

# On Model-checking Pushdown System Models

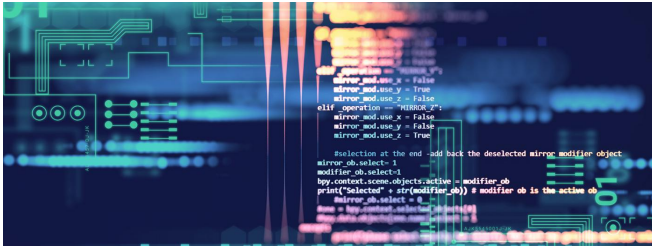
PhD defence - July 5, 2018

**Adrien Pommellet**

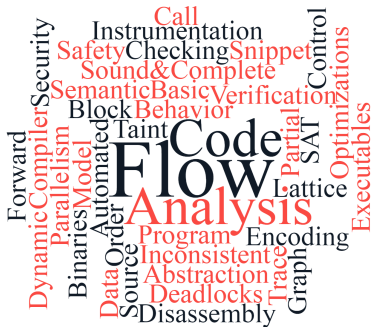
Université Paris-Diderot, IRIF, and LIPN

Thesis directed by **Tayssir Touili**.

# Analysing programs



As the **complexity** of software grows, identifying errors in programs becomes harder and harder.

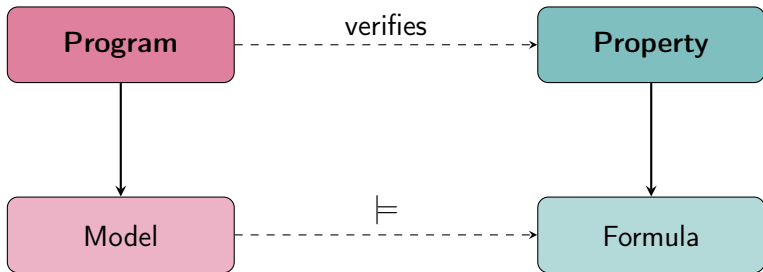


Designing **sound and efficient program analysis methods** is therefore a matter of the utmost importance.

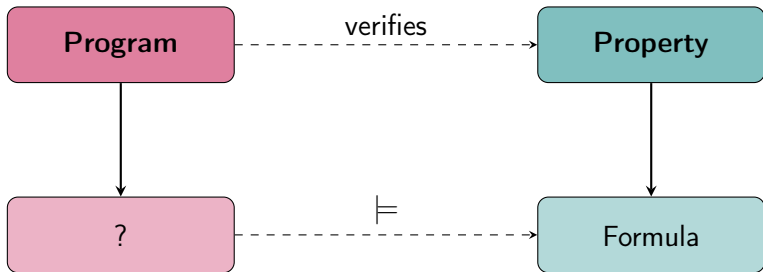
# The model-checking framework



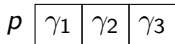
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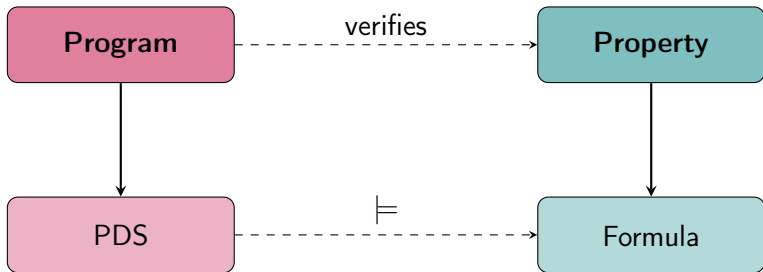
# The model-checking framework



**Pushdown systems** (PDSs) are a natural model for sequential programs [Esparza, Hansel, Rossmanith, and Schwoon, CAV'00] with recursive procedure calls, as they can simulate the stack of a program.



# The model-checking framework





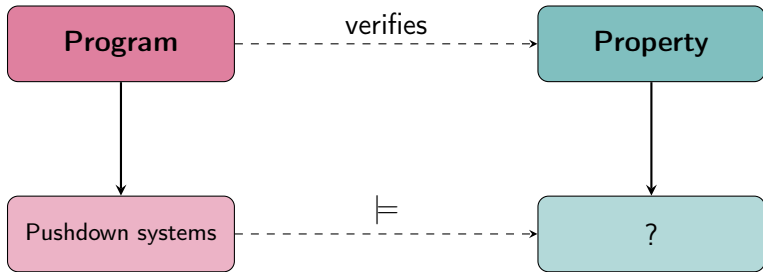
- 1 We consider the **HyperLTL model-checking** problem for pushdown systems, we prove that it is unfortunately undecidable, we introduce constraints to regain decidability, then we use these to design under and over-approximation algorithms.

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- 1 We consider the **HyperLTL model-checking** problem for pushdown systems, we prove that it is unfortunately undecidable, we introduce constraints to regain decidability, then we use these to design under and over-approximation algorithms.
- 2 We define a new PDS model, called **pushdown system with an upper stack (UPDS)**, that keeps track of the part of the assembly stack that is above the stack pointer, and we propose reachability algorithms for this model.
- 3 We introduce **synchronized dynamic pushdown networks (SDPNs)** that model concurrent programs as a network of pushdown systems, where each pushdown component can spawn new threads and synchronize by rendez-vous with other threads. We then propose reachability algorithms for this model.

