

Automatic discovery of fair paths in infinite-state transition systems

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Problem

Does a transition system admit at least one fair path?
(Counterexample to liveness property).

- Undecidable in infinite-state systems.
- Techniques to prove the language empty (property holds) and techniques to prove the existence of a fair path (witness).
- Witnesses are often limited to lasso-shaped paths.
- Not sufficient in infinite-state, need to look for witnesses with different shapes.

How can we represent them?

Fair paths representation

Assume we want to prove the existence of an infinite run for the code below in which $c = 0$ infinitely often.

```
0: int  $c, n$ ;  
1: while  $\top$  do  
2:   while  $c < n$  do  
3:      $c \leftarrow c + 1$   
4:   end while  
5:    $c \leftarrow \text{nondet}()$   
6:    $n \leftarrow n + 1$   
7: end while
```

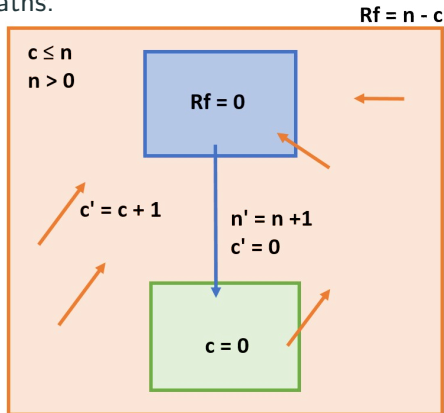
```
VAR  $c$ : integer;  $n$ : integer;
```

```
TRANS
```

```
 $(c < n \wedge \text{next}(c)=c + 1 \wedge \text{next}(n)=n) \vee$   
 $(c \geq n \wedge \text{next}(n)=n + 1);$ 
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FAIRNESS  $c = 0$ ;
```

Funnel-loop: reachable, non-empty underapproximation with only fair paths.



Fair paths representation

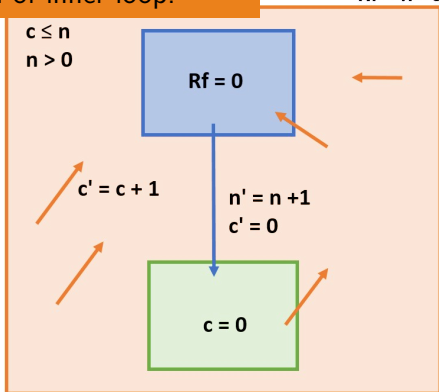
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```

Source region with ranking function Rf , ensures termination of inner loop.

Funnel-loop: reachable, non-empty

$Rf = n - c$



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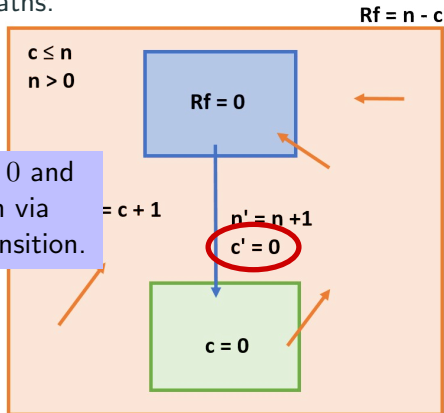
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Funnel-loop: reachable, non-empty underapproximation with only fair paths.

Eventually Rf becomes 0 and reach destination region via **underapproximating** transition.



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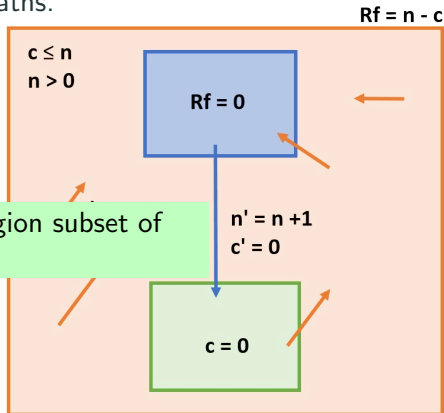
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Funnel-loop: reachable, non-empty underapproximation with only fair paths.

