

Analyzing Alloy Constraints using an SMT Solver: A Case Study

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Motivation

- Checking structure-intensive systems.
- Full automation.
- Existing approaches:
 - Theorem proving
⇒ sacrifices the full automation
 - Bounded verification
⇒ sacrifices soundness

Goal:

Full automation but sacrifice soundness just on demand.

Alloy

- A first order relational logic with transitive closure.
- Key ideas:
 - Everything is a relation.
 - Look for counterexamples in a bounded scope.
- Very widely used:
 - Stand-alone constraint solver: file systems, network protocols, ...
 - Back-end engine for program analysis tools: Forge, Karun, Jalloy, ...
- The Alloy analyzer is an *instance finder*.
- For a model M , an assertion A , and a scope S , the Alloy analyzer looks for an instance within S , so that $\neg A$ holds in M .
- A satisfiability problem (SAT):
 - Translates M and $\neg A$ to an equivalent propositional formula using S .
 - If a solution is found, Alloy reports it to the user as a counterexample.
 - If not, then the assertion A is valid in the model, but only w.r.t. S

The Alloy Analyzer

- Benefits:
 - Fully automatic.
 - Designed to be quick –small scope hypothesis.
 - Expressive logic.
 - Exhaustive w.r.t. scope (bounded verification).
- Shortcomings:
 - Can never prove an assertion, even for the simplest models.
 - Increasing confidence by increasing scope doesn't scale well for complex models.
 - Limited support for arrays and numerical constraints.
- Our goal:
 - Solve the above problems while keeping the benefits.

SMT-Solver: Yices

- Checks satisfiability problem modulo a set of theories
- Supports a rich set of theories: uninterpreted function symbols with equality, linear real and integer arithmetic, scalar types, recursive datatypes, dependent types, tuples, records, extensional arrays, fixed-size bit-vectors, quantifiers, and λ -expression.
- Some are decidable some are not.

Approach: Solving Alloy formulas using Yices

- Advantages:
 - (Full) support of (linear) arithmetic, array, ...
 - ⇒ scalability
 - Type finitization on demand
 - ⇒ Can prove assertions
 - ⇒ Increase the confidence
- Challenging: Alloy constructs:
 - Type system.
 - Universal quantifier.
 - Transitive closure.
 - Sequences.
 - Set cardinality.
 - Relational inverse.

Translation: Details by example

```

1:  abstract sig Target {}
2:  sig Addr extends Target {}
3:  abstract sig Name extends Target {}
4:  sig Alias, Group extends Name {}
5:  sig Book {
6:    names: set Name,
7:    addr: names -> some Target
    }{
8:   all a:Alias | lone a.addr)
   }

   pred add (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
9:   b'.addr = b.addr + n->t
   }
   pred del (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
10:  b'.addr = b.addr - n->t
   }
   fun lookup (b: Book, n: Name): set Addr {
11:  n.^(b.addr) & Addr
   }
   assert delUndoesAdd {
12:   all b, b', b'': Book , n: Name, t: Target |
13:   no n.(b.addr) and
   (
   (
14:    add[b, b', n, t] and
15:    del[b', b'', n, t]
   ) implies
16:   b.addr = b''.addr
   )
   }
check delUndoesAdd for 4

```

Translation: Details by example

Yices Model

```

1: (define-type Target)
2: (define isAddr::(-> Target bool))
2: (define-type Addr (subtype (t::Target) (isAddr t)))
3: (define isName::(-> Target bool))
3: (define-type Name (subtype (t::Target) (isName t)))
2,3: (assert (forall (t::Target)
2,3: (not (and (isAddr t) (isName t)))
2,3: ))
2,3: (assert (forall (t::Target)
2,3: (or (isAddr t) (isName t))
2,3: ))
4: (define isAlias::(-> Name bool))
4: (define-type Alias (subtype (n::Name) (isAlias n)))
4: (define isGroup::(-> Name bool))
4: (define-type Group (subtype (n::Name) (isGroup n)))
4: (assert (forall (n::Name)
      (not (and (isAlias n) (isGroup n)))
    ))
4: (assert (forall (n::Name) (or (isAlias n) (isGroup n))))

```

Alloy Model

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1: abstract sig Target {}
2: sig Addr extends Target {}
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4: sig Alias, Group extends Name {}

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4: (define-type Alias (subtype (n::Name) (isAlias n)))
4: (define isGroup::(-> Name bool))
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Yices Model

