# Towards an Implementation of Differential Dynamic Logic in PVS

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#### Abstract

This paper describes an ongoing effort to embed and verify differential dynamic logic (dL) in the Prototype Verification System (PVS). dL is a logic for specifying and formally reasoning about hybrid systems, i.e., systems that employ both continuous and discrete dynamics. There are several benefits of this effort. First, the embedding of dL in PVS offers an independent formal verification of the semantics and inference rules of dL. Second, the embedding is fully operational within PVS, giving PVS practitioners the ability to use dL in the formal specification and verification of hybrid systems. Third, the rich specification language, type system, and powerful interactive prover of PVS can be used on dL objects. In addition to the embedding and verification of dL, a custom extension for Visual Studio Code has been developed, so that a stylized dL syntax can be used to specify hybrid programs and their properties.

CCS Concepts: • Theory of computation → Formal languages and automata theory; Logic; • Security and pri- $\mathbf{vacy} \rightarrow Logic \ and \ verification.$ 

Keywords: Differential Dynamic Logic, Prototype Verification System, Formal Verification, Hybrid Systems

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#### Introduction

Hybrid Systems, which are characterized by the interplay of continuous and discrete dynamics, are ubiquitous in the safety-critical world. One example is automated aircraft navigating through crowded urban canyons and intersections which must avoid collisions with other aircraft and the surrounding landscape [2, 3]. Another similar example is the interaction of numerous groups of aircraft of many different types in wildfire response and mitigation [30]. These systems contain both continuous dynamics (e.g., the movement of the aircraft over time) and discrete dynamics (e.g., entrance into a defined operational airspace, an acceleration command given to an aircraft).

Differential dynamic logic (dL) [21] offers a natural way to model and reason about properties of such systems. dL allows a Hybrid Program to be written as a model of a discrete/continuous controller, and logical statements about the program can be stated and proven using deduction rules. dL was implemented first in the tool KeYmaera [25], and extended in KeYmaera X [7]. It has been used in verification of a wide variety of safety-critical applications [11, 12, 14, 26].

This paper describes an ongoing effort to embed and verify a fully-functional version of dL in the Prototype Verification System (PVS), a formal specification language with a tightly integrated interactive theorem prover. There are three main parts of this work:

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- A formal verification of the soundness of dL in PVS, which guarantees any statement proven using the deduction rules is correct;
- A fully operational embedding of dL in PVS, including capability for specification of hybrid programs, writing logical statements about hybrid programs, and deduction rules proving these statements;
- Automation of proof rules and pretty-printing of dL specifications to make the underlying formalization and embedding invisible to the casual user.

One benefit of such an embedding is that a user familiar with dL can specify and prove properties about hybrid systems in a very similar manner to existing dL implementations, with an additional layer of assurance provided by the PVS soundness proof. Another benefit is that the richness of the PVS system can be used alongside the dL prover. For example, properties about and relationships between entire classes of hybrid programs can be verified using PVS outside of dL.

There has been past work on verifying hybrid systems in PVS [1, 28], and using other formal methods tools like Event-B [6], Isabelle/HOL [8–10, 29], and Coq. Most similar to the current work is a formalization of dL performed in HOL and Coq [4], where a proof written in the dL language can be verified by a sound proof checker. The work here also verifies the axioms and rules of dL, and further implements them as strategies in PVS. Using these strategies, properties of hybrid programs can be verified *interactively* within the PVS proof assistant, similar to KeYmaera/KeYmaera X. Also, since this implementation of dL is in PVS, it has all the features and automation capabilities of PVS such as advanced real number reasoning [5, 15–19].

