Variability Modeling in Clafer Using SMT

Ed Zulkoski

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada ezulkosk@gsd.uwaterloo.ca (ezulkosk, 20456819)

Abstract

We present a new backend for Clafer - a variability modeling language - using the Z3 Satisfiability Modulo Theory (SMT) solver. Z3 is well respected for its speed and has been shown to outperform other solvers in the domain of partial modeling – one type of modeling within the scope of Clafer. We show that, by retaining the notion of a scope, Clafer can generally be expressed within the logic of QF_UFNRA (quantifier-free non-linear real arithmetic), however all Clafer models encountered so far can be expressed in QF_LIA (quantifier-free linear integer arithmetic). We are capable of supporting language features not previously available in Clafer, including constraints over real numbers, and string constraints, leveraging Z3-Str: a theory extension to Z3. We evaluate our tool over models from a variety sources in the literature. We conclude by discussing potential directions for future work that would not be possible with previous Clafer backends.

Contents

1	Introduction					
2	Clafer Overview	3				
3	Solution Overview 3.1 Interpreting Z3 output as a Clafer Model	3 4				
4	Detailed Solution Overview 4.1 Hierarchical and Cardinality Constraints	5 5 6 6 7				
5	Extensions to Clafer 5.1 String Constraints	7 7 8				
6	Experimental Results					
7	Related and Previous Work					
8	Future Work	10				
9	Conclusions					
A	Audi Car Configurator Specification					
В	PHP Script Specification					

1 Introduction

Clafer is a modeling language with first-class support for feature and meta-modeling [1]. In earlier work, Clafer has been translated to two backend solvers 1) Alloy – a bounded relational model checker, and 2) Choco – a library for constraint satisfaction problems. A Clafer specification can be translated to either of these two backends, which produce models of the specification if it is satisfiable, or produce an unsatisfiable core otherwise. Depending on the type of constraints within the Clafer specification, one backend may be more suitable than the other. For example, Alloy does not perform well on arithmetic constraints over large integers, as it deals with them by flattening bounded integer ranges into boolean formulas, however the Choco solver is much more capable in this regard. Still, Choco requires some bounding on integer ranges to facilitate the search process.

Furthermore, some desirable language features, such as constraints over real numbers and strings, are not currently supported by either backend due to restrictions of the solvers. Many domains require real numbers to be modeled naturally. For example, any models involving probabilities or percentages can be modeled using reals. One applicable domain that has previously been modeled in Clafer is that of banking. The work investigated the family of available Scotiabank mortgage options, which include interest rates and monetary amounts, both of which can be naturally modeled with reals¹. However, due to restrictions of previous backends, the specification could not be instantiated. Clafer should be capable of analyzing these types of specifications.

In short, the restrictions of Clafer are intrinsically tied to the limitations of its backend solver. In order to address some of these restrictions, we have developed a new translation from Clafer to Z3 [6] – a state-of-the-art SMT solver. Z3 is well known to be a fast solver, motivating our desire to create a new Clafer backend with it. In an experiment by [9], randomly generated partial models were analyzed by four solvers: Alloy, a relational logic solver; Minizinc, a constraint satisfaction problems (CSP) solver; Clasp with GrinGo, an answer set programming (ASP) solver; and Z3. Z3 was shown to be more efficient (based on solving time) in general, and also scaled better to harder problems. Z3 has also been shown to perform well relative to other SMT solvers, winning the SMTCOMP 2012 competition in the theory categories of QF_UFLIA, QF_UFLRA, and QF_BV, among others². Further, a recent extension to Z3: Z3-Str [10], allows support for some string constraints (e.g. length, substring).

This paper makes the following contributions:

- 1. We describe how Clafer models can be reduced to constraints in logics supported by Z3.
- 2. We have developed a tool called *ClaferZ3* that reflects the translation described in this work, and can be found at https://github.com/gsdlab/ClaferZ3.
- 3. Our tool supports constraints over real numbers and strings, which are not supported by previous Clafer backends, and thus expands the scope of models that Clafer can analyze. Furthermore, integer instances are unbounded.
- 4. We discuss further extensions to Clafer that are possible with an SMT backend. For example, we have prototyped a new approach for eliminating isomorphic models (Section 5.2).

¹See http://gsd.uwaterloo.ca/node/356.

²Results can be found at http://www.smtexec.org/exec/?jobs=1004.