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2: sig Addr extends Target {}
3: abstract sig Name extends Target {}
4: sig Alias, Group extends Name {}

```

```

 $\forall x \in Target \mid x \in Addr \vee x \in Name$ 
 $\forall x \in Target \mid \neg(x \in Addr \wedge x \in Name)$ 

```

```

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3: (define isName::(-> Target bool))
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Translation: Details by example

Alloy Model

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5: sig Book {
6:   names: set Name,
7:   addr: names -> some Target
8:   }{
9:   all a:Alias | lone a.addr
10: }

```

Yices Model

```

5: (define-type Book)
6: (define names::(-> Book (-> Name bool)))
7: (define-type addrRange (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define-type addrType (-> Book (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define choose::addrType)
7: (define oneTarget::(-> Book (-> Name Target)))
7: (define addr::addrType
7:   (lambda (b::Book)
7:     (lambda (n::Name)
7:       (lambda (t::Target)
7:         (if (not ((names b) n))
7:             false
7:             (if (= t ((oneTarget b) n))
7:                 true
7:                 (if (isAlias n)
7:                     false
7:                     (((choose b) n) t)
7:             ))))))))

```

Translation: Details by example

Alloy Model

```

5: sig Book {
6:   names: set Name,
7:   addr: names -> some Target
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5: (define-type Book)
6: (define names::(-> Book (-> Name bool)))
7: (define-type addrRange (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define-type addrType (-> Book (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define choose::addrType)
7: (define oneTarget::(-> Book (-> Name Target)))
7: (define addr::addrType
7:   (lambda (b::Book)
7:     (lambda (n::Name)
7:       (lambda (t::Target)
7:         (if (not ((names b) n))
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7: (define choose::addrType)
7: (define oneTarget::(-> Book (-> Name Target)))
7: (define addr::addrType
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7:     (lambda (n::Name)
7:       (lambda (t::Target)
7:         (if (not ((names b) n))
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10:  }

```

Yices Model

```

5: (define-type Book)
6: (define names::(-> Book (-> Name bool)))
7: (define-type addrRange (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define-type addrType (-> Book (-> Name (-> Target bool)))
7: (define choose::addrType)
7: (define oneTarget::(-> Book (-> Name Target)))
7: (define addr::addrType
7:   (lambda (b::Book)
7:     (lambda (n::Name)
7:       (lambda (t::Target)
7:         (if (not ((names b) n))
7:             false
7:             (if (= t ((oneTarget b) n))
7:                 true
7:                 (if (isAlias n)
7:                     false
7:                     ((choose b) n) t)
7:             )))
7:   ))))

```


Acyclic address book: Transitive Closure

- Acyclicity:

fact{

all $b: \text{Book}, n: \text{Name} \mid$ **not** $(n \text{ in } n. \hat{\text{addr}})$

}

- Translation for a relation $r : A \rightarrow A$:

- Bound type A to maximum n elements.
- Calculate: $\hat{r} = r + r.r + r.r.r + \dots + r^{(n)}$
- We need the translation of: *Union*, *Join* and *Iterative join*

Union

- For $f, g : A \rightarrow (B \rightarrow bool)$:
 $((union\ f\ g)\ a\ b) = (f\ a\ b) \vee (g\ a\ b)$

- Yices translation:

```
(define-type relType (-> A (-> B bool)))
(define union::(-> relType relType relType)
  (lambda (f::relType g::relType)
    (lambda (a::A)
      (lambda (b::B)
        (or ((f a) b) ((g a) b))
      )))
))
```

Join

- For binary relations, $f.g$ is a relation of arity 2 defined as:

$$\{(a, c) \mid \exists b. (a, b) \in f \wedge (b, c) \in g\}$$

- Yices translation:

```
(define-type relType1::(-> A (-> B bool)))
(define-type relType2::(-> B (-> C bool)))
(define-type relType3::(-> A (-> C bool)))

(define join::(-> relType1 relType2 relType3)
  (lambda (f::relType1 g::relType2)
    (lambda (a::A)
      (lambda (c::C)
        (exists (b::B) (and ((f a) b) ((g b) c))))
      )))
```

IterJoin and transitive closure (tc)

- $(\text{iterJoin } i \ f) = f^{(i)}$:

```
(define-type relType::(-> A (-> A bool)))

(define iterJoin::(-> nat relType relType)
  (lambda (i::nat r::relType)
    (if (= i 1) r (join r (iterJoin (- i 1) r))))
  ))
```

- $(\text{tc } i \ f) = r + r.r + \dots + r^{(i)}$:

