Uniform Interpolants and Model Completions in Formal Verification of Infinite-State Systems

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Acknowledgments

Diego Calvanese



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Outline



- 2 Motivation from Formal Verification
- 3 QE in Model Completions and Uniform Interpolation
- 4 Computing UIs in \mathcal{EUF}
- 5 Computing UIs in Theory Combinations

6 Conclusions

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 - Uls are strictly related to proper QE in model completions.
- Applications to **verification of infinite-state systems**, where UIs are used to compute **sets of reachable states** in a *precise* way.

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William Craig



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 - In this case, φ ∧ ψ is *T*-inconsistent and a reverse interpolant φ'(<u>x</u>) is s.t. φ ⊢_T φ' and φ' ∧ ψ is *T*-inconsistent.

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- If they exist, UIs are **unique**, up to *T*-equivalence.

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Given an *L*-formula ϕ , a *uniform interpolant (UI)* of ϕ (w.r.t. \underline{y}) is an *L*-formula $\phi'(\underline{x})$ where **only** the \underline{x} occur, and satisfying:

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Quantifier-free (ordinary) interpolants – quantifier-free uniform interpolants

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- If the \underline{x} range over an infinite domain, TS formalizes an **infinite-state system**.

Symbolic Model Checking

Safety Problem: is a set of **undesired states** $U(\underline{x})$ (state formula) *reachable* through the transitions $\tau(\underline{x}, \underline{x}')$ from a set of initial states $I(\underline{x})$?







$U(\underline{x})$ unsafe configurations

initial configurations





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Direct Image Computation

The key ingredient is to compute *iteratively* **Direct Images** of a state formula ϕ through transitions τ

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 - ► Example: uid and name new w.r.t. the state variable x_{applicant} ⇒ data values non-deterministacally taken from a DB.

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- How to solve the **problem of quantifiers**?
 - Ordinary Interpolation [McM06]: over-approximation of reachable states!
 - Quantifier Elimination: computationally expensive, not available for generic first-order theories









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(Reverse) Interpolation: Backward

First Step: exact preimages



First Step: over-approximated preimages



Second Step: exact preimages



The 'new' set of final states is given by Int



Second Step: over-approximated preimages



$\exists \underline{x}', \underline{x}'', \underline{x}'''(\tau(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') \land \tau(\underline{x}', \underline{x}') \land \tau(\underline{x}'', \underline{x}'') \land U(\underline{x}'''))$



Third Step: exact preimages. Fixpoint reached! The system is SAFE



Third Step: over-approximated preimages. Initial states intersected!



Spurious Trace! Refinement needed.







Every interesting T has QE?



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What to do when QE is not available in T?



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- Methods for **symbol elimination** [KV09, JM09] (e.g., *ordinary interpolation*):
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- QE in richer theories (model completions) ⇔ uniform interpolants (or, covers [GM08]): tractable in significant cases [CGG⁺21].

Outline

Overview



3 QE in Model Completions and Uniform Interpolation

Φ Computing Uls in ${\cal EUF}$

5 Computing Uls in Theory Combinations

6 Conclusions

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- Model-theoretic algebra [Rob63]: powerful setting for formulating the problem in algebraic terms, exploiting tools from model theory.
- **Model completions**: theories whose models *satisfy* all formulae that are *satisfiable in extended structures*.

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- A model *M* is **existentially closed** if *any solvable* quantifier-free formula already has a **solution** in *M* itself.
- In significant cases, existentially closed models of T are exactly the models of another FO theory T*: the **model completion** of T.

Definition (Existentially closed model)

A model \mathcal{M} of a Σ -theory T is said to be **existentially closed** for T if, for every extension \mathcal{N} of \mathcal{M} such that \mathcal{N} is a model of T, every existential $\Sigma^{|\mathcal{M}|}$ -sentence that holds in \mathcal{N} holds also in \mathcal{M} .

