

# Refinement for Symbolic Trajectory Evaluation

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**Abstract.** Model refinement such that it preserves symbolic trajectory evaluations.

**Keywords:** STE · Refinement · ?

## 1 Introduction to STE

### 1.1 Original STE

*Symbolic trajectory evaluation* [5] (STE) is a high-performance model checking technique based on *symbolic simulation* extended with a temporal *next-time* operator to describe circuit behaviour over time. In its simplest form, STE tests the validity of an *assertion* of the form  $A \Rightarrow C$ , where both the *antecedent*  $A$  and *consequent*  $C$  are formulas in the following logic:

$$f ::= p \mid f \wedge f \mid P \rightarrow f \mid \mathbf{N} f$$

Here,  $p$  is a simple predicate over “values” in a circuit and  $P$  is a Boolean propositional formula, and the operators  $\wedge$ ,  $\rightarrow$  and  $\mathbf{N}$  are conjunction, domain restriction and the next-time operator, respectively.

If the circuit contains Boolean signals,  $p$  is typically drawn from the following two predicates:  $n \text{ is } 1$  and  $n \text{ is } 0$ , where  $n$  ranges over the signals (or nodes) in a circuit. For example, suppose we have a unit-delayed, two-input AND-gate, then it is reasonable to assume that the assertion  $(in_1 \text{ is } 1 \wedge in_2 \text{ is } 1) \Rightarrow \mathbf{N}(out \text{ is } 1)$  is true. Indeed, STE efficiently validates such statements for us.

While the truth semantics of an assertion in STE is defined as the satisfaction of its “defining” trajectory (bounded sequence of states) relative to a model structure of the circuit, what the STE algorithm computes is exactly the solution of a data-flow equation [1] in the classic format [4]. . . .

### 1.2 Lattice-theoretic STE

Consider an arbitrary, but fixed, digital circuit  $M$  operating in discrete time. A *configuration* of  $M$ , denoted by  $C$ , is non-empty and finite set that represents a snapshot of  $M$  at a discrete point in time. If the circuit  $M$  has  $m$  boolean signals, then its set of configurations is typically represented as a sequence  $\mathbb{B}^m$ , where  $\mathbb{B} = \{0, 1\}$  is the set of boolean values.

**Circuit Model** A simple conceptual model of  $M$  is a *transition relation*,  $M_R \subseteq C \times C$ , where  $(c, c') \in M_R$  means that  $M$  can move from  $c$  to  $c'$  in one step<sup>1</sup>. The power set of  $C$ , denoted by  $\mathcal{P}(C)$ , can be viewed as the set of *predicates* on configurations, where  $\cap$ ,  $\cup$ , and  $\subseteq$  correspond to conjunction, disjunction and implication, respectively. Furthermore, for any  $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C)$ , we denote by  $\cap Q$  and  $\cup Q$  the intersection and union of all members of  $Q$ .

$M_R$  induces a *predicate transformer*  $M_F \in \mathcal{P}(C) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$  using the relational image operation:

$$M_F(p) = \{c' \in C \mid \exists c \in p : (c, c') \in M_R\}$$

It is intuitively obvious that if  $M$  is in one of the configurations in  $p \in \mathcal{P}(C)$ , then in one time step it must be in one of the configurations in  $M_F(p)$ . Furthermore, from its definition we see that  $M_F$  distributes over arbitrary unions:

$$M_F(\cup Q) = \cup \{M_F(q) \mid q \in Q\}$$

for all  $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C)$ . Any  $M_F$  that satisfies this distributive property also defines a  $M_R$  through the equivalence  $(c, c') \in M_R \Leftrightarrow c' \in M_F(\{c\})$ , that is to say, there is no loss of information going from  $M_R$  to  $M_F$  or vice versa. We adopt this functional model of  $M$  and drop its subscript. It follows its distributivity that  $M$  also preserves the empty set of constraints, i.e.  $M(\emptyset) = \emptyset$ , and that  $M$  is monotonic, i.e.  $p \subseteq q \Rightarrow M(p) \subseteq M(q)$  for all  $p, q \in \mathcal{P}(C)$ .

In practice, signals in  $M$  are typically divided into “input” signals and “output” or “internal” signals. While an input signal is typically controlled by the external environment, and thus unconstrained by  $M$  itself, non-input signals are determined by the circuit topology and functionality. For example, supposed  $M$  is the earlier example of a unit-delayed two-input AND gate, we could then define its model  $\mathcal{M} \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^3) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^3)$  as:

$$\mathcal{M}(p) = \{\langle b_1, b_2, i_1 \wedge i_2 \rangle \in \mathbb{B}^3 \mid \langle i_1, i_2, o \rangle \in p\}$$

Here  $i_1$  and  $i_2$  refer to the two inputs of the AND gate and  $o$  the ignored output;  $b_1$  and  $b_2$  are unconstrained inputs in the new configuration.

