Model Checking

Requirements

Formal Specification
(Temporal Formula)

Implementation

Model
(Kripke Structure)

Model Checker

VERIFIED
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ERROR + Error Trace
Types of Model Checking

**General question**: Given a system $K$ and a property $p$, does $p$ hold for $K$ (i.e., for all initial states of $K$)?

- **Explicit state model checking**
  - enumeration of the state space
  - state explosion problem

- **Symbolic model checking**
  - representation of model checking problem as logical formula (e.g., in propositional logic (SAT) or QBF)
Bounded Model Checking

basic idea: search for a counter-example of bounded length $k$

- encoding in propositional logic (or extensions)
- use SAT solvers to find such a counter-example: formula is satisfiable iff a bug is found, i.e., an execution of program that violates the claim.

- benefits:
  - bit-precise encoding of the real semantics
  - powerful SAT solvers
  - difficulty of the problem is controllable (by selection of $k$)

- drawback: incomplete for $k$ that is too small

⇒ can be used for debugging
Bounded Model Checking of ANSI-C Programs

- **idea:**
  - unwind program into equation
  - check equation using SAT

- **benefits:**
  - completely automated
  - treatment of pointers and dynamic memory is possible

- **properties:**
  - simple assertions
  - run time errors (pointers/arrays)
  - run time guarantees (WCET)

for example implemented in tool CBMC
From C to SAT

- removal of side effects
  example: `j=i++` is rewritten to `j=i; i=i+1`

- control flow is made explicit
  example: `continue, break` are replaced by `goto`

- transformation of loops to `while (...) ...`
  - while (...) ... loops are unwound
    - all loops must be bounded
      → analysis may become incomplete
    - constant loop bounds are found automatically, others must be specified by user
    - to ensure sufficient unwinding, “unwinding assertions” are added
From C to SAT: Loop Unwinding

original function:

```c
void f (...) {
    ...
    while (cond) {
        body;
    }
    rest;
}
```

with unwound loop:

```c
void f (...) {
    ...
    if (cond) {
        body;
        if (cond) {
            body;
            if (cond) {
                body;
                assert(!cond);
            }
        }
    }
    rest;
}
```

after last iteration an assertion is added:
violated if program runs longer than bound permits
From C to SAT: SSA

single static assignment (SSA) form: fresh variable for LHS of each assignment

example:

\[
x = x + y;
\]
\[
x = x \times 2;
\]
\[
a[i] = 100;
\]

is translated to

\[
x1 = x0 + y0;
\]
\[
x2 = x1 \times 2;
\]
\[
a1[i0] = 100;
\]

from which the following SMT formula can be derived

\[
(x_1 = x_0 + y_0) \land (x_2 = x_1 \times 2) \land (a_1[i_0] = 100)
\]
From C to SAT: Conditionals

- for each join point, new variables with selectors are added
- example:

**original program:**

```c
if (v)
    x = y;
else
    x = z;
w = x;
```

**rewritten program:**

```c
if (v0)
    x0 = y0;
else
    x1 = z0;
```

```c
x2 = v0 ? x0 : x1;
```

```c
w1 = x2;
```
From C to SAT: Example

```c
int main () {
    int x, y;
    y = 1;
    if (x)
        y-;
    else
        y++;
    assert (y==2 || y==3);
}
```

⇒

```c
int main () {
    int x, y;
    y1 = 1;
    if(x0)
        y2 = y1-1;
    else
        y3 = y1+1;
    y4 = x0 ? y2 : y3;
    assert (y4==2 || y4==3);
}
```

((y₁ = 8) ∧ (y₂ = y₁ − 1) ∧ (y₃ = y₁ + 1) ∧ (y₄ = x₀?y₂ : y₃))
→ ((y₄ ↔ 2) ∨ (y₄ ↔ 3))