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Model Completion

Definition (Model Completion [CK90])

Let T be a universal Σ -theory and let $T^* \supseteq T$ be a further Σ -theory; we say that T^* is a model completion of T iff: (C.i) every model of T can be embedded into a model of T^* ; .(C.ii) T^* admits Quantifier Elimination.

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The model completion of a theory, *if it exists*, is **unique**.

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- Algebraically closed fields are the model completion of algebraic fields

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- Theories used in the verification of data-aware processes (DB theories) do not admit QE.
- How to handle the quantifiers there?
- Is it possible to enrich T in a 'conservative way' so as to get computationally tractable QE?



Solution: Model Completions

The answer is **YES**. Indeed, for a DB theory (Σ, T) , there exists a **'minimal richer theory'** (Σ, T^*) that extends T and s.t. T^* does have QE. T^* is exactly the **model completion** of T.



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- Hence, detecting **safety** in T or in T^* are equivalent problems!

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- Exact Preimages!!! No refinement needed.



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- In the cover $\psi(\underline{y}),$ the variables \underline{e} have been 'eliminated', in some sense.
- But, in general, $\psi(\underline{y})$ does *not* imply $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y})$. Hence, usually $\psi(\underline{y})$ and $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y})$ are not *T*-equivalent.

Equivalence between **QE** in model completions and **Uniform** Interpolants (or Covers)

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Theorem (UIs and QE [CGG⁺21])

Let T be a universal theory. Then, T has a model completion T^* iff T has uniform quantifier-free interpolation. T^* is axiomatized by the infinitely many sentences $\forall \underline{y} (\psi(\underline{y}) \rightarrow \exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y}))$, where $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y})$ is a primitive formula and ψ is a **UI** of it.

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Remark

- In T^* , thanks to the axioms, the UI $\psi(\underline{y})$ implies $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y})!$
- Hence, the UI $\psi(\underline{y})$ is a quantifier-free formula that is T^* -equivalent to the quantified formula $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, y)!$
- The UI $\psi(\underline{y})$ is the formula that eliminates the quantifiers from $\exists \underline{e} \phi(\underline{e}, \underline{y})!$

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Thus, computing UIs in a theory T is equivalent to eliminating quantifiers in its model completion T^*



Model Completion = Existentially Closed Models

"Equations are **solvable** in extensions" [not a quote, but still evocative]

'light' QE = strong interpolation = Uls

Abraham Robinson

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- This computation is **tractable** for multi-sorted \mathcal{EUF} with unary functions and *n*-ary relations, making **UIs** crucial in *verification of data-aware processes*.

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 - If $t := g(y_1)$ and $u := y_2$, we have $E(t, u) = \{t = u\}$;

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- Subroutine E(t, u): unification w.r.t. the variables \underline{y} (the \underline{e} variables are considered as constants). Example:
 - E(t, u) fails if $t \equiv e_i$ and $u \equiv e_j$ for $i \neq j$;
 - If $t := g(y_1)$ and $u := y_2$, we have $E(t, u) = \{t = u\}$;
 - If $t := f(e, y_1, y_2)$ and $u := f(e, y_3, y_4)$, the subroutine E(t, u) is defined *inductively*, i.e., $E(t, u) = E(y_1, y_3) \cup E(y_2, u_4)$, which, in turn, is equal to $E(t, u) = \{y_1 = y_3, y_2 = y_4\}$

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Superposition Right (Constrained)	$\frac{l=r \parallel C \qquad s=t \parallel D}{s[r]_p=t \parallel C \cup D \cup E(s_{ p},l)}$	if $l > r$ and $s > t$
Superposition Left (Constrained)	$\frac{l=r \parallel C s \neq t \parallel D}{s[r]_p \neq t \parallel C \cup D \cup E(s_{\mid p}, l)}$	if $l > r$ and $s > t$
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DB theory \mathcal{EUF} with multiple sorts, unary functions and *n*-ary relations: Uls in polynomial time (with a quadratic bound).