# 2 Prototype Verification System

The Prototype Verification System (PVS) is a formal specification and verification tool developed by SRI International [20]. PVS has a strongly typed functional specification language based on higher-order logic, which allows a user to write functions and logical statements. PVS also includes a tightly integrated interactive theorem prover, for the verification of the specified statements. To prove a statement in PVS, the user inputs proof commands to manipulate a logical sequent in a sound way to produce a list of sequents, referred to as branches, that conjunctively imply the original one. A sequent is read as the conjunction of the antecedent (above the turnstile) implying the disjunction of the consequent (below the turnstile, see Figure 1). A user enters proof commands until TRUE appears in the consequent, FALSE appears in the antecedent, or the same formula appears in both the antecedent and the consequent, for all branches. PVS allows users to invoke previously proven lemmas in the prover, and also includes a proof strategy language, where users can

**Figure 1.** An example of the PVS theorem prover

define proof strategies that combine commands and lemmas in sophisticated ways.

For an example of the interactive theorem proving environment see Figure 1, which displays usage of the (deriv) strategy developed in the analysis library of NASAlib<sup>1</sup>, that uses several lemmas to automate derivatives for a wide array of functions.

# 3 Differential Dynamic Logic

Differential dynamic logic (dL) was first conceived by Platzer in [21] and implemented in the original KeYmaera system [25]. There have been several iterations on, and extensions of, dL and KeYmaera since the original formulation [7, 22–24]. This section does not attempt to give a complete description of dL or implementations, as this would be far beyond the scope of this paper. Instead, a general description is given, and a few specific examples that will be followed through the paper are presented. For a complete formal description, see [21]. For a tutorial on differential dynamic logic in KeYmaera, see [27].

dL can be roughly divided into three main components: hybrid program specification, differential logic itself, and the deduction rules for the logic.

## 3.1 Hybrid Programs

Hybrid programs (HPs) are intended to describe systems that have discrete and continuous behavior combined. The two basic building blocks of HPs are discrete assignments  $x_1 := t_1, \ldots, x_n := t_n$  where a variable  $x_i$  is assigned real value  $t_i$ , for each i such that  $0 \le i \le n$ , and continuous evolution of an ordinary differential equation (ODE)  $\{x_1' = f_1, \ldots, x_i' = f_i \& D\}$ , where the first entries define the differential system (where  $f_i$  is an expression that could contain the values of  $x_1, \ldots, x_n$ ), and the last (optional) entry D gives the domain of the system. These two basic block types can be iteratively combined to produce more complex formulas, using sequential composition of programs (;), nondeterministic choice between two options  $(\cup)$ , testing of a first order formula (?P), and nondeterministic repetition (\*) of a block<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup>NASALib is a collection of PVS formalizations maintained by the NASA Langley Formal Methods group: https://github.com/nasa/pvslib

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup>Implementations vary in their choice of combinators. For example, KeYmaera X adds an explicit "if-then-else" combinator.

An example hybrid program is

$$((a := a + 1); \{x' = v, v' = a\})^*$$
(1)

This program increments the value of the variable a by one, then evolves the differential equation where a is acceleration, v is velocity, and x is position. This evolution progresses for some amount of time, and then repeats this program a nondeterministic number of times. This example will be used throughout the paper to explain dL and its embedding in PVS.

## 3.2 Differential Logic

Differential logic formulas involve real numbers, hybrid programs, and several familiar logical connectors. The logic allows for comparison of real numbers (using <,  $\leq$ , =,  $\geq$ , >,  $\neq$ ), quantification ( $\forall$ ,  $\exists$ ), negation ( $\neg$ ), conjunction ( $\land$ ), disjunction ( $\lor$ ), and (bi)implication ( $\Longrightarrow$ ,  $\Leftrightarrow$ ) for formulas, and unique to hybrid programs, the operators *all runs* and *some runs*. The formula [ $\alpha$ ] $\phi$  states that for all runs of the hybrid program  $\alpha$ , the formula  $\phi$  holds. Similarly  $\langle \alpha \rangle \phi$  states that there is at least *one* run of the program  $\alpha$  for which the formula  $\phi$  holds.

Using differential logic allows properties of a hybrid program to be written. For example, using the program in (1),

$$x \ge 1 \land v \ge 0 \land a \ge 0 \implies$$

$$[((a := a + 1); \{x' = v, v' = a\})^*](x \ge 1). \tag{2}$$

states that if x is at least one, and v and a are non-negative, then for all runs of the program in (1), x will remain at least one.

