

# Finite Countermodel Finding for Infinite State and Parametrized Verification

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- Preamble: Fibonacci Words, MIU system and MU puzzle
- Reachability as deducibility
- Verification via countermodel finding
  - **Cache Coherence Protocols**
  - **Linear Systems of Automata and Monotonic Abstraction**
  - Regular Model Checking
  - Regular Tree Model Checking
  - Lossy Channel Systems
  - Safety for general TRS and Tree Automata Completion
  - **Physical Safety and Security\***
  - **Limitations and Challenges**

## Fibonacci words:

- $w_0 = b$
- $w_1 = a$
- $w_{i+2} = w_{i+1}w_i$
- $b, a, ab, aba, abaab, abaababa, abaababaabaab \dots$

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FO theory *FIB*:

- $(x * y) * z = x * (y * z)$
- $R(b, a)$
- $R(x, y) \rightarrow R(y, x * y)$

## Proposition

If  $w$  is a Fibonacci word then  $FIB \vdash \exists x R(t_w, x)$

Here  $t_w$  denote a term encoding of  $w$ , i.e.  $t_{aba} = (a * b) * a$

## Corollary

If  $FIB \not\vdash \exists x \exists z \exists y R(z * b * b * y, x)$  then there is no Fibonacci word with **bb** as a subword



Now to show  $FIB \not\models \exists x \exists z \exists y R(z * b * b * y, x)$  we are looking for

- Finite countermodels for  $FIB \rightarrow \exists x \exists z \exists y R(z * b * b * y, x)$ , or equivalently, for
- Finite models for  $FIB \wedge \neg \exists x \exists z \exists y R(z * b * b * y, x)$

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- A model of size 5 is found in 0.05s. The property is proved!
- To show that 'aaa' is not a subword of any Fib. word a model of size 11 can be found in  $\approx 43$ s (2019)

## **In this lecture:**

The same idea/approach can be applied to (surprisingly) large classes of infinite state and parameterized safety verification problems. Furthermore it is competitive with many alternative approaches.

## MIU system

**Alphabet:**  $M, I$  and  $U$

**Axiom:**  $MI$

**Derivation rules:**

- I. If  $xI$  is a theorem, so is  $xIU$ .
- II. If  $Mx$  is theorem, so is  $Mxx$ .
- III. In any theorem  $III$  can be replaced by  $U$ .
- IV.  $UU$  can be dropped from any theorem.

## MU puzzle

Is MU a theorem of MIU system?

*Douglas Hofstadter, Goedel, Escher, Bach: An eternal Golden Braid, 1979*

- **Answer:** Negative, that is  $MU \notin L_{MIU}$
- **Condition, 1 (GEB,79):** “the number of  $I$  symbols in any string in  $L_{MIU}$  cannot be multiple of three”
- **Condition, 2 (Swanson, McEliece, 1988):** “any MIU theorem should start with  $M$  followed by an arbitrary word in  $I$ 's and  $U$ 's”

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- **Question:** How to solve it automatically?
- **Answer:** Let's apply classical FO logic ...
  - Fully automated solution of the puzzle
  - Puzzle is considered as infinite state safety verification problem
  - Generic Finite Countermodels Method (FCM) is used

FO theory *MIU*:

- 1  $(x * y) * z = x * (y * z)$  (associativity of concatenation);
- 2  $e * x = x$ ;
- 3  $x * e = x$ ;
- 4  $T(M * I)$  ( $MI$  is a theorem of *MIU*);
- 5  $T(x * I) \rightarrow T(x * I * U)$  (rule I of *MIU*);
- 6  $T(M * x) \rightarrow T(M * x * x)$  (rule II of *MIU*);
- 7  $T(x * I * I * I * y) \rightarrow T(x * U * y)$  (rule III of *MIU*);
- 8  $T(x * U * U * y) \rightarrow T(x * y)$  (rule IV of *MIU*);