Destination region subset of the fair states.



Fair paths representation

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1: while  $\top$  do  
2:   while  $c < n$  do  
3:      $c \leftarrow c + 1$   
4:   end while  
5:    $c \leftarrow$  Source region is a closed recurrence set.  
6:    $n \leftarrow n + 1$   
7: end while
```

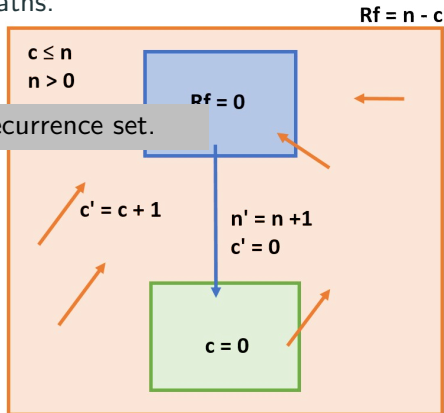
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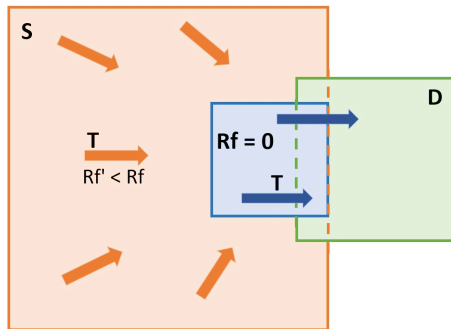
Segmentation: funnels

Funnels

Segment infinite paths into sequence of finite paths.

$$fnl \doteq \langle S, T, D, R_F \rangle$$

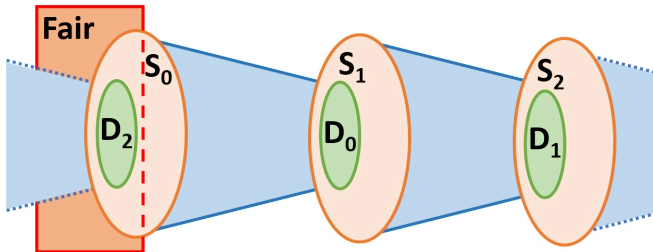
- T left-total w.r.t. S ;
- $R_F > 0 \wedge S \wedge T \rightarrow S' \wedge R_F' < R_F$;
- $R_F = 0 \wedge S \wedge T \rightarrow D'$.



Funnel-loop

Funnel-loop: concatenation of n funnels $fnl_i \doteq \langle S_i, T_i, D_i, RF_i \rangle$

- Regions reachable by transition system M .
- Funnels are correctly concatenated: $D_i \rightarrow S_{i+1 \% n}$.
- Last destination region underapproximates the fair states: $D_{n-1} \rightarrow Fair$.



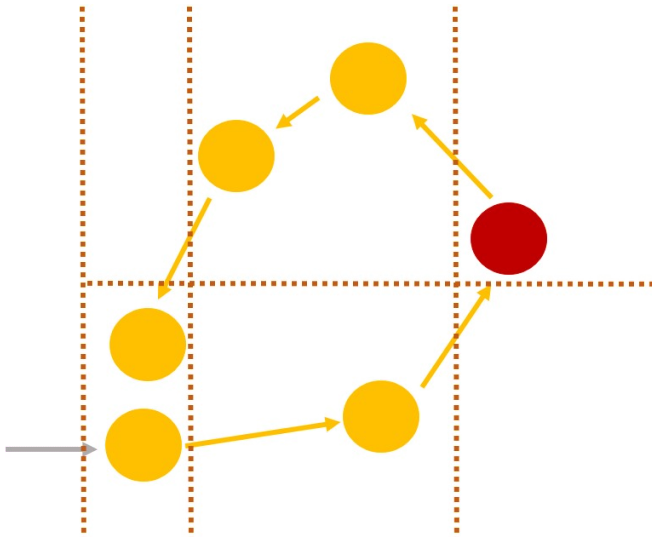
Funnel-loop search procedure overview

Enumerate paths that could correspond to an iteration over some funnel-loop.



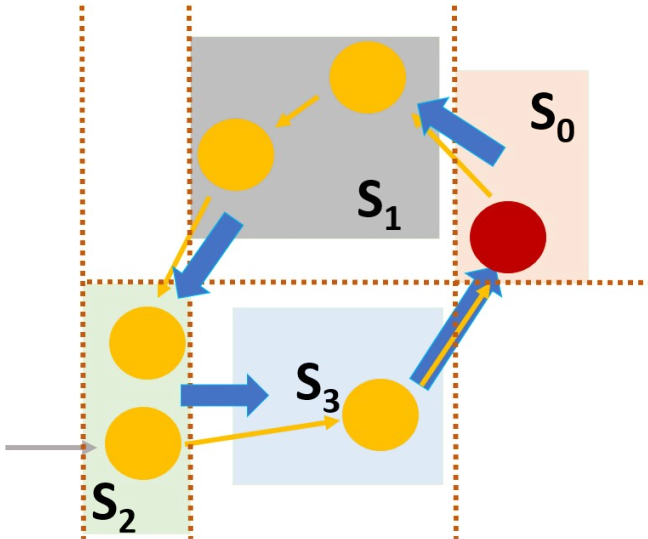
Funnel-loop search procedure overview

Consider sequence of states that correspond to a fair loop in some abstract space.



Funnel-loop search procedure overview

Define funnel-loop as strengthening of regions and transitions.



Funnel-loop search procedure

Algorithm SEARCH-FUNNEL-LOOP(M)

