



IC3 Software Model Checking on Control Flow Automata

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Introduction

Motivation

Lifting to software model checking

- IC3 had a deep impact in hardware model checking
- Showed much better performance than CEGAR and BMC
- Nowadays employed in most major hardware model checking tools

Challenges

- Domain in hardware model checking finite (bit-level)
- How to handle infinite state spaces?
- How to encode finite control flow?

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Preliminaries

Control Flow Automaton (CFA)

A CFA $\mathcal{A} = (L, G, l_0, l_E)$ consists of a set of **locations** $L = \{0, \dots, n\}$ and edges in $G \subseteq L \times QFFO \times L$ labeled with **quantifier-free** first-order formulas, an **initial location** l_0 , and an **error location** l_E .

Transition formula

Given two locations $l_1, l_2 \in L$, we define the **transition formula**

$$T_{l_1 \rightarrow l_2} = \begin{cases} (pc = l_1) \wedge t \wedge (pc' = l_2) & , \text{ if } (l_1, t, l_2) \in G \\ false & , \text{ otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

Relative Inductivity

[Bra11]

Given a transition formula $T = \bigvee_{(l_1, t, l_2) \in G} T_{l_1 \rightarrow l_2}$, a formula φ is **inductive relative** to another formula ψ if

$$\psi \wedge \varphi \wedge T \Rightarrow \varphi'$$

is valid.

Edge-Relative Inductivity

Given a CFA A and locations $l_1, l_2 \in L$, a formula φ is **inductive edge-relative** to another formula ψ if

$$\psi \wedge \varphi \wedge T_{l_1 \rightarrow l_2} \Rightarrow \varphi'$$

is valid.

[Bra11] Aaron R. Bradley. "SAT-Based Model Checking without Unrolling". In: VMCAI. 2011, pp. 70–87

A **region** $r = (l, s)$ is a pair consisting of location l and formula s . The set of corresponding formulas for r is given as $\{\varphi \mid \varphi \equiv (pc = l \wedge s)\}$. Similarly, for $\neg r$ corresponding formulas are defined as $\{\varphi \mid \varphi \equiv \neg(pc = l \wedge s)\}$.

Edge-Relative Inductive Regions

Assume two regions $r_1 = (l_1, s_1)$, $\neg r_2 = \neg(l_2, s_2)$, we can reduce edge-relative inductivity of $\neg r_2$ to r_1 to

$$\begin{aligned} s_1 \wedge T_{l_1 \rightarrow l_2} &\Rightarrow \neg s'_2 && , \text{ if } l_1 \neq l_2 \\ s_1 \wedge \neg s_2 \wedge T_{l_1 \rightarrow l_2} &\Rightarrow \neg s'_2 && , \text{ if } l_1 = l_2 \end{aligned}$$

[Hen+02] Thomas A. Henzinger et al. "Lazy abstraction". In: POPL. 2002, pp. 58–70

Original IC3

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Original IC3

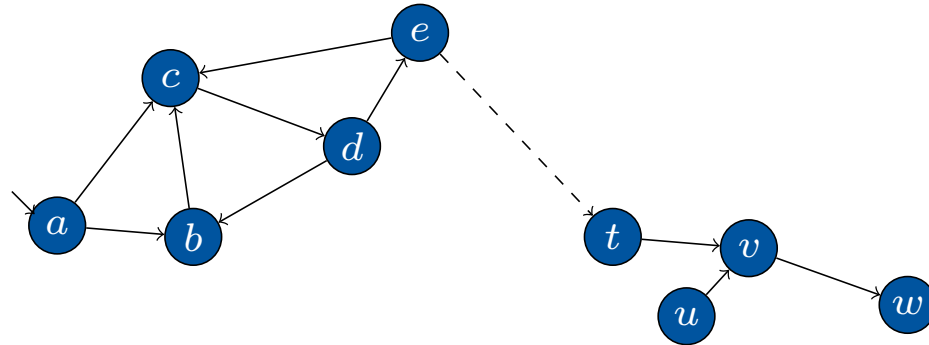
Related Work

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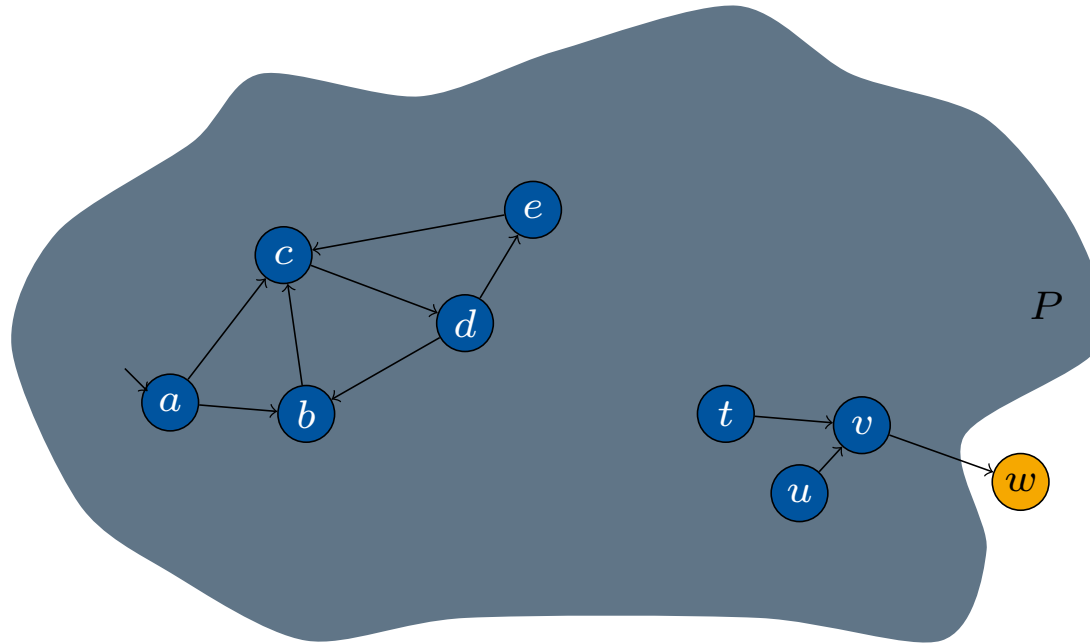
Original IC3

