentation does not automatically mean acceptance for publication. In order for your paper to be accepted for publication, you have to revise your paper according to the reviews, which you can find at the end of this email.

In order to be considered for publication in the post-proceedings, you should **resubmit your revised paper by \*July 10\*, together with a cover letter summarizing the changes**. You will get the final acceptance notification by \*July 31\*.

Sincerely,

PC co-chairs,

Nadia Polikarpova and Maria Christakis

SUBMISSION: 14

TITLE: Synthesis of Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Optimal Sizing Comparison

----------------------- REVIEW 1 ---------------------

SUBMISSION: 14

TITLE: Synthesis of Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Optimal Sizing Comparison

AUTHORS: Alessandro Trindade and Lucas Cordeiro

----------- Overall evaluation -----------

SCORE: -1 (weak reject)

----- TEXT:

The paper presents an application of program verification and synthesis to select a combination of photovoltaic (PV) components that are optimally sized from a given set of available commercial components. The approach is compared to a commercial simulation tool, and generates PV systems that have better power characteristics.

The application of existing verification and synthesis techniques for solving the real-world problem of designing optimal PV systems is very interesting, and certainly in scope of VSTTE. However, the current presentation of the paper needs to be substantially improved.

First, it is not entirely clear who the paper is primarily aimed at. For a software verification conference, it assumes too much knowledge of PV systems and the physics involved, but on the other hand, includes too little detail about the actual verification and synthesis technique. For example, the background in section 2.2 is not accessible to a general verification audience. Rather, I would suggest to provide a much more high-level background on PV systems, and simply state that such a system can be modelled using a set of equations, possibly giving the (main) variables. Similarly, many of the PV-specific details in the evaluation are not accesible for a general verification audience, and need to be discussed at a higher level.

Alessandro: acho que o revisor tem razão. Creio que valeria a pena **tratar a parte da modelagem e fenômenos da geração de energia a um nível mais alto. Vou trabalhar isso mas sem remover toda a modelagem**.

Secondly, the problem that the paper is trying to solve needs to be stated precisely and early. In particular, it is not clear to me what the optimization objective is, i.e. what does 'optimal sizing' mean? Do you optimize for cost, or power consumption, or both? Currently, it is not until section 3 (page 8), that the paper seems to explain that the optimization is done w.r.t. to cost, but the evaluation seems to contradict this, because the commercial solution is regarded as not optimal, even though it has the lowest cost (in dollars).

Alessandro: realmente a definição de optimal sizing não é colocada logo de início. Realmente a definição só vem na página 8, não tem na Introdução. **Vou melhorar a parte introdutória e onde explica o comparativo da solução ótima**. No comparativo, o ótimo de uma ferramenta é apenas o ótimo da ferramenta, não necessariamente o ótimo do comparativo com outras ferramentas. **Vou deixar isso claro lá também na parte de avaliação perto do quadro comparativo**.

Then, I am confused about which verification, resp. synthesis, technique is actually being used. This is partially due to lack of details, but also because of inconsistencies in the paper. In different places, the paper describes the technique as CEGIS, or as model checking, or as optimization.

**Pra mim, é o desenvolvimento de uma técnica (como já discutimos em janeiro), que usa model checking e, como é feita em duas etapas, ela lembra o modo como o CEGIS funciona. E como o resultado é uma solução ótima, o resultado é uma otimização. Creio que isto deva ir pra introdução também (e pro abstract).**

Algorithm 1 to me seems to construct a contraint and then tries to solve it for the nondeterministic variables to obtain a solution, and to use essentially a linear search to find the minimum cost. Is this correct? If so, it is unclear to me how this fits with the CEGIS algorithm in Fig. 2, and where model checking is used.

Provavelmente eu tenha que melhorar o texto, pois a escolha de uma solução factível ou não achar uma solução factível já é por model checking ( e isso corresponde a 1a parte da técnica), a 2a parte é uma busca linear mas com teste de SUCCESS ou FAIL para gerar contraexemplo (e, pra mim, é model checking de novo).Pra mim, estamos aplicando model checking duas vezes na técnica. **Que achas?**

Finally, section 2.2 presents nonlinear continuous real-valued constraints.How can the discrete solvers used handle these constraints?

Essa questão é para se pensar. Pra mim, a não linearidade das equações do artigo anterior de validação de sistemas solares estava mais claro pois usamos equações exponenciais e logaritmas. Nesse, a não linearidade se deve ao fato de a curva do ótimo global não ser contínua, pois pegamos valores específicos de variáveis não determinísticas, valores inteiros...**daí eu não sei responder o que o revisor questionou**.

----------------------- REVIEW 2 ---------------------

SUBMISSION: 14

TITLE: Synthesis of Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Optimal Sizing Comparison

AUTHORS: Alessandro Trindade and Lucas Cordeiro

----------- Overall evaluation -----------

SCORE: 1 (weak accept)

----- TEXT:

This paper presents a novel approach based on formal methods in order to obtain the optimal size of solar photovoltaic systems. The paper first introduces the basic formalization of such systems (in Section 2), then it discusses how these were modeled by means of formal methods (Section 3), and it then presents and discusses the experimental results (Section 4) comparing it with a commercial tool performing the same tasks using a different approach (HOMER).

Pros

--------

\* This paper extends the application of formal methods to a novel scenario (aka optimization of solar photovoltaic systems).

