

AN INTRODUCTION TO ABSTRACT INTERPRETATION

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3. APPLICATION TO STATIC ANALYSIS

3.2 APPLICATION TO PREDICATE ABSTRACTION

Indeed an abstract interpretation of:

Reference

- [2] S. Graf and H. Saïdi. Construction of abstract state graphs with PVS. In *Proc. 9th Int. Conf. CAV '97*, LNCS 1254, pp. 72–83. Springer, 1997.

VERIFICATION THAT REACHABLE STATES ARE SAFE

- States: Σ
- Initial states: $I \subseteq \Sigma$
- Safe states: $S \subseteq \Sigma$
- Transition relation $t \subseteq \Sigma \times \Sigma$ (Small step operational semantics)
- Verification problem:

$$\begin{aligned} & \text{post}[t^*]I \subseteq S \\ \Leftrightarrow & \left(\text{lfp}_{\emptyset}^{\subseteq} \lambda X . I \cup \text{post}[t]X \right) \subseteq S \end{aligned}$$

SYNTACTIC PREDICATES

- Choose a set \mathbb{P} of syntactic predicates such that:

$$\forall S \subseteq \mathbb{P} : (\bigwedge S) \in \mathbb{P}$$

- an interpretation $\mathcal{I} \in \mathbb{P} \longmapsto \wp(\mathcal{M})$ such that:

$$\forall S \subseteq \mathbb{P} : \mathcal{I}(\bigwedge S) = \bigcap_{p \in S} \mathcal{I}[p]$$

- It follows that $\{\mathcal{I}[p] \mid p \in \mathbb{P}\}$ is a Moore family.

PREDICATE ABSTRACTION

A memory state property $Q \in \wp(\mathcal{M})$ is approximated by the subset of predicates p of \mathbb{P} which holds when Q holds (formally $Q \subseteq \mathcal{I}[[p]]$). This defines a Galois connection:

$$\langle \wp(\mathcal{M}), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_{\mathbb{P}}]{\gamma_{\mathbb{P}}} \langle \wp(\mathbb{P}), \supseteq \rangle$$

where:

$$\alpha_{\mathbb{P}}(Q) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{p \in \mathbb{P} \mid Q \subseteq \mathcal{I}[[p]]\}$$

$$\gamma_{\mathbb{P}}(P) \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \bigcap \{\mathcal{I}[[p]] \mid p \in P\}$$

POINTWISE EXTENSION TO ALL PROGRAM POINTS

By pointwise extension, we have for all program points:

$$\langle \mathcal{L} \longmapsto \wp(\mathcal{M}), \dot{\subseteq} \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\dot{\alpha}_{\mathbb{P}}]{\dot{\gamma}_{\mathbb{P}}} \langle \mathcal{L} \longmapsto \wp(\mathbb{P}), \dot{\supseteq} \rangle$$

where:

$$\dot{\alpha}_{\mathbb{P}}(Q) = \lambda \ell. \alpha_{\mathbb{P}}(Q_{\ell})$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_{\mathbb{P}}(P) = \lambda \ell. \gamma_{\mathbb{P}}(P_{\ell})$$

$$P \dot{\supseteq} P' = \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L} : P_{\ell} \supseteq P'_{\ell}$$

BOOLEAN ENCODING

- $\mathbb{P} = \{p_1, \dots, p_k\}$ is finite
- $\mathbb{B} = \{\text{tt}, \text{ff}\}$ is the set of booleans with $\text{ff} \Rightarrow \text{ff} \Rightarrow \text{tt} \Rightarrow \text{tt}$
- We can use a **boolean encoding of subsets** of \mathbb{P} :

$$\langle \mathcal{P}(\mathbb{P}), \supseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma_b} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_b} \end{matrix} \langle \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{B}, \dot{\Leftarrow} \rangle$$

where:

$$\alpha_b(P) = \prod_{i=1}^k (\mathfrak{p}_i \in P)$$

$$\gamma_b(Q) = \{\mathfrak{p}_i \mid 1 \leq i \leq k \wedge Q_i\}$$

$$Q \Leftarrow Q' = \forall i : 1 \leq i \leq k : Q_i \Leftarrow Q'_i$$

POINTWISE EXTENSION TO ALL PROGRAM POINTS

By pointwise extension, we have for all program points:

$$\langle \mathcal{L} \longmapsto \mathfrak{so}(\mathbb{P}), \supseteq \rangle \begin{matrix} \xleftarrow{\gamma_b} \\ \xrightarrow{\alpha_b} \end{matrix} \langle \mathcal{L} \longmapsto \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{B}, \Leftarrow \rangle$$

where:

$$\dot{\alpha}_b(P) = \lambda_{\ell \cdot} \alpha_b(P_\ell)$$

$$\dot{\gamma}_b(Q) = \lambda^{\ell \cdot} \gamma_b(Q_\ell)$$

$$Q \leftrightsquigarrow Q' = \forall \ell \in \mathcal{L} : Q_\ell \leftrightsquigarrow Q'_\ell$$

