Model Checking μ-Calculus

(Based on [Clarke *et al.* 1999])

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Introduction

- The propositional μ-calculus is a powerful language for expressing properties of transition systems by using least and greatest fixpoint operators.
- It is important for two reasons:
  - Many temporal and program logics can be encoded into the μ-calculus.
  - There exist efficient model checking algorithms for this formalism.

Introduction (cont.)

- Model checking algorithms for μ-calculus fall into two classes:
  - Local procedures:
    - for proving that *a specific state* satisfies the given formula
    - not having been combined with BDDs
  - Global procedures:
    - for proving that *all states* satisfy the given formula
    - those based on BDDs prove to be very efficient in practice
- Here, we consider only global model checking.

Extended Kripke Structures

- Formulae in the μ-calculus are interpreted relative to a transition system.
- To distinguish between different transitions in a system, we modify the definition of a Kripke structure slightly.
- An *extended Kripke structure* M over AP is a tuple $\langle S, T, L \rangle$:
  - S is a nonempty set of states,
  - T is a set of transition relations, and
  - $L : S \to 2^{AP}$ gives the set of atomic propositions true in a state.
- We will refer to each $a \in T$ as a *transition* (instead of a transition relation).

μ-Calculus: Syntax

- Let $VAR = \{Q, Q_1, Q_2, \ldots\}$ be a set of *relational variables*.
- Each relational variable $Q \in VAR$ can be assigned a subset of S.
- The μ-calculus formulae are constructed as follows:
  - If $p \in AP$, then p is a formula.
  - A relational variable is a formula.
  - If f and g are formulae, then $\neg f, f \wedge g, f \vee g$ are formulae.
  - If f is a formula and $a \in T$, then $\langle a \rangle f$ and $[a]f$ are formulae.
  - If $Q \in VAR$ and f is a *syntactically monotone* formula in Q, then $\mu Q.f$ and $\nu Q.f$ are formulae.

Syntactically Monotone Formulae

- A formula f is *syntactically monotone* in Q if all occurrences of Q within f fall under an even number of negations in f.
- Consider these formulae:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} f_1 & = & \neg((p \vee \neg Q_1) \wedge \neg\langle a\rangle Q_1) \\ f_2 & = & (Q_1 \wedge \langle a\rangle Q_1) \vee \neg\mu Q_2.\neg(p \wedge [a]\neg Q_2) \end{array}$$

- f_1 is syntactically monotone in Q_1.
- f_2 is syntactically monotone in Q_1, but not syntactically monotone in Q_2.

Intuitive Meaning of μ-Calculus Formulae

- The formula $\langle a \rangle f$ means that f holds in at least one state reachable in one step by making an a-transition.
- The formula $[a]f$ means that f holds in all states reachable in one step by making an a-transition.
- The formula $\mu Q.f(Q)$ computes the least fixpoint of f.
- The formula $\nu Q.f(Q)$ computes the greatest fixpoint of f.
- The fixpoint operator is like a quantifier in first-order logic.
- Variables can be *free* or *bound* by a fixpoint operator.
- We write $f(Q_1, Q_2, \ldots, Q_n)$ to emphasize that a formula f contains free relational variables $Q_1, Q_2, \ldots Q_n$.

μ-Calculus: Semantics

- The notation $s \xrightarrow{a} s'$ means $(s, s') \in a$.
- The *environment* $e : VAR \to 2^S$ is an interpretation for free variables.
- We denote by $e[Q \leftarrow W]$ a new environment that is the same as e except that $e[Q \leftarrow W](Q) = W$.
- A formula f is interpreted as a set of states in which f is true, denoted $[\![f]\!]_M e$, where
  - M is a transition system and
  - e is an environment.

μ-Calculus: Semantics (cont.)

