

SymInfer: Inferring Program Invariants using Symbolic States

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ASE 2017

Introduction

Program invariants are asserted properties, such as relations among variables that always hold at certain locations in a program

- Pre/Post conditions, loop invariants, assertions

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Numerical invariants, e.g., relations among numerical variables

- E.g., $x = 2y + 3$, $0 \leq idx \leq |arr| - 1$, $x \leq y^2$, $x = qy + r$
- *Nonlinear* polynomial invariants: $x \leq y^2$, $x = qy + r, \dots$

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Techniques for automatic invariant generation

- *Statically* examine program code, *dynamically* analyze concrete states (traces), or hybridization of dynamic inference and static checking
- **SymInfer**: hybridization using *symbolic states*
 - Symbolic states: obtained from symbolic execution, intermediate representation of states, consist of path conditions and local variables
 - Infer: use symbolic states to generate sample traces and infer invariants
 - Check: use symbolic states to check candidate invariants

Example: Numerical Invariants

```
int cohendiv(int x, int y){  
    assert(x>0 && y>0);  
    int q=0; int r=x;  
    while(r ≥ y){  
        int a=1;  
        int b=y;  
        while[L1](r ≥ 2*b){  
            a = 2*a;  
            b = 2*b;  
        }  
        r=r-b;  
        q=q+a;  
    }  
    [L2]  
    return q;  
}
```

What does this program do? What properties hold at L1 and L2?

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What does this program do? What properties hold at **L1** and **L2**?

SymInfer automatically generates

- loop invariants at **L1**:
$$\begin{aligned} x &= qy + r, & b &= ya, & y &\leq b, \\ b &\leq r, & r &\leq x, & a &\leq b, & 2 \leq a + y \end{aligned}$$
- postconditions at **L2**:
$$\begin{aligned} x &= qy + r, & 1 &\leq q + r, \\ r &\leq y - 1, & 0 &\leq r, & r &\leq x \end{aligned}$$

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- postconditions at **L2**:
$$\begin{aligned} x &= qy + r, & 1 &\leq q + r, \\ r &\leq y - 1, & 0 &\leq r, & r &\leq x \end{aligned}$$
- Invariants describe program's semantic, e.g., $x = qy + r$ for integer division and reveal useful information, e.g., remainder r is non-negative

Symbolic States

```
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        int b=y;  
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Run *symbolic execution* to obtain

- Path conditions over input variables
- Relationships among local variables

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Run *symbolic execution* to obtain

- Path conditions over input variables
- Relationships among local variables
- At L1:

Pathconds

$x \geq y \wedge y > 0$

$x \geq 2y \wedge y > 0$

$4y > x \geq 2y + y \wedge y > 0$

\vdots

Locals

$q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = y$

$q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 2 \wedge b = 2y$

$q = 2 \wedge r = x - 2y \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = y$

\vdots

Symbolic States

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Run *symbolic execution* to obtain

- Path conditions over input variables
- Relationships among local variables
- At L1:

Pathconds	Locals
$x \geq y \wedge y > 0$	$q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = y$
$x \geq 2y \wedge y > 0$	$q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 2 \wedge b = 2y$
$4y > x \geq 2y + y \wedge y > 0$	$q = 2 \wedge r = x - 2y \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = y$
\vdots	\vdots

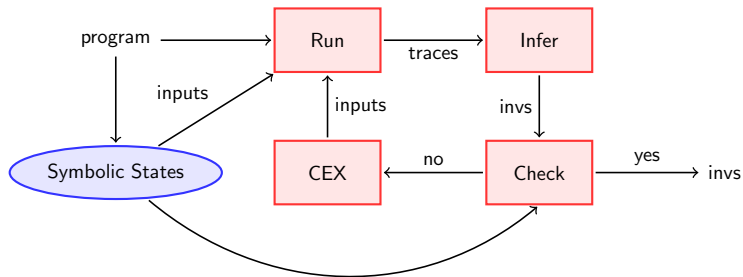
Symbolic states at L1

- Disjunctions of pathconds and locals

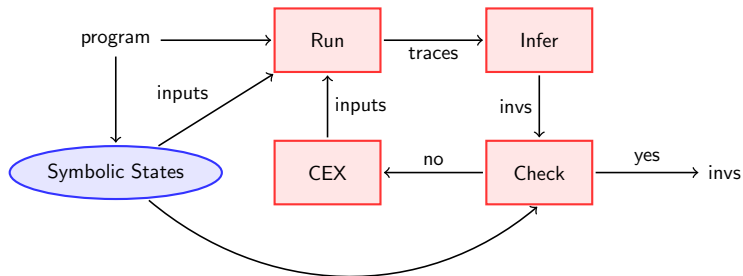
$$\begin{aligned} & (x \geq y \wedge y > 0 \wedge q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 1 \wedge b = y) \quad \vee \\ & (x \geq 2y \wedge y > 0 \wedge q = 0 \wedge r = x \wedge a = 2 \wedge b = 2y) \quad \vee \quad \dots \end{aligned}$$

- An intermediate representation of states

SymInfer: Invariants Inference using Symbolic States



SymInfer: Invariants Inference using Symbolic States



- Use symbolic states for both inference and checking
- An iterative approach
 - Inferring: use symbolic states to generate traces, then apply **DIG's algorithms** to infer numerical invariants from traces
 - Checking: use symbolic states to check candidate invariants and generate counterexample traces

Example: Dynamic Inference using DIG

