

A Symbolic Model Checking Approach to On-Board Autonomy

Alessandro Cimatti

Embedded System Unit Fondazione Bruno Kessler Trento, Italy <u>cimatti@fbk.eu</u>

j.w.w. L. Bonetti, M. Bozzano, R. Cavada, A. Griggio, A. Micheli , S. Mover, M. Roveri, A. Tchaltsev, S. Tonetta, J.-P. Katoen, V.Y. Nguyen, T. Noll, R. Wimmer, A. Hoffman, M. Niezette, K. Kapellos, R. Steel,

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Complex autonomous systems

- Example: planetary rover
 - Communication unavailable, lags
 - Unpredictable, hostile environment
- Complexity
 - System composed of multiple heterogeneous subsystems
 - Functions: navigate in unknown terrain, drill, acquire sample
 - Conflicting objectives: do science vs preserve integrity
- Resource constraints
 - time, power, ...
- Limited observability
- Possible faults
- Fault Detection, Isolation and Recovery
- Operation in degraded modes



Design vs operation activities

- Design phase activities
 - Requirements validation
 - Functional correctness
 - Safety/dependability assessment
 - Diagnosability
- Operation phase activities
 - Planning
 - Execution Monitoring
 - Fault Detection, Fault Identification/Isolation
 - Fault Recovery
 - Replanning



Or, where are operation activities carried out?



4



- E1: Exec under ground control
- E2: Exec of pre-planned mission operations on-board
 - Action sequence planned on ground, lower level execution on board
 - Very common, applied to spacecrafts
- E3: Exec of adaptive mission operations on-board
 - High-level tasks planned on ground, adaptive execution on board
 - Foreseen in future missions
- E4: Exec of goal-oriented mission operations on-board
 - High-level mission goals on ground, all the rest on board
 - Currently at prototypical level



- The level of autonomy has a direct impact on the type of plan...
 - produced by the planning system (or team)
 - dealt with by the on-board executor
- The reasoning processes on-ground and on-board must be tightly related!
 - E.g. interpret on ground what happened on board
 - more CPU but less information



- How to support the design phase?
 - Helping designers to gain confidence
 - Build more predictable systems
 - Write more reliable software
 - Assess behaviour under faults
- How to support the operation phase?
 - Generate better plans
 - Monitor execution
 - Perform diagnosis
 - Support replanning
 - Recalibrate control strategies
- A comprehensive approach to autonomy based on symbolic model checking



Motivations

- Support for design activities
 - The COMPASS project
- Support for operation activities
 - Discrete case
 - » The OMCARE project
 - Continuous case
 - » The IRONCAP project
- Conclusions

Model Checking in a nutshell ...

- Reactive System
 - infinite computation, interacting with environment
 - communication protocol, hw design, control software, OS
 - modeled as a state transition system
- Requirements
 - desirable properties of system behaviour
 - modeled as formulae in a temporal logic (CLT, LTL, PSL, ...)
- Does my system satisfy the requirements?
- Model checking
 - search configurations of state transition system
 - detect violation to property, and produce witness of violation
 - conclude absence of violation



- Safety properties
 - nothing bad ever happens
 - » never (P1.critical & P2.critical)
 - » always (P1.critical -> (P1.critical until P1.done))
 - state transition system can't reach a bad configuration

Liveness properties

- something good will happen
 - » always (P1.trying -> eventually P1.critical)
- state transition system can not exhibit a bad cycle



- State variables as variables in a logical language
 - x, y, z, w
- A state is an assignment to state variables
 - The bitvector 0011
 - The assignment { z, w }
 - The formula $\neg x \land \neg y \land z \land w$
- A set of states is a set of assignments
 - can be represented by a logical formula
 - $x \land \neg y$ represents {1000, 1001, 1010, 1011} or a larger set, if more variables are present
- Set operations represented by logical operations
 - union, intersection, complementation as disjunction, conjunction, negation
- ♦ I(X), B(X) are formulae in X
 - Is there a bad initial state?
 - Is $I(X) \wedge B(X)$ satisfiable?

