

Analyzing Divergence in Bisimulation Semantics

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w. exp. div.

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- ▶ **Divergence**: existence of infinite internal computation sequences, an important semantic issue
 - termination
 - progress property: **eventually one of the pending procedure calls will be returned**
- ▶ **Bisimulation**: a corner stone in concurrency theory
 - it has been successfully used to define semantic equivalences of various abstraction levels
 - it provides verification methods (bisimulation techniques) for these equivalences. Some equivalences are useful in program verifications:
 - \approx with weak bisimulation method
 - \approx_b with branching bisimulation method

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- ▶ However, divergence is not preserved by some popular bisimulation equivalences including weak bisimilarity \approx and branching bisimilarity \approx_b

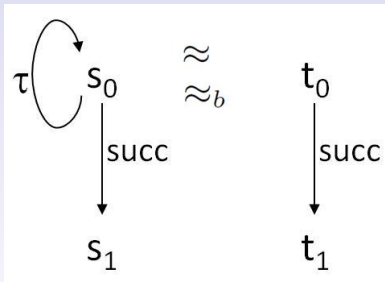


Figure: Divergence is not preserved by \approx and \approx_b

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- ▶ Usual solution: treat divergence as a **basic observation** and strengthen the definitions to obtain
 - divergence preserving weak bisimilarity \approx^\uparrow (dates back to Hennessy and Plotkin 1980):
if $s \approx^\uparrow t$ then
... (the action matching requirement)
and moreover: $s \uparrow$ if and only if $t \uparrow$
 - branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence \approx_b^Δ (van Glabbeek and Weijland 1996):
if $s \approx_b^\Delta t$ then
... (the action matching requirement)
and moreover: $s \uparrow_{\approx_b^\Delta}$ if and only if $t \uparrow_{\approx_b^\Delta}$

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- ▶ A recent work by Xiaoxiao Yang *et al.* proposed an original idea of using \approx_b^Δ to prove correctness and progress of concurrent objects, and developed a set of methods supported by many significant case studies to illustrate the idea. Their work shows that divergence preserving bisimulation equivalences can be used in verifying correctness and progress of concurrent objects.
- ▶ **Question:** What more needs to be done?

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- ▶ Problem: because divergence is **not a primitive observation** (the outcome of a primitive observation should at least be decidable), it is difficult to devise a verification method for an equivalence containing non-primitive observations.

for all $(s, t) \in R$ the following hold

- if $s \xrightarrow{\alpha} s'$ then $t \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} t'$ and $(s', t') \in R$ with t' ;
- if $s \uparrow$ then $t \uparrow$;
- ...

Thus with the current description of divergence preservation, the divergence preserving bisimulation equivalences are not supported by verification methods.

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- ▶ Our idea for solving the problem: introduce **induction** into the notion of bisimulation to identify pairs of states which have the same divergence behaviour.

The hope is that with this solution we may only consider (internal) transitions as basic observations (**they are clearly primitive**), then it is easy to devise a kind of bisimulation technique which is good for verification.

Summary of results

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We develop this idea and obtain the following **results**:

- introduce a new divergence sensitive weak bisimulation equivalence, **weak bisimilarity with explicit divergence** \approx^Δ , characterized by **inductive weak bisimulation**.
- provide **inductive characterizations** (thus verification methods) for two known divergence-sensitive equalities: branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence \approx_b^Δ , and divergence preserving weak bisimilarity \approx^\uparrow .
- introduce **complete weak (branching) bisimulation**, a very useful theoretical notion which builds connections for different notions.
- verify the correctness of HSY collision stack using the proposed **bisimulation technique**, which demonstrates that the technique is not over restrictive.

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A binary relation $R \subseteq S \times S$ on states of an LTS is a **weak bisimulation** if for all $(s, t) \in R$ the following hold:

1. whenever $s \xrightarrow{\alpha} s'$ then $\exists(s', t') \in R. t \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} t'$;
2. whenever $t \xrightarrow{\alpha} t'$ then $\exists(s', t') \in R. s \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} s'$.

weak bisimilarity, written \approx , is defined by

$$\approx = \bigcup \{R \mid R \text{ is a weak bisimulation}\}.$$

Theorem

1. \approx is an equivalence relation, and
2. it is the largest weak bisimulation.

The proof of this theorem is a routine application of Knaster-Tarski fixed-point theorem.

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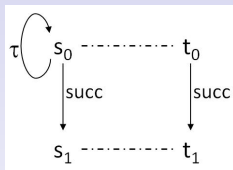
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- ▶ \approx is not divergence preserving.



For an equivalence \equiv , write $s \uparrow_{\equiv}$ if there is an infinite sequence $s_1 s_2 \dots$ such that $s \xrightarrow{\tau} s_1$, $s_i \xrightarrow{\tau} s_{i+1}$ and $s_i \equiv s$ for $i \geq 1$.

A simple fact: for an equivalence relation \equiv which is a weak bisimulation, if \equiv preserves \uparrow_{\equiv} then it preserves divergence (\uparrow).

Weak bisimulation with explicit divergence

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An equivalence relation \equiv is called a **weak bisimulation with explicit divergence** if it is a weak bisimulation, and moreover whenever $s \equiv t$ then $s \uparrow_{\equiv}$ if and only if $t \uparrow_{\equiv}$.

Now we may define **weak bisimilarity with explicit divergence**, written \approx^{Δ} , as

$$\approx^{\Delta} = \bigcup \{ \equiv \mid \equiv \text{ is a weak bisim. with explicit div.} \}.$$

Theorem

1. \approx^{Δ} an equivalence relation, and moreover
2. it is the largest weak bisim. with explicit divergence.

Proof needed! (Here, Knaster-Tarski fixed point theorem is no longer applicable.)

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A binary relation $R \subseteq S \times S$ on states of an LTS is a **complete weak bisimulation** if R is a weak bisimulation and moreover for all $(s, t) \in R$ the following hold:

- 3 whenever $s \Longrightarrow_{\omega} D$ then $\exists E. t \Longrightarrow_{\omega} E \ \& \ D \sqsupseteq_R E$;
- 4 whenever $t \Longrightarrow_{\omega} E$ then $\exists D. s \Longrightarrow_{\omega} D \ \& \ D \sqsubseteq_R E$;

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