**Ternary lattices** Manipulating subsets of  $\mathbb{B}^m$  is however impractical for even moderately large  $m$ , which leads us to one of the key insights of STE. Namely, instead of manipulating subsets of  $\mathbb{B}^m$  directly, one can use sequences of ternary values  $\mathbb{T} = \mathbb{B} \cup \{X\}$  to approximate them, whose sizes are only linear in  $m$ . Here the 1 and 0 from  $\mathbb{B}$  denotes specific, defined values whereas  $X$  denotes an “unknown” value that could be either 1 or 0. This intuition induces a partial order  $\sqsubseteq$  on  $\mathbb{T}$ , where  $0 \sqsubseteq X$  and  $1 \sqsubseteq X^2$ . For any  $m \in \mathbb{N}$ , this ordering on  $\mathbb{T}$  is lifted component-wise to  $\mathbb{T}^m$ .

<sup>1</sup> Mention how this affects circuits with zero-delays?

<sup>2</sup> We use the reverse ordering of what is originally used in STE.

Note that  $\mathbb{T}^m$  does not quite form a complete lattice because it lacks a bottom: both  $0 \sqsubseteq X$  and  $1 \sqsubseteq X$  but  $0$  and  $1$  are equally defined. A special bottom element  $\perp$  is therefore introduced, such that  $\perp \sqsubseteq t$  and  $\perp \neq t$  for all  $t \in \mathbb{T}^m$ . The extended  $\mathbb{T}_\perp^m = \mathbb{T}^m \cup \{\perp\}$  then becomes a complete lattice. We denote the top element  $\langle X, \dots, X \rangle$  of  $\mathbb{T}_\perp^m$  by  $\top$ .

Generalising from any specific domain, let  $(\hat{P}, \sqsubseteq)$  be a finite, complete lattice of *abstract predicates* in which the meet  $\sqcap$  and join  $\sqcup$  of any subset  $Q \subseteq \hat{P}$  exists. Similar to the previous set operations for power sets,  $\sqcap$ ,  $\sqcup$  and  $\sqsubseteq$  correspond to conjunction, disjunction and implication for abstract predicates, respectively. Furthermore, for any  $Q \subseteq \hat{P}$ , we denote by  $\sqcap Q$  and  $\sqcup Q$  the meet and join of all members of  $Q$ .

**Abstract circuit model** Let there be a Galois connection relating “concrete” predicates  $\mathcal{P}(C)$  and abstract predicates  $\hat{P}$ . The usual definition of a Galois connection is in terms of an *abstraction*  $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(C) \rightarrow \hat{P}$  and a *concretisation*  $\gamma \in \hat{P} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$  function, such that  $\alpha(p) \sqsubseteq \hat{p} \Leftrightarrow p \subseteq \gamma(\hat{p})$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $\hat{p} \in \hat{P}$ . For example, a Galois connection from  $\mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^m)$  to  $\mathbb{T}_\perp^m$  for any  $m \in \mathbb{N}$  can be defined in a natural way by its concretisation function  $\Gamma \in \mathbb{T}_\perp^m \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^m)$ :

$$\begin{aligned} \Gamma(\langle t_0, \dots, t_{m-1} \rangle) &= \{ \langle b_0, \dots, b_{m-1} \rangle \in \mathbb{B}^m \mid \forall i < m : t_i \neq X \Rightarrow b_i = t_i \} \\ \Gamma(\perp) &= \emptyset \end{aligned}$$

Listing each concrete predicate approximated by  $\langle 1, X, 0 \rangle$  with  $\Gamma$ , we get the set  $\{\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle\}$  as desired. Conversely, we can define the abstraction function  $A \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^m) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}_\perp^m$  by finding the most precise abstraction:

$$\begin{aligned} A(p) &= \sqcup \{ \langle t_0, \dots, t_{m-1} \rangle \in \mathbb{T}_\perp^m \mid \langle b_0, \dots, b_{m-1} \rangle \in p, \forall i < m : t_i = b_i \} \\ A(\emptyset) &= \perp \end{aligned}$$

Abstracting the concrete predicates  $\{\langle 1, 1, 0 \rangle, \langle 1, 0, 0 \rangle\}$  with  $A$  indeed yields the original  $\langle 1, X, 0 \rangle$  abstraction.