```
1: for  $\langle v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle \in \text{GENERATE-ABSTRACT-LOOPS}(M)$  do
2:   for  $fnl\_template \in \text{GENERATE-TEMPLATES}(v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t)$  do
3:      $ef\_constrs \leftarrow fnl\_template.ef\_constraints()$ 
4:      $\langle found, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SEACH-PARAMETER-ASSIGNMENT}(ef\_constrs)$ 
5:     if  $found == \top$  then
6:       return  $\langle model, fnl\_template \rangle$ 
7:     end if
8:   end for
9: end for
10: return  $unknown$ 
```

Funnel-loop search procedure

Algorithm SEARCH-FUNNEL-LOOP(M)

Given a fair transition system M

```
1: for  $\langle v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle \in \text{GENERATE-ABSTRACT}$ 
2:   for  $fnl\_template \in \text{GENERATE-TEMPLATES}(v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t)$  do
3:      $ef\_constrs \leftarrow fnl\_template.ef\_constraints()$ 
4:      $\langle found, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SEARCH-PARAMETER-ASSIGNMENT}(ef\_constrs)$ 
5:     if  $found == \top$  then
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5:     if  $found == \top$  then
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7:     end if
8:   end for
9: end for
10: return unknown
```

Enumerate underapproximations of M that represent fair loops over some predicates.

Funnel-loop search procedure

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2:   for  $fnl\_template \in \text{GENERATE-TEMPLATES}(v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t)$  do
3:      $ef\_constrs \leftarrow fnl\_template.ef\_constraints()$ 
4:      $abst\_s$  is a sequence of regions,  $METER-ASSIGNMENT(ef\_constrs)$ 
5:      $abst\_t$  is a sequence of transitions,
6:      $v_0$  is a reachable state in the first
7:     regions.
8:
9:   end for
10: return  $unknown$ 
```

Funnel-loop search procedure

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5:     if  $found == \top$  then
6:       return  $\langle model, fnl\_template \rangle$ 
7:     end if
8:   end for
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```

Generate funnel-loop templates by strengthening $abst_s$ and $abst_t$ with parametric predicates.

Funnel-loop search procedure

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
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```

Get $\exists \forall$ quantified formula: exists assignment to parameters such that template corresponds to funnel-loop.