- $[\![p]\!]_M e = \{s \mid p \in L(s)\}$
- $[\![Q]\!]_M e = e(Q)$
- $[\![\neg f]\!]_M e = S \setminus [\![f]\!]_M e$
- $[\![f \wedge g]\!]_M e = [\![f]\!]_M e \cap [\![g]\!]_M e$
- $[\![f \vee g]\!]_M e = [\![f]\!]_M e \cup [\![g]\!]_M e$
- $[\![\langle a \rangle f]\!]_M e = \{s \mid \exists t[s \xrightarrow{a} t$ and $t \in [\![f]\!]_M e]\}$
- $[\![[a] f]\!]_M e = \{s \mid \forall t[s \xrightarrow{a} t$ implies $t \in [\![f]\!]_M e]\}$
- $[\![\mu Q.f]\!]_M e$ is the least fixpoint of the predicate transformer $\tau : 2^S \to 2^S$, where $\tau(W) = [\![f]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W]$
- $[\![\nu Q.f]\!]_M e$ is the greatest fixpoint of the predicate transformer $\tau : 2^S \to 2^S$, where $\tau(W) = [\![f]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W]$

An Example

$$
\begin{aligned}
f &= p \wedge [a]Q \\
\tau(W) &= [\![f]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W] \\
&= [\![p \wedge [a]Q]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W] \\
&= [\![p]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W] \cap [\![[a]Q]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W] \\
&= \{s \mid p \in L(s)\} \cap \\
&\quad\ \{s \mid \forall t (s \xrightarrow{a} t \text{ implies } t \in [\![Q]\!]_M e[Q \leftarrow W])\} \\
&= \{s \mid p \in L(s)\} \cap \\
&\quad\ \{s \mid \forall t (s \xrightarrow{a} t \text{ implies } t \in W)\}
\end{aligned}
$$

A CTL Formula in μ-Calculus

- Consider **EG** f with fairness constraint k.
- Recall that this property can be expressed as a fixpoint:

$$\nu Z \, . \, f \wedge \mathbf{EX}\, \mathbf{E}[f \; \mathbf{U} \; (Z \wedge k)]$$

- Using the fixpoint characterization of **EU**, we obtain

$$\mathbf{E}[f \; \mathbf{U} \; (Z \wedge k)] = \mu Y \, . \, (Z \wedge k) \vee (f \wedge \mathbf{EX}\; Y)$$

- Substituting the right-hand side of the second formula in the first one gives

$$\nu Z \, . \, f \wedge \mathbf{EX}\; (\mu Y \, . \, (Z \wedge k) \vee (f \wedge \mathbf{EX}\; Y))$$

A CTL Formula in μ-Calculus (cont.)

- Suppose the system under consideration has just one transition a.
- Replace **EX** by $\langle a \rangle$, we obtain the μ-calculus formula

$$\nu Z\ .\ f \wedge \langle a \rangle (\mu Y\ .\ (Z \wedge k) \vee (f \wedge \langle a \rangle Y))$$

Negation and Monotonicity

- All negations can be pushed down to the atomic propositions:

$$\begin{aligned}
\neg[a]f &\equiv \langle a\rangle\neg f \\
\neg\langle a\rangle f &\equiv [a]\neg f \\
\neg\mu Q.f(Q) &\equiv \nu Q.\neg f(\neg Q) \\
\neg\nu Q.f(Q) &\equiv \mu Q.\neg f(\neg Q)
\end{aligned}$$

- Every logical connective except negation is monotonic.
- Bound variables are under an even number of negations, thus they can be made negation-free.
- Therefore, each possible formula in a fixpoint operator is monotonic.
- This ensures the existence of the fixpoints.

Fixpoint Reviewed

- Let $\tau : 2^S \rightarrow 2^S$ be a monotonic function.
- If S is finite and τ is monotonic, then τ is also $\cup$-continous and $\cap$-continuous.
- $\mu Q.\tau(Q) = \bigcup_i \tau^i(False)$, i.e., $\mu Q.\tau(Q)$ is the union of the following ascending chain of approximations:

$$False \subseteq \tau(False) \subseteq \tau^2(False) \subseteq \cdots \subseteq \tau^n(False) \subseteq \cdots$$

- $\nu Q.\tau(Q) = \bigcap_i \tau^i(True)$, i.e., $\nu Q.\tau(Q)$ is the intersection of the following descending chain of approximations:

$$True \supseteq \tau(True) \supseteq \tau^2(True) \supseteq \cdots \supseteq \tau^n(True) \supseteq \cdots$$