## Proposition

*If  $w \in L_{MIU}$  then  $MIU \vdash T(t_w)$*

## Corollary

- *If  $T(t_S)$  is not FO provable from  $T_{MIU}$ , that is  $T_{MIU} \not\vdash_{FO} T(t_S)$  then  $S \notin L_{MIU}$ ;*
- *For any non-ground term  $t(\bar{x})$  in vocabulary  $\{*, M, I, U\}$  over the set of variables  $X$ , if  $T_{MIU} \not\vdash_{FO} \exists \bar{x} T(t(\bar{x}))$  then none of  $S$  such that  $t_S$  is a ground instance of  $t(\bar{x})$  belongs to  $L_{MIU}$ .*

Now to show  $MIU \not\models T(M * U)$  we are looking for

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To find a model we apply generic finite model finding procedure, e.g. implemented in Mace4 finite model finder by [W.McCune](#) (see demonstration)

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# CounterModel as Invariant

The domain  $D$  of the model is a three element set  $\{0, 1, 2\}$ .

Interpretations of constants:  $[I] = [M] = 0$ ,  $[U] = 1$ .

Interpretation of the predicate  $T$ :  $[T] = \{1, 2\}$ .

The interpretation of the binary function  $*$  is given by the following table

	0	1	2
0	2	0	1
1	0	1	2
2	1	2	0

*Invariant* property which holds for any MIU theorem  $w$ :

$$[t_w] \in [T] = \{1, 2\}$$

Notice that  $[t_{MU}] = 0 * 1 = 0 \notin [T]$

In summary

- The interpretation  $[*]$  above defines the set of strings  $L_{\mathcal{M}} = \{s \mid [t_s]_{\mathcal{M}} \in \{1, 2\}\}$  for which
  - $L_{MIU} \subseteq L_{\mathcal{M}}$
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- Thus,  $L_{\mathcal{M}}$  is an invariant separating the theorems of MIU system and the string in question,  $MU$
- It is easy to see also that the invariant is a *regular* language
- Interestingly,  $L_{\mathcal{M}} \neq L_{MIU}$  as, for example,  $[M * M] = 2 \in [T]$  hence  $MM \in L_{\mathcal{M}}$  but  $MM \notin L_{MIU}$ .

Let us search for countermodels for  $MIU \rightarrow T(M * M)$ .

Mace4 finds a countermodel  $\mathcal{M}'$  of size 2, with the domain  $\{0, 1\}$ , the interpretations of constants  $M$ ,  $I$  and  $U$  as 1, 0 and 0, respectively; the interpretation  $[T]$  of  $T = \{1\}$ . the interpretation of  $*$  is given by the table

[*]	0	1
		----
0		0, 1
1		1, 0

The corresponding invariant  $\{s \mid [t_s]_{\mathcal{M}'} = 1\}$  captures the “oddness” of  $M$  count in strings, which is sufficient to separate  $MM$  from  $L_{MIU}$ .

# Subsets of configurations in FCM proofs

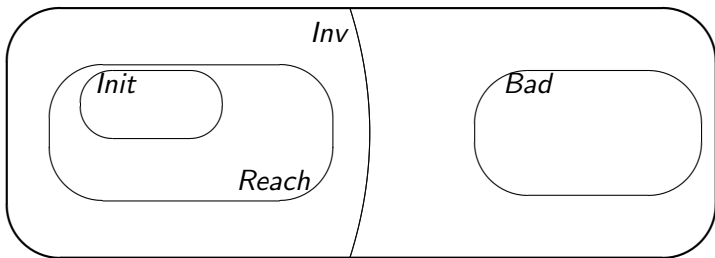


Figure: Subsets of configurations in general position

# MU puzzle via formal verification

- MU puzzle was considered as an example in  
E. M. Clarke, A. Fehnker, Z. Han, B. Krogh, J. Ouakine,  
Abstraction and Counterexample-Guided Refinement in Model  
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- It has been formally verified that MU is not a theorem of  
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good deal of insight’
- Our FCM based verification was fully automated and did not  
require any insight!

# Reachability as deducibility

- Many problems in verification can be naturally formulated in terms of *reachability* within transition systems;
- We propose to use deducibility (or derivability) in first-order predicate logic to model reachability in transition systems of interest;
- Then verification can be treated as theorem (dis)proving in classical predicate logic;
- Many automated tools (provers and model finders) are readily available.

