

# Principles of Abstract Interpretation

## MIT press

### Ch. 44, Software model checking

Patrick Cousot

[pcousot.github.io](http://pcousot.github.io)

[PrAbsInt@gmail.com](mailto:PrAbsInt@gmail.com)

[github.com/PrAbsInt/](https://github.com/PrAbsInt/)

These slides are available at  
<http://github.com/PrAbsInt/slides/slides-44--model-checking-PrAbsInt.pdf>

## Chapter 44

# Ch. 44, Software model checking (1/3)

We have split our review of Chapter **44** into three videos

This first video is about

- regular specifications

# Introduction

# Objectives

- An introduction to software model-checking
- Designed by abstract interpretation, by calculational design of an abstraction of the semantics
- Using a non-conventional temporal specification (regular expressions instead of LTL, CTL, CTL\*)

# Specification of program semantics

## Regular specifications

- We specify execution traces using **regular expressions** where terminals/[meta]-characters are replaced by **local assertions**
- A local assertion  $L : B$  specifies that invariant  $B$  should be true whenever execution reaches a program label  $\ell \in L$  in the set  $L$ .
- $B$  depends on the initial value  $\underline{x}$  of the variables  $x$  and there current value  $x$  at  $\ell$
- Abbreviation:  $? : B \triangleq \mathbb{L} : B$  means that  $B$  holds at any program label  $\ell \in \mathbb{L}$

## Examples of regular specifications

- $(? : x \geq 0)^*$  states that the value of  $x$  is always positive or zero during program execution.
- $(? : x \geq \underline{x})^*$  states that the value of  $x$  is always greater than or equal to its initial value  $\underline{x}$  during execution.
- $(? : x \geq 0)^* \bullet \ell : x == 0 \bullet (? : x < 0)^*$  states that
  - the value of  $x$  should be positive or zero, and next
  - if program point  $\ell$  is ever reached then  $x$  should be 0, and next
  - if computations go on after program point  $\ell$  then  $x$  should be negative afterwards.
- In the literature: Fred Schneider's [security monitors](#) [Schneider, 2000] : monitor the actions of a program, checks the behavior of the program against a given safety specification (and initiate remedial actions)<sup>1,2</sup>

---

<sup>1</sup>use automata equivalent to regular expressions

<sup>2</sup>use actions instead of program labels



# Syntax of regular expressions

$L \in \wp(\mathbb{L})$	sets of program labels
$x, y, \dots \in \mathbb{V}$	program variables
$\underline{x}, \underline{y}, \dots \in \underline{\mathbb{V}}$	initial values of variables
$B \in \mathbb{B}$	boolean expressions such that $\text{vars}[\![B]\!] \subseteq \mathbb{V} \cup \underline{\mathbb{V}}$
$R \in \mathbb{R}$	regular expressions (44.2)
$R ::= \varepsilon$	empty
$L : B$	invariant $B$ at $L$
$R_1 R_2$ (or $R_1 \bullet R_2$ )	concatenation
$R_1 \mid R_2$	alternative
$R_1^* \mid R_1^+$	zero/one or more occurrences of $R$
$(R_1)$	grouping

## Subsets of regular expressions

$\mathcal{R}_\epsilon$  empty regular expressions

$\mathcal{R}^+$  non-empty regular expressions (used for specifications since no execution is empty)

$\mathcal{R}^+$  alternative  $|$ -free regular expressions

## Semantics of regular expressions

- The semantics  $\mathcal{S}^r \llbracket R \rrbracket$  of a regular expression  $R$  is a relation between
  - an initial environment  $\underline{q}$  (holding the initial values of variables), and
  - the traces  $\pi$  from  $\underline{q}$  satisfying the regular specification  $R$
- Example:
  - $R \triangleq \ell : x = \underline{x} \bullet \ell' : x = \underline{x} + 1$
  - $\mathcal{S}^r \llbracket R \rrbracket = \{ \langle \underline{q}, \langle \ell_1, \rho \rangle \langle \ell_2, \rho' \rangle \rangle \mid \rho(x) = \underline{q}(x) \wedge \rho'(x) = \underline{q}(x) + 1 \} []$
  - The program  $\ell_1 \ x = x + 1 ; \ell_2$  satisfies this specification
  - The program  $\ell_1 \ x = x + 1 ; \ell_2 \ x = x + 1 ; \ell_3$  also satisfies this specification (the execution can be longer than the specification)
  - The program  $\ell_1 \ y = 0 ; \ell_2$  does not satisfy this specification