```
(define tc::(-> nat relType relType)
  (lambda (i::nat r::relType)
    (if (= i 1) r (union (tc (- i 1) r) (iterJoin i r))))
  ))
```

Evaluation

We have evaluated our analysis by checking the 3 assertions of the 3 variants of the address book model.

- *delUndoesAdd*: The delete operation undoes the addition operation.
- *addIdempotent*: Repeating an addition has no effect.
- *addLocal*: Adding a name n does not affect the addresses reachable from another name n' .

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We have evaluated our analysis by checking the 3 assertions of the 3 variants of the address book model.

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Evaluation: Alloy vs. Yices

Model	Assertion	Scope	Alloy time (s)	Yices time (s)	Tautology?
Basic	delUndoesAdd	30	45.82	0.0006	Yes
		35	time-out	0.0006	
	addIdempotent	40	141.27	0.0006	Yes
		50	time-out	0.0006	
	addLocal	60	102.41	0.0003	Yes
		70	memory-out	0.0003	
Hierarchical	delUndoesAdd	40	139.25	0.009	Yes
		50	time-out	0.009	
	addIdempotent	30	23.71	0.008	Yes
		40	time-out	0.008	
	addLocal	$n = 2$	0.19	0.02	No
		$n = 3$	0.13	time-out	
Acyclic	delUndoesAdd	$n = 6$	150.31	8.10	Don't know
		$n = 7$	time-out	29.45	
	addIdempotent	$n = 6$	135.59	8.10	Don't know
		$n = 7$	time-out	30.20	
	addLocal	$n = 2$	0.18	0.07	No
		$n = 3$	0.23	time-out	

Evaluation: Discussion

- Our analysis is able to prove validity (no type finitization needed) in 5 out of 9 cases.
- Even finitization is made on-demand.
- Outperform Alloy in all but 2 cases:
 - Proved cases are instantaneous.
 - Some uses of transitive closure, as in *addLocal*, are too difficult.

The *addLocal* assertion

Alloy Model

```

...
fun lookup (b: Book, n: Name): set Addr{
1:   n.^(b.addr) & Addr
}
assert addLocal {
2:   all b, b':Book, n, n':Name, t:Target |
3:     (
4:       n!=n' and
         add[b, b', n, t]
5:     )
implies
        lookup[b,n'] = lookup[b', n']
}

```

Yices Model

```

...
1: (define lookup::
1:   (-> nat addrRange Name (-> Target bool))
1:   (lambda (i::nat addr::addrRange n::Name)
1:     (lambda (t::Target)
1:       (and (AddrMember t) (((tc i addr) n) t))
1:     )
1:   )
1: )
...
5: (assert
5:   (/=
5:     ((lookup i (addr b_1) n_2) t_2)
5:     ((lookup i (addr b_2) n_2) t_2)
5:   )
5: )

```

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4:       n!=n' and
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5:     )
implies
6:     lookup[b,n'] = lookup[b', n']
}

```

Yices Model

```





...
1: (define lookup::
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1:     )
1:   )
...
5: (assert
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5:     ((lookup i (addr b_1) n_2) t_2)
5:     ((lookup i (addr b_2) n_2) t_2)
5:   )
5: )

```



Discussion and future works

- The first step of a novel analysis technique for Alloy models.
- Done by translation to SMT-language (Yices).
- Finitization done on demand:
 - Only when certain language constructs are encountered.
 - Capability of proving validity.
 - Improving performance and scalability.
- A witness of feasibility.
- We bank on the support of quantifiers and λ -exp in SMT-Solver.
 - Yices instances may be unsound (*unknown*)
 - Strategies to deal with *unknown* instances.
- Better solutions to solve transitive closure constraints.
- Covering the entire Alloy language.

Related Work I

-  A. Armando, J. Mantovani, and L. Platania.
Bounded model checking of software using SMT solvers instead of SAT solvers.
STTT, 11(1):69–83, 2009.
-  M. Botincan, M. Parkinson, and W. Schulte.
Separation logic verification of c programs with an SMT solver.
ENTCS, 254:5–23, 2009.
-  L. Erkök and J. Matthews.
Using yices as an automated solver in Isabelle/HOL.
In *AFM*, 2008.
-  S. Ghilardi, E. Nicolini, S. Ranise, and D. Zucchelli.
Towards smt model-checking of array-based systems.
In *IJCAR*, 2008.