Symbolic Representation

- Symbolic representation of transitions?
- Transition
 - pair of assignments to state variables
- Use two sets of variables
 - current state variables: x, y, z
 - next state variables: x', y', z'
- A formula in current and next state variables
 - represents a set of assignments to X and X'
 - a set of transitions
 - R(X, X')

BDD-based Symbolic Model Checking

- Based on Binary Decision Diagrams
 - canonical representation for logical formulae
 - boolean operations, quantifier elimination
- ♦ I(X), R(X, X'), B(X)
 - each represented by a BDD
- Image computation: compute all successors of all states in S(X)
 - based on projection operation
 - exists X.(S(X) and R(X, X'))
- Reachability algorithm
 - Expand new states until bug, or fix point

SAT-based symbolic model checking

- Use SAT solver instead of BDDs
- Represent I(X), R(X,X'), B(X) as CNF formulae
 - much smaller size than BDDs!
- Bounded model checking [BCCZ99]
- Focus on finding bugs
 - give up proof of correctness
 - try to falsify property, i.e. witness to violation
 - within given resource limit (bound)



- State variables replicated K times
 - X_0 , X_1 , ..., X_{k-1} , X_k

Look for bugs of increasing length

- $\mathsf{I}(\mathsf{X}_0) \land \mathsf{R}(\mathsf{X}_0, \mathsf{X}_1) \land \ldots \land \mathsf{R}(\mathsf{X}_{k\text{-}1}, \mathsf{X}_k) \land \mathsf{B}(\mathsf{X}_k)$
- bug if satisfiable
- increase k until ...
- Other techniques:
 - K-induction, interpolation, abstraction-refinement, ...
 - Advanced use of SAT solvers: incrementality, unsat core

Thirty years of research...

- The tecnology is becoming stronger
 - Standard practice in hardware design
 - Increasingly used in model-based development of critical software
 - » Railways, avionics, ...
- The NuSMV model checker
 - http://nusmv.fbk.eu/
- Key focus: functional verification!
 - But functional verification is not the end of the story...

From component to system-level design



Issues with current state of the practice

- SW verified in isolation from the target HW
- Limited support for specifying fault models and degraded modes of operation
- Safety and reliability models are separate from design models
- Different formalisms and analysis techniques for evaluating different aspects
- Limited support for analyzing timed and probabilistic properties
- No coherent approach to analyze effectiveness of FDIR (Fault Detection, Identification and Recovery)

System-Software Co-Engineering!



- COMPASS
 - Correctness, Modeling, and Performance of Aerospace Systems
- Integrated system-software co-engineering
 - A general-purpose specification formalism: the SLIM (System-Level Integrated Modelling) language
 - A comprehensive methodology based on formal methods
 - A toolset implementing the methodology
 - Demonstration and evaluation on industrial-size casestudies from the aerospace domain
- Consortium composed by RTWH, FBK-irst, TAS-F



- An extension of AADL
 - Architecture Analysis and Design Language
 - Design language standardized by SAE (Soc. Automotive Engineers)
 - + EMA = Error Model Annex
- Designed to cover:
 - Degraded modes of operation
 - Qualitative and quantitative (probabilistic) properties
 - Probabilistic faults and recovery
 - Observability requirements
 - Property language covering functional correctness, safety and performability
 - Timed and continuous behavior
- Formal semantics defined in terms of
 - Networks of Event-Data Automata (NEDA)
 - Labeled Transition Systems (LTS)





- Features:
 - Component-oriented (HW, SW, composite)





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 - Hierarchy of super- and sub-components





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 - Event and data ports

The SLIM language



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 - Component-oriented (HW, SW, composite)
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 - Functional behavior

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 - Component-oriented (HW, SW, composite)
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 - Probabilistic error behavior (AADL Error Model Annex)