## Semantics of regular expressions (Cont'd)

### Semantics of boolean expressions

$$\begin{aligned}\mathcal{A}[[1]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq 1 \\ \mathcal{A}[[x]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq \underline{e}(x) \\ \mathcal{A}[[x]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq \rho(x) \\ \mathcal{A}[[A_1 - A_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq \mathcal{A}[[A_1]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} - \mathcal{A}[[A_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} \\ \mathcal{B}[[A_1 < A_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq \mathcal{A}[[A_1]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} < \mathcal{A}[[A_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} \\ \mathcal{B}[[B_1 \text{ nand } B_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} &\triangleq \mathcal{B}[[B_1]]_{\underline{e}, \rho} \uparrow \mathcal{B}[[B_2]]_{\underline{e}, \rho}\end{aligned}\tag{44.6}$$

## Semantics of regular expressions (Cont'd)

### Semantics of regular expressions

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\varepsilon] \triangleq \{\langle \underline{\varrho}, \mathfrak{a} \rangle \mid \underline{\varrho} \in \mathbb{E}\mathfrak{v}\}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{L} : \mathsf{B}] \triangleq \{\langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \mid \ell \in \mathsf{L} \wedge \mathcal{B}[\mathsf{B}]\underline{\varrho}, \rho\}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_1 \mathsf{R}_2] \triangleq \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_1] \circ \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_2]$$

$$\mathcal{S} \circ \mathcal{S}' \triangleq \{\langle \underline{\varrho}, \pi \cdot \pi' \rangle \mid \langle \underline{\varrho}, \pi \rangle \in \mathcal{S} \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \pi' \rangle \in \mathcal{S}'\}$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_1 \mid \mathsf{R}_2] \triangleq \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_1] \cup \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}_2]$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]^1 \triangleq \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}] \quad (44.7)$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]^{n+1} \triangleq \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]^n \circ \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}^*] \triangleq \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N}} \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]^n$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}^+] \triangleq \bigcup_{n \in \mathbb{N} \setminus \{0\}} \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]^n$$

$$\mathcal{S}^r[(\mathsf{R})] \triangleq \mathcal{S}^r[\mathsf{R}]$$

# Semantic properties to be analyzed

## Semantics property

- The semantics of program  $P$  satisfies the specification  $R$  (for some initial environment  $\underline{q}$ )
- Traditionally denoted  $P, \underline{q} \models R$
- “satisfies” means the prefix trace semantics of  $P$  is included in that of the specification  $R$  (extended to be long enough)

### Definition 2 (Model checking)

$$P, \underline{q} \models R \triangleq (\{\underline{q}\} \times \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^*[P]) \subseteq \alpha_{\text{prefix}}(\mathcal{S}^r[R \bullet (? : \text{tt})^*])$$

□

where

$$\alpha_{\text{prefix}}(\Pi) \triangleq \{\langle \underline{q}, \pi \rangle \mid \pi \in \mathcal{S}^+ \wedge \exists \pi' \in \mathcal{S}^* . \langle \underline{q}, \pi \cdot \pi' \rangle \in \Pi\} \quad \text{prefix closure.}$$

the regular specification  $R$  specifies only a prefix of the traces of program  $P$

This concludes our definition of

- regular specifications

from [Chapter 44](#) (Software model checking)

# The End



# Principles of Abstract Interpretation

## MIT press

### Ch. 44, Software model checking

Patrick Cousot

[pcousot.github.io](http://pcousot.github.io)

[PrAbsInt@gmail.com](mailto:PrAbsInt@gmail.com)

[github.com/PrAbsInt/](https://github.com/PrAbsInt/)

These slides are available at  
<http://github.com/PrAbsInt/slides/slides-44--model-checking-PrAbsInt.pdf>

## Chapter 44

# Ch. 44, Software model checking (2/3)

In this second video, we study

- the model-checking abstraction

# Abstraction

# Model checking is an boolean abstraction of the program semantics

$$\alpha_{\underline{\varrho}, R}(\Pi) \triangleq (\{\underline{\varrho}\} \times \Pi) \subseteq \alpha_{\text{prefix}}(\mathcal{S}^r \llbracket R \bullet (? : \text{tt})^* \rrbracket)$$

$$P, \underline{\varrho} \models R = \alpha_{\underline{\varrho}, R}(\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbb{S}}^* \llbracket P \rrbracket)$$

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_{\underline{\varrho}, R}]{\gamma_{\underline{\varrho}, R}} \langle \mathbb{B}, \Leftarrow \rangle$$

