

SPTG: Symbolic Path-Guided Test Case Generator


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3. SPTG tutorials

 Tutorial on model specification:

/path/to/SPTG/tutorials/model_specification.md

or /path/to/SPTG/tutorials/model_specification.pdf

 Tutorial on test case generation:

/path/to/SPTG/tutorials/testcase_generation.md

or /path/to/SPTG/tutorials/testcase_generation.pdf

 [Tutorial on test purpose selection:

/path/to/SPTG/tutorials/testpurpose_selection.md

or /path/to/SPTG/tutorials/testpurpose_selection.pdf

SPTG overview

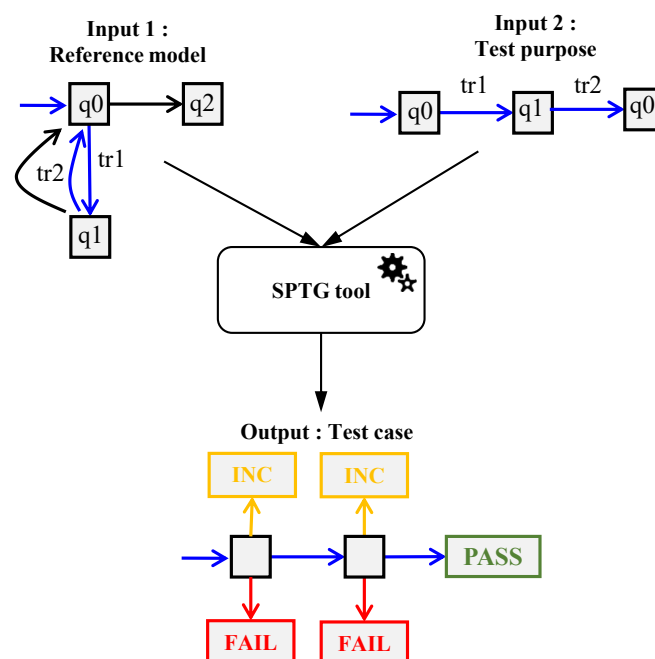


Figure 1: Schematic view of SPTG showing the model automaton with a selected test purpose (blue path) and the generated test case automaton with terminal verdict states.

SPTG is a model-based test generation tool that automatically produces **conformance deterministic test cases** from system models combining both **data** and **timing constraints**. As shown in **Figure 1**, SPTG takes an **automaton model** and a **test purpose**, i.e., a path of the model, and generates the corresponding **test case automaton** with **verdict states** PASS, FAIL, INC (for inconclusive).

It relies on **path-guided symbolic execution**, which explores the input path and builds **symbolic constraints** over inputs and timing. SPTG embeds the **Z3 SMT solver**, which is used to check the **satisfiability of path conditions** along the main test purpose path and its **immediate divergent paths**, as well as to ensure determinism. Infeasible branches, inconsistent with the test purpose, are pruned early during symbolic exploration, avoiding dead paths that correspond to excluded behaviors.