Our first contribution:  
HyperLTL model-checking for  
pushdown systems

# The model-checking framework



The logics **LTL** and **CTL** may not suffice to express all interesting properties.

We want that, for every trace  $\pi_1$ , there exists a trace  $\pi_2$  such that, whenever a property  $a$  holds for  $\pi_1$ , property  $b$  holds for  $\pi_2$  at the same step.

$$\pi_1 : \dots \rightarrow a_0 \rightarrow y_1 \rightarrow a_2 \rightarrow z_3 \rightarrow \dots$$

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This property **cannot be expressed by LTL nor CTL**.

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We would like to express it this way:

$$\psi = \forall \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}, \exists \pi_2 \in \text{Traces}, G (a_{\pi_1} \implies b_{\pi_2})$$



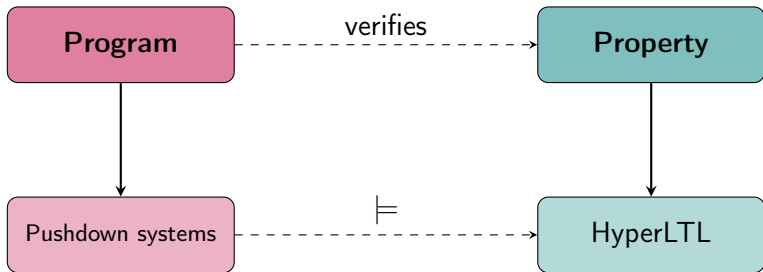
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This is actually a **HyperLTL** formula, where HyperLTL is a logic that extends LTL with the universal and existential quantifications of **multiple path variables**.

HyperLTL model-checking for finite-state systems has already been solved in [Clarkson et al., POST'14]. But what about **pushdown systems**?

# Our first goal



## Definition

A **pushdown system** (PDS) is a tuple  $\mathcal{P} = (P, \Sigma, \Gamma, \Delta, c_0)$  such that:

- $P$  is a finite set of control states;
- $\Sigma = 2^{AP}$  a finite input alphabet, where  $AP$  is a finite set of atomic propositions;
- $\Gamma$  a finite stack alphabet;
- a finite set  $\Delta$  of transition rules of the form  $(p, \gamma) \xrightarrow{a} (p', w)$ ;
- $c_0 = \langle p_0, w_0 \rangle$  an initial configuration in  $P \times \Gamma^*$ .

From  $(p, \gamma) \xrightarrow{a} (p', w) \in \Delta$ , we infer a **transition relation** on configurations:  $\forall w' \in \Gamma^*, \langle p, \gamma w' \rangle \xrightarrow{\mathcal{P}} \langle p', ww' \rangle$ .

HyperLTL formulas can be used to synchronize traces of pushdown systems.

$$\psi = \forall \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}_1, \forall \pi_2 \in \text{Traces}_2, (a_{\pi_1} \Leftrightarrow a_{\pi_2})$$

HyperLTL formulas can be used to synchronize traces of pushdown systems. And traces of PDSs are **context-free**.

$$\psi = \forall \pi_1 \in \overbrace{\text{Traces}_1}^{\text{CFL}}, \forall \pi_2 \in \overbrace{\text{Traces}_2}^{\text{CFL}}, (a_{\pi_1} \Leftrightarrow a_{\pi_2})$$

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But the emptiness of the intersection of two context-free languages (CFLs) is well-known to be an **undecidable problem**. Hence:

## Theorem

*The model-checking problem of HyperLTL for pushdown systems is **undecidable**.*



The input-driven sub-class of **visibly pushdown systems** [Alur et al., STOC'04] is such that we can **decide** the emptiness of the intersection of two visibly context-free languages.

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However, this constraint is not enough to regain decidability:

## Theorem

*The model-checking problem of HyperLTL for visibly pushdown systems is **undecidable**.*

# With a single context-free variable

Let  $Reg$  be a regular language and  $CFL$  a context-free language.  
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We can prove that:

## Theorem

*We can decide formulas of the form:*

$$\psi = \{\forall, \exists\}\pi_1 \in CFL, \{\forall, \exists\}\pi_2 \in Reg_2, \dots, \{\forall, \exists\}\pi_n \in Reg_n, \varphi.$$

# Approximating the model-checking problem

If  $\alpha$  is a **regular over-approximation** of the set of traces of a PDS, we therefore can decide:

$$\psi = \{\forall, \exists\} \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}, \forall \pi_2 \in \alpha, \dots, \forall \pi_n \in \alpha, \varphi$$

If  $\psi$  holds, then this formula **holds as well**:

$$\psi' = \{\forall, \exists\} \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}, \forall \pi_2 \in \text{Traces}, \dots, \forall \pi_n \in \text{Traces}, \varphi$$

In a similar manner, if  $\alpha$  is a **regular under-approximation** of the set of traces of a PDS, we therefore can decide:

$$\psi = \{\forall, \exists\} \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}, \exists \pi_2 \in \alpha, \dots, \exists \pi_n \in \alpha, \varphi$$

If  $\psi$  doesn't hold, then this formula **does not hold as well**:

$$\psi' = \{\forall, \exists\} \pi_1 \in \text{Traces}, \exists \pi_2 \in \text{Traces}, \dots, \exists \pi_n \in \text{Traces}, \varphi$$

- We showed that the model-checking problem of HyperLTL for pushdown systems and visibly pushdown systems is **undecidable**.