## A short digression on regular expressions

## Equivalence of regular expressions

- There are several ways of writing the same regular expression (e.g.  $a^+$  or  $a(a^*)$ )
- Notion of **equivalence**

$$R_1 \approx R_2 \triangleq (\mathcal{S}^r[R_1] = \mathcal{S}^r[R_2])$$

- Equivalent regular expressions have the same semantics

## Disjunctive normal form of regular expressions

- A regular expression is in **disjunctive normal form** if it is of the form  $(R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n)$  for some  $n \geq 1$ , in which none of the  $R_i$ , for  $1 \leq i \leq n$ , contains an occurrence of  $\mid$ .
- Kleene's algorithm transforms any regular expression  $R$  into an equivalent disjunctive normal form **dnf(R)** (so  $\text{dnf}(R) \approx R$ )

$$\begin{array}{ll}
 \text{dnf}(\varepsilon) & \triangleq \varepsilon \\
 \text{dnf}(R_1 \mid R_2) & \triangleq \text{dnf}(R_1) \mid \text{dnf}(R_2) \\
 \text{dnf}(R^*) & \triangleq \text{let } R^1 \mid \dots \mid R^n = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in } ((R^1)^* \dots (R^n)^*)^* \\
 \text{dnf}(R_1 R_2) & \triangleq \text{let } R_1^1 \mid \dots \mid R_1^{n_1} = \text{dnf}(R_1) \text{ and } R_2^1 \mid \dots \mid R_2^{n_2} = \text{dnf}(R_2) \text{ in } \bigvee_{i=1}^{n_1} \bigvee_{j=1}^{n_2} R_1^i R_2^j
 \end{array}
 \qquad
 \begin{array}{ll}
 \text{dnf}(L : B) & \triangleq L : B \\
 \text{dnf}(R^+) & \triangleq \text{dnf}(RR^*) \\
 \text{dnf}((R)) & \triangleq (\text{dnf}(R))
 \end{array}$$



## [Brzozowski, 1964] derivative of regular expressions

- a string of the form  $a\sigma$  (starting with the symbol  $a$ ) matches an expression  $R$  iff the suffix  $\sigma$  matches the *derivative*  $D_a(R)$  (also denoted  $a^{-1}R$ )
- Given a non-empty and alternative-free regular expression  $R \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cap \mathbb{R}^\dagger$ , we define  $\text{fstnxt}(R) = \langle L : B, R' \rangle$  such that
  - $L : B$  recognizes the first state of sequences of states recognized by  $R$ ;
  - the derivative  $R'$  recognizes sequences of states after the first state of sequences of states recognized by  $R$ .

$$\text{fstnxt}(L : B) \triangleq \langle L : B, \varepsilon \rangle \quad (44.18)$$

$$\text{fstnxt}(R_1 R_2) \triangleq \text{fstnxt}(R_2) \quad \text{if } R_1 \in \mathbb{R}_\varepsilon$$

$$\text{fstnxt}(R_1 R_2) \triangleq \text{let } \langle R_1^f, R_1^n \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R_1) \text{ in } \left( [ R_1^n \in \mathbb{R}_\varepsilon \text{ ? } \langle R_1^f, R_2 \rangle \text{ : } \langle R_1^f, R_1^n \bullet R_2 \rangle ] \right) \quad \text{if } R_1 \notin \mathbb{R}_\varepsilon$$

$$\text{fstnxt}(R^+) \triangleq \text{let } \langle R^f, R^n \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in } \left( [ R^n \in \mathbb{R}_\varepsilon \text{ ? } \langle R^f, R^* \rangle \text{ : } \langle R^f, R^n \bullet R^* \rangle ] \right)$$

$$\text{fstnxt}((R)) \triangleq \text{fstnxt}(R)$$

# Calculational design of the abstract interpreter (I)

# Methodology

- Apply the abstraction function

$$\alpha_{\underline{\rho}, R}(\Pi) \triangleq (\{\underline{\rho}\} \times \Pi) \subseteq \alpha_{\text{prefix}}(\mathcal{S}^r[\llbracket R \bullet (? : \text{tt})^* \rrbracket])$$

to the semantics

$$\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\llbracket S \rrbracket]$$

of program components  $S$

- by structural induction on the program components  $S$

## Methodology

- Problem:  $\alpha_{\underline{Q},R}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S]\!])$  is not structurally inductive on  $S$
- Counter-example:

$$\alpha_{\underline{Q},R}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_1;S_2]\!]) = f_{\underline{Q},R}(\alpha_{\underline{Q},R_1}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_1]\!]), \alpha_{\underline{Q},R_2}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_2]\!]))$$

where  $R = R_1R_2$ ,  $R_1$  specifies  $S_1$ , and  $R_2$  specifies  $S_2$

How do we get  $R_1$  and  $R_2$ ???