2 Clafer Overview

Clafer is a structural modeling language which is designed for variability modeling. It unifies both feature models and meta-models [1]. Clafer specifications are built of components called clafers.

In Listing 1 we show a specification of two mobile phones in Clafer. Phone is an example of a top-level (non-nested) abstract clafer. Abstract clafers do not get directly instantiated in the resulting model, however concrete clafers, such as BudgetPhone and SmartPhone, can extend abstract clafers to inherit their sub-clafers. Sub-clafers are indicated by indentation, and cannot exist without their parent. Although our example only has two levels of indentation, other specifications may have more. The * after Phone indicates that zero or more Phones may be included in the resulting model. Phone has an optional feature Wifi, denoted by the question mark after it. instApps is a reference clafer (denoted by the \rightarrow symbol) that refers to a set of installed Apps. We emphasize that this is a set: an implicit constraint is that the same phone cannot have two of the same App. However, different phones may install the same App. A Phone, has a final attribute of cost, which we indicate is of type real number. Note that clafers that are declared primitive (int/string/real) get desugared into reference clafers that point to instances of their respective type.

App (on line 6) is an example of a **concrete clafer**. On line 9, we introduce the concrete clafer BudgetPhone, which inherits all subclafers from Phone. The number 2 after it indicates that their must be exactly two BudgetPhones in the resulting model. BudgetPhone has two constraints associated with it on lines 10-11 (indicated by square brackets). Line 10 consists of a quantified expression (with quantifier no), indicating that a BudgetPhone cannot have Apps. Note that this constraint must be true of all BudgetPhone instances, due to its level of indentation. Line 11 indicates the price of BudgetPhones, constraining the inherited clafer cost. Line 14 restricts the cost of SmartPhones to be its base cost (99.99), plus the sum of all installed Apps. The dot character in "instApps.appCost" in essence serves as a navigation operator, by performing a join between the set of Apps associated with this individual SmartPhone and the appCosts associated with them. A model of the specification is given in Listing 2.

This example only illustrates a fragment of the expressions supported by Clafer. Most notably, set operations such as intersection and union allow richer expressions over instances of clafers. We describe the other components of the language in Section 4.

3 Solution Overview

We describe the approach of our translation through our example in Section 2. For consistency (and due to large amounts of overlapping terminology), we define the following terms and notations: 1) we use capitalized *Clafer* to denote the language Clafer itself, and lowercase *clafer* to denote individual components of the input (*e.g.* Phone in Listing 1); 2) we call the Clafer input the *specification* (*e.g.* Listing 1); 3) an output that conforms to the specification is a *model* (e.g. Listing 2); and 4) individual occurrences of a clafer in the model are *instances* (*e.g.* Phone0 in Listing 2).

Figure 1 depicts how our translation of Clafer to Z3 fits into the Clafer toolchain. Clafer specifications are first run through the front-end (scanner, parser, type-checker, etc.), and a representation of the input is generated in Python. Using the Z3Py API, ClaferZ3 generates a set of variables and asserts constraints over them. If string constraints are not present, then we can use the standard Z3 implementation to check for satisfiability, else we use Z3-Str. If the solver finds a satisfying assignment over the generated variables and constraints, then the

Listing 1: Clafer specification Listing 2: A generated model Listing 3: The variables assoof two types of phones and of a mobile phone and its apps ciated with each clafer in Z3 apps. in Clafer. corresponding to Listing 2.

```
abstract Phone *
 1
                                               App0
 2
       Wifi?
                                                 appCost = 0.99
 3
       instApps -> App *
                                                                                     Phone: [0, 0, 0]
 4
       cost : real
                                                 appCost = 2.99
                                                                                     Wifi: [0, 2, 3]
 5
                                               BudgetPhone0: Phone0
                                                                                     instApps: [2, 2, 3]
 6
                                                 Wifi0
                                                                                     instApps_ref: [0, 1, 3]
     App *
 7
       appCost: real
                                                   cost0 = 49.99
                                                                                     cost: [0, 1, 2]
                                                                                     cost_ref: [49.99, 49.99, 103.97]
 8
                                               BudgetPhone1: Phone1
 9
     BudgetPhone: Phone 2
                                                   cost1 = 49.99
                                                                                     App: [0, 0, 1]
10
       [ no instApps && no Wifi ]
                                               SmartPhone0: Phone2
                                                                                     appCost_ref: [0.99, 2.99, 0]
                                                 Wifi1
                                                                                     BudgetPhone: [0, 0]
11
       [\cos t = 49.99]
12
                                                 instApps0 -> App0
                                                                                     SmartPhone: [0]
                                                 instApps1 -> App1
13
     SmartPhone: Phone 1
14
       [ cost = 99.99 + sum(instApps.appCost)]
                                                 cost2 = 103.97
```