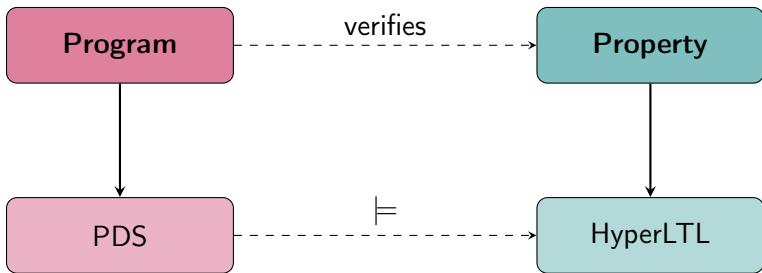
- We showed that the model-checking problem of HyperLTL for pushdown systems and visibly pushdown systems is **undecidable**.
- We can decide HyperLTL formulas if **all variables are regular except the first**.



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- We can decide HyperLTL formulas if **all variables are regular except the first**.
- We can therefore **approximate** the answer to the model-checking problem given some constraints on the use of quantifiers in HyperLTL formulas.

Our second contribution:  
Reachability analysis of pushdown  
systems with an upper stack

# The model-checking framework

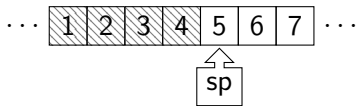


Are **pushdown systems** accurate enough?

# The limits of pushdown systems

Pushdown systems (PDSs) can fail to accurately represent the actual assembly stack.

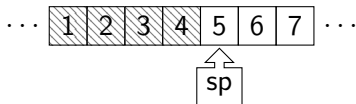
The assembly stack



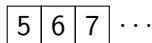
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The assembly stack



The pushdown model

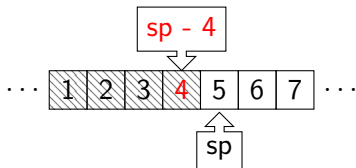


PDSs can't model the part of the assembly stack that stands to the left of the stack pointer.

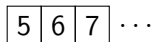
# The limits of pushdown systems

How can we handle the assembly instruction *mov eax [sp - 4]*?

The assembly stack



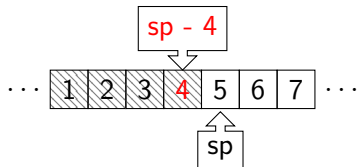
The pushdown model



# A new model

How can we handle the assembly instruction `mov eax [sp - 4]`?

The assembly stack



Our new model



Our intuition is to use **another stack** to model the memory section left of the stack pointer.

## Definition

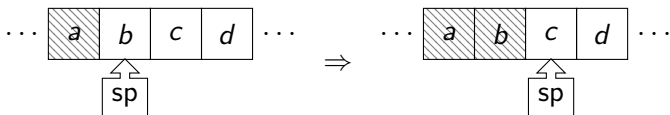
A *pushdown system with an upper stack* (UPDS) is a triplet  $\mathcal{P} = (P, \Gamma, \Delta)$  where:

- $P$  is a finite set of control states;
- $\Gamma$  is a finite stack alphabet;
- a finite set  $\Delta$  of transition rules of the form  $(p, \gamma) \rightarrow (p', w)$ ,  $w \in \Gamma^{\leq 2}$ ;

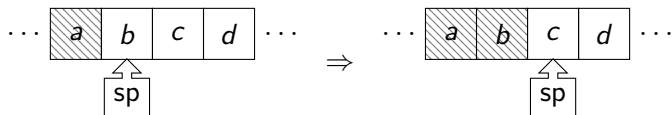
We consider configurations of the form  $\langle p, w_u, w_l \rangle$ , with a **write-only** upper stack that **accurately models** the left of the assembly stack.