Outline

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 Verification of data-aware processes requires combination of different theories for formalizing the DB (e.g., EUF, LIA, LRA).

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- For disjoint-signature convex theories: **Yes**, under the same hypothesis for the transfer of *ordinary interpolation* the **equality interpolating condition** [YM05].
- Using Beth definability: devise a **combined UI algorithm** that employs the **component UI algorithms**.

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Definition ([YM05])

A convex universal theory T is *equality interpolating* iff for every pair y_1, y_2 of variables and for every pair of *constraints* $\delta_1(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_1, y_1)$, $\delta_2(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_2, y_2)$ such that $T \vdash \delta_1(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_1, y_1) \land \delta_2(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_2, y_2) \rightarrow y_1 = y_2$, **there exists** a term $t(\underline{x})$ such that $T \vdash \delta_1(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_1, y_1) \land \delta_2(\underline{x}, \underline{z}_2, y_2) \rightarrow y_1 = t(\underline{x}) \land y_2 = t(\underline{x})$.

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Examples of universal **quantifier-free interpolating** and **equality interpolating** theories:

- $\mathcal{EUF}(\Sigma)$, given a signature Σ ;
- recursive data theories;
- linear arithmetics.

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- $\exists \underline{z} \phi(\underline{x}, \underline{z}, y)$ explicitly defines y in T iff there is a term $t(\underline{x})$ such that the formula is T-valid: $\forall y \ (\exists \underline{z} \phi(\underline{x}, \underline{z}, y) \rightarrow y = t(\underline{x}));$

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- a theory T has the Beth definability property for primitive formulae iff whenever a primitive formula ∃<u>z</u> φ(<u>x</u>, <u>z</u>, y) implicitly defines the variable y then it also explicitly defines it.

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Theorem (Key Theorem [BGR14])

A convex theory T having quantifier-free interpolation is **equality interpolating iff** it has the **Beth definability property** for primitive formulae.

 Every Σ_i-theory T_i from now on is convex, stably infinite, equality interpolating, universal and admitting a model completion T_i^{*}.

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- **Preprocessing**: the Initial Formula is transformed into $\exists \underline{z} (\texttt{ExplDef}(\underline{z}, \underline{x}) \land \exists \underline{e} (\psi_1(\underline{x}, \underline{z}, \underline{e}) \land \psi_2(\underline{x}, \underline{z}, \underline{e})))$, where

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 - ψ_1, ψ_2 always contain the literals $e_i \neq e_j$ (for $i \neq j$).

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- **Preprocessing**: the Initial Formula transformed into a 'purified' formula, where (acyclic) recursive *explicit definitions* are isolated.
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- Intuitively, for every $e_i \in \underline{e}$:
 - either e_i is implicitly definable, so, via *Beth definability*, can be made explicitly defined;
 - or e_i is not implicitly definable.
- The **combined algorithm discovers** implicitly definable variables and eliminates them via **explicit definability** (via Beth definability): the obtained formula is called *terminal*.

Transfer of Uls

Given a *terminal* formula, the $T_1 \cup T_2$ -UI is modularly computed by:

- computing the T_1 -UI of the Σ_1 -pure part of the formula.
- computing the T_2 -UI of the Σ_2 -pure part of the formula.
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- **unfolding** the (recursive) explicit definitions.

Theorem ([CGG⁺22])

Let T_1, T_2 be FO theories with the aforementioned hypotheses. Then $T_1 \cup T_2$ admits a model completion too. Uls in $T_1 \cup T_2$ can be effectively **computed** using the translating procedure above an the previous proposition.

Implicit vs Explicit Definability



Evert Willem Beth

Hidden implicit definitions must

be **discovered**, because in theory combination they can propagate information from one theory to the other!

"Hidden implicit facts always need to be made explicit" [Again, not a citation, but a good synthesis]

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 - ▶ the formula $\exists e \ (0 < e \land e < x \land f(e) = 0)$ does not have a UI in $T_1 \cup T_2$.
How crucial are the hypotheses?

