

The Impact of Alternation

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Abstract—Alternating automata have been widely used to model and verify systems that handle data from finite domains, such as communication protocols or hardware. The main advantage of the alternating model of computation is that complementation is possible in linear time, thus allowing to concisely encode trace inclusion problems that occur often in verification. In this paper we consider alternating automata over infinite alphabets, whose transition rules are formulae in a combined theory of booleans and some infinite data domain, that relate past and current values of the data variables. The data theory is not fixed, but rather it is a parameter of the class. We show that union, intersection and complementation are possible in linear time in this model and, though the emptiness problem is undecidable, we provide two efficient semi-algorithms, inspired by two state-of-the-art abstraction refinement model checking methods: lazy predicate abstraction [8] and the IMPACT semi-algorithm [15]. We have implemented both methods and report the results of an experimental comparison.

I. INTRODUCTION

The language inclusion problem is recognized as being central to verification of hardware, communication protocols and software systems. A property is a specification of the correct executions of a system, given as a set \mathcal{P} of executions, and the verification problem asks if the set S of executions of the system under consideration is contained within \mathcal{P} .

This problem is at the core of widespread verification techniques, such as automata-theoretic model checking [21], where systems are specified as finite-state automata and properties defined using Linear Temporal Logic [19]. However the bottleneck of this and other related verification techniques is the intractability of language inclusion (PSPACE-complete for finite-state automata on finite words over finite alphabets).

Alternation [3] was introduced as a generalization of non-determinism, introducing universal, in addition to existential transitions. For automata over finite alphabets, the language inclusion problem can be encoded as the emptiness problem of an alternating automaton of linear size. Moreover, efficient exploration techniques based on antichains are shown to perform well for alternating automata over finite alphabets [5].

Using finite alphabets for the specification of properties and models is however very restrictive, when dealing with real-life computer systems, mostly because of the following reasons. On one hand, programs handle data from very large domains, that can be assumed to be infinite (64-bit integers, floating point numbers, strings of characters, etc.) and their correctness must be specified in terms of the data values. On the other hand, systems must respond to strict deadlines, which requires temporal specifications as timed languages [1].

Although being convenient specification tools, automata over infinite alphabets lack the decidability properties ensured by finite alphabets. In general, when considering infinite data as part of the input alphabet, language inclusion is undecidable and, even complementation becomes impossible, for instance, for timed automata [1] or finite-memory register automata [12]. In some cases, one can recover theoretical decidability, by restricting the number of variables (clocks) in timed automata to one [18], or forbidding relations between current and past/future values, as with symbolic automata [22]. In such cases, the emptiness problem for the alternating versions becomes decidable [13], [4].

In this paper, we present a new model of alternating automata over infinite alphabets consisting of pairs (a, ν) where a is an input event from a finite set and ν is a valuation of a finite set \mathbf{x} of variables that range over an infinite domain. We assume that, at all times, the successive values taken by the variables in \mathbf{x} are an observable part of the language, in other words, there are no hidden variables in our model. The transition rules are specified by a set of formulae, in a combined first-order theory of boolean control states and data, that relate past with present values of the variables. We do not fix the data theory a priori, but rather consider it to be a parameter of the class.

A run over an input word $(a_1, \nu_1) \dots (a_n, \nu_n)$ is a sequence $\phi_0(\mathbf{x}_0) \Rightarrow \phi_1(\mathbf{x}_0, \mathbf{x}_1) \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \phi_n(\mathbf{x}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ of rewritings of the initial formula by substituting boolean states with time-stamped transition rules. The word is accepted if the final formula $\phi_n(\mathbf{x}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ holds, when all time-stamped variables $\mathbf{x}_1, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n$ are substituted by their values in ν_1, \dots, ν_n , all non-final states replaced by false and all final states by true.

The boolean operations of union, intersection and complement can be implemented in linear time in this model, thus matching the complexity of performing these operations in the finite-alphabet case. The price to be paid is that emptiness becomes undecidable, for which reason we provide two efficient semi-algorithms for emptiness, based on lazy predicate abstraction [8] and the IMPACT method [15]. These algorithms are proven to terminate and return a word from the language of the automaton, if one exists, but termination is not guaranteed when the language is empty.

We have implemented the boolean operations and emptiness checking semi-algorithms and carried out experiments with examples taken from array logics [2], timed automata [9], communication protocols [23] and hardware verification [20]. **Related Work** Data languages and automata have been defined previously, in a classical nondeterministic setting. For

instance, Kaminski and Francez [12] consider languages, over an infinite alphabet of data, recognized by automata with a finite number of registers, that store the input data and compare it using equality. Just as the timed languages recognized by timed automata [1], these languages, called quasi-regular, are not closed under complement, but their emptiness is decidable. The impossibility of complementation here is caused by the use of hidden variables, which we do not allow. Emptiness is however undecidable in our case, mainly because counting (incrementing and comparing to a constant) data values is allowed, in many data theories.

Another related model is that of predicate automata [6], which recognize languages over integer data by labeling the words with conjunctions of uninterpreted predicates. We intend to explore further the connection with our model of alternating data automata, in order to apply our method to the verification of parallel programs.

The model presented in this paper stems from the language inclusion problem considered in [11]. There we provide a semi-algorithm for inclusion of data languages, based on an exponential determinization procedure and an abstraction refinement loop using lazy predicate abstraction [8]. In this work we consider the full model of alternation and rely entirely on the ability of SMT solvers to produce interpolants in the combined theory of booleans and data. Since determinisation is not needed and complementation is possible in linear time, the bulk of the work is carried out by the decision procedure.

The emptiness check for alternating data automata adapts similar semi-algorithms for nondeterministic infinite-state programs to the alternating model of computation. In particular, we considered the state-of-the-art IMPACT procedure [15] that is shown to outperform lazy predicate abstraction [8] in the nondeterministic case, and generalized it to cope with alternation. More recent approaches for interpolant-based abstraction refinement target Horn systems [16], [10], used to encode recursive and concurrent programs [7]. However, the emptiness of alternating word automata cannot be directly encoded using Horn clauses, because all the branches of the computation synchronize on the same input, which cannot be encoded by a finite number of local (equality) constraints. We believe that the lazy annotation techniques for Horn clauses are suited for branching computations, which we intend to consider in a future tree automata setting.

II. PRELIMINARIES

A *signature* $S = (S^s, S^f)$ consists of a set S^s of *sort symbols* and a set S^f of *sorted function symbols*. To simplify the presentation, we assume w.l.o.g. that $S^s = \{\text{Data}, \text{Bool}\}^1$ and each function symbol $f \in S^f$ has $\#(f) \geq 0$ arguments of sort *Data* and return value $\sigma(f) \in S^s$. If $\#(f) = 0$ then f is a *constant*. We consider the constants \top and \perp of sort *Bool*.

We consider an infinite countable set of *variables* Var , where each $x \in \text{Var}$ has an associated sort $\sigma(x)$. A *term* t of sort

$\sigma(t) = S$ is a variable $x \in \text{Var}$ where $\sigma(x) = S$, or $f(t_1, \dots, t_{\#(f)})$ where $t_1, \dots, t_{\#(f)}$ are terms of sort *Data* and $\sigma(f) = S$. An *atom* is a term of sort *Bool* or an equality $t \approx s$ between two terms of sort *Data*. A *formula* is an existentially quantified combination of atoms using disjunction \vee , conjunction \wedge and negation \neg and we write $\phi \rightarrow \psi$ for $\neg\phi \vee \psi$.

We denote by $\text{FV}^\sigma(\phi)$ the set of free variables of sort σ in ϕ and write $\text{FV}(\phi)$ for $\bigcup_{\sigma \in S^s} \text{FV}^\sigma(\phi)$. For a variable $x \in \text{FV}(\phi)$ and a term t such that $\sigma(t) = \sigma(x)$, let $\phi[t/x]$ be the result of replacing each occurrence of x by t . For indexed sets $\mathbf{t} = \{t_1, \dots, t_n\}$ and $\mathbf{x} = \{x_1, \dots, x_n\}$, we write $\phi[\mathbf{t}/\mathbf{x}]$ for the formula obtained by simultaneously replacing x_i with t_i in ϕ , for all $i \in [1, n]$. The size $|\phi|$ is the number of symbols occurring in ϕ .

An *interpretation* I maps (1) the sort *Data* into a non-empty set Data^I , (2) the sort *Bool* into the set $\mathbb{B} = \{\text{true}, \text{false}\}$, where $\top^I = \text{true}$, $\perp^I = \text{false}$, and (3) each function symbol f into a total function $f^I : (\text{Data}^I)^{\#(f)} \rightarrow \sigma(f)^I$, or an element of $\sigma(f)^I$ when $\#(f) = 0$. Given an interpretation I , a *valuation* ν maps each variable $x \in \text{Var}$ into an element $\nu(x) \in \sigma(x)^I$. For a term t , we denote by t_ν^I the value obtained by replacing each function symbol f by its interpretation f^I and each variable x by its valuation $\nu(x)$. For a formula ϕ , we write $I, \nu \models \phi$ if the formula obtained by replacing each term t in ϕ by the value t_ν^I is logically equivalent to true.

A formula ϕ is *satisfiable* in the interpretation I if there exists a valuation ν such that $I, \nu \models \phi$, and *valid* if $I, \nu \models \phi$ for all valuations ν . The *theory* $\mathbb{T}(S, I)$ is the set of valid formulae written in the signature S , with the interpretation I . A *decision procedure* for $\mathbb{T}(S, I)$ is an algorithm that takes a formula ϕ in the signature S and returns yes iff $\phi \in \mathbb{T}(S, I)$.