Consider the transition system $\mathcal{M} = (X, I, T)$



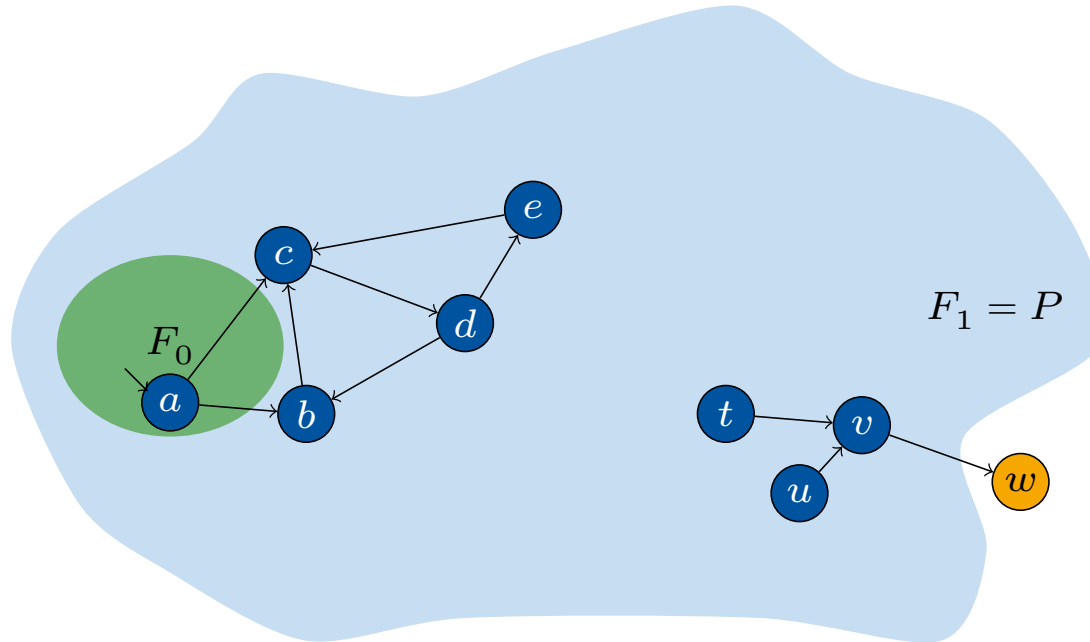
Original IC3

Consider the transition system $\mathcal{M} = (X, I, T)$ and the property $P(X)$.