#### 3.3 Deduction Rules

To prove a statement about a hybrid program, the logic statement can be written as a dL sequent. In the case of (2), this looks like:

$$x \ge 1, \ v \ge 0, \ a \ge 0 +$$

$$[((a := a + 1); \{x' = v, v' = a\})^*](x \ge 1).$$
(3)

Then, deduction rules of dL are applied to formally manipulate the dL sequent in a way that is sound (the sequents produced by the rule imply the truth of the original sequent). A list of the complete syntax, semantics and rules of dL can be found in [24], pages 637-639<sup>3</sup>. Here, two of the set of formalized and proven rules are described, with their embedding in PVS detailed in Section 4.

**3.3.1 Discrete Loop.** Formally, the dL-loop rule is given by:

$$\frac{\Gamma \vdash J \quad J \vdash [\alpha]J \quad J \vdash P}{\Gamma \vdash [\alpha^*]P,}$$

where  $\Gamma$  represents the antecedent formulas, J represents the invariant condition, P represents the property trying to be shown, and  $\alpha$  represents the hybrid program.

Intuitively, this rule is used to show that all runs of the looped program  $\alpha^*$  satisfy a property P, by using a property J that is invariant through each pass through  $\alpha$ . The dL-loop rule reduces the argument to three cases: the invariant condition is held as a precondition to the hybrid program  $(\Gamma \vdash J)$ , J is indeed invariant to one application of the loop  $(J \vdash [\alpha]J)$ , and the invariant conditions implies the desired postcondition  $(J \vdash P)$ . Applying the dL-loop rule to the sequent in (3) with the instantiation  $\Gamma = (x \ge 1, a \ge 0), \alpha = ((a := a + 1); \{x' = v, v' = a\}), J = (x \ge 1 \land v \ge 0 \land a \ge 0)$ , and  $P = (x \ge 1)$ , yields the three sequents:

$$x \ge 1$$
,  $v \ge 0$ ,  $a \ge 0 \vdash x \ge 1 \land v \ge 0 \land a \ge 0$  (4)

 $x \ge 1, v \ge 0, a \ge 0 +$ 

$$[((a := a + 1); \{x' = v, v' = a\})]$$

$$(x > 1 \land v > 0 \land a > 0)$$
(5)

$$x \ge 1 \land v \ge 0 \land a \ge 0 \vdash x \ge 1 \tag{6}$$

The sequent (4) and (6) can be proven with rules of basic propositional logic. This leaves the sequent in (5).

**3.3.2 Differential Invariant.** Formally, the differential invariant rule is given by:

$$\frac{\Gamma, q(x) \vdash p(x) \quad q(x) \vdash [x' := f(x)](p(x))'}{\Gamma \vdash [x' = f(x) \& q(x)]p(x),}$$

where  $\Gamma$  represents the antecedent formulas, q(x) represents a set (or property) which the continuous dynamics x' = f(x) are restricted to, p(x) is the property trying to be shown, and (p(x))' is the differential operator on p that guarantees that p(x) remains true through the evolution x' = f(x), i.e., showing that p(x) is an invariant condition to the continuous system x' = f(x) & q(x).

Consider the following statement in dL<sup>4</sup>:

$$x \ge 1$$
,  $a \ge 0 \vdash [\{x' = v, v' = a\} \& (v \ge 0)](x \ge 1)$  (7)

To apply the differential invariant rule to (7) the user would instantiate:  $\Gamma = (x \ge 1, a \ge 0), (x' = f(x)) = \{x' = v, v' = a\}, q(x) = (v \ge 0), \text{ and } p(x) = (x \ge 1), \text{ where, } (p(x))' = (x' \ge 0).$  This yields the two sequents

$$x \ge 1, \ a \ge 0, \ v \ge 0 \vdash x \ge 1$$
 (8)

$$v \ge 0 \vdash [\{x' := v, v' := a\}](x' \ge 0).$$
 (9)

Note that the formula in (8) has  $x \ge 1$  in both the antecedent and the consequent and is therefore trivially true, and the formula in (9) can be proven using the property that  $[x' := v, v' := a](x' \ge 0) = v \ge 0$ , which is also a rule of dL. It should be noted that the computation of (p(x))' for a general proposition p(x) that could include proposition logical formulas and inequalities is nontrivial, and a specific calculus must be implemented to ensure soundness of such an approach [22].