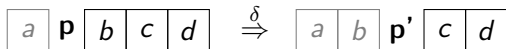
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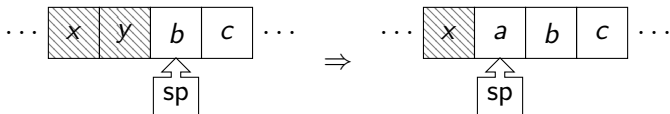


Hence, for a **pop** rule  $\delta = (p, b) \rightarrow (p', \varepsilon)$  in the **UPDS**:



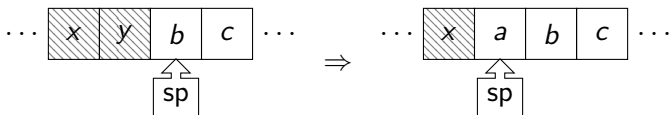
# Semantics of push rules

A **push** rule in the **assembly stack** amounts to:

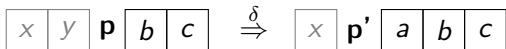


# Semantics of push rules

A **push** rule in the **assembly stack** amounts to:



For a **push** rule  $\delta = (p, b) \rightarrow (p', ab)$  in the UPDS:



Are the sets of *predecessors*  $pre^*$  and *successors*  $post^*$  of a regular set of configurations of a UPDS *regular* and effectively computable, in a manner similar to PDSs?

## Theorem

There exist a UPDS  $\mathcal{P}$  and a regular set of configurations  $\mathcal{C}$  for which  $\text{post}^*(\mathcal{C})$  is *not regular*.

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## Theorem

Given a UPDS  $\mathcal{P}$  and a regular set of configurations  $\mathcal{C}$ ,  $\text{post}^*(\mathcal{C})$  is *context-sensitive*, and its membership problem is therefore decidable.

The set of runs of a UPDS, being similar to a PDS's, is **context-free**. But what if this set is **regular**?

## Theorem

*For a UPDS  $\mathcal{P} = (P, \Gamma, \Delta)$ , a regular set of configurations  $\mathcal{C}$ , and a regular set of runs  $R$  of  $\mathcal{P}$  from  $\mathcal{C}$ , the set of upper stack configurations reachable using runs in  $R$  is **regular and effectively computable**.*

- 1 Compute a **regular over-approximation**  $R$  of the set of runs of the PDS  $\mathcal{P}$  from  $\mathcal{C}$ ;



# Computing a regular over-approximation of $post^*$

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- 4 consider the product  $U \times L$  of the upper and lower stack sets to create an **over-approximation of  $post^*$**  ( $\mathcal{C}$ ).

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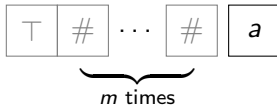
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- But the set of predecessors of a MPDS can be **under-approximated**, using a **phase-bounding constraint** [Seth, CAV'10].
- Hence, we can **under-approximate** the set of predecessors  $pre^*$  of a UPDS.

# Applications

# Stack overflow detection

## Application 1

We want to prevent the stack from growing beyond a **bound  $m + 1$** . We put a symbol  $\top$  on top of an upper stack of bounded height  $m$  filled with  $\#$  padding symbols.



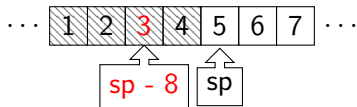
If the symbol  $\top$  is overwritten, we deduce that a **stack overflow** malfunction happens.



# Reading the upper stack

## Application 2

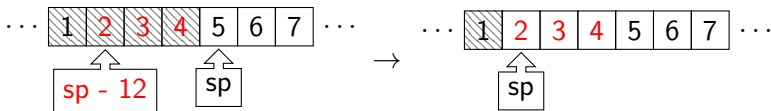
A register is assigned a value located in the upper stack: the instruction `mov eax [sp - 8]` copies in the register `eax` the second symbol above the stack pointer `sp`.



# Changing the stack pointer

## Application 3

If we apply the instruction `sub sp 12`, we change the stack pointer `sp`, leading to a new stack configuration:



## Our second contribution

- We defined a new automaton model, called UPDS, that models the **stack** of a program more accurately than a PDS.

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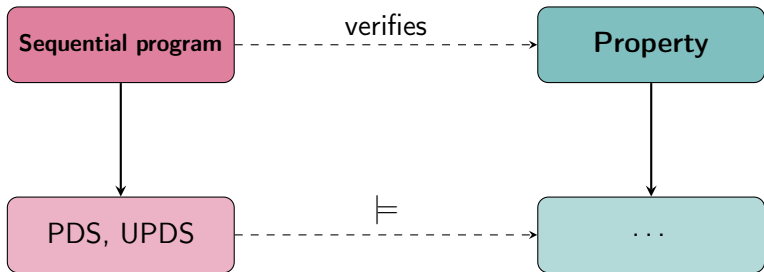
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- We show that the backward and forward **reachability sets** of UPDSs are not regular, but that the latter is context-sensitive.
- We can either **under-approximate or over-approximate** these sets.
- We have shown some potential **applications** of this model.

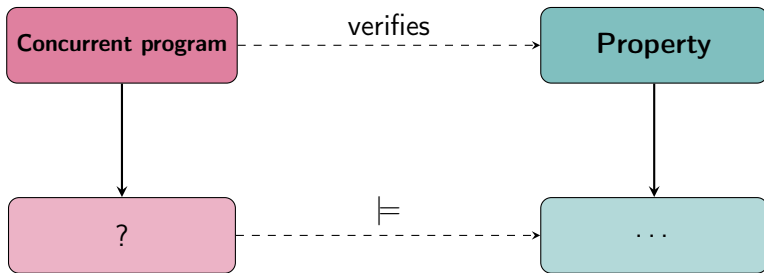
Our third contribution:  
Reachability analysis of synchronized  
pushdown networks

# The model-checking framework





# The model-checking framework



What about **concurrent programs**?