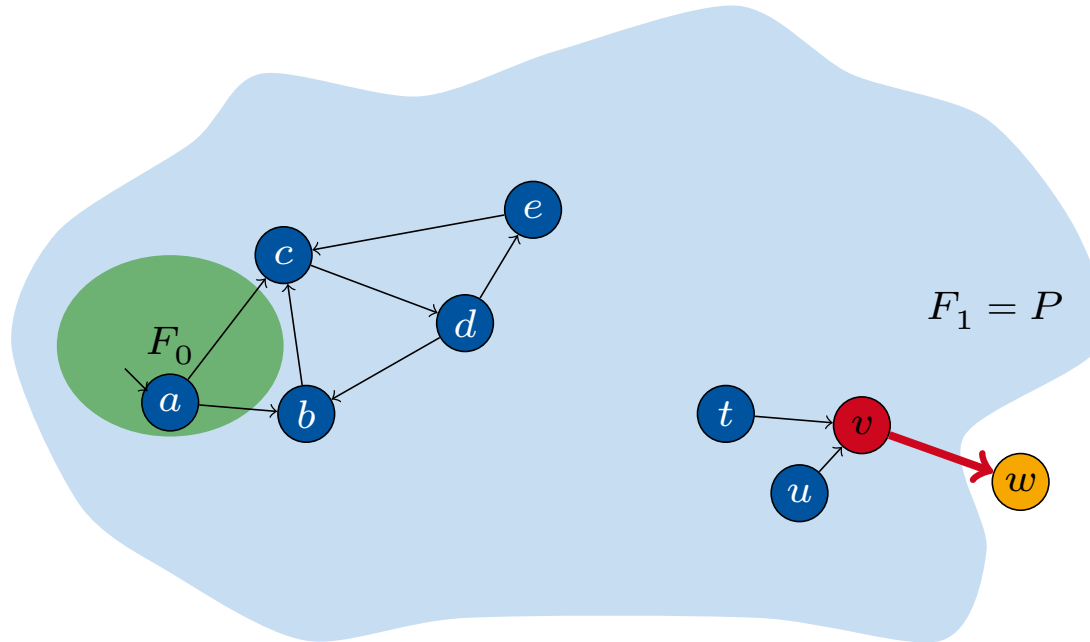
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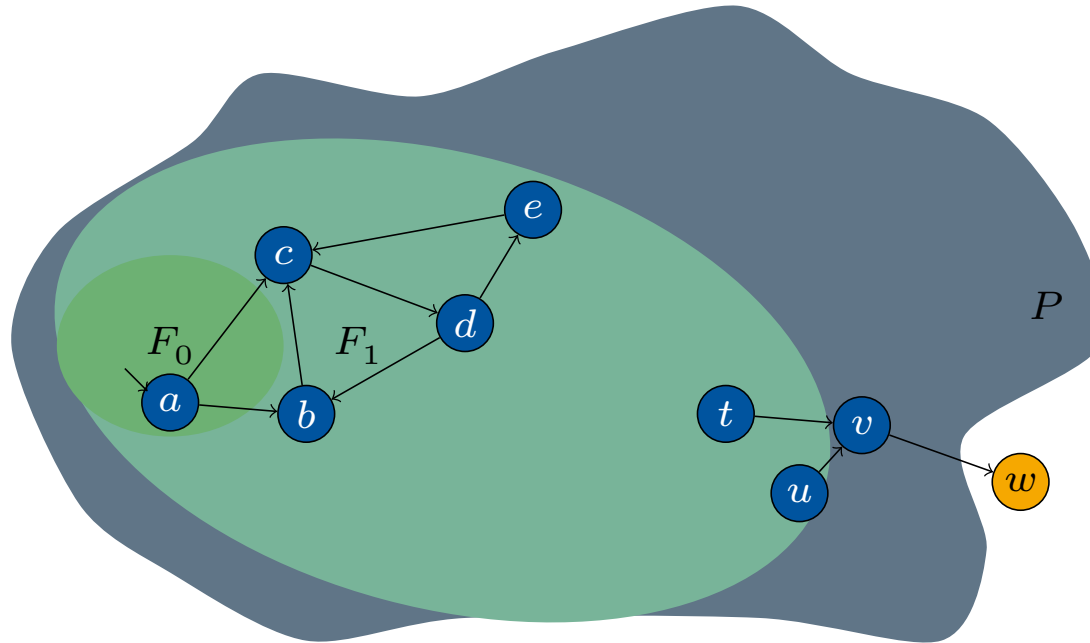
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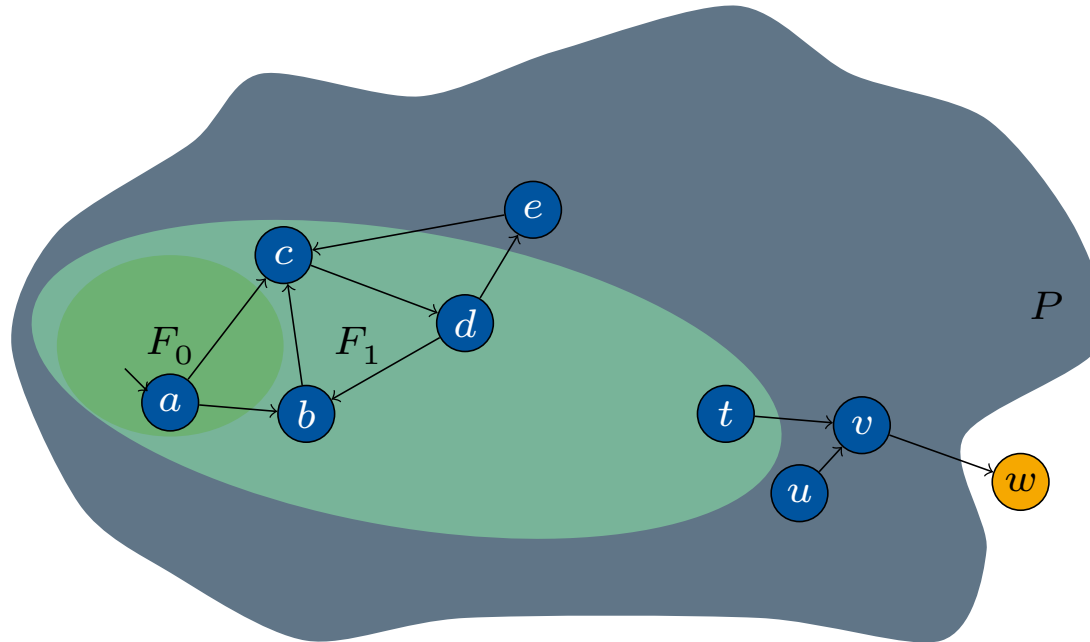
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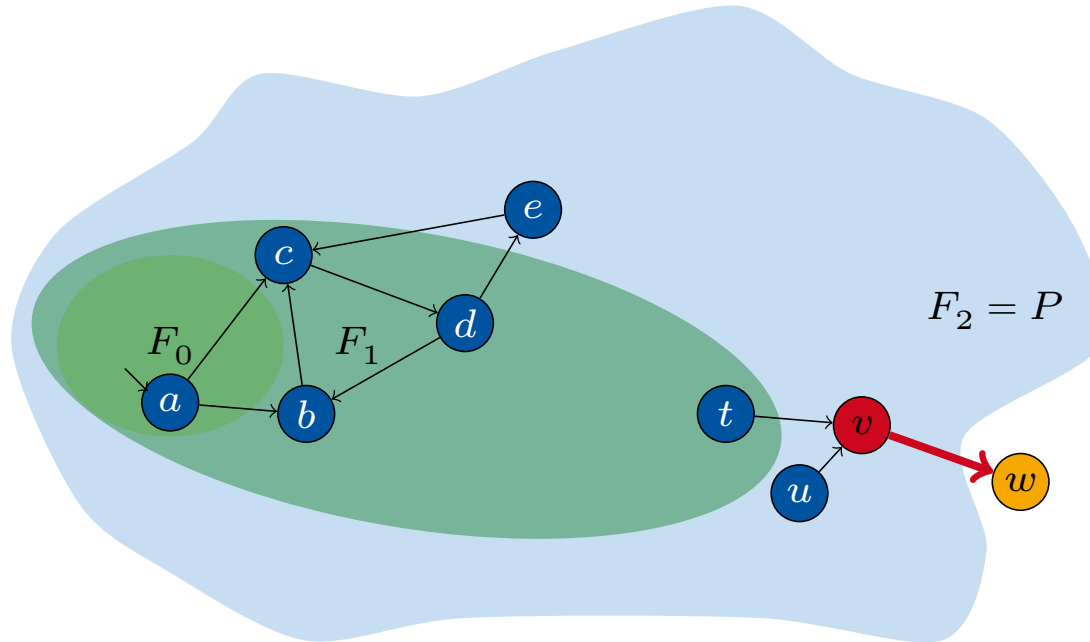