Naive Algorithm

Function `Eval(`f, e`)`

if $f = p$ **then return** $\{s \mid p \in L(s)\}$;
if $f = Q$ **then return** $e(Q)$;
if $f = g_1 \wedge g_2$ **then return** $\texttt{Eval}(g_1, e) \cap \texttt{Eval}(g_2, e)$;
if $f = g_1 \vee g_2$ **then return** $\texttt{Eval}(g_1, e) \cup \texttt{Eval}(g_2, e)$;
if $f = \langle a \rangle g$ **then return** $\{s \mid \exists t(s \xrightarrow{a} t$ and $t \in \texttt{Eval}(g, e))\}$;
if $f = [a] g$ **then return** $\{s \mid \forall t(s \xrightarrow{a} t$ implies $t \in \texttt{Eval}(g, e))\}$;
if $f = \mu Q.g(Q)$ **then return** $\texttt{Lfp}(g, e, Q)$;
if $f = \nu Q.g(Q)$ **then return** $\texttt{Gfp}(g, e, Q)$;

Naive Least Fixpoint Procedure

Function $\texttt{Lfp}(g, e, Q)$

$Q_{\texttt{val}} \leftarrow False$;
repeat
  $Q_{\texttt{old}} \leftarrow Q_{\texttt{val}}$;
  $Q_{\texttt{val}} \leftarrow \texttt{Eval}(g, e[Q \leftarrow Q_{\texttt{val}}])$;
until $Q_{val} = Q_{old}$;
return $Q_{\texttt{val}}$;

Naive Greatest Fixpoint Procedure

Function $\texttt{Gfp}(g, e, Q)$

$Q_{\texttt{val}} \leftarrow True$;
repeat
  $Q_{\texttt{old}} \leftarrow Q_{\texttt{val}}$;
  $Q_{\texttt{val}} \leftarrow \texttt{Eval}(g, e[Q \leftarrow Q_{\texttt{val}}])$;
until $Q_{val} = Q_{old}$;
return $Q_{\texttt{val}}$;

A Run Sketch

- Consider the calculation of $\mu Q_1.g_1(Q_1, \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1, Q_2))$.
- We start with the initial approximation $Q_1^0 = False$.
  - Compute the inner fixpoint starting from $Q_2^{00} = False$ until we reach the fixpoint $Q_2^{0\omega}$.
- Q_1 is increased to $Q_1^1 = g_1(Q_1^0, Q_2^{0\omega})$.
  - Compute the inner fixpoint starting from $Q_2^{10} = False$ until we reach the fixpoint $Q_2^{1\omega}$.
- Q_1 is increased to $Q_1^2 = g_1(Q_1^1, Q_2^{1\omega}) \ldots$
- This continues until we reach the fixpoint Q_1^ω.

A Run Sketch (cont.)

- Summary of the calculation of $\mu Q_1.g_1(Q_1, \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1, Q_2))$:

$Q_1^0 = False$				
Q_1^1 $= g_1(Q_1^0, Q_2^{0\omega})$	Q_2^{00} $= False$;	Q_2^{01} $= g_2(Q_1^0, Q_2^{00})$;	$\cdots$	$Q_2^{0\omega}$
Q_1^2 $= g_1(Q_1^1, Q_2^{1\omega})$	Q_2^{10} $= False$;	Q_2^{11} $= g_2(Q_1^1, Q_2^{10})$;	$\cdots$	$Q_2^{1\omega}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$			
Q_1^ω	$Q_2^{(\omega-1)0}$ $= False$;	$Q_2^{(\omega-1)1}$ $= g_2(Q_1^{\omega-1}, Q_2^{(\omega-1)0})$;	$\cdots$	$Q_2^{(\omega-1)\omega}$

Complexity Analysis

- Let k be the maximum nesting depth of fixpoint operators.
- The naive algorithm runs in $O(|M| \cdot |f| \cdot n^k)$ time, where M is the Kripke structure and n the number of states.
  - The innermost fixpoint will be evaluated $O(n^k)$ times.
  - Each individual iteration takes $O(|M| \cdot |f|)$ steps.

