

# SATISFIABILITY DEGREE THEORY FOR TEMPORAL LOGIC\*

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**Abstract:** The truth value of propositional logic is not capable of representing the real world full of complexity and diversity. The requirements of the proposition satisfiability are reviewed in this paper. Every state is labeled with a vector, which is defined by the proposition satisfiability degree. The satisfiability degree for temporal logic is proposed based on the vector of satisfiability degree. It is used to interpret the truth degree of the temporal logic instead of true or false. A sound and precise reasoning system for temporal logic is established and the computation is given. One example of a leadership election is included to show that uncertain information can be quantized by the satisfiability degree.

## 1 INTRODUCTION

The idea of temporal logic (Mattolini and Nesi, 2000) is that a formula is not statically true or false in a time model. Instead, the models of temporal logic contain several states and a formula can be true in some states and false in others. The formulas may change their truth values as the system evolves from state to state, but the truth values of the formulas are true or false. Sometimes, a state partially satisfies a formula, so it is not absolutely true or false, and the semantic of the temporal logic, which is based on the classical Boolean logic, cannot interpret this case. Thus, the world requires new ways to express uncertainty. Many studies have used non-classical logic, such as fuzzy logic (Bergmann, 2008), probabilistic logic (Raedt and Kersting, 2003), modal logic, etc.

Satisfiability degree, a new precise logic presentation, was proposed in (Luo and Yin, 2009). It describes the extent to which a proposition is true based on the truth table by finding out the proportion of satisfiable interpretations. Unlike fuzzy logic and probabilistic logic, satisfiability degree does not need membership function or distribution function and it is determined by the proposition itself. Moreover, satisfiability degree extends the concepts of satisfaction and contradictory propositions in Boolean logic and truth values of propositions are precisely interpreted as their satisfiability degrees.

Sometimes, given the premise is true, we want to deduce the truth degree of a considered conclusion. The conditional satisfiability degree was proposed in (Luo and Yin, 2009), to quantitatively represent the deductive reasoning, which is based on if the satisfiability degree of premise is given, we deduce the satisfiability degree of the conclusion.

There are many algorithms to compute the satisfiability degree, such as the backtracking algorithm (Yin et al., 2009), the satisfiability degree computation based on CNF (Hu et al., 2009), the algorithm based on binary decision diagrams (Luo and Yin, 2009) and the propositional matrix search algorithm (Luo and Luo, 2010). Once a propositional formula is given, its satisfiability degree can be precisely computed using those algorithms. Thus, this paper only focuses on the performance and properties of satisfiability degree based on the temporal logic.

Because the temporal logic is based on propositional logic and temporal connectives, the truth value of a temporal formula can be precisely interpreted by satisfiability degree. Thus, if there are only several models are available for the concerned formula, we can choose the model with maximum satisfiability degree. Sometimes, a model checker may not find counterexamples but it does mean the system cannot be applied to some domains, but satisfiability degree can provide us a quantitative analysis of model checking (Kang and Park, 2005).

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## 2 SATISFIABILITY DEGREE

Thus, we use satisfiability degree to define the truth values of propositions in states instead of "true" or false. Sometimes, it is difficult to choose some atomic descriptions, because some properties cannot be subdivided into. We define a new temporal model on  $n$  propositions set and use satisfiability degree to interpret the truth values of those propositions.

### 2.1 Temporal Model

**Definition 1.** Let  $\Sigma$  be a set of  $n$  propositions. A model  $M$  over  $\Sigma$  is a triple  $M = (S, R, V)$  where:

- $S$  is a set of states;
- $R \subset S \times S$  is a total transition relation, i.e., any state  $s \in S$ , there is a state  $s' \in S$ , s.t.  $(s, s') \in R$ ;
- $V : \Sigma^n \times S \rightarrow [0, 1]^n$  is a function that mapping the satisfiability degree of each proposition in  $s$ .

Thus, our model has a collection of state  $S$ , a relation  $R$ , saying how the system can move from state to state, and, associated with each state  $s$ , one has the  $n$ -dimension vector  $V(s)$ , components of which are satisfiability degree, denoted as  $f(p, s)$ :

$$V(s) = (f(p_1, s), f(p_2, s), \dots, f(p_n, s))^T \quad (1)$$

Where  $f(p_i, s)$  is the satisfiability degree of  $p_i$  in state  $s$ . We can express all the information about a model  $M$  using a directed graph and Figure 1 below shows us an example, where  $S = \{s_0, s_1, s_2\}$ ,  $\Sigma = \{p, q, r\}$  and  $V(s_0) = (0.5, 0.6, 0.2)$ ,  $V(s_1) = (0.2, 0.3, 0.1)$  and  $V(s_2) = (0.8, 0, 1)$ .

