

Refinement for Symbolic Trajectory Evaluation

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

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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 Set-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 step¹. 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. We denote by $\cap Q$ and $\cup Q$ the intersection and union of all members of any $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C)$.

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 $M_F(p)$. We also see that M_F distributes over arbitrary unions:

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

for all $Q \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C)$. In general, 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.

Exactly what C and its signals are, is not important in this section. In practice, however, signals are typically divided into external, i.e. “input” and “output”, and internal parts. While an input signal is generally 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 $M \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^3) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^3)$ as follows:

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

Here i_1 and i_2 refer to the two inputs of the AND gate, o the ignored output, and b_1 and b_2 are unconstrained inputs for the new configurations.

Assertions and satisfaction A *trajectory assertion* for M is quintuple $A = (S, s_0, R, \pi_a, \pi_c)$, 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*, $\pi_a \in S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$ and $\pi_c \in S \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(C)$ label each state s with an *antecedent* $\pi_a(s)$ and a *consequent* $\pi_c(s)$. We assume that $(s, s_0) \notin R$ for all $s \in S$ without any loss of generality.

The circuit model M intuitively *satisfies* an assertion A if, for every *trajectory* τ through M and every *run* ρ through A , τ satisfying the antecedents of ρ entails that τ also satisfies the consequents of ρ . To be more specific, a *trajectory* of M is a non-empty sequences of configurations, $\tau \in C^+$, such that $\tau_n \in M(\{\tau_{n-1}\})$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} : 0 < n < |\tau|$. And a *run* of A is a non-empty sequence of states, $\rho \in S^+$, such that $\rho_0 = s_0$ and $(\rho_{n-1}, \rho_n) \in R$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} : 0 < n < |\rho|$.

¹ Mention how this affects circuits with zero-delays?

A τ satisfies the antecedents of ρ , denoted by $\tau \models_a \rho$, iff $\tau_n \in \pi_a(\rho_n)$ for all $n \in \mathbb{N} : n < |\tau| = |\rho|$; satisfaction of consequents is defined similarly with π_c and denoted by $\tau \models_c \rho$. That M satisfies A , denoted by $M \models A$, can then be formalized² as follows:

$$\forall \tau \in \text{Traj}(M) : \forall \rho \in \text{Runs}(A) : |\tau| = |\rho| \Rightarrow (\tau \models_a \rho \Rightarrow \tau \models_c \rho)$$

where $\text{Traj}(M)$ and $\text{Runs}(A)$ denote the sets of all trajectories of M and runs of A , respectively.

1.3 Lattice-theoretic STE

Manipulating subsets of \mathbb{B}^m is 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 $1 \sqsubseteq X$ ³. For any $m \in \mathbb{N}$, this ordering on \mathbb{T} is lifted component-wise to \mathbb{T}^m .

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 .

Ternary lattices 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 .

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 $\gamma \in \mathbb{T}_\perp^m \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^m)$:

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

² This is equivalent to a DFA formulation [1].

³ We use the reverse ordering of what is originally used in STE.

Listing each concrete predicate approximated by a given abstract predicate. Its abstraction function $\alpha \in \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{B}^m) \rightarrow \mathbb{T}_\perp^m$ instead finds the most precise abstract predicate for a set of concrete predicates:

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

Abstract circuit model 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: \hat{M} preserves \perp , i.e. $\hat{M}(\perp) = \perp$; \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 α , or γ , form a *simulation relation* between $\mathcal{P}(C)$ and \hat{P} , i.e. $\alpha(M(p)) \sqsubseteq \hat{M}(\alpha(p))$ for all $p \in \mathcal{P}(C)$, or $M(\gamma(\hat{p})) \sqsubseteq \gamma(\hat{M}(\hat{p}))$ for all $\hat{p} \in \hat{P}$.

Unlike its concrete model, \hat{M} does not distribute over arbitrary join because information is potentially discarded by the ternary logic during a join. As an example, let the following \hat{M} abstract the earlier unit-delayed AND gate:

$$\begin{aligned}\hat{M}(\langle 1, 1, p_2 \rangle) &= \langle X, X, 1 \rangle & \hat{M}(\langle 0, 0, p_2 \rangle) &= \langle X, X, 0 \rangle \\ \hat{M}(\langle 0, X, p_2 \rangle) &= \langle X, X, 0 \rangle & \hat{M}(\langle X, 0, p_2 \rangle) &= \langle X, X, X \rangle \\ \hat{M}(\langle p_0, p_1, p_2 \rangle) &= \langle X, X, X \rangle\end{aligned}$$

where the last, most general matching is overlapped by the more concrete ones. If we apply \hat{M} to the join of $\langle 0, 1, X \rangle$ and $\langle 1, 0, X \rangle$, or if we apply \hat{M} to them individually and then join, we get two different results:

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

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 an abstract model \hat{M} is a quintuple $\hat{A} = (S, s_0, R, \hat{\pi}_a, \hat{\pi}_c)$, where S , s_0 , and R are as in section 1.2 and $\hat{\pi}_a \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$ and $\hat{\pi}_c \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$ label each state s with an abstract predicate for its antecedent and consequent, respectively.