Alternation Depth

- Top-level ν-subformula of f: a subformula $\nu Q.g$ that is not contained within any other greatest fixpoint subformula of f.
- The *alternation depth* of a formula f is the number of alternations in the nesting of least and greatest fixpoints in f, denoted $d(f)$:
  - $d(p) = d(Q) = 0$
  - $d(f \wedge g) = d(f \vee g) = \max(d(f), d(g))$
  - $d(\langle a \rangle f) = d([a]f) = d(f)$
  - $d(\mu Q.f) = \max(1, d(f), 1 + \max(\{d(g) \mid$ g is a top level ν-subformula of $f\}))$
  - $d(\nu Q.f) = \max(1, d(f), 1 + \max(\{d(g) \mid$ g is a top level μ-subformula of $f\}))$

Alternation Depth (cont.)

- Examples:
  - $d(\mu Q.p \vee \langle a \rangle Q) = 1$
  - $d(\nu Q.(q \wedge (p \vee [a]Q)) = 1$
  - $d(\nu Q_1.(\nu Q_2.(p \wedge [a]Q_2) \wedge \langle a \rangle Q_1)) = 1$
  - $d(\nu Q_1.(\mu Q_2.(p \vee \langle a \rangle Q_2) \wedge \langle a \rangle Q_1)) = 2$
- Recall that, for a system with a single transition a and fairness constraint k, the μ-calculus formula corresponding to **EG** f is

$$\nu Z \ . \ f \wedge \langle a \rangle (\mu Y \ . \ (Z \wedge k) \vee (f \wedge \langle a \rangle Y)).$$

  This formula has an alternation depth of two.

A Better Algorithm

- An algorithm by Emerson and Lei demonstrates that the value of a fixpoint formula can be computed with $O((|f| \cdot n)^d)$ iterations, where d is the alternation depth of f.
- The basic idea exploits sequences of fixpoints that have the same type to reduce the complexity of the algorithm.
- It is unnecessary to re-initialize computations of inner fixpoints with $False$ or $True$.
- Instead, to compute a least fixpoint, it is enough to start iterating with any approximation known to be below the fixpoint.

Lemma 22

- Let $\tau : 2^S \rightarrow 2^S$ be monotonic and S be finite.
- If $W \subseteq \bigcup_i \tau^i(False)$, then $\bigcup_i \tau^i(W) = \bigcup_i \tau^i(False)$.
- Proof:
  - $\bigcup_i \tau^i(W) \subseteq \bigcup_i \tau^i(False)$:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
W & \subseteq & \bigcup_i \tau^i(False) \\
\tau(W) & \subseteq & \tau(\bigcup_i \tau^i(False)) = \bigcup_i \tau^i(False) \\
 & \vdots & \\
\tau^n(W) & \subseteq & \bigcup_i \tau^i(False) \\
 & \vdots & \\
\hline
\bigcup_i \tau^i(W) & \subseteq & \bigcup_i \tau^i(False)
\end{array}
$$

Lemma 22 (cont.)

- $\bigcup_i \tau^i(False) \subseteq \bigcup_i \tau^i(W)$:

$$
\begin{array}{rcl}
False & \subseteq & W = \tau^0(W) \\
\tau(False) & \subseteq & \tau(W) \\
 & \vdots & \\
\tau^n(False) & \subseteq & \tau^n(W) \\
 & \vdots & \\
\hline
\bigcup_i \tau^i(False) & \subseteq & \bigcup_i \tau^i(W)
\end{array}
$$

- So, to compute a least fixpoint, it is enough to start iterating with any approximation below the fixpoint.