The def. used in [1] is similar but different, as it view a Galois connection from  $\mathcal{P}(C)$  to  $\hat{P}$  instead as binary relation. We define  $\ll \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C) \times \hat{P}$  such that for all  $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $\hat{Q} \subseteq \hat{P}$ :

$$\forall p \in Q : \forall \hat{p} \in \hat{Q} : p \ll \hat{p} \Leftrightarrow \sqcup Q \ll \sqcap \hat{Q}$$

Where  $p \ll \hat{p}$  reads as “ $p$  can be approximated as  $\hat{p}$ ”<sup>3</sup>. Intuitively,  $\ll$  is an extension of the partial order  $\subseteq$  of  $\mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $\sqsubseteq$  of  $\hat{P}$  to an ordering between  $\mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $\hat{P}$ .

The abstraction and concretisation functions can be derived from  $\ll$ :

$$\alpha(p) = \sqcap \{ \hat{p} \in \hat{P} \mid p \ll \hat{p} \} \quad \gamma(\hat{p}) = \sqcup \{ p \in \mathcal{P}(C) \mid p \ll \hat{p} \}$$

Text:

$$p \ll \hat{p} \Leftrightarrow \alpha(p) \sqsubseteq \hat{p} \quad p \ll \hat{p} \Leftrightarrow p \subseteq \gamma(\hat{p})$$

**Text.**

An *abstract predicate transformer*  $\hat{M} \in \hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{P}$  is an *abstract interpretation* [2] of  $M \in \mathcal{P}(C) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$  iff: (1)  $\hat{M}$  preserves  $\perp$ , i.e.  $\hat{M}(\perp) = \perp$ ; (2)  $\hat{M}$  is monotonic, i.e.  $\hat{p} \sqsubseteq \hat{q} \Rightarrow \hat{M}(\hat{p}) \sqsubseteq \hat{M}(\hat{q})$  for all  $\hat{p}, \hat{q} \in \hat{P}$ ; and (3)  $\ll$  is a *simulation relation* from  $\mathcal{P}(C)$  to  $\hat{P}$ , i.e.  $p \ll \hat{p} \Rightarrow M(p) \ll \hat{M}(\hat{p})$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{P}(C)$  and  $\hat{p} \in \hat{P}$ . That  $\ll$  is a simulation relation can also be stated in terms of its abstraction  $\alpha$  and concretisation  $\gamma$  functions:  $\alpha(M(p)) \sqsubseteq \hat{M}(\alpha(p))$  for all  $p \in \mathcal{P}(C)$ , and  $M(\gamma(\hat{p})) \subseteq \gamma(\hat{M}(\hat{p}))$  for all  $\hat{p} \in \hat{P}$ .

Note that  $\hat{M}$  does not distribute over arbitrary join in general because information is potentially discarded when joining two lattices. As an example, we define  $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$  as an abstract interpretation for the earlier  $\mathcal{M}$ :

$$\hat{\mathcal{M}}(\langle p_1, p_2, p_3 \rangle) = \begin{cases} \langle X, X, 1 \rangle, & \text{if } p_1 = 1 \text{ and } p_2 = 1 \\ \langle X, X, 0 \rangle, & \text{if } p_1 = 0 \text{ or } p_2 = 0 \\ \langle X, X, X \rangle, & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

$$\hat{\mathcal{M}}(\perp) = \perp$$

If we apply  $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$  to the join of  $\langle 0, 1, X \rangle$  and  $\langle 1, 0, X \rangle$ , or if we apply  $\hat{\mathcal{M}}$  to them individually and then join the results, we get two different results:

$$\begin{aligned} \hat{\mathcal{M}}(\langle 0, 1, X \rangle \sqcup \langle 1, 0, X \rangle) &= \hat{\mathcal{M}}(\langle X, X, X \rangle) = \langle X, X, X \rangle \\ \hat{\mathcal{M}}(\langle 0, 1, X \rangle) \sqcup \hat{\mathcal{M}}(\langle 1, 0, X \rangle) &= \langle X, X, 0 \rangle \sqcup \langle X, X, 0 \rangle = \langle X, X, 0 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

The inequality  $\sqcup \{ \hat{M}(\hat{q}) \mid \hat{q} \in \hat{Q} \} \sqsubseteq \hat{M}(\sqcup \hat{Q})$  for all  $\hat{Q} \sqsubseteq \hat{P}$  does however hold, since it is implied by the monotonicity of  $\hat{M}$ .

