# Forgetting in CTL Using an Resolution Approach

# Written by AAAI Press Staff<sup>1\*</sup> AAAI Style Contributions by Pater Patel Schneider, Sunil Issar, J. Scott Penberthy, George Ferguson, Hans Guesgen

<sup>1</sup>Association for the Advancement of Artificial Intelligence 2275 East Bayshore Road, Suite 160 Palo Alto, California 94303 publications20@aaai.org

#### **Abstract**

This paper present a resolution-based method for computing the forgetting in CTL which has been proposed in another paper for KR this year. The method is an extension of the resolution used to decide the satisfiability of CTL formula. An important feature inherited from the satisfiability of resolution-based method is guided by transforming a CTL formula into the normal form, i.e. the set of  $SNF_{\rm CTL}^g$  clauses. The  $SNF_{\rm CTL}^g$  language extend CTL with *index* for Existential quantifier. We are useing binary bisimulation relation to relate CTL and  $SNF_{\rm CTL}^g$ , this show that how transform the CTL formula into  $SNF_{\rm CTL}^g$  clauses and then return to CTL formula after finish the computing process. Besides, we extend the original resolution rules by adding EF imply rules.

#### Introduction

As a logical notion, forgetting was first formally defined in propostional and first order logics by Lin and Reiter (Lin and Reiter 1994). Over the last twenty years, researchers have developed forgetting notions and theories not only in classical logic but also in other non-classical logic systems (Eiter and Kern-Isberner 2019), such as forgetting in logic programs under answer set/stable model semantics (Zhang and Foo 2006; Eiter and Wang 2008; Wong 2009; Wang et al. 2012; Wang, Wang, and Zhang 2013), forgetting in description logic (Wang et al. 2010; Lutz and Wolter 2011: Zhao and Schmidt 2017) and knowledge forgetting in modal logic (Zhang and Zhou 2009; Su et al. 2009; Liu and Wen 2011; Fang, Liu, and Van Ditmarsch 2019). In application, forgetting has been used in planning (Lin 2003), conflict solving (Lang and Marquis 2010; Zhang, Foo, and Wang 2005), createing restricted views of ontologies (Zhao and Schmidt 2017), strongest and weakest definitions (Lang and Marquis 2008), SNC (WSC) (Lin 2001) and so on.

Though forgetting has been extensively investigated from various aspects of different logical systems. However, the existing forgetting method in propositional logic, answer set

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programming, description logic and modal logic are not directly applicable in CTL. Similar with that in (Zhang and Zhou 2009), we research forgetting in CTL from the semantic forgetting point of view. And it is shown that our definition of forgetting satisfies those four postulates of forgetting.

# **Preliminaries**

We start with some technical and notational preliminaries. Throughout this paper, we fix a finite set  $\mathcal{A}$  of propositional variables (or atoms), and use V, V' for subsets of  $\mathcal{A}$ . In the following several parts, we will introduce the structure we use for CTL, syntactic and semantic of CTL and the normal form  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  (Separated Normal Form with Global Clauses for CTL) of CTL (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2009).

#### **Model structure in CTL**

In general, a transition system  $^1$  is described as a *model* structure (or Kripke structure)(in this article, we treat transition system and model structure as the same thing), and a model structure is a triple  $\mathcal{M}=(S,R,L)$  (Emerson 1990), where

- S is a set of states,
- $R \subseteq S \times S$  is a total binary relation over S, *i.e.*, for each state  $s \in S$  there is a state  $s' \in S$  such that  $(s, s') \in R$ , and
- L is an interpretation function S → 2<sup>A</sup> mapping every state to the set of atoms true at that state.

In this article, the same as (Browne, Clarke, and Grumberg 1988), all of our results apply only to finite Kripke structures. Besides, we restrict ourselves to model structure  $\mathcal{M}=(S,R,L,s_0)$  (similar with that in (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2009)) such that

• there exists a state  $s_0$ , called the *initial state*, such that for every state  $s \in S$  there is a path  $\pi_{s_0}$  s.t.  $s \in \pi_{s_0}$ .

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>According to (Baier and Katoen 2008), a *transition system* TS is a tuple  $(S, Act, \rightarrow, I, AP, L)$  where (1) S is a set of states, (2) Act is a set of actions, (3)  $\rightarrow \subseteq S \times Act \times S$  is a transition relation, (4)  $I \subseteq S$  is a set of initial states, (5) AP is a set of atomic propositions, and (6)  $L: S \rightarrow 2^{AP}$  is a labeling function.

We call a model structure  $\mathcal{M}$  on a set V of atoms if  $L: S \to 2^V$ , *i.e.*, the labeling function L map every state to V (not the  $\mathcal{A}$ ). A path  $\pi_{s_i}$  start from  $s_i$  of  $\mathcal{M}$  is a infinite sequence of states  $\pi_{s_i} = (s_i, s_{i+1}s_{i+2}, \dots)$ , where for each j ( $i \leq j$ ),  $(s_j, s_{j+1}) \in R$ . By  $s' \in \pi_{s_i}$  we mean that s' is a state in the path  $\pi_{s_i}$ .

For a given model structure  $(S, R, L, s_0)$  and  $s \in S$ , the computation tree  $\operatorname{Tr}_n^{\mathcal{M}}(s)$  of  $\mathcal{M}(\text{or simply }\operatorname{Tr}_n(s))$ , that has depth n and is rooted at s, is recursively defined as (Browne, Clarke, and Grumberg 1988), for  $n \geq 0$ ,

- $Tr_0(s)$  consists of a single node s with label s.
- $\operatorname{Tr}_{n+1}(s)$  has as its root a node m with label s, and if  $(s, s') \in R$  then the node m has a subtree  $\operatorname{Tr}_n(s')^2$ .

By  $s_n$  we mean the node at the nth level in tree  ${\rm Tr}_m(s)$   $(m \ge n)$ .

A K-structure (or K-interpretation) is a model structure  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, s_0)$  associating with a state  $s \in S$ , which is written as  $(\mathcal{M}, s)$  for convenience in the following. In the case s is an initial state of  $\mathcal{M}$ , the K-structure is *initial*.

#### Syntactic and semantic of CTL

In the following we briefly review the basic syntax and semantics of the *Computation Tree Logic* (CTL in short) (Clarke, Emerson, and Sistla 1986). The *signature* of  $\mathcal{L}$  includes:

- a finite set of Boolean variables, called *atoms* of  $\mathcal{L}$ :  $\mathcal{A}$ ;
- the classical connectives:  $\bot$ ,  $\lor$  and  $\neg$ ;
- the path quantifiers: A and E;
- the temporal operators: X, F, G U and W, that means 'neXt state', 'some Future state', 'all future states (Globally)', 'Until' and 'Unless', respectively;
- parentheses: ( and ).

The (existential normal form or ENF in short) formulas of  $\mathcal{L}$  are inductively defined via a Backus Naur form:

$$\phi ::= \bot \mid p \mid \neg \phi \mid \phi \lor \phi \mid \mathsf{EX}\phi \mid \mathsf{EG}\phi \mid \mathsf{E}[\phi \cup \phi] \tag{1}$$

where  $p \in \mathcal{A}$ . The formulas  $\phi \wedge \psi$  and  $\phi \to \psi$  are defined in a standard manner of propositional logic. The other form formulas of  $\mathcal{L}$  are abbreviated using the forms of (1). Notice that, according to the above definition for formulas of CTL, each of the CTL temporal connectives has the form XY where  $X \in \{A, E\}$  and  $Y \in \{X, F, G, U, W\}$ . The priorities for the CTL connectives are assumed to be (from the highest to the lowest):

$$\neg, EX, EF, EG, AX, AF, AG \prec \land \prec \lor \prec EU, AU, EW, AW, \rightarrow.$$

We are now in the position to define the semantics of  $\mathcal{L}$ . Let  $\mathcal{M}=(S,R,L,s_0)$  be an model structure,  $s\in S$  and  $\phi$  a formula of  $\mathcal{L}$ . The *satisfiability* relationship between  $\mathcal{M},s$  and  $\phi$ , written  $(\mathcal{M},s)\models\phi$ , is inductively defined on the structure of  $\phi$  as follows:

•  $(\mathcal{M}, s) \not\models \bot$ ;

- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models p \text{ iff } p \in L(s);$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models \phi_1 \lor \phi_2 \text{ iff } (\mathcal{M}, s) \models \phi_1 \text{ or } (\mathcal{M}, s) \models \phi_2;$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models \neg \phi \text{ iff } (\mathcal{M}, s) \not\models \phi;$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models \text{EX}\phi \text{ iff } (\mathcal{M}, s_1) \models \phi \text{ for some } s_1 \in S \text{ and } (s, s_1) \in R;$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models EG\phi$  iff  $\mathcal{M}$  has a path  $(s_1 = s, s_2, ...)$  such that  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \phi$  for each  $i \geq 1$ ;
- $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models E[\phi_1 U \phi_2]$  iff  $\mathcal{M}$  has a path  $(s_1 = s, s_2, ...)$  such that, for some  $i \geq 1$ ,  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \phi_2$  and  $(\mathcal{M}, s_j) \models \phi_1$  for each j < i.