Given formulae ϕ and ψ , we say that ϕ *entails* ψ , denoted $\phi \models^I \psi$ iff $I, \nu \models \phi$ implies $I, \nu \models \psi$, for each valuation ν , and $\phi \Leftrightarrow^I \psi$ iff $\phi \models^I \psi$ and $\psi \models^I \phi$. We omit mentioning the interpretation I when it is clear from the context.

III. ALTERNATING DATA AUTOMATA

In the rest of this section we fix an interpretation I and a finite alphabet Σ of *input events*. Given a finite set $\mathbf{x} \subset \text{Var}$ of variables of sort *Data*, let $\mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I$ be the set of valuations of the variables \mathbf{x} and $\Sigma[\mathbf{x}] = \Sigma \times (\mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I)$ be the set of *data symbols*. A *data word* (word in the sequel) is a finite sequence $(a_1, \nu_1)(a_2, \nu_2) \dots (a_n, \nu_n)$ of data symbols, where $a_1, \dots, a_n \in \Sigma$ and $\nu_1, \dots, \nu_n : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \text{Data}^I$ are valuations. We denote by ε the empty sequence, by Σ^* the set of finite sequences of input events and by $\Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^*$ the set of data words over \mathbf{x} .

This definition generalizes the classical notion of words from a finite alphabet to the possibly infinite alphabet $\Sigma[\mathbf{x}]$. Clearly, when Data^I is sufficiently large or infinite, we can map the elements of Σ into designated elements of Data^I and use a special variable to encode the input events. However, keeping Σ explicit in the following simplifies several technical points below, without cluttering the presentation.

Given sets of variables $\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{x} \subset \text{Var}$ of sort *Bool* and *Data*, respectively, we denote by $\text{Form}(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{x})$ the set of formulae ϕ such that $\text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\phi) \subseteq \mathbf{b}$ and $\text{FV}^{\text{Data}}(\phi) \subseteq \mathbf{x}$. By $\text{Form}^+(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{x})$

¹The generalization to more than two sorts is without difficulty, but would unnecessarily clutter the technical presentation.

we denote the set of formulae from $\text{Form}(\mathbf{b}, \mathbf{x})$ in which each boolean variable occurs under an even number of negations.

An *alternating data automaton* (ADA or automaton in the sequel) is a tuple $\mathcal{A} = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q, \iota, F, \Delta \rangle$, where:

- $\mathbf{x} \subset \text{Var}$ is a finite set of variables of sort **Data**,
- $Q \subset \text{Var}$ is a finite set of variables of sort **Bool** (*states*),
- $\iota \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \emptyset)$ is the *initial configuration*,
- $F \subseteq Q$ is a set of *final states*, and
- $\Delta : Q \times \Sigma \rightarrow \text{Form}^+(Q, \bar{\mathbf{x}} \cup \mathbf{x})$ is a *transition function*,

where $\bar{\mathbf{x}} = \{\bar{x} \mid x \in \mathbf{x}\}$. In each formula $\Delta(q, a)$ describing a transition rule, the variables $\bar{\mathbf{x}}$ track the previous and \mathbf{x} the current values of the variables of \mathcal{A} . Observe that the initial values of the variables are left unconstrained, as the initial configuration does not contain free data variables. The size of \mathcal{A} is defined as $|\mathcal{A}| = |\iota| + \sum_{(q,a) \in Q \times \Sigma} |\Delta(q, a)|$.

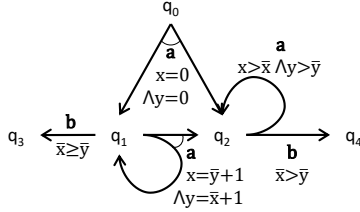


Fig. 1. Alternating Data Automaton Example

Example Figure 1 depicts an ADA with input alphabet $\Sigma = \{a, b\}$, variables $\mathbf{x} = \{x, y\}$, states $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$, initial configuration q_0 , final states $F = \{q_3, q_4\}$ and transitions:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta(q_0, a) &\equiv q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge x \approx 0 \wedge y \approx 0 \\ \Delta(q_1, a) &\equiv q_1 \wedge q_3 \wedge x \approx \bar{y} + 1 \wedge y \approx \bar{x} + 1 \\ \Delta(q_1, b) &\equiv q_3 \wedge \bar{x} \geq \bar{y} \\ \Delta(q_2, a) &\equiv q_2 \wedge x > \bar{x} \wedge y > \bar{y} \\ \Delta(q_2, b) &\equiv q_4 \wedge \bar{x} > \bar{y} \end{aligned}$$

The missing rules, such as $\Delta(q_0, b)$, are assumed to be \perp . Rules $\Delta(q_0, a)$ and $\Delta(q_1, a)$ are universal and there are no existential nondeterministic rules. Rules $\Delta(q_1, a)$ and $\Delta(q_2, a)$ compare past (\bar{x}, \bar{y}) with present (x, y) values, $\Delta(q_0, a)$ constrains the present and $\Delta(q_1, b)$, $\Delta(q_2, b)$ the past values, respectively. \square

Formally, let $\mathbf{x}_k = \{x_k \mid x \in \mathbf{x}\}$, for any $k \geq 0$, be a set of time-stamped variables. For an input event $a \in \Sigma$ and a formula ϕ , we write $\Delta(\phi, a)$ (respectively $\Delta^k(\phi, a)$) for the formula obtained from ϕ by simultaneously replacing each state $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\phi)$ by the formula $\Delta(q, a)$ (respectively $\Delta(q, a)[\mathbf{x}_k / \bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}_{k+1} / \mathbf{x}]$, for $k \geq 0$). Given a word $w = (a_1, v_1)(a_2, v_2) \dots (a_n, v_n)$, the *run* of \mathcal{A} over w is the sequence of formulae:

$$\phi_0(Q) \Rightarrow \phi_1(Q, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \mathbf{x}_1) \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \phi_n(Q, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{x}_n)$$

where $\phi_0 \equiv \iota$ and, for all $k \in [1, n]$, we have $\phi_k \equiv \Delta^k(\phi_{k-1}, a_k)$. Next, we slightly abuse notation and write $\Delta(\iota, a_1, \dots, a_n)$ for the formula $\phi_n(\mathbf{x}_0, \dots, \mathbf{x}_n)$ above. We say that \mathcal{A} *accepts* w iff $\mathcal{I}, v \models \Delta(\iota, a_1, \dots, a_n)$, for some valuation v that maps: (1) each $x \in \mathbf{x}_k$ to $v_k(x)$, for all $k \in [1, n]$, (2) each $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\phi_n) \cap F$ to \top and (3) each $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\phi_n) \setminus F$ to \perp . The language of \mathcal{A} is the set $L(\mathcal{A})$ of words from $\Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^*$ accepted by \mathcal{A} .

Example The following sequence is a non-accepting run of the ADA from Figure 1 on the word $(a, \langle 0, 0 \rangle), (a, \langle 1, 1 \rangle), (b, \langle 2, 1 \rangle)$,

where $\text{Data}^T = \mathbb{Z}$ and the function symbols have standard arithmetic interpretation:

$$\begin{aligned} q_0 &\xRightarrow{(a, \langle 0, 0 \rangle)} q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge x_1 \approx 0 \wedge y_1 \approx 0 \xRightarrow{(a, \langle 1, 1 \rangle)} \\ &\underbrace{q_1 \wedge q_2 \wedge x_2 \approx y_1 + 1 \wedge y_2 \approx x_1 + 1}_{q_1} \wedge \underbrace{q_2 \wedge x_2 > x_1 \wedge y_2 > y_1}_{q_2} \\ &\wedge x_1 \approx 0 \wedge y_1 \approx 0 \xRightarrow{(b, \langle 2, 1 \rangle)} \underbrace{q_3 \wedge x_2 \geq y_2}_{q_1} \wedge \underbrace{q_4 \wedge x_2 > y_2}_{q_2} \wedge x_2 \approx y_1 + 1 \\ &\wedge y_2 \approx x_1 + 1 \wedge \underbrace{q_4 \wedge x_2 > y_2 \wedge x_2 > x_1 \wedge y_2 > y_1 \wedge x_1 \approx 0 \wedge y_1 \approx 0}_{q_2} \square \end{aligned}$$

In this paper we tackle the following problems:

- 1) *boolean closure*: given automata \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 , both with the same set of variables \mathbf{x} , do there exist automata \mathcal{A}_\cup , \mathcal{A}_\cap and \mathcal{A}_\setminus such that $L(\mathcal{A}_\cup) = \mathcal{A}_1 \cup \mathcal{A}_2$, $L(\mathcal{A}_\cap) = \mathcal{A}_1 \cap \mathcal{A}_2$ and $L(\mathcal{A}_\setminus) = \Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^* \setminus L(\mathcal{A}_1)$?
- 2) *emptiness*: given an automaton \mathcal{A} , is $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$?

It is well known that other problems, such as *universality* (given automaton \mathcal{A} with variables \mathbf{x} , does $L(\mathcal{A}) = \Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^*$?) and *inclusion* (given automata \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 with the same set of variables, does $L(\mathcal{A}_1) \subseteq L(\mathcal{A}_2)$?) can be reduced to the above problems. Observe furthermore that we do not consider cases in which the sets of variables in the two automata differ. An interesting problem in this case would be: given automata \mathcal{A}_1 and \mathcal{A}_2 , with variables \mathbf{x}_1 and \mathbf{x}_2 , respectively, such that $\mathbf{x}_1 \subseteq \mathbf{x}_2$, does $L(\mathcal{A}_1) \subseteq L(\mathcal{A}_2) \downarrow_{\mathbf{x}_1}$, where $L(\mathcal{A}_2) \downarrow_{\mathbf{x}_1}$ is the projection of the set of words $L(\mathcal{A}_2)$ onto the variables \mathbf{x}_1 ? This problem is considered as future work.