# Reachability as deducibility

- Let  $\mathcal{S} = \langle S, \rightarrow \rangle$  be a transition system with the set of states  $S$  and transition relation  $\rightarrow$
- Let  $e : s \mapsto \varphi_s$  be encoding of states of  $\mathcal{S}$  by formulae of first-order predicate logic, such that
  - the state  $s'$  is reachable from  $s$ , i.e.  $s \rightarrow^* s'$  if and only if  $\varphi_{s'}$  is the logical consequence of  $\varphi_s$ , that is  $\varphi_s \models \varphi_{s'}$  and  $\varphi_s \vdash \varphi_{s'}$ .
- Under such assumptions:
  - Establishing reachability  $\equiv$  theorem proving
  - Establishing non-reachability  $\equiv$  theorem disproving

# Verification of safety

- Safety  $\equiv$  non-reachability of “bad” states
- Verification of safety properties  $\equiv$  theorem disproving
- To disprove  $\varphi \models \psi$  it is sufficient to find a countermodel for  $\varphi \rightarrow \psi$ , or which is the same a model for  $\varphi \wedge \neg\psi$
- In general, such a model can be inevitably infinite and the set of satisfiable first-order formulae is not r.e.
- One can not hope for full automation here
- **Our proposal: use automated finite model finders/builders**



- For the verification of safety the weaker assumption on the encoding is sufficient:
  - $s \rightarrow^* s' \Rightarrow \varphi_s \vdash \varphi_{s'}$
- For the verification of parameterized systems general idea of reachability as deducibility should be suitably adjusted
  - depends on particular classes of systems
  - unary or binary predicates modeling reachability can be used

- The idea of using finite model finders for verification is not new (thanks to anonymous referees of FMCAD 2010 conference!)
- It was proposed and developed in the area of verification of security protocols in the following papers (at least):
  - [C. Weidenbach](#) Towards an Automatic Analysis of Security Protocols in First-Order Logic, in H. Ganzinger (Ed.): CADE-16, LNAI 1632, pp. 314–328, 1999.
  - [Selinger, P.](#): Models for an adversary-centric protocol logic. Electr. Notes Theor. Comput. Sci. 55(1) (2001);
  - [Goubault-Larrecq, J.](#): Towards producing formally checkable security proofs, automatically. In: Computer Security Foundations (CSF), pp. 224238 (2008)
  - [Jan Jurjens and Tjark Weber](#), Finite Models in FOL-Based Crypto-Protocol Verification. Foundations and Applications of Security Analysis, LNCS 5511, 2009.

## AL (2009-...)

- Countermodel finding based verification methods are practically efficient for the verification of various classes of infinite state and parameterized systems:
  - lossy channel systems
  - cache coherence protocols
  - parameterized linear arrays of finite state automata
  - etc.
- Completeness (for lossy channel systems verification)
- Relative completeness wrt to regular model checking (RMC); regular tree model checking (RTMC); tree automata completion techniques
- Generic MACE4 finite model finder by [W.McCune](#) has been successfully used to verify above systems

# Case Study I: Parameterized mutual exclusion protocol

- Taken from the paper [Parosh Aziz Abdulla, Giorgio Delzanno, Noomene Ben Henda, Ahmed Rezine](#). Monotonic Abstraction: on Efficient Verification of Parameterized Systems. *Int. J. Found. Comput. Sci.* 20(5): 779-801 (2009)
- Operates on the parameterized linear array of finite state automata

# Protocol specification

The protocol is specified as a parameterized system  $\mathcal{ME} = (Q, T)$ , where  $Q = \{green, black, blue, red\}$  is the set of local states of finite automata, and  $T$  consists of the following transitions:

- $\forall_{LR}\{green, black\} : green \rightarrow black$
- $black \rightarrow blue$
- $\exists_L\{black, blue, red\} : blue \rightarrow blue$
- $\forall_L\{green\} : blue \rightarrow red$
- $red \rightarrow black$
- $black \rightarrow green$

**The correctness condition:** if the protocol starts with all states being *green* it will never get to a state where there are two or more automata in the *red* state