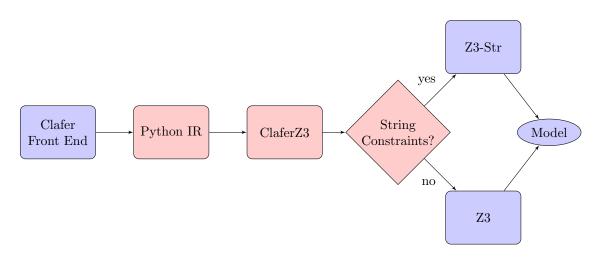


Figure 1: Depicts Clafer Z3 within the Clafer toolchain. Nodes marked red indicate contributions of this work.

values of these variables can be interpreted as a Clafer model.

We devote the remainder of this section to describing the variables generated to express our Clafer specification in Z3, and how their valuations are interpreted back into a Z3 model. The actual constraints over the variables are discussed in Section 4. We hope that by discussing the end result first, the constraint that need to be generated are more intuitive.

3.1 Interpreting Z3 output as a Clafer Model

We borrow two key ideas from a previous translation of Clafer to Choco [4]: 1) clafers are represented as a finite number of integers; and 2) clafers that extend abstract clafers have a direct mapping to their supers (we discuss this point later).

We represent a clafer as a finite list of integers. Consider the BudgetPhone clafer in Listing

1. Since a model will have at most two BudgetPhone clafers, we can represent it with a list of two integer variables, say $[BudgetPhone_0, BudgetPhone_1]$.

For star-cardinalities (as in the reference clafer App), we place a finite $scope\ s$ on the clafer, indicating that only s instances can occur in the model. For the sake of example, let us assume that the scope of all unbounded clafers is 3. Then we can represent the clafer App with the list $[App_0, App_1, App_2]$.

Listing 3 depicts a possible Z3 output for our specification. Note that, for example, "Wifi: [0,2,3]" is shorthand for $Wifi_0 = 0$, $Wifi_1 = 2$, $Wifi_2 = 3$. Semantically, the values of these integer variables represent parent pointers, indicating where the clafer should be placed in the model. For example, if the variable App_0 is set to 0 by the solver, then it should fall directly beneath $Phone_0$ in the hierarchy of the model. Likewise, if $App_0 = 1$, then App_0 would be placed under $Phone_1$.

A clafer instance is *excluded* from the model if its integer variable is set to a pre-defined sentinel value, which equals the total number of instance variables of the clafer's parent. For example, since the cost clafer is directly underneath Phone, and Phone has three instances variables, any cost instance set to 3 will not be included in the model. For top-level clafers that do not have a parent, the instance is included if its corresponding variable is set to 0, and not included if set to 1. For simplicity in the remainder of the paper, given a clafer x, an instance x_i is excluded if $x_i = x_{off}$ (Wifiz = Wifioff in our example).

Reference clasers (e.g. instApps) require an additional variable associated with each instance, which corresponds to where the reference points. For a reference claser instance x_i , we label its reference x_i -ref. In Listing 3, since $instApps_0$ -ref = 0, $instApps_0$ points to App_0 . The sentinel value for a reference variable is equal to the number of instances of the referenced claser (e.g. instApps-ref_{off} = App_{off}).

Integer and real number clasers (e.g. cost) are treated similarly to reference clasers, however their references have unbounded ranges. Also, if an integer claser is not present in the model, we set its reference to 0 to facilitate other set operations, such as summation.

4 Detailed Solution Overview

This section describes the Z3 constraints that are generated to represent a Clafer specification in Z3. Table 2 describes the constraints generated for some example specifications. Note that although we describe our constraints using for-all quantifiers, we do not use quantified expressions in our translation; quantifiers are expanded into all possible interpretations. We first discuss the hierarchy and cardinality constraints, followed by set constraints and quantified expressions.

