The Great Book of Zebra

The Zebra Project

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Preface

This book is a collaborative work from the https://github.com/fsvieira/zebrajs project community and everyone is invited to participate.

The list of contributors is at the contributors section 1.3 and your name can be there too :D.

This is a work in progress.

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Chapter 1

Introduction

This is the official book of Zebra-machine (ZM). Here you will find anything you need to understand in deep the ZM, the book covers both theoretical and practical definitions.

Zebra-machine (ZM)is a logical symbolic computation query system, given a set of computational definitions it will answer questions about them, therefor ZMis better suited for software validation and constrain satisfaction problems.

1.1 The Zebra-machine (ZM)

As mentioned before ZM is a logical symbolic computation query system, and it consists of two parts the definitions and the query, both parts share the same language of ZM terms, which is defined by a certain formal syntax, and a set of transformation rules.

1.1.1 ZM Language ($\mathbb{L}$)

The ZM language ($\mathbb{L}$) of terms are defined as:

1. $\mathbb{L}_0$ and $\mathbb{L}_{not}$ are sets of ZM terms.
2. $c \in \mathbb{C}$: $\mathbb{C}$ is the set of terminal symbols called constants, c is a terminal symbol. $c \in \mathbb{L}_0$.
3. '$p \in \mathbb{V}$: $\mathbb{V}$ is the set of variables, p is a variable. '$p \in \mathbb{L}_0$.
4. $(p_0 \dots p_n) \in \mathbb{T}$: $\mathbb{T}$ is the set of tuples, $(p_0 \dots p_n)$ its a n-tuple of ZM terms. $(p_0 \dots p_n) \in \mathbb{L}_0$.
5. $\overline{p}$ can be any term that is not equal to p, $p \in \mathbb{L}_0$. $\overline{p} \in \mathbb{L}_{not}$.
6. Nothing else is a ZM term.
7. $\mathbb{L} = \mathbb{L}_0 \cup \mathbb{L}_{not}$,

1.1.2 ZM Operations

Unification ($\otimes$, binary operation) defined as

$$\otimes : \mathbb{L} \times \mathbb{L} \to \mathbb{L}$$

and by the rules,

$$\otimes : \mathbb{L}_0 \times \mathbb{L}_0 \to \mathbb{L}_0$$

1. $Q \otimes Q = Q$

   Q unifies with itself, resulting on itself.

2. $`p \otimes Q = Q \iff `p = Q$

3. $Q \otimes `p = Q \iff `p = Q$

   note that if $Q \in \mathbb{V}$ then rule [2] will also apply, since both p and Q are the same the result is also the same.

4. $(p_0 \dots p_n) \otimes (q_0 \dots q_n) \iff (p_0 \otimes q_0 \dots p_n \otimes q_n)$

   $(p_0 \dots p_n)$ z-tuple only unifies with other z-tuple if they have same size and all sub ZM terms unify.

$$\otimes : \mathbb{L}_0 \times \mathbb{L}_{not} \to \mathbb{L}_0$$

1. $Q \otimes \overline{p} = Q \iff p \neq Q$

$$\otimes : \mathbb{L}_{not} \times \mathbb{L}_0 \to \mathbb{L}_0$$

1. $\overline{p} \otimes Q = Q \iff p \neq Q$

$$\otimes : \mathbb{L}_{not} \times \mathbb{L}_{not} \to \mathbb{L}_0$$

1. $\overline{P} \otimes \overline{Q} = `p \iff `p \otimes \overline{P} \wedge `p \otimes \overline{Q}$

   where $`p$ is a new variable.

   note that if $P = Q$, then $`p \neq (P \otimes Q)$.

Anything else is not unifiable.

Substitution ($\mathcal{S}$, function) defined as

$$\mathcal{S} : \mathbb{V} \times \mathbb{L} \times \mathbb{L} \to \mathbb{L} \tag{1.1}$$

$$\mathcal{S}(v, w, t) = \begin{cases} w & \text{, if } t = v, \\ (\mathcal{S}(v, w, t_0) \dots \mathcal{S}(v, w, t_n)) & \text{, if } t = (t_0 \dots t_n) \\ t & \text{, otherwise} \end{cases} \tag{1.2}$$

1.1.3 ZM Computation

A ZM computation is expressed as 4-tuple $(\sigma, \delta, q, \alpha)$ where:

1. σ is a set of terminal symbols (constants),
2. δ is a set of z-tuples (definitions),
3. q is a z-tuple (query),
4. α is the set of possible computational answers to query q based on *delta* definitions.