Related Work II

-  S. Ghilardi and S. Ranise.
Model checking modulo theory at work: the intergration of yices in MCMT.
In *AFM*, 2009.
-  R. Leino and R. Monahan.
Reasoning about comprehensions with first-order SMT solvers.
In *SAC*, pages 615–622, 2009.

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We have evaluated our analysis by checking the 3 assertions of the 3 variants of the address book model.

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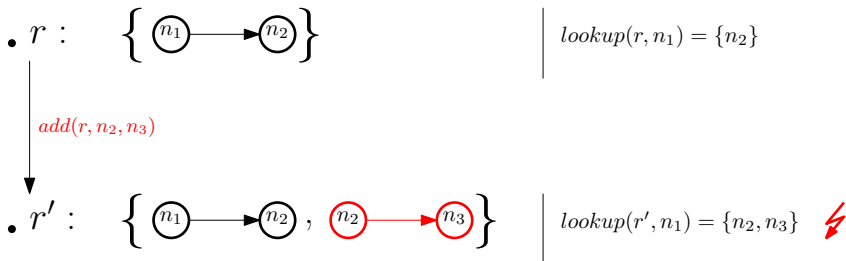
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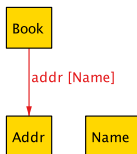
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- ⚡ *addLocal*: Adding a name n does not affect the addresses reachable from another name n' .

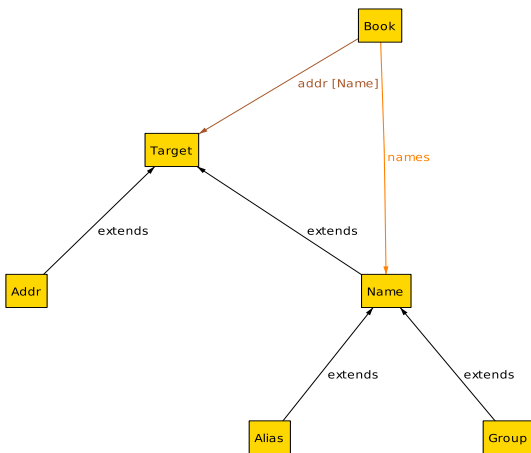


Address book: Type hierarchies

Basic address book:



Hierarchical and acyclic address book:



Hierarchical address Book: Alloy

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2: sig Addr extends Target {}
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4: sig Alias, Group extends Name {}
5: sig Book {
6:   names: set Name,
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8:   }{
9:     all a:Alias | lone a.addr)
10: }
11:
12: pred add (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
13:   b'.addr = b.addr + n->t
14: }
15: pred del (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
16:   b'.addr = b.addr - n->t
17: }
18: fun lookup (b: Book, n: Name): set Addr {
19:   n.^(b.addr) & Addr
20: }
21: assert delUndoesAdd {
22:   all b, b', b'': Book , n: Name, t: Target |
23:   no n.(b.addr) and
24:   add[b, b', n, t] and
25:   del[b', b'', n, t] implies
26:   b.addr = b''.addr
27: }

```

Hierarchical address Book: Alloy

```

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23:   add[b, b', n, t] and
24:   del[b', b'', n, t] implies
25:   b.addr = b''.addr
26: }

```

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10: }
11: pred add (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
12:   b'.addr = b.addr + n->t
13: }
14: pred del (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
15:   b'.addr = b.addr - n->t
16: }
17: fun lookup (b: Book, n: Name): set Addr {
18:   n.^(b.addr) & Addr
19: }
20: assert delUndoesAdd {
21:   all b, b', b'': Book , n: Name, t: Target |
22:   no n.(b.addr) and
23:   add[b, b', n, t] and
24:   del[b', b'', n, t] implies
25:   b.addr = b''.addr
26: }

```


Hierarchical address Book: Alloy

```

1: abstract sig Target {}
2: sig Addr extends Target {}
3: abstract sig Name extends Target {}
4: sig Alias, Group extends Name {}
5: sig Book {
6:   names: set Name,
7:   addr: names -> some Target
8:   }{
9:     all a:Alias | lone a.addr)
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11:   pred add (b, b': Book, n: Name, t: Target) {
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```

$$\forall x \in Target \mid x \in Addr \vee x \in Name$$

$$\forall x \in Target \mid \neg(x \in Addr \wedge x \in Name)$$

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    }
}

fact {
8:   all b: Book, a:Alias | lone a.(b.addr)
}

```