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup>dL Rule "Cheat Sheet": https://symbolaris.com/logic/dL-sheet.pdf

 $<sup>^4</sup>$ It can be shown that (7) implies (5) using other rules of dL. These details are omitted for space limitations.

# 4 Embedding dL in PVS

The goal of this work is to have a fully operational and sound implementation of dL in PVS. This section will provide an overview of this embedding.

## 4.1 Hybrid Programs

To define Hybrid programs in PVS, the structure of variables that will be input and output from the programs must be defined. The variables and their values are represented as a mapping env: [nat -> real], where variables are represented by their index i:nat and their value is given by env(i). This mapping is called an Environment:

```
Environment : TYPE = [ nat -> real ].
For instance, taking x: nat = 0, y:nat = 1,
env: Environment = (LAMBDA(i:nat): 0)
    WITH [(x) := 10, (y) := -sqrt(5)]
```

represents the environment where all variables are set to zero, except the first variable (represented by the index 0) which has value 10 and second variable (represented by the index 1) who has value  $-\sqrt{5}$ .

Given the environment of variables, types for predicates, quantified boolean expressions, and real valued functions are defined:

```
BoolExpr : TYPE = [Environment -> bool]
QBoolExpr : TYPE = [real -> BoolExpr]
RealExpr : TYPE = [Environment -> real],
```

These types use higher order abstract syntax to represent bounded variables. For instance,

```
val(i:nat): RealExpr
= LAMBDA(env:Environment): env(i).
```

For the discrete assignment and continuous evolution, a list of ordered pairs is needed where each first entry is an index of a variable and each second entry is the desired assignment. To prevent double assignments or continuous evolutions for the same variable, the condition that a variable index may not be used twice is in the type of the list, i.e., that a variable can only be assigned once is enforced in the following way:

```
MapExpr : TYPE = [nat,RealExpr]
mapexpr_inj(l:list[MapExpr]) : bool =
   LET N = length(l) IN
   FORALL(i:below(N),j:subrange(i+1,N-1)):
   nth(l,i)'1 /= nth(l,j)'1
MapExprInj : TYPE = (mapexpr_inj)
Assigns : TYPE = MapExprInj
ODEs : TYPE = MapExprInj.
```

The syntax and semantics of hybrid programs can be defined with these in place. Syntactically, hybrid programs are a recursive data type defined in PVS as:

```
HP : DATATYPE BEGIN
ASSIGN(assigns:Assigns) : assign?
```

```
DIFF(odes:ODEs,be:BoolExpr) : diff?
TEST(be:BoolExpr) : test?
SEQ(stm1,stm2:HP) : seq?
UNION(stm1,stm2:HP) : union?
STAR(stm:HP) : star? END HP.
```

The semantics of a hybrid program defines how input environments and output environments are related to each other through different program constructs. This is done through the semantic relation:

```
semantic_rel(hp:HP)(envi:Environment)
(envo:Environment): INDUCTIVE bool = ...,
```

which is inductively defined on the structure of the programs. Because of its size the full definition is not given here, but a few cases are shown. For example, the semantics of SEQ(stm1, stm2:hp) is given by:

```
(EXISTS (env:Environment):
    semantic_rel(stm1(hp))(envi)(env) AND
    semantic_rel(stm2(hp))(env)(envo))).
```

This says that two environments envi and envo are semantically related through SEQ(stm1,stm2) when there is an environment env semantically related (as an output) to envi through stm1, and semantically related (as in input) to envo through stm2. The semantics of a hybrid program of the form ASSIGN(1: MapExprInj) is given by:

```
(FORALL(i:below(length(l))):
LET (k,re) = nth(l,i) IN
envo(k) = re(envi)) AND
FORALL(i:(not_in_map(l))): envo(i) = envi(i)).
```

This says that environments envi and envo are semantically related through ASSIGN(1), meaning that envo is envi with the proper assignments made at the right indices.