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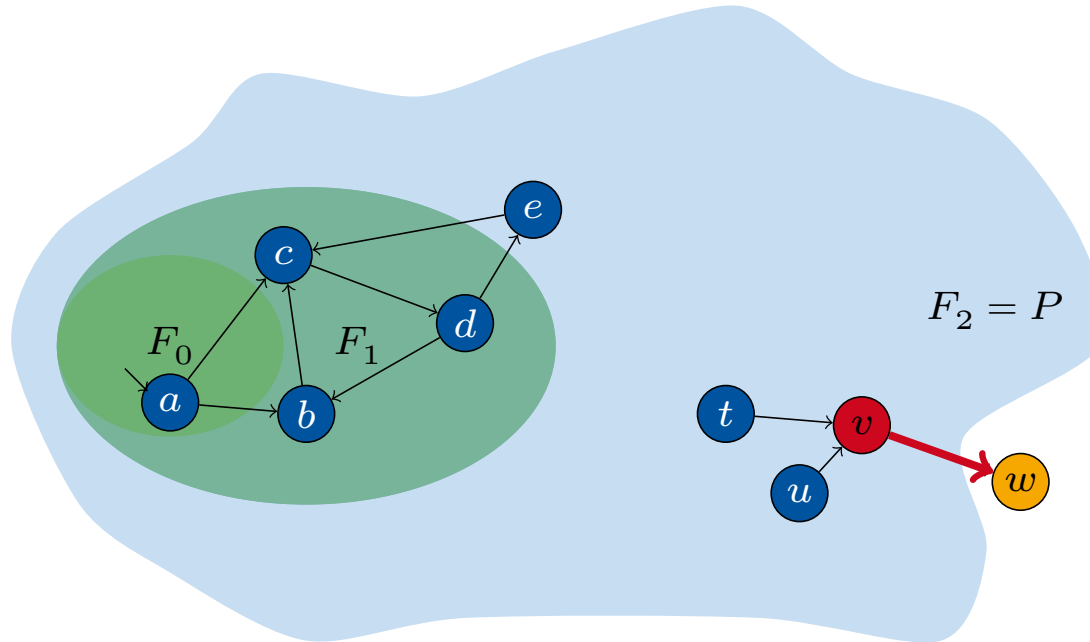
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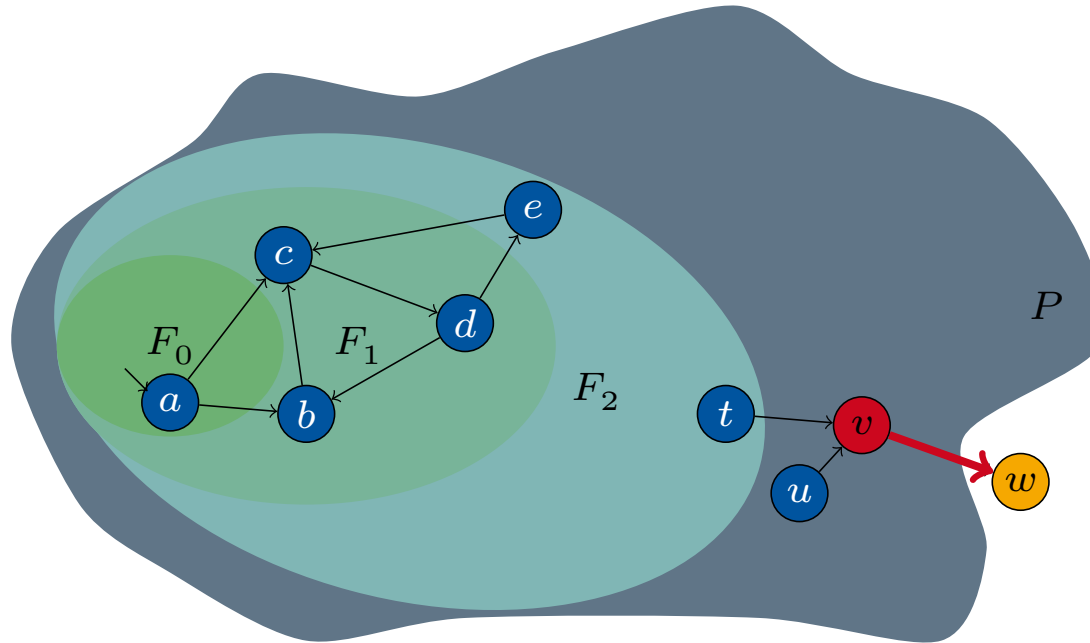
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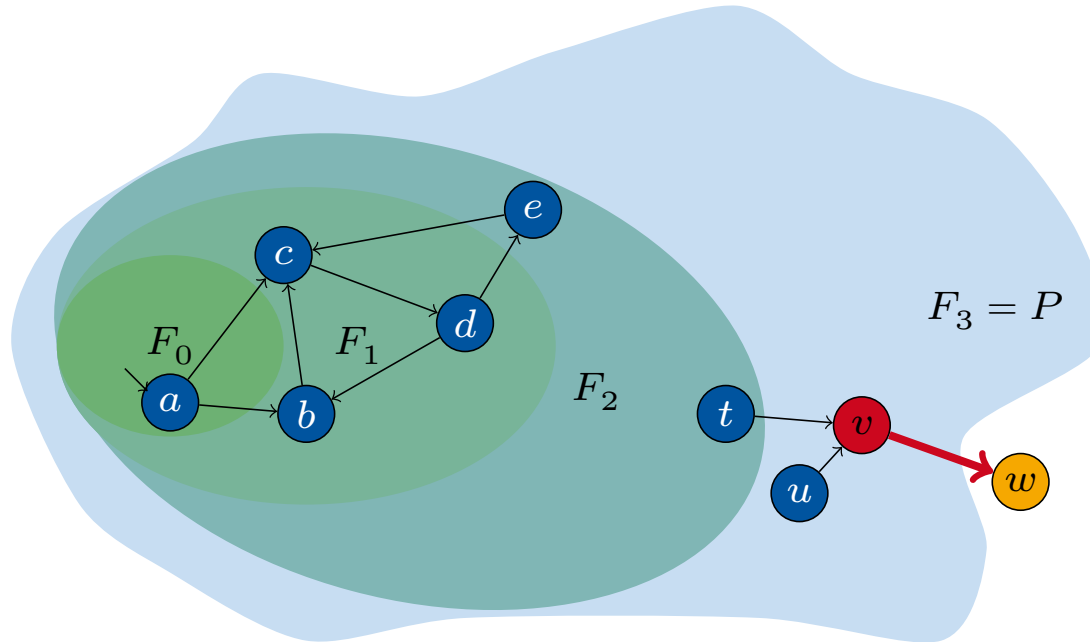
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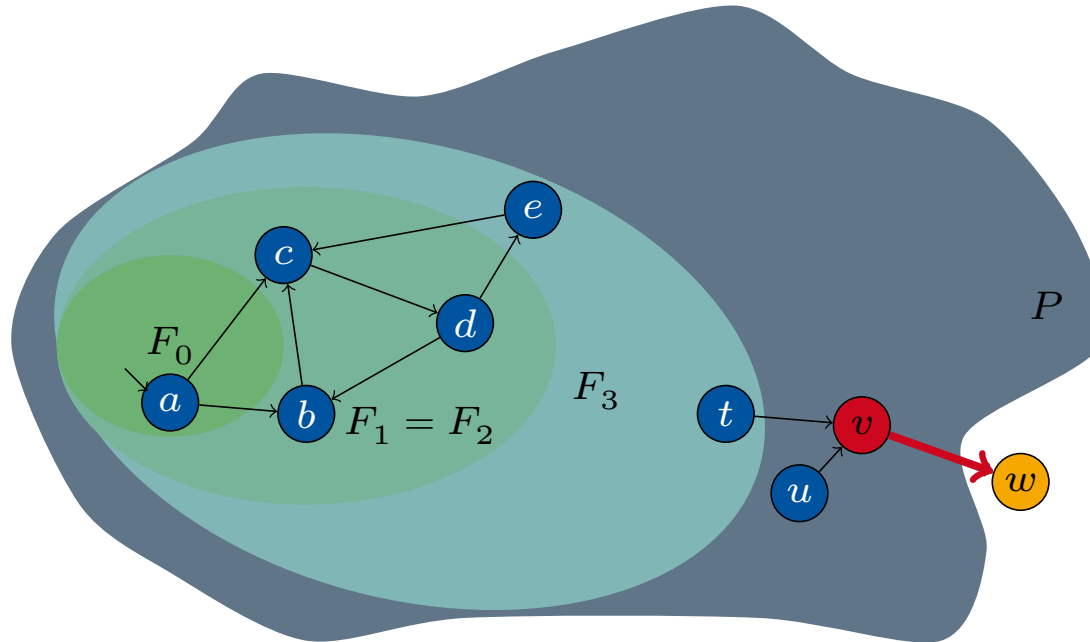