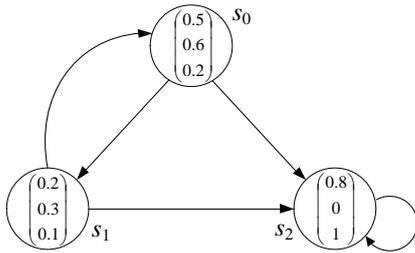


Figure 1: A temporal model based on satisfiability degree.

Note that, if all the propositions in set  $\Sigma$  are atomic propositions, then their satisfiability degree are 0 or 1. That is the classical temporal model referred to the paper (Huth and Ryan, 2005). Therefore, the models we define are more expressive than that of classical temporal models.

**Definition 2.** Let  $M = (S, R, V)$  be a model. A path  $\rho$  in  $M$  is an infinite sequence  $s_0 \cdot s_1 \cdot s_2 \dots$  of states such that, for  $\forall i \geq 0$ ,  $(s_i, s_{i+1}) \in R$ .

Consider the path  $\rho = s_0 \cdot s_1 \cdot s_2 \dots$ . It represents a possible future of our system. We write  $\rho^i$  for the suffix starting at  $s_i$ , e.g.  $\rho^3$  is  $s_3 \cdot s_4 \dots$ .

### 2.2 Satisfiability Degree for CTL\*

The syntax of CTL\* involves two classes of formulas, state formula and path formula.

- state formula, which are evaluated in states:

$$\varphi ::= p \mid \neg\varphi \mid \varphi \wedge \varphi \mid \mathbf{A}[\alpha] \mid \mathbf{E}[\alpha] \quad (2)$$

Where  $p \in \Sigma$  and  $\alpha$  is any path formula; and

- path formula, which are evaluated along paths:

$$\alpha ::= \varphi \mid \neg\alpha \mid \alpha \wedge \alpha \mid \alpha \mathbf{U} \alpha \mid \mathbf{G} \alpha \mid \mathbf{F} \alpha \mid \mathbf{X} \alpha \quad (3)$$

The semantics (Huth and Ryan, 2005) of CTL\* was defined by a satisfaction relation, denoted by  $\models$ , which is characterized as the least relation on the paths. Since the interpretation of a CTL\* formula varies over states, we denote the satisfiability degree of a CTL\* formula  $\varphi$  at state  $s$  according to the model  $M$  as  $f_s^M(\varphi)$ .

**Definition 3.** For a model  $M = (S, R, V)$ , the satisfiability degree of a CTL\* formula at state  $s$  is defined inductively as:

- $\forall \varphi \in \mathbf{P}, f_s^M(\varphi) = f(\varphi, s)$ , where  $\mathbf{P}$  is the set of Boolean formulas.
- $f_s^M(\neg\varphi) = 1 - f_s^M(\varphi)$
- $f_s^M(\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2) = \min(f_s^M(\varphi_1), f_s^M(\varphi_2))$ ,  $\varphi_1 \wedge \varphi_2 \notin \mathbf{P}$
- $f_s^M(\mathbf{X} \alpha) = f_{s^*}^M(\alpha)$ , where  $s^*$  is the next state.
- $f_s^M(\mathbf{F} \alpha) = \sup_{\forall s^* \in \rho} f_{s^*}^M(\alpha)$ , where  $\rho$  start with  $s$  and  $s^*$  is any state on  $\rho$ .
- $f_s^M(\mathbf{G} \alpha) = \inf_{\forall s^* \in \rho} f_{s^*}^M(\alpha)$ , where  $\rho$  start with  $s$  and  $s^*$  is any state on  $\rho$ .
- $f_s^M(\alpha_1 \mathbf{U} \alpha_2) = \sup_{\forall s_j \in \rho} (f_{s_0}^M(\alpha_2), \min_{0 \leq i < j} (f_{s_i}^M(\alpha_1), f_{s_j}^M(\alpha_2)))$ , where  $\rho = s_0 \cdot s_1 \cdot s_2 \dots$ , and  $s_0 = s$ , starts with  $s$ .
- $f_s^M(\mathbf{A}[\alpha]) = \inf_{\forall \rho} f_s^M(\alpha)$ , where  $\rho$  starts with  $s$ .
- $f_s^M(\mathbf{E}[\alpha]) = \sup_{\forall \rho} f_s^M(\alpha)$ , where  $\rho$  starts with  $s$ .