A definition is a fact in the system. The inner tuples of a definition are considered and called queries, therefor for a definition to be true all of its inner tuples/queries must also be true.

A query is a question to the system that is true if and only if it unifies at least with one definition.

Free and bound variables on the context of a definition all definition variables are considered to be bound to the definition, on the context of queries all variables are free.

Metadata will be used on intermidiate computations steps to track information about ZM terms, this information may contain bound variables and constrains.

The metadata will be expressed as,

$$Q[\text{bound} : v_0 \dots v_n, \text{constrains} : \dots]$$

Where Q is ZM term and inside of [] is the metadata associeted to Q, with label bound representing a set of bound variables to Q, and constrains representing variable constrains.

Bound information is used to rename variables with same name but are not the same.

Variable renaming its necessary to ensure that distinct variables with same name are not handled as being the same.

ex:

$$(`p\ `q)[\text{bound} : p] \otimes (`p\ `q)[\text{bound} : p\ q]$$

The first tuple has only $`p$ as bound variable and the second tuple as $`p$ and $`q$ declared as bound variables. To ensure that this variables keep their meaning, we rename the bound variables like this:

$$(`p_0\ `q)[\text{bound} : p_0] \otimes (`p_1\ `q_1)[\text{bound} : p_1\ q_1]$$

Afther unification we get

$$(`p_0\ `q)[\text{bound} : p_0\ p_1\ q_1, \text{constrains} : p_0 = p_1\ q = q_1]$$

A computation is done with the following setps:

1. $\alpha = \{q \otimes p[\text{bound} : v_0 \dots v_n] : \forall p \in \delta\}$,
2. $t \in \alpha$, for every subtuple s in t we repeate the computation step as

$$(\sigma, \delta, s, \alpha)$$

3. if there is no more sub-tuples to be processed the computation ends.

1.2 Computing Examples

1.2.1 Defining a not equal

$$(\text{notEqual}\ `p\ \overline{`p})$$

Ex:

$$(\sigma, \delta, q, \alpha) = (\{\text{yellow}, \text{blue}\}, \{(\text{notEqual}\ `p\ \overline{`p})\}, q, \alpha)$$

1. $q =$ (notEqual $`x$ $`x$)
   (notEqual $`x$ $`x$) $\otimes$ (notEqual $`p$ $\overline{`p}$)[bound : p]
   (notEqual $\otimes$ notEqual $`x \otimes `p\ `x \otimes \overline{`p}$)[bound : p]
   (notEqual $\otimes$ notEqual $`x \otimes `p\ `x \otimes \overline{`p}$)[bound : p]
   (notEqual$`x`x$)[bound : p, constrains : $`x = `p \wedge `x \neq `p$]
   variable x cant be equal and not equal to $`p$ at same time,
   query fails to unify with any of the definitions,
   $\alpha = \emptyset$, no awnsers existe for this query.

2. q = (notEqual yellow yellow)

   (notEqual yellow yellow) $\otimes$ (notEqual ‘p $\overline{\text{‘}p}$)[bound : p]

   (notEqual $\otimes$ notEqual yellow $\otimes$ ‘p yellow $\otimes$ $\overline{\text{‘}p}$)[bound : p]

   (notEqualyellowyellow)[bound : p, constrains : yellow = ‘$p \wedge$yellow $\neq$ ‘p]

   variable p cant be equal and not equal to yellow vablue at same time,

   query fails to unify with any of the definitions,

   $\alpha = \emptyset$, no awnsers existe for this query.

3. q = (notEqual blue yellow)

   (notEqual blue yellow) $\otimes$ (notEqual ‘p $\overline{\text{‘}p}$)[bound : p]

   (notEqual $\otimes$ notEqual blue $\otimes$ ‘p yellow $\otimes$ $\overline{\text{‘}p}$)[bound : p]

   (notEqualblueyellow)[bound : p, constrains : blue = ‘$p \wedge$ yellow $\neq$ ‘$p \wedge$ blue $\neq$ yellow]

   α = {(notEqual blue yellow)}.