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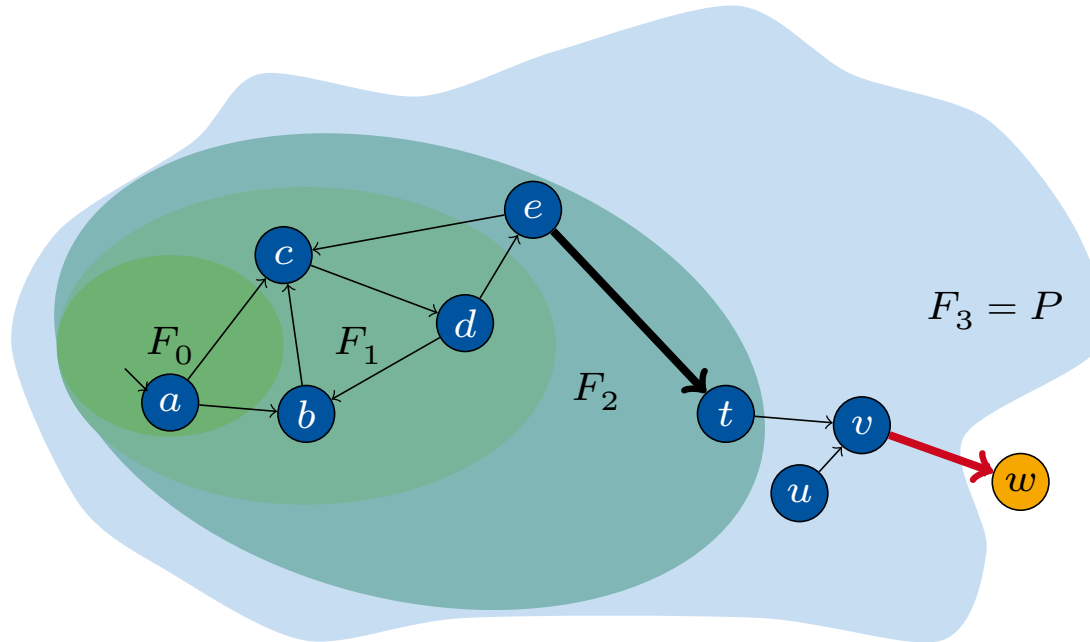
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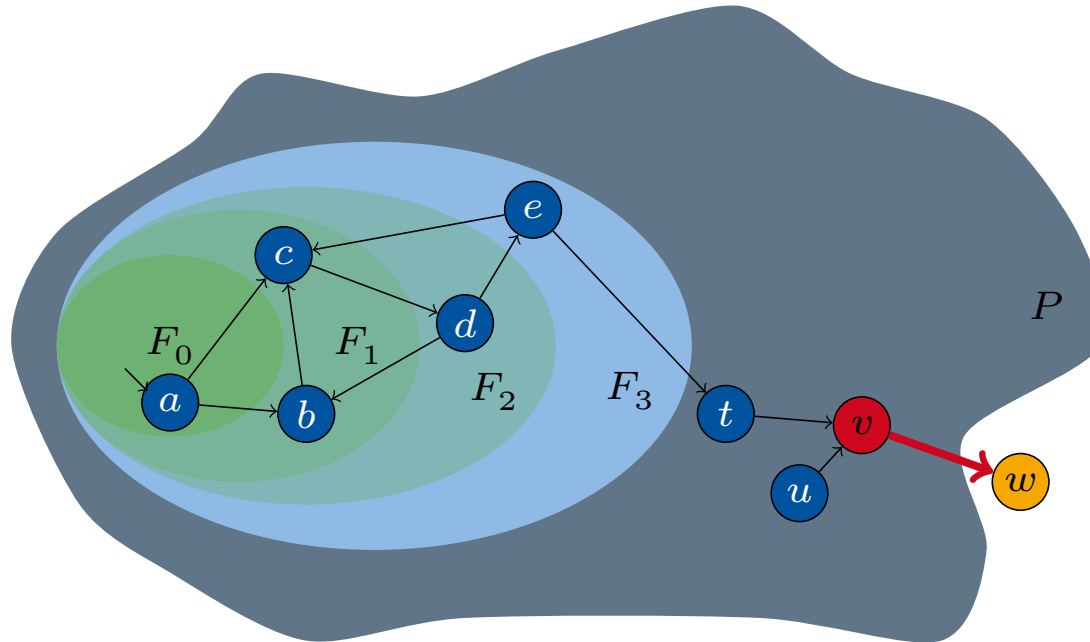
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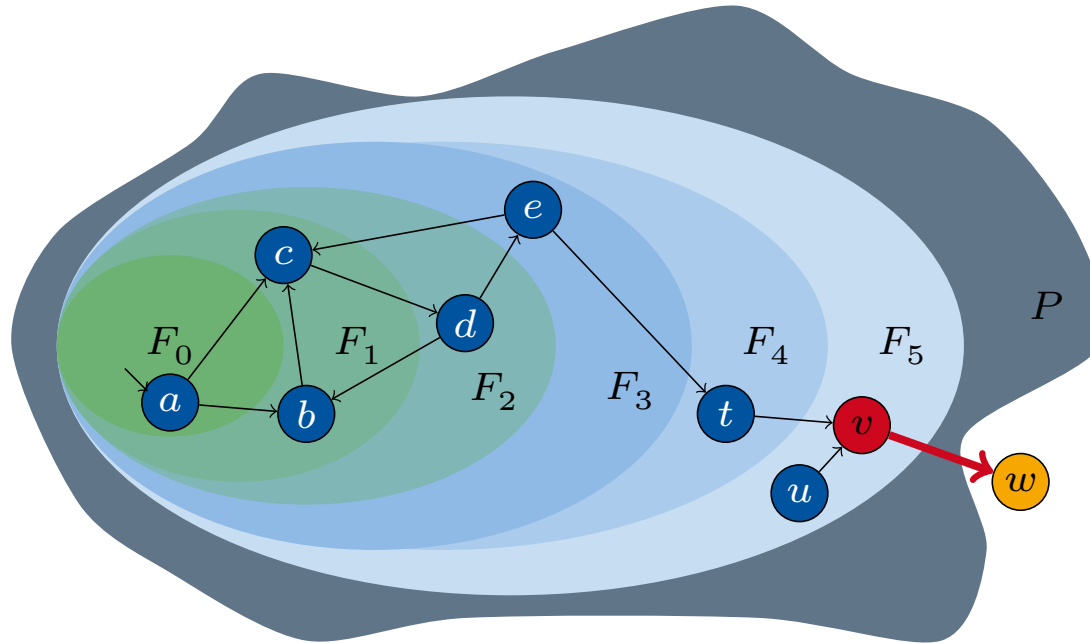
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Related Work