Here follows the definition in [1]. For all functions $\hat{\Phi} \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$ and states $s \in S$, define $\hat{F} \in S \rightarrow (\hat{P} \rightarrow \hat{P})$ and $\hat{J} \in (S \rightarrow \hat{P}) \rightarrow (S \rightarrow \hat{P})$ as follows:

$$\hat{F}(s)(\hat{p}) = \hat{M}(\hat{\pi}_a(s) \sqcap \hat{p}) \tag{1}$$

$$\hat{J}(\hat{\Phi})(s) = \text{if } (s = s_0) \text{ then } \top \text{ else } \sqcup \{ \hat{F}(s')(\hat{\Phi}(s')) \mid (s', s) \in R \} \tag{2}$$

\hat{F} preserves \perp , and both \hat{F} and \hat{J} are monotonic; two $\hat{\Phi}, \hat{\Phi}' \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$ are ordered as $\hat{\Phi} \sqsubseteq \hat{\Phi}' \Leftrightarrow \forall s \in S : \hat{\Phi}(s) \sqsubseteq \hat{\Phi}'(s)$. Let $\hat{\Phi}_* \in S \rightarrow \hat{P}$ be the least fixpoint of the equation $\hat{\Phi} = \hat{J}(\hat{\Phi})$ [3]. Since both S and \hat{P} are finite, $\hat{\Phi}_*$ is given by $\lim \hat{\Phi}_n(s)$, where $\hat{\Phi}_n$ is defined as follows:

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

\hat{M} satisfies a trajectory assertion⁴ \hat{A} , denoted by $\hat{M} \models_{\text{lat}} \hat{A}$, iff $\hat{\Phi}_*(s) \sqcap \pi_\alpha(s) \sqsubseteq \pi_c(s)$ for all $s \in S$.

2 Refinement

2.1 Set-Theoretic refinement

Consider another fixed, but arbitrary, circuit model $N \in \mathcal{P}(D) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(D)$, where D is a non-empty and finite set of configurations which intersects the earlier set C . Exactly what configurations such as C and D are, were not important previously. To reason about refinement, which relates the visible behaviour of circuits, we make a distinction between their external and internal elements.

Let the visible elements of a configuration in C be identified by two projections, $i \in C \rightarrow C$ and $o \in C \rightarrow C$, where $i(c)$ denotes the *inputs* and $o(c)$ the *outputs* of any $c \in C$. The sets of all possible inputs and outputs in M are given by the images $i[C] = \{i(c) \mid c \in C\}$ and $o[C]$. With a slight abuse of notation, we overload both i and o to accept configurations in D and extend them to sequences component-wise. Assuming the inputs and outputs of M are contained by N , i.e. $i[C] = i[D]$ and $o[C] = o[D]$, we can now formalize an intuition of whether M *refines* N , denoted by $M \leq N$, in terms of trajectories:

$$\forall \tau \in \text{Traj}(M) : \exists v \in \text{Traj}(N) : |\tau| = |v| \wedge i(\tau) = i(v) \wedge o(\tau) = o(v)$$

where sequences $\langle \tau_0, \dots, \tau_k \rangle = \langle v_0, \dots, v_k \rangle$ iff $\tau_n = v_n$ for every $n \in \mathbb{N} : n < k$. In other words, for every sequence of configurations τ permitted by M , there must exist a sequence v for N covers the input-output behaviour of τ .

Recall that models such as M and N generally cannot control their inputs, which leaves such signals unconstrained in every transition. A trajectory $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)$ is thus *driven* by an implicit choice of inputs. To make this behaviour explicit, let $\text{Traj}(M)(\delta) = \{\tau \in C^+ \mid \tau \in \text{Traj}(M) : i(\tau) = \delta\}$ be the class of trajectories with inputs equivalent to a given sequence $\delta \in i[C]^+$. With the set of trajectories partitioned by their inputs, we can state refinement as an output equality for each part in the family of inputs:

$$\forall \delta \in i[C]^+ : \forall \tau \in \text{Traj}(M)(\delta) : \exists v \in \text{Traj}(N)(\delta) : o(\tau) = o(v)$$

This definition is equivalent to the earlier one, and we denote it by $M \leq_{\text{in}} N$.
Text.

There is quite a bit of magic between the previous statement and a simulation relation over power-sets of configurations in C and D . I should make sure to properly explain that.

⁴ That \hat{M} satisfies \hat{A} implies that a concretisation of \hat{A} can also be satisfied by the original, set-based model M [1].