The SLIM Language



- Features:
 - Component-oriented (HW, SW, composite)
 - Hierarchy of super- and sub-components
 - Event and data ports
 - Functional behavior
 - Probabilistic error behavior (AADL Error Model Annex)
 - Hybrid behavior (not in AADL)

The flow of design phase



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Requirements Validation

- The error is in the requirements, not in the system
 - a real user need
- Validate system requirements *before* detailed design and implementation
 - "Are we capturing the right system?"
- Available functionalities:
 - Property simulation
 - Check logical consistency
 - » Are there any contradictions?
 - Check property strictness
 - » Are the properties strict enough to rule out undesired behaviours?
 - Check property weakness
 - » Are the properties weak enough to allow desirable behaviours?
- A whole research line on its own:
 - Temporal logic satisfiability engines
 - Diagnostic information: unsatisfiable cores
 - Relevant projects
 - » Formal requirements validation of European Train Control System [ERA]
 - » OthelloPlay [MRS research award]



- Correctness verification
 - "Are we building the system right?"
- Available functionalities:
 - Model Simulation
 - » Animate model to produce execution traces
 - Property Verification
 - » Check that a specification holds in all model traces
 - » E.g. "always (voltage >= 5.8)"



- Safety analysis
 - Evaluate hazards and risks
 - Check system behavior in presence of faults
- Modeling combined nominal and faulty behaviour:
 - Nominal model annotated with possible faults
 - » "Valve stuck at open", "jammed engine"
 - Select model behaviour under fault
 - » E.g. "constant value", "ramp down until stop"
 - Combined behaviour automatically extended
 - » Fault variables model presence of faults
 - » Mutiplex nominal/faulty behaviour
- Analyses:
 - Fault Tree Analysis (FTA)
 - Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)
- Based on the FSAP tool
 - Various UE projects: ESACS, ISAAC, MISSA
 - Recent book on topic [BV10]:



- Fault Tree Analysis (FTA)
 - Find the minimal combinations of faults that may cause a top event
 - » E.g.: "Which combinations of faults may cause alarm to be raised"
- Reduction to parametric model checking
 - Parameters are failure mode variables
 - Intuition:
 - » Find violation to property
 - » Extract assignment to fault variables
 - » Accumulate, block, and iterate until fix point





- Failure Modes and Effects Analysis (FMEA)
 - Analyze the impact of fault configurations on a set of system properties
 - » E.g. "What are the consequences of a battery failure: i) on the output voltage of the power generator? ii) on the output alarm?"
- Reduction to model checking
 - Failure mode variables suitably constrained

Ref. No.	Item	Failure mode	Failure cause	Local effects	System effects	Detection means	Severity	Corrective Actions
1	Pump	Fails to operate	Comp. broken No input flow	Coolant temperature increases	Reactor temperature increases	Temperature alarm	Major	Start secondary pump Switch to secondary circuit
2	Valve	Stuck closed	Comp. broken	Excess liquid	Reactor pressure increases	Coolant level sensor	Critical	Open release valve
3		Stuck open	Comp. broken	Insufficient liquid	Reactor temperature increases	Coolant level sensor	Critical	Open tank valve

- Simplify extended model
- Solve multiple properties in simplified model

FDIR effectiveness analysis

- Fault Detection
 - "Will given FDIR procedure always detect a fault?"
- Fault Isolation
 - "Will given FDIR procedure identify the fault responsible for an event?"
- Fault Recovery
 - "Will given FDIR procedure recover from a fault?"
- Solved by direct reduction to model checking of extended model
 - Analysis of closed loop behaviour
 - » system + controller + FDIR





- Diagnosis feasibility
 - "Is there a diagnoser for a given property?"
- Diagnoser synthesis

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- "Find a good sensors configuration"
- Diagnosability re-cast to model checking in the twin plant model:
 - Twin plant: synchronous product of the model of the plant with itself imposing equality of the actions and of the observations
 - There is no pair of execution one reaching a bad state, the other reaching a good state, with identical observations