The truth value of each propositional formula is determined by the state  $s$  with respect to the satisfiability degree vector  $V(s)$ . Suppose  $M = (S, R, V)$  be a model,  $s \in S$ , and  $\varphi$  a CTL\* formula. We have the follow conclusions: If  $M, s \models \varphi$  if, and only if we have  $f_s^M(\varphi) = 1$ .

### 3 A REASONING SYSTEM

A signed temporal formula can be a tuple  $(\varphi, f)$  where  $f$  is the satisfiability degree of  $\varphi$ . The proposed reasoning system is a pair  $\mathbf{v} = (A, L)$  where  $A$  is a set of temporal logic axioms, and  $L$  is a collection of inference rules. An inference rule based on satisfiability degree is a pair  $l = (l_{op}, l_f)$  where  $l_{op}$  is syntactical component that operates on temporal formulas, while  $l_f$  is a valuation component operating on satisfiability degree to compute the satisfiability degree of the conclusion depending on the satisfiability degrees of the premises. A rule  $l$  is usually written as:

$$\frac{\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n}{l_{op}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n)}, \frac{f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n}{l_f(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n)} \quad (4)$$

This expression means that if the formulas  $\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n$  have the satisfiability degree  $f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n$  respectively, then  $l_{op}(\varphi_1, \varphi_2, \dots, \varphi_n)$  is satisfiable at least to the satisfiability degree  $l_f(f_1, f_2, \dots, f_n)$ .

The inference rules for Boolean operations:

$$L_{\wedge} : \frac{p, q}{p \wedge q}, \frac{f_1, f_2}{f_1 f_2} \quad (5)$$

$$L_{\vee} : \frac{p, q}{p \vee q}, \frac{f_1, f_2}{f_1 + f_2 - f_1 f_2} \quad (6)$$

$$L_{\rightarrow} : \frac{p, q}{p \rightarrow q}, \frac{f_1, f_2}{1 - f_1 + f_1 f_2} \quad (7)$$

And for any CTL\* formula  $\varphi$ , we have

$$L_{\neg} : \frac{\varphi}{\neg \varphi}, \frac{f}{1 - f} \quad (8)$$

The theorems proved by the natural deduction can also be proved by our reasoning system, because we have the following theorem. Its proof is omitted.

**Theorem 1.** For propositional formulas  $\varphi$  and  $\phi$ :

- (1)  $\varphi \models \phi$  if and only if  $f(\varphi | \phi) = 1$ ;
- (2)  $\varphi \vdash \phi$  if and only if  $f(\varphi | \phi) = 1$ .

In addition, there are four kinds of generalization rules for temporal logic.

$$L_{AG} : \frac{\varphi}{\mathbf{AG} \varphi}, \frac{f}{f} \quad (9)$$

$$L_{GF} : \frac{\mathbf{G} \varphi}{\mathbf{F} \varphi}, \frac{f}{f} \quad (10)$$

$$L_X : \frac{\varphi}{\mathbf{F} \varphi}, \frac{f}{f} \quad (11)$$

$$L_{AE} : \frac{\mathbf{A} \alpha}{\mathbf{E} \alpha}, \frac{f}{f} \quad (12)$$

**Theorem 2.** Inference rules (5)-(12) are sound.

Proof: the rule  $L_{\neg}$  is trivial. Let  $\omega_1, \omega_2 \in \Omega$  be interpretations such that  $p(\omega_1) = 1$ , and  $q(\omega_2) = 1$ , then  $\omega = (\omega_1, \omega_2) \in \Omega \times \Omega, p \wedge q(\omega) = 1$ . By the Definition of satisfiability degree, we have

$$f(p \wedge q) = \frac{|\Omega_p \times \Omega_q|}{|\Omega \times \Omega|} = f(p)f(q) = f_1 f_2 \quad (13)$$

The rules such as  $L_{\vee}$  and  $L_{\rightarrow}$  can be derive from  $L_{\wedge}$  and  $L_{\neg}$ , since  $p \wedge q = \neg(\neg p \wedge \neg q)$  and  $p \rightarrow q = \neg p \vee q$ . If a CTL formula  $\varphi$  has the minimum satisfiability degree  $f$  regardless of models, then  $\mathbf{G} \varphi$  has the same satisfiability degree  $f$ , so  $L_G$  is sound. Since for any state formula, we have:

$$f_s^M(\mathbf{M} \varphi) \geq f_s^M(\mathbf{G} \varphi) \quad (14)$$

Thus  $L_{GF}$  is sound.  $L_X$  and  $L_{AE}$  are trivial sound. It is very difficult to establish a complete one for CTL\*, the completeness of our deductive system for CTL\* need to be proved in our future works.

