

# Symbolic Model Checking

(Based on [Clarke et al. 1999] and [Kesten et al. 1995])

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# Introduction

- 🌐 We have studied
  - ☀️ the operations on OBDDs and
  - ☀️ the encoding of a transition system in OBDDs.
- 🌐 How does one use OBDDs in model checking?
  - ☀️ Symbolic CTL model checking
  - ☀️ Symbolic LTL model checking
- 🌐 The model checking algorithms are **symbolic**, because they are based on the manipulation of Boolean functions (rather than state transition graphs).
- 🌐 Boolean functions (OBDDs) represent sets of states and transitions.
- 🌐 We can operate on **entire sets** rather than on individual states and transitions.

# Fixpoints

- Let  $S$  be the set of all states of a system.
- A set  $Z \in \mathcal{P}(S)$  is called a **fixpoint** of a function  $\tau : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$  if  $\tau(Z) = Z$ .
- A temporal formula  $f$  can be viewed as a set  $Z$  of states such that
  - $Z \in \mathcal{P}(S)$  and
  - $f$  is true exactly on the states in  $Z$ .
- Each temporal logic operator can be characterized by a fixpoint.

# Complete Lattices

- 🌐 Recall that a **complete lattice** is a partially ordered set in which every subset of elements has a *least upper bound* (supremum) and a *greatest lower bound* (infimum).
- 🌐 For a given set  $S$ ,  $\langle \mathcal{P}(S), \subseteq \rangle$  forms a complete lattice.
- 🌐 Let  $S' \subseteq \mathcal{P}(S)$ , then
  - ☀ the supremum of  $S'$ , usually denoted  $\text{sup}(S')$ , equals  $\bigcup S'$  and
  - ☀ the infimum of  $S'$ , denoted  $\text{inf}(S')$ , equals  $\bigcap S'$ .
- 🌐 The least element in  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  is the empty set  $\emptyset$ , which we refer to as *False*.
- 🌐 The greatest element in  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  is the set  $S$ , which we refer to as *True*.

# Predicate Transformer

- 🌐 A **predicate transformer** on  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  is a function  $\tau : \mathcal{P}(S) \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(S)$ .
- 🌐  $\tau^i(Z)$  is used to denote  $i$  applications of  $\tau$  to  $Z$ :
  - ☀️  $\tau^0(Z) = Z$
  - ☀️  $\tau^{i+1}(Z) = \tau(\tau^i(Z))$

# Predicate Transformer (cont.)

Let  $\tau$  be a predicate transformer.

$\tau$  is **monotonic** (order-preserving) provided that

$$P \subseteq Q \text{ implies } \tau(P) \subseteq \tau(Q).$$

$\tau$  is **U-continuous** provided that

$$P_1 \subseteq P_2 \subseteq \dots \text{ implies } \tau(\cup_i P_i) = \cup_i \tau(P_i).$$

$\tau$  is  **$\cap$ -continuous** provided that

$$P_1 \supseteq P_2 \supseteq \dots \text{ implies } \tau(\cap_i P_i) = \cap_i \tau(P_i).$$

# LFP and GFP

- 🌐 We have seen the following results in a separate lecture.
- 🌐  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  is a complete lattice and hence also a CPO.
- 🌐 Consequently, a monotonic predicate transformer  $\tau$  on  $\mathcal{P}(S)$  always has
  - ☀️ a least fixpoint, denoted  $\mu Z . \tau(Z)$ , and
  - ☀️ a greatest fixpoint, denoted  $\nu Z . \tau(Z)$ .
- 🌐 More precisely,

$$\mu Z . \tau(Z) = \begin{cases} \bigcap \{Z \mid \tau(Z) \subseteq Z\} & \text{whenever } \tau \text{ is monotonic} \\ \bigcup_i \tau^i(\text{False}) & \text{whenever } \tau \text{ is also } \cup\text{-continuous} \end{cases}$$

$$\nu Z . \tau(Z) = \begin{cases} \bigcup \{Z \mid \tau(Z) \supseteq Z\} & \text{whenever } \tau \text{ is monotonic} \\ \bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True}) & \text{whenever } \tau \text{ is also } \cap\text{-continuous} \end{cases}$$

# Continuity of Predicate Transformers

## Lemma (Lemma 5)

*If  $S$  is finite and  $\tau$  is monotonic, then  $\tau$  is also  $\cup$ -continuous and  $\cap$ -continuous.*

Proof:

🌐 Because  $S$  is finite, there is  $j_0$  such that

- ☀ for every  $j \geq j_0$ ,  $P_j = P_{j_0}$ , and
- ☀ for every  $j < j_0$ ,  $P_j \subseteq P_{j_0}$ .

🌐 Thus,  $\cup_i P_i = P_{j_0}$  and  $\tau(\cup_i P_i) = \tau(P_{j_0})$ .

🌐 Because  $\tau$  is monotonic,

- ☀  $\tau(P_1) \subseteq \tau(P_2) \subseteq \dots$ , and thus
- ☀ for every  $j \geq j_0$ ,  $\tau(P_j) = \tau(P_{j_0})$  and
- ☀ for every  $j < j_0$ ,  $\tau(P_j) \subseteq \tau(P_{j_0})$ .

🌐 As a result,  $\cup_i \tau(P_i) = \tau(P_{j_0}) = \tau(\cup_i P_i)$ .


🌐 The proof that  $\tau$  is  $\cap$ -continuous is similar.




# Iterative Approximation


## Lemma (Lemma 6)


If  $\tau$  is monotonic, then for every  $i (\geq 0)$


  $\tau^i(\text{False}) \subseteq \tau^{i+1}(\text{False})$ , and

  $\tau^i(\text{True}) \supseteq \tau^{i+1}(\text{True})$ .

Proof:

 By induction on  $i$ .

 Base case:  $\tau^0(\text{False}) = \text{False} \subseteq \tau(\text{False})$ .