- Solution: use a more refined abstraction
  - Checking that  $S$  satisfies the beginning  $R_1$  of  $R$
  - Returns the remaining  $R_2$  of  $R$  at the end of  $S$

$$\begin{aligned} \alpha_{\underline{Q},R}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_1;S_2]\!]) &= \text{let } \langle b_1, R_2 \rangle = \alpha_{\underline{Q},R}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_1]\!]) \text{ in} \\ &\quad \text{let } \langle b_2, R_3 \rangle = \alpha_{\underline{Q},R_2}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\![S_2]\!])) \text{ in} \\ &\quad \langle b_1 \wedge b_2, R_3 \rangle \end{aligned}$$

# Structural regular model- checking abstraction

## Definition 44.23 of regular model checking

- We first consider the case of  $\perp$ -free regular expressions
- **Trace model checking abstraction** ( $\underline{\varrho} \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V}$  is an initial environment and  $R \in \mathbb{R}^+ \cap \mathbb{R}^+$  is a non-empty and  $\perp$ -free regular expression):

$$\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \pi \triangleq \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \quad (44.24)$$

$$\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \exists \triangleq \langle \text{tt}, R \rangle$$

$$\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \pi \triangleq \text{let } \langle \ell_1, \rho_1 \rangle \pi' = \pi \text{ and } \langle L : B, R' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in} \quad \pi \neq \exists$$

$$(\langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell_1, \rho_1 \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r \llbracket L : B \rrbracket \text{ ? } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, R' \rangle \pi' \circ \langle \text{ff}, R' \rangle)$$

## Example

- $\pi = \langle \ell_1, \rho_1 \rangle \pi'$  with  $\pi' = \langle \ell_2, \rho_2 \rangle \ni$  with  $\rho_2 = \rho_1[x \leftarrow \rho_1(x) + 1]$  is a trace of  $\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbb{S}}^*[\ell_1 \ x = x + 1 ; \ell_2]$
- $R_1 = ? : x = \underline{x} \bullet ? : x = \underline{x} + 1 \bullet ? : x = \underline{x} + 3$
- $\text{fstnxt}(R_1) = \langle \underline{L} : x = \underline{x}, R_2 \rangle$  with  $R_2 = ? : x = \underline{x} + 1 \bullet ? : x = \underline{x} + 3$
- $\text{fstnxt}(R_2) = \langle \underline{L} : x = \underline{x} + 1, R_3 \rangle$  with  $R_3 = ? : x = \underline{x} + 3$
- $\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_3 \rangle \ni = \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle$
- $\langle \underline{\rho}, \langle \ell_2, \rho_2 \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\underline{L} : x = \underline{x} + 1] = \rho_2(x) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x}) + 1$
- $\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_2 \rangle \pi' = ([\langle \underline{\rho}, \langle \ell_2, \rho_2 \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\underline{L} : x = \underline{x} + 1] \text{ ? } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_3 \rangle \ni \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_3 \rangle]) =$   
 $([\rho_2(\underline{x}) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x}) + 1 \text{ ? } \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_3 \rangle])$
- $\langle \underline{\rho}, \langle \ell_1, \rho_1 \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\underline{L} : x = \underline{x}] = \rho_1(x) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x})$
- $\mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_1 \rangle \pi \triangleq ([\langle \underline{\rho}, \langle \ell_1, \rho_1 \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\underline{L} : x = \underline{x}] \text{ ? } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_2 \rangle \pi' \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_2 \rangle]) =$   
 $([\rho_1(x) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x}) \text{ ? } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\rho}, R_2 \rangle \pi' \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_2 \rangle]) = ([\rho_1(x) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x}) \text{ ? } ([\rho_2(x) = \underline{\rho}(\underline{x}) + 1 \text{ ? } \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_3 \rangle]) \circ \langle \text{ff}, R_2 \rangle]) \leftarrow \text{if ff we could also return the counter-example } \pi$

## Definition 44.23 of regular model checking (Cont'd)

- **Set of traces model checking abstraction** (for an  $\mathbf{I}$ -free regular expression  $R \in \mathcal{R}^+$ ):

$$\mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \Pi \triangleq \{ \langle \pi, R' \rangle \mid \pi \in \Pi \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \pi \} \quad (44.25)$$