Similar to the work in (Browne, Clarke, and Grumberg 1988; Bolotov 1999), only initial K-structures are considered to be candidate models in the following, unless explicitly stated. Formally, an initial K-structure  $\mathcal K$  is a model of a formula  $\phi$  whenever  $\mathcal K \models \phi$ . Let  $\Pi$  be a set of formulae,  $\mathcal K \models \Pi$  if for each  $\phi \in \Pi$  there is  $\mathcal K \models \phi$ . We denote  $Mod(\phi)$  ( $Mod(\Pi)$ ) the set of models of  $\phi$  ( $\Pi$ ). The formula  $\phi$  (set  $\Pi$  of formulae) is satisfiable if  $Mod(\phi) \neq \emptyset$  ( $Mod(\Pi) \neq \emptyset$ ). Since both the underlying states in model structure and signatures are finite,  $Mod(\phi)$  ( $Mod(\Pi)$ ) is finite for any formula  $\phi$  (set  $\Pi$  of formulae).

Let  $\phi_1$  and  $\phi_2$  be two formulas or set of formulas. By  $\phi_1 \models \phi_2$  we denote  $Mod(\phi_1) \subseteq Mod(\phi_2)$ . By  $\phi_1 \equiv \phi_2$  we mean  $\phi_1 \models \phi_2$  and  $\phi_2 \models \phi_1$ . In this case  $\phi_1$  is *equivalent* to  $\phi_2$ .

Let  $\phi$  be a formula or set of formulas. By  $Var(\phi)$  we mean the set of atoms occurring in  $\phi$ . Let  $V \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ . The formula  $\phi$  is V-irrelevant, written  $IR(\phi, V)$ , if there is a formula  $\psi$  with  $Var(\psi) \cap V = \emptyset$  such that  $\phi \equiv \psi$ .

#### The normal form of CTL

It has proved that any CTL formula  $\varphi$  can be transformed into a set  $T_{\varphi}$  of  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  (Separated Normal Form with Global Clauses for CTL) clauses in polynomial time such that  $\varphi$  is satisfiable iff  $T_{\varphi}$  is satisfiable (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2008). An important difference between CTL formulae and  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  is that  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  is an extension of the syntax of CTL to use indices. These indices can be used to preserve a particular path context. The language of  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  clauses is defined over an extension of CTL. That is the language is based on: (1) the language of CTL; (2) a propositional constant **start**; (3) a countably infinite index set Ind; and (4) temporal operators:  $\mathrm{E}\langle ind \rangle \mathrm{X}, \, \mathrm{E}\langle ind \rangle \mathrm{F}, \, \mathrm{E}\langle ind \rangle \mathrm{G}, \, \mathrm{E}\langle ind \rangle \, \mathrm{U}$  and  $\mathrm{E}\langle ind \rangle \, \mathrm{W}$ .

The priorities for the  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  connectives are assumed to be (from the highest to the lowest):

$$\neg, (EX, E_{\langle ind \rangle}X), (EF, E_{\langle ind \rangle}F), (EG, E_{\langle ind \rangle}G), AX, AF, AG \\ \prec \land \prec \lor \prec (EU, E_{\langle ind \rangle}U), AU, (EW, , E_{\langle ind \rangle}W), AW, \rightarrow.$$

Where the operators in the same brackets have the same priority.

Before talked about the sematic of this language, we introduce the  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses at first. The  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses con-

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Though some nodes of the tree may have the same label, they are different nodes in the tree.

sists of formulae of the following forms.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \operatorname{AG}(\operatorname{\mathbf{start}} \supset \bigvee_{j=1}^k m_j) & (initial\ clause) \\ & \operatorname{AG}(true \supset \bigvee_{j=1}^k m_j) & (global\ clause) \\ & \operatorname{AG}(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n l_i \supset \operatorname{AX} \bigvee_{j=1}^k m_j) & (\operatorname{A}-\operatorname{step\ clause}) \\ & \operatorname{AG}(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n l_i \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X} \bigvee_{j=1}^k m_j) & (\operatorname{E}-\operatorname{step\ clause}) \\ & \operatorname{AG}(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n l_i \supset \operatorname{AF}l) & (\operatorname{A}-\operatorname{sometime\ clause}) \\ & \operatorname{AG}(\bigwedge_{i=1}^n l_i \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{F}l) & (\operatorname{E}-\operatorname{sometime\ clause}). \end{array}$$

where  $k \geq 0$ , n > 0, start is a propositional constant,  $l_i$  $(1 \le i \le n)$ ,  $m_i$   $(1 \le j \le k)$  and l are literals, that is atomic propositions or their negation and ind is an element of Ind (Ind is a countably infinite index set). By clause we mean the classical clause or the  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clause unless explicitly stated.

Formulae of  $\mathrm{SNF}^g_{\mathrm{CTL}}$  over  $\mathcal A$  are interpreted in Ind-model structure  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [-], s_0)$ , where S, R, L and  $s_0$  is the same as our model structure talked in 2.1 and [ $\_$ ]: Ind  $\rightarrow$  $2^{(S*S)}$  maps every index  $ind \in Ind$  to a successor function [ind] which is a functional relation on S and a subset of the binary accessibility relation R, such that for every  $s \in S$ there exists exactly a state  $s' \in S$  such that  $(s, s') \in [ind]$ and  $(s,s') \in R$ . An infinite path  $\pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$  is an infinite sequence of states  $s_i, s_{i+1}, s_{i+2}, \ldots$  such that for every  $j \geq i$ ,  $(s_j, s_{j+1}) \in [ind].$ 

Similarly, an *Ind-structure* (or *Ind-interpretation*) is a Indmodel structure  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [-], s_0)$  associating with a state  $s \in S$ , which is written as  $(\mathcal{M}, s)$  for convenience in the following. In the case s is an initial state of  $\mathcal{M}$ , the Indstructure is initial.

The semantics of  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  is an extension of the semantics of CTL defined in Section 2.2 except using the Ind-model structure  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [-], s_0)$  replace model structure,  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \mathbf{start} \text{ iff } s_i = s_0 \text{ and for all } \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \Gamma \text{ are explained}$ in the path  $\pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$ , where  $\Gamma \in \{{\rm X,G,U,W}\}$ . The semantics of SNF $_{\rm CTL}^g$  is then defined as shown next as an extension of the semantics of CTL defined in Section 2.2. Let  $\varphi$  and  $\psi$  be two  $\mathrm{SNF}^g_\mathrm{CTL}$  formulae and  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [\_], s_0)$  be an Indmodel structure, the relation " $\models$ " between  $\mathrm{SNF}^g_\mathrm{CTL}$  formulae and  $\mathcal{M}$  is defined recursively as follows:

- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \mathbf{start} \text{ iff } s_i = s_0;$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models E_{\langle ind \rangle} X \psi$  iff for the path  $\pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$ ,  $(\mathcal{M}, s_{i+1}) \models$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \mathbf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathbf{G} \psi$  iff for every  $s_j \in \pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$ ,  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \psi;$

- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \mathbb{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}[\varphi \cup \psi]$  iff there exists  $s_j \in \pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$  such that  $(\mathcal{M}, s_j) \models \psi$  and for every  $s_k \in \pi_{s_i}^{\langle ind \rangle}$ , if  $i \leq k < j$ , then  $(\mathcal{M}, s_k) \models \varphi$ ;
- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models E_{\langle ind \rangle} F \psi \text{ iff } (\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models E_{\langle ind \rangle} [\top U \psi];$
- $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models E_{\langle ind \rangle}[\varphi W \psi]$  iff  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models E_{\langle ind \rangle} G \varphi$  or  $(\mathcal{M}, s_i) \models \mathbf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} [\varphi \mathbf{U} \psi].$

The semantics of the remaining operators is analogous to that given previously but in the extended Ind-model structure  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [.], s_0)$ . A SNF<sub>CTL</sub> formula  $\varphi$ is satisfiable, iff for some Ind-model structure  $\mathcal{M}=$  $(S, R, L, [\_], s_0), (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \models \varphi$ , and unsatisfiable otherwise. And if  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \models \varphi$  then  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$  is called a Ind-model of  $\varphi$ , and we say that  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$  satisfies  $\varphi$ . By  $T \wedge \varphi$  we mean  $\bigwedge_{\psi \in T} \psi \wedge \varphi$ , where T is a set of formulae. Other terminologies are similar with those in section 2.2.