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- Intuitively, one can model each thread of a program as a PDS. A concurrent program can therefore be seen **as a network of PDSs**.
- Hence, we consider **dynamic pushdown network (DPN)** model [Bouajjani, Müller-Olm, and Touili, CONCUR'05]. It is a network of PDSs where each member can perform internal actions and spawn other instances of PDSs.

However, in an actual parallel program, threads can **communicate**, but in a DPN, they **can't**.

We need therefore **a more accurate model** that can handle synchronization between threads. To this end, we extend DPNs with **synchronization by rendez-vous**.

# Synchronization by rendez-vous

When two threads synchronize, one thread must send a signal  $a$  and the other, its co-signal  $\bar{a}$ .

$$\begin{array}{ccc} T_1 : c_1 & \dots & T_2 : c_2 \\ \downarrow a & \text{simultaneously} & \downarrow \bar{a} \\ T_1 : c'_1 & \dots & T_2 : c'_2 \end{array}$$

We define a set  $Act$  of actions that contains synchronization signals as well as an **internal action**  $\tau$ .

## Definition

A **synchronized dynamic pushdown network** (SDPN) is a quadruplet  $M = (Act, P, \Gamma, \Delta)$  where:

- $P$  is a finite set of **control states**;
- $\Gamma$  a finite **stack alphabet** disjoint from  $P$ ;
- $\Delta$  a finite set of **labelled transition rules** featuring:
  - simple pushdown operations of the form  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{l} p'w$ ,  $l \in Act$ ;
  - thread spawns of the form  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{l} p_2w_2 \triangleright p_1w_1$ ,  $l \in Act$ ;

A **configuration** of a SDPN is a word in  $(P\Gamma^*)^*$  that is a concatenation of all the configurations of the PDSs in the network.

# The semantics: pushdown actions and spawns

If  $p_1 \gamma_1 \xrightarrow{I} p'_1 w'_1 \in \Delta$ , then:

$$\dots p_1 \gamma_1 w_1 \dots \xrightarrow{I} \dots p'_1 w'_1 w_1 \dots$$



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If  $p_1\gamma_1 \xrightarrow{l} p_2w_2 \triangleright p'_1w'_1 \in \Delta$ , then:

$$\dots p_1\gamma_1w_1 \dots \xrightarrow{l}_M \dots p_2w_2p'_1w'_1w_1 \dots$$

$l$  can be a **signal**  $a$ , a **co-signal**  $\bar{a}$ , or an **internal action**  $\tau$ .

# The semantics of synchronized transitions

If threads  $p_1\gamma_1w_1$  and  $p_2\gamma_2w_2$  can apply the pushdown rules  $p_1\gamma_1 \xrightarrow{a} p'_1w'_1$  and  $p_2\gamma_2 \xrightarrow{\bar{a}} p'_2w'_2 \in \Delta$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \dots & p_1\gamma_1w_1 & \dots & p_2\gamma_2w_2 & \dots \\ & \downarrow a & & \downarrow \bar{a} & \\ \dots & p'_1w'_1w_1 & \dots & p'_2w'_2w_2 & \dots \end{array}$$

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Then they can **synchronize** over the signal  $a$ :

$$\begin{array}{ccccc} \dots & p_1\gamma_1w_1 & \dots & p_2\gamma_2w_2 & \dots \\ & & \downarrow \tau & & \\ \dots & p'_1w'_1w_1 & \dots & p'_2w'_2w_2 & \dots \end{array}$$

In a real program, transitions of the form:

$$\dots p_1 \gamma_1 w_1 \dots \xrightarrow{I} M \dots p'_1 w'_1 w_1 \dots$$

are only allowed if  $I = \tau$  is an **internal action**.

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are only allowed if  $I = \tau$  is an **internal action**.

If  $I = a$  or  $I = \bar{a}$ , then the program must **wait for a matching synchronization action** and the thread can't execute such a transition on its own.

# Characterizing valid execution paths

As a consequence, a **valid execution path** in a program can only use **internal** transitions of the form:

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Valid execution paths therefore only use **transitions labelled by  $\tau$** .

# The reachability problem

Given a SDPN  $M$  and two regular sets of configuration  $C$  and  $C'$ , we consider the **reachability problem**: is there a **valid path** of  $M$  leading from  $C$  to  $C'$ ?

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This is equivalent to:

$$Paths(C, C') \cap \tau^* = \emptyset?$$

# An undecidable problem

The reachability problem for synchronization-sensitive pushdown systems is **undecidable** [Ramalingam, '00], hence, for SDPNs as well. We cannot therefore compute  $Paths(C, C')$ .