```
int cohendiv(int x, int y){
    assert(x>0 ; y>0);
    int q=0; int r=x;
    while(r >= y){
        int a=1; int b=y;
        while[L1](r >= 2*b){
            a = 2*a; b = 2*b;
        }
        r=r-b; q=q+a;
    }
    return q;
}
```

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    r=r-b; q=q+a;
  }
  return q;
}
```

Traces:					
x	y	a	b	q	r
15	2	1	2	0	15
15	2	2	4	0	15
15	2	1	2	4	7
⋮					
4	1	1	1	0	4
4	1	2	2	0	4
⋮					

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    }  
    return q;  
}
```

Loop invariants at **L1**:

equations : $x = qy + r$ $b = ya$

inequalities : $2 \leq a + y$ $a \leq b$ $y \leq b$
 $b \leq r$ $r \leq x$

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x	y	a	b	q	r
15	2	1	2	0	15
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15	2	1	2	4	7
⋮					
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⋮					

Infer Nonlinear Equations using Equation Solver

x	y	\parallel	a	b	q	r
15	2	\parallel	1	2	0	15
15	2	\parallel	2	4	0	15
15	2	\parallel	1	2	4	7
4	1	\parallel	1	1	0	4
4	1	\parallel	2	2	0	4

Infer Nonlinear Equations using Equation Solver

- Terms and degrees

$$V = \{r, y, a\}; \text{ deg} = 2$$

↓

$$T = \{1, r, y, a, ry, ra, ya, r^2, y^2, a^2\}$$

x	y	a	b	q	r
15	2	1	2	0	15
15	2	2	4	0	15
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- Nonlinear equation template

$$c_1 + c_2 r + c_3 y + c_4 a + c_5 ry + c_6 ra + c_7 ya + c_8 r^2 + c_9 y^2 + c_{10} a^2 = 0$$

x	y	a	b	q	r
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- System of *linear* equations

$$\text{trace 1} \rightarrow \{r = 15, y = 2, a = 1\}$$

$$\text{eq 1} \rightarrow c_1 + 15c_2 + 2c_3 + c_4 + 30c_5 + 15c_6 + 2c_7 + 225c_8 + 4c_9 + c_{10} = 0$$

⋮

x	y	a	b	q	r
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⋮

- Solve for coefficients c_i

$$V = \{x, y, a, b, q, r\}; \text{ deg} = 2 \quad \longrightarrow \quad x = qy + r, b = ya$$

Checking Using Symbolic States

General Idea

- **Goal:** prove/refute candidate invariants (I) using symbolic states (S)
- **Approach:** call SMT solver to check for validity of $S \Rightarrow I$
 - *valid*: invariant is valid and accepted
 - *invalid*: invariant is spurious and rejected, solver produces cex's to help inference

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Implementation: use JPF/SPF to obtain symbolic states

- Bounded by depth k : invariants only valid over symbolic states S computed with k
- If I is valid with S_k , then check again if I is also valid with S_{k+1} to gain confidence
- Can be *unsound* (will not attempt all possible depths), but in practice is *very effective* in refuting bad invariants and finding cex's

Evaluation

Setup

- SymInfer works with Java programs, implemented in SAGE/Python (with JPF/SPF and Z3 SMT solver),
- Test machine: 10-core 2.4GHZ CPU, 128GB Ram, Linux OS

Benchmark (3 objectives)

- ➊ Program Understanding: NLA testsuite, 27 programs with nonlinear invariants
- ➋ Complexity Analysis: 19 programs collected from static complexity analysis work
- ➌ Program Verification: HOLA benchmark, 46 programs with assertions, compare against PIE

Example: Program Understanding

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        int b=y;  
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Results: Program Understanding

Prog	Locs	Invs	Time (s)	Correct
cohendiv	2	10	21.05	✓
divbin	2	11	58.97	✓
manna	1	6	35.33	✓
hard	2	6	29.40	✓
sqrt1	1	5	20.03	✓
dijkstra	2	16	93.01	✓