This abstraction is a Galois connection

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle]{\gamma_{\mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle}} \langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+ \times \mathcal{R}^+), \subseteq \rangle \quad \text{for } R \in \mathcal{R}^+ \text{ in (44.25)} \quad (44.30)$$

- **Program component  $S \in \mathcal{PC}$  model checking** (for an  $\mathbf{I}$ -free regular expression  $R \in \mathcal{R}^+$ ):

$$\mathcal{M}^+ \llbracket S \rrbracket \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \triangleq \mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_s^* \llbracket S \rrbracket) \quad (44.26)$$



## Definition 44.23 of regular model checking (Cont'd)

- We now consider the general case by decomposition into  $|$ -free regular expressions
- **Set of traces model checking** (for regular expression  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ ):

$$\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \Pi \triangleq \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in} \quad (44.27)$$

$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \mathcal{M}^+(\underline{Q}, R_i) \Pi \}$$

This abstraction is a Galois connection

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+), \subseteq \rangle \xleftrightarrow[\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle]{\gamma_{\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle}} \langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+), \subseteq \rangle \quad \text{for } R \in \mathcal{R} \text{ in (44.27)} \quad (44.31)$$

- **Model checking of a program component**  $S \in \mathcal{PC}$  (for regular expression  $R \in \mathcal{R}$ ):

$$\mathcal{M}[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \triangleq \mathcal{M}\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_S^*[\![S]\!]) \quad (44.28)$$

## Definition 44.23 of regular model checking (Cont'd)

- Back to boolean model-checking

$$\langle \wp(\mathbb{S}^+), \subseteq \rangle \xrightleftharpoons[\alpha_{\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle}]{\gamma_{\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle}} \langle \mathbb{B}, \Leftarrow \rangle \quad (44.32)$$

where  $\alpha_{\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle}(X) \triangleq (\{\underline{\varrho}\} \times X) \subseteq \mathcal{M}\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle(X)$

**Theorem 4 (Model checking soundness ( $\Leftarrow$ ) and completeness ( $\Rightarrow$ ))**

$$P, \underline{\varrho} \models R \quad \Leftrightarrow \quad \alpha_{\mathcal{M}\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle}(\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathbb{S}}^* \llbracket P \rrbracket)$$

□

Note that we can prove soundness/completeness from the specification of the model-checking algorithm (still to be designed)

# Structural model checking

- We have solved the non-inductiveness problem!

$$\left[ \textbf{Lemma 5 } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle (\pi \cdot \pi') = \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle \Leftrightarrow (\exists R'' \in \mathcal{R} . \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle (\pi) = \langle \text{tt}, R'' \rangle \wedge \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R'' \rangle (\pi') = \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle ). \right. \quad \square$$

- Structural model checking

$$\begin{cases} \widehat{\mathcal{M}} \llbracket S \rrbracket \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \triangleq \widehat{\mathcal{F}} \llbracket S \rrbracket \left( \prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \widehat{\mathcal{M}} \llbracket S' \rrbracket \right) \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \\ S \in \mathcal{PC} \end{cases}$$

The  $S' \triangleleft S$  are the immediate components of program component  $S$ . By calculus,

$$\left[ \textbf{Theorem 6 } \widehat{\mathcal{M}} \llbracket S \rrbracket \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle = \mathcal{M} \llbracket S \rrbracket \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle . \right. \quad \square$$

This concludes our definition of

- the model-checking abstraction

from [Chapter 44](#) (Software model checking)

# The End

# Principles of Abstract Interpretation

## MIT press

### Ch. 44, Software model checking

Patrick Cousot

[pcousot.github.io](http://pcousot.github.io)

[PrAbsInt@gmail.com](mailto:PrAbsInt@gmail.com)

[github.com/PrAbsInt/](https://github.com/PrAbsInt/)

These slides are available at  
<http://github.com/PrAbsInt/slides/slides-44--model-checking-PrAbsInt.pdf>