### 4 APPLICATION

This section presents another application, called Leader Election. This problem provide a protocol to select a leader out of their midst. The winning candidate needs more than half the available votes cast. Assume everyone is a candidate as well as a voter, he has a unique identity,  $id$  for short, selected from  $\{1, 2, \dots, N\}$ , we have two methods: one, the candidate can randomly vote his guy, including himself, then we check the result, if someone has more than half votes, he wins, otherwise we enter the next round and do it again until someone is elected as the leader. Second method, we do the same thing on the first round, but if nobody is selected, we change the rule on next round, we choose only two candidates with the most votes, of course, if there exist equal votes, select the one with bigger  $id$ . Then, vote again. We cannot make the election round and round because the expense of election is high. We should emphasize that a voter may change his opinion or position such that the results of each round are different, thus the extent of successful election varies with states or time. We use two propositions to describe the selection process of the two methods:

- $p$ : a leader is elected now.
- $r$ : it needs the next election.

Let  $M_1$  be the model of the first method described as Figure 2. The meanings of each state are:

- $s_{10}$ : the initial state that no leader is elected and it does need the next election.

- $s_{11}$  : the last election can come to nothing such that it will need the next election.
- $s_{12}$  : The last election can be successful, so it needs no election any more.

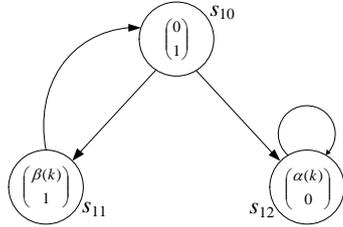


Figure 2: The model of the first method.

Note that  $\alpha(k)$  is the satisfiability degree of a successful  $k$ th election,  $\beta(k)$  for unsuccessful  $k$ th election, where

$$\alpha(k) + \beta(k) = 1 \quad (15)$$

Because, the second method can change its rules if the first election fails, so it is different from  $M_1$ . We use  $M_2$  to model the second method, please see Figure 3. The meanings of each state are:

- $s_{20}$ : the initial state that no leader is elected.
- $s_{21}$ : the last election can come to nothing such that it will need the next election. Once the first election fails, it will go to state  $s_{21}$  and change its rules. Thus, it will go to itself rather than  $s_{20}$  like the model  $M_1$ .
- $s_{22}$ : the last election can be successful, so it needs no election any more.

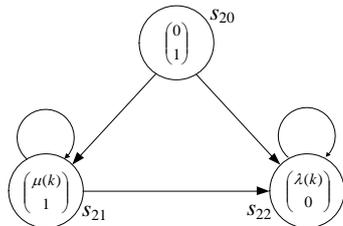


Figure 3: The model of the second method.

Note that  $\lambda(k)$  is the satisfiability degree of a successful  $k$ th election,  $\mu(k)$  for unsuccessful  $k$ th election, where

$$\lambda(k) + \mu(k) = 1 \quad (16)$$

Then, we concern the property that a leader is elected in only two rounds, which is written as:

$$\varphi = \mathbf{X} (p \wedge r = 0) \vee \mathbf{X} \mathbf{X} (p \wedge r = 0) \quad (17)$$

If  $f_{s_{10}}^{M_1}(\varphi) < f_{s_{20}}^{M_2}(\varphi)$ ,  $M_2$  is better than  $M_1$ , vice versa. However, if we use model checker, both  $M_1$  and  $M_2$  may not satisfy the formula, thus satisfiability degree can better differentiate the two protocols.

## 5 CONCLUSIONS

Satisfiability degree is a new method to precisely express the satisfiable extent of a formula. It is an inherent attribute of the proposition not depending on the interpretations. Since the propositional logic is the basis of temporal logic, satisfiability degree can be extended to the temporal logic such that the new temporal model can be constructed by satisfiability degree. That model is more expressive than the classical temporal model. On a model, the truth value of a temporal formula is precisely interpreted as its satisfiability degree. Based on satisfiability degree, a deductive system for CTL\* is established; some interference rules and axiom schemes are given, and its soundness is proved. The example, Leader Election, shows that satisfiability degree can be used to do a quantitative analysis for uncertain model checking.

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