# Translation to the first-order logic, I

- $(x * y) * z = x * (y * z)$
- $e * x = x * e = x$

*(\* is a monoid operation and e is a unit of a monoid)*

- $G(e)$
- $G(x) \rightarrow G(x * \text{green})$

*(specification of configurations with all green states)*

- $GB(e)$
- $GB(x) \rightarrow GB(x * \text{green})$
- $GB(x) \rightarrow GB(x * \text{black})$

*(specification of configurations with all states being green or black)*

# Translation to the first-order logic, II

- $G(x) \rightarrow R(x)$

*(initial states assumption: "allgreen" configurations are reachable)*

- $(R((x * green) * y) \ \& \ GB(x) \ \& \ GB(y)) \rightarrow R((x * black) * y)$
- $R((x * black) * y) \rightarrow R((x * blue) * y)$
- $R((x * blue) * y) \ \& \ (x = (z * black) * w) \rightarrow R((x * blue) * y)$
- $R((x * blue) * y) \ \& \ (x = (z * blue) * w) \rightarrow R((x * blue) * y)$
- $R((x * blue) * y) \ \& \ (x = (z * red) * w) \rightarrow R((x * blue) * y)$
- $R((x * blue) * y) \ \& \ G(x) \rightarrow R((x * red) * y)$
- $R((x * red) * y) \rightarrow R((x * black) * y)$
- $R((x * black) * y) \rightarrow R((x * green) * y)$

*(specification of reachability by one step transitions from  $T$ ; one formula per transition, except the case with existential condition, where three formulae are used)*

# Adequacy of encoding and Verification

- If a configuration  $\bar{c}$  is reachable in  $\mathcal{ME}$  then  $\Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \vdash R(t_{\bar{c}})$
- To establish safety property of the protocol (mutual exclusion) it does suffice to show that  
$$\Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \not\vdash \exists x \exists y \exists z R(\left(\left(\left(x * red\right) * y\right) * red\right) * z).$$
- Delegate the latter task to the finite model finder MACE4 (see demonstration)



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- Delegate the latter task to the finite model finder MACE4 (see demonstration)
- It takes approx. 0.01s to find a countermodel and verify the safety property!

# Countermodel as Invariant

- Take a configuration  $\bar{c}$  of the protocol, consider its term representation  $t_{\bar{c}}$
- The following property is an invariant of the system:

$$[t_{\bar{c}}] \in [R]$$

Here  $[\dots]$  denote the interpretation in the (counter)model.

# Model and Invariant

The domain  $D$  of the model is a four element set  $\{0, 1, 2, 3\}$ .

Interpretations of constants:  $[black] = [blue] = 0$ ,  $[e] = [green] = 1$ ,  $[red] = 2$ . Interpretations of unary predicates:  $[G] = \{1\}$ ;  $[GB] = \{0, 1\}$ ;  $[R] = \{0, 1, 2\}$ .

The interpretation of the binary function  $*$  is given by the following table

	0	1	2	3
0	0	0	2	3
1	0	1	2	3
2	2	2	3	3
3	3	3	3	3

*Invariant* property which holds for any reachable configuration  $\bar{c}$ :

$$[t_{\bar{c}}] \in [R] = \{0, 1, 2\}$$

## Theorem (2010)

*If the safety of parameterized linear system of automata can be demonstrated by monotonic abstraction method then it can be demonstrated by FCM too.*

# Safety for parameterized linear systems

## Problem

*Given:* A parameterized system  $\mathcal{P} = (Q, T)$ , a set  $In \subseteq C$  of initial configurations, a set  $B \subseteq C$  of bad configurations.

*Question:* Are there any configurations  $c \in In$  and  $c' \in B$  such that  $c'$  is reachable from  $c$  in  $\mathcal{P}$ , i.e. for which  $c \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^* c'$  holds?

A negative answer for the above question means the safety property (“not B”) holds for the parameterized system.

Further assumptions:

- $I = q_o^*$  for  $q_o \in Q$
- The set  $B$  of bad configurations is defined by a finite set of words  $F \subseteq Q^*$ :  $B = \{\bar{c} \mid \exists \bar{w} \in F \wedge \bar{w} \preceq \bar{c}\}$ , where  $\bar{w} \preceq \bar{w}'$  denotes that  $\bar{w}$  is a (not necessarily contiguous) subword of  $\bar{w}'$

## Abdulla et al 2009

Given a parameterized system  $\mathcal{P} = (Q, T)$  and the corresponding transition relation  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}$  on the configurations within  $\mathcal{P}$ .