\* Overall, the formal approach seems to be sound and robust, even if I was not able to fully understand the background (see cons below).

\* The authors have carried out very deep experiments. In particular, the algorithm was tested using 3 different state-of-the-art verifiers, and the results were compared with a commercial solution. In addition, since it is not straightforward to evaluate the results without a real system validation, the authors used a simulation tool.

**Matamos a pau nessa parte de experimentos.**

Cons

-------

\* For someone not familiar with the topic (like myself and, I would expect, 95% of VSTTE community), it might be difficult to understand the overall setup, since Section 2 fails to provide some of the background (see minor comments below)

Mesmo do revisor 1. Mudanças que farei endereçarão isso

\* In general, I would say that the experimental results are not outstanding, but they show some potential in applying a total different approach to this field. However, the authors at the beginning state that the goal is to compute a solution with minimal cost, but then in Table 1 Homer computed cheapest solutions in all the cases, then it looks like the introduced approach is worse than existing commercial tools. Then the following discussion is a bit shallow: Table 2 "show that the synthesis solution is sound and complete, which answers EG1 and EG3", but EG3 is about "how does our formal synthesis tool compare to a specialized simulation tool?" (so I am still not sure if Homer is sound and complete and what's the comparison). Finally, the three drawbacks of Homer are discussed at the end of Section 4.4, but this is not about the costs of the system, and not connect to the three experimental goals.

Preciso pensar aqui

Minor comments

--------

- Almost all equations end with a comma, please remove it

done

- Page 2: specialist PV optimization software -> specialized PV optimization software

done

- In the introduction it is stated that formal methods for PV systems are unexplored in literature. I think a discussion about why this is the case, and what is intuitively needed to apply them to this new scenario would help the reader to understand the potential and impact of the novel approach

Concordo. **Vou fazer isso no texto**

- Section 2.2: some parts of this section are not well explained. To people that do not know this field, some choices feel completely arbitrary: why a factor of 20% for losses is considered in equation 2? Similarly, why DOD is 75%? I guess these are standard values, but maybe some citations of papers using the same parameters (or discussing them) might be helpful to convince the reader about the robustness of the formalization

Concordo. **Vou acrescer isso no texto**

- page 6: Therefore, here in this study, the definition given here -> Therefore, the definition given here

done

- From equation 9 on I was lost. What are G, G\_ref, and T equation 9? Why you have T - 25 here? What is N\_PP in equation 10a?

Done. Done. Refiz o texto sobre a explicação da correção da temperatura para corrente de curto-circuito

- Equation 6 is missing the 'x' to represent multiplications

done

- Page 10: start-of-the-art -> state-of-the-art

done

----------------------- REVIEW 3 ---------------------

SUBMISSION: 14

TITLE: Synthesis of Solar Photovoltaic Systems: Optimal Sizing Comparison

AUTHORS: Alessandro Trindade and Lucas Cordeiro

----------- Overall evaluation -----------

SCORE: 1 (weak accept)

----- TEXT:

The paper describes a system for optimally sizing PV systems.

A detailed account is given of both modeling parameters, evaluation method

and evaluation results. The details, covered in the paper, contain

a substantial amount of information on PV optimization and approaches

for solving the constraints. It uses methods developed in the FM

community, such as CBMC with MiniSAT, MathSat and Boolector and compares with

available commercial tools based on other technologies.

The substantial results are impressive and be inspirational.

There are also some drawbacks that makes the material not well

accessible:

- The description is very tedious and mixes a lot of low level

information that is really only interesting to the authors

and not suitable for a conference paper. More emphasis should

be applied to the overall principles, and then details should be

presented as instantiations.

Essentially, parts of the paper, such as section 2.2 are not

really useful. It is not possible for a reader to keep track of

the many variables that are introduced. I don't see how they add

conceptual value.

Algorithm 1 also contains too many references to inlined variables.

Repete o revisor 1. As mudanças que farei matam essas questões

I do have some doubts about suitable the encodings that

the authors choose, in particular, how relevant full fledged

floating point reasoning is, but have no way to check.

For a conference paper I am quite willing to give the paper a

pass on this doubt as exposing details in the encodings could

make the paper even less accessible.

- The paper contains several awkwardly formulated sentences. Examples

are listed below. Corrigi todos

The net effect is that the paper reads as a tour-de-force in

"we did all of this hard work", but does not read "let us explain you

something new and interesting from what we learned to inspire you".

Pegou pesado esse

Overall, based on the substance of the results, the paper remains

adequate for the venue.

Examples of awkward sentences:

Progress has been made worldwide; in particular, in 2017, the number

of people without electricity access fell below 1 billion thresholds

-> Progress has been made worldwide; in particular, in 2017, the number

of people without electricity access fell below 1 billion

done

they have the drawback of an incomplete coverage ->

they have the drawback of incomplete coverage

Done

are infeasible

Mudei tudo para not feasible. Tinham duas ocorrências

In 2017, a researcher suggested the application of formal methods to verify and

control the behaviour of computational devices in a smart grid [2].

“In 2017, it was suggested...“ (DONE)

are still unexplored in literature

->

systems are not explored in literature (DONE)

using the traditional techniques

->

using the manual or simulation techniques and (DONE)

For the automated synthesis

->However, when using automated synthesis, (DONE)