## Chapter 44

# Ch. 44, Software model checking (3/3)

In this third video, we study

- the calculational design of the structural model checker

## Calculational design of the structural model-checking abstract interpreter (II)



## Computational design

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{M}[\underline{S}] \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \\
 \triangleq & \mathcal{M} \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[\underline{S}]) && \{(44.28)\} \\
 = & \mathcal{M} \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{T}}_S[\underline{S}] (\prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[S']) \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle) \\
 & \{ \text{by structural definition } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[\underline{S}] = \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_S[\underline{S}] (\prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[S']) \text{ of the stateful prefix} \\
 & \text{trace semantics in Section ??} \} \\
 = & \dots \{ \text{calculus to expand definitions, rewrite and simplify formulæ by algebraic laws} \} \\
 = & \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{M}}[\underline{S}] (\prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \mathcal{M}[S']) \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \\
 & \{ \text{by calculational design to commute the model checking abstraction on the} \\
 & \text{result to the model checking of the arguments of } \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[\underline{S}] \} \\
 = & \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{M}}[\underline{S}] (\prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}[S']) \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle && \{ \text{ind. hyp.} \} \\
 \triangleq & \widehat{\mathcal{M}}[\underline{S}] \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle && \{ \text{by defining } \widehat{\mathcal{M}}[\underline{S}] \triangleq \widehat{\mathcal{T}}_{\mathcal{M}}[\underline{S}] (\prod_{S' \triangleleft S} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}[S']) \}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Computational design

For iteration statements,  $\widehat{\mathcal{T}}[s](\prod_{s' \triangleleft s} \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*[s']) \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle$  is a fixpoint, and this proof involves the fixpoint transfer theorem [P. Cousot and R. Cousot, 1979, Th. 7.1.0.4 (3)] based on the commutation of the concrete and abstract transformer with the abstraction.

**Theorem 7 (exact least fixpoint abstraction in a complete lattice)** Assume that  $\langle C, \sqsubseteq, \perp, \top, \sqcup, \sqcap \rangle$  and  $\langle \mathcal{A}, \preceq, 0, 1, \vee, \wedge \rangle$  are complete lattices,  $f \in C \rightarrow C$  is increasing,  $\langle C, \sqsubseteq \rangle \xrightarrow[\alpha]{\gamma} \langle \mathcal{A}, \preceq \rangle$ ,  $\bar{f} \in \mathcal{A} \rightarrow \mathcal{A}$  is increasing, and  $\alpha \circ f = \bar{f} \circ \alpha$  (*commutation property*). Then  $\alpha(\text{lfp}^\sqsubseteq f) = \text{lfp}^{\preceq} \bar{f}$ .  $\square$

## Structural regular model checking of an empty specification $\varepsilon$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{M}^+[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \\
 \triangleq & \mathcal{M}^+[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{F}}_S^*[\![S]\!]) && \wr (44.26) \wr \\
 \triangleq & \{ \langle \pi, \varepsilon' \rangle \mid \pi \in \widehat{\mathcal{F}}_S^*[\![S]\!] \wedge \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^t[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \pi \} && \wr (44.25) \wr \\
 \triangleq & \{ \langle \pi, \varepsilon' \rangle \mid \pi \in \widehat{\mathcal{F}}_S^*[\![S]\!] \wedge \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon' \rangle = \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \} && \wr \mathcal{M}^t[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \pi \triangleq \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \text{ by (44.24)} \wr \\
 = & \{ \langle \pi, \varepsilon \rangle \mid \pi \in \widehat{\mathcal{F}}_S^*[\![S]\!] \} && \wr \text{def. } = \wr \\
 \triangleq & \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle
 \end{aligned}$$

### Definition 44.39 (Structural model checking)

- Model checking an empty temporal specification  $\varepsilon$ .

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[\![S]\!]\langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \triangleq \{ \langle \pi, \varepsilon \rangle \mid \pi \in \widehat{\mathcal{F}}_S^*[\![S]\!] \} \quad (44.41)$$

# Structural regular model checking of programs $P ::= \text{sl}$

$$\begin{aligned}
 & \mathcal{M} \llbracket P \rrbracket \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \\
 \triangleq & \mathcal{M} \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket P \rrbracket) \quad \{ (44.28) \} \\
 \triangleq & \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in } \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{Q}, R_i \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket P \rrbracket) \} \quad \{ \\
 & (44.27) \} \\
 = & \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in } \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \mathcal{M}^+ \langle \underline{Q}, R_i \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket \text{sl} \rrbracket) \} \\
 & \quad \{ \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket P \rrbracket = \widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket \text{sl} \rrbracket \} \\
 = & \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in } \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+ \langle \underline{Q}, R_i \rangle (\widehat{\mathcal{S}}_{\mathcal{S}}^* \llbracket \text{sl} \rrbracket) \} \\
 & \quad \{ \text{ind. hyp.} \} \\
 = & \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in } \bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+ \llbracket \text{sl} \rrbracket \langle \underline{Q}, R_i \rangle \} \quad \{ (44.26) \} \\
 \triangleq & \widehat{\mathcal{M}} \llbracket \text{sl} \rrbracket \langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \quad \{ (44.40) \}
 \end{aligned}$$

## Structural regular model checking of programs $P ::= S \downarrow$ (Cont'd)

### Definition 44.39 (Structural model checking, contn'd)

- Model checking a program  $P ::= S \downarrow$  for a temporal specification  $R \in \mathcal{R}$  with alternatives.

