

# Compositional Safety Verification with Max-SMT

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# Overview

# Compositional Software Analysis

What I mean by it:

- Partial proof can be “plugged” into larger proof
- Not “whole-program” - No/Limited context information
- Clear correspondence between proof parts and code parts

Why it's desirable:

- Scalable (via parallel/distributed analysis)
- Incremental (continuous integration setting)
- Open programs have clear semantics

# Top-down

(AI: forward)

## Pros:

- + Can prune infeasible runs
- + Avoids reasoning over unused code

## Cons:

- Needs to keep strongest information

# Bottom-up

(AI: backward)

## Cons:

- Has to analyse all code & cases leading to property

## Pros:

- + Can prune unneeded information
- + Avoids reasoning over unused variables

# Compositional & Bottom-up: Plan

1. Propagate assertions backwards
  - Straight-line code: Weakest precondition
  - Loops: **Conditional Inductive Invariants** (via MaxSMT)
2. Repeat until
  - Reached program start: Done
  - Failure: Backtrack & Refine with **Program Narrowing**

Examples

# Example: Conditional Inductive Invariants

$\{Q_2 \equiv j \geq 0 \wedge x + 5(i + j) \geq 0\}$

```
while j > 0 do
```

```
  j := j - 1
```

```
  i := i + 1
```

```
done
```

$\{Q_1 \equiv x + 5i \geq 0\}$

```
while i > 0 do
```

```
  x := x + 5
```

```
  i := i - 1
```

```
done
```

```
assert(x >= 0)
```

Find  $Q_2$  such that

- $Q_2 \wedge j \leq 0 \Rightarrow Q_1$
- $Q_2$  inductive

Find  $Q_1$  such that

- $Q_1 \wedge i \leq 0 \Rightarrow x \geq 0$
- $Q_1$  inductive

# Example: Program Narrowing

```
...  
{ $Q_1 \equiv x > y$ }  $\vee$  { $Q_2 \equiv x < y$ }  
if !( $x > y$ ) then  
  while nondet() do !( $x > y$ ) do  
    assert( $x \neq y$ )  
     $x := x + 1$   
     $y := y + 1$   
  done  
fi
```

Find  $Q_1$  such that

- $Q_1 \Rightarrow x \neq y$
- $Q_1$  inductive

$Q_1$  doesn't always hold  
 $\Rightarrow$  Add "blocking clause"

Find  $Q_2$  such that

- $Q_2 \Rightarrow x \neq y$
- $Q_2$  inductive



Technique

# Max-SMT

Input: CNF

$$H_1 \wedge \cdots \wedge H_n \wedge [S_1, \omega_1] \wedge \cdots \wedge [S_m, \omega_m]$$

Output: Model  $\sigma$  such that

- $\sigma \models H_i$  for all  $H_i$
- $\sum_{\sigma \models S_i} \omega_i$  is maximal

# Programs

Variables:  $V = \{ v_1, \dots, v_n \}$  (+ post-variables  $V'$ )

Programs: Graphs of Locations  $L$ , Transitions  $T$

States:  $(\ell, \mathbf{v}) \in L \times (V \rightarrow \mathbb{Z})$

Current location + variable valuation

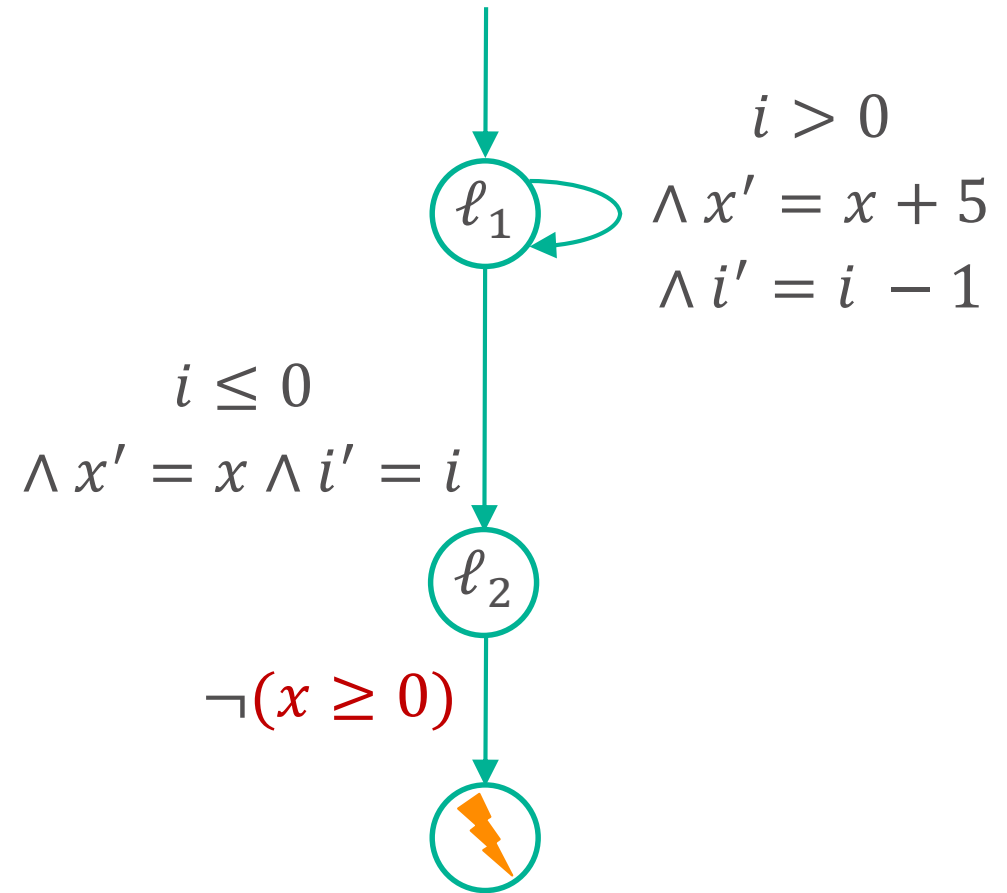
Transitions:  $(\ell, \tau(V, V'), \ell'), \tau \in QF\_LIA$