COMPOSITION: POINTWISE BOOLEAN ENCODED PREDICATE ABSTRACTION

By composition, we get:

$$\langle \wp(\mathcal{L} \times \mathcal{M}), \subseteq \rangle \xLeftrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \mathcal{L} \longmapsto \prod_{i=1}^k \mathbb{B}, \Leftarrow \rangle$$

where:

$$\alpha(P) = \dot{\alpha}_b \circ \dot{\alpha}_{\mathbb{P}} \circ \alpha_{\downarrow}(P)$$

$$\gamma(Q) = \gamma_{\downarrow} \circ \dot{\gamma}_{\mathbb{P}} \circ \dot{\gamma}_b(Q)$$

ABSTRACT PREDICATE TRANSFORMER (SKETCHY)

$$\begin{aligned} & \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} \circ \text{post} \llbracket X := E \rrbracket \circ \gamma_{\mathbb{P}}(\{q_1, \dots, q_n\}) \text{ where } \{q_1, \dots, q_n\} \subseteq \{\mathfrak{p}_1, \dots, \mathfrak{p}_k\} \\ &= \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} \circ \text{post} \llbracket X := E \rrbracket \left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n \mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i \rrbracket \right) && \text{def. } \gamma_{\mathbb{P}} \\ &= \alpha_{\mathbb{P}}(\{ \rho[X/\llbracket E \rrbracket \rho] \mid \rho \in \bigcap_{i=1}^n \mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i \rrbracket \}) && \text{def. } \text{post} \llbracket X := E \rrbracket \\ &= \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n \{ \rho[X/\llbracket E \rrbracket \rho] \mid \rho \in \mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i \rrbracket \} \right) && \text{def. } \cap \\ &= \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\bigcap_{i=1}^n \mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i[X/E] \rrbracket \right) && \text{def. substitution} \\ &= \{ \mathfrak{p}_j \mid \mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i[X/E] \rrbracket \Rightarrow \mathfrak{p}_j \} && \text{def. } \alpha_{\mathbb{P}} \\ &\Rightarrow \{ \mathfrak{p}_j \mid \text{theorem_prover} \llbracket q_i[X/E] \rrbracket \Rightarrow \mathfrak{p}_j \} \end{aligned}$$

since $\text{theorem_prover} \llbracket q_i[X/E] \rrbracket \Rightarrow \mathfrak{p}_j$ implies $\mathcal{I} \llbracket q_i[X/E] \rrbracket \Rightarrow \mathfrak{p}_j$

2.2.3 LOCAL COMPLETION

See Sec. 9.2 of [POPL '79].

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 31

NON DISTRIBUTIVITY [POPL '79]

- An abstraction ρ is \cup -complete or distributive, whenever the union of abstract properties is abstract:

$$\forall S \subseteq \wp(\Sigma) : \bigcup_{P \in S} \rho(P) = \rho\left(\bigcup_{P \in S} P\right)$$

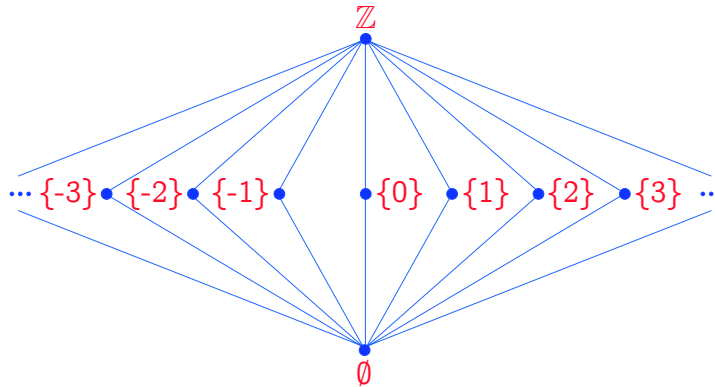
- Hence, the abstract union of abstract properties loses no information with respect to their concrete one;
- Otherwise it is \cup -incomplete or non-distributive.