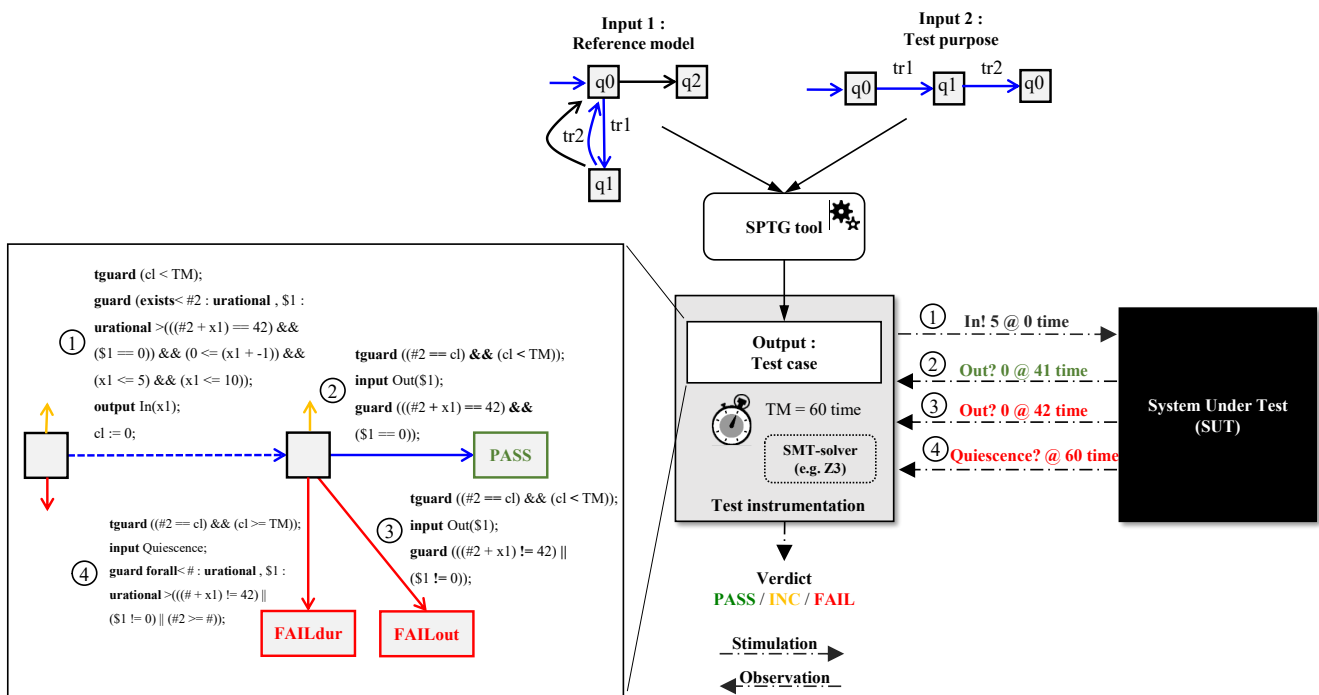


Figure 2: Execution of a generated test case against the System Under Test (SUT) with verdicts determined at runtime.

Figure 2 illustrates the execution phase, where the generated test case interacts with the **System Under Test (SUT)**. During execution, **Z3** is used to solve the **stimulation conditions (guards)**, determining the inputs and timings to apply. Test case transitions are controlled by a clock cl , which satisfies $cl < TM$, where TM is the maximal waiting time before either applying a stimulation or observing an output. Quiescence, i.e., the observation of absence of output, is detected when $cl \geq TM$, indicating that the system remains silent. This timing mechanism, combined with quiescence detection, ensures the test case is implementable in a real-time setting. Additionally, **Z3** checks that the **observed outputs** and their **timings** satisfy the corresponding observation conditions, after which verdicts are assigned.

Applications

- **Model-Based Testing (MBT)** of systems with combined data and timing behaviors.
- **Offline generation** of efficient and deterministic test cases from formal models.
- **Teaching and demonstration** of symbolic execution and model-based test generation principles.

References

SPTG implements the **symbolic path-guided test generation approach**, developed in: 

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.scico.2025.103285> (Open Access).

As an extension of the symbolic execution platform Diversity (<https://projects.eclipse.org/proposals/eclipse-formal-modeling-project>), which is distributed under the Eclipse Formal Modeling Project, SPTG can leverage its coverage analyses for **test purpose selection**, providing an integrated environment for offline timed symbolic testing.

Quick start with SPTG

SPTG directory Structure:

- **bin/**: This directory contains the SPTG tool binary **sptg.exe**. It also includes the PlantUML JAR, which allows visualization and export of generated test cases in graphical PlantUML (SVG) format.
- **examples/**: This directory contains all examples. It has a subdirectory for each example and a script **run-all.sh** to run all preconfigured test case generation tasks. Each example subdirectory includes:
 - The reference model.
 - A preconfigured script **run-sptg.sh** that calls SPTG for test case generation using a test purpose path (a sequence of consecutive transitions of the model). **run-all.sh** calls all **run-sptg.sh** scripts for each example.
- **tutorials/**: This directory contains three tutorials and associated files: tutorial on model specification; tutorial on test case generation; and tutorial on test purpose selection. The latter is a feature that SPTG inherits from extending the symbolic execution platform Diversity.
- **src/**: Contains the C++ source code of SPTG.
- **third-party/**: Directory for third-party libraries and dependencies.
- **Release/**: Contains release artifacts.
- **LICENSE**: The artifact license (same license as the Diversity symbolic execution platform).
- **examples-outputs.zip**: Compressed folder containing outputs generated by executing all examples from our experiments.
- **README**: This file.