**Assertions and satisfaction** A *trajectory assertion* for  $\hat{M}$  is a quintuple  $\hat{A} = (S, s_0, R, \pi_a, \pi_c)$ , where  $S$  is a finite set of *states*,  $s_0 \in S$  is an *initial state*,  $R \subseteq S \times S$  is a *transition relation*,  $\pi_a \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$  and  $\pi_c \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$  label each state  $s$  with an *antecedent*  $\pi_a(s)$  and a *consequent*  $\pi_c(s)$ . Furthermore, we assume that  $(s, s_0) \notin S$  for all  $s \in S$  without any loss of generality.

For all  $\Phi \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$  and  $s \in S$ , define  $F \in S \rightarrow (\hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{P})$  and  $\mathcal{F} \in (S \rightarrow \hat{P}) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow \hat{P})$  as follows:

$$F(s)(\hat{p}) = \hat{M}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{p}) \quad (1)$$

$$\mathcal{F}(\Phi)(s) = \mathbf{if} (s = s_0) \mathbf{then} \top \mathbf{else} \sqcup \{ F(s')(\Phi(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R \} \quad (2)$$

$F$  preserves  $\perp$  and both  $F$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  are monotonic, where two  $\Phi, \Phi' \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$  are ordered as  $\Phi \sqsubseteq \Phi' \Leftrightarrow \forall s \in S : \Phi(s) \sqsubseteq \Phi'(s)$ . Let  $\Phi_* \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$  be the least

<sup>3</sup> Used to prove thesis in [1], included here since we use one for refinement later on.

fixpoint of the equation  $\Phi = \mathcal{F}(\Phi)$  [3]. Since both  $S$  and  $\hat{P}$  are finite,  $\Phi_*$  is given by  $\lim \Phi_n(s)$  where  $\Phi_n$  is defined as follows:

$$\Phi_n = \text{if } (n = 0) \text{ then } (\lambda s \in S : \perp) \text{ else } \mathcal{F}(\Phi_{n-1}) \quad (3)$$

We say that the abstract circuit  $\hat{M}$  *satisfies* a lattice-based, abstract trajectory assertion  $\hat{A}$ , denoted by  $\hat{M} \models \hat{A}$ , iff:

$$\forall s \in S : \Phi_*(s) \sqcap \pi_\alpha(s) \sqsubseteq \pi_c(s) \quad (4)$$

$\hat{M} \models \hat{A}$  implies that a concretisation of  $\hat{A}$  can also be satisfied by the original, set-based model  $M$  [1].

## 2 System refinement

Consider another fixed, but arbitrary, circuit model  $N \in \mathcal{P}(C') \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C')$  such that  $M$  and  $N$  have the same number of inputs and outputs but can differ internally. Let the abstract predicate transformer  $\hat{N} \in \hat{Q} \rightarrow \hat{Q}$  be an abstract interpretation of  $N$ , where  $\hat{Q}$  is an abstract predicate for  $\mathcal{P}(C')$ . In the previous sections, exactly what abstract predicates like  $\hat{Q}$  are, were not important. In order to reason about refinement, however, we make a distinction between their *external* and *internal* elements.

Specifically, let the *externally visible* parts of an abstract predicate  $\hat{P}$  be identified by two idempotent mappings,  $\text{in} \in \hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{P}$  and  $\text{out} \in \hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{P}$ ,

Let  $\lll \subseteq \hat{P} \times \hat{Q}$  be a Galois connection such that for all  $\hat{P}' \subseteq \hat{P}$  and  $\hat{Q}' \subseteq \hat{Q}$ :

$$\forall \hat{p} \in \hat{P}' : \forall \hat{q} \in \hat{Q}' : \hat{p} \lll \hat{q} \Leftrightarrow \sqcup \hat{P}' \lll \sqcap \hat{Q}'$$

Like the earlier Galois connections, the relation  $\lll$  can intuitively be thought of as an extension of the internal orderings of  $\hat{P}$  and  $\hat{Q}$  to an ordering between the two abstract predicates. The usual two monotone functions connecting  $\hat{P}$  and  $\hat{Q}$ , here called  $\alpha \in \hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{Q}$  and  $\gamma \in \hat{Q} \rightarrow \hat{P}$ , are derived from  $\lll$  as before:

$$\alpha(\hat{p}) = \sqcap \{ \hat{q} \in \hat{Q} \mid \hat{q} \lll \hat{p} \} \quad \gamma(\hat{q}) = \sqcup \{ \hat{p} \in \hat{P} \mid \hat{q} \lll \hat{p} \}$$

We note that  $\gamma$  also preserves top and distributes over arbitrary meet, i.e.  $\gamma(\sqcap \hat{Q}) = \sqcap \{ \gamma(\hat{q}) \in \hat{P} \mid \hat{q} \in \hat{Q} \}$ . Similarly,  $\alpha$  also preserves bottom and distributes over arbitrary join.