4.1 Hierarchical and Cardinality Constraints

Hierarchy rules restrict clafer instances to be within the range of parent instances. This is necessary, as we interpret the variable valuations as parent pointers when translating the results to a Clafer model, as discussed in Section 3. Instances cannot exist without their parent (No Child wo/Parent). Additionally, if a clafer has a reference, the reference exists iff the instance exists (Instance \Leftrightarrow Ref). Cardinality constraints restrict the number of instances that can occur of a clafer. Hierarchy must be considered when computing cardinality: in the example specification for cardinality in Table 2, every Phone that is present in the model must have

Constraint Type	Example Spec.	Generated Z3 Constraints
Hierarchy	Phone 3 App 5	$\bigvee_{i:Phone} 0 \le i \le 1, \text{ and } \bigvee_{i:App} 0 \le i \le 3$
No Child wo/Parent	Phone 3 App 5	$\bigwedge_{i=0}^{2} \left(Phone_i == Phone_{off} \Rightarrow \bigwedge_{j:App} j \neq i \right)$
$Instance \Leftrightarrow Ref$	$\begin{array}{c} \text{App 5} \\ \text{Phone} \rightarrow \text{App 3} \end{array}$	$\bigvee_{i:Phone} (i == Phone_{off} \Leftrightarrow i_ref == App_{off})$
Cardinality	Phone 3 App 25	$ \bigwedge_{i=0}^{2} \left(Phone_i \neq Phone_{off} \Rightarrow 2 \leq \sum_{j:App} If(j == i, 1, 0) \leq 5 \right) $
Quantifiers		$\bigvee_{i:App}\bigvee_{j:App}(i\neq j\Rightarrow i_ref\neq j_ref)$

Figure 2: Translation rules.

Operation	Example Spec.	Generated Set	
Join	$\begin{array}{c} \text{App 4} \\ \text{Phone} \rightarrow \text{App 3} \\ [\dots \text{ Phone.ref } \dots] \end{array}$	$\{e_i \mid 0 \le i \le 3\}, \text{ where}$ $e_i = If(\bigvee_{j=0}^{\infty} (Phone_j ref == i), App_i, App_{off})$	
Set Cardinality	App 4 Phone \rightarrow App 13 [$\#(Phone.ref)$]	$\sum_{e_i} If(e_i \neq App_{off}, 1, 0), \text{ where the } e_i\text{'s are computed from the join.}$	

Figure 3: Set operations.

between two and five Apps. The inner summation in the constraint serves as a mask; for a given Phone i, we only wish to count the number of Apps that are under i within the hierarchy.

4.2 Quantifiers

Clafer supports quantified expressions that appear within square brackets in the specification, and generally take the form: $[quantifier\ vars: type\ |\ expr]$. The row labeled Quantifiers provides an example of these expressions. This example also includes the keyword disj, which states that expr should only be evaluated if the vars are distinct; this is captured by the $x \neq y$ part of the Z3 expression.

We believe quantifiers to be one of the largest bottlenecks for our translation as well as solving time. In general, if there are n vars in the declaration of the quantifier (e.g. x and y from the example), and the type of vars has m instances (m = 3 for App), we must generate m^n different constraints, one for each permutation of n instances from m.

4.3 Set Constraints

Bracketed constraints may also contain set operations, such as relational join and cardinality. Joins serve as a way to *navigate* from one set of instances to some related set. Consider the

Join row of Table 3. Essentially, Phone.ref indicates that we want to navigate from a set of type Phone to a set of type App. Our new set contains an expression e_i for all instances of App, however only Apps referenced by some Phone will be on.

Set cardinality is indicated by the # operator. Given a set of expressions with clafer type t, we count the number of expressions that do not evaluate to t_{off} . Our examples only illustrates simple case of joins and set cardinality; in general, the sets may include multiple types of clafer instances, and our approach must be adjusted according.

4.4 Discussion

Due to space restrictions, we do not discuss the full set of expressions available in Clafer. Most expressions follow patterns analogous to those previously presented. We also did not discuss arithmetic constraints, however they translate naturally into Z3. Set operations, such as union and intersection, require further discussion. In addition, we have implemented some optimizations to reduce the number of required constraints; many are analogous to those found in [4].

Although we have not formally proven it, we believe our approach is sound, in that it will only produce models that satisfy the specification. However, our approach is incomplete for multiple reasons. Most notably, since we bound our specifications, we may miss larger models. Further, Clafer technically allows non-linear arithmetic, although we have not seen any specifications so far that require it. With that in mind, our approach of translating bounded Clafer specifications can generally be expressed within the logic of QF_UFNRA (quantifier-free non-linear real arithmetic), however all Clafer models encountered so far can be expressed in QF_LIA (quantifier-free linear integer arithmetic).