## 4.2 Basics of dL in PVS

Sequents of dL are embedded in PVS as predicates on two lists of boolean expressions - one acting as the antecedent and one acting as the consequent:

```
|-(Gamma, Delta: list[BoolExpr] ): bool.
```

The semantics of the expression Gamma |- Delta state that for each environment that satisfies the conjunction of expressions in Gamma, one of the expressions in Delta is true, in PVS written as:

There are a number of common boolean expression defined in dL-PVS that allow first order logic statements in the dL-PVS sequent. This includes all of the operations mentioned in Section 3.2 including <,  $\leq$ , =,  $\geq$ , >,  $\neq$ , quantification, negation, conjunction, disjunction, and (bi)implication for formulas. In addition to these expressions, dL also uses the

universal quantifier and existential quantifier for hybrid programs. These are denoted as ALLRUNS and SOMERUNS, respectively. The boolean

```
SOMERUNS(hp:HP,P:BoolExpr)(env:Environment)
```

is true when there exists an envo: Environment that is an output of the hybrid program hp with input env, such that P(envo) is true. The boolean

```
ALLRUNS(hp:HP,P:BoolExpr)(env:Environment)
```

is true when P(envo) is true for every envo:Environment that is an output of the hybrid program hp with input env. Using the operators of dL-PVS, the logical statement in (2) can be specified in PVS as:

```
hp_ex: LEMMA
LET alpha = STAR(SEQ(ASSIGN( (: a, val(a)+1:)),
DIFF((:(x, val(v)), (v, val(a)) :)))) IN
   (: :) |- (: DLIMPLIES((:val(x) >= cnst(1),
   val(v) >= cnst(0), val(a) >= 0 :),
   ALLRUNS(alpha, val(x) >= 1)) :)
```

#### 4.3 Rules of dL in PVS

All the rules of dL have been specified and proven as lemmas in PVS. This includes a number of basic propositional-logic-based rules (such as dL-assert, shown in Figures 2 and 3), but also the more specialized rules that are specifically tailored for reasoning of hybrid systems. The rules discussed in Section 3.3 are shown below as PVS lemmas.

In PVS the dL-loop rule was written as the following lemma and proven

```
dl_loop : LEMMA
FORALL(Gamma: list[BoolExpr], J,P:BoolExpr, A:HP):
    (Gamma |- cons(J)) AND (J |- P) AND
    (J |- ALLRUNS(A,J)) IMPLIES
        (Gamma |- cons(ALLRUNS(STAR(A),P))).
```

The differential invariant rule was also specified and proven

As a small example of the complexity of some of these specifications and proofs, note that for the differential invariant rule, a deep embedding of boolean expressions was required to define the appropriate derivative of such expressions in a recursive and executable way. The function  $nqb_to_be(nnP)$  represents the transformation from nnP, a representation of a boolean expression written in this deep embedding to a boolean expression. The function ASSIGN\_DIFT(odes) (nnP) represents the derivative of nnP with the derivative assignments defined by the odes. The ASSIGN\_DIFT(odes) (nnP) expression corresponds to the term [x' := f(x)](p(x))' in the differential invariant rule in Section 3.3.2.

#### 4.4 Extensions of dL in PVS

The operational implementation of dL in PVS is fully typed, and allows specification and reasoning about hybrid programs based on properties of the hybrid programs rather than particular instantiations. To illustrate these points consider the following predicate behind?:

```
behind?(odes:ODEs)(env:Environment): bool =
FORALL(i:below(max_var(odes))):env(i) <
env(i+1).</pre>
```

This predicate is true when values of the environment are increasing up to the index of the maximum variable used by odes.