freire1	1	-	-	-
freire2	1	-	-	-
cohencu	1	4	21.90	✓
egcd1	1	14	122.22	✓
egcd2	2	-	-	-
egcd3	3	-	-	-
prodbin	1	7	56.17	✓
prod4br	1	9	84.37	✓
knuth	1	-	-	-
fermat1	3	17	60.26	✓
fermat2	1	8	36.83	✓
lcm1	3	24	248.17	✓
lcm2	1	7	34.17	✓
geo1	1	8	158.27	✓
geo2	1	9	147.75	✓
geo3	1	-	-	-
ps2	1	3	18.39	✓
ps3	1	3	19.69	✓
ps4	1	3	19.92	✓
ps5	1	3	46.19	✓
ps6	1	3	41.19	✓

Experiment

- *NLA suite*: 27 programs
- Require nonlinear invariants
- Use documented invariants (loop invariants and postconds) as **ground truths**
- **Goal**: obtain invariants and compare to ground truths

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- Require nonlinear invariants
- Use documented invariants (loop invariants and postconds) as **ground truths**
- **Goal**: obtain invariants and compare to ground truths

Results: SymInfer found correct invariants in 21/27 (✓) programs

- Most results equivalent to or stronger than (imply) ground truths
- Several unexpected and undocumented invariants
- Some invariants reveal “how” program works in details

Example: Complexity Analysis

`void triple(int M, int N, int P){` Complexity of this program?

`assert (0 <= M);`

`assert (0 <= N);`

`assert (0 <= P);`

`int i = 0, j = 0, k = 0;`

`int t = 0;`

`while(i < N){`

`j = 0; t++;`

`while(j < M){`

`j++; k = i; t++;`

`while (k < P){`

`k++; t++;`

`}`

`i = k;`

`}`

`i++;`

`}`

`[L]`

`}`

- Use `t` to count loop iterations

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```

- Use `t` to count loop iterations
- At first glance: $t = O(MNP)$
- A more precise complexity bound:
 $t = O(N + NM + P)$

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- SymInfer found a very *unexpected* inv:

$$\begin{aligned} &P^2Mt + PM^2t - PMNt - M^2Nt - \\ &PMt^2 + MNt^2 + PMt - PNt - 2MNt + \\ &Pt^2 + Mt^2 + Nt^2 - t^3 - Nt + t^2 = 0 \end{aligned}$$

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- Solve for **t** yields the **most precise, unpublished** bound:

$t = 0$	when	$N = 0,$
$t = P + M + 1$	when	$N \leq P,$
$t = N - M(P - N)$	when	$N > P$
- Nonlinear invariants can represent *disjunctive properties* capturing different complexity bounds

Results: Complexity Analysis

Prog	Invs	Time (s)	
cav09_fig1a	1	12.41	✓
cav09_fig1d	1	12.44	✓
cav09_fig2d	3	58.40	✓
cav09_fig3a	3	8.75	✓
cav09_fig5b	6	49.44	✓
pldi09_ex6	6	57.00	✓
pldi09_fig2	6	60.60	✓✓
pldi09_fig4_1	3	56.24	✓
pldi09_fig4_2	5	28.32	✓
pldi09_fig4_3	3	59.19	✓
pldi09_fig4_4	-	-	-
pldi09_fig4_5	3	103.70	✓
popl09_fig2_1	2	50.86	✓✓
popl09_fig2_2	2	53.48	✓✓
popl09_fig3_4	4	58.62	✓
popl09_fig4_1	4	65.19	✓
popl09_fig4_2	2	51.24	✓✓
popl09_fig4_3	5	31.57	✓
popl09_fig4_4	3	36.89	✓

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- 19 progs from static complexity work
- Obtain postconds representing complexity
- **Goal:** compare against results from prev work

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cav09_fig3a	3	8.75	✓
cav09_fig5b	6	49.44	✓
pldi09_ex6	6	57.00	✓
pldi09_fig2	6	60.60	✓✓
pldi09_fig4_1	3	56.24	✓
pldi09_fig4_2	5	28.32	✓
pldi09_fig4_3	3	59.19	✓
pldi09_fig4_4	-	-	-
pldi09_fig4_5	3	103.70	✓
popl09_fig2_1	2	50.86	✓✓
popl09_fig2_2	2	53.48	✓✓
popl09_fig3_4	4	58.62	✓
popl09_fig4_1	4	65.19	✓
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- Obtain postconds representing complexity
- **Goal:** compare against results from prev work

Results: Obtain equivalent (14 ✓) or more precise bounds (4 ✓✓) in 18/19 progs

Example: Verification