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But if we consider an **over-approximation**:

$$\alpha(Paths(C, C')) \supseteq Paths(C, C')$$

Then:

$$\alpha(Paths(C, C')) \cap \tau^* = \emptyset$$

implies that:

$$Paths(C, C') \cap \tau^* = \emptyset$$

# Characterizing $Paths(C, C')$

- We use **finite-state automata**  $A^C$  and  $A^{C'}$  to represent the regular sets of configurations  $C$  and  $C'$ .

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- We add **extra labels**  $\lambda(t)$  to the edges  $t$  of the automaton  $A_{pre^*}$  in such a manner that the relabelled automaton  $A'$  accepts all the pairs  $(c, \pi)$  where  $c \in pre^*(C')$  and  $\pi = Paths(\{c\}, C')$ .



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- This set of constraints **can't be solved** because the reachability problem is the undecidable.
- We therefore solve it in a **finite abstract domain  $D$**  in order to compute an over-approximation  $\alpha(Paths(C, C'))$ .

We consider the domain  $D = 2^W$ , where  $W$  is the set of words of length smaller than  $n$ , and the  $n$ -th order **prefix** and **suffix** abstractions:

$$\text{Prefix: } \alpha_n^{\text{prefix}}(\{a_1 \dots a_n a_{n+1} \dots a_m\}) = \{a_1 \dots a_n\}$$

$$\text{Suffix: } \alpha_n^{\text{suffix}}(\{a_1 \dots a_{m-n} a_{m-n+1} \dots a_m\}) = \{a_{m-n+1} \dots a_m\}$$



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- 4 otherwise, we check if our abstraction introduced a **spurious counter-example**;
- 5 if the **counter-example was spurious**, we increment  $n$  and go back to the step 2.

We use this iterative abstraction scheme to **find an error in a Bluetooth driver for Windows NT**.

We model it as a SDPN and find that an erroneous configuration is reachable using a prefix abstraction of size 12.

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- 4 We **over-approximated** the reachability problem for SDPNs.
- 5 We defined an **iterative abstraction scheme** for SDPNs and **applied** it to a driver.

# Conclusion

- 1 We showed that the model-checking problem of HyperLTL for PDSs is **undecidable**, we proved some **decidability** results when all variables are regular except the first, and we used these results to **approximate** the model-checking problem.

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- 2 We defined a new automaton model, called UPDS, that models the **stack** of a program more accurately than a PDS, we proved that its reachability sets are **not regular** but **context-sensitive**, then we **over and under-approximated** these.
- 3 We defined a new model for concurrent programs called **SDPN**, we abstracted its **reachability problem**, and we **applied** this over-approximation in an iterative scheme.

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- 1 We plan to **implement** algorithms to approximate the model-checking problem of HyperLTL for PDSs.
- 2 We know that the reachability sets of the UPDS model are not regular; we want to determine whether they are **context-free** or not.
- 3 We plan to program a tool that would **implement** the abstraction framework for SDPNs designed in the third part of this thesis.

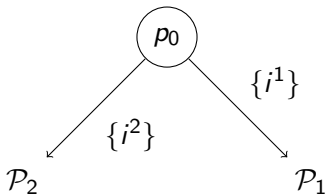
Thank you!

- Adrien Pommellet and Tayssir Touili, **Model-checking HyperLTL for pushdown systems**, 25th International Symposium on Model Checking of Software (SPIN'18).
- Adrien Pommellet, Marcio Diaz, and Tayssir Touili, **Reachability analysis of pushdown systems with an upper stack**, 11th International Conference on Language and Automata Theory and Applications (LATA'17).
- Adrien Pommellet and Tayssir Touili, **Static analysis of multi-threaded recursive programs communicating via rendez-vous**, 15th Asian Symposium on Programming Languages and Systems (APLAS'17).

# Undecidability of HyperLTL model-checking

# Proof of undecidability

Let  $\mathcal{L}_1$  and  $\mathcal{L}_2$  be two context-free languages accepted respectively by two PDA  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .



We design a PDS  $\mathcal{P}$  that can **simulate either  $\mathcal{P}_1$  or  $\mathcal{P}_2$** , depending on its first transition.

We want to design a HyperLTL formula on  $\mathcal{P}$  such that it would characterize **a common accepting run** of  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{P}_2$ .

$$\psi = \exists \pi_1, \exists \pi_2, \varphi$$

It will use **two trace variables**  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$ .

$$\psi = \exists \pi_1, \exists \pi_2, (i_{\pi_1}^1 \wedge i_{\pi_2}^2)$$

The trace variables  $\pi_1$  and  $\pi_2$  represent runs of  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{P}_2$  respectively.

$$\pi_1 : \{i^1\} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\pi_2 : \{i^2\} \rightarrow \dots$$



$$\psi = \exists \pi_1, \exists \pi_2, (i_{\pi_1}^1 \wedge i_{\pi_2}^2) \\ \wedge \text{XG} \bigwedge_{a \in AP} (a_{\pi_1} \Leftrightarrow a_{\pi_2})$$

The two traces are equal from their second letter onwards.