Hidden State

Industrial Evaluation

- Thorough evaluation by industrial partners
- Several case studies developed
 - Thermal regulation function
 - Thermal line class 3
 - Satellite modes and FDIR procedures
- Positive evaluation results
- Code delivered to and accepted by ESA
 - Package includes comprehensive documentation
- Licensing: we are looking forward to it...
 - However, we are waiting for lawyers (as usual)
 - More intricate than expected
 - Distinction between EU and NON-EU member states
- Get in touch if interested in forthcoming distribution



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Planning via Symbolic Model Checking

- Representation of planning domain as symbolic finite state machine
 - Rich representational model, closer to actual modeling languages
 - Nondeterministic action effects
 - Multiple initial states
- Key insight: action sequence associated with multiple runs!
- Problem classification in terms of
 - Goal achievement
 - » weak, strong, strong cyclic
 - Observability
 - » full, partial, null
 - Structure of goals
 - » assertions, temporally extended, knowledge goals
- Many techniques for planning with nondeterminism
 - Symbolic algorithms based on model checking primitives
 - » strong post-image, ...
 - BDDs to represent belief states





- Demonstrate the applicability of
 - model based reasoning, and
 - model checking techniques
- to increase autonomy of on-board reasoning
 - on-board re-planning
 - on-board plan validation
 - execution and monitoring
 - fault detection identification and recovery











The OMCARE framework

- Why planning via symbolic model checking?
 - Deals with nondeterminism
 - Model validation
 - Same model on board and on ground
 - Reasoning about faults as model checking
 - Strong conditional plans
- Extension 1: assumption-based planning
 - Generate plans under suitable Assumptions
 - Resulting plans annotated with run-time checks (assertions)
 - » Sufficient to detect if assumptions violated
- Extension 2: a simple model of resources
 - Actions extended with simple model of resources
 - » Each action has estimate on minimal and maximal resource consumption
 - » Each resource has lower and upper bound in a state
 - » interval arithmetic
 - Used in plan validation and run-time monitoring
 - » Planning not aware of resources
 - Built-in property checking
 - » Each resource should not go below a certain minimum level R_{min}
 - » Notions generalized to belief states
 - » conservative approach, loses precision
 - Connection between logical framework and computation via estimators



Reasoning in belief space

- Models *run-time uncertainty* on controlled plant status
 - resulting from partial observability
 - » e.g. faults may not be directly observable
 - several states compatible with currently available information
 - indistinguishable states collected into a belief state
- Action in a belief state
 - applicability conditions must hold in all states
 - result belief state is set of all possible successors
- Observations "split" belief states
 - refine belief states to the states compatible with observation

Validation of given plan

- Ensure properties of given plan
 - Ensure action applicability
 - Ensure planning-time assumptions
 - Resources within limits
- Algorithm based on progression of belief states
 - Associate belief state and resources to each control point in plan tree
 - Belief states must satisfy annotations (assertions)
 - Success if final belief state included in the goal
 - Resources progressed and compared w.r.t. R_{min}



Strong planning under partial observability

- Forward And/Or search in belief space
 - Node Expansion
 - » OR branching
 - simulate effect of action execution
 - » AND branching
 - simulate effect of observation
 - Nodes tagged as
 - » success if contained in goal, or if descendent success
 - » failure if no action possible or all descendants are failure due to loopbacks
- To deal with assumptions
 - Beliefs pruned according to assumptions
 - Progress two "monitor-beliefs"
 - » represent uncertainty w.r.t. status of assumption satisfaction
 - Prune monitor-beliefs using sensing, until no more uncertainty
- Heuristic search
 - General, domain-independent heuristic guidance used
- Resource consumption currently disregarded during planning
 - could be used to prune resource-inconsistent branches

Run-time execution and monitoring

- Progress belief state and resources w.r.t. plan structure
 - Comparison of belief state read from sensors with:
 - » progressed belief state
 - » annotation in the plan
 - Comparison of expected resources w.r.t.
 - » resources from sensors
 - » minimal resource R_{min}