### **Problem Definition**

In order to define our problem, i.e. forgetting in CTL, we review our definition of V-bisimulation (read ?? for more

**Definition 1** Let  $V \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  and  $\mathcal{K}_i = (\mathcal{M}_i, s_i)$  (i = 1, 2)be K-structures (Ind-structures). Then  $(\mathcal{K}_1, \mathcal{K}_2) \in \mathcal{B}$  if and

- (i)  $L_1(s_1) V = L_2(s_2) V$ ,
- (ii) for every  $(s_1, s_1') \in R_1$ , there is  $(s_2, s_2') \in R_2$  such that  $(\mathcal{K}_1', \mathcal{K}_2') \in \mathcal{B}$ , and
- (iii) for every  $(s_2, s_2') \in R_2$ , there is  $(s_1, s_1') \in R_1$ where  $\mathcal{K}'_i = (\mathcal{M}_i, s'_i)$  with  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ .

**Proposition 1** Let  $i \in \{1, 2\}$ ,  $V_1, V_2 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ ,  $s_i's$  be two states and  $\pi_i's$  be two pathes, and  $\mathcal{K}_i = (\mathcal{M}_i, s_i)$  (i = 1, 2, 3)be K-structures (Ind-structures) such that  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_1} \mathcal{K}_2$  and  $\mathcal{K}_2 \leftrightarrow_{V_2} \mathcal{K}_3$ . Then:

- (i)  $s_1' \leftrightarrow_{V_i} s_2'$  (i=1,2) implies  $s_1' \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} s_2'$ ; (ii)  $\pi_1' \leftrightarrow_{V_i} \pi_2'$  (i=1,2) implies  $\pi_1' \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} \pi_2'$ ;
- (iii) for each path  $\pi_{s_1}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_1$  there is a path  $\pi_{s_2}$  of  $\mathcal{M}_2$ such that  $\pi_{s_1} \leftrightarrow_{V_1} \pi_{s_2}$ , and vice versa;
- (iv)  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} \mathcal{K}_3$ ;
- (v) If  $V_1 \subseteq V_2$  then  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_2} \mathcal{K}_2$ .

Now we give the formal definition of forgetting in CTL from the semantic forgetting point view.

**Definition 2 (Forgetting)** *Let*  $V \subseteq A$  *and*  $\phi$  *a CTL formu*la. A CTL formula  $\psi$  with  $Var(\psi) \cap V = \emptyset$  is a result of forgetting V from  $\phi$ , if

$$Mod(\psi) = \{ \mathcal{K} \text{ is initial } | \exists \mathcal{K}' \in Mod(\phi) \& \mathcal{K}' \leftrightarrow_V \mathcal{K} \}.$$
 (2)

Where K and K' are K-structures.

Note that if both  $\psi$  and  $\psi'$  are results of forgetting V from  $\phi$  then  $\mathit{Mod}(\psi) = \mathit{Mod}(\psi'),$  i.e. ,  $\psi$  and  $\psi'$  have the same models. In the sense of equivalence the forgetting result is unique (up to equivalence).

Similar with the V-bisimulation between K-structures, we define the  $\langle V, I \rangle$ -bisimulation between Ind-structures as follows:

**Definition 3** ( $\langle V, I \rangle$ -bisimulation) Let  $\mathcal{M}_i = (S_i, R_i, L_i, [\_]_i, s_0^i)$  with  $i \in \{1, 2\}$  be two Indstructures, V be a set of atoms and  $I \subseteq Ind$ . The  $\langle V, I \rangle$ -bisimulation  $\beta_{\langle V, I \rangle}$  between initial Ind-structures is a set that satisfy  $((\mathcal{M}_1, s_0^1), (\mathcal{M}_2, s_0^2)) \in \beta_{\langle V, I \rangle}$  if and only if  $(\mathcal{M}_1, s_0^1) \leftrightarrow_V (\mathcal{M}_2, s_0^2)$  and  $\forall j \notin I$  there is

- (i)  $\forall (s, s_1) \in [j]_1$  there is  $(s', s_1') \in [j]_2$  such that  $s \leftrightarrow_V s'$  and  $s_1 \leftrightarrow_V s_1'$ , and
- (ii)  $\forall (s', s_1') \in [j]_2$  there is  $(s, s_1) \in [j]_1$  such that  $s \leftrightarrow_V s'$  and  $s_1 \leftrightarrow_V s_1'$ .

Apparently, this definition is similar with our concept V-bisimulation except that this  $\langle V,I\rangle$ -bisimulation has introduced the index.

**Proposition 2** Let  $i \in \{1,2\}$ ,  $V_1, V_2 \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ ,  $I_1, I_2 \subseteq Ind$  and  $\mathcal{K}_i = (\mathcal{M}_i, s_0^i)$  (i = 1, 2, 3) be Ind-structures such that  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{\langle V_1, I_1 \rangle} \mathcal{K}_2$  and  $\mathcal{K}_2 \leftrightarrow_{\langle V_2, I_2 \rangle} \mathcal{K}_3$ . Then:

- (i)  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{\langle V_1 \cup V_2, I_1 \cup I_2 \rangle} \mathcal{K}_3$ ;
- (ii) If  $V_1 \subseteq V_2$  and  $I_1 \subseteq I_2$  then  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{\langle V_2, I_2 \rangle} \mathcal{K}_2$ .

**Proof:** (i) By Proposition 1 we have  $\mathcal{K}_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} \mathcal{K}_3$ . For (i) of Definition 3 we can prove it as follows:  $\forall (s,s_1) \in [j]_1$  there is a  $(s',s_1') \in [j]_2$  such that  $s \leftrightarrow_{V_1} s'$  and  $s_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_1} s'_1$  and there is a  $(s'',s_1'') \in [j]_3$  such that  $s' \leftrightarrow_{V_2} s''$  and  $s_1' \leftrightarrow_{V_2} s''_1$ , and then we have  $\forall (s,s_1) \in [j]_1$  there is a  $(s'',s_1'') \in [j]_3$  such that  $s \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} s''$  and  $s_1 \leftrightarrow_{V_1 \cup V_2} s''_1$ . The (ii) of Definition 3 can be proved similarly.

(ii) This can be proved from (i).

#### The Calculus

Resolution in CTL is a method to decide the satisfiability of a CTL formula. In this part, we will explore a resolution-based method to compute forgetting in CTL. We use the transformation rules Trans(1) to Trans(12) and resolution rules (SRES1), ..., (SRES8), RW1, RW2, (ERES1), (ERES2) in (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2009).

The key problems of this method include (1) How to fill the gap between CTL and  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  since there is index for existential quantifier in  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$ ; and (2) How to eliminate the irrelevant atoms, which we want to forget, in the formula. We will resolve these two problems by  $\langle V,I \rangle$ -bisimulation and *eliminate* operator respectively. For convenient, we use  $V \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  denote the set we want to forget,  $V' \subseteq \mathcal{A}$  with  $V \cap V' = \emptyset$  the set of atoms introduced in the transformation process below,  $\varphi$  the CTL formula,  $T_{\varphi}$  be the set of  $\mathrm{SNF}_{\mathrm{CTL}}^g$  clause obtained from  $\varphi$  by using transformation rules and  $\mathcal{M} = (S, R, L, [\_], s_0)$  unless explicitly stated. Let T, T' be two sets of formulae, I a set of indexes and  $V'' \subseteq \mathcal{A}$ , by  $T \equiv_{\langle V'',I \rangle} T'$  we mean that  $\forall (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \in \mathit{Mod}(T)$  there is a  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0')$  such that  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \leftrightarrow_{\langle V'',I \rangle} (\mathcal{M}', s_0')$  and  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0') \models T'$  and vice versa.