 Inductive step: since  $\tau$  is monotonic,  $\tau^k(\text{False}) \subseteq \tau^{k+1}(\text{False})$  implies  $\tau(\tau^k(\text{False})) \subseteq \tau(\tau^{k+1}(\text{False}))$  and hence  $\tau^{(k+1)}(\text{False}) \subseteq \tau^{(k+1)+1}(\text{False})$ , for  $k \geq 0$ .

 The other case is similar.

# Convergence of Iterative Approximation

## Lemma (Lemma 7)

If  $\tau$  is monotonic and  $S$  is finite, then


-  there is an integer  $i_0$  such that for every  $j \geq i_0$ ,  
 $\tau^j(\text{False}) = \tau^{i_0}(\text{False})$ , and
-  similarly, there is some  $j_0$  such that for every  $j \geq j_0$ ,  
 $\tau^j(\text{True}) = \tau^{j_0}(\text{True})$ .

## Lemma (Lemma 8)

If  $\tau$  is monotonic and  $S$  is finite, then

- 🌐 there is an integer  $i_0$  such that  $\mu Z . \tau(Z) = \tau^{i_0}(\text{False})$ , and
- 🌐 similarly, there is an integer  $j_0$  such that  $\nu Z . \tau(Z) = \tau^{j_0}(\text{True})$ .

# LFP Procedure

-  In a Kripke structure, if  $\tau$  is monotonic, its least fixpoint can be computed by the following program.

```
function Lfp( $\tau$  : PredicateTransformer) : Predicate  
   $Q := \text{False}$ ;  
   $Q' := \tau(Q)$ ;  
  while ( $Q \neq Q'$ ) do  
     $Q := Q'$ ;  
     $Q' := \tau(Q)$ ;  
  end while;  
  return( $Q$ );  
end function
```

# Correctness of LFP Procedure

- 🌐 The invariant of the while loop is

$$(Q' = \tau(Q)) \wedge (Q \subseteq \mu Z . \tau(Z))$$

(cf.  $(Q' = \tau(Q)) \wedge (Q' \subseteq \mu Z . \tau(Z))$ )

- 🌐 The number of iterations before the while loop terminates is bounded by  $|S|$ .
- 🌐 When the loop does terminate, we will have
  - ☀  $Q = \tau(Q)$  ( $Q$  is a fixpoint) and
  - ☀  $Q \subseteq \mu Z . \tau(Z)$ .
- 🌐 Since  $Q$  is also a fixpoint,  $\mu Z . \tau(Z) \subseteq Q$ .
- 🌐 Hence  $Q = \mu Z . \tau(Z)$ .

# GFP Procedure

- 🌐 We can also see that, if  $\tau$  is monotonic, its greatest fixpoint can be computed by the following program.

```
function Gfp( $\tau$  : PredicateTransformer) : Predicate
   $Q := True$ ;
   $Q' := \tau(Q)$ ;
  while ( $Q \neq Q'$ ) do
     $Q := Q'$ ;
     $Q' := \tau(Q)$ ;
  end while;
  return( $Q$ );
end function
```

- 🌐 An analogous argument can be used to show that the procedure terminates and the value returns is  $\nu Z . \tau(Z)$ .

# Characterization of CTL Operators

- 🌍 Each CTL formula  $f$  is identified with the predicate  $\{s \mid M, s \models f\}$  in  $\mathcal{P}(S)$ .
- 🌍 It turns out that each of the basic CTL operators may be characterized as the least or greatest fixpoint of an appropriate predicate transformer.
- 🌍 **Least fixpoints** correspond to **eventualities**.
- 🌍 **Greatest fixpoints** correspond to **properties that should hold forever**.
- 🌍 We will take a closer look at two cases:
  - ☀ **EG**  $f = \nu Z . f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$
  - ☀ **E** $[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] = \mu Z . f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$

# Characterization of EG

- 🌐 To see why  $\mathbf{EG} f = \nu Z . f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$  intuitively ...
- 🌐 Let  $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ .
- 🌐  $\tau(\text{True}) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} \text{True} = f$ .
- 🌐  $\tau^2(\text{True}) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} f$ .
- 🌐  $\tau^3(\text{True}) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} (f \wedge \mathbf{EX} f)$ .
- 🌐 ...
- 🌐  $\tau^i(\text{True}) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} (f \wedge \mathbf{EX} (\dots (f \wedge \mathbf{EX} f) \dots))$   
( $\mathbf{EX}$  is applied  $i - 1$  times to the inner most  $f$ ).
- 🌐 So, states in the limit of  $\tau^i(\text{True})$  satisfy  $\mathbf{EG} f$ .



# About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$

## Lemma (Lemma 9)

$\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$  is monotonic.

Proof:

- 🌐 Let  $P_1 \subseteq P_2$ .
- 🌐 Consider some state  $s \in \tau(P_1)$ .
- 🌐 To show that  $s \in \tau(P_2)$ , it is sufficient to show that
  - ☀  $s \models f$  and
  - ☀ there is a successor of  $s$  which is in  $P_2$ .
- 🌐 Because  $s \in \tau(P_1)$ ,
  - ☀  $s \models f$  and
  - ☀ there exists a state  $s'$  such that  $(s, s') \in R$  and  $s' \in P_1$ .
- 🌐 Because  $P_1 \subseteq P_2$ ,  $s' \in P_2$ .
- 🌐 Thus  $s \in \tau(P_2)$ .

# About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ (cont.)

## Lemma (Lemma 10)

Let  $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$  and let  $\tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$  be the limit of the sequence  $\text{True} \supseteq \tau(\text{True}) \supseteq \dots$ . For every  $s \in S$ , if  $s \in \tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$  then  $s \models f$ , and there is a state  $s'$  such that  $(s, s') \in R$  and  $s' \in \tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$ .

Proof:

- Let  $s \in \tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$ .
- Because  $\tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$  is a fixpoint of  $\tau$ ,  $\tau^{i_0}(\text{True}) = \tau(\tau^{i_0}(\text{True}))$ .
- Thus  $s \in \tau(\tau^{i_0}(\text{True}))$ .
- By definition of  $\tau$  we get that  $s \models f$  and there is a state  $s'$ , such that  $(s, s') \in R$  and  $s' \in \tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$ .