$$\pi_1 : \{i^1\} \rightarrow \{a\} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\pi_2 : \{i^2\} \rightarrow \{a\} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\begin{aligned}\psi = & \exists \pi_1, \exists \pi_2, (i_{\pi_1}^1 \wedge i_{\pi_2}^2) \\ & \wedge \text{XG} \bigwedge_{a \in AP} (a_{\pi_1} \Leftrightarrow a_{\pi_2}) \\ & \wedge \text{FG} (f_{\pi_1} \wedge f_{\pi_2})\end{aligned}$$

The two traces are **accepting**.

$$\pi_1 : \{i^1\} \rightarrow \{a\} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \{f\} \rightarrow \{f\} \rightarrow \dots$$

$$\pi_2 : \{i^2\} \rightarrow \{a\} \rightarrow \dots \rightarrow \{f\} \rightarrow \{f\} \rightarrow \dots$$

$\mathcal{P} \models \psi$  if and only if there is an accepting run  $\pi$  common to  $\mathcal{P}_1$  and  $\mathcal{P}_2$ . But such a run exists if and only if  $\mathcal{L}_1 \cap \mathcal{L}_2 \neq \emptyset$ .  $\square$

Hence:

## Theorem

*The model-checking problem of HyperLTL for pushdown systems is **undecidable**.*

Non-regularity of  $post^*$  for UPDSs

# A counter-example of regularity for $post^*$

We consider the UPDS  $\mathcal{P}$  :

$$\begin{array}{ll} (R_a) & (p, a) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon) \\ (R_b) & (p, b) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon) \\ (C) & (p, a) \rightarrow (p, ab) \end{array}$$

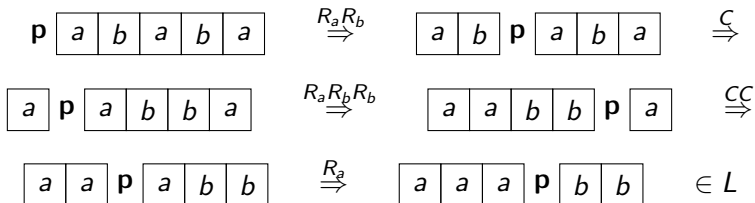
And the regular set  $\mathcal{C} = \{p\} \times \{\varepsilon\} \times a(ba)^*$ .

**p**

a	b	a	b	a
---	---	---	---	---

# A relevant subset of $post^*$

We consider the subset  $L = \{ \langle p, a^{n+1}, b^n \rangle, n \in \mathbb{N} \} \subseteq post^*(C)$ .



$$\begin{array}{ll} (R_a) & (p, a) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon) \\ (R_b) & (p, b) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon) \\ (C) & (p, a) \rightarrow (p, ab) \end{array}$$

# A constraint on $post^*$

For any reachable configuration  $\langle p, w_u, w_l \rangle$  and the word  $w = \bar{w}_u w_l$ , the inequality  $|w|_b + |w|_{\bar{b}} + 1 \geq |w|_a + |w|_{\bar{a}}$  holds.

- The inequality holds on the starting configuration  $\mathcal{C} = \{p\} \times \{\varepsilon\} \times a(ba)^*$ .
- The rules  $(R_a) = (p, a) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon)$  and  $(R_b) = (p, b) \rightarrow (p, \varepsilon)$  do not change the number of occurrences of the letter  $a$  on the whole stack.
- The rule  $(C) = (p, a) \rightarrow (p, ab)$  can make it smaller.

If we suppose that  $post^*(\mathcal{C})$  is regular, let  $k$  be its pumping length.

- We consider the word  $w = \overline{a^{k+1}b^k}$  of the language  $L$ .
- We apply the pumping lemma to  $w$ :  $w = xyz$ ,  $|xy| \leq k$ ,  $|y| \geq 1$ , and  $xy^i z \in post^*(\mathcal{C})$ ,  $\forall i \geq 1$ , with  $x \in \bar{a}^*$ ,  $y \in \bar{a}^+$  and  $z \in (\bar{a} + \bar{b})^*$ .
- For  $i$  large enough,  $w_i = xy^i z \in post^*(\mathcal{C})$  and  $|w_i|_{\bar{a}} > |w_i|_{\bar{b}} + 1$ .

There is a contradiction and  $post^*(\mathcal{C})$  is not regular.



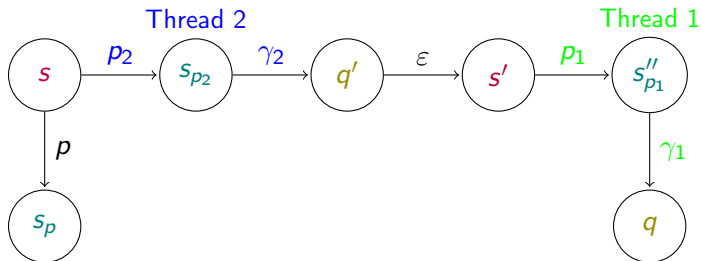
# Computing the constraints for SDPNs

There are five different types of constraints, depending on whether we are labelling a transition that was **already in  $A_C$**  or that was added by a saturation rule matched to a **switch**, a **pop**, a **push**, or a **spawn**.