Fault Detection, Identification, Recovery

- Fault detection and identification via re-use of techniques developed in formal safety analysis for the extraction of fault-trees
- Record performed actions and observations while executing plan
 - Bounded History Window
- Construction of a monitor for fault variables
- Cross-product of monitor and Model of the plant
- Simulation of the History Window on the crossproduct model
 - Accumulate reachable states of the cross-product
 - Project on fault monitor variables
 - Analyze the resulting set to extract the possible faults
 - For multiple faults, consider the one with highest probability
- Remark: FDIR not on-line



OMCARE: experimental evaluation

- Implemented framework within the NuSMV model checker using BDD techniques
- Integrated on a realistic spacecraft simulator
 - Including hw, sw, environment
- Case studies
 - Planetary rover
 - » Model taken from another running project developed in Thales-Alenia Space
 - Orbiting spacecraft
 - » Thales-Alenia Space in house simple model
- Characterization
 - Functional on desktop PC under Linux
 - Embedded on platforms RTEMS (LEON3, ERC32) and OSTRALES (ERC32)







Model: generation and validation





		RO	ORBITER			
	SMALL		FULL			
	ERC32	LEON3	ERC32	LEON3	ERC32	LEON3
Initialization	33	13	282	113	9	1
Plan loading	3	1	6	2	2	0.5
Plan validation	15	6.5	55	23	1	1
Plan execution	116	121	125	121	16	16
Plan generation	87	34	1349	540	6	2

Time in secs





More info about OMC-ARE: <u>http://es.fbk.eu/projects/esa_omc-are</u> See also IJCAI11 paper.

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- Unique formal framework for all autonomy functionalities
- Enables for formal validation of the model using model checking techniques
- Same framework for on-board and on-ground reasoning
- Promising, non-trivial effort in technology transfer



- Motivations
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 Preparing ESA for future robotics missions operations through the Investigation and Prototyping of Innovative Planning Operations Concepts for Rovers equipped with Autonomy Capabilities





- Goals:
 - developing an operational concept for autonomous Rovers and define the processes and tools required for Rover ground control.
 - developing a prototype of a Rover planning and scheduling facility supporting the operational concept
 - demonstrating and evaluating the prototype in the context of two case studies





Workflow & Operations Planning Cycle





- Validation and Verification
 - Model V&V: does our domain model capture the expected behaviours
 - Plan V&V: does given plan achieve the expected conditions
- Planning and Scheduling
 - Find plan such that expected conditions are (always) met
 - » Goal representation capabilities
 - » Temporally extended goals
 - » Resource-aware goals
 - » Hard & soft goals
 - » Hierarchical, mixed initiative goals
 - » Constraints and assumptions
- Model Synchronization
 - Ensure consistency between on-ground reasoning and on-board



- We have a clean formalism to represent the controlled system and its environment
 - Nondeterministic action effects
 - Faults
 - Observations
- Missing ingredients:
 - Parallel actions
 - » Start actuations in different subsystems
 - Time
 - » Time taken by procedures
 - » e.g. drilling, transmission, locomotion, power-up, ...
 - Key issue: Resources
 - » Power consumption, bandwidth, memory, ...
- Need for a richer formalism!





CONTINUOUS COMPONENT

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- Nondeterminism
 - Discrete choice
- Uncertainty
 - Continuous
- Controllable
 - Start
- Uncontrollable
 - Effects
 - End





- Sequences of actions
 - \mathbf{a}_1 ; \mathbf{a}_2 ; ... ; \mathbf{a}_n
- Time-triggered sequences of actions
 - $@t_1 do a_1 ; @t_2 do a_2 ; ... ; @t_n do a_n$
- Time-triggered sequences of actions and checks

- $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t_1 \end{bmatrix}$ do a_1 ; $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t_1 \end{bmatrix}$, assert C_1 ; $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t_2 \end{bmatrix}$ do a_2 ; $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t_2 \end{bmatrix}$, assert C_2 ; ...; $\begin{bmatrix} 0 \\ t_n \end{bmatrix}$ do a_n

Time-dependent sequences/conditionals

- Arbitrarily complex programming language...
- Possibly extended with embedded subgoal delegation...