A *driver*  $\delta \in \hat{P}^+$  for  $\hat{M}$  is a nonempty sequence of abstract predicates  $\langle \hat{i}_0, \dots \rangle$  such that  $\hat{i}_i = \text{in}(\hat{i}_i)$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N} : i < |\delta|$ . Every driver  $\delta$  induces a *trajectory*  $\langle \tau_0, \dots, \tau_{|\delta|+1} \rangle \in \hat{P}^+$  in  $\hat{M}$ , where  $\tau_0 = \top$  and  $\tau_{i+1} = \hat{N}(\hat{i}_i \sqcap \tau_i)$  for all  $i \in \mathbb{N} : i < |\delta|$ ; the trajectory induced in  $\hat{M}$  by a driver  $\delta$  is denoted by  $\text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\delta)$ .

Intuitively,  $\hat{M}$  refines  $\hat{N}$  if the outputs of their induced trajectories are ordered for all possible input sequences:

$$\forall \delta \in \hat{P}^+ : \text{out}(\text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta)) \sqsubseteq \gamma(\text{out}(\text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\alpha(\delta))))$$

Let  $\preceq \subseteq \hat{P} \times \hat{Q}$  be a simulation relation such that  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$  implies:

1.  $\text{out}(\hat{p}) \sqsubseteq \gamma(\text{out}(\hat{q}))$  and
2.  $\hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}) \preceq \hat{N}(\alpha(\hat{i}) \sqcap \hat{q})$  for all  $\hat{i} \in \hat{P}$  such that  $\hat{i} = \text{in}(\hat{i})$ .

We extend this relation to  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N}$  and say that  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \Leftrightarrow (\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$ .

## 2.1 Old stuff, trying to make it more formal

A *driver* of  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N}$  is a nonempty sequence of inputs,  $\delta \in \hat{I}^+$ , and induces a trajectory  $\tau$  in  $\hat{M}$  (resp.  $\hat{N}$ ) where  $\tau[0] = \top$  and  $\forall i \in \mathbb{N} : i < |\delta| \Rightarrow \tau[i+1] = \hat{M}(\delta[i] \sqcap \tau[i])$ ; the trajectory induced by a driver  $\delta$  in  $\hat{M}$  is denoted by  $\text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta)$ .

Intuitively, if  $\hat{M}$  produces the same, or at least more specified, outputs than  $\hat{N}$  for all possible drivers, then every visible behaviour of  $\hat{M}$  is covered by  $\hat{N}$ . We thus say that  $\hat{M}$  refines  $\hat{N}$ , denoted by  $\hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$ , iff:

$$\forall \delta \in \hat{I}^+ : \llbracket \text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\delta) \rrbracket$$

**Example!**

**Simulation** Let  $\preceq \in \hat{P} \times \hat{Q}$  be a simulation relation such that  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$  implies (1)  $\llbracket \hat{p} \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{q} \rrbracket$  and (2)  $\hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{q})$  for all inputs  $\hat{i} \in \hat{I}$ . We extend this relation to  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N}$  such that  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$  iff their top elements are related,  $(\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$ .

This relation is equivalent to the earlier notion of refinement:  $\hat{M} \leq \hat{N} \Leftrightarrow \hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$ .

We can have trajectories defined by the simulation relation as well.

Reference proof in appendix.

Explain difference with Bryant's version?

Let  $G \in S \rightarrow (\hat{Q} \rightarrow \hat{Q})$  and  $\mathcal{G} \in (S \rightarrow \hat{Q}) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow \hat{Q})$  be the duals of  $F$  and  $\mathcal{F}$  in  $\hat{N}$ , respectively. Further, let  $\Psi_*$  be the least fix point of  $\Psi = \mathcal{G}(\Psi)$  and the dual of  $\Phi_*$  in  $\hat{N}$ .

**Lemma 1.**  $\forall s \in S : \Psi_*(s) \preceq \Phi_*(s)$

**Trajectory** A trajectory assertion  $\hat{A} = (S, s_0, R, \pi_a, \pi_c)$  for  $\hat{N}$  where antecedents only mention inputs,  $\pi_a \in S \rightarrow \hat{I}$ , and consequents only mention outputs,  $\pi_c \in S \rightarrow \hat{O}$ , is referred to as an *external trajectory assertion*. Intuitively, a satisfied external trajectory assertion is property of  $N$  that must hold regardless of its internal state.