```
void f(int u1, int u2) {
    assert(u1 > 0 && u2 > 0);
    int a = 1, b = 1, c = 2, d = 2;
    int x = 3, y = 3;
    int i1 = 0, i2 = 0;
    while (i1 < u1) {
        i1++;
        x = a + c; y = b + d;
        if ((x + y) % 2 == 0) {
            a++; d++;
        } else { a--;}
        i2 = 0;
        while (i2 < u2) {
            i2++; c--; b--;
        }
    }
    [L] //SymInfer found:
    //b + 1 = c, a + 1 = d,
    //a + b <= 2, 2 <= a
    assert(a + c == b + d);
}
```

```
void g(int n, int u1) {
    assert(u1 > 0);
    int x = 0;
    int m = 0;

    while (x < n) {
        if (u1) {
            m = x;
        }
        x = x + 1;
    }
    [L] //SymInfer found:
    //m^2 = nx - m - x, mn = x^2 - x
    //-m <= x, x <= m + 1, n <= x
    if (n > 0){
        assert(0 <= m && m < n);
    }
}
```

Experiment

- HOLA benchmark: 46 programs
- Various assertions (mostly postconds)
- **Goal:**
 - Obtain and compare invariants: if match or imply assertions, then assertions hold
 - Also compare with existing tool PIE

Results: Verification

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- **Goal:**
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Results: Found equiv or stronger invariants in 40/46 programs

- Time: median 9.3s, mean 5.4s
- Nonlinear invariants can prove many nontrivial and *unsupported* properties

documentation, code, benchmark programs
<https://bitbucket.org/nguyenthanhvuh/symtraces/>

Extra Slides

Inferring Octagonal Inequalities

- Basic CEGIR does not work well for inequalities (e.g., $t \leq 1000$)
 - E.g., real inv: $t \leq 1000$
 - Basic CEGIR: iter 1: $t \leq 2$, iter: 2 $t \leq 3$, iter 3: $t \leq 7$, ...
 - Not terminating if t has no bounds

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 - Otherwise use divide and conquer to find ub of t within range $[-k, k]$
 - ▶ Compute mid value $mv = (-k + k)/2$, check if $t \leq mv$
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- Support **octagonal** invariants: term t represent $x, y, x - y, x + y, -x - y, \dots$

Using Symbolic States for Invariant Inference

- Reusability: pre-compute and reuse symbolic states at L , e.g., for checking
- Expressiveness: a symbolic state (e.g., $x \geq 0, y \geq x$) represents many concrete states and also encodes relationships among variables (e.g., $y \geq x$)
- Diversity: each symbolic state represent a different program “path”, produce better traces
- Usability and Optimization: encoded logical formulas, checked with different solvers and optimized (e.g., perform slicing when checking)