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Solve $\exists \forall$ problem: find assignment for parameters

Funnel-loop search procedure

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8:   end for  
9: end for  
10: return  $unk$ 
```

If successful return funnel-loop,
otherwise analyse next template or
candidate loop

Funnel-loop search: enumerate candidate loops

Algorithm GENERATE-ABSTRACT-LOOPS(M)

```
1:  $\langle V, I, T, bad \rangle \leftarrow \text{ENCODE-BMC-FAIR-ABSTRACT-LOOP}(M)$ 
2: for  $k \in [0, 1, 2, \dots]$  do
3:    $query \leftarrow I(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^{k-1} T(V_i, V_{i+1}) \wedge bad(V_k)$ 
4:    $\langle sat, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SMT-SOLVE}(query)$ 
5:    $refs \leftarrow []$ 
6:   while  $sat$  do
7:      $\langle abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle \leftarrow \text{GET-IMPLICANT}(model, query)$ 
8:      $\langle is\_ranked, rf \rangle \leftarrow \text{RANK-LOOP}(abst\_s, abst\_t)$ 
9:     if  $is\_ranked$  then
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11:     else
12:        $v_0 \leftarrow \text{GET-LOOPBACK-STATE}(model)$ 
13:       yield  $\langle v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle$ 
14:        $refs.append(\neg(\bigwedge_{s \in abst\_s} s \wedge \bigwedge_{t \in abst\_t} t))$ 
15:     end if
16:      $query \leftarrow I(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^{k-1} T(V_i, V_{i+1}) \wedge bad(V_k) \wedge \bigwedge_{ref \in refs} ref$ 
17:      $\langle sat, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SMT-SOLVE}(query)$ 
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19: end for
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L2S encoding for the search of fair loops.
The loop-back is identified in the abstract space identified by a set of predicates.

Funnel-loop search: enumerate candidate loops

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3:    $query \leftarrow I(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^{k-1} T(V_i, V_{i+1}) \wedge bad(V_k)$  ← BMC unrolling.
4:    $\langle sat, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SMT-SOLVE}(query)$ 
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5:    $refs \leftarrow []$ 
6:   while  $sat$  do Iterate over candidate loops of length  $k$ .
7:      $\langle abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle \leftarrow \text{GET-IMPLICANT}(model, query)$ 
8:      $\langle is\_ranked, rf \rangle \leftarrow \text{RANK-LOOP}(abst\_s, abst\_t)$ 
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8:      $\langle is\_ranked, rf \rangle \leftarrow \text{RANK-LOOP}(abst\_s, abst\_t)$ 
9:     if  $is\_ranked$  then
10:       $\langle V, I, T, bad \rangle \leftarrow$  Compute underapproximation of  $M$  corresponding to the loop described by  $model$ .
11:     else
12:        $v_0 \leftarrow \text{GET-LOOPBACK-STATE}(model)$ 
13:       yield  $\langle v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle$ 
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Try synthesise ranking function for candidate, in case of success remove all loops ranked by the identified function.

Funnel-loop search: enumerate candidate loops

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12:        $v_0 \leftarrow \text{GET-LOOPBACK-STATE}(model)$ 
13:       yield  $\langle v_0, abst\_s, abst\_t \rangle$ 
14:        $refs.append(\neg(I(V_0) \wedge \bigwedge_{i=0}^{k-1} T(V_i, V_{i+1}) \wedge bad(V_k)))$ 
15:     end if
16:      $query \leftarrow I(V_0) \wedge$ 
17:      $\langle sat, model \rangle \leftarrow \text{SMT-SOLVE}(query)$ 
18:   end while
19: end for
```

Get reachability witness from $model$ and return current candidate.

Funnel-loop templates

Algorithm GENERATE-TEMPLATES($v_0, abst_s, abst_t$)