Given that  $\Phi_*(s) \preceq \Psi_*(s)$ , and thus  $\llbracket \Phi_*(s) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \Psi_*(s) \rrbracket$ , for all  $s \in S$ , it follows that  $\Phi_*(s) \sqcap \pi_a(s) \sqsubseteq \pi_c(s) \Rightarrow \Psi_*(s) \sqcap \pi_a(s) \sqsubseteq \pi_c(s)$ .

**Theorem 1.** Given two abstract predicate transformers,  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N}$ , and an external trajectory assertion  $\hat{A}$  for  $\hat{N}$ . If  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$ , then  $\hat{N} \models \hat{A}$  implies that  $\hat{M} \models \hat{A}$ .

**Corollary 1.** Given two abstract predicate transformer,  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N} = \prod \hat{n}_i$ , and a trajectory assertion  $\hat{A}$  for  $\hat{N}$ . Let  $\hat{N}[\hat{n}_i = \hat{M}]$  be  $\hat{N}$  where  $\hat{n}_i$  is replaced with  $\hat{M}$ . If  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{n}_i$  for some index  $i$ , then  $\hat{N} \models \hat{A}$  implies that  $\hat{N}[\hat{n}_i = \hat{M}] \models \hat{A}$ .

## A Proofs

### A.1 Lemma: $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \Leftrightarrow \hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$

Recall that  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$  implies (1)  $\llbracket \hat{p} \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \hat{q} \rrbracket$  and (2)  $\forall \hat{i} \in \hat{I} : \hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{q})$ . Further  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$  implies that  $(\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$ . The trajectory  $\tau$  induced by a driver  $\delta$  is defined as follows:  $\tau[0] = \top$  and  $\forall i \in \mathbb{N} : i < |\delta| \Rightarrow \tau[i+1] = \hat{M}(\delta[i] \sqcap \tau[i])$ . That  $\hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$  iff:

$$\forall \delta \in \hat{I}^+ : \llbracket \text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta) \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\delta) \rrbracket$$

We prove the two directions of  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \Leftrightarrow \hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$  separately.

**$\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \Rightarrow \hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$ :** For any  $\delta \in \hat{I}^+$ , let  $\tau = \langle \hat{p}_0, \hat{p}_1, \dots \rangle \in \hat{P}^+$  and  $v = \langle \hat{q}_0, \hat{q}_1, \dots \rangle \in \hat{Q}^+$  be the induced trajectories  $\text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta)$  and  $\text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\delta)$ , respectively. We prove that  $p_n \preceq q_n$ , and thus  $\llbracket p_n \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket q_n \rrbracket$ , for every  $n \in \mathbb{N} : n < |\delta| + 1$  and  $\delta$  by induction on  $n$ . For the base case, we have  $p_0 = \perp \in \hat{P}$  and  $q_0 = \perp \in \hat{Q}$ . That  $p_0 \preceq q_0$ , and thus  $\llbracket p_0 \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket q_0 \rrbracket$ , follows immediately from the definition of  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$ . For the inductive step, assume that  $\hat{p}_n \preceq \hat{q}_n$ . Following the definition of  $\tau$  and  $v$ , we know that  $\hat{p}_{n+1} = \hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}_n)$  and  $\hat{q}_{n+1} = \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{q}_n)$  for some  $\hat{i} \in \hat{I}$ . But property (2) of  $\hat{p}_n \preceq \hat{q}_n$  states that  $\hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}_n) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{q}_n)$  for any  $\hat{i} \in \hat{I}$ , so we must have that  $\hat{p}_{n+1} \preceq \hat{q}_{n+1}$  and thus  $\llbracket \hat{p}_{n+1} \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \hat{q}_{n+1} \rrbracket$ .

**$\hat{M} \leq \hat{N} \Leftarrow \hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$ :** Define  $\preceq \in \hat{P} \times \hat{Q}$  as follows:

$$\bigcup_{\delta \in \hat{I}^+} \{ (\text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta)[i], \text{Traj}(\hat{N})(\delta)[i]) \mid i \in \mathbb{N}, i < |\delta| + 1 \}$$

Here  $\text{Traj}(\hat{M})(\delta)[i]$  is the  $i$ -th predicate of the trajectory induced by a driver  $\delta$ , that is, for any  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$ , we must have that  $\hat{p}$  and  $\hat{q}$  are a pair of  $i$ -th predicates induced by a common  $\delta$ . By definition  $\hat{M} \leq \hat{N}$  then, we must have that  $\llbracket \hat{p} \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \hat{q} \rrbracket$  for any pair  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$ . Furthermore, as  $\delta \in \hat{I}^+$ , then so must  $\delta \frown \hat{i} \in \hat{I}^+$  ( $\delta$  followed by  $\hat{i}$ ) for any  $\hat{i} \in \hat{I}$ . This definition of  $\preceq$  thus satisfies both of its desired properties. Finally, that  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$  follows from how  $\llbracket \top \in \hat{P} \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \top \in \hat{Q} \rrbracket$  is obviously true and  $\hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \top) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \top)$  for all  $\hat{i} \in \hat{I}$  because  $\langle \hat{i} \rangle \in \hat{I}^+$ .