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Related Work

Abstract reachability tree (ART) unrolling [CG12]

Unroll ART, search error path and refute (similarly to blocking phase of IC3).

Bit-blasting [WK13]

Encode variables as bit-vectors and use bit-blasting with bit-level IC3.

Implicit Abstraction [Cim+14]

Express abstract transitions without explicitly computing the abstract system.

Predicate Abstraction [BBW14]

Use predicate abstraction and refine predicates based on CTIs.

[CG12] Alessandro Cimatti and Alberto Griggio. “Software Model Checking via IC3”. In: *CAV. 2012*, pp. 277–293

[WK13] Tobias Welp and Andreas Kuehlmann. “QF BV model checking with property directed reachability”. In: *DATE. 2013*, pp. 791–796

[Cim+14] Alessandro Cimatti et al. “IC3 Modulo Theories via Implicit Predicate Abstraction”. In: *TACAS. 2014*, pp. 46–61

[BBW14] Johannes Birgmeier, Aaron R. Bradley, and Georg Weissenbacher. “Counterexample to Induction-Guided Abstraction-Refinement (CTIGAR)”. In: *CAV. 2014*, pp. 831–848

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

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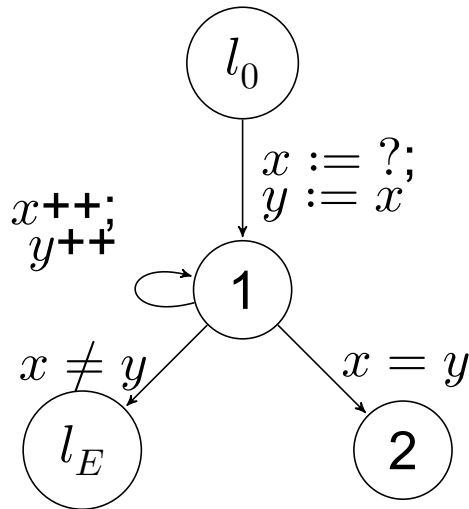
Idea

- Encoding of control flow using special pc variable **not efficient** [CG12]
- **Extraction** of control flow **advantageous**
- Instead of unrolling into ART apply IC3 **directly on CFA**
- For **every location** in the CFA construct frames F_0, \dots, F_k
- Frames represent **overapproximations** of i -step reachability **in location**
- Explicit control flow locations allow to take **only single transitions** into account

[CG12] Alessandro Cimatti and Alberto Griggio. “Software Model Checking via IC3”. In: CAV. 2012, pp. 277–293

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example



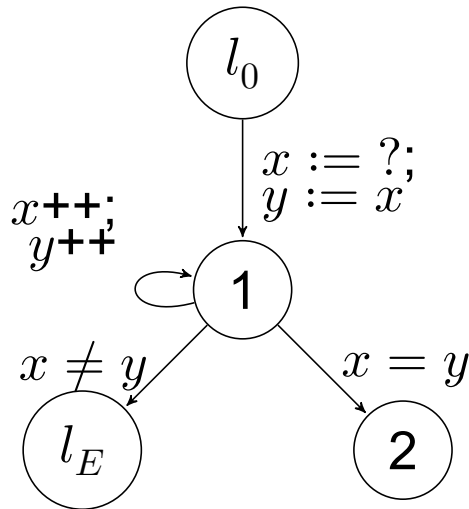
Initial location: l_0

Error location: l_E

Terminating location: 2

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example

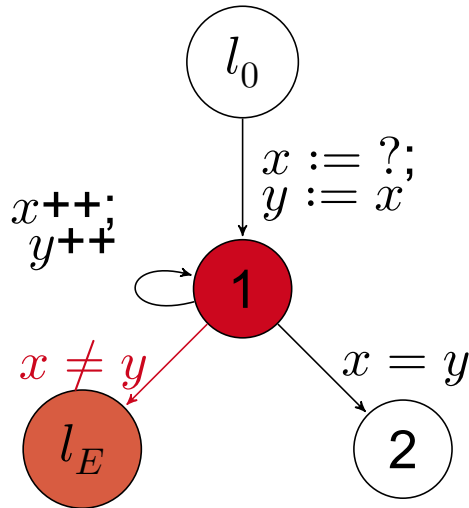


Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$i \backslash l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
1	true	true