Emerson-Lei Algorithm

Function `EL-Eval(`f, e`)`

if $f = p$ **then return** $\{s \mid p \in L(s)\}$;
if $f = Q$ **then return** $e(Q)$;
if $f = g_1 \wedge g_2$ **then return** $\texttt{EL-Eval}(g_1, e) \cap \texttt{EL-Eval}(g_2, e)$;
if $f = g_1 \vee g_2$ **then return** $\texttt{EL-Eval}(g_1, e) \cup \texttt{EL-Eval}(g_2, e)$;
if $f = \langle a \rangle g$ **then return**
$\{s \mid \exists t(s \xrightarrow{a} t \text{ and } t \in \texttt{EL-Eval}(g, e))\}$;
if $f = [a]g$ **then return**
$\{s \mid \forall t(s \xrightarrow{a} t \text{ implies } t \in \texttt{EL-Eval}(g, e))\}$;
if $f = \mu Q_i.g(Q_i)$ **then return** $\texttt{EL-Lfp}(g, e, Q_i)$;
if $f = \nu Q_i.g(Q_i)$ **then return** $\texttt{EL-Gfp}(g, e, Q_i)$;

Emerson-Lei Algorithm (cont.)

- The algorithm uses an array $A[1..N]$ to store the approximations to the fixpoints.
- Initially, $A[i]$ is set to $False$ if the i^{th} fixpoint formula is a least fixpoint and to $True$ otherwise.
- The approximation values $A[i]$ are not reset when evaluating the subformula $\mu Q_i\ .\ g(Q_i)$ or $\nu Q_i\ .\ g(Q_i)$.

Emerson-Lei Lfp

Function `EL-Lfp(`g, e, Q_i`)`

---

forall *top-level greatest fixpoint subformulae* $\nu Q_j . g'(Q_j)$ *of* g **do**
  $A[j] \leftarrow True$;
end
repeat
  $Q_{old} \leftarrow A[i]$;
  $A[i] \leftarrow \texttt{EL-Eval}(g, e[Q_i \leftarrow A[i]])$;
until $A[i] = Q_{old}$;
return $A[i]$;

Emerson-Lei Gfp

Function `EL-Gfp(`g, e, Q_i`)`

forall *top-level least fixpoint subformulae* $\mu Q_j . g'(Q_j)$ *of* g **do**
  $A[j] \leftarrow False$;
end
repeat
  $Q_{old} \leftarrow A[i]$;
  $A[i] \leftarrow \texttt{EL-Eval}(g, e[Q_i \leftarrow A[i]])$;
until $A[i] = Q_{old}$;
return $A[i]$;

A Run Sketch

- Consider the calculation of $\mu Q_1.g_1(Q_1, \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1, Q_2))$.
- We start with the initial approximation $Q_1^0 = False$.
- When computing $Q_2^{i\omega}$, we always begin with $Q_2^{i0} = Q_2^{(i-1)\omega}$.
  - Compute the inner fixpoint starting from $Q_2^{00} = False$ until we reach the fixpoint $Q_2^{0\omega}$.
  - Q_1 is increased to $Q_1^1 = g_1(Q_1^0, Q_2^{0\omega})$
  - Compute the inner fixpoint starting from $Q_2^{10} = Q_2^{0\omega}$ until we reach the fixpoint $Q_2^{1\omega}$.
  - Q_1 is increased to $Q_1^2 = g_1(Q_1^1, Q_2^{1\omega}) \ldots$
- This continues until we reach the fixpoint Q_1^ω.

A Run Sketch (cont.)

- Summary of the calculation of $\mu Q_1.g_1(Q_1, \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1, Q_2))$:

$Q_1^0 = False$			
$Q_1^1 = g_1(Q_1^0, Q_2^{0\omega})$	$Q_2^{00} = False;$	$Q_2^{01} = g_2(Q_1^0, Q_2^{00});$	$\ldots\ Q_2^{0\omega}$
$Q_1^2 = g_1(Q_1^1, Q_2^{1\omega})$	$Q_2^{10} = Q_2^{0\omega};$	$Q_2^{11} = g_2(Q_1^1, Q_2^{10});$	$\ldots\ Q_2^{1\omega}$
$\vdots$	$\vdots$		
Q_1^ω	$Q_2^{(\omega-1)0} = Q_2^{(\omega-2)\omega};$	$Q_2^{(\omega-1)1} = g_2(Q_1^{(\omega-1)}, Q_2^{(\omega-1)0});$	$\ldots\ Q_2^{(\omega-1)\omega}$

- $Q_2^{0\omega} = g_2(Q_1^0, Q_2^{0\omega}) \subseteq g_2(Q_1^1, Q_2^{0\omega})$
- $Q_2^{0\omega} = \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1^0, Q_2) \subseteq \mu Q_2.g_2(Q_1^1, Q_2)$