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}} \llbracket P \rrbracket \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \triangleq \text{let } (R_1 \mid \dots \mid R_n) = \text{dnf}(R) \text{ in} \quad (44.40)$$
$$\bigcup_{i=1}^n \{ \pi \mid \exists R' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle \pi, R' \rangle \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+ \llbracket S \rrbracket \langle \underline{q}, R_i \rangle \}$$

# Structural regular model checking of assignments $S ::= \ell \ x = A ;$

## Definition 44.39 (Structural model checking, contn'd)

- Model checking an assignment statement  $S ::= \ell \ x = A ;$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[S]]\langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \triangleq \text{let } \langle L : B, R' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in} \quad (44.45)$$

$$\{ \langle \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \langle \underline{q}, \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[[L : B]] \} \quad (a)$$

$$\cup \{ \langle \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[[S]], \rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}[[A]]\rho] \rangle, \varepsilon \rangle \mid R' \in \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \wedge \quad (b)$$

$$\langle \underline{q}, \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[[L : B]] \}$$

$$\cup \{ \langle \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[[S]], \rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}[[A]]\rho] \rangle, R'' \rangle \mid R' \notin \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \wedge \quad (c)$$

$$\langle \underline{q}, \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[[L : B]] \wedge \langle L' : B', R'' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R') \wedge$$

$$\langle \underline{q}, \langle \text{after}[[S]], \rho[x \leftarrow \mathcal{A}[[A]]\rho] \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[[L' : B'] \}$$

# Structural regular model checking of assignments $S ::= \ell \ x = A ;$ (Cont'd)

$$\mathcal{M}^+[\![S]\!] \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle$$

$$= \{ \langle \pi, R' \rangle \mid \pi \in \widehat{\mathcal{S}}^*_{\mathcal{S}}[\![S]\!] \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \pi \} \quad \text{((44.26) and (44.25))}$$

$$= \{ \langle \pi, R' \rangle \mid \pi \in \{ \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \mid \rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \} \cup \{ \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[\![S]\!], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle \mid \rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \wedge v = \mathcal{A}[\![A]\!]\rho \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \pi \} \quad \text{((42.4))}$$

$$= \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \} \cup \\ \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[\![S]\!], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \rho \in \mathbb{E}\mathbb{V} \wedge v = \mathcal{A}[\![A]\!]\rho \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R \rangle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[\![S]\!], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle \} \quad \text{(def. } \cup \text{ and } \in \text{)}$$

$$= \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \text{let } \langle L : B, R'' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in } ( \langle \underline{q}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\![L : B]\!] \text{ ? } \langle \text{tt}, R'' \rangle \text{ : } \langle \text{ff}, R' \rangle ) \} \cup$$

$$\{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[\![S]\!], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, R' \rangle \mid v = \mathcal{A}[\![A]\!]\rho \wedge \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle = \text{let } \langle L : B, R'' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in } ( \langle \underline{q}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[\![L : B]\!] \text{ ? } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{q}, R'' \rangle \langle \text{after}[\![S]\!], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle \text{ : } \langle \text{ff}, R'' \rangle ) \} \quad \text{((44.24))}$$

$$= \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}
&= \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \langle L : B, R' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \} \cup \\
&\quad \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, R' \rangle \mid v = \mathcal{A}[A]\rho \wedge \exists R'' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle L : B, R'' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \wedge (R'' \in \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \text{ ? } \text{tt} : \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, R'' \rangle \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle = \langle \text{tt}, R' \rangle) \} \\
&\hspace{20em} \{ \text{def. = and } \mathcal{M}^t \langle \underline{\varrho}, \varepsilon \rangle \pi \triangleq \langle \text{tt}, \varepsilon \rangle \text{ by (44.24)} \} \\
&= \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \langle L : B, R' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \} \cup \\
&\quad \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, R' \rangle \mid v = \mathcal{A}[A]\rho \wedge \exists R'' \in \mathcal{R} . \langle L : B, R'' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \wedge (R'' \in \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \text{ ? } \text{tt} : \text{let } \langle L' : B', R''' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R'') \text{ in } \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L' : B']) \} \\
&\hspace{20em} \{ (44.24) \} \\
&= \text{let } \langle L : B, R' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R) \text{ in} \\
&\quad \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \mid \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \} \\
&\quad \cup \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, \varepsilon \rangle \mid v = \mathcal{A}[A]\rho \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \wedge R' \in \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \} \\
&\quad \cup \{ \langle \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle, R'' \rangle \mid v = \mathcal{A}[A]\rho \wedge \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \ell, \rho \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L : B] \wedge R' \notin \mathcal{R}_\varepsilon \wedge \text{let } \langle L' : B', R''' \rangle = \text{fstnxt}(R') \text{ in } \langle \underline{\varrho}, \langle \text{after}[S], \rho[x \leftarrow v] \rangle \rangle \in \mathcal{S}^r[L' : B'] \} \\
&\hspace{20em} \{ \text{def. } \cup \} \\
&= \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[\![S]\!] \langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \hspace{15em} \{ (44.45) \} \quad \square
\end{aligned}$$