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example



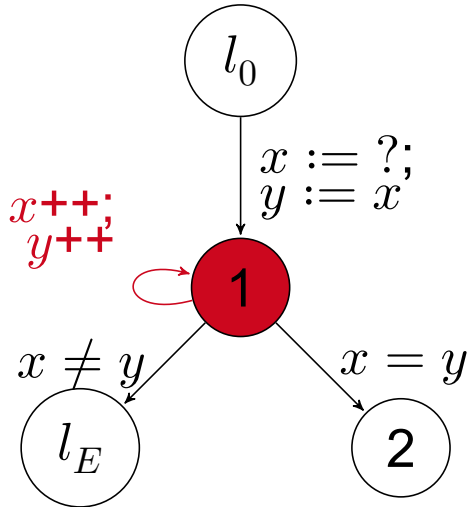
Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$i \backslash l:$	l_0	1
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CTI $(1, x \neq y)$, level 1

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example



Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

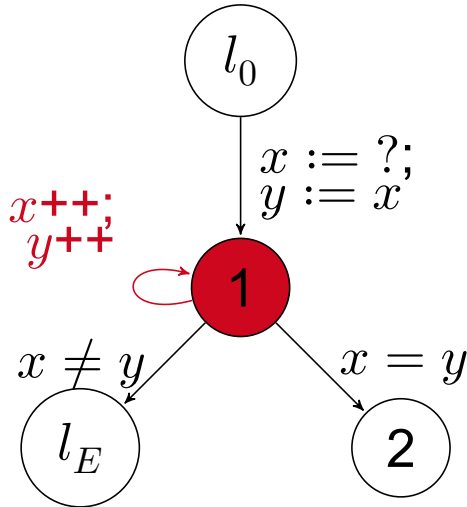
$i:$ \ $l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
1	true	true

CTI $(1, x \neq y)$, level 1

$SAT(F_{(0,1)} \wedge \neg(x \neq y) \wedge T_{1 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example



Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

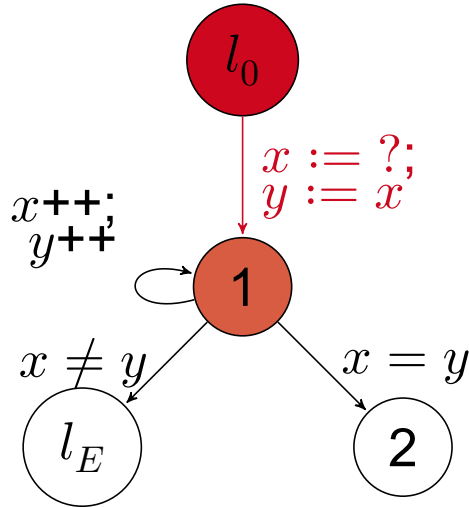
$i:$ \ $l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
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CTI $(1, x \neq y)$, level 1

$SAT(F_{(0,1)} \wedge \neg(x \neq y) \wedge T_{1 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$ ✗

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

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Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$l:$	l_0	1
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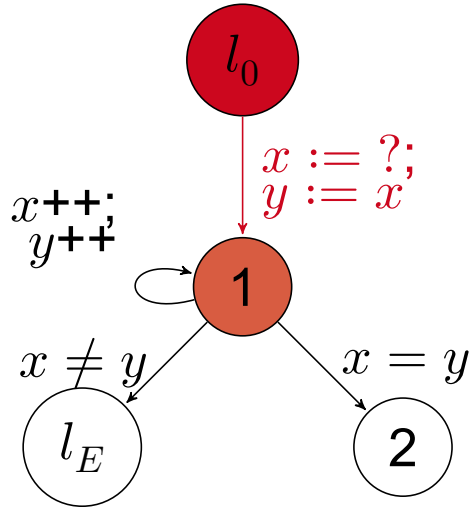
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$SAT(F_{(0,l_0)} \wedge T_{l_0 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$

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Example



Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$i:$ \ $l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
1	true	true

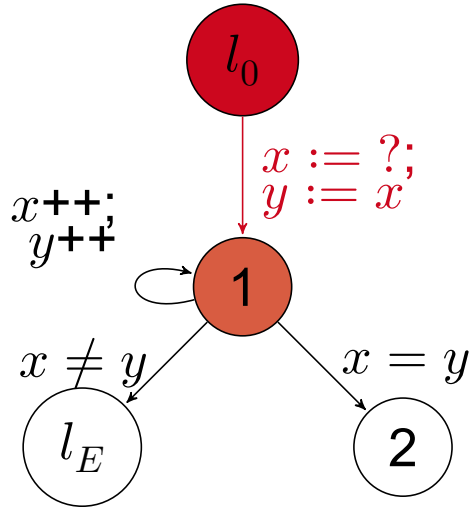
CTI (1, $x \neq y$), level 1

$SAT(F_{(0,1)} \wedge \neg(x \neq y) \wedge T_{1 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$ **X**

$SAT(F_{(0,l_0)} \wedge T_{l_0 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$ **X**

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Example



Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
1	true	$x = y$

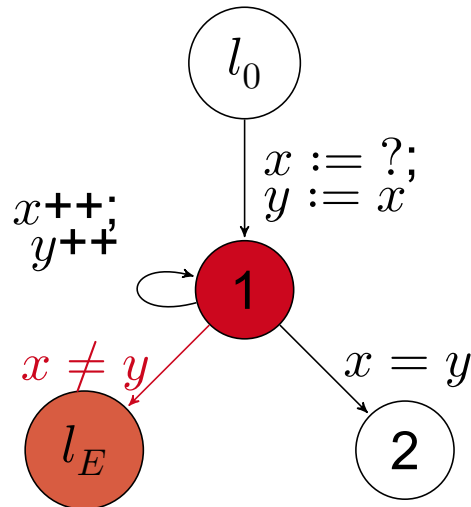
CTI (1, $x \neq y$), level 1

$SAT(F_{(0,1)} \wedge \neg(x \neq y) \wedge T_{1 \rightarrow 1} \wedge x' \neq y')$ ✘