The above definition of refinement can be equivalently expressed as a *simulation relation*. Let $\ll \in \mathcal{P}(C) \times \mathcal{P}(D)$ be a *simulation relation* on visible elements, such that $c \ll d$ implies $\text{o}[c] \subseteq \text{o}[d]$ and $M(c \cap \{i\}) \ll N(d \cap \{i\})$ for all $i \in i[C]$. We say the circuit M *refines* the circuit N by *set-theoretic visual refinement*, denoted by $M \leq_{\text{set}} N$, iff $C \ll D$.

Theorem 1. $M \leq N \Leftrightarrow M \leq_{\text{set}} N$

If $A = (S, s_0, R, \pi_a, \pi_c)$ is a trajectory assertion for N such that π_a only mention inputs and π_c outputs, i.e. $\pi_a[S] \subseteq i[\mathcal{P}(D)]$ and $\pi_c[S] \subseteq \text{o}[\mathcal{P}(D)]$, then we refer to A as a *visible trajectory assertion* and suffix it A_{vis} .

Theorem 2. $M \leq_{\text{set}} N \Rightarrow (N \models A_{\text{vis}} \Rightarrow M \models A_{\text{vis}})$

Text.

A Appendices

A.1 Theorem 1: $M \leq N \Leftrightarrow M \leq_{\text{set}} N$

We first prove a few lemmas.

Lemma 1. $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M) \Leftrightarrow \tau \in \text{Traj}(M)([\tau]_i)$

$$\text{Traj}(M)([\tau]_i) = \{\tau \in C^+ \mid \tau \in \text{Traj}(M) : [\tau]_i = [\tau]_i\} = \text{Traj}(M). \quad \blacksquare$$

Lemma 2. $M \leq N \Leftrightarrow M \leq_{\text{in}} N$

We prove each direction separately:

(\Rightarrow) : Given $\delta \in i[C]^+$ and $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)(\delta)$, where $\delta = [\tau]_i$. By lemma 1, $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)([\tau]_i)$ implies $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)$. And by the assumption, there must exist $v \in \text{Traj}(N)$ such that $|\tau| = |v|$, $[\tau]_i = [v]_i$, and $[\tau]_o = [v]_o$. Using lemma 1 in reverse, $v \in \text{Traj}(N)$ implies that $v \in \text{Traj}(N)([v]_i) = \text{Traj}(N)(\delta)$. \blacksquare

(\Leftarrow) : Given $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)$, lemma 1 states that $\tau \in \text{Traj}(M)([\tau]_i)$. By the assumption, there must exist $v \in \text{Traj}(N)([\tau]_i)$ such that $[\tau]_o = [v]_o$. By definition of $\text{Traj}(N)([\tau]_i)$, it easy to see that $[\tau]_i = [v]_i$ and $|\tau| = |v|$. Using lemma 1 in reverse again, $v \in \text{Traj}(N)([\tau]_i) = \text{Traj}(N)([v]_i)$ implies that $v \in \text{Traj}(N)$. \blacksquare

Lemma 3. $c_1 \ll d_1 \wedge c_2 \ll d_2 \Rightarrow (c_1 \cup c_2) \ll (d_1 \cup d_2)$

Text. \blacksquare

Lemma 4. $M \leq_{\text{in}} N \Leftrightarrow M \leq_{\text{set}} N$

We prove each direction of the theorem separately:

(\Rightarrow) : We define the relation $\ll \subseteq \mathcal{P}(C) \times \mathcal{P}(D)$ as follows:

$$\text{cl}_{\cup} \{(\{\tau_{|\delta|-1}\}, \{v_{|\delta|-1}\}) \mid \forall \delta \in i[C]^+ : \forall \tau \in \text{Traj}(M)(\delta) : \forall v \in \text{Traj}(N)(\delta) : \text{o}(\tau) = \text{o}(v)\}$$

where $\tau_{|\delta|-1}$ and $v_{|\delta|-1}$ denote the last element of both sequences.

We show that \ll is a simulation relation on the visible elements in $\mathcal{P}(C)$ and $\mathcal{P}(D)$. Firstly, for any $c \ll d$, both c and d are unions of a finite number of $\tau = \text{Traj}(M)(\delta)_{|\delta|-1}$ and $v = \text{Traj}(N)(\delta)_{|\delta|-1}$ pairs with some common δ . By definition of \ll , we know that $[\tau]_o = [v]_o$ for each such τ and v , and thus $o[c] \subseteq o[d]$. Secondly, for each $i \in i[C]$, the concatenation of δ and i forms another driver $\delta \smallfrown \langle i \rangle \in i[C]^+$. Together with the assumption, we know there exist a $v' \in \text{Traj}(N)(\delta \smallfrown \langle i \rangle)_{|\delta|}$ for every $\tau' \in \text{Traj}(M)(\delta \smallfrown \langle i \rangle)_{|\delta|}$ such that $[\tau']_o = [v']_o$.

(\Leftarrow) : Text.

Corollary 1. $M \leq N \Leftrightarrow M \leq_{\text{set}} N$

Follows immediately from lemma 2 and 4.

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