## About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ (cont.)

### Lemma (Lemma 11)

**EG**  $f$  is a fixpoint of the function  $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ .

Proof:

- Suppose  $s_0 \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- By the definition of  $\models$ , there is a path  $s_0, s_1, \dots$  in  $M$  such that for all  $k$ ,  $s_k \models f$ .
- This implies that  $s_0 \models f$  and  $s_1 \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- In other words,  $s_0 \models f$  and  $s_0 \models \mathbf{EX} \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- Thus,  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq f \wedge \mathbf{EX} \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- Similarly, if  $s_0 \models f \wedge \mathbf{EX} \mathbf{EG} f$ , then  $s_0 \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- Thus,  $f \wedge \mathbf{EX} \mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- Consequently,  $\mathbf{EG} f = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} \mathbf{EG} f$ .

# About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ (cont.)

## Lemma (Lemma 12)

**EG**  $f$  is the greatest fixpoint of the function  $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ .

Proof:

- 🌐 Because  $\tau$  is monotonic (Lemma 9), by Lemma 5 it is also  $\cap$ -continuous.
- 🌐 In order to show that **EG**  $f$  is the greatest fixpoint of  $\tau$ , it is sufficient to prove that **EG**  $f = \bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True})$ , i.e.,
  - ☀️ **EG**  $f \subseteq \bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True})$  and
  - ☀️  $\bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True}) \subseteq \mathbf{EG} f$ .

## About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ (cont.)

Proof of  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True})$ :

- 🌐 It suffices to show that  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \tau^i(\text{True})$ , for all  $i$ .
- 🌐 The proof is by induction on  $i$ .
- 🌐 Base case: clearly,  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \text{True} = \tau^0(\text{True})$ .
- 🌐 Inductive step:
  - ☀ Assume that  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \tau^k(\text{True})$ , for an arbitrary  $k$ .
  - ☀ Because  $\tau$  is monotonic,  $\tau(\mathbf{EG} f) \subseteq \tau(\tau^k(\text{True})) = \tau^{k+1}(\text{True})$ .
  - ☀ By Lemma 11 ( $\mathbf{EG} f$  is a fixpoint of  $\tau$ ),  $\tau(\mathbf{EG} f) = \mathbf{EG} f$ .
  - ☀ Hence,  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq \tau^{k+1}(\text{True})$ .

## About $\tau(Z) = f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$ (cont.)

Proof of  $\bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True}) \subseteq \mathbf{EG} f$ :

- Consider some state  $s \in \bigcap_i \tau^i(\text{True})$ .
- The state  $s$  is included in every  $\tau^i(\text{True})$ .
- Hence, it is also in the fixpoint  $\tau^{i_0}(\text{True})$ .
- By Lemma 10,  $s$  is the start of an infinite sequence of states in which each state is related to the previous one by the relation  $R$ .
- Furthermore, each state in the sequence satisfies  $f$ .
- Thus  $s \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .

# Characterization of EU

- 🌍 To see why  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] = \mu Z . f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$  intuitively ...
- 🌍 Let  $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$ .
- 🌍  $\tau(\text{False}) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} \text{False}) = f_2$ .
- 🌍  $\tau^2(\text{False}) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} f_2)$ .
- 🌍  $\tau^3(\text{False}) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} (f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} f_2)))$ .
- 🌍 ...
- 🌍  $\tau^i(\text{False}) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} (f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} (\dots (f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} f_2)) \dots))))$   
( $\mathbf{EX}$  is applied  $i - 1$  times to the inner most  $f_2$ ).
- 🌍  $f_2$  will eventually become true on some path; Before then,  $f_1$  remains true.
- 🌍 So, states in the limit of  $\tau^i(\text{False})$  satisfy  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ .

# About $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$

## Lemma (Lemma 13)

$\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  is the least fixpoint function of the function  $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$ .

Proof:

- 🌍  $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$  is monotonic, hence  $\tau$  is  $\mathbf{U}$ -continuous.
- 🌍  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  is a fixpoint of  $\tau(Z)$ .
- 🌍 We still need to prove that  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  is the least fixpoint of  $\tau(Z)$ .
- 🌍 It is sufficient to show that  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] = \bigcup_i \tau^i(\text{False})$ , i.e.,
  - ☀️  $\bigcup_i \tau^i(\text{False}) \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  and
  - ☀️  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] \subseteq \bigcup_i \tau^i(\text{False})$ .



## About $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$ (cont.)

Proof of  $\cup_i \tau^i(\text{False}) \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ :

- 🌐 It suffices to show that  $\tau^i(\text{False}) \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  for all  $i$ .
- 🌐 We prove this by induction on  $i$ .
- 🌐 Base case:  $\tau^0(\text{False}) = \text{False} \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ .
- 🌐 Inductive step:
  - ☀ We assume  $\tau^k(\text{False}) \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  for an arbitrary  $k$ .
  - ☀ By the monotonicity of  $\tau$ ,  $\tau(\tau^k(\text{False})) \subseteq \tau(\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2])$ .
  - ☀ Since  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  is a fixpoint of  $\tau(Z)$ ,  $\tau(\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]) = \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ .
  - ☀ It follows that  $\tau^{k+1}(\text{False}) \subseteq \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ .

## About $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$ (cont.)

Proof of  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] \subseteq \cup_i \tau^i(\text{False})$ :

- 🌍 We prove this direction by induction on the length of the prefix of the path along which  $f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2$  is satisfied.
- 🌍 If  $s \in \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  (i.e.,  $s \models \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$ ), then there exists a path  $\pi = s_1, s_2, \dots$  with  $s = s_1$  such that, for some  $j \geq 1$ ,  $s_j \models f_2$  and, for all  $l < j$ ,  $s_l \models f_1$ .
- 🌍 We claim the following:  
For every  $\pi = s_1, s_2, \dots$ , if  $\pi \models f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2$ , then for every  $j$  such that  $s_j \models f_2$  and, for all  $l < j$ ,  $s_l \models f_1$ ,  $s_1 \in \tau^j(\text{False})$  holds.
- 🌍 From the claim, it follows that  $s \in \mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2]$  implies  $s \in \tau^j(\text{False})$  for some  $j$ .
- 🌍 Therefore,  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] \subseteq \cup_i \tau^i(\text{False})$ .