The algorithm of computing the forgetting in CTL is as Algorithm 1. The main idea of this algorithm is to change the CTL formula into a set of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses at first (the Transform process), and then compute all the possible resolutions on the specified set of atoms (the Resolution process). Third, eliminating all the irrelevant atoms which dose

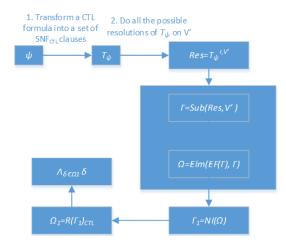


Figure 1: The block diagram of the algorithm

not be eliminated by the resolution. We will describe this process, which include *Instantiate*, *Connect* and *Removing\_atoms* sub-processes, in detail below. Changing the result obtained before into a CTL formula at last, this will include three sub-processes:  $Removing\_index$  (removing the index in the formula),  $Replacing\_atoms$  (replacing the atoms in V' with an formula) and  $T_{\text{CTL}}$  (removing the **start** in the formula). To describe our algorithm clearly, we illustrate it with the following example.

**Example 1** Let  $\varphi = A((p \wedge q) \cup (f \vee m)) \wedge r$  and  $V = \{p\}$ . In the following context we will show how to compute the  $F_{\text{CTL}}(\varphi, V)$  step by step using our algorithm.

```
Input: A CTL formula \varphi and a set V of atoms Output: ERes(\varphi, V)

1 T_{\varphi} = \emptyset // the initial set of SNF_{CTL}^g clauses of \varphi;

2 V' = \emptyset // the set of atoms introduced in the process of transforming \varphi into SNF_{CTL}^g clauses;

3 T_{\varphi}, V' \leftarrow Transform(\varphi, V) // Tran;

4 Res \leftarrow Resolution(T_{\varphi}, V') //Res;

5 Inst_{V'} \leftarrow Instantiate(Res, V') //Sub;

6 Com_{EF} \leftarrow Connect(Inst_{V'}) // EF;

7 RemA \leftarrow Removing\_atoms(Com_{EF}, Inst_{V'}) // Elm;

8 NI \leftarrow Removing\_index(RemA) // NI;

9 Rp \leftarrow Replacing\_atoms(NI) // R;

10 return \bigwedge_{\psi \in Rp_{CTL}} \psi.
```

**Algorithm 1:** Computing forgetting - A resolution-based method

#### The Transform process

The Transform process, denoted as  $Transform(\varphi)$ , is to transform the CTL formula into a set of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses by using the rules Trans(1) to Trans(12) in (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2009)).

The transformation of an arbitrary CTL formula  $\varphi$  into the set  $T_{\varphi}$  is a sequence  $T_0, T_1, \ldots, T_n = T_{\varphi}$  of sets of formulae with  $T_0 = \{ \operatorname{AG}(\operatorname{\mathbf{start}} \supset p), \operatorname{AG}(p \supset \operatorname{\mathbf{simp}}(\operatorname{\mathbf{nnf}}(\varphi))) \}$  such

that for every i  $(0 \le i < n)$ ,  $T_{i+1} = (T_i \setminus \{\psi\}) \cup R_i$  (Zhang, Hustadt, and Dixon 2009)), where p is a new atom not appearing in  $\varphi$ ,  $\psi$  is a formula in  $T_i$  not in  $SNF^g_{CTL}$  clause and  $R_i$  is the result set of applying a matching transformation rule to  $\psi$ . Note that throughout the transformation formulae are kept in negation normal form.

**Proposition 3** Let  $\varphi$  be a CTL formula, then  $\varphi \equiv_{\langle V',I \rangle} T_{\varphi}$ .

**Proof:** (sketch) This can be proved from  $T_i$  to  $T_{i+1}$  ( $0 \le i < n$ ) by using one transformation rule on  $T_i$ .

This means that  $\varphi$  has the same models with  $T_{\varphi}$  excepting that the atoms in V' and the relations [i] with  $i \in I$ .

```
Input: A CTL formula \varphi
   Output: A set T of SNF_{CTL}^g clauses and a set V' of
1 T = \emptyset // the initial set of SNF<sup>g</sup><sub>CTL</sub> clauses of \varphi;
2 OldT = \{ \mathbf{start} \supset z, z \supset \varphi \};
V' = \{z\};
4 while OldT \neq T do
       OldT = T;
       R = \emptyset;
6
       X = \emptyset;
7
       if Chose a formula \psi \in OldT that dose not a
8
       SNF_{CTL}^g clause then
            Using a match rule Rl to transform \psi into a set
            R of SNF_{CTL}^g clauses;
            X is the set of atoms introduced by using Rl;
            V' = V' \cup X;
            T = OldT \setminus \{\psi\} \cup R;
       end
14 end
```

**Algorithm 2:**  $Transform(\varphi)$ 

**Example 2** By the *Transform* process, the result  $T_{\varphi}$  of the Example 1 can be listed as follows:

```
\begin{array}{lll} \textbf{1.start} \supset z & 2. \top \supset \neg z \lor r & 3. \top \supset \neg x \lor f \lor m \\ 4. \top \supset \neg z \lor x \lor y & 5. \top \supset \neg y \lor p & 6. \top \supset \neg y \lor q \\ 7. z \supset \mathsf{AF}x & 8. y \supset \mathsf{AX}(x \lor y). \end{array}
```

Besides, the set of new atoms introduced in this process is  $V' = \{x, y, x\}.$ 

#### The Resolution process

The Resolution process is to compute all the possible resolutions of  $T_{\varphi}$  on  $V \cup V'$ , denoted as  $Resolution(T_{\varphi}, V \cup V')$ . A derivation on a set  $V \cup V'$  of atoms and  $T_{\varphi}$  is a sequence  $T_0, T_1, T_2, \ldots, T_n = Res$  of sets of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses such that  $T_0 = T_{\varphi}$  and  $T_{i+1} = T_i \cup R_i$  where  $R_i$  is a set of clauses obtained as the conclusion of the application of a resolution rule to premises in  $T_i$ . Note that all the  $T_i$   $(0 \le i \le n)$  are set of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses. Besides, if there is a  $T_i$  containing start  $\supset \bot$  or  $\top \supset \bot$ , then we have  $F_{CTL}(\varphi, V) = \bot$ . Given two clauses C and C', we call C and C' are resolvable, the

result denote as res(C, C'), if there is a resolution rule using C and C' as the premises on some given atom. And the pseudocode of algorithm *Resolution* is as Algorithm 3.

**Proposition 4** Let  $\varphi$  be a CTL formula, then  $T_{\varphi} \equiv_{\langle V \cup V', \emptyset \rangle} T_{\varphi}^{r,V \cup V'}$ .

**Proof:**(sketch) This can be proved from  $T_i$  to  $T_{i+1}$  ( $0 \le i < n$ ) by using one resolution rule on  $T_i$ .

Proposition 3 and Proposition 4 mean that  $\varphi \equiv_{\langle V \cup V', I \rangle} Res$ , this resolve part of the problem (1).

```
Input: A set T of SNF_{CTL}^g clauses and a set V' of atoms Output: A set Res of SNF_{CTL}^g clauses
1 S = \{C | C \in T \text{ and } Var(C) \cap V = \emptyset\};
2 \Pi = T \setminus S;
3 for (p \in V \cup V') do
         \Pi' = \{ C \in \Pi | p \in Var(C) \} ;
          \Sigma = \Pi \setminus \Pi';
         for (C \in \Pi' \text{ s.t. } p \text{ appearing in } C \text{ positively}) do
               for (C' \in \Pi' \text{ s.t. } p \text{ appearing in } C' \text{ negatively }
               and C, C' are resolvable) do
                     \Sigma = \Sigma \cup \{res(C, C')\};
                     \Pi' = \Pi' \cup \{C'' = res(C, C') | p \in \mathcal{C}
                     Var(C'');
               end
          end
         \Pi = \Sigma;
13 end
4 Res = \Pi \cup S;
```