The subtype of hybrid programs called behind is defined as all the hybrid programs that preserve behind?(odes):

Similarly, the boolean expression slower?(odes:ODEs) ensures that variables of lower index are going slower than variables of higher index:

```
slower?(odes:ODEs)(env:Environment): bool =
FORALL(i:below(length(odes))): nth(odes,i)'1 = i
AND FORALL(i:below(length(odes)-1)):
(nth(odes,i)'2(env) < nth(odes,i+1)'2(env)).</pre>
```

The subtype of hybrid programs called slow are hybrid programs where variables of lower index go slower than variables of higher index, regardless of starting values:

```
slow: TYPE
= hp: (diff?) | (: :) |- (: slower?(odes(hp)) :).
```

Using a JUDGEMENT in PVS (which is similar to a lemma, but concerning relationships between types), the user can state and prove that hybrid program type slow is a subtype of behind:

```
slow_is_behind: JUDGEMENT slow SUBTYPE_OF behind.
```

This means that every hybrid program of type slow is also of type behind. This JUDGEMENT shows that hybrid programs of type (diff?) that have variables whose velocities and positions are monotonic according to index are guaranteed to preserve order of the variables. Notice that this property is for an entire *class* of hybrid programs, not a defined one. An *instance* of this class, which can be reasoned about in classical dL, can take on a wide variety of forms. This illustrates a benefit of dL embedded in PVS: the expressive language and proof system provides avenues for reasoning about hybrid programs or entire classes of them outside of dL.

# 5 Using dL-PVS

# 5.1 Implementation of dL rules as strategies

The formally verified dL deduction rules have been implemented as strategies for use in the interactive theorem prover

Figure 2. Example of using the dl-loop strategy in PVS

of PVS. As the strategy language works using basic deduction rules and proven lemmas, these strategies are sound with respect to PVS.

The lemma dl\_loop was written as a proof strategy (dl-loop <inv>) where <inv> is the user defined invariant condition to be used in application of this rule. Figure 2 shows the use of the dl-loop strategy applied to prove the statement in (3). After applying the rule with the correct invariant condition three subgoals are created that correspond to Equation 4 (discrete\_loop\_example.1), Equation 6 (discrete\_loop\_example.2), and Equation 5 (discrete\_loop\_example.3).

Similarly, the strategy (dl-diffinv) captures the differential invariant rule specified and proven in the lemma dl\_dI, in addition to automated procedures to calculate derivatives. Figure 3 shows this strategy being used to prove the statement in Equation 7. Note that (dl-diffinv) automatically calculates ALLRUNS(ASSIGN\_DIFT(ode) (nnP)) =  $(val(v) \ge cnst(0))$  and the proof is discharged without user instantiation or user input about differentiation. The cases generated in Figure 3 correspond to the expressions in Equations 8 and 9.

### 5.2 dL-PVS in Visual Studio Code

A Visual Studio Code extension is under development that will allow users of dL-PVS to specify hybrid programs in a way that is aesthetically similar to the traditional syntax of dL, see Figure 4. This capability will also be available during proof sessions, allowing the user to reason about hybrid programs in stylized syntax rather than through the

**Figure 3.** Example of using the differential invariant strategy in PVS

**Figure 4.** Example of the Visual Studio Code extension for specification of hybrid programs in dL-PVS

standard PVS interface. This work will be a continuation of the completed Visual Studio Code extension for PVS [13].

## **6** Conclusions and Future Work

This paper gives an overview of the effort to implement an operational embedding of dL in the theorem prover PVS. At this stage, the rules of dL have been proven in PVS, and many proof strategies are finished. The Visual Studio Code extension for interaction with the system is in active development. There are a number of directions for future work, such as additional specification capabilities and rules associated with liveness properties that could give the embedding of dL more capability. Specifically, reasoning about hybrid programs with an arbitrary number of variables will require additional work, as this ability is not part of the standard dL rule suite. Additionally, introducing more automation into the proving process, such as an automatic way to detect invariant conditions in hybrid programs, would benefit users of dL-PVS.

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