## About $\tau(Z) = f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$ (cont.)

Proof of  $\mathbf{E}[f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2] \subseteq \cup_i \tau^i(\text{False})$  (continued):

🌐 We now prove the claim by induction on  $j$ .

🌐 Base case ( $j = 1$ ):

☀️  $s_1 \models f_2$  and therefore  $s_1 \in f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX} \text{False}) = \tau(\text{False})$ .

🌐 Inductive step:

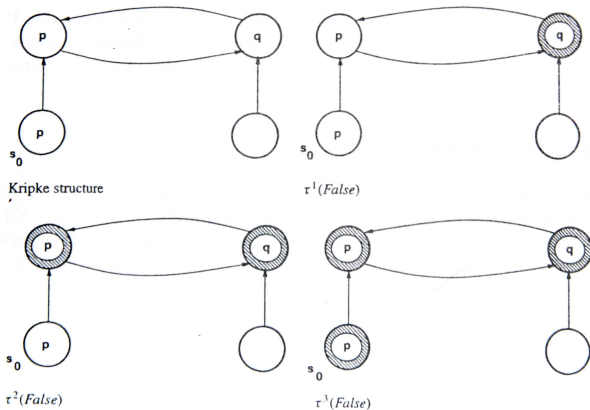
☀️ Let  $\pi$  be a path  $s_1, s_2, \dots, s_k, \dots$  with  $k > 1$  such that  $s_k \models f_2$  and for all  $l < k$ ,  $s_l \models f_1$  (so,  $\pi \models f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2$ ).

☀️ Since  $k > 1$ ,  $s_2, s_3, \dots$  also satisfies  $f_1 \mathbf{U} f_2$ . More precisely,  $s_2$  is the start of a sequence  $\pi' = s'_1, s'_2, \dots$  ( $= s_2, s_3, \dots$ ) such that  $s'_{k-1} (= s_k) \models f_2$  and for all  $l < k - 1$ ,  $s'_l \models f_1$ .

☀️ From the induction hypothesis,  $s'_1 \in \tau^{k-1}(\text{False})$ , i.e.,  $s_2 \in \tau^{k-1}(\text{False})$ .

☀️ With  $s_1 \models f_1$ ,  $(s_1, s_2) \in R$ , and  $s_2 \in \tau^{k-1}(\text{False})$ , we have  $s_1 \in f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX}(\tau^{k-1}(\text{False})) \subseteq f_2 \vee (f_1 \wedge \mathbf{EX}(\tau^{k-1}(\text{False}))) = \tau^k(\text{False})$ .

# An Example



**Figure 6.3**  
Sequence of approximations for  $E[p \text{ U } q]$ .

Source: [Clarke *et al.* 1999]. Names of states (clockwise):  $s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3$ .

# An Example (cont.)

Sequence of approximations for  $\mathbf{E}[p \mathbf{U} q] = \mu Z . q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X Z)$ :

$$\begin{aligned}\tau^1(\text{False}) &= q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X \text{False}) \\ &= q \\ \tau^2(\text{False}) &= q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X \tau(\text{False})) \\ &= q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X q) \\ &= q \vee (p \wedge \{s_1, s_3\}) \\ &= q \vee \{s_1\} \\ \tau^3(\text{False}) &= q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X \tau^2(\text{False})) \\ &= q \vee (p \wedge \mathbf{E} X (q \vee \{s_1\})) \\ &= q \vee (p \wedge \{s_0, s_1, s_2, s_3\}) \\ &= q \vee p\end{aligned}$$

# Characterization of CTL Operators (cont.)

- 🌐  $\mathbf{AF} f = \mu Z . f \vee \mathbf{AX} Z$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{EF} f = \mu Z . f \vee \mathbf{EX} Z$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{AG} f = \nu Z . f \wedge \mathbf{AX} Z$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{EG} f = \nu Z . f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{A}[f \mathbf{U} g] = \mu Z . g \vee (f \wedge \mathbf{AX} Z)$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g] = \mu Z . g \vee (f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z)$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{A}[f \mathbf{R} g] = \nu Z . g \wedge (f \vee \mathbf{AX} Z)$
- 🌐  $\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{R} g] = \nu Z . g \wedge (f \vee \mathbf{EX} Z)$

- There is a quite fast explicit state model checking algorithms for CTL, but a state explosion problem may occur.
- In the following, we will present a **Symbolic Model Checking** (SMC) algorithm for CTL which operates on Kripke structures represented symbolically using OBDDs.
- For this, the logic of **Quantified Boolean Formulae** (QBF) is used to have a more succinct notation for complex operations on Boolean formulae.

# Quantified Boolean Formulae (QBF)

- Given a set  $V = \{v_0, \dots, v_{n-1}\}$  of propositional variables,  $QBF(V)$  is the smallest set of formulae such that
  - every variable in  $V$  is a formula,
  - if  $f$  and  $g$  are formulae, then  $\neg f$ ,  $f \vee g$ , and  $f \wedge g$  are formulae, and
  - if  $f$  is a formula and  $v \in V$ , then  $\exists v f$  and  $\forall v f$  are formulae.
- An OBDD is associated to a QBF formula.