**Algorithm 3:** Resolution(T, V')

**Example 3** The resolution of  $T_{\varphi}$  obtained from Example 2 on  $V \cup V'$  is as follows:

```
(1)start \supset r
                                      (1, 2, SRES5)
(2)start \supset x \vee y
                                      (1,4,SRES5)
(3)\top\supset\neg z\vee y\vee f\vee m
                                      (3,4,SRES8)
(4)y \supset AX(f \lor m \lor y)
                                      (3, 8, SRES6)
(5)\top \supset \neg z \lor x \lor p
                                      (4,5,SRES8)
(6)\top \supset \neg z \lor x \lor q
                                      (4,6,SRES8)
(7)y \supset AX(x \lor p)
                                      (5,7,SRES6)
(8)y \supset AX(x \lor q)
                                      (5, 8, SRES6)
(9)start \supset f \lor m \lor y
                                      (3,(2), SRES5)
(10)start \supset x \lor p
                                      (5,(2), SRES5)
(11)start \supset x \lor q
                                      (6,(2),SRES5)
(12) \top \supset p \vee \neg z \vee f \vee m
                                      (5, (3), SRES8)
(13) \top \supset q \vee \neg z \vee f \vee m
                                      (6, (3), SRES8)
(14)y \supset AX(p \lor f \lor m)
                                      (5, (4), SRES6)
(15)y \supset AX(q \lor f \lor m)
                                      (6, (4), SRES6)
(16)start \supset f \lor m \lor p
                                      (5, (9), SRES5)
(17)start \supset f \lor m \lor q
                                      (6, (9), SRES5)
```

# The Elimination process

For resolving problem (2), we should pay attention to the following properties that obtained from the transformation and resolution rules at first:

- (GNA) for all atom p in  $Var(\varphi)$ , p do not positively appear in the left hand of the SNF $_{CTL}^g$  clause;
- (PI) for each atom  $p \in V'$ , if p appearing in the left hand of a SNF $_{\text{CTL}}^g$  clause, then p appear positively.

This *Elimination* process include three sub-processes: *Instantiate*, *Connect* and *Removing\_atoms*. We will described those sub-processes carefully now.

**The Instantiation process** An *instantiate formula*  $\psi$  of set V'' of atoms is a formula such that  $Var(\psi) \cap V'' = \emptyset$ . Given a formula of the form  $p \supset \psi$  with p is an atom not in  $V'' \cup Var(\psi)$ , if  $\psi$  is an instantiate formula of set V'' then we call p is instantiated by  $\psi$ . A key point to compute forgetting is eliminate those irrelevant atoms, for this purpose we define the follow instantiation process.

**Definition 4 (instantiation)** Let V'' = V' and  $\Gamma = Res$ , then the process of instantiation is as follows:

- (i) for each global clause  $C = \top \supset D \lor \neg p \in \Gamma$ , if there is one and on one atom  $p \in V'' \cap Var(C)$  and  $Var(D) \cap (V \cup V'') = \emptyset$  then let  $C = p \supset D$  and  $V'' := V'' \setminus \{p\}$ ;
- (ii) find out all the possible instantiate formulae  $\varphi_1,...,\varphi_m$  of  $V \cup V''$  in the  $p \supset \varphi_i \in \Gamma$   $(1 \le i \le m)$ ;
- (iii) if there is  $p \supset \varphi_i$  for some  $i \in \{1, ..., m\}$ , then let  $V'' := V'' \setminus \{p\}$ , which means p is a instantiate formula;
- (iv) for  $\bigwedge_{j=1}^m p_j \supset \varphi_i \in \Gamma$  ( $i \in \{1, ..., m\}$ ), if there is  $\alpha \supset p_1, ..., \alpha \supset p_m \in \Gamma$  then let  $\Gamma_1 := \Gamma \cup \{\alpha \supset \varphi\}$ . if  $\Gamma_1 \neq \Gamma$  then let  $\Gamma := \Gamma_1$  go to step (i), else return  $V \cup V''$ .

Where  $p, p_i \ (1 \le i \le m)$  are atoms and  $\alpha$  is a conjunction of literals or **start**.

Intuitively, this process iteratively removes the atoms in V' that can be represented by the formula of V' that can be represented by the formula of V'. We denote this process as V', which can be described as the following Algorithm 4. After this process we obtain a set of atoms that do not has been instantiated by any instantiate formula of  $V \cup V''$  in this process.

**Example 4** By using the instantiation process on result of Example 3, we obtain that x is instantiated by  $f \lor m$  at first since there is  $\top \supset \neg x \lor f \lor m \in T_{\varphi}$  with  $x \in V'$  and  $Var(f \lor m) \cap (V \cup V') = \emptyset$ , then  $V'' = \{y, z\}$ .

Similarly, due to  $\top \supset \neg y \lor q \in T_{\varphi}$  and  $y \supset \operatorname{AX}(q \lor f \lor m) \in T_{\varphi}$ , then y can be instantiated by  $q \land \operatorname{AX}(q \lor f \lor m)$ . And z can be instantiated by r. Therefore  $V'' = \emptyset$  That is  $\operatorname{Instantiate}(\operatorname{Res}, V') = V$ , which means all the introduced atoms are instantiated.

By instantiation operator, we guarantee those atoms in  $V \cup V''$  are really irrelevant, *i.e.* should be forgot.

```
Input: A set \Gamma of SNF_{\mathtt{CTL}}^g clauses \varphi and V,V'\subseteq \mathcal{A}
                  Output: A set of atoms
      1 Let V'' := V';
     2 Let V_1 = \emptyset;
     3 Let \Gamma_1 := \emptyset;
     4 Let \Gamma_2 := \Gamma;
                 while (\Gamma_1 \neq \Gamma_2 \text{ or } V_1 \neq V'') do
                                             \Gamma_1 := \Gamma_2;
                                             V_1 := V^{\overline{\prime\prime\prime}};
                                             for (C \in \Gamma_2) do
                                                                      if (C is a global clause) then
                                                                                                Let C := D \vee \neg p;
                                                                                                if (p \in V'' \cap Var(C)) and
                                                                                                Var(D) \cap V == \emptyset) then
 12
                                                                                                                        C := p \supset D;
                                                                                                                        V'' := V'' \setminus \{p\};
 13
 14
                                                                                                end
  15
                                                                      end
                                             end
                                           for (C \in \Gamma_2) do
                                                                      if (C == p \supset \varphi \text{ and } p \in V'' \text{ and } \varphi \in V''' \text{ and } \varphi \in V'' \text{ 
                                                                      Var(\varphi) \cap V \cup V'' == \emptyset) then
                                                                             V'' := V'' \setminus \{p\};
 19
20
21
22
                                                                      end
                                              end
                                           for (C \in \Gamma_2) do
                                                                     if (C == \bigwedge_{j=1}^{m} p_j \supset \varphi \text{ and }
                                                                       Var(\varphi) \cap V \cup V'' == \emptyset) then
24
25
26
27
28
                                                                                              if (there is \alpha \supset p_1, \ldots, \alpha \supset p_m \in \Gamma_2) then
                                                                                                   | \Gamma_2 := \Gamma_2 \cup \{\alpha \supset \varphi\};
                                                                                                end
                                                                      end
                                             end
29 end
 30 return V \cup V''.
```

**Algorithm 4:** Computing *Instantiate* $(\Gamma, V')$ 

**The Connect process** Let P be a conjunction of literals,  $l, l_1$  be literals, in which  $Var(C_1) \cap V \cup V' = \emptyset$ , and  $C_i$   $(i \in \{2,3,4\})$  be classical clauses. Let  $A = \{l \supset \neg l_1 \lor C_2, l \supset C_3 \lor C_2\}$ ,  $\alpha = P \supset ((\neg C_3 \land \neg C_2) \supset (\mathsf{E}_{(ind)} \mathsf{X}(C_3 \land \neg (C_2 \lor C_4) \supset \mathsf{AXAF}(C_3 \lor C_2))))$  and  $\beta = P \supset ((\neg C_3 \land \neg C_2) \supset (\mathsf{AX}(C_3 \land \neg (C_2 \lor C_4) \supset \mathsf{AXAF}(C_3 \lor C_2))))$ , we add following new rules, we call it **EF** imply.

```
\begin{split} & \textbf{(EF1)}\{P \supset \mathsf{AF}l, P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(l_1 \vee C_4)\} \cup A \to \alpha \\ & \textbf{(EF2)}\{P \supset \mathsf{AF}l, P \supset \mathsf{AX}(l_1 \vee C_4)\} \cup A \to \beta \\ & \textbf{(EF3)}\{P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{F}l, P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(l_1 \vee C_4)\} \cup A \to \alpha \\ & \textbf{(EF4)}\{P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{F}l, P \supset \mathsf{AX}(l_1 \vee C_4)\} \cup A \to \alpha \end{split}
```