A. Boolean Closure

Given a set Q of boolean variables and a set \mathbf{x} of variables of sort **Data**, for a formula $\phi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, with no negated occurrences of the boolean variables, we define the formula $\bar{\phi} \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ recursively on the structure of ϕ :

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\phi_1 \vee \phi_2} &\equiv \bar{\phi}_1 \wedge \bar{\phi}_2 & \overline{\phi_1 \wedge \phi_2} &\equiv \bar{\phi}_1 \vee \bar{\phi}_2 \\ \overline{\neg \phi} &\equiv \neg \bar{\phi} \text{ if } \phi \text{ not atom} & \overline{\phi} &\equiv \phi \text{ if } \phi \in Q \\ \bar{\phi} &\equiv \neg \phi \text{ if } \phi \notin Q \text{ atom} \end{aligned}$$

We have $|\bar{\phi}| = |\phi|$, for every formula $\phi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$.

In the following let $\mathcal{A}_i = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q_i, \iota_i, F_i, \Delta_i \rangle$, for $i = 1, 2$, where w.l.o.g. we assume that $Q_1 \cap Q_2 = \emptyset$. We define:

$$\begin{aligned} \mathcal{A}_\cup &= \langle \mathbf{x}, Q_1 \cup Q_2, \iota_1 \vee \iota_2, F_1 \cup F_2, \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2 \rangle \\ \mathcal{A}_\cap &= \langle \mathbf{x}, Q_1 \cup Q_2, \iota_1 \wedge \iota_2, F_1 \cup F_2, \Delta_1 \cup \Delta_2 \rangle \\ \overline{\mathcal{A}_1} &= \langle \mathbf{x}, Q_1, \iota_1, Q_1 \setminus F_1, \overline{\Delta_1} \rangle \end{aligned}$$

where $\overline{\Delta_1}(q, a) \equiv \overline{\Delta_1}(q, a)$, for all $q \in Q_1$ and $a \in \Sigma$. The following lemma shows the correctness of the above definitions:

Lemma 1: Given automata $\mathcal{A}_i = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q_i, \iota_i, F_i, \Delta_i \rangle$, for $i = 1, 2$, such that $Q_1 \cap Q_2 = \emptyset$, we have $L(\mathcal{A}_\cup) = L(\mathcal{A}_1) \cup L(\mathcal{A}_2)$, $L(\mathcal{A}_\cap) = L(\mathcal{A}_1) \cap L(\mathcal{A}_2)$ and $L(\overline{\mathcal{A}_1}) = \Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^* \setminus L(\mathcal{A}_1)$.

It is easy to see that $|\mathcal{A}_\cup| = |\mathcal{A}_\cap| = |\mathcal{A}_1| + |\mathcal{A}_2|$ and $|\overline{\mathcal{A}_1}| = |\mathcal{A}_1|$, thus the automata for the boolean operations, including complementation, can be built in linear time. This matches the linear-time bounds for intersection and complementation of alternating automata over finite alphabets [3].

IV. ANTICHAINS AND INTERPOLANTS FOR EMPTINESS

Unlike the boolean closure properties, showed to be effectively decidable (Lemma 1), the emptiness problem is undecidable, even in very simple cases. For instance, if Data^I is the set of positive integers, an ADA can simulate an Alternating Vector Addition System with States (AVASS) using only atoms $x \geq k$ and $x = \bar{x} + k$, for $k \in \mathbb{Z}$, with the classical interpretation of the function symbols on integers. Since reachability of a control state is undecidable for AVASS [14], the emptiness problem is undecidable for ADA.

Consequently, we give up on the guarantee for termination and build semi-algorithms that meet the requirements below:

- (i) given an automaton \mathcal{A} , if $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$, the procedure will terminate and return a word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$, and
- (ii) if the procedure terminates without returning such a word, then $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$.

Let us fix an automaton $\mathcal{A} = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q, \iota, F, \Delta \rangle$ whose (finite) input event alphabet is Σ , for the rest of this section. Given a formula $\phi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ and an input event $a \in \Sigma$, we define the *post-image* function $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, a) \equiv \exists \bar{\mathbf{x}}. \Delta(\phi[\bar{\mathbf{x}}/\mathbf{x}], a) \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, mapping each formula in $\text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ to a formula defining the effect of reading the event a .

We generalize the post-image function to finite sequences of input events, as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, \varepsilon) &\equiv \phi & \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, ua) &\equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, u), a) \\ \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u) &\equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in Q \setminus F} (q \rightarrow \perp), \text{ for any } u \in \Sigma^* \end{aligned}$$

Then the emptiness problem for \mathcal{A} becomes: does there exist $u \in \Sigma^*$ such that the formula $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is satisfiable? Observe that, since we ask a satisfiability query, the final states of \mathcal{A} need not be constrained². A naïve semi-algorithm enumerates all finite sequences and checks the satisfiability of $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ for each $u \in \Sigma^*$, using a decision procedure for the theory $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{S}, I)$.

Since no boolean variable from Q occurs under negation in ϕ , it is easy to prove the following monotonicity property: given two formulae $\phi, \psi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ if $\phi \models \psi$ then $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, u) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\psi, u)$, for any $u \in \Sigma^*$. This suggest an improvement of the above semi-algorithm, that enumerates and stores only a set $U \subseteq \Sigma^*$ for which $\{\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\phi, u) \mid u \in U\}$ forms an *antichain*³ w.r.t. the entailment partial order. This is because, for any $u, v \in \Sigma^*$, if $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, v)$ and $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(uw)$ is satisfiable for some $w \in \Sigma^*$, then $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, uw) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, vw)$, thus $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(vw)$ is satisfiable as well, and there is no need for u , since the non-emptiness of \mathcal{A} can be proved using v alone. However, even with this optimization, the enumeration of sequences from Σ^* diverges in many real cases, because infinite antichains exist in many interpretations, e.g. $q \wedge x \approx 0$, $q \wedge x \approx 1, \dots$ for $\text{Data}^I = \mathbb{N}$.

A *safety invariant* for \mathcal{A} is a function $I : (Q \mapsto \mathbb{B}) \rightarrow 2^{\mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I}$ such that, for every boolean valuation $\beta : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$, every valuation $\nu : \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I$ of the data variables and every finite sequence $u \in \Sigma^*$ of input events, the following hold:

²Since each state occurs positively in $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$, this formula has a model iff it has a model with every $q \in F$ set to true.

³Given a partial order (D, \leq) an antichain is a set $A \subseteq D$ such that $a \not\leq b$ for any $a, b \in A$.

- 1) $I, \beta \cup \nu \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \Rightarrow \nu \in I(\beta)$, and
- 2) $\nu \in I(\beta) \Rightarrow I, \beta \cup \nu \not\models \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$.

If I satisfies only the first point above, we call it an *invariant*. Intuitively, a safety invariant maps every boolean valuation into a set of data valuations, that contains the initial configuration $\iota \equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, \varepsilon)$, whose data variables are unconstrained, over-approximates the set of reachable valuations (point 1) and excludes the valuations satisfying the acceptance condition (point 2). A formula $\phi(Q, \mathbf{x})$ is said to *define* I iff for all $\beta : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ and $\nu : \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I$, we have $I, \beta \cup \nu \models \phi$ iff $\nu \in I(\beta)$.

Lemma 2: For any automaton \mathcal{A} , we have $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$ if and only if \mathcal{A} has a safety invariant.

Turning back to the issue of divergence of language emptiness semi-algorithms in the case $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$, we can observe that an enumeration of input sequences $u_1, u_2, \dots \in \Sigma^*$ can stop at step k as soon as $\bigvee_{i=1}^k \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u_i)$ defines a safety invariant for \mathcal{A} . Although this condition can be effectively checked using a decision procedure for the theory $\mathbb{T}(\mathbf{S}, I)$, there is no guarantee that this check will ever succeed.

The solution we adopt in the sequel is abstraction to ensure the termination of invariant computations. However, it is worth pointing out from the start that abstraction alone will only allow us to build invariants that are not necessarily safety invariants. To meet the latter condition, we resort to counterexample guided abstraction refinement (CEGAR).

Formally, we fix a set of formulae $\Pi \subseteq \text{Form}(Q, \mathbf{x})$, such that $\perp \in \Pi$ and refer to these formulae as *predicates*. Given a formula ϕ , we denote by $\phi^\# \equiv \bigwedge \{\pi \in \Pi \mid \phi \models \pi\}$ the abstraction of ϕ w.r.t. the predicates in Π . The abstract versions of the post-image and acceptance condition are defined as follows:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(\phi, \varepsilon) &\equiv \phi & \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(\phi, ua) &\equiv (\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(\phi, u), a))^\# \\ \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(u) &\equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(\iota, u) \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in Q \setminus F} (q \rightarrow \perp), \text{ for any } u \in \Sigma^* \end{aligned}$$

Lemma 3: For any bijection $\mu : \mathbb{N} \rightarrow \Sigma^*$, there exists $k > 0$ such that $\bigvee_{i=0}^k \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(\iota, \mu(i))$ defines an invariant $I^\#$ for \mathcal{A} .

We are left with fulfilling point (2) from the definition of a safety invariant. To this end, suppose that, for a given set Π of predicates, the invariant $I^\#$, defined by the previous lemma, meets point (1) but not point (2), where $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}$ and $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}$ replace $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#$ and $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#$, respectively. In other words, there exists a finite sequence $u \in \Sigma^*$ such that $\nu \in I^\#(\beta)$ and $I, \beta \cup \nu \models \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(u)$, for some boolean $\beta : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ and data $\nu : \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I$ valuations. Such a $u \in \Sigma^*$ is called a *counterexample*.