# Truth Assignment

- 🌐 A *truth assignment* for  $QBF(V)$  is a function  $\sigma : V \rightarrow \{0, 1\}$ .
- 🌐 If  $a \in \{0, 1\}$ , then the notation  $\sigma\langle v \leftarrow a \rangle$  is used for the truth assignment defined by

$$\sigma\langle v \leftarrow a \rangle(w) = \begin{cases} a & \text{if } v = w \\ \sigma(w) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}$$

# Models of QBF

 The notation  $\sigma \models f$  denotes that  $f$  is true under the assignment  $\sigma$

$$\sigma \models v \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma(v) = 1$$

$$\sigma \models \neg f \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma \not\models f$$

$$\sigma \models f \vee g \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma \models f \text{ or } \sigma \models g$$

$$\sigma \models f \wedge g \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma \models f \text{ and } \sigma \models g$$

$$\sigma \models \exists v f \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma\langle v \leftarrow 0 \rangle \models f \text{ or } \sigma\langle v \leftarrow 1 \rangle \models f$$

$$\sigma \models \forall v f \quad \text{iff} \quad \sigma\langle v \leftarrow 0 \rangle \models f \text{ and } \sigma\langle v \leftarrow 1 \rangle \models f$$


- 🌐 The quantifiers in QBF can be implemented as combinations of the restrict and apply operators.

$$\begin{aligned}\exists x f &= f|_{x \leftarrow 0} \vee f|_{x \leftarrow 1} \\ \forall x f &= f|_{x \leftarrow 0} \wedge f|_{x \leftarrow 1}\end{aligned}$$

- 🌐 The SMC algorithm is implemented by a procedure *Check*.
  - ☀ Arguments: a CTL formula
  - ☀ Returns: an OBDD that represents exactly those states of the system that satisfy the formula

# SMC Algorithm (cont.)

$Check(a)$	=	the OBDD representing the set of states satisfying the atomic proposition $a$
$Check(f \wedge g)$	=	$Check(f) \wedge Check(g)$
$Check(\neg f)$	=	$\neg Check(f)$
$Check(\mathbf{EX} f)$	=	$CheckEX(Check(f))$
$Check(\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g])$	=	$CheckEU(Check(f), Check(g))$
$Check(\mathbf{EG} f)$	=	$CheckEG(Check(f))$

-  The formula **EX**  $f$  is true in a state if the state has a successor in which  $f$  is true.

$$\text{CheckEX}(f(\bar{v})) = \exists \bar{v}' [f(\bar{v}') \wedge R(\bar{v}, \bar{v}')],$$

where  $R(\bar{v}, \bar{v}')$  is the OBDD representation of the transition relation.

- 🌐 *CheckEU* is based on the least fixpoint characterization for the CTL operator **EU**.

$$\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g] = \mu Z . g \vee (f \wedge \mathbf{E} X Z)$$

- 🌐 The function Lfp is used to compute a sequence of approximations

$$Q_0, Q_1, \dots, Q_i, \dots$$

that converges to  $\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g]$  in a finite number of steps.

- 🌐 If we have OBDDs for  $f$ ,  $g$ , and the current approximation  $Q_i$ , then we can compute an OBDD for the next approximation  $Q_{i+1}$ .
- 🌐 When  $Q_i = Q_{i+1}$  (it is easy to test because OBDDs provide a canonical form of Boolean functions), the function Lfp terminates.



- 🌐 *CheckEG* is based on the greatest fixpoint characterization for the CTL operator **EG**.

$$\mathbf{EG} f = \nu Z . f \wedge \mathbf{EX} Z$$

# Fairness in SMC

- Assume the fairness constraints are given by a set of CTL formulae  $F = \{P_1, \dots, P_n\}$ .
- A fair path is a path which each formula in  $F$  holds infinitely often on.
- We define a new procedure *CheckFair* for checking CTL formulae relative to the fairness constructions in  $F$ .
- We do this by defining new intermediate procedures *CheckFairEX*, *CheckFairEU*, and *CheckFairEG*, which correspond to the intermediate procedures used to define *Check*.

# EG $f$ with Fairness

- 🌐 Consider the formula **EG**  $f$  given fairness constraints  $F$ .
- 🌐 The formula means that there exists a fair path beginning with the current state on which  $f$  holds globally.
- 🌐 The set of such states  $Z$  is the largest set with the following two properties:
  - ☀ all of the states in  $Z$  satisfy  $f$ , and
  - ☀ for all  $P_k \in F$  and all  $s \in Z$ , there is a sequence of states of **length one or greater** from  $s$  to a state in  $Z$  satisfying  $P_k$  such that all states on the path satisfy  $f$ .  
(cf. There exists a path in  $S'$ , where  $f$  holds, that leads from  $s$  to some node  $t$  in a **nontrivial fair strongly connected component** of the graph  $(S', R')$ .)

# EG $f$ with Fairness (cont.)

- The characterization can be expressed by means of a fixpoint as follows:

$$\mathbf{EG} f = \nu Z . f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (Z \wedge P_k)]$$

- Note that the formula is not directly expressible in CTL.
- We are going to prove the correctness of this equation.
- We split it into two lemmas.

# Fair Version of EG $f$

## Lemma (Lemma 14)

The fair version of **EG**  $f$  is a fixpoint of the equation

$$Z = f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (Z \wedge P_k)].$$

Proof: It suffices to show that

$$\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)]$$

and

$$f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)] \subseteq \mathbf{EG} f.$$

# Fair Version of EG $f$ (cont.)

🌐 Case 1:  $\mathbf{EG} f \subseteq f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)]$ .

- ☀ Let  $s \models \mathbf{EG} f$ , then  $s$  is the start of a fair path  $\pi$ , all of whose states satisfy  $f$ .
- ☀ Let  $s_i$  be the first state on  $\pi$  such that  $s_i \in P_i$  and  $s_i \neq s$ .
- ☀ The state  $s_i$  is also a start of a fair path along which all states satisfy  $f$ .
- ☀ Thus,  $s_i \in \mathbf{EG} f$ .
- ☀ It follows that for every  $i$ ,  $s \models f \wedge \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_i)]$ .
- ☀ Therefore,  $s \models f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)]$ .

# Fair Version of EG $f$ (cont.)

🌐 Case 2:  $f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)] \subseteq \mathbf{EG} f$ .