```
1:  $ineqs \leftarrow$  HEURISTIC-PICK-NUM-INEQS( $abst\_s, abst\_t$ )
2: for  $ineq \in ineqs$  do
3:    $n \leftarrow len(abst\_s)$ 
4:    $funnels \leftarrow []$ 
5:   for  $i \in [0..n - 2]$  do
6:      $src \leftarrow abst\_s[i] \wedge \bigwedge_{j=0}^{ineq-1} \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V) \geq 0$ 
7:      $rf \leftarrow \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V)$ 
8:      $t \leftarrow \top$ 
9:     for  $v_{i+1} \in V_{i+1}$  do
10:      if  $v_{i+1} = f(V_i) \in abst\_t[i]$  for some function  $f$  then
11:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
12:      else
13:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V_i)$ 
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:     $dst(V) \leftarrow \exists V_0 : src(V_0) \wedge rf(V_0) = \mathbf{0} \wedge t(V_0, S)$ 
17:     $funnels.append(\text{Funnel}(src, t, rf, dst))$ 
18:  end for
19:  yield FUNNEL-LOOP( $funnels, v_0$ )
20: end for
```

Funnel-loop templates

Algorithm GENERATE-TEMPLATES($v_0, abst_s, abst_t$)

```
1:  $ineqs \leftarrow$  HEURISTIC-PICK-NUM-INEQS( $abst\_s, abst\_t$ )
2: for  $ineq \in ineqs$  do
3:    $n \leftarrow len(abst\_s)$ 
4:    $funnels \leftarrow []$ 
5:   for  $i \in [0..n - 2]$  do
6:      $src \leftarrow abst\_s[i] \wedge \bigwedge_{j=0}^{ineq-1} NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR(V) \geq 0$ 
7:      $rf \leftarrow NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR(V)$ 
8:      $t \leftarrow \top$ 
9:     for  $v_{i+1} \in V_{i+1}$  do
10:      if  $v_{i+1} = f(V_i) \in abst\_t[i]$  for some function  $f$  then
11:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
12:      else
13:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR(V_i)$ 
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:     $dst(V) \leftarrow \exists V_0 : src(V_0) \wedge rf(V_0) = \mathbf{0} \wedge t(V_0, S)$ 
17:     $funnels.append(Funnel(src, t, rf, dst))$ 
18:  end for
19:  yield FUNNEL-LOOP( $funnels, v_0$ )
20: end for
```

Create a funnel template for every region in the candidate loop.

Funnel-loop templates

Algorithm GENERATE-TEMPLATES($v_0, abst_s, abst_t$)

```
1:  $ineqs \leftarrow$  HEURISTIC-PICK-NUM-INEQS( $abst\_s, abst\_t$ )
2: for  $ineq \in ineqs$  do
3:    $n \leftarrow len(abst\_s)$ 
4:    $funnels \leftarrow []$ 
5:   for  $i \in [0..n - 2]$  do
6:      $src \leftarrow abst\_s[i] \wedge \bigwedge_{j=0}^{ineq-1} \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V) \geq 0$ 
7:      $rf \leftarrow \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V)$ 
8:      $t \leftarrow \top$ 
9:     for  $v_{i+1} \in V_{i+1}$  do
10:      if  $v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
11:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
12:      else
13:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V_i)$ 
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:     $dst(V) \leftarrow \exists V_0 : src(V_0) \wedge rf(V_0) = \mathbf{0} \wedge t(V_0, S)$ 
17:     $funnels.append(Funnel(src, t, rf, dst))$ 
18:  end for
19:  yield FUNNEL-LOOP( $funnels, v_0$ )
20: end for
```

Strengthen region with $ineq$ new parametric predicates, e.g. linear combinations $\sum_{v \in V_i} \lambda_v v$.

Funnel-loop templates

Algorithm GENERATE-TEMPLATES($v_0, abst_s, abst_t$)