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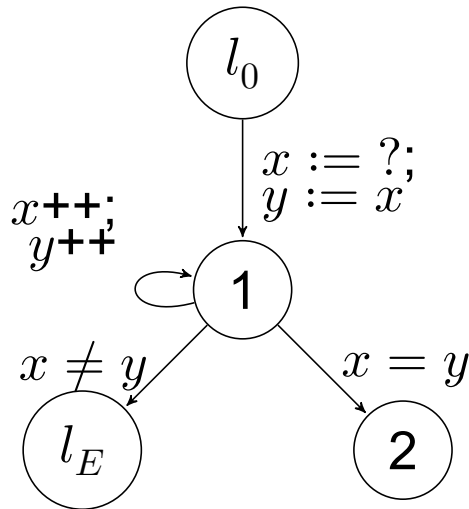


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0	true	false
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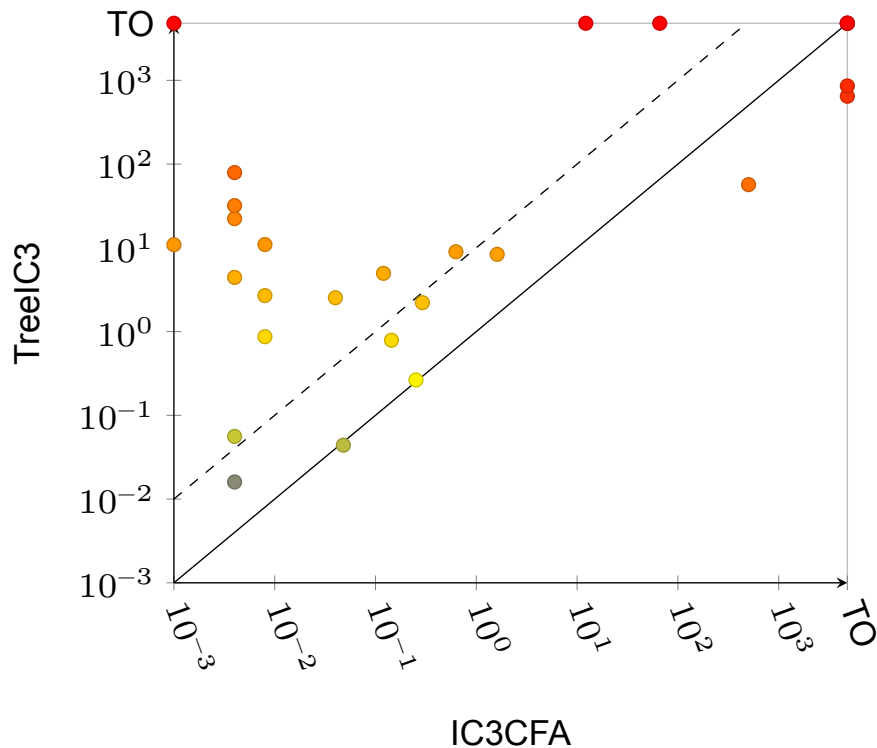
Frames $F_{(i,l)}$

$i \backslash l:$	l_0	1
0	true	false
1	true	$x = y$
2	true	$x = y$

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Evaluation

28 benchmarks from SVCOMP & device drivers, subset of [CG12].



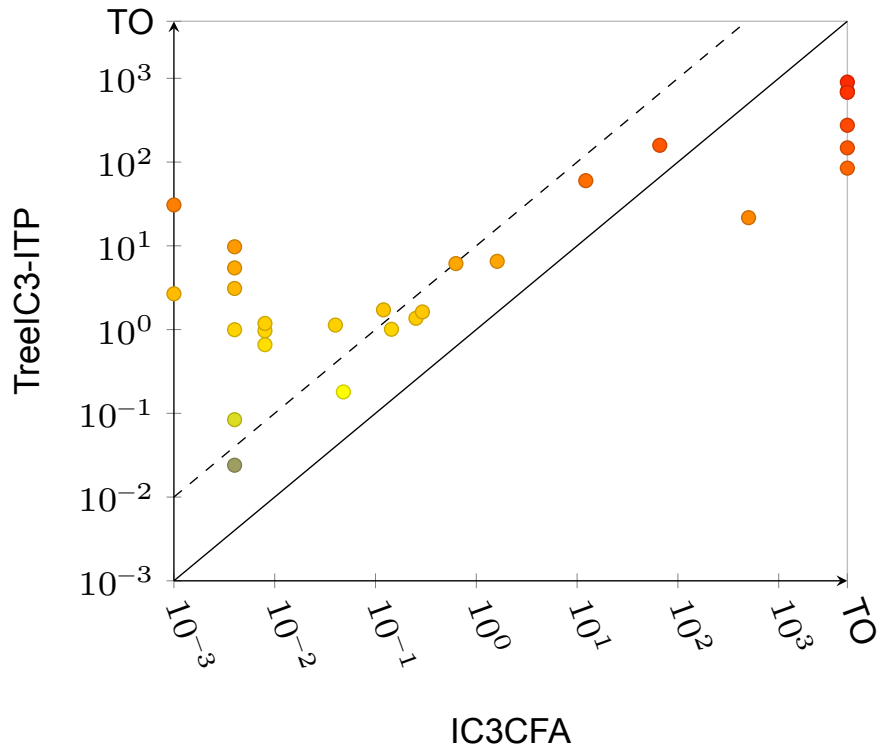
Algorithm	solved	solve time	total time
TreeIC3	21/28	1752s	10152s
IC3CFA	22/28	584s	7784s

[CG12] Alessandro Cimatti and Alberto Griggio. "Software Model Checking via IC3". In: CAV. 2012, pp. 277–293

IC3 on Control Flow Automata

Evaluation

28 benchmarks from SVCOMP & device drivers, subset of [CG12].



Algorithm	solved	solve time	total time
TreeIC3-ITP	28/28	3107s	3107s
IC3CFA	22/28	584s	7784s

[CG12] Alessandro Cimatti and Alberto Griggio. "Software Model Checking via IC3". In: CAV. 2012, pp. 277–293

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Contributions

Small SMT queries

Through inspection of only specific transitions, we can use a single edge formula instead of giving the whole transition relation to the solver.

No unrolling







By using F_i frames in every location of the CFA, we can operate on the CFA exclusively. Thus no need for unrolling the CFA.

Stronger relative inductivity

When considering self-loops we can use the stronger relative inductivity that is used in the original IC3.

Conclusion

References

-  [Johannes Birgmeier, Aaron R. Bradley, and Georg Weissenbacher.](#) “Counterexample to Induction-Guided Abstraction-Refinement (CTIGAR)”. In: *CAV*. 2014, pp. 831–848.
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