- ☀ If  $s \models f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U} (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)]$ , then there is a finite path starting from  $s$  to a state  $s'$  such that  $s' \models (\mathbf{EG} f \wedge P_k)$ .
- ☀ Every state on the path from  $s$  to  $s'$  satisfies  $f$ .
- ☀  $s'$  is the beginning of a fair path such that each state on the path satisfies  $f$ .
- ☀ Thus,  $s \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .

# Fair Version of EG $f$ (cont.)

## Lemma (Lemma 15)

The greatest fixpoint of the following equation is included in **EG**  $f$ .

$$Z = f \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f \mathbf{U}(Z \wedge P_k)]$$



# Fair Version of EG $f$ (cont.)

Proof of Lemma 15:

- Let  $Z$  be an arbitrary fixpoint of the formula.
- Assume that  $s \in Z$ . Then  $s \models f$ .
- $s$  has a successor  $s'$  that is a start of a path to a state  $s_1$  such that
  - all states on this path satisfy  $f$  and
  - $s_1$  satisfies  $Z \wedge P_1$ .
- Because  $s_1 \in Z$  we can conclude by the same argument that there is a path from  $s_1$  to a state  $s_2$  in  $P_2$ .

# Fair Version of EG $f$ (cont.)

Proof of Lemma 15 (continued):

- Using this argument  $n$  times we conclude that  $s$  is the start of a path along which all states satisfy  $f$  and which passes through  $P_1, \dots, P_k$ .
- The last state on the path is in  $Z$ , and thus there is a path from this state back to some state in  $P_1$ .
- Induction can be used to show that there exists a fair path starting at  $s$  such that  $f$  is satisfied along the path, i.e.,  $s \models \mathbf{EG} f$ .

- 🌐 *CheckFairEG*( $f(\bar{v})$ ) is based on the following fixpoint characterization:

$$\nu Z(\bar{v}) . f(\bar{v}) \wedge \bigwedge_{k=1}^n \mathbf{EXE}[f(\bar{v}) \mathbf{U} (Z(\bar{v}) \wedge P_k)].$$

- 🌐 The set of all states which are the start of some fair computation is

$$\mathit{fair}(\bar{v}) = \mathit{CheckFair}(\mathbf{EG} \text{ True}).$$

- The formula  $\mathbf{EX} f$  under fairness constraints is equivalent to the formula  $\mathbf{EX} f \wedge \mathit{fair}$  without fairness constraints.

$$\mathit{CheckFairEX}(f(\bar{v})) = \mathit{CheckEX}(f(\bar{v}) \wedge \mathit{fair}(\bar{v}))$$

- 🌐 The formula  $\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g]$  under fairness constraints is equivalent to the formula  $\mathbf{E}[f \mathbf{U} g \wedge \mathit{fair}]$  without fairness constraints.

$$\mathit{CheckFairEU}(f(\bar{v}), g(\bar{v})) = \mathit{CheckEU}(f(\bar{v}), g(\bar{v}) \wedge \mathit{fair}(\bar{v}))$$

# LTL Model Checking

- Let  $\mathbf{A} f$  be a linear temporal logic formula where  $f$  is a restricted path formula.
- A formula  $f$  is a **restricted path formula** if all state subformulae in  $f$  are atomic propositions.
- The problem is to determine all of those states  $s \in S$  such that  $M, s \models \mathbf{A} f$ .
- Since  $M, s \models \mathbf{A} f$  iff  $M, s \models \neg \mathbf{E} \neg f$ , it is sufficient to check the truth of formulae of the form  $\mathbf{E} f$ .

# LTL Model Checking (cont.)

- Given a formula  $\mathbf{E} f$  and a Kripke structure  $M$ , the procedure of LTL model checking is:
  - Construct a tableau  $T$  for the path formula  $f$ .
  - Compose  $T$  with  $M$ .
  - Find a path in the composition.
- The tableau can be represented by OBDDs.



# States of the Tableau

- Each state in the tableau is a set of elementary formulae obtained from  $f$ .
- The set of elementary subformulae of  $f$  is denoted by  $el(f)$  and is defined recursively as follows.

$$\begin{aligned}el(p) &= \{p\} \text{ if } p \in AP_f \\el(\neg g) &= el(g) \\el(g \vee h) &= el(g) \cup el(h) \\el(\mathbf{X}g) &= \{\mathbf{X}g\} \cup el(g) \\el(g \mathbf{U} h) &= \{\mathbf{X}(g \mathbf{U} h)\} \cup el(g) \cup el(h)\end{aligned}$$

- The set of states  $S_T$  of  $T$  is  $\mathcal{P}(el(f))$ .

# Transition Relation of the Tableau

🌐 An additional function  $sat$  is defined recursively as follows.

$$sat(g) = \{s \mid g \in s\} \text{ where } g \in el(f)$$

$$sat(\neg g) = \{s \mid s \notin sat(g)\}$$

$$sat(g \vee h) = sat(g) \cup sat(h)$$

$$sat(g \mathbf{U} h) = sat(h) \cup (sat(g) \cap sat(\mathbf{X}(g \mathbf{U} h)))$$

🌐 The transition relation  $R_T$  of  $T$  is defined as

$$R_T(s, s') = \bigwedge_{\mathbf{X}g \in el(f)} s \in sat(\mathbf{X}g) \Leftrightarrow s' \in sat(g)$$

# Transition Relation of the Tableau (cont.)

- 🌐 An additional condition is necessary in order to identify those paths along which  $f$  holds.
- 🌐 A path  $\pi$  that starts from a state  $s \in \text{sat}(f)$  will satisfy  $f$  iff
  - ☀️ for every subformula  $g \mathbf{U} h$  and for every state  $s$  on  $\pi$ , if  $s \in \text{sat}(g \mathbf{U} h)$  then either  $s \in \text{sat}(h)$  or there is a later state  $t$  on  $\pi$  such that  $t \in \text{sat}(h)$ .