By Connect(Instantiate(Res, V')) we mean using (EF1) to (EF4) on Res and replacing  $P \supset \mathsf{AX}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4)$  with  $P \supset \mathsf{AX}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) \lor \beta$  for rule (EF2) and replacing  $P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4)$  with  $P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) \lor \alpha$  for other rules when  $l, C_2, C_3$  and  $C_4$  are instantiate formulae of  $\mathsf{Sub}(Res, V')$  and  $Var(l_1) \in V \cup V'$ . This process can be

described as Algorithm 5. The reason why we specify  $l, C_2$ ,  $C_3$  and  $C_4$  are instantiate formulae of  $\mathrm{Sub}(Res,V')$  in this process will be explained later.

```
Input: A set \Gamma of SNF_{\text{CTL}}^g clauses, a set of A-step
                                                       clauses and a set of E-step clauses
              Output: A set of formulae
    1 for (C \in A) do
                                    Let C == P \supset AFl;
   2
                                    if (P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} X(l_1 \lor C_4), l \supset \neg l_1 \lor C_2, l \supset 
  3
                                    C_3 \vee C_2 \in \Gamma and l, C_2, C_3, C_4 are instantiate
                                  formulae) then
                                                         Replacing P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} X(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) with
                                                           P \supset \mathbb{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathbf{X} (\neg l \vee C_2 \vee C_4) \vee \alpha;
                                    end
                                    (P \supset \mathsf{AX}(l_1 \lor C_4), l \supset \neg l_1 \lor C_2, l \supset C_3 \lor C_2 \in \Gamma
                                    and l, C_2, C_3, C_4 are instantiate formulae) then
                                                         Replacing P \supset AX(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) with
                                                        P \supset AX(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) \lor \beta;
                                  end
   8
 9 end
10 for (C \in E) do
                                    Let C == P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} Fl;
                                   if (P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} X(l_1 \lor C_4), l \supset \neg l_1 \lor C_2, l \supset C_4)
 12
                                   C_3 \vee C_2 \in \Gamma \text{ or } P \supset \mathsf{AX}(l_1 \vee C_4), l \supset
                                     \neg l_1 \lor \bar{C_2}, l \supset C_3 \lor C_2 \in \Gamma and l, C_2, C_3, C_4 are
                                    instantiate formulae) then
                                                         Replacing P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} X(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) with
                                                         P \supset E_{\langle ind \rangle} X(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4) \lor \alpha;
14
                                  end
15 end
 16 return \Gamma.
```

**Algorithm 5:** Computing  $Connect(\Gamma, V)$ 

**Proposition 5** Let  $\Gamma = Res$ , we have  $\Gamma \equiv_{\langle V',\emptyset\rangle}$  Connect(Instantiate( $\Gamma, V'$ )).

**Proof:** It is obvious from the (EF1) to (EF4).

We prove the (EF1), for other rules can be proved similarly. Let  $T_{i+1} = T_i \cup \{\varphi\}$ , where  $\{\varphi\}$  is obtained from  $T_i$  by using rule (EF1) on  $T_i$ , i.e.  $\varphi = P \supset ((\neg C_3 \land \neg C_2) \supset (\mathbb{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(C_3 \land \neg (C_2 \lor C_4) \supset \mathsf{AXAF}(C_3 \lor C_2))))$ . It is apparent that  $T_{i+1} \models T_i$  and  $T_i \models P \supset \mathbb{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4)$ . We will show that  $\forall (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \in \mathit{Mod}(T_i)$  there is an initial Ind-structure  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0')$  such that  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0') \models T_{i+1}$  and  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0') \leftrightarrow_{\langle V', \mathcal{O} \rangle} (\mathcal{M}, s_0)$ 

 $\forall (\mathcal{M},s) \models T_i \text{ we suppose } (\mathcal{M},s) \models P \land \neg C_3 \land \neg C_2 \text{ and } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \models C_3 \land \neg C_2 \land \neg C_4 \text{ with } (s,s_1) \in [ind] \text{ (due to other case can be proved easily). Then we have } (\mathcal{M},s) \nvDash l \text{ (by } (\mathcal{M},s) \models l \supset C_3 \lor C_2) \text{ and } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \models l_1 \text{ (by } (\mathcal{M},s) \models P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X}(l_1 \lor C_4)). \text{ If } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \nvDash \mathsf{AXAF}(C_3 \lor C_2) \text{ then we have } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \models l \text{ due to } (\mathcal{M},s) \models \mathsf{AG}(l \supset C_3 \lor C_2) \text{ and } (\mathcal{M},s) \models \mathsf{AF}l. \text{ And then } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \models \neg l_1 \text{ by } (\mathcal{M},s) \models \mathsf{AG}(l \supset \neg l_1 \lor C_2). \text{ It is contract with our supposing. Then } (\mathcal{M},s_1) \models \mathsf{AXAF}(C_3 \lor C_2).$ 

**The Removing\_atoms process** For eliminate those irrelevant atoms, we can do the following elimination operator.

**Definition 5 (Removing\_atoms)** Let T be a set of formulae,  $C \in T$  and V a set of atoms, then the elimination operator is defined as:

$$\text{Removing\_atoms}(C,V) = \left\{ \begin{matrix} \top, & \textit{if } \textit{Var}(C) \cap V \neq \varnothing \\ C, & \textit{else}. \end{matrix} \right.$$

For convenience, for any set T of formula we have  $Removing\_atoms(T, V) = \{Removing\_atoms(r, V) | r \in T\}.$ 

**Proposition 6** Let  $V'' = V \cup V'$ ,  $\Gamma = \text{Instantiate}(Res, V')$  and  $\Gamma_1 = \text{Removing\_atoms}$  (Connect $(\Gamma)$ ,  $\Gamma$ ), then  $\Gamma_1 \equiv_{\langle V'', \emptyset \rangle} Res$  and  $\Gamma_1 \equiv_{\langle V'', I \rangle} \varphi$ .

**Proof:** Note the fact that for each clause  $C = T \supset H$  in  $Connect(\Gamma)$ , if  $\Gamma \cap Var(C) \neq \emptyset$  then there must be an atom  $p \in \Gamma \cap Var(H)$ . It is apparent that  $Connect(\Gamma) \models \Gamma_1$ , we will show  $\forall (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \in Mod(\Gamma_1)$  there is a  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0)$  such that  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0) \models Connect(\Gamma)$  and  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \leftrightarrow_{\langle \Gamma, \emptyset \rangle} (\mathcal{M}', s_0)$ . Let  $C = T \supset H$  in  $Connect(\Gamma)$  with  $\Gamma \cap Var(C) \neq \emptyset$ ,  $\forall (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \in Mod(\Gamma_1)$  we construct  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0)$  as  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$  except for each  $s \in S$ , if  $(\mathcal{M}, s) \nvDash T$  then L'(s) = L(s), else:

- (i) if  $(\mathcal{M}, s) \models H$ , then L'(s) = L(s);
- (ii) else if  $(\mathcal{M},s) \models T$  with  $p \in Var(H) \cap V$ , then if p appearing in H negatively, then if C is a global (or an initial) clause then let  $L'(s) = L(s) \setminus \{p\}$  else let  $L'(s_1) = L(s_1) \setminus \{p\}$  for (each (if C is an A-step or A-sometime clause))  $(s,s_1) \in R$ , else if C is a global (or an initial) clause then let  $L'(s) = L(s) \cup \{p\}$  else let  $L'(s_1) = L(s_1) \cup \{p\}$  for (each (if C is a A-step or A-sometime clause))  $(s,s_1) \in R$ .
- (iii) for other clause  $C=Q\supset H$  with  $p\in Var(H)\cap \Gamma$ , we can do it as (ii).