- Equality interpolating is a necessary condition for UI transfer: minimal combinations with uninterpreted symbols.
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 - ▶ the formula $\exists e \ (0 < e \land e < x \land f(e) = 0)$ does **not** have a UI in $T_1 \cup T_2$.
- **Stable Infiniteness** is already crucial for combined satisfiability (cf. the **Nelson-Oppen method**!).

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• Uniform Interpolants: important tool in formal verification

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- For significant theories (DB with keys), UIs can be **computed using** well-established techniques like the Superposition Calculus.
- **Modular combined algorithms** for UI computation: applications to data-aware processes.

Several open directions:

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- UI transfer properties for proper non-disjoint signatures combinations.
- Uniform Interpolants in SMT solvers

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Alessandro Gianola

Uls and Model Completions in Verification

Input formula: $f(e, y_1) = y_2 \land f(e, y_3) = y_4$

Input formula: $f(e, y_1) = y_2 \wedge f(e, y_3) = y_4$

Apply *Superposition Right* in root position, with:

- $l \equiv f(e, y_1)$,
- $r \equiv y_2$,
- $s \equiv f(e, y_3)$,
- $t \equiv y_4$

C and D are empty. We get $E(s, l) \equiv \{y_1 = y_3\}$

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Apply *Superposition Right* in root position, with:

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Applying the combined algorithm, we get:

$$\begin{aligned} [x_2 &= 0 \ \land \ f(x_1) = x_1 \ \land \ x_1 \leq 0 \ \land \ x_1 \leq f(0)] \lor \\ &\lor \ [x_1 + f(x_1) < x_2 + f(x_2) \ \land \ x_2 \neq 0] \lor \\ &\lor \left[x_2 \neq 0 \ \land \ x_1 + f(x_1) = x_2 + f(x_2) \ \land \ f(2x_2 + f(x_2)) = x_1 \land \\ &\land \ f(x_1 + f(x_1)) = x_1 + f(x_1) \end{aligned} \right]$$

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Artifact-Centric Systems \implies Array-based Systems \implies SMT-based tool Model Checker Modulo Theories (MCMT)

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Uls and Model Completions in Verification

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Array-based Artifact-Centric Systems: a simplified version

A SAS (Simple Artifact Systems) is a tuple

- $\mathcal{S} = \langle \Sigma, T, \underline{x}, \iota(\underline{x}), \tau(\underline{x}, \underline{x}') \rangle$, where:
 - (Σ, T) is a DB schema;
 - <u>x</u> are individual FO variables representing the current state;
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Artifact Variables (Working Memory)

Individual variables change their value over the time, according to the *transitions* formula!

A simple example

Job Hiring Process:

$$\iota := (\mathsf{Applicant} = undef \land \mathsf{JobPos} = undef)$$

$$\tau := \exists \mathsf{U}\mathsf{serID}, \mathsf{JobID} \left(\begin{matrix} \mathsf{U}\mathsf{serID} \neq undef \land \mathsf{JobID} \neq undef \land \mathsf{Applicant} = undef \land \\ \mathsf{JobPos} = undef \land \mathsf{Applicant}' := \mathsf{U}\mathsf{serID} \land \mathsf{JobPos}' := \mathsf{JobID} \end{matrix} \right)$$



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S is safe wrt v iff in no model \mathcal{M} of (Σ, T) , for no $k \ge 0$ and for no assignment in \mathcal{M} to $\underline{x}^0, \ldots, \underline{x}^k$ (1) is true (\underline{x}^i are renamed copies of \underline{x}):

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Theorem (Soundness and Completeness)

Backward search is effective, correct and complete (the last one w.r.t. detecting unsafety) for the safety problems for SASs. If $G(\Sigma)$ is acyclic, backward search always terminates and it is a full decision procedure.