# The Microwave Oven Example

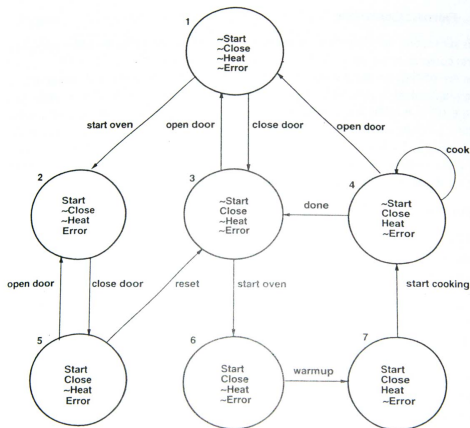



Figure 4.3  
Microwave oven example.

Source: [Clarke *et al.* 1999].

# The Microwave Oven Example

  $g = \neg heat \mathbf{U} close$

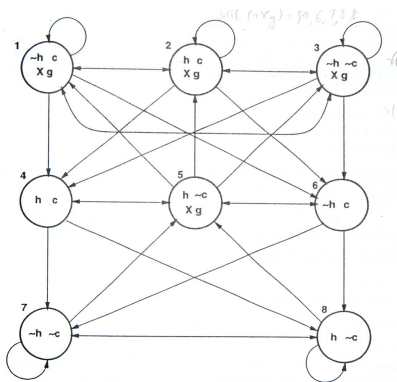


Figure 6.9  
Tableau for  $(\neg heat) \mathbf{U} close$ .

Source: [Clarke *et al.* 1999].

# Eventuality

- 🌐 The definition of  $R_T$  does not guarantee that eventuality properties are fulfilled.
- 🌐 A path  $\pi$  that starts from a state  $s \in \text{sat}(f)$  will satisfy  $f$  if and only if
  - ☀ for every subformulae  $g \mathbf{U} h$  and for every state  $s$  on  $\pi$ , if  $s \in \text{sat}(g \mathbf{U} h)$  then either  $s \in \text{sat}(h)$  or there is a later state  $t$  on  $\pi$  such that  $t \in \text{sat}(h)$ .

# Additional Notations

- 🌐  $\pi' = s'_0, s'_1, \dots$  represents a path in  $M$ .
- 🌐 For the suffix  $\pi'_i = s'_i, s'_{i+1}, \dots$  of  $\pi$ , we define

$$s_i = \{\psi \mid \psi \in el(f) \text{ and } M, \pi' \models \psi\}$$

# Correctness

## Lemma (Lemma 16)

Let  $sub(f)$  be the set of all subformulae of  $f$ . For all  $g \in sub(f) \cup el(f)$ ,  $M, \pi'_i \models g$  if and only if  $s_i \in sat(g)$ .

Proof:

- 🌐 Case 1: Let  $g \in el(f)$ .
  - ☀️  $M, \pi'_i \models g$  iff  $g \in s_i$ .
  - ☀️  $g \in s_i$  iff  $s_i \in sat(g)$ .
- 🌐 Case 2: Let  $g = \neg g_1$  or  $g = g_1 \vee g_2$ .
- 🌐 Case 3: Let  $g = g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2$ .
  - ☀️  $M, \pi'_i \models g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2$  iff  $M, \pi'_i \models g_2$  or  $(M, \pi'_i \models g_1$  and  $M, \pi'_i \models \mathbf{X}(g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2))$ .
  - ☀️  $M, \pi'_i \models g_2$  or  $(M, \pi'_i \models g_1$  and  $M, \pi'_i \models \mathbf{X}(g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2))$  iff  $s_i \in sat(g_2) \vee (s_i \in sat(g_1) \wedge s_i \in sat(\mathbf{X}(g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2)))$ .
  - ☀️  $s_i \in sat(g_2) \vee (s_i \in sat(g_1) \wedge s_i \in sat(\mathbf{X}(g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2)))$  iff  $s_i \in sat(g_1 \mathbf{U} g_2)$ .



# Correctness (cont.)

## Lemma (Lemma 17)

*Let  $\pi' = s'_0 s'_1 \dots$  be a path in  $M$ . For all  $i \geq 0$ , let  $s_i$  be the tableau state. Then  $\pi = s_0 s_1 \dots$  is a path in  $T$ .*

# Correctness (cont.)

## Theorem (Theorem 4)

*Let  $T$  be the tableau for the path formula  $f$ . Then, for every Kripke structure  $M$  and every path  $\pi'$  of  $M$ , if  $M, \pi' \models f$  then there is a path  $\pi$  in  $T$  that starts in a state in  $\text{sat}(f)$ , such that  $\text{label}(\pi') \upharpoonright_{AP_f} = \text{label}(\pi)$ .*

# Composition of $T$ and $M$

- 🌐  $P = (S, R, L)$  is the product of the tableau  $T = (S_T, R_T, L_T)$  and the Kripke structure  $M = (S_M, R_M, L_M)$ .
  - ☀️  $S = \{(s, s') \mid s \in S_T, s' \in S_M \text{ and } L_M(s') \upharpoonright_{AP_f} = L_T(s)\}$ .
  - ☀️  $R((s, s'), (t, t'))$  iff  $R_T(s, t)$  and  $R_M(s', t')$ .
  - ☀️  $L((s, s')) = L_T(s)$ .
- 🌐 The function  $sat$  is extended to be defined over  $S$  by  $(s, s') \in sat(g)$  if and only if  $s \in sat(g)$ .

# Correctness

## Lemma (Lemma 18)

$\pi'' = (s_0, s'_0), (s_1, s'_1), \dots$  is a path in  $P$  with  $L_P((s_i, s'_i)) = L_T(s_i)$  for all  $i \geq 0$  if and only if there exists a path  $\pi = s_0, s_1, \dots$  in  $T$ , and a path  $\pi' = s'_0, s'_1, \dots$  in  $M$  with  $L_T(s_i) = L_M(s'_i) \upharpoonright_{AP_f}$  for all  $i \geq 0$ .