4. q = (notEqual ‘p yellow)

   (notEqual ‘p yellow) $\otimes$ (notEqual ‘p $\overline{\text{‘}p}$)[bound : p]

   rename bound variable, $p \rightarrow x$,

   (notEqual ‘p yellow) $\otimes$ (notEqual ‘x $\overline{\text{‘}x}$)[bound : x]

   (notEqual $\otimes$ notEqual ‘$p \otimes$ ‘x yellow $\otimes$ $\overline{\text{‘}x}$)[bound : x]

   (notEqualpyellow)[bound : x, constrains : p = ‘$x \wedge$ yellow $\neq$ ‘x]

   α = {(notEqual ‘p yellow)[constrains : ‘$p \neq$ yellow]}.

1.2.2 Defining a list

1. (list)
2. (list ‘*item* (list))
3. (list ‘*item* (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*))

Ex:

$(\sigma, \delta, q, \alpha)$ = ({yellow, blue}, {(list), (list ‘*item* (list)), (list ‘*item* (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*))}, q, α)

1. q = (list), query a empty list.

   (list) $\otimes$ (list) = (list)

   all other definitions fail to unify because the number of elements in remainding defintions dont match query tuple.

   α = (list)

2. q = (list yellow (list blue (list)))

   Starting with defintion list,

   (list yellow (list blue (list))) $\otimes$ (list), fail.

   Next defintion (list ‘*item* (list)),

   (list yellow (list blue (list))) $\otimes$ (list ‘*item* (list))[bound : item]

   (list $\otimes$ list yellow $\otimes$ ‘*item* (list blue (list)) $\otimes$ (list))[bound : item]

   fail to unify (*list*) with (list blue (list)).

   Next defintion (list ‘*item* (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*)),

   (list yellow (list blue (list))) $\otimes$ (list ‘*item* (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*))[bound : item i tail]

   (list $\otimes$ list yellow $\otimes$ ‘*item* (list blue (list)) $\otimes$ (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*))[bound : item i tail]

   (list yellow(list$\otimes$list blue$\otimes$‘*i* (list)$\otimes$‘*tail*))[bound : item i tail, constrains : ‘*item* = yellow]

   (list yellow(list blue (list)))[bound : item i tail, constrains : ‘*item* = yellow ‘*i* = blue ‘*tail* = (list)]

   the next step is to unify all sub-tuples that are not yet checked with definitions, this are: (list blue (list)) and (list)),

   (list blue (list)) $\otimes$ (*list*), fail.

   (list blue (list)) $\otimes$ (list ‘*item* (list))[bound : *item*]

   (list $\otimes$ list blue $\otimes$ ‘*item* (list) $\otimes$ (list))[bound : *item*]

   (listblue(list)))[bound : *item*, constrains : ‘*item* = blue], succed.

   (list blue (list)) $\otimes$ (list ‘*item* (list ‘*i* ‘*tail*)), fail.

   Finally (*list*) will only unify with (*list*) definition, ending the process and resulting on α = {(list yellow (list blue (list)))}

1.2.3 What john likes?

A simple example of queryng facts.

We start with the definitions/facts:

1. (mary likes wine ‘*p*)

   mary likes wine.

2. (mary likes john ‘*p*)

   mary likes john.

3. (peter likes peter ‘*p*)

   peter likes himself.

4. (john likes ‘$stuff$ (mary likes ‘$stuff$ ‘p))

   john likes everything that mary likes.

5. (john likes ‘$stuff$ (mary likes ‘$stuff$ ‘p))

   john likes everything that mary likes.

6. (john likes ‘$person$ (‘$person$ likes wine ‘p))

   john likes anyone that likes wine.

7. (john likes ‘$person$ (list (‘$person$ likes ‘$person$ ‘p)(list (notEqual ‘$person$john) (list))))

   john likes anyone that likes themselves.

1.3 Contributors

- Filipe Vieira, https://github.com/fsvieira