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 32

EXAMPLE OF NON DISTRIBUTIVITY [POPL '79]

- Kildall's constant propagation $\langle \{\emptyset, \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\{i\} \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \subseteq \rangle$



is not distributive:

$$\rho(\{1\}) \cup \rho(\{2\}) = \{1, 2\} \neq \mathbb{Z} = \rho(\rho(\{1\}) \cup \rho(\{2\})) .$$

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 33

DISJUNCTIVE COMPLETION [POPL '79]

- The \cup -completion or disjunctive completion $\mathfrak{c}^\cup(\overline{A})$ of an abstract domain \overline{A} is the smallest distributive abstract domain containing \overline{A} ;
- The disjunctive completion adds all missing joins to the abstract domain:

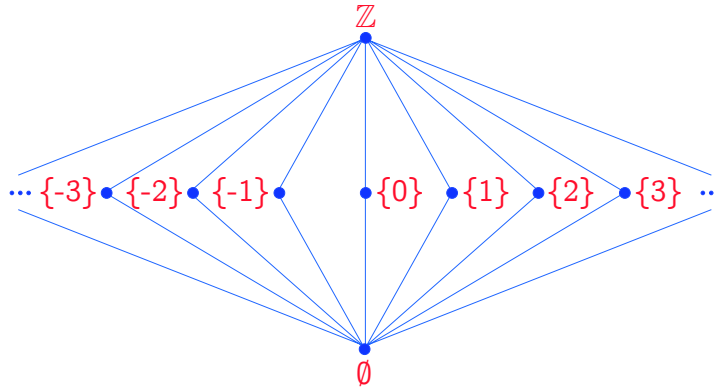
$$\mathfrak{c}^\cup(\overline{A}) = \text{lfp}_{\subseteq}^{\overline{A}} \lambda A. \mathcal{M}(A \cup \{ \bigcup_{P \in S} \rho_A(P) \mid \rho_A(\bigcup_{P \in S} \rho_A(P)) \neq \bigcup_{P \in S} \rho_A(P) \})$$

Reference

[POPL '79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 34

EXAMPLE OF DISJUNCTIVE COMPLETION [POPL '79]

- Kildall's constant propagation $\langle \{\emptyset, \mathbb{Z}\} \cup \{\{i\} \mid i \in \mathbb{Z}\}, \subseteq \rangle$



is not distributive;

- The disjunctive completion is $\langle \wp(\mathbb{Z}), \subseteq \rangle$ (i.e. identity abstraction!).

Reference

[POPL ’79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 35

LOCAL IMAGE COMPLETENESS [POPL '79]

- Given $f \in \wp(\Sigma) \mapsto \wp(\Sigma)$, the abstraction ρ is f -complete iff the f -transformation of abstract properties is abstract:

$$\forall P \in \wp(\Sigma) : \rho \circ f \circ \rho(P) = f \circ \rho(P)$$

- Hence, the abstract transformation of an abstract property loses no information with respect to the concrete one;
- Otherwise ρ is f -incomplete.

Reference

[POPL ’79] P. Cousot & R. Cousot. Systematic design of program analysis frameworks. In *6th POPL*, pages 269–282, San Antonio, TX, 1979. ACM Press. 36

LOCAL IMAGE COMPLETION⁵

- The f -completion $\mathfrak{c}^f(\overline{\mathcal{A}})$ of an abstract domain $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$ is the smallest f -complete abstract domain containing $\overline{\mathcal{A}}$;
- The local image completion adds all missing abstract elements to the abstract domain:

$$\mathfrak{e}^f(\overline{\mathcal{A}}) = \text{lfp}_{\subseteq}^{\bar{\mathcal{A}}} \lambda A \bullet \mathcal{M}(A \cup \{f \circ \rho_A(P) \mid \rho_A \circ f \circ \rho_A(P) \neq f \circ \rho_A(P)\}) \quad (1)$$

⁵ See other completion methods in:

P. Cousot. Partial Completeness of Abstract Fixpoint Checking, invited paper. In *4th Int. Symp. SARA '2000*, LNAI 1864, Springer, pp. 1–25, 2000.

R. Giacobazzi, F. Ranzato, and F. Scozzari. Making abstract interpretations complete. *J. ACM*, 47(2):361–416, 2000.

FIXPOINT COMPLETION

- We want to prove $\text{lfp } F \subseteq \gamma(I)$ i.e. $\alpha(\text{lfp } F) \sqsubseteq^\# I$
- The abstraction is in general incomplete so $\text{lfp } F^\# \not\sqsubseteq^\# I$
- Hence we look for the most abstract abstraction $\bar{\alpha}$ which is more precise than α and is fixpoint complete:

$$\bar{\alpha}(\text{lfp } F) = \text{lfp } \bar{F}^\sharp \quad \text{where} \quad \bar{F}^\sharp = \bar{\alpha} \circ F \circ \bar{\gamma}$$

- This is **sound** since $\text{lfp } \bar{F}^\sharp \sqsubseteq^\sharp I$ implies $\alpha(\text{lfp } F) \sqsubseteq^\sharp I$ that is $\text{lfp } F \subseteq \gamma(I)$
- This is **complete** since $\text{lfp } F \subseteq \bar{\gamma}(I) = \gamma(I)$ so $\bar{\alpha}(\text{lfp } F) \sqsubseteq^\sharp I$ i.e. $\text{lfp } \bar{F}^\sharp \sqsubseteq^\sharp I$ is now provable in the abstract.