### A.2 $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \Rightarrow \forall s \in S : \Phi(s) \preceq \Psi(s)$

Recall that  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$  implies (1)  $\llbracket \hat{p} \rrbracket \subseteq \llbracket \hat{q} \rrbracket$  and (2)  $\forall \hat{i} \in \hat{I} : \hat{M}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{p}) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{i} \sqcap \hat{q})$ . Further  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$  implies that  $(\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$ .

$$\begin{aligned} F(s)(\hat{p}) &= \hat{M}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{p}) \\ \mathcal{F}(\Phi)(s) &= \text{if } (s = s_0) \text{ then } \top \text{ else } \sqcup \{ F(s')(\Phi(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R \} \\ \Phi_n &= \text{if } (n = 0) \text{ then } (\lambda s \in S : \perp) \text{ else } \mathcal{F}(\Phi_{n-1}) \\ \hat{M} \models \hat{A} &\Rightarrow \forall s \in S : \Phi_*(s) \sqcap \pi_\alpha(s) \subseteq \pi_c(s) \end{aligned}$$

We first prove a few intermediate lemmas.

**Lemma (B):**  $(\perp \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\perp \in \hat{Q})$ . Prop. (1) follows immediately as  $\llbracket \perp \in \hat{P} \rrbracket = \perp \in \hat{O} = \llbracket \perp \in \hat{Q} \rrbracket$ . Because  $\hat{M}$  and  $\hat{N}$  both preserve bottom, we have that  $\hat{M}(\hat{\iota} \sqcap \perp) = \perp \in \hat{P}$  and  $\hat{N}(\hat{\iota} \sqcap \perp) = \perp \in \hat{Q}$  for all  $\hat{\iota} \in \hat{I}$ . That is, any path that gets to  $\perp$  must stay there, regardless of inputs. Prop. (2) then follows as well.

**Lemma (FG):**  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q} \Rightarrow \forall s \in S : F(s)(\hat{p}) \preceq G(s)(\hat{q})$ . First, we note that  $F(s)(\hat{p}) = \hat{M}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{p})$  and that  $G(s)(\hat{q}) = \hat{N}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{q})$  for some  $\pi_a(s) \in \hat{I}$ . That  $\hat{M}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{p}) \preceq \hat{N}(\pi_a(s) \sqcap \hat{q})$  then follows directly from prop. (2) of  $\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}$ .