Once a counterexample u is discovered, there are two possibilities. Either (i) $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is satisfiable, in which case u is *feasible* and $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$, or (ii) $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is unsatisfiable, in which case u is *spurious*. In the first case, our semi-algorithm stops and returns a witness for non-emptiness, obtained from the satisfying valuation of $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ and in the second case, we must strengthen the invariant by excluding from $I^\#$ all pairs (β, ν) such that $I, \beta \cup \nu \models \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(u)$. This strengthening is carried out by adding to Π several predicates that are sufficient to exclude the spurious counterexample.

In general, given an unsatisfiable conjunction $\Phi \equiv \phi_1(X_0, X_1) \wedge \phi_2(X_1, X_2) \wedge \dots \wedge \phi_n(X_{n-1}, X_n)$ of time-stamped

variables $X_i = \{x_i \mid x \in X\}$ of any sort, a solution of the *interpolation problem* Φ , simply called an *interpolant*, is a tuple $\langle I_0(X), I_1(X), \dots, I_n(X) \rangle$ such that: (i) $I_0 \equiv \top$, (ii) $I_{i-1}[X_{i-1}/X] \wedge \phi_i(X_{i-1}, X_i) \models I_i[X_i/X]$, for all $i \in [1, n]$, and (iii) $I_n \equiv \perp$. In the following, we shall assume the existence of an interpolating decision procedure for $\mathbb{T}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{I})$.

A classical method for abstraction refinement is to add the elements of the interpolant obtained from a proof of spuriousness to the set of predicates. This guarantees progress, meaning that the particular spurious counterexample, from which the interpolant was generated, will never be revisited in the future. Though not always, in many practical test cases this progress property eventually yields a safety invariant.

Given a non-empty spurious counterexample $u = a_1 \dots a_n$, where $n > 0$, we consider the following interpolation problem:

$$\begin{aligned} \Theta(u) \equiv & \theta_0(Q_0) \wedge \theta_1(Q_0 \cup Q_1, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \mathbf{x}_1) \wedge \dots \\ & \wedge \theta_n(Q_{n-1} \cup Q_n, \mathbf{x}_{n-1} \cup \mathbf{x}_n) \wedge \theta_{n+1}(Q_n) \end{aligned} \quad (1)$$

where $Q_k = \{q_k \mid q \in Q\}$, $k \in [0, n]$ are time-stamped sets of boolean variables corresponding to the set Q of states of \mathcal{A} . The first conjunct $\theta_0(Q_0) \equiv \iota[Q_0/Q]$ is the initial configuration of \mathcal{A} , with every $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\iota)$ replaced by q_0 . The definition of θ_k , for all $k \in [1, n]$, uses *replacement sets* $R_\ell \subseteq Q_\ell$, $\ell \in [0, n]$, which are defined inductively below:

- $R_0 = \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\theta_0)$,
- $\theta_\ell \equiv \bigwedge_{q_{\ell-1} \in R_{\ell-1}} (q_{\ell-1} \rightarrow \Delta(q, a_\ell)[Q_\ell/Q, \mathbf{x}_{\ell-1}/\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}_\ell/\mathbf{x}])$ and $R_\ell = \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\theta_\ell) \cap Q_\ell$, for each $\ell \in [1, n]$.
- $\theta_{n+1}(Q_n) \equiv \bigwedge_{q \in Q \setminus F} (q_n \rightarrow \perp)$.

The intuition is that R_0, \dots, R_n are the sets of states replaced, $\theta_0, \dots, \theta_n$ are the sets of transition rules fired on the run of \mathcal{A} over u and θ_{n+1} is the acceptance condition, which forces the last remaining non-final states to be false.

Moreover, we require that an interpolant $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_n, \perp \rangle$ for the interpolation problem $\Theta(u)$ does not have negative occurrences of states, i.e. $I_i \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, for all $i \in [0, n]$. Such an interpolant can always be built, as showed below:

Proposition 1: If $\Theta(a_1 \dots a_n)$ is unsatisfiable then one can build an interpolant $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_n, \perp \rangle$ for $\Theta(a_1 \dots a_n)$, such that $I_i \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, for all $i \in [0, n]$.

We recall that a run of \mathcal{A} over u is a sequence:

$$\phi_0(Q) \Rightarrow \phi_1(Q, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \mathbf{x}_1) \Rightarrow \dots \Rightarrow \phi_n(Q, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \dots \cup \mathbf{x}_n)$$

where ϕ_0 is the initial configuration ι and for each $k > 0$, ϕ_k is obtained from ϕ_{k-1} by replacing each state $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\phi_{k-1})$ by the formula $\Delta(q, a_k)[\mathbf{x}_{k-1}/\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}_k/\mathbf{x}]$, given by the transition function of \mathcal{A} . Observe that, because the states are replaced with transition formulae when moving one step in a run, these formulae lose track of the control history and are not suitable for producing interpolants that relate states and data.

The main idea behind the above definition of the interpolation problem is that we would like to obtain an interpolant $\langle \top, I_0(Q), I_1(Q, \mathbf{x}), \dots, I_n(Q, \mathbf{x}), \perp \rangle$ whose formulae *combine states with the data constraints that must hold locally*, whenever the control reaches a certain boolean configuration. This association of states with data valuations is tantamount to

defining efficient semi-algorithms, based on lazy abstraction [8]. Furthermore, the abstraction defined by the interpolants generated in this way can also *over-approximate the control structure* of an automaton, in addition to the sets of data values encountered throughout its runs.

The correctness of this interpolation-based abstraction refinement setup is captured by the progress property below, which guarantees that adding the formulae of an interpolant for $\Theta(u)$ to the set Π of predicates suffices to exclude the spurious counterexample u from future searches.

Lemma 4: For any sequence $u = a_1 \dots a_n \in \Sigma^*$, if $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is unsatisfiable, the following hold:

- 1) $\Theta(u)$ is unsatisfiable, and
- 2) if $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_n, \perp \rangle$ is an interpolant for $\Theta(u)$ such that $\{I_i \mid i \in [0, n]\} \subseteq \Pi$ then $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\#(u)$ is unsatisfiable.

V. LAZY PREDICATE ABSTRACTION FOR ADA EMPTINESS

We have now all the ingredients to describe the first emptiness checking semi-algorithm for alternating data automata. Algorithm⁴ 1 builds an *abstract reachability tree* (ART) whose nodes are labeled with formulae over-approximating the concrete sets of configurations, and a covering relation between nodes in order to ensure that the set of formulae labeling the nodes in the ART forms an antichain. Any spurious counterexample is eliminated by computing an interpolant and adding its formulae to the set of predicates (cf. Lemma 4).

Formally, an ART is tuple $\mathcal{T} = \langle N, E, \mathbf{r}, \Lambda, R, T, \triangleleft \rangle$, where:

- N is a set of nodes,
- $E \subseteq N \times \Sigma \times N$ is a set of edges,
- $\mathbf{r} \in N$ is the root of the directed tree (N, E) ,
- $\Lambda : N \rightarrow \text{Form}(Q, \mathbf{x})$ is a labeling of the nodes with formulae, such that $\Lambda(\mathbf{r}) = \iota$,
- $R : N \rightarrow 2^Q$ is a labeling of nodes with replacement sets, such that $R(\mathbf{r}) = \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\iota)$,
- $T : E \rightarrow \bigcup_{i=0}^\infty \text{Form}^+(Q_i, \mathbf{x}_i, Q_{i+1}, \mathbf{x}_{i+1})$ is a labeling of edges with time-stamped formulae, and
- $\triangleleft \subseteq N \times N$ is a set of *covering edges*.

Each node $n \in N$ corresponds to a unique path from the root to n , labeled by a sequence $\lambda(n) \in \Sigma^*$ of input events. The *least infeasible suffix* of $\lambda(n)$ is the smallest sequence $v = a_1 \dots a_k$, such that $\lambda(n) = wv$, for some $w \in \Sigma^*$ and the following formula is unsatisfiable:

$$\Psi(v) \equiv \Lambda(p)[Q_0/Q] \wedge \theta_1(Q_0 \cup Q_1, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \mathbf{x}_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \theta_{k+1}(Q_k) \quad (2)$$

where $\theta_1, \dots, \theta_{k+1}$ are defined as in (1) and $\theta_0 \equiv \Lambda(p)[Q_0/Q]$. The *pivot* of n is the node p corresponding to the start of the least infeasible suffix. We assume the existence of two functions $\text{FindPivot}(u, \mathcal{T})$ and $\text{LeastInfeasibleSuffix}(u, \mathcal{T})$ that return the pivot and least infeasible suffix of a sequence $u \in \Sigma^*$ in an ART \mathcal{T} , without detailing their implementation.

With these considerations, Algorithm 1 uses a worklist iteration to build an ART. We keep newly expanded nodes of \mathcal{T} in a queue `WorkList`, thus implementing a breadth-first

⁴Though termination is not guaranteed, we call it algorithm for conciseness.