We focus on the latter spawn case.

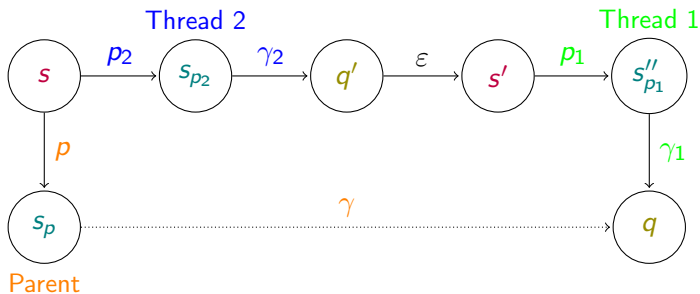
# The fifth constraint: spawn

For each rule  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{a} p_2\gamma_2 \triangleright p_1\gamma_1 \in \Delta$ :



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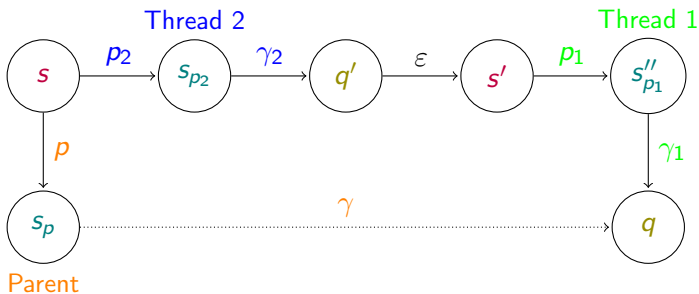


# The fifth constraint: spawn

For each rule  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{a} p_2\gamma_2 \triangleright p_1\gamma_1 \in \Delta$ :

$$a \cdot (\text{Paths}(\text{Thread}_2) \sqcup \text{Paths}(\text{Thread}_1)) \subseteq \text{Paths}(\text{Parent})$$

$$\longrightarrow a \cdot (\lambda(s_{p_2}, \gamma_2, q') \sqcup \lambda(s'_{p_1}, \gamma_1, q)) \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, q)$$

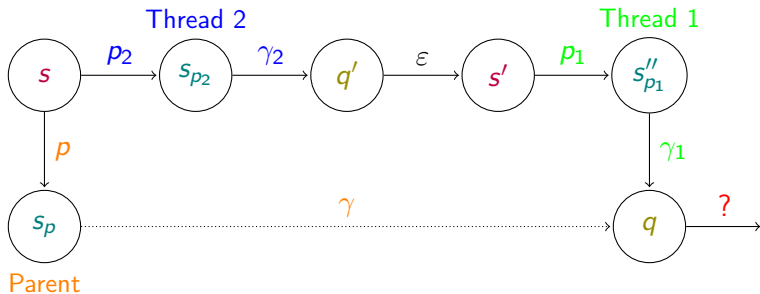


# An issue with sets of paths as labels

For each rule  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{a} p_2\gamma_2 \triangleright p_1\gamma_1 \in \Delta$ :

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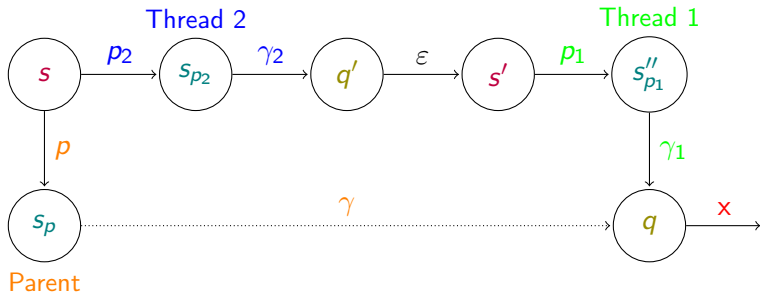
$\lambda(s'_{p_1}, \gamma_1, q)$  does not fully express  $\text{Paths}(\text{Thread}_1)$ !

# Using functions as labels

For each rule  $p\gamma \xrightarrow{a} p_2\gamma_2 \triangleright p_1\gamma_1 \in \Delta$ :

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$$\longrightarrow a \cdot (\lambda(s_{p_2}, \gamma_2, q') \sqcup \lambda(s'_{p_1}, \gamma_1, q)(x)) \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, q)(x)$$



We use **functions** in  $\Pi \longrightarrow \Pi$  with a variable  $x$ .

**Initial:**  $Id \subseteq \lambda(t)$

**Switch:**  $a \cdot \lambda(s_{p'}, \gamma', q)(x) \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, q)(x)$

**Pop:**  $\{a\} \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, s_{p'})(x)$

**Push:**  $a \cdot (\lambda(s_{p'}, \gamma_1, q') \circ \lambda(q', \gamma_2, q))(x) \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, q)(x)$

**Spawn:**  $a \cdot (\lambda(s_{p_2}, \gamma_2, q')(\{\varepsilon\}) \sqcup \lambda(s'_{p_1}, \gamma_1, q)(x)) \subseteq \lambda(s_p, \gamma, q)(x)$