5 Extensions to Clafer

A notable difference of using Z3, as opposed to previous backends of Clafer, is its ability to handle constraints with real numbers³. Z3 handles real numbers naturally, so incorporating constraints over them into our translation required minimal effort. We therefore do not discuss further details.

We next briefly describe our extensions allowing string constraints. We also propose a new algorithm to prevent the generation of models that are isomorphic to previously generated models.

5.1 String Constraints

String constraints are supported through Z3-Str [10], an extension to Z3 allowing the string expressions, such as concatenation, substring, and cardinality. If the given specification contains string constraints, we translate to Z3-Str instead of Z3.

Since we are using the Z3 Python API (which does not support strings), we need to modify our translation to conform to the Z3-Str input format. Our approach is to first purify any strings and string operations present in the AST of the specification. String variables are temporarily replaced with fresh Int variables, and string expressions are replaced with either fresh Int or fresh Boolean variables, depending on the operation (e.g. cardinality is replaced

³Due to complications with the Clafer frontend grammar, we have only been able to prototype these constraints with small hand-generated models. This also applies to string constraints. These restrictions will be addressed in the near future.

models. Below are two example models.

Listing 4: A specification with 6 isomorphic Listing 5: The Clafer constraint restricting all models isomorphic to Listing 4.

```
AddsToSix 1
                                                       [ //note the negation here
  Digit -> int 3
                                                       !( #AddsToSix = 1 &&
    [this.ref > 0]
                                                         (some Digit0; Digit1; Digit2: Digit |
  [sum(Digit.ref) = 6]
                                                           (some c0_AddsToSix_sort_0 : AddsToSix |
                                                             #c0_AddsToSix_sort_0.Digit = 3 &&
//example model
AddsToSix0
                                                             Digit0 in AddsToSix0.Digit &&
    Digit0 = 1
                                                             Digit1 in AddsToSix0.Digit &&
    Diait1 = 2
                                                             Digit2 in AddsToSix0.Digit &&
    Digit2 = 3
                                                             "Digit uniqueness constraints" &&
//isomorphic to first model
AddsToSix0
                                                             Digit0.ref = 1 &&
    Digit0 = 2
                                                             Digit1.ref = 2 &&
    Digit1 = 1
                                                             Digit2.ref = 3
    Diait2 = 3
                                                         )))]
```

with an Int, whereas substring is replaced with a Boolean). After all other components of the translation finish, the constraints constructed during translation are converted into Z3-Str format, reintroducing strings and string expressions where necessary.

5.2 Isomorphic Model Prevention

Clafer may produce multiple models for a given specification, however there may be many models that have the same structure, that is, they are isomorphic. While we do not formally define isomorphism of models, intuitively two models are isomorphic if they have the same number of instances of each clafer, the same tree structure, and the graph formed by reference clafers is isomorphic. From a user's viewpoint, these redundant models are not as useful, and should be excluded if possible. Consider Listing 4. Essentially, this specification requires three unique positive integers, such that their sum is six. There are six unique models (one for each permutation of the numbers 1, 2, and 3), however they are all isomorphic to each other.

Suppose the first example model from Listing 4 has been generated. Listing 5 is the constraint (in Clafer syntax) that is added to the specification to prevent future models that are isomorphic to the first. Essentially, each future model either has a different number of clasers (which is not possible in this example due to cardinality constraints), or must have a digit not equal to 1, 2, or 3. Note that by using the *some* quantifier, the order of the Digits is ignored. Adding this constraint to the system prevents the generation of models isomorphic to the first; for this example no more models can be produced.

Although we have only shown a simple example with integers, the approach extends naturally to larger models and reference clasers. This improves upon previous approaches that only look at the tree structure of the model, and cannot detect isomorphism over reference clasers. We note that this approach is possible as Z3 allows pushing new constraints after an initial solution has been found. Unfortunately, our approach may add an exponential number of constraints, making it infeasible for many specifications. We are still investigating optimizations

Specification	Translation Time(s)	Solving Time(s)
Clafer Test Suite	10.55	0.88
Audi Configurator	0.13	0.01
Zoo	0.84	0.15

Figure 4: Translation and solving time for each experiment. Note that the Clafer test suite consists of 41 individual specifications. Times are in seconds.

for this approach.