Algorithm 1 Lazy Predicate Abstraction for ADA Emptiness

input: an ADA $\mathcal{A} = \langle \Sigma, Q, \iota, F, \Delta \rangle$ over the alphabet Σ of input events
output: true if $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$ and a data word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$ otherwise

```

1: let  $\mathcal{T} = \langle N, E, r, \Lambda, \triangleleft \rangle$  be an ART
2: initially  $N = E = \triangleleft = \emptyset$ ,  $\Lambda = \{\langle r, \iota \rangle\}$ ,  $\Pi = \{\perp\}$ ,  $\text{WorkList} = \langle r \rangle$ ,
3: while  $\text{WorkList} \neq \emptyset$  do
4:   dequeue  $n$  from  $\text{WorkList}$ 
5:    $N \leftarrow N \cup \{n\}$ 
6:   let  $\lambda(n) = a_1 \dots a_k$  be the label of the path from  $r$  to  $n$ 
7:   if  $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\#}(\lambda(n))$  is satisfiable then  $\triangleright$  counterexample candidate
8:     if  $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$  is satisfiable then  $\triangleright$  feasible counterexample
9:       get model  $(\beta, v_1, \dots, v_k)$  of  $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$ 
10:      return  $w = (a_1, v_1) \dots (a_k, v_k)$   $\triangleright w \in L(\mathcal{A})$  by construction
11:     else  $\triangleright$  spurious counterexample
12:        $p \leftarrow \text{FINDPIVOT}(\lambda(n), \mathcal{T})$ 
13:        $v \leftarrow \text{LEASTINFEASIBLESUFFIX}(\lambda(n), \mathcal{T})$ 
14:        $\Pi \leftarrow \Pi \cup \{I_0, \dots, I_\ell\}$ , where  $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_\ell, \perp \rangle$  is an interpolant for  $\Psi(v)$ 
15:       let  $\mathcal{S} = \langle N', E', p, \Lambda', \triangleleft' \rangle$  be the subtree of  $\mathcal{T}$  rooted at  $p$ 
16:       for  $(m, q) \in \triangleleft'$  such that  $q \in N'$  do
17:         remove  $m$  from  $N$  and enqueue  $m$  into  $\text{WorkList}$ 
18:         remove  $\mathcal{S}$  from  $\mathcal{T}$ 
19:         enqueue  $p$  into  $\text{WorkList}$   $\triangleright$  recompute the subtree rooted at  $p$ 
20:     else
21:       for  $a \in \Sigma$  do  $\triangleright$  expand  $n$ 
22:          $\phi \leftarrow \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\#}(\Lambda(n), a)$ 
23:         if exist  $m \in N$  such that  $\phi \models \Lambda(m)$  then
24:            $\triangleleft \leftarrow \triangleleft \cup \{(n, m)\}$   $\triangleright m$  covers  $n$ 
25:         else
26:           let  $s$  be a fresh node
27:            $E \leftarrow E \cup \{(n, a, s)\}$ 
28:            $\Lambda \leftarrow \Lambda \cup \{(s, \phi)\}$ 
29:            $R \leftarrow \{m \in \text{WorkList} \mid \Lambda(m) \models \phi\}$   $\triangleright$  worklist nodes covered by  $s$ 
30:           for  $r \in R$  do
31:             for  $m \in N$  such that  $(m, b, r) \in E$ ,  $b \in \Sigma$  do
32:                $\triangleleft \leftarrow \triangleleft \cup \{(m, s)\}$   $\triangleright$  redirect covered children from  $R$  into  $s$ 
33:             for  $(m, r) \in \triangleleft$  do
34:                $\triangleleft \leftarrow \triangleleft \cup \{(m, s)\}$   $\triangleright$  redirect covered nodes from  $R$  into  $s$ 
35:           remove  $R$  from  $\mathcal{T}$ 
36:           enqueue  $s$  into  $\text{WorkList}$ 
37: return true

```

exploration strategy, which guarantees that the shortest counterexamples are explored first. When the search encounters a counterexample candidate u , it is checked for spuriousness. If the counterexample is feasible, the procedure returns a data word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$, which interleaves the input events of u with the data valuations from the model of $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ (since u is feasible, clearly $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is satisfiable). Otherwise, if u is spurious, we compute its pivot p (line 12), add the interpolants for the least unfeasible suffix of u to the set of predicates Π , remove and recompute the subtree of \mathcal{T} rooted at p .

Termination of Algorithm 1 depends on the ability of a given interpolating decision procedure for the combined boolean and data theory $\mathbb{T}(\mathcal{S}, \mathcal{I})$ to provide interpolants that yield a safety invariant, whenever $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$. In this case, we use the covering relation \triangleleft to ensure that, when a newly generated node is covered by a node already in N , it is not added to the worklist, thus cutting the current branch of the search.

Formally, for any two nodes $n, m \in N$, we have $n \triangleleft m$ iff $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\#}(\Lambda(n), a) \models \Lambda(m)$ for some $a \in \Sigma$, in other words, if n has a successor whose label entails the label of m .

Example Consider the automaton given in Figure 1. First, Algorithm 1 fires the sequence a , and since there are no other formulae than \perp in Π , the successor of $\iota \equiv q_0$ is \top , in Figure 2 (a). The spuriousness check for a yields the root of the ART as pivot and the interpolant $\langle q_0, q_1 \rangle$, which is added to the set Π . Then the \top node is removed and the next time a is fired,

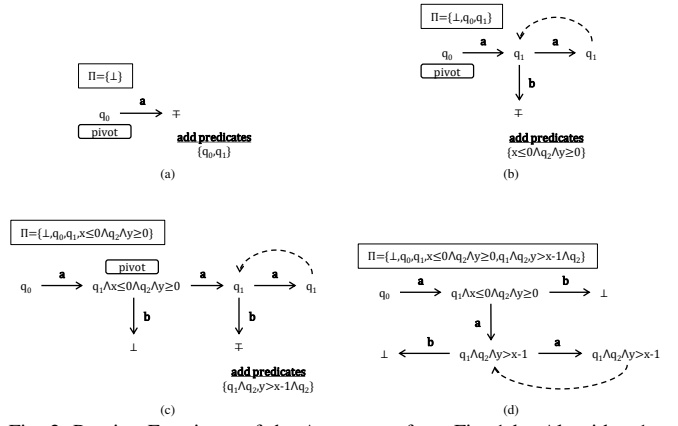


Fig. 2. Proving Emptiness of the Automaton from Fig. 1 by Algorithm 1

it creates a node labeled q_1 . The second sequence aa creates a successor node q_1 , which is covered by the first, depicted with a dashed arrow, in Figure 2 (b). The third sequence is ab , which results in a new uncovered node \top and triggers a spuriousness check. The new predicate obtained from this check is $x \leq 0 \wedge q_2 \leq y \leq 0$ and the pivot is again the root. Then the entire ART is rebuilt with the new predicates and the fourth sequence aab yields an uncovered node \top , in Figure 2 (c). The new pivot is the endpoint of a and the newly added predicates are $q_1 \wedge q_2$ and $y > x - 1 \wedge q_2$. Finally, the ART is rebuilt from the pivot node and finally all nodes are covered, thus proving the emptiness of the automaton, in Figure 2 (d). \square

The correctness of Algorithm 1 is proved below:

Theorem 1: Given an automaton \mathcal{A} , such that $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$, Algorithm 1 terminates and returns a word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$. If Algorithm 1 terminates reporting true, then $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$.

VI. CHECKING ADA EMPTINESS WITH IMPACT

As pointed out by a number of authors, the bottleneck of predicate abstraction is the high cost of reconstructing parts of the ART, subsequent to the refinement of the set of predicates. The main idea of the IMPACT procedure [15] is that this can be avoided and the refinement (strengthening of the node labels of the ART) can be performed in-place. This refinement step requires an update of the covering relation, because a node that used to cover another node might not cover it after the strengthening of its label.

We consider a total alphabetical order $<$ on Σ and lift it to the total lexicographical order $<^*$ on Σ^* . A node $n \in N$ is *covered* if $(n, p) \in \triangleleft$ or it has an ancestor m such that $(m, p) \in \triangleleft$, for some $p \in N$. A node n is *closed* if it is covered, or $\Lambda(n) \not\models \Lambda(m)$ for all $m \in N$ such that $\lambda(m) <^* \lambda(n)$. Observe that we use the coverage relation \triangleleft here with a different meaning than in Algorithm 1.

The execution of Algorithm 2 consists of three phases⁵: *close*, *refine* and *expand*. Let n be a node removed from the worklist at line 4. If $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$ is satisfiable, the counterexample $\lambda(n)$ is feasible, in which case a model of $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$

⁵Corresponding to the CLOSE, REFINER and EXPAND in [15].

Algorithm 2 IMPACT for ADA Emptiness

input: an ADA $\mathcal{A} = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q, \iota, F, \Delta \rangle$ over the alphabet Σ of input events
output: true if $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$ and a data word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$ otherwise

- 1: let $\mathcal{T} = \langle N, E, \mathbf{r}, \Lambda, R, T, \triangleleft \rangle$ be an ART
- 2: initially $N = E = T = \triangleleft = \emptyset$, $\Lambda = \{(\mathbf{r}, \iota)\}$, $R = \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\iota(Q_0/Q))$, $\text{WorkList} = \{\mathbf{r}\}$
- 3: **while** $\text{WorkList} \neq \emptyset$ **do**
- 4: dequeue n from WorkList
- 5: $N \leftarrow N \cup \{n\}$
- 6: let $(\mathbf{r}, a_1, n_1), (n_1, a_2, n_2), \dots, (n_{k-1}, a_k, n)$ be the path from \mathbf{r} to n
- 7: **if** $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(a_1 \dots a_k)$ is satisfiable **then** ▷ counterexample is feasible
- 8: get model (β, v_1, \dots, v_k) of $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$
- 9: **return** $w = (a_1, v_1) \dots (a_k, v_k)$ ▷ $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$ by construction
- 10: **else** ▷ spurious counterexample
- 11: let $\langle \mathbf{T}, I_0, \dots, I_k, \perp \rangle$ be an interpolant for $\Theta(a_1 \dots a_k)$
- 12: $b \leftarrow \text{false}$
- 13: **for** $i = 0, \dots, k$ **do**
- 14: **if** $\Lambda(n_i) \not\models I_i$ **then**
- 15: $\triangleleft \leftarrow \triangleleft \setminus \{(m, n_i) \in \triangleleft \mid m \in N\}$
- 16: $\Lambda(n_i) \leftarrow \Lambda(n_i) \wedge I_i$ ▷ strenghten the label of n_i
- 17: **if** $\neg b$ **then**
- 18: $b \leftarrow \text{CLOSE}(n_i)$
- 19: **if** n is not covered **then**
- 20: **for** $a \in \Sigma$ **do** ▷ expand n
- 21: let s be a fresh node and $e = (n, a, s)$ be a new edge
- 22: $E \leftarrow E \cup \{e\}$
- 23: $\Lambda \leftarrow \Lambda \cup \{(s, \mathbf{T})\}$
- 24: $T \leftarrow T \cup \{(e, \theta_k)\}$
- 25: $R \leftarrow R \cup \{(s, \bigcup_{q \in R(n)} \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\Delta(q, a)))\}$
- 26: enqueue s into WorkList
- 27: **return true**