It is apparent that  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \leftrightarrow_{\langle \Gamma, \emptyset \rangle} (\mathcal{M}', s_0)$ , we will show that  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0) \models Connect(\Gamma)$  from the following two points:

- (1) For (ii) talked-above, we show it from the form of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses. Supposing  $C_1$  and  $C_2$  are instantiate formula of  $\Gamma$ :
  - (a) If C is a global clause, i.e.  $C = \top \supset p \lor C_1$  with  $C_1$  is a disjunction of literals (we suppose p appearing in C positively). If there is a  $C' = \top \supset \neg p \lor C_2 \in Connect(\Gamma)$ , then there is  $\top \supset C_1 \lor C_2 \in Connect(\Gamma)$  by the resolution  $((\mathcal{M}, s) \models C_2$  due to we have suppose  $(\mathcal{M}, s) \nvDash C$ ). It is apparent that  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0) \models C \land C'$ .
  - (b) If  $C = T \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X}(p \vee C_1)$ . If there is a  $C' = T' \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X}(\neg p \vee C_2) \in \operatorname{Connect}(\Gamma)$ , then there is  $T \wedge T' \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X}(C_1 \vee C_2) \in \operatorname{Connect}(\Gamma)$  by the resolution  $((\mathcal{M}, s) \models \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X}C_2$  due to we have suppose  $(\mathcal{M}, s) \nvDash C$ . It is apparent that  $(\mathcal{M}', s_0) \models C \wedge C'$ .

- (c) Other cases can be proved similarly.
- (2) (iii) can be proved as (ii) due to the fact we point at the beginning.

Therefore, we have  $\Gamma_1 \equiv_{\langle V'',\emptyset\rangle} Res$  by Proposition 2 and Proposition 5.

And then 
$$\Gamma_1 \equiv_{\langle V'',I \rangle} \varphi$$
 follows.

**Example 5** After removing the clauses that include atoms in  $V = \{p\}$ , the following clauses have been left:

$$\begin{array}{llll} \mathbf{start} \supset z & & \top \supset \neg z \vee r & & \top \supset \neg x \vee f \vee m \\ \top \supset \neg z \vee x \vee y & & \top \supset \neg y \vee p & & \top \supset \neg y \vee q \\ z \supset \mathsf{AF}x & & y \supset \mathsf{AX}(x \vee y) & & \mathbf{start} \supset r \\ \mathbf{start} \supset x \vee y & & \top \supset \neg z \vee y \vee f \vee m & y \supset \mathsf{AX}(f \vee m \vee y) \\ \top \supset \neg z \vee x \vee q & y \supset \mathsf{AX}(x \vee q) & & \mathbf{start} \supset f \vee m \vee y \\ \mathbf{start} \supset x \vee q & & \top \supset q \vee \neg z \vee f \vee m & y \supset \mathsf{AX}(q \vee f \vee m) \\ \mathbf{start} \supset f \vee m \vee q & & \end{array}$$

In this case, if we do not specify  $l, C_2, C_3$  and  $C_4$  are instantiate formulae of  $\operatorname{Sub}(Res,V')$ , it is easy check that all results including  $P \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{X}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4)$  and  $P \supset \operatorname{AX}(\neg l \lor C_2 \lor C_4)$  obtained from the *Connect* process will be deleted in the Removing\_atoms process.

#### Remove the Index and start

The  $Removing\_index(\Gamma)$  process is to change the set  $\Gamma$  of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  into a set of formulas without the index by using the equations in Proposition 7. The  $Removing\_index(RemA)$  process is to change the set RemA obtained above into a set of formulas without the index by using the equations in Proposition 7.

**Proposition 7** Let P,  $P_i$  and  $\varphi_i$  be CTL formulas, then

- (i)  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^n P \supset \mathbb{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathbf{X} \varphi_i \equiv_{\langle \emptyset, \{ind \} \rangle} P \supset \mathbf{E} \mathbf{X} \bigwedge_{i=1}^n \varphi_i$ ,
- (iii)  $\bigwedge_{i=1}^n P \supset \operatorname{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \operatorname{F} \varphi_i \equiv_{\langle \emptyset, \{ind \} \rangle} P \supset \bigvee \operatorname{EF}(\varphi_{j_1} \land \operatorname{EF}(\varphi_{j_2} \land \operatorname{EF}(\cdots \land \operatorname{EF} \varphi_{j_n})))$ , where  $(j_1, \ldots, j_n)$  are sequences of all elements in  $\{0, \ldots, n\}$ ,
- (iv)  $P \supset (C \vee \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \varphi_1) \wedge P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \varphi_2 \equiv_{\langle \emptyset, \{ind \} \rangle} P \supset ((C \wedge \mathsf{E} \mathsf{X} \varphi_2) \vee \mathsf{E} \mathsf{X} (\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2)),$
- $\begin{array}{c} \text{(v)} \ P \supset (C \vee \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \varphi_1) \vee P \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \varphi_2 \equiv_{\langle \emptyset, \{ind \} \rangle} \\ P \supset (C \vee \mathsf{EX} (\varphi_1 \vee \varphi_2)). \end{array}$

**Proof:** It is easy to check.

**Lemma 1** (*NI-BRemain*) Let I is the set of indexes in RemA, we have RemA  $\equiv_{\langle \emptyset, I \rangle}$  Removing\_index(RemA).

**Proof:** It is easy checking that from the definition of *Removing\_index*.

In our Example 5 we do not need this process since there is no index in the set of formulae. Let T be a set of  $\mathsf{SNF}^g_{\mathsf{CTL}}$  clauses, then we define the following operator:

$$T_{\text{CTL}} = \{C | C' \in T \text{ and } C = D \text{ if } C' \text{ is the form } AG(\text{start} \supset D), \text{ else } C = C'\}.$$

Then  $T \equiv T_{\text{CTL}}$  by  $\varphi \equiv \text{AG}(\text{start} \supset \varphi)$  (Bolotov 2000).

The last step of our algorithm is to eliminate all the atoms in V' which has been introduced in the Transform process. Let  $\Gamma = Instantiate(Res, V')$  and  $\Gamma_1 = Removing\_atoms(Connect(\Gamma))$ , then  $Replacing\_atoms(Removing\_index(\Gamma_1))$  is obtained from  $Removing\_index(\Gamma_1)$  by doing the following two steps for each  $p \in (V' \setminus \Gamma)$ :

- replacing each  $p \supset \varphi_1 \lor \cdots \lor p \supset \varphi_n$  with  $p \supset \bigvee_{i=1}^n \varphi_i$ ;
- replacing  $p\supset \varphi_1\wedge\cdots\wedge p\supset \varphi_m$  with  $\varphi_j$  are instantiate formulae of  $\Gamma$   $(j\in\{1,\ldots,m\})$  with  $p\supset \psi$ , where  $\psi=\bigwedge_{j=1}^m\varphi_j$  and p do not appear in  $\varphi_j$ , .
- For any formula  $C \in \Gamma_1$ , replacing every p in C with  $\psi$ .

Recall that any atom in V' introduced in the Transform process is a name of the sub-formula of  $\varphi$  (Bolotov 2000). Apparently, this process is just a process of replacing each atom with an equivalent formula. Then we have:

**Proposition 8** Let  $\Gamma_1 = \operatorname{Instantiate}(Res, V')$ ,  $\Gamma_2 = \operatorname{Removing\_atoms} (\operatorname{Connect}(\Gamma_1), \Gamma_1)$  and  $\Gamma_3 = \operatorname{Replacing\_atoms}(\operatorname{Removing\_index}(\Gamma_2))$ , then  $\Gamma_2 \equiv_{\langle V' \setminus \Gamma_1, I \rangle} \Gamma_3$  and  $\varphi \equiv_{\langle V \cup V', \emptyset \rangle} (\Gamma_3)_{CTL}$ .

**Proof:** For each p talked above is a name of the formula  $\psi$ . Then  $\Gamma_2 \equiv_{\langle (V' \setminus \Gamma_1), \emptyset \rangle} \Gamma_3$ , and then  $\Gamma_2 \equiv_{\langle V \cup V', I \rangle} \Gamma_3$  by (V) of Proposition 1.

Therefore,  $\varphi \equiv_{\langle V \cup V', \emptyset \rangle} (\Gamma_3)_{CTL}$  by Proposition 6 and the definitions of *Removing\_index* and  $T_{CTL}$ .

**Example 6** By using the *Removing\_atoms* process on result of Example 5 directly since there is not index in those clauses, we obtain that x is replaced by  $f \vee m$  at first, then y is replaced by  $q \wedge AX(q \vee f \vee m)$  and z is replaced by  $r \wedge (f \vee m \vee q) \wedge (f \vee m \vee (q \wedge AX(f \vee m \vee q))) \wedge AF(f \vee m)$ .