**Lemma (M):**  $(\hat{p} \preceq \hat{q}) \wedge (\hat{p}' \preceq \hat{q}') \Rightarrow (\hat{p} \sqcup \hat{p}') \preceq (\hat{q} \sqcup \hat{q}')$ . Let  $\tau = \hat{p}_0, \hat{p}_1, \dots$  be the trajectory starting from  $\hat{p}_0 = \hat{p}$  and driven by  $\delta = \langle \hat{\iota}_0, \hat{\iota}_1, \dots \rangle \in \hat{I}^*$ , that is,  $\hat{p}_{n+1} = \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}_n)$  for all  $n \in \mathcal{N} : n < |\delta|$ . Similarly, let  $\tau', v$  and  $v'$  be trajectories driven by the same  $\delta$  but starting in  $\hat{p}', \hat{q}$  and  $\hat{q}'$ , respectively. We show by induction on  $n$  that, if  $\tau \sqsubseteq v$  and  $\tau' \sqsubseteq v'$ , the trajectories starting from  $\hat{p} \sqcup \hat{p}'$  and  $\hat{q} \sqcup \hat{q}'$  satisfy output inequality of  $\preceq$  for all  $\delta$ , and thus also that  $(\hat{p} \sqcup \hat{p}') \preceq (\hat{q} \sqcup \hat{q}')$ . For the base case, we have that  $\hat{p}_0 \preceq \hat{q}_0$  and  $\hat{p}'_0 \preceq \hat{q}_0$ . By prop. (1) of  $\preceq$ , we also have that  $\llbracket \hat{p}_0 \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{q}_0 \rrbracket$  and  $\llbracket \hat{p}'_0 \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{q}_0 \rrbracket$ . By definition of  $\sqcup$  then, we must have that  $\llbracket \hat{p}_0 \sqcup \hat{p}'_0 \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{q}_0 \sqcup \hat{q}'_0 \rrbracket$  and therefore also that  $\llbracket \hat{p}_0 \sqcup \hat{p}'_0 \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{q}_0 \sqcup \hat{q}'_0 \rrbracket$ . For the inductive step, we have that  $\hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}_n) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{q}_n)$  and  $\hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}'_n) \preceq \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{q}'_n)$ , and thus by prop. (1) of  $\preceq$  also that  $\llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}_n) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{q}_n) \rrbracket$  and  $\llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}'_n) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{q}'_n) \rrbracket$ . Because  $\hat{N}$  is monotonic, and by the definitions of  $\sqcap$  and  $\sqcup$ , we must have that  $\llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{q}_n) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap (\hat{q}_n \sqcup \hat{q}'_n)) \rrbracket$  and thus  $\llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}_n) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap (\hat{q}_n \sqcup \hat{q}'_n)) \rrbracket$ . Similarly, because  $\hat{M}$  is monotonic as well, and by definition of  $\sqcap$  and  $\sqcup$ , we have that  $\llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap \hat{p}_n) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{N}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap (\hat{p}_n \sqcup \hat{p}'_n)) \rrbracket$  and the least such bound. Combining these two results, we must have that  $\llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap (\hat{p}_n \sqcup \hat{p}'_n)) \rrbracket \sqsubseteq \llbracket \hat{M}(\hat{\iota}_n \sqcap (\hat{q}_n \sqcup \hat{q}'_n)) \rrbracket$ .

**Lemma (UM):** Let  $R \subseteq S$  then  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N} \wedge \forall s \in R : \hat{p}(s) \preceq \hat{q}(s) \Rightarrow \sqcup \{F(s)(\hat{p}(s)) \mid s \in R\} \preceq \sqcup \{G(s)(\hat{q}(s)) \mid s \in R\}$ . By the assumption and lemma (FG) we know that  $F(s)(\hat{p}(s)) \preceq G(s)(\hat{q}(s))$  for each  $s \in R$ . Using induction on the size of  $R$ , we show that the join of such sets pairwise encoded predicates also produces an encoded predicate. In the base case,  $|R| = 0$ , we have that  $(\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$  by the assumption that  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$ . For the inductive step,  $|R| = n$ , let  $\hat{p}' = \sqcup \{F(s)(\hat{p}(s)) \mid s \in R\}$  and  $\hat{q}' = \sqcup \{G(s)(\hat{q}(s)) \mid s \in R\}$ , we assume that  $\hat{p}' \preceq \hat{q}'$ . We extend  $R$  with  $s$  and know from our assumption  $\forall s \in R : \hat{p}(s) \preceq \hat{q}(s)$  and lemma (FG) that  $F(s)(\hat{p}(s)) \preceq G(s)(\hat{q}(s))$ . That  $\hat{p}' \sqcup F(s)(\hat{p}(s)) \preceq \hat{q}' \sqcup G(s)(\hat{q}(s))$  then follows from lemma (M).

Uses the phrase encoded.

Since  $\Phi_*(s) = \lim \Phi_n(s)$  and  $\Psi_*(s) = \lim \Psi_n(s)$ , it suffices to prove that  $\Phi_n(s) \preceq \Psi_n(s)$  for all  $s \in S$  and  $n \in \mathbb{N}$ . We do so by induction on  $n$ . The base case, where  $\Phi_0(s) = \perp \in \hat{P}$  and  $\Psi_0(s) = \perp \in \hat{Q}$ , follows from lemma X. For the inductive step, assume that  $\Phi_n(s) \preceq \Psi_n(s)$  for all  $s \in S$ . For  $s = s_0$ , we have that  $\Phi_{n+1}(s_0) = \top \in \hat{P}$  and  $\Psi_{n+1}(s_0) = \top \in \hat{Q}$ , which follows from how  $\hat{M} \preceq \hat{N}$  implies that  $(\top \in \hat{P}) \preceq (\top \in \hat{Q})$ . For any  $s \neq s_0$ , we have that  $\Phi_{n+1}(s) = \mathcal{F}(\Phi_n)(s) = \sqcup \{F(s')(\Phi_n(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R\} \preceq \sqcup \{F(s')(\Psi_n(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R\} \preceq \sqcup \{G(s')(\Psi_n(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R\} = \mathcal{G}(\Psi_n)(s) = \Psi_{n+1}(s)$ .



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