- 1: **function** $\text{CLOSE}(x)$ **returns** Bool
- 2: **for** $y \in N$ such that $\lambda(y) <^* \lambda(x)$ **do**
- 3: **if** $\Lambda(x) \models \Lambda(y)$ **then**
- 4: $\triangleleft \leftarrow \triangleleft \setminus \{(p, q) \in \triangleleft \mid q \text{ is } x \text{ or a successor of } x\} \cup \{(x, y)\}$
- 5: **return true**
- 6: **return false**

is obtained and a word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$ is returned. Otherwise, $\lambda(n)$ is a spurious counterexample and the procedure enters the refinement phase (lines 11-18). The interpolant for $\Theta(\lambda(n))$ (cf. formula 1) is used to strenghten the labels of all the ancestors of n , by conjoining the formulae of the interpolant to the existing labels.

In this process, the nodes on the path between \mathbf{r} and n , including n , might become eligible for coverage, therefore we attempt to close each ancestor of n that is impacted by the refinement (line 18). Observe that, in this case the call to CLOSE must uncover each node which is covered by a successor of n (line 4 of the CLOSE function). This is required because, due to the over-approximation of the sets of reachable configurations, the covering relation is not transitive, as explained in [15]. If CLOSE adds a covering edge (n_i, m) to \triangleleft , it does not have to be called for the successors of n_i on this path, which is handled via the boolean flag b .

Finally, if n is still uncovered (it has not been previously covered during the refinement phase) we expand n (lines 20-26) by creating a new node for each successor s via the input event $a \in \Sigma$ and inserting it into the worklist.

Example We show the execution of Algorithm 2 on the automaton from Figure 1. Initially, the procedure fires the sequence a , whose endpoint is labeled with \top , in Figure 3 (a). Since this node is uncovered, we check the spuriousness of the counterexample a and refine the label of the node to q_1 . Since the node is still uncovered, two successors, labeled with \top are computed, corresponding to the sequences aa and ab , in Figure 3 (b). The spuriousness check for aa yields the

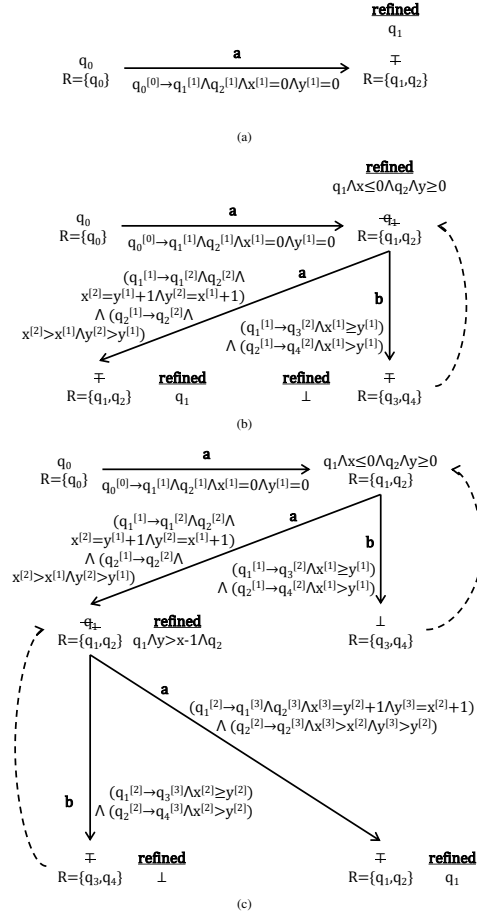


Fig. 3. Proving Emptiness of the Automaton from Fig. 1 by Algorithm 2 (1/2)

interpolant $\langle q_0, x \leq 0 \wedge q_2 \wedge y \geq 0 \rangle$ which strenghtens the label of the endpoint of a from q_1 to $q_1 \wedge x \leq 0 \wedge q_2 \wedge y \geq 0$. The sequence ab is also found to be spurious, which changes the label of its endpoint from \top to \perp , and also covers it (depicted with a dashed edge). Since the endpoint of aa is not covered, it is expanded to aaa and aab , in Figure 3 (c). Both sequences aaa and aab are found to be spurious, and the endpoint of aab , whose label has changed from \top to \perp , is now covered. In the process, the label of aa has also changed from q_1 to $q_1 \wedge y > x - 1 \wedge q_2$, due to the strenghtening with the interpolant from aab . Finally, the only uncovered node aaa is expanded to $aaaa$ and $aaab$, both found to be spurious, in Figure 4. The refinement of $aaab$ causes the label of aaa to change from q_1 to $q_1 \wedge y > x - 1 \wedge q_2$ and this node is now covered by aa . Since its successors are also covered, there are no uncovered nodes and the procedure returns **true**. \square

Theorem 2: Given an automaton \mathcal{A} , such that $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$, Algorithm 2 terminates and returns a word $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$. If Algorithm 2 terminates reporting **true**, then $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$.

VII. EXPERIMENTAL EVALUATION

We have implemented both Algorithm 1 and 2 in a prototype tool⁶ that uses the Z3 SMT solver⁷ for the satisfiability queries and interpolant generation, in the theory of linear integer

⁶The implementation is available at <https://github.com/cathiec/AltImpact>

⁷<https://github.com/Z3Prover/z3>

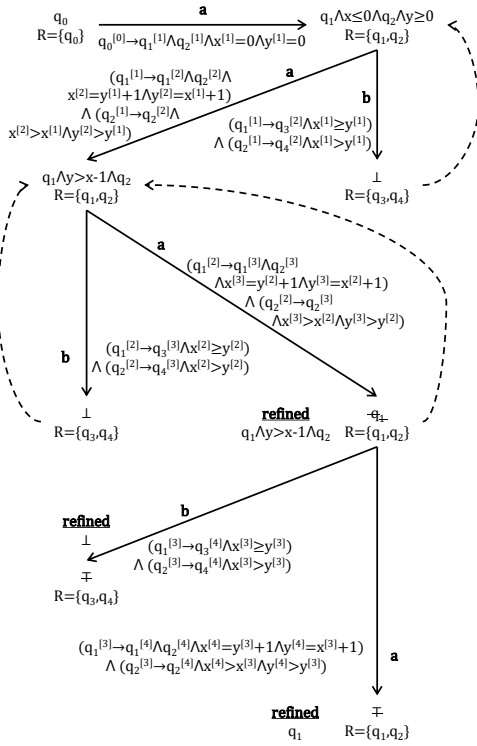


Fig. 4. Proving Emptiness of the Automaton from Fig. 1 by Algorithm 2 (2/2)

arithmetic (LIA) combined with booleans. We compared both algorithms with a previous implementation of a trace inclusion procedure, called **INCLUDER**⁸, that uses on-the-fly determination and lazy predicate abstraction with interpolant-based refinement [11] in the LIA theory, without booleans.

The results of the experiments are given in Table I. We applied the tool first to several array logic entailments, which occur as verification conditions for imperative programs with arrays [2] (array_shift, array_simple, array_rotation 1+2) available online [17]. Next, we applied it on proving safety properties of hardware circuits (hw1+2) [20]. Finally, we considered two timed communication protocols, consisting of systems that are asynchronous compositions of timed automata, whom correctness specifications are given by timed automata monitors: a timed version of the Alternating Bit Protocol (abp) [23] and a controller of a railroad crossing (train) [9]. All results were obtained on an Intel(R) Core(TM) i7-4650U CPU @ 1.70GHz with 8GB of RAM. The automata sizes are in bytes and the execution times are in seconds.

As in the non-deterministic case [15], **IMPACT** outperforms lazy predicate abstraction for checking emptiness by at least one order of magnitude. However, both our implementations are slower than **INCLUDER**, on average (except for the abp example). The reason for this is currently under investigation, one possible bottleneck being the hardness of the combined (LIA+booleans) interpolation problems, as opposed to converting the entire formula into DNF, eliminating the boolean variables and using interpolation in the pure LIA theory.

⁸<http://www.fit.vutbr.cz/research/groups/verifit/tools/includer/>

Example	$ \mathcal{A} $	$L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$?	Algorithm 1	Algorithm 2	INCLUDER
simple1	309	no	0.641	0.061	0.021
simple2	504	yes	0.667	0.179	0.031
simple3	214	yes	0.825	0.150	0.051
array_shift	874	yes	2.138	0.209	0.060
array_simple	3440	yes	timeout	16.435	5.496
array_rotation1	1834	yes	6.827	0.865	0.114
array_rotation2	15182	yes	timeout	timeout	23.056
abp	6909	no	8.292	1.410	1.715
train	1823	yes	16.989	2.738	0.308
hw1	322	yes	1.566	0.298	0.159
hw2	674	yes	22.914	0.552	0.419

TABLE I

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A. Proof of Lemma 1

Proposition 2: Given a formula $\phi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ and a valuation ν mapping each $q \in Q$ to a value $\nu(q) \in \mathbb{B}$ and each $x \in \mathbf{x}$ to a value $\nu(x) \in \text{Data}^I$, let ν' be the valuation that assigns each $q \in Q$ the value $\neg \nu(q)$ and each $x \in \mathbf{x}$ the value $\nu(x)$. Then we have $I, \nu \models \phi$ if and only if $I, \nu' \not\models \bar{\phi}$.