LOCAL IMAGE AND DOMAIN COMPLETENESS

- When $F^\sharp = \bar{\alpha} \circ F \circ \bar{\gamma}$ and $\bar{\rho} = \bar{\gamma} \circ \bar{\alpha}$, the abstract commutation condition $\bar{\alpha} \circ F = F^\sharp \circ \bar{\alpha}$ amounts to *local domain completeness* $\bar{\rho} \circ F = \bar{\rho} \circ F \circ \bar{\rho}$;
- This is different from *local image completeness* $F \circ \bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho} \circ F \circ \bar{\rho}$ for which we provided a completion construction (1)⁷;
- A common particular case is when F has an adjoint \widetilde{F} such that $\langle P, \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[F]{\widetilde{F}} \langle Q, \sqsubseteq \rangle$ in which case adjoined local image completeness $\widetilde{F} \circ \bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho} \circ \widetilde{F} \circ \bar{\rho}$ implies local domain completeness $\bar{\rho} \circ F = \bar{\rho} \circ F \circ \bar{\rho}$.

⁷ *Local domain completion* is also possible but more complicated, see R. Giacobazzi, F. Ranzato, and F. Scozzari. Making abstract interpretations complete. *J. ACM*, 47(2):361–416, 2000.

EXACT FIXPOINT ABSTRACTION BY ADJOINT LOCAL IMAGE COMPLETION

When F has an adjoint \bar{F} , a *sufficient condition* to ensure exact fixpoint abstraction $\bar{\alpha}(\text{lfp } F) = \text{lfp } \bar{F}^\sharp$ where $F^\sharp = \bar{\alpha} \circ F \circ \bar{\gamma}$ is:

- Local dual image completeness that is $\bar{F} \circ \bar{\gamma} = \bar{\gamma} \circ \bar{F}^\sharp$ (i.e. $\bar{F} \circ \bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho} \circ \bar{F} \circ \bar{\rho}$ where $\bar{\rho} = \bar{\gamma} \circ \bar{\alpha}$);
- This can be achieved by refining the original abstract domain $\bar{\rho}$ by the local image fixpoint completion construction (1)^{8,9};
- This implies local domain completeness $\bar{\rho} \circ F = \bar{\rho} \circ F \circ \bar{\rho}$ (i.e. $F \circ \bar{\rho} = \bar{\rho} \circ F \circ \bar{\rho}$);
- This in turn implies exact/precise fixpoint abstraction $\bar{\alpha}(\text{lfp } F) = \text{lfp } \bar{F}^\sharp$ in the refined domain.

⁸ The local dual image completion can be restricted to the fixpoint iterates.

⁹ In general, the completed domain does not satisfy the ascending chain condition (see the previous constant propagation example).

PREDICATE ABSTRACTION COMPLETION

Principle of **refinement** for $\dot{\alpha}_{\mathbb{P}} \left(\text{lfp}_{\emptyset}^{\subseteq} \lambda X \cdot I \cup \text{post}[t]X \right)$:

- Start from $\mathbb{P} = \mathbb{P}_0$; (e.g. $\mathbb{P}_0\{\text{true}\}$)
- Iteratively repeat
 Check $\left(\text{lfp}_{\emptyset}^{\subseteq} \lambda X \cdot I \cup \text{post}[t]X \right) \subseteq S$ by pred. abs. \mathbb{P}_n
 If failed, do **local domain completion** of \mathbb{P}_n into \mathbb{P}_{n+1} for
 adjoint $\widetilde{\text{pre}}[t]$
until verification done¹;

A few convincing **practical experiences** e.g. [3]

Reference

- [3] T. Ball, R. Majumdar, T.D. Millstein, and S.K. Rajamani. Automatic predicate abstraction of C programs. In *Proc. ACM SIGPLAN 2001 Conf. PLDI. ACM SIGPLAN Not.* 36(5), pages 203–213. ACM Press, June 2001. 19

¹ convergence has to be enforced by widenings since the problem is undecidable e.g. $n < N$ or “I don’t know”.