The formalism: hybrid automata



Relevant problems

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- Model checking
- Temporal problems (also with uncertainty)
- **Timed games**

Networks of hybrid automata



SMT-based Model Checking for Hybrid Automata

- Symbolic representation
 - I(X), R(X, X') are now first-order formulae
 - Boolean for discrete, real-valued for timing/continuous
- From SAT-based to SMT-based model checking
 - I(X), R(X, X') are now first-order formulae
 - bounded model checking, induction, abstraction/refinement, ...
- The enabler: Satisfiability Modulo Theory
 - Richer language, decidable fragments of first order logic
 - E.g. theory of uninterpreted functions, linear integer arithmetics, ...
- SMT solvers
 - Tight integration of Boolean reasoning and constraint solving
 - SAT solver for boolean reasoning
 - theory solvers to interpret numerical constraints
- SMT community
 - Language and benchmarks: http://www.smt-lib.org
 - Yearly competition: http://www.smt-comp.org
 - MathSAT (our solver): http://mathsat.fbk.eu
- A MathSAT-based extension of NuSMV forthcoming



```
Start_a -> s = STANDBY
Start_a -> next(s) = TAKING_PICTURE
Start_a -> next(t) = 0.0
```

```
s = TAKING PICTURE \rightarrow t \leq 50.0
```

```
End_a -> s = TAKING_PICTURE
End_a -> next(s) = TAKING_PICTURE
End_a -> t >= 30.0
```





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- A Symbolic Model Checking approach to autonomous systems
- A comprehensive formal modeling framework
 - Expressiveness of the model
 - » Non-determinism, faults, partial observability, resources
 - Encompassing different autonomy functions
 - » Requirements analysis, functional correctness, safety dependability assessment
 - » Model validation, plan generation, plan validation, monitoring, execution and FDIR
- Strong support tools
 - On ground
 - » Validation on realistic case studies
 - On board "not completely crazy"
 - » Operational characterization within spacecraft simulators

Take-away messages

- Planning as the tip of the iceberg
 - Need to put planning into broader (lifecycle) perspective
 - » Links to design phase and operation phase
- The role of design languages
 - Domain description languages come from design phase
 - Similar to tech transfer in formal verification
 - » adapt method to already adopted language
 - » no way to model rover with PDDL
 - » but maybe we can extract PDDL from FSM's
- The role of symbolic representations
 - "Model everything as one gigantic automaton? I don't think so..."
 - Well studied composition primitives
 - Structure may also help partitioning verification



- A model-based approach, models become critical
 - Need for model validation
 - » Automatically constructed structural properties
 - » Need for model validation
 - Model-to-model management
 - » Proving equivalence after simplification
 - » Different levels of abstraction (checking refinement)
 - » Ground to board and back
- Mixed initiative, what-if?
 - Plan validation
 - » Formal validation
 - » Simulation-based validation
 - » Their combination!
- Ground to on-board consistency
 - Model synchronization
 - » Update conditions on ground after execution
 - » Retrieve information from telemetry, re-execute and reconstruct (abduction needed?)
 - Model update
 - » Revision of ground model based on inconsistencies wrt telemetry
 - E.g. faults detected, mis-estimated parameters, degradation due to use, ...
 - » Revision of on-board model

Open issues and future directions

- Synthesis of FDIR modules
 - The AutoGEF project
- Improving scalability of hybrid systems verification
 - Exploit structure of the problem
 - » scenario-based validation
 - Tighten connection between planning and temporal reasoning
 - » SMT-based scheduling
- Diagnosability checking and synthesis
 - Automated synthesis of sensors configurations that guarantee diagnosability
 - Generalize to the case of hybrid automata
- Towards validation of intelligence
 - Proof of correctness of the conceptual framework
 - Validation of the reasoning engine software
 - » "translation validation" approach
 - » independent checking of generated plan
 - See also "tool qualification problem" in FV





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