Proof: Immediate, by induction on the structure of ϕ . \square

Proof: We prove $L(\mathcal{A}_\cup) = L(\mathcal{A}_1) \cup L(\mathcal{A}_2)$ first, the proof for \mathcal{A}_\cap being analogous. Let $w = (a_1, \nu_1) \dots (a_n, \nu_n)$ be a word, where $n = 0$ corresponds to the empty word. We prove by induction on $n \geq 0$ that $\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_n) \Leftrightarrow \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n) \vee \Delta(\iota_2, a_1 \dots a_n)$. The case $n = 0$ follows from the definition of the initial configuration of \mathcal{A}_\cup . For the inductive step $n > 0$, $\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_n)$ is obtained from $\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1})$ by replacing each variable $q \in \text{FV}^{\text{Bool}}(\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}))$ with $\Delta(q, a_n)[\mathbf{x}_{n-1}/\bar{\mathbf{x}}, \mathbf{x}_n/\mathbf{x}]$, denoted $\Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n)$. Since by induction hypothesis, $\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}) \Leftrightarrow \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}) \vee \Delta(\iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1})$, we obtain:

$$\begin{aligned} \Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_1 \vee \iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n) &\Leftrightarrow \\ \Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n) \vee \Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_2, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n) &\Leftrightarrow \\ \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n) \vee \Delta(\iota_2, a_1 \dots a_n) &. \end{aligned}$$

To prove $L(\overline{\mathcal{A}_1}) = \Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^* \setminus L(\mathcal{A}_1)$, let $w = (a_1, \nu_1) \dots (a_n, \nu_n)$ be a word and show that $\overline{\Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n)} = \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n)$ by induction on $n \geq 0$. The case $n = 0$ is immediate, because $\text{FV}(\iota_1) \subseteq Q$ and thus $\bar{\iota}_1 \equiv \iota_1$. For the case $n > 0$, we compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \overline{\Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n)} &\Leftrightarrow \text{(by ind. hyp.)} \\ \overline{\Delta^n(\Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n)} &\Leftrightarrow \text{(by the def. of } \bar{\cdot} \text{)} \\ \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n) &. \end{aligned}$$

Let $\nu, \nu' : (Q \cup \bigcup_{i=0}^n \mathbf{x}_i) \rightarrow (\mathbb{B} \cup \text{Data}^I)$ be valuations such that:

- $\nu(q) = \top$ and $\nu'(q) = \perp$, for each $q \in F$,
- $\nu(q) = \perp$ and $\nu'(q) = \top$, for each $q \in Q \setminus F$,
- $\nu(x) = \nu'(x)$, for each $x \in \mathbf{x}_0$,
- $\nu(x) = \nu'(x) = \nu_i(x)$, for each $x \in \mathbf{x}_i$ and each $i \in [1, n]$.

By Proposition 2, we have $I, \nu \models \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n) \Leftrightarrow I, \nu' \not\models \bar{\Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n)} \Leftrightarrow I, \nu' \not\models \Delta(\iota_1, a_1 \dots a_n)$. Thus for all $w \in \Sigma[\mathbf{x}]^*$, we have $w \in L(\mathcal{A}_1) \Leftrightarrow w \notin L(\overline{\mathcal{A}_1})$. \square

B. Proof of Lemma 2

Proof: Let $\mathcal{A} = \langle \mathbf{x}, Q, \iota, F, \Delta \rangle$ in the following. “ \Leftarrow ” This direction is trivial. “ \Rightarrow ” We define $\mathsf{l} : (Q \mapsto \mathbb{B}) \rightarrow 2^{\mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I}$ as follows. For each $\beta : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$, let $\mathsf{l}(\beta) = \{\nu : \mathbf{x} \mapsto \text{Data}^I \mid \exists u \in \Sigma^* . \beta \cup \nu \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u)\}$. Checking that l is a safety invariant is straightforward. \square

C. Proof of Lemma 3

Proof: It is sufficient to show that there exists $k \geq 0$ such that for all $u \in \Sigma^*$ there exists $i \in [0, k]$ such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, \mu(i))$. We have $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, u)$ for all $u \in \Sigma^*$. But since Π is a finite set, also the set $\{\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, u) \mid u \in \Sigma^*\}$ is finite. Thus there exists $k \geq 0$ such that, for all $u \in \Sigma^*$ there exists $i \in [0, k]$ such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, u) \Leftrightarrow \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, \mu(i))$, which concludes the proof. \square

D. Proof of Proposition 1

Proposition 3: Given a formula $\phi \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ and $a \in \Sigma$, we have $\Delta(\phi, a) \Leftrightarrow \exists Q' . \phi[Q'/Q] \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in Q} (q' \rightarrow \Delta(q, a))$.

Proof: “ \Rightarrow ” If $I, \beta \cup \bar{\nu} \cup \nu \models \Delta(\phi, a)$, for some valuations $\beta : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ and $\bar{\nu} : \bar{\mathbf{x}} \rightarrow \text{Data}^I$, $\nu : \mathbf{x} \rightarrow \text{Data}^I$, then we build a valuation $\beta' : Q' \rightarrow \mathbb{B}$ such that $I, \beta' \cup \beta \cup \bar{\nu} \cup \nu \models \phi[Q'/Q] \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in Q} (q' \rightarrow \Delta(q, a))$. For each occurrence of a formula $\Delta(q, a)$ in $\Delta(\phi, a)$ we set $\beta'(q') = \text{true}$ if $I, \beta \cup \bar{\nu} \cup \nu \models \Delta(q, a)$ and $\beta'(q') = \text{false}$, otherwise. Since there are no negated occurrences of such subformulae, the definition of β' is consistent, and the check $I, \beta' \cup \beta \cup \bar{\nu} \cup \nu \models \phi[Q'/Q] \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in Q} (q' \rightarrow \Delta(q, a))$ is immediate. “ \Leftarrow ” This direction is an easy check. \square

Proof: Let $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_n, \perp \rangle$ be an interpolant, and $i \in [0, n]$ be the first index for which $I_i \notin \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$. If $i = 0$, we replace I_0 with $\iota \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ and verify that the result is still an interpolant. If $i > 0$, by Proposition 3, we have that $\Delta^{i-1}(I_{i-1}, a_i) \Leftrightarrow \exists Q_{i-1} . I_{i-1}[Q_{i-1}/Q] \wedge \theta_i$. Since $I_{i-1} \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, by the choice of i , we have that $\Delta^{i-1}(I_{i-1}, a_i) \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ as well. We replace I_i with $\Delta^{i-1}(I_{i-1}, a_i)$. The result is still an interpolant, because:

- $I_{i-1}[Q_{i-1}/Q] \wedge \theta_i \models \Delta^{i-1}(I_{i-1}, a_i)$, by Proposition 3, and
- $\Delta^{i-1}(I_{i-1}, a_i) \wedge \theta_{i+1} \models \exists Q_{i-1} . I_{i-1}[Q_{i-1}/Q] \wedge \theta_i \wedge \theta_{i+1} \models I_i[Q_i/Q] \wedge \theta_{i+1} \models I_{i+1}[Q_{i+1}/Q]$.

We proceed with these replacements until there are no more formulae $I_i \notin \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$ left. \square

E. Proof of Lemma 4

Proof: Let $\Theta(u) \equiv \theta_0(Q_0) \wedge \theta_1(Q_0 \cup Q_1, \mathbf{x}_0 \cup \mathbf{x}_1) \wedge \dots \wedge \theta_n(Q_{n-1} \cup Q_n, \mathbf{x}_{n-1} \cup \mathbf{x}_n) \wedge \theta_{n+1}(Q_n)$ in the following.

(1) We apply Proposition 3 recursively and get:

$$\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u)[Q_n/Q, \mathbf{x}_n/\mathbf{x}] \Leftrightarrow \exists Q_0 \dots \exists Q_{n-1} \exists \mathbf{x}_0 \dots \exists \mathbf{x}_{n-1} . \bigwedge_{i=0}^n \theta_i$$

Assuming that $\Theta(u)$ is satisfiable, we obtain a model for $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u) \equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \wedge \theta_{n+1}[Q/Q_n]$.

(2) If $\langle \top, I_0, \dots, I_n, \perp \rangle$ is an interpolant for $\Theta(u)$, the following entailments hold:

- $\theta_0 \models I_0[Q_0/Q]$,
- $I_{k-1}[Q_{k-1}/Q, \mathbf{x}_{k-1}/\mathbf{x}] \wedge \theta_k \models I_k[Q_k/Q, \mathbf{x}_k/\mathbf{x}]$, $\forall k \in [1, n]$.
- $I_n[Q_n/Q] \wedge \theta_{n+1} \models \perp$.