6 Experimental Results

We provide initial experimental results from four sources: 1) the Audi Car Configurator model from [5]; 2) a simple Clafer specification of a zoo from [4]; 3) a PHP script involving string and integer constraints from [10]⁴; and 4) the Clafer test suite. We include the specification for the Audi Car Configurator and the PHP script in Appendices A and B, respectively. The Clafer test suite contains mostly small specifications, however it was useful for checking the proper functionality of our tool. The test suite contains 43 specifications, and we evaluated all but two. The two excluded specifications did not adhere to small design restrictions of our approach, which are reserved for future work⁵. Currently, we do not have any *large* models in our evaluation, and we plan to address this limitation in future work.

All tests were run on a dual core (2.4GHz) laptop with 8GB of RAM, running 64-bit Linux Mint 14. We used Z3 4.3.2 along with Python 3.2 in our experiments. We specified a global scope of 6 for each test, with the exception of the zoo specification, which requires a scope of 9.

Table 6 shows the translation and solving time for our set of specifications. Translation time indicates the time required to convert a Clafer specification to a set of Z3 constraints. Solving time indicates how long Z3 takes to find the first satisfying model for each specification. Although the translation is currently a large bottleneck for our approach, it can certainly be optimized. We find that the low solving times for all specifications indicates that our approach is promising.

7 Related and Previous Work

The work of Michel et. al. [5] discusses how configuration problems can be encoded in SMT using TVL [2] – a text based feature modeling language similar to Clafer. TVL supports many of the components of Clafer, including hierarchy, group cardinality, attributes, enums, and cross-tree constraints. However, several aspects of Clafer require extensions to this work (most notably, set constraints and quantified expressions).

A previous project [8] within the GSD lab was capable of translating a small subset of Clafer to Z3, in order to support attributed feature models for multi-objective optimization. The primary components of Clafer necessary for this domain include hierarchical constraints, fixed-size cardinalities (e.g. [0..1]), and basic arithmetic constraints. This project subsumes

⁴Although we have specified this model, we cannot evaluate it yet, once again due to grammar restrictions in the frontend. However, due to its small size we expect that this specification will take minimal time to instantiate.

⁵Essentially, these specifications require instances of abstract clafers to be part of the concrete model.

that translation by allowing arbitrary Clafer constraints.

This work most closely resembles that of [4]. Their work translates Clafer to Choco, a CSP language. We have borrowed components from that work, particularly in our representation of clafers and inherited clafers. We are able to extend Clafer with constraints over strings and real numbers, which neither the Choco nor Alloy backend currently support. Z3 also allows us to handle arbitrarily larger integers, which neither of the other backends support. In addition, in the future we intend to extend this project in order to eliminate the need for scopes on unbounded clafers. We discuss this in Section 8.

8 Future Work

This project utilized only a small subset of the available features of Z3. For example, Z3 has support for uninterpreted functions and data types. We would like to modify our translation to take advantage of these features. With this approach, we may be able to eliminate the need for scopes in our implementation. The work in [3], which translates components of Alloy to SMT, and that of [7], which discusses some set theoretic operations using the theory of arrays, may be useful starting points for this extension.

One particular reason we did not take this approach yet is due to translation efficiency. As an example, in an early version of this project we used an uninterpreted function to represent cardinality constraints. Given a clafer, the function would restrict its instances in a way similar to Table 2 . By blasting this function into simple arithmetic constraints (which we can do since we have a bounded number of instances), our translation times were significantly decreased⁶, even for small models. We emphasize that here we are referring to translation time; Z3 took approximately the same time to solve models whether or not functions were used.

A proper evaluation is necessary to compare the three Clafer backends that are now available. Since each backend was developed independently and contain unique optimizations, this comparison cannot properly evaluate the effectiveness of Alloy/Choco/Z3 as a backend. However, it would be useful to users of Clafer who wish to choose the ideal backend for their application.

Finally, we intend to further evaluate our extensions for string and real number constraints. Although we currently have models with these constraints, they cannot be properly compiled by Clafer, due to lack of support in the Clafer frontend (see footnote 3). These issues will be addressed in the near future.

9 Conclusions

We have developed a translation from Clafer to Z3. We extend capabilities of Clafer with string constraints using Z3-Str, as well as constraints over real numbers and unbounded integers. Z3's capability to push new constraints to existing specifications allows a new approach to preventing isomorphic Clafer models. Initial results indicate that our approach seems reasonably fast over a variety of specifications, however larger inputs will be needed to validate our results. With the expressive power of Clafer, coupled with the support for new data types, our approach supports the analysis of new domains of models that previous tools are incapable of handling.