Complexity Analysis

- In the naive algorithm, the innermost fixpoint requires $O(n^k)$ iterations, where k is the maximum nesting depth of fixpoint operators.
- The number of iterations of Emerson-Lei algorithm is $O((|f| \cdot n)^d)$.
  - $|f|$ is an upper bound on the number of consecutive fixpoints of the same type in f.
  - The number of iterations for each such sequence is $O(|f| \cdot n)$, each fixpoint requiring at most n iterations.
  - With d alternating sequences, we have $O((|f| \cdot n)^d)$ iterations.

Representing Formulae Using OBDDs

- The domain S is encoded by the vector $\vec{x}$.
- Each atomic proposition p has an OBDD associated with it, denoted $OBDD_p(\vec{x})$.
  - $\vec{y} \in \{0,1\}^n$ satisfies $OBDD_p$ iff $p \in L(\vec{y})$.
- Each transition a has an OBDD associated with it, denoted $OBDD_a(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')$.
  - $(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) \in \{0,1\}^{2n}$ satisfies $OBDD_a$ iff $(\vec{y}, \vec{z}) \in a$.
- The environment is represented by a function $assoc$; $assoc[Q_i]$ gives the OBDD corresponding to the set of states associated with Q_i.
- $assoc\langle Q \leftarrow B_Q \rangle$ creates a new association by associating an OBDD B_Q with Q.

Representing Formulae Using OBDDs (cont

- The procedure B given below takes a μ-calculus formula f and an association list $assoc$ and returns an OBDD corresponding to the semantics of f.
  - $\mathsf{B}(p, assoc) = OBDD_p(\vec{x})$
  - $\mathsf{B}(Q_i, assoc) = assoc[Q_i]$
  - $\mathsf{B}(\neg f, assoc) = \neg\mathsf{B}(f, assoc)$
  - $\mathsf{B}(f \wedge g, assoc) = \mathsf{B}(f, assoc) \wedge \mathsf{B}(g, assoc)$
  - $\mathsf{B}(f \vee g, assoc) = \mathsf{B}(f, assoc) \vee \mathsf{B}(g, assoc)$
  - $\mathsf{B}(\langle a \rangle f, assoc) = \exists \vec{x}'(OBDD_a(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') \wedge \mathsf{B}(f, assoc)(\vec{x}'))$
  - $\mathsf{B}([a]f, assoc) = \mathsf{B}(\neg\langle a \rangle \neg f, assoc)$
  - $\mathsf{B}(\mu Q.f, assoc) = \mathtt{FIX}(f, assoc, OBDD_{False})$
  - $\mathsf{B}(\nu Q.f, assoc) = \mathtt{FIX}(f, assoc, OBDD_{True})$

Representing Formulae Using OBDDs (cont

Function `FIX`(f, $assoc$, B_Q)

$bdd_{result} \leftarrow B_Q$;

repeat

  $bdd_{old} \leftarrow bdd_{result}$;

  $bdd_{result} \leftarrow \mathsf{B}(f, assoc\langle Q \leftarrow bdd_{old}\rangle)$;

until `equal`$(bdd_{old}, bdd_{result})$;

return bdd_{result};

An example

- Let the state space S be encoded by n boolean variables $x_1, x_2, \ldots, x_n$.
- Let $OBDD_q(\vec{x})$ be the interpretation for q.
- The $OBDD$ corresponding to the transition a is $OBDD_a(\vec{x}, \vec{x}')$.
- Given an association list $assoc$ that pairs the $OBDD$ $B_Y(\vec{x})$ with Y.
- Consider the following formula:

$$f = \mu Z \; . \; ((q \wedge Y) \vee \langle a \rangle Z)$$

An example (cont.)

- In the execution of `FIX`, bdd_{result} is initially set to:

$$N^0(\vec{x}) = OBDD_{False}.$$

- At the end of the i-th iteration, the value of bdd_{result} is given by:

$$N^{i+1}(\vec{x}) = (OBDD_q(\vec{x}) \wedge B_Y(\vec{x})) \vee \exists \vec{x}'(OBDD_a(\vec{x}, \vec{x}') \wedge N^i(\vec{x}')).$$

- The iteration stops when $N^i(\vec{x}) = N^{i+1}(\vec{x})$.