```
1:  $ineqs \leftarrow$  HEURISTIC-PICK-NUM-INEQS( $abst\_s, abst\_t$ )
2: for  $ineq \in ineqs$  do
3:    $n \leftarrow len(abst\_s)$ 
4:    $funnels \leftarrow []$ 
5:   for  $i \in [0..n - 2]$  do
6:      $src \leftarrow abst\_s[i] \wedge \wedge$ 
7:      $rf \leftarrow$  NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR( $src$ )
8:      $t \leftarrow \top$ 
9:     for  $v_{i+1} \in V_{i+1}$  do
10:      if  $v_{i+1} = f(V_i) \in abst\_t[i]$  for some function  $f$  then
11:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
12:      else
13:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} =$  NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR( $V_i$ )
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:     $dst(V) \leftarrow \exists V_0 : src(V_0) \wedge rf(V_0) = \mathbf{0} \wedge t(V_0, S)$ 
17:     $funnels.append(Funnel(src, t, rf, dst))$ 
18:  end for
19:  yield FUNNEL-LOOP( $funnels, v_0$ )
20: end for
```

Next assignments are function of current assignments: transition relation left-total by construction.

Funnel-loop templates

Algorithm GENERATE-TEMPLATES($v_0, abst_s, abst_t$)

```
1:  $ineqs \leftarrow$  HEURISTIC-PICK-NUM-INEQS( $abst\_s, abst\_t$ )
2: for  $ineq \in ineqs$  do
3:    $n \leftarrow len(abst\_s)$ 
4:    $funnels \leftarrow []$ 
5:   for  $i \in [0..n - 2]$  do
6:      $src \leftarrow abst\_s[i] \wedge \bigwedge_{j=0}^{ineq-1} \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V) \geq 0$ 
7:      $rf \leftarrow \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V)$ 
8:      $t \leftarrow \top$ 
9:     for  $v_{i+1} \in V_{i+1}$  do
10:      if  $v_{i+1} = f(V_i) \in abst\_t[i]$  for some function  $f$  then
11:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = f(V_i)$ 
12:      else
13:         $t \leftarrow t \wedge v_{i+1} = \text{NEW-PARAMETRIC-EXPR}(V) < 0$ 
14:      end if
15:    end for
16:     $dst(V) \leftarrow \exists V_0 : src(V_0) \wedge rf(V_0) = \mathbf{0} \wedge t(V_0, S)$ 
17:     $funnels.append(\text{Funnel}(src, t, rf, dst))$ 
18:  end for
19:  yield FUNNEL-LOOP( $funnels, v_0$ )
20: end for
```

Destination region implicitly defined.



Funnel-loop template example

Assume $abst_s \doteq [\{k > 0\}, \{k < 0\}]$ and
 $abst_t \doteq [\{k' = k - n\}, \{k' = k + n\}]$.

For $ineq$ equal to 1 we generate a funnel-loop described by the following components:

- $S_0 \doteq k > 0 \wedge \lambda_0 k + \lambda_1 n + \lambda_2 \geq 0$;
- $t_0 \doteq k' = k - n \wedge n' = \lambda_3 k + \lambda_4 n + \lambda_5$;
- $RF_0 \doteq \lambda_6 n + \lambda_7 k + \lambda_8$;

- $S_1 \doteq k < 0 \wedge \lambda_9 k + \lambda_{10} n + \lambda_{11} \geq 0$;
- $t_1 \doteq k' = k + n \wedge n' = \lambda_{12} k + \lambda_{13} n + \lambda_{14}$;
- $RF_1 \doteq \lambda_{15} n + \lambda_{16} k + \lambda_{17}$;

Objective: find assignment to the $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=0}^{17}$.

Funnel-loop template example

Assume $abst_s \doteq [\{k > 0\}, \{k < 0\}]$ and
 $abst_t \doteq [\{k' = k - n\}, \{k' = k + n\}]$.

For $ineq$ equal to 1 we generate a funnel-loop described by the following components:

- $S_0 \doteq k > 0 \wedge \lambda_0 k + \lambda_1 n + \lambda_2 k' + \lambda_3 n' + \lambda_4$