The monotonic abstraction  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^A$  of  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}$  is as follows. For two configurations  $\bar{c}$  and  $\bar{c}'$   $\bar{c} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^A \bar{c}'$  holds iff either

- $\bar{c} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}} \bar{c}'$  holds, or
- there is a transition  $t = \forall_L Jq \rightarrow q'$  in  $T$ ,  $\bar{c} = \bar{c}_l q \bar{c}_r$  and  $\bar{c}' = \text{reduct}_J(\bar{c}_l) q' \bar{c}_r$
- there is a transition  $t = \forall_R Jq \rightarrow q'$  in  $T$ ,  $\bar{c} = \bar{c}_l q \bar{c}_r$  and  $\bar{c}' = \bar{c}_l q' \text{reduct}_J(\bar{c}_r)$
- there is a transition  $t = \forall_{LR} Jq \rightarrow q'$  in  $T$ ,  $\bar{c} = \bar{c}_l q \bar{c}_r$  and  $\bar{c}' = \text{reduct}_J(\bar{c}_l) q' \text{reduct}_J(\bar{c}_r)$

## Symbolic backward reachability algorithm [Abdulla et al 2009](#)

- $U_0 = B$
- $U_{i+1} = U_i \cup \text{Pre}(U_i)$

where  $\text{Pre}(X) = \{\bar{c} \mid \exists \bar{c}' \in X \wedge \bar{c} \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^A \bar{c}'\}$ .

- This iterative process is guaranteed to stabilize, i.e.  $U_{n+1} = U_n$  for some finite  $n$ .
- Once the process stabilized the resulting  $U$  consists of *all* configurations from which some bad configuration can be reached via  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^A$ .
- Then the check is performed on whether  $\text{Init} \cap U = \emptyset$ . If this condition is satisfied then the safety is established, for no bad configuration can be reached from initial configurations via  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^A$  and, a fortiori, via  $\rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}$ .

# Important properties of the fixed-point $U$

- If the safety holds then  $\bar{U}$  (complement of  $U$ ) is an *invariant* of the system sufficient to prove the safety. Indeed, it subsumes *Init* and is closed under reachability.
- $U$  has a finite set of generators and therefore is a *regular* set. It follows that  $\bar{U}$  is a *regular* set too.



# Regular Invariants

## Theorem (on regular invariants)

Given a parameterized system  $\mathcal{P} = (Q, T)$  and the set of bad configurations  $B = \{\bar{c} \mid \exists \bar{w} \in F \wedge \bar{w} \preceq \bar{c}\}$ . Then the following two conditions are equivalent:

(1) There exists a regular set of configurations  $Inv$  such that

- $Reach \subseteq Inv$  where  $Reach = \{y \mid \exists x(x \in Init \wedge x \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}}^* y)\}$
- $Inv$  is closed under reachability, that is  
 $x \in Inv \wedge x \rightarrow_{\mathcal{P}} y \Rightarrow y \in Inv$
- $Inv \cap B = \emptyset$

and

(2) There exists a finite model for  $\Phi_{\mathcal{P}} \wedge \neg \Psi_F$

## Proof.

Uses an algebraic characterization of regular languages in terms of inverse homomorphic images of subsets of finite monoids □

# Regular Invariants and Relative Completeness

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# Regular Invariants and Relative Completeness

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- There exists a regular invariant, which implies
- An existence of a finite countermodel for FO encoding of the problem, which means
- Safety can be established by FCM (finite countermodel method) if a complete finite model building procedure is used