Evaluate  $(\ell, \mathbf{v})$  to  $(\ell', \mathbf{v}')$  if  $\tau(\mathbf{v}(V), \mathbf{v}'(V'))$

# Example: Program Graph

```
while i > 0 do  
  x := x + 5  
  i := i - 1  
done
```

```
assert (x >= 0)
```



# Finding Conditional Inductive Invariants

Input: SCC  $C$ , SCC entries  $E_C$ , assertion  $(\ell, \neg\varphi, \ell_{error})$

Template per  $\ell$ :  $T_\ell(\mathbf{V})$  (e.g.  $0 \leq a_\ell + \sum_{v \in V} a_{\ell,v} v$ )

Constraints:

- Consecution:  $\bigwedge_{(\ell, \tau, \ell') \in C} T_\ell(\mathbf{V}) \wedge \tau(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}') \Rightarrow T_{\ell'}(\mathbf{V})$
- Safety:  $T_\ell(\mathbf{V}) \Rightarrow \varphi(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}')$
- Initiation:  $\bigwedge_{(\ell, \tau, \ell') \in E_C} [\tau(\mathbf{V}, \mathbf{V}') \Rightarrow T_{\ell'}(\mathbf{V}'), \omega_i]$

# Proving Safety w/ Conditional Invariants

Input: Assertion  $(\ell, \neg\varphi, \ell_{error})$ , SCC  $C$  of  $\ell$ , SCC entries  $E_C$

1. Find conditional inductive invariant  $Q_t$  for  $t \in C \cup E_C$
2. Try to prove safety for assertion  $(\tilde{\ell}_t, \tau_t \wedge \neg Q_t, \tilde{\ell}'_t)$
3. If successful for all entries: Done, celebrate
4. Otherwise: Narrow program:  
Replace all  $(\ell_t, \tau_t, \ell'_t)$  in  $C \cup E_C$  by  
 $(\ell_t, \tau_t \wedge \neg Q_t, \ell'_t)$
5. Restart from 1

# Optimisations

1. Add more soft constraints, e.g., trying to disable transitions
2. Memoisation for failed proof attempts
3. Store proven invariants in program
4. Parallelisation:
  - Visit all predecessors in parallel
  - Directly attempt narrowing

... wrapping up



# Experiments: HOLA Benchmarks

Tool	Safe	Fail	Timeout	Total time (s)
<b>CPAChecker</b> (sv-comp15)	33	3	10	4490
<b>CPAChecker</b> (predicateAnalysis)	25	11	10	2271
<b>SeaHorn</b>	32	13	1	212
<b>HOLA</b>	43	0	3	624
<b>VeryMax-Seq</b>	44	2	0	344
<b>VeryMax-Par</b>	45	1	0	151

46 safe examples from safety proving literature  
17-71 LOC, 1-4 loops per example, timeout 200s

# Experiments: Numerical Recipes

<b>Tool</b>	<b>Safe</b>	<b>Unsafe</b>	<b>Fail</b>	<b>Timeout</b>	<b>Total time (s)</b>
<b>CPAChecker</b> (sv-comp15)	5570	251	326	305	735337
<b>CPAChecker</b> (predicateAnalysis)	5928	170	234	120	64652
<b>SeaHorn</b>	6077	233	80	62	24167
<b>VeryMax-Seq</b>	6105	0	326	21	38981
<b>VeryMax-Par</b>	6106	0	346	0	23668

217 numerical algorithms, array bounds turned into 6452 safety assertions up to ~300 LOC, up to ~35 loops per example, timeout 300s

# Conclusion

## Present(ed):

- Compositional, bottom-up safety proofs
- Invariant generation from templates with MaxSMT
- **VeryMax** precision & performance competitive

## Future:

- Interplay with top-down analysis
- Reachability instead of safety
- Liveness properties: (Non)termination, CTL
- Complexity analysis