# Correctness (cont.)

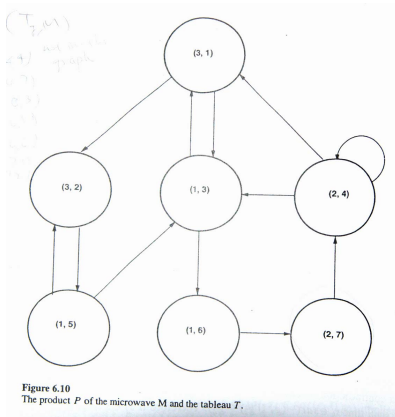
## Theorem (Theorem 5)

$M, s' \models \mathbf{E} f$  if and only if there is a state  $s$  in  $T$  such that  $(s, s') \in \text{sat}(f)$  and  $P, (s, s') \models \mathbf{EG} \text{ True}$  under fairness constraints

$$\{\text{sat}(\neg(g \mathbf{U} h) \vee h) \mid g \mathbf{U} h \text{ occurs in } f\}.$$

# The Microwave Oven Example

🌐  $\neg g = \neg(\neg heat \mathbf{U} close)$



Source: [Clarke *et al.* 1999].

# Summary of LTL Model Checking

- Given a Kripke structure  $M$ , a state  $s'$  in  $M$  and a LTL formula  $f$ .
- Construct a symbolic representation of  $M$ .
- Construct a symbolic representation of  $T_{\neg f}$ .
- Construct the product  $P$  of  $M$  and  $T_{\neg f}$ .
- Use the symbolic CTL model checking algorithm to check if there is a state  $s$  in  $T_{\neg f}$  such that
  - $(s, s') \in \text{sat}(\neg f)$  and
  - $P, (s, s') \models \mathbf{EG True}$  under fairness constraints

$$\{\text{sat}(\neg(g \mathbf{U} h) \vee h) \mid g \mathbf{U} h \text{ occurs in } f\}.$$

- 🌐 Here we slightly modify the definition of Kripke structures and the symbolic algorithm in [Kesten *et al.* 1995].
- 🌐 A Kripke structure  $M$  is a tuple  $(V, S_0, R)$  where
  - ☀️  $V$  is a set of system variables and thus the set of states  $S$  is the set of all valuations for  $V$ ,
  - ☀️  $S_0$  is the initial condition defined upon  $V$ , and
  - ☀️  $R \subseteq S \times S$  is the transition relation which is total.
- 🌐 The problem is to check, given a Kripke structure  $M$  and a formula  $f$ , whether  $M \models f$  (all paths of  $M$  satisfy  $f$ ).



- Let  $V_f$  be the set of all propositions in  $f$ . Without loss of generality, we assume  $V_f = V$  (of the Kripke structure).
- For each elementary formula  $p \in el(f)$ , a Boolean variable (elementary variable)  $x_p$  is associated.
- The set of elementary variables are represented by a vector  $\bar{x} = x_1, x_2, \dots, x_m$  where  $m = |el(f)|$ .
- Note that a valuation for  $\bar{x}$  constitutes a state in  $M$  and a state in  $T_f$ .

# Formulae in Elementary Formulae

- Let  $CL(f)$  denote the closure of the LTL formula  $f$ .
- For each formula  $p \in CL(f)$ , we define a Boolean function  $\chi_p(\bar{x})$  which expresses  $p$  in terms of the elementary variables:

$$\text{For } p \in el(f), \chi_p(\bar{x}) = x_p$$

$$\text{For } p = \neg q, \chi_p = \neg \chi_q$$

$$\text{For } p = q \wedge r, \chi_p = \chi_q \wedge \chi_r$$

$$\text{For } p = q \mathbf{U} r, \chi_p = \chi_r \vee (\chi_q \wedge \mathbf{X}\chi_p)$$




$$\text{For } p = q \mathbf{S} r, \chi_p = \chi_r \vee (\chi_q \wedge \mathbf{Y}\chi_p)$$

Note:  $\mathbf{Y}$  is the “previous” operator.

- There exists a computation in  $M$  satisfying  $f$  iff  $sat_{M,f}$  as defined below is true.

$$sat_{M,f} : \exists \bar{x}, \bar{y} : init(\bar{x}) \wedge E^*(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \wedge scf^E(\bar{y})$$

# Initial Condition

-  The following formula identifies an initial state in the product of  $M$  and  $T_f$ .
-  It is an initial state in  $M$ .
  -  It is also an initial atom in  $T_f$ .

$$init(\bar{x}) : \chi_f(\bar{x}) \wedge \left( \bigwedge_{\mathbf{Y}p \in CL(f)} \neg x_{\mathbf{Y}p} \right) \wedge S_0(\bar{x})$$

# Transition Relation

- The following formula identifies the set of transitions in the product:

$$E(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) : e(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \wedge R(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

where

$$e(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) : \bigwedge_{\mathbf{x}p \in el(f)} (\mathbf{x}\mathbf{x}_p \leftrightarrow \chi_p(\bar{y})) \wedge \bigwedge_{\mathbf{y}p \in el(f)} (\chi_p(\bar{x}) \leftrightarrow \mathbf{y}\mathbf{y}_p)$$

$$E^+(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) = E(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) \vee \exists \bar{z} : E^+(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \wedge E(\bar{z}, \bar{y})$$

$$E^*(\bar{x}, \bar{y}) : (\bar{x} = \bar{y}) \vee E^+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$$

- The definitions of  $e^+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  and  $e^*(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  are similar to  $E^+(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$  and  $E^*(\bar{x}, \bar{y})$ .

- 🌐 The following formula identifies fulfilling atoms.

$$\begin{aligned} scf^E(\bar{x}) : E^+(\bar{x}, \bar{x}) \wedge \bigwedge_{p \mathbf{U} q \in CL(f)} (\chi_p \mathbf{U} q(\bar{x}) \rightarrow \\ \exists \bar{z} : E^*(\bar{x}, \bar{z}) \wedge \chi_q(\bar{z}) \wedge E^*(\bar{z}, \bar{x})) \end{aligned}$$