# Subsets of configurations

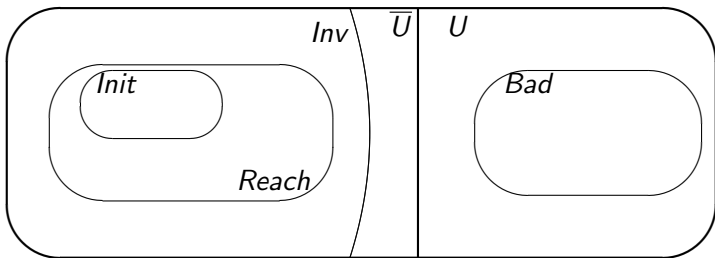


Figure: Subsets of configurations in general position

# FCM is stronger than monotonic abstraction

The parameterized system  $(Q, T)$  where  $Q = \{q_0, q_1, q_2, q_3, q_4\}$  and where  $T$  includes the following transition rules

- 1  $\forall_{LR}\{q_0, q_1, q_4\} : q_0 \rightarrow q_1$
- 2  $q_1 \rightarrow q_2$
- 3  $\forall_L\{q_0\} : q_2 \rightarrow q_3$
- 4  $q_3 \rightarrow q_0$
- 5  $\exists_{LR}\{q_2\} : q_3 \rightarrow q_4$
- 6  $q_4 \rightarrow q_0$

satisfies mutual exclusion for state  $q_4$ , but this fact *can not* be established by the monotonic abstraction method.

Using FCM we have verified mutual exclusion for this system, demonstrating that FCM method is stronger than monotone abstraction. Mace4 has found a finite countermodel of the size 6 in 341s.

# Further relative completeness results

## Theorem (2010)

*If the safety of a linear parameterized system can be demonstrated by **regular model checking** method then it can be demonstrated by FCM too.*



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## Theorem (2011, RTA 2012)

*If the safety of a **term rewriting system** can be demonstrated by **tree automata completion** technique then it can be demonstrated by FCM too.*

# Why does it work?

In all cases the proofs of relative completeness results rely upon existence of regular invariants, that is regular sets (of words or trees) subsuming all reachable states and disjoint with all unsafe states.

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- Parameterized cache coherence protocols specified in terms of Extended FSM

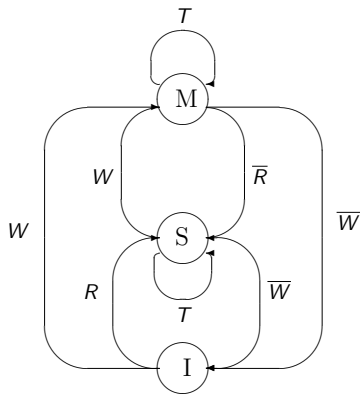
## Case study II: Caches and cache coherence

- Cache coherence protocols play an important role in models of shared memory multiprocessor systems.
- Typically, every individual processor has its own private cache memory, which is used to hold local copies of main memory blocks;
- While reducing the access time, this approach poses the problem of cache consistency:
  - one has to ensure that the copies of the *same* memory block in the caches of *different* processors are consistent.

Abstracting from low-level implementation details

Cache coherence protocols are

- families of *identical* finite state machines, with the number of the machines being a parameter, together with
- the means of communication:
  - Broadcast: if one automaton makes a transition (an action)  $a$ , then it is required that *all* other automata make a complementary transition (reaction)  $\bar{a}$
  - Rendezvous: if one automaton makes an action then some other automaton makes a reaction;
- the computation is assumed to be non-deterministic, i.e. at every step one automaton is chosen to make one of the available actions.



## Correctness conditions:

- No two automata are simultaneously in the states  $S$  and  $M$ .
- No two automata are simultaneously in the state  $M$

$$\tau(I, W) = M$$

$$\tau(I, R) = S$$

$$\tau(S, T) = S$$

$$\tau(M, T) = M$$

$$\tau(I, \bar{W}) = I$$

$$\tau(I, \bar{R}) = I$$

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$$\tau(S, \bar{W}) = I$$

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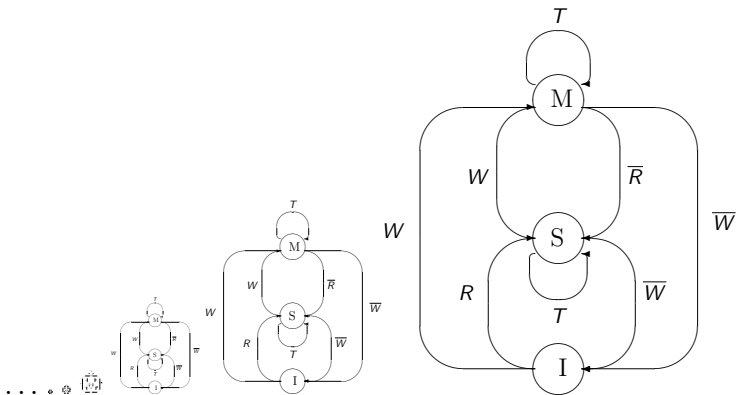
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# MSI global machine