 - $t_0 \doteq k' = k - n \wedge n' = n + 1$
 - $RF_0 \doteq \lambda_6 n + \lambda_7 k + \lambda_8 k' + \lambda_9 n' + \lambda_{10}$
 - $S_1 \doteq k < 0 \wedge \lambda_9 k + \lambda_{10} n + \lambda_{11} k' + \lambda_{12} n' + \lambda_{13}$
 - $t_1 \doteq k' = k + n \wedge n' = n + 1$
 - $RF_1 \doteq \lambda_{15} n + \lambda_{16} k + \lambda_{17} k' + \lambda_{18} n' + \lambda_{19}$
- Solution:**
- $S_0 \doteq k > 0 \wedge n \geq k + 1$;
 - $t_0 \doteq k' = k - n \wedge n' = n + 1$;
 - $RF_0 = 0$
 - $S_1 \doteq k < 0 \wedge n \geq -k + 1$;
 - $t_1 \doteq k' = k + n \wedge n' = n + 1$;
 - $RF_1 = 0$

Objective: find assignment to the $\{\lambda_i\}_{i=0}^{17}$.

Funnel-loop synthesis problem

For a funnel-loop template of length n , search for an assignment to the parameters P such that the following hold:

- v_0 is in the first region (i.e. funnel-loop is reachable):

$$\exists P : S_0(v_0, P)$$

- Remain in the same region as long as the ranking function is positive:

$$\begin{aligned} \exists P \forall V, V' : S_i(V, P) \wedge \text{RF}_i(V, P) > \mathbf{0} \wedge T_i(V, V', P) \rightarrow \\ S_i(V', P) \wedge \text{RF}_i(V', P) < \text{RF}_i(V, P) \end{aligned}$$

- Reach next region when ranking function is 0:

$$\exists P \forall V, V' : S_i(V, P) \wedge \text{RF}_i(V, P) = \mathbf{0} \wedge T_i(V, V', P) \rightarrow S_{i+1 \% n}(V', P)$$

- Every step underapproximates the transition relation of M :

$$\exists P \forall V, V' : S(V, P) \wedge T(V, V', P) \rightarrow T_M(V, V')$$

Prototype implementation

F3 implements the search procedure on top of PYSMT using MATHSAT5 and Z3.

Supports LTL via the tableau construction and timed systems by removing zeno-paths and ensuring the divergence of *time*.

We considered benchmarks from the following categories:

LS : linear software,

NS : nonlinear software,

ITS : LTL on infinite state transition systems,

TA : LTL on timed automata,

TTS : LTL on timed transition systems,

HS : LTL on hybrid systems.

Experimental evaluation

Table reports number of solved instances per benchmark family. F3 can only identify counterexamples, most of the other tools can also prove properties.

Benchmark family	F3	Anant	AProVe	DiVinE3	MITLBM	nuXmv	T2	Ultimate	Uppaal
LS (52)	52	38	43	-	-	28	38	49	-
NS (30)	29	25	5	-	-	14	2	-	-
ITS (70)	57	-	-	-	-	4	-	8	-
TA (174)	137	-	-	43	151	90	-	0	103*
TTS (120)	55	-	-	-	-	8	-	1	-
HS (9)	0	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
Total (455)	330	63	48	43	151	144	40	58	103

* UPPAAL does not handle full LTL: ran only on 116 instances.

Entries marked with “-” denote that the tool cannot handle the given benchmarks.

Summary

- representation of fair paths via funnel-loops;
- automated search of funnel-loop via reduction to SMT;
- appears to be effective on a wide range of benchmark categories.

Future work

- integration with techniques to prove *LTL* properties;
- define more incremental procedure, possibly exploiting a decomposition of the system.

The End

Thank you for your attention,
questions?

Inductive Reachability Witness

“Funnel” also called Inductive Reachability Witness in “Polynomial Reachability Witnesses via Stellensätze”, Asadi et al., PLDI-2021