#### An example for Connect process

In order to show the necessity of the Connect process, we see the following example at first.

**Example 7** Let  $\psi = \operatorname{AF}(p \wedge q) \wedge \operatorname{EX} \neg p$  and  $V = \{p\}$ . By the processes Transform and Resolution, we can obtain  $V' = \{f, z\}$  and the following set Res of  $\operatorname{SNF}^g_{\operatorname{CTL}}$  clauses.

$$\begin{array}{lll} \mathbf{start} \supset z & z \supset \mathsf{AF}f & z \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \neg p \\ & \top \supset \neg f \lor p & \top \supset \neg f \lor q & z \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} \neg f \end{array}$$

On the one hand, according to our Algorithm 1, we have Instantiate(Res, V') = V since f can be instantiated by q and z can be instantiated by AFf.

In the *Connect* process, by using **EF1** rule on the Res we have  $\alpha = z \supset (\neg q \supset (\mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}\mathsf{X}(q \supset \mathsf{AXAF}q)))$  and replace  $z \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}\mathsf{X} \neg f \in Res$  with  $z \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}\mathsf{X} \neg f \lor \alpha$  since  $l, C_2, C_3$  and  $C_4$  are instantiate formulae. Apparently,  $z \supset \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}\mathsf{X} \neg f \lor \alpha \equiv z \supset q \lor \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle}\mathsf{X}(\neg f \lor \neg q \lor \mathsf{AXAF}q)$ .

After the *Removing\_atoms* process, we have the following set *RemA* of formulae:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{start} \supset z & z \supset \mathsf{AF} f \\ \top \supset \neg f \lor q & z \supset q \lor \mathsf{E}_{\langle ind \rangle} \mathsf{X} (\neg f \lor \neg q \lor \mathsf{AXAF} q) \end{array}$$

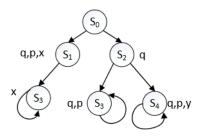


Figure 2: A model  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$  of  $\varphi$ 

Removing the indexes appearing in the *RemA*, we obtain the following set NI:

$$\begin{array}{ll} \mathbf{start} \supset z & z \supset \mathsf{AF}f \\ \top \supset \neg f \lor q & z \supset q \lor \mathsf{EX}(\neg f \lor \neg q \lor \mathsf{AXAF}q) \end{array}$$

Replacing the atoms in  $V^\prime$  that have been instantiated, we have

$$Rp = \{ \mathbf{start} \supset AFq \land (q \lor EX(\neg q \lor AXAFq)) \}.$$

As all the formulas  ${\mathcal F}$  in the  $T_\varphi$  are the form  ${\rm AG}{\mathcal F},$  hence we have:

$$\mathit{Rp}_{\mathsf{CTL}} = \{\mathsf{Af}q \land (q \lor \mathsf{ex}(\neg q \lor \mathsf{axaf}q))\}.$$

i.e.  $ERes(\varphi, V) = AFq \land (q \lor EX(\neg q \lor AXAFq))$ . In this case, we can easily check that  $ERes(\varphi, V) \equiv_{\langle V, \emptyset \rangle} \varphi$ .

On the other hand, if we do not using the *Connect* process, we can easily obtain the result of *ERes*, i.e.  $ERes(\varphi, V) = AFq \land EX(\neg q)$ . It is apparent that  $ERes(\varphi, V) \not\equiv_{\langle V, \emptyset \rangle} \varphi$ . This can proved by model  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$  as in Figure 2 since  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \models \varphi$  and  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0) \not\models ERes(\varphi, V)$ .

This example shows that why we introduce the **EF** imply rules. Intuitively, the result of replacing the atoms that have been instantiated in V' with an instantiate formula is more stronger than our method, because by the *Removing\_atoms* process, we have removing some clauses, such as  $C = \top \supset$  $\neg f \lor p$ , that contain f. The original one is  $f \supset p \land q$ , but after removing C we only obtain that  $f \supset q$ . In this example, there is a clauses  $z \supset \text{EX} \neg f \in Res$ , after replacing f with q, we obtain  $z \supset EX \neg q$ . However, if we do not removing C (i.e.  $f \supset p \land q$ ), then we have  $z \supset \text{EX}(\neg q \lor \neg p)$ , this is weaker than  $z \supset \text{EX} \neg q$ . In fact, for any model  $(\mathcal{M}, s_0)$ of  $\varphi$  there is not necessary  $q \notin L(s)$  for some next state s and if there is q for all next states, then there must be a next state s with  $p \notin L(s)$  s.t. for all next state s' of s there is  $(\mathcal{M}, s') \models AFq$  (see Fig. 2). This is what the meanning of the Connect process.

# The Correction and Complexity of the Algorithm

In the case that formula dose not include index, we use model structure  $\mathcal{M}=(S,R,L,s_0)$  to interpret formula instead of Ind-model structure.

**Theorem 1 (Resolution-based CTL-forgetting)** *Let*  $V'' = V \cup V'$  and  $\Gamma_1 = \text{ERes}(\varphi, V)$ , then

(i) 
$$F_{CTL}(\varphi, V'') \equiv \Gamma_1$$
;

(ii) 
$$F_{CTL}(\varphi, V) \equiv \bigwedge_{\psi \in \Gamma_1} \psi$$
.

$$\begin{array}{l} \textbf{Proof:} \ (\mathrm{i}) \ (\Rightarrow) \ \forall (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \in Mod(\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{CTL}}(\varphi, V'')) \\ \Rightarrow \exists (\mathcal{M}', s_0') \in Mod(\varphi) \ \mathrm{s.t.} \ (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \leftrightarrow_{V''} (\mathcal{M}', s_0') \\ \Rightarrow \exists (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \in Mod(\Gamma_1) \ \mathrm{s.t.} \ (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \leftrightarrow_{V''} (\mathcal{M}', s_0') \\ \text{from Proposition 8} \\ \Rightarrow (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \leftrightarrow_{V''} (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \\ \Rightarrow (\mathcal{M}, s_0) \models \Gamma_1 \qquad \qquad (\mathrm{IR}(\Gamma_1, V'')) \\ (\Leftarrow) \forall (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \in Mod(\Gamma_1) \\ \Rightarrow \exists (\mathcal{M}', s_0') \in Mod(\varphi) \ \mathrm{s.t.} \ (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \leftrightarrow_{V''} (\mathcal{M}', s_0') \\ \Rightarrow (\mathcal{M}_1, s_1) \models \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{CTL}}(\varphi, V'') \qquad (\mathrm{IR}(\mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{CTL}}(\varphi, V''), V'') \ \mathrm{and} \\ \varphi \models \mathrm{F}_{\mathrm{CTL}}(\varphi, V''')) \\ (\mathrm{ii)} \ \mathrm{It} \ \mathrm{is} \ \mathrm{obtained} \ \mathrm{from} \ (\mathrm{i}) \ \mathrm{since} \ \mathrm{IR}(\varphi, V'). \end{array}$$

Then we can obtain the result of forgetting of Example 4:

$$\begin{split} \mathbf{F}_{\mathrm{CTL}}(\varphi,\{p\}) &\equiv r \wedge (f \vee m \vee q) \wedge \mathrm{AF}(f \vee m) \wedge \\ (f \vee m \vee (q \wedge \mathrm{AX}(f \vee m \vee q))) \wedge \mathrm{AG}((q \wedge \mathrm{AX}(f \vee m \vee q))) \wedge \\ \supset \mathrm{AX}(f \vee m \vee (q \wedge \mathrm{AX}(f \vee m \vee q))))). \end{split}$$

**Proposition 9** Let  $\varphi$  be a CTL formula and  $V \subseteq A$ . The time and space complexity of Algorithm 1 are  $O((m+1)2^{4(n+n')})$ . Where  $|Var(\varphi)| = n$ , |V'| = n' (V' is set of atoms introduced in transformation) and m is the number of the set Ind of indices introduced during transformation.

**Proof:** It follows from that the lines 19-31 of the algorithm, which is to compute all the possible resolution. The possible number of  $SNF_{CTL}^g$  clauses under the give V, V' and Ind is  $(m+1)2^{4(n+n')}+(m*(n+n')+n+n'+1)2^{2(n+n')+1})$ .

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