We prove that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, a_1 \dots a_n) \models I_n$ by induction on $n \geq 0$. This is sufficient to conclude because $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(a_1 \dots a_n) \equiv \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, a_1 \dots a_n) \wedge \theta_{n+1}[Q/Q_n] \models I_n \wedge \theta_{n+1}[Q/Q_n] \models \perp$. For the base case $n = 0$, we have $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, \varepsilon) \equiv \iota \equiv \theta_0[Q/Q_0] \models I_0$. For the induction step $n > 0$, we compute:

$$\begin{aligned} \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, a_1 \dots a_n)[Q_n/Q] &\equiv \text{(by def. of } \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp \text{)} \\ \exists \mathbf{x}_{n-1} . \Delta^n(\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, a_1 \dots a_{n-1}), a_n)[Q_n/Q] &\models \text{(by Prop. 3)} \\ \exists Q_{n-1} \exists \mathbf{x}_{n-1} . \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^\sharp(\iota, a_1 \dots a_{n-1})[Q_{n-1}/Q] \wedge \theta_n &\models \text{(ind. hyp.)} \\ \exists Q_{n-1} \exists \mathbf{x}_{n-1} . I_{n-1}[Q_{n-1}/Q] \wedge \theta_n &\models I_n[Q_n/Q] \end{aligned} \quad \square$$

F. Proof of Theorem 1

Proof: We prove the following invariant: each time Algorithm 1 reaches line 3, the set W of nodes in `WorkList` contains all the frontier nodes in the ART $\langle N \cup W, E, \mathbf{r}, \Lambda, \triangleleft \rangle$ which are not covered by some node in N , namely that:

$$W = \{n \mid \forall m \in N \forall a \in \Sigma . (n, a, m) \notin E \wedge (n, m) \notin \triangleleft\} \quad (3)$$

Initially, this is the case because $W = \{\mathbf{r}\}$ and $E = \triangleleft = \emptyset$. If the invariant holds previously, at line 3, it will hold again after line 19 is executed, because, when the subtree rooted at the pivot p is removed, p becomes a member of the set of uncovered frontier nodes, and is added to W at line 19. Otherwise, the invariant holds at line 3 and the control follows the else branch at line 20. In this case, the newly created frontier node s is added to W only if it is not covered by an existing node in N (line 23).

Next we prove that, if Algorithm 1 returns `true`, then $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ defines a safety invariant. Suppose that Algorithm 1 returns at line 37. Then it must be that $W = \emptyset$. Because (3) is invariant, each node in N is either covered by another node in N , or all its successors are in N . We prove first that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is an invariant: for any $u \in \Sigma^*$, there exists some node $n \in N$ such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \Lambda(n)$. Let $u \in \Sigma^*$ be an arbitrary sequence. If u labels the path from \mathbf{r} to some $n \in N$, we have $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\#}(u, u) \models \Lambda(n)$ and we are done. Otherwise, let v be the (possibly empty) prefix of u which labels the path from \mathbf{r} to some $n \in N$, which is covered by another $m \in N$, where $(n, a, m) \in E$, that is $u = vav'$, for some $a \in \Sigma$ and $v' \in \Sigma^*$. Moreover, we have $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, va) \models \text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}^{\#}(u, va) \models \Lambda(m)$, by the construction of the set \triangleleft of covering edges — lines 24, 32, 34. Continuing this argument recursively from m , since $|v'| < |u|$, we shall eventually discover a node p such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \Lambda(p)$.

To prove that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is, moreover, a safety invariant, suppose, by contradiction, that there exists $u \in \Sigma^*$ such that $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is satisfiable. By the previous point, there exists a node $p \in N$ such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \Lambda(p)$. But then we have $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, \lambda(p))$, thus $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, \lambda(p))$ is satisfiable as well. However, this cannot be the case, because p has been processed at line 8 and Algorithm 1 would have returned a counterexample, contradicting the assumption that it returns `true`. This concludes the proof that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is a safety invariant, thus $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$, by Lemma 2. We have then proved the second point of the statement.

For the first point, assume that $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$ and let $w = (a_1, v_1) \dots (a_k, v_k) \in L(\mathcal{A})$ be a word. By the above, Algorithm 1 cannot return `true`. Suppose, by contradiction that it does not terminate. Since the sequences from Σ^* are explored in breadth-first order, every sequence of length k is eventually explored, which leads to the discovery of w at line 8. Then Algorithm 1 terminates returning $w \in L(\mathcal{A})$. \square

G. Proof of Theorem 2

Lemma 5: Given an ART $\mathcal{T} = \langle N, E, \mathbf{r}, \Lambda, R, T, \triangleleft \rangle$ built by Algorithm 2, $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda(n), a) \models \Lambda(m)$, for all $(n, a, m) \in E$.

Proof: We distinguish two cases. First, if (n, a, m) occurs on a path in \mathcal{T} that has never been refined, then $\Lambda(m) = \top$ and the entailment holds trivially. Otherwise, let Ω be the set of paths $\omega = (n_0, a_1, n_1), \dots, (n_{k-1}, a_k, n_k)$, where $n_0 = \mathbf{r}$ and $(n, a, m) = (n_{i-1}, a_i, n_i)$, for some $i \in [1, k]$ and, moreover, $a_1 \dots a_k$ was found, at some point, to be a spurious counterexample. Let $\langle \top, I_0^\omega, \dots, I_k^\omega, \perp \rangle$ be an interpolant for $\Phi(a_1 \dots a_k) \equiv \Lambda(\mathbf{r}) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=1}^k \theta_i \wedge \bigwedge_{q \in R(n_k)} (q_k \rightarrow \perp)$, such that $I_i^\omega \in \text{Form}^+(Q, \mathbf{x})$, for all $i \in [0, k]$. According to Proposition 1, it is possible to build such an interpolant, when $\Phi(a_1 \dots a_k)$ is unsatisfiable. By Proposition 3, we obtain $\Delta^i(I_{i-1}^\omega, a_i)[Q_i/Q] \Leftrightarrow \exists Q_{i-1} . I_{i-1}^\omega[Q_{i-1}/Q, \mathbf{x}_{i-1}/\mathbf{x}] \wedge \theta_i$ and, since $I_{i-1}^\omega[Q_{i-1}/Q, \mathbf{x}_{i-1}/\mathbf{x}] \wedge \theta_i \models I_i^\omega[Q_i/Q, \mathbf{x}_i/\mathbf{x}]$, we obtain that $\Delta^i(I_{i-1}^\omega, a_i)[Q_i/Q] \models I_i^\omega[Q_i/Q, \mathbf{x}_i/\mathbf{x}]$. Since $\Lambda(n_{i-1}) = \bigwedge_{\omega \in \Omega} I_{i-1}^\omega$ and $\Lambda(n_i) = \bigwedge_{\omega \in \Omega} I_i^\omega$, we obtain $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\Lambda(n_{i-1}), a_i) \models \Lambda(n_i)$. \square

Proof: We prove first that, each time Algorithm 2 reaches the line 3, we have:

$$W = \{n \mid n \text{ uncovered}, \exists a \in \Sigma \forall s \in N . (n, a, s) \notin E\} \quad (4)$$

Initially, $W = \{\mathbf{r}\}$ and $E = \triangleleft = \emptyset$, thus (4) holds trivially. Suppose that (4) holds at when reaching line 3 and some node n was removed from W and inserted into N . We distinguish two cases, either:

- n is covered, in which case W becomes $W \setminus \{n\}$ and (4) holds, or
- n is not covered, in which case W becomes $(W \setminus \{n\}) \cup S$, where $S = \{s \notin N \mid (n, a, s) \in E, a \in \Sigma\}$ is the set of fresh successors of n . But then no node $s \in S$ is covered and has successors in E , thus (4) holds.

Then the condition (4) holds next time line 3 is reached, thus it is invariant.

Suppose first that Algorithm 2 returns `true`, thus $W = \emptyset$ and, by (4), for each node in $n \in N$ one of the following hold:

- n is covered, or
- for each $a \in \Sigma$ there exists $s \in N$ such that $(n, a, s) \in E$.

We prove that, in this case, $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ defines a safety invariant and conclude that $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$, by Lemma 2. To this end, let $u = a_1 \dots a_k \in \Sigma^*$ be an arbitrary sequence and let v_1 be the largest prefix of u that labels a path from \mathbf{r} to some node $n_1 \in N$. If $v_1 = u$ we are done. Otherwise, by the choice of v_1 , it must be the case that a successor of n_1 is missing from (N, E) , thus n_1 must be covered, by (4) and the fact that $W = \emptyset$. Let n'_1 be the closest ancestor of n_1 such that $(n'_1, n''_1) \in \triangleleft$, for some $n''_1 \in N$, and let v'_1 be the prefix of v_1 leading to n'_1 . By the construction of \triangleleft (line 4 in function `CLOSE`), we have $\Lambda(n'_1) \models \Lambda(n''_1)$. Applying Lemma 5 inductively on v'_1 , we obtain that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, v'_1) \models \Lambda(n'_1)$, thus $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, v'_1) \models \Lambda(n''_1)$. Continuing inductively from n''_1 , we exhibit a sequence of strings $v'_1, \dots, v'_\ell \in \Sigma^*$ and nodes $\mathbf{r} = m_0, m_1, \dots, m_\ell$ such that, for all $i \in [1, \ell]$:

- v'_i labels the path between m_{i-1} and m_i in (N, E) ,
- $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, v'_1 \dots v'_i) \models \Lambda(m_i)$.

Moreover, we have $u = v'_1 \dots v'_\ell$, thus $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(u, u) \models \Lambda(m_\ell)$ and we are done showing that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is an invariant.

To prove that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is, moreover, a safety invariant, suppose that $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u)$ is satisfiable, for some $u \in \Sigma^*$ and let $n \in N$ be a node such that $\text{Post}_{\mathcal{A}}(\iota, u) \models \Lambda(n)$. By the previous point, such a node must exist. But then $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(u) \models \text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$, thus $\text{Acc}_{\mathcal{A}}(\lambda(n))$ is satisfiable, and Algorithm 2 returns at line 9, upon encountering $\lambda(n)$. But this contradicts the assumption that Algorithm 2 returns **true**, hence we have proved that $\bigvee_{n \in N} \Lambda(n)$ is a safety invariant, and $L(\mathcal{A}) = \emptyset$ follows, by Lemma 2. We have then proved the second point of the statement.

To prove the first point, assume that $L(\mathcal{A}) \neq \emptyset$. By the previous point, Algorithm 2 does not return **true**. Suppose, by contradiction, that it does not terminate and conclude using the breadth-first argument from the proof of Theorem 1. \square