Translating CTL into the μ-Calculus

- Consider systems with just one transition a.
- The algorithm `Tr` takes as its input a CTL formula and outputs an equivalent μ-calculus formula:
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(p) = p$
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(\neg f) = \neg\mathtt{Tr}(f)$
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(f \wedge g) = \mathtt{Tr}(f) \wedge \mathtt{Tr}(g)$
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(\mathsf{EX}\ f) = \langle a \rangle \mathtt{Tr}(f)$
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(\mathsf{E}[f\ \mathsf{U}\ g]) = \mu Y.(\mathtt{Tr}(g) \vee (\mathtt{Tr}(f) \wedge \langle a \rangle Y))$
  - $\mathtt{Tr}(\mathsf{EG}\ f) = \nu Y.(\mathtt{Tr}(f) \wedge \langle a \rangle Y)$

Translating CTL into the μ-Calculus (cont.)

- Example:

$$\mathtt{Tr}(\mathsf{EG}(\mathsf{E}[p\ \mathsf{U}\ q])) = \nu Y.(\mu Z.(q \vee (p \wedge \langle a \rangle Z)) \wedge \langle a \rangle Y)$$

- Any resulting μ-calculus formula is closed.
- We can omit the environment e from the translation.

NP and co-NP

- We will see model checking μ-calculus is in NP $\cap$ co-NP.
- A language L is in NP if there exists a polynomial-time nondeterministic algorithm M such that:
  - if $x \in L$, then $M(x) =$ "yes" for some computation path, and
  - if $x \notin L$, then $M(x) =$ "no" for all computation paths.
- A language L is in co-NP if there exists a polynomial-time nondeterministic algorithm M such that:
  - if $x \in L$, then $M(x) =$ "yes" for all computation paths, and
  - if $x \notin L$, then $M(x) =$ "no" for some computation path.
- co-NP $= \{L \mid \bar{L} \in \text{ NP}\}$.

Relations between P, NP, and co-NP

- Current consensus (still open):
  - P $\neq$ NP
  - NP $\neq$ co-NP
  - P $\neq$ NP $\cap$ co-NP
- If an NP-complete problem is in co-NP, then NP $=$ co-NP.
  - Let $L \in$ co-NP be NP-complete.
  - Let NTM M decide L.
  - For any $L' \in$ NP, there is a reduction R from L' to L.
  - $L' \in$ co-NP as it is decided by NTM $M(R(\cdot))$.
  - Hence NP $\subseteq$ co-NP.
  - The other direction co-NP $\subseteq$ NP is symmetric.

Complexity of Model Checking μ-Calculus

- Problem: Given a finite model M, a state s, and a μ-calculus formula f, does $M, s \models f$?
- Best known upper bound for this problem is NP $\cap$ co-NP.

Model Checking μ-Calculus is in NP

- Consider the following nondeterministic algorithm.
- Guess the greatest fixpoints, and compute the least fix points by iteration.
- The guess for a greatest fixpoint can be easily checked to see that it is a fixpoint.
- The greatest fixpoint must contain any verified guess.
- By monotonicity, this nondeterministic algorithm computes a subset of the real interpretation of the formula.
- There is a run of the algorithm which calculates the set of states satisfying the μ-calculus formula.
- Consequently, the problem is in NP.

Model Checking μ-Calculus is in co-NP

- Recall that co-NP $= \{L \mid \bar{L} \in$ NP$\}$.
- Consider the following nondeterministic algorithm.
- Negate the formula.
- Apply the algorithm in the last page.
- Consequently, the problem is in co-NP.
- Hence, the problem is in NP $\cap$ co-NP.

Open Problem

- Open Problem: Is there a polynomial model checking algorithm for the μ-calculus?
- It is a long standing open problem.
- Clarke *et al.* conjecture NO in the book.
- If the problem was NP-complete, then NP $=$ co-NP, which is believed to be unlikely.
- This suggests that it would be very difficult to prove the conjecture.