# Verification of parameterized protocols

- We would like verify the properties like

If global machine for MSI of the dimension  $n$  starts in a global state with all automata in local states  $I$  then during any possible run

- No two automata are simultaneously in the states  $S$  and  $M$ .
- No two automata are simultaneously in the state  $M$
- We would like to verify this property for all  $n$ .

- In protocols the automata are assumed identical  $\Rightarrow$  there is a lot of symmetry in their behaviour;
- Counting abstraction: keep track only of the *numbers of automata* in every possible (local) states.
  - For a broadcast protocol  $\mathcal{P} = \langle Q, \Sigma, \bar{\Sigma}, \tau \rangle$ , *configuration* of  $\mathcal{P}$  is a function  $c : Q \rightarrow \mathbb{N}$ ;
  - Intuitively,  $c(s)$  indicates how many processes are in the local state  $s$
  - If  $Q = \{s_1, \dots, s_n\}$  then with any global state (of any dimension) one may associate configuration, presented as vector  $(c(s_1), \dots, c(s_n)) \in \mathbb{N}^n$ .

# Parameterized configurations

- A parameterized configuration  $\equiv$  a set of configurations;
- It can be specified by
  - a vector with indeterminate values (variables):  $(1, x, 5, y)$  represents a set of configurations  $\{(1, x, 5, y) \mid x, y \in N\}$ ;
  - a vector with arithmetical terms:  $(1, x + 1, 5, y + 3)$  represents a set of configurations  $\{(1, x + 1, 5, y + 3) \mid x, y \in N\}$ ;
  - more generally, by a set of arithmetical constraints:  
 $(c(s1) = 3) \wedge (c(s3) > 1)$

Counting abstraction maps global machines for protocols into a variant of Extended FSM ([Cheng, Krishnakumar 1997](#))

- States of EFSM are non-negative integer vectors;
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From the paper by [E.A. Emerson and V. Kahlon \(2003\)](#):

$$\text{(PrWr1)} \quad \text{invalid} \geq 1 \rightarrow \text{invalid}' = \text{invalid} + \text{modified} + \text{shared} - 1, \text{modified}' = 1, \text{shared}' = 0.$$

$$\text{(PrWr2)} \quad \text{shared} \geq 1 \rightarrow \text{invalid}' = \text{invalid} + \text{modified} + \text{shared} - 1, \text{modified}' = 1, \text{shared}' = 0.$$

$$\text{(PrRd)} \quad \text{invalid} \geq 1 \rightarrow \text{invalid}' = \text{invalid} - 1, \text{modified}' = 0, \text{shared}' = 1 + \text{shared} + \text{modified}.$$

- The parameterized initial configuration is expressed as:  $\text{invalid} \geq 1, \text{modified} = 0, \text{shared} = 0$
- The potentially unsafe states:
  - $\text{invalid} \geq 0, \text{modified} \geq 1, \text{shared} \geq 1$
  - $\text{invalid} \geq 0, \text{modified} \geq 2, \text{shared} \geq 0$

Let  $\Phi$  be a conjunction of the following formulae

- $R(i(x), y, z) \rightarrow R(\text{plus}(\text{plus}(x, y), z), i(0), 0)$
- $R(x, y, i(z)) \rightarrow R(\text{plus}(\text{plus}(x, y), z), i(0), 0)$
- $R(i(x), y, z) \rightarrow R(x, 0, i(\text{plus}(y, z)))$
- $R(i(x), 0, 0)$
- $\text{plus}(0, y) = y$
- $\text{plus}(i(x), y) = i(\text{plus}(x, y))$

**Proposition 1**  $\exists n \geq 1((n, 0, 0) \rightarrow^* (k, l, m)) \Rightarrow \Phi \vdash R(i^k, i^l, i^m)$



By Proposition 1 it is sufficient to show that

- $\Phi \not\models (\exists x \exists y \exists z (R(x, i(y), i(z)) \vee R(x, i(i(y)), z)))$

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- The protocol is verified.