First example

```
cd /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/  
./run-sptg-h2.sh
```

This script instructs **SPTG** to generate a **test case** with the following specifications:

- **Reference model:**
/path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/example02_dummy.xlia
- **Test purpose:** Defined as the **sequence of transitions**: tr1; tr2
- **Action:** Generate a **test case** corresponding to the given reference model and test purpose.

Note:

The input reference model automaton is encoded in the **XLIA language** (file **.xlia**), the input language of the **Diversity** symbolic execution platform. **SPTG** extends Diversity with dedicated functionality for symbolic path-guided test case generation. See tutorial on model specification for more details.

SPTG generates the resulting **test case automaton** in the following formats:

- **Graphical format: PlantUML**
File /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/output_h2/testcase.puml
Comment: This file provides a visual representation of the test case automaton, which can be rendered using PlantUML.
- **Specification language: XLIA**
The same language used to express the reference model.
File /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/output_h2/testcase.xlia
Comment: This file can be explored using the symbolic execution platform Diversity.
- **JSON format with SMT-LIB guards**
File /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/output_h2/testcase_smt.json
Comment: This JSON file encodes the test case automaton, including guards in SMT-LIB format, suitable for automated execution against system under test (SUT) using an SMT-solver (e.g. Z3).

Note: The script also generates the graphical **PlantUML** file for the reference automaton:

File /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/output_h2/example02_dummy.puml

Comment: This file provides a visual representation of the reference automaton.

Note: You can visualize **.puml** files using **PlantUML** or the online tool **PlantText**. You can convert a file **.puml** to a file **.svg** (see the **PlantUML Conversion Guide**).

Note: If the **PlantUML JAR** and the Graphviz **dot** executable are located in /path/to/SPTG/bin, the script automatically produces:

File /path/to/SPTG/examples/example02_dummy/testcase.svg.

The table below summarizes the inputs and outputs for generating a **test case** with SPTG. The figures shown are **visual representations** obtained by converting the corresponding **PlantUML** files into **SVG** format.

Description	Content
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Description	Content
Input 1: <i>Reference system model (Timed Symbolic Automaton)</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">System Example01_Dummy_S</div> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Example01_Dummy_SM</div> </div>
Input 2: Test purpose (Sequence of transitions)	<tr1; <="" td="" tr2=""></tr1;>

Output: <i>Generated test case (Deterministic Timed Symbolic Automaton)</i>	<div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 10px;"> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">System Testcase_S</div> <div style="text-align: center; border-bottom: 1px solid black; margin-bottom: 5px;">Testcase_SM</div> </div>
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Run all examples

```
cd /path/to/SPTG/examples/
./run-all.sh
```

Compilation instructions

To compile SPTG, navigate to the **Release** directory:

```
cd Release/
```

Then build the project:

```
make all -j4
```

During compilation, the process automatically overwrites the existing `sptg.exe` in the `bin` directory using:

```
cp -f sptg.exe ../bin/sptg.exe
```

If you wish to preserve the existing executable, rename it before compilation for instance as follows:

```
mv ../bin/sptg.exe ../bin/sptg_old.exe
```

PlantUML: PUML to SVG Conversion Guide

A concise reference for converting `.puml` files to `.svg` images via the command line.

PlantUML requires **Graphviz** for diagram rendering.

Prerequisites

1. **Java Runtime Environment (JRE):** Required to execute PlantUML.
 2. **PlantUML JAR File:** The standalone PlantUML application.
 3. **Graphviz:** Used internally by PlantUML for layout and rendering.
After installation, Graphviz will be available in your system path.
-

a. Installation

Install Graphviz

On Debian/Ubuntu-based systems, install Graphviz with:

```
sudo apt install graphviz
```

After this, the `dot` executable will be available system-wide.

b. Download PlantUML

Get the latest stable release of `plantuml.jar` from:

🔗 <https://github.com/plantuml/plantuml/releases>

Ensure both `java` and `dot` commands are available:

```
java -version  
dot -V
```

c. Conversion Command

Navigate to the folder containing both `plantuml.jar` and your `.puml` file.

Use the `-tsvg` flag to generate an SVG image:

Command	Action
<code>java -jar plantuml.jar -tsvg yourfile.puml</code>	Converts the input file (<code>.puml</code>) to an SVG output (<code>.svg</code>).

Example

```
# Generates 'MyDiagram.svg'  
java -jar plantuml.jar -tsvg MyDiagram.puml
```