# Structural regular model checking of a statement list $sl ::= sl' \ S$

## Definition 44.39 (Structural model checking, contn'd)

- Model checking a **statement list**  $sl ::= sl' \ S$

$$\begin{aligned} \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[sl]]\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle &\triangleq \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[sl']]\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \\ &\cup \{ \langle \pi \cdot \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \cdot \pi', R'' \rangle \mid \langle \pi \cdot \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle, R' \rangle \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[sl']]\langle \underline{\varrho}, R \rangle \wedge \\ &\quad \langle \langle \text{at}[[S]], \rho \rangle \cdot \pi', R'' \rangle \in \widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[S]]\langle \underline{\varrho}, R' \rangle \} \end{aligned} \tag{44.42}$$

## Structural regular model checking of iterations $S ::= \text{while}^{\ell}(B) S_b$

### Definition 44.39 (Structural model checking, contr'n'd)

- Model checking an iteration statement  $S ::= \text{while}^{\ell}(B) S_b$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{M}}^+[[S]]\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle \triangleq \text{lfp}^{\subseteq}(\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^+[[S]]\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle) \quad (44.49)$$

$$\widehat{\mathcal{F}}^+[[S]]\langle \underline{Q}, R \rangle X \triangleq \dots\dots\dots$$

# Scalability

# Convergence

- In practice, the set  $\mathcal{S}$  of states must be assumed to be **finite** (and very small) and encoded symbolically
- Regular expressions may be replaced by **finite automata**
- Nevertheless, model-checking in general, and regular model checking in particular, **does not scale**
- **Convergence acceleration** methods (widening, narrowing, and duals) must be used (trivial example: bounded model checking limits the length of traces to an arbitrary length  $n$ )

# Liveness

# Liveness

- If the set of states is **finite**, this is safety
- Otherwise, abstraction is needed, BUT liveness is not preserved by over-approximation and under-approximation is difficult in infinite systems
- In general liveness in the finite abstract homomorphic transition does NOT imply liveness in the infinite concrete transition system, and
- non-liveness in the infinite concrete transition system does NOT imply non-liveness in the finite abstract transition system
- Our solution: **variant functions**.

# Conclusion

# Conclusion

- We have shown that a model-checker is an abstract interpretation of a program semantics [P. Cousot and R. Cousot, 2000]
- So the model-checker can be formally constructed by calculational design
- This provides a machine checkable [Jourdan, Laporte, Blazy, Leroy, and Pichardie, 2015] formal proof of soundness (and completeness) of the model-checker
- Soundness does not seem to be a preoccupation of the model-checking community!
- A computation tool (better than  $\text{\LaTeX}$  editing, grep, and copy-paste) would be very helpful
- Pave the way for further non trivial abstractions (beyond the homomorphic abstractions)



# Bibliography

## References I

- Brzozowski, Janusz A. (1964). “Derivatives of Regular Expressions”. *J. ACM* 11.4, pp. 481–494.
- Cousot, Patrick and Radhia Cousot (1979). “Systematic Design of Program Analysis Frameworks”. In: *POPL*. ACM Press, pp. 269–282.
- (2000). “Temporal Abstract Interpretation”. In: *POPL*. ACM, pp. 12–25.
- Jourdan, Jacques-Henri, Vincent Laporte, Sandrine Blazy, Xavier Leroy, and David Pichardie (2015). “A Formally-Verified C Static Analyzer”. In: *POPL*. ACM, pp. 247–259.
- Schneider, Fred B. (2000). “Enforceable security policies”. *ACM Trans. Inf. Syst. Secur.* 3.1, pp. 30–50.

# Home work

Read Ch. **44** “Software model checking” of

*Principles of Abstract Interpretation*

Patrick Cousot

MIT Press

# The End, Thank you