# Experimental results: cache coherence protocols

Protocol	Time
ABP*	0.93s
MSI	0.01s
MESI	0.03s
MOESI	0.05s
Firefly	0.03s
Synapse N+1	0.01s
Illinois	0.03s
Berkeley	0.03s
Dragon	0.05s
Futurebus+	1.14s
Bakery	0.01s
MutEx	0.01s

\* ABP = Alternating Bit Protocol

## Gold Thief Problem ([Kelly, Pearce 2010](#))

In Gold Thief domain we assume there is thief who may try to steal some gold from a safe:

- The safe is in the room equipped with a light, which may be toggled between “on” and “off”; and with a security camera which may detect thief if the light is “on”;
- the safe may be open or closed and the gold can be stolen only if the safe is open;
- It is possible for the thief to crack the safe and force it open, but only if the light is on.

The problem is to show that the gold can not be stolen without thief being detected.

While the problem was introduced as a case for formalizing reasoning about actions, it has clear security flavor and can be seen as a very simple and rudimentary security scenario.

# Gold Thief (cont.)

We take the following axioms for basic action theory for this case from (Kelly, Pearce 2010):

Successor state axioms  $D_{ssa}$ : •

- $Stolen(do(a, s)) \equiv a = takeGold \vee Stolen(s)$
- $SafeOpen(do(a, s)) \equiv a = crackSafe \vee SafeOpen(s)$
- $LightOn(do(a, s)) \equiv a = (toggleLight \wedge \neg LightOn(s)) \vee (LightOn(s) \wedge a \neq toggleLight)$

Action description axioms  $D_{ad}$ :

- $Poss(a, s) \equiv a = toggleLight \vee a = takeGold \wedge SafeOpen(s) \vee a = crackSafe \wedge LightOn(s)$
- $Undet(a, s) \equiv Poss(a, s) \wedge a \neq toggleLight \wedge \neg LightOn(s)$

Initial state axiom  $D_{S_0}$ :

- $\neg Stolen(s) \wedge \neg (SafeOpen(s_0) \vee LightOn(s_0)).$



In order to apply FCM to prove safety we need to specify/axiomatize the concept of sequence of situations obtained by undetected actions  $D_{seq}$ :

- $UndetSeq(s_0)$ .
- $(UndetSeq(y) \wedge Undet(x, y)) \rightarrow UndetSeq(do(x, y))$

**Claim** (adequacy of encoding)

In the “golden thief” domain if safety does not hold, that is thief can steal the gold undetected then

$D_{ssa} \cup D_{ad} \cup D_{seq} \vdash_{FO} \exists z (UndetSeq(z) \wedge Stolen(z))$ ,  
where  $\vdash_{FO}$  denotes derivability in first-order logic.

Now it should be clear that to show safety it is sufficient to demonstrate that

- $D_{ssa} \cup D_{ad} \cup D_{seq} \not\vdash_{FO} \exists z (UndetSeq(z) \wedge Stolen(z))$ , that is  $\not\vdash_{FO} D_{ssa} \cup D_{ad} \cup D_{seq} \rightarrow \exists z (UndetSeq(z) \wedge Stolen(z))$ .
- We propose to show it by automated search for a finite countermodel, that is a finite model for  $D_{ssa} \cup D_{ad} \cup D_{seq} \wedge \exists z (UndetSeq(z) \wedge Stolen(z))$ .
- Now we delegate the last problem to an automated finite model builder program, such as Mace4. Mace4 finds a model in a fraction of the second. The safety is proven.

- Formalizing physical security procedures in Logic of Moves  
(Meadows, Pavlovic 2010)

# Further work in Physical Security

- Formalizing physical security procedures in Logic of Moves ([Meadows, Pavlovic 2010](#))
- Ongoing research ([AL](#)): translate above into the situation calculus and apply FCM

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- **Challenge:** Extend the method to infinite countermodels!



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