 $^{^6}$ Although time differences were not recorded, some relatively small specifications required 2-3 additional seconds.

References

- [1] K. Bak, K. Czarnecki, and A. Wasowski. Feature and meta-models in Clafer: mixed, specialized, and coupled. *Software Language Engineering*, 2011.
- [2] A. Classen, Q. Boucher, and P. Heymans. A text-based approach to feature modelling: Syntax and semantics of TVL. *Science of Computer Programming*, 76(12):1130–1143, Dec. 2011.
- [3] A. E. Ghazi and M. Taghdiri. Relational reasoning via SMT solving. FM 2011: Formal Methods, 2011.
- [4] J. Liang. Solving Clafer Models with Choco. Technical report.
- [5] R. Michel, A. Hubaux, V. Ganesh, and P. Heymans. An SMT-based Approach to Automated Configuration. SMT Workshop 2012 10th . . . , pages 107–117, 2012.
- [6] L. D. Moura and N. Bjø rner. Z3: An efficient SMT solver. Tools and Algorithms for the Construction and ..., 2008.
- [7] L. D. Moura and N. Bjorner. Generalized, efficient array decision procedures. Formal Methods in Computer-Aided . . . , pages 1–10, 2009.
- [8] R. Olaechea. Comparison of Exact and Approximate Multi-Objective Optimization for Software Product Lines. PhD thesis, 2013.
- [9] P. Saadatpanah, M. Famelis, J. Gorzny, N. Robinson, M. Chechik, and R. Salay. Comparing the effectiveness of reasoning formalisms for partial models. *Proceedings of the Workshop on Model-Driven Engineering, Verification and Validation MoDeVVa '12*, 1(c):41–46, 2012.
- [10] Y. Zheng, X. Zhang, and V. Ganesh. Z3-str: a z3-based string solver for web application analysis. Proceedings of the 2013 9th Joint Meeting on Foundations of Software Engineering - ESEC/FSE 2013, page 114, 2013.

A Audi Car Configurator Specification

```
AudiCar
 1
 2
      xor ModelLine
 3
        AudiA4
 4
          [ A4Saloon || A4Avant || S4Saloon || S4Avant ]
 5
        AudiA6
 6
          [ A6Saloon | A6Avant ]
 7
       xor BodyStyle
 8
         Saloon
 9
          [ A4Saloon | S4Saloon | A6Saloon ]
10
        Avant
11
          [ A4Avant | S4Avant | A6Avant ]
12
       Engine
13
        xor WheelDrive
14
          Quatro
15
          FrontWheelDrive
16
          RearWheelDrive
17
        xor DriveTrain
18
          Automatic
19
          Manual
20
          STronic
21
       Exterior
22
         'Color
23
        wheel: Wheel
24
         1..2 ExteriorPackage?
```

```
25
          BlackStyling
26
          ContrastRoof
27
      xor Model
28
        A4Saloon
29
        A4Avant
30
        S4Saloon
31
        S4Avant
32
        A6Saloon
33
        A6Avant
34
35
    abstract Wheel
36
      Size: int
      [ 15 \le Size && Size \le 20 ]
37
38
      xor TypeWheel
39
        Spoke5
40
        Spoke6
41
        Harm7
42
        Hole6
43
44
    abstract xor Color
45
      Metallic
46
      PearlEffect
47
      Other
```

B PHP Script Specification

Refer to [10] for the original PHP script.

```
//lines 1-13 from original PHP Script
 2
    g:int
 3
    usergroup: int
 4\quad {\rm role: string}
     r: string
 6
     [g = usergroup]
 7
     [g < 3 \&\& g = 0 => role = "visitor"]
     [g < 3 \&\& g != 0 => role = "new"]
     [g > 3 \&\& g = 9 =  role = "admin"]
10
     [g > 3 \&\& g != 9 => role = r]
11
12
    //line 14
13
    p:int
14
    price : int
15
     [p = price]
16
17
    //lines 15-16
18
     total: int
19
     taxrate: int
20
     ship: int
21
     [total = (1 + taxrate) * p + ship]
22
23 //lines 17-19
24 notifyAdmin?
25 [total > 500 && substr(role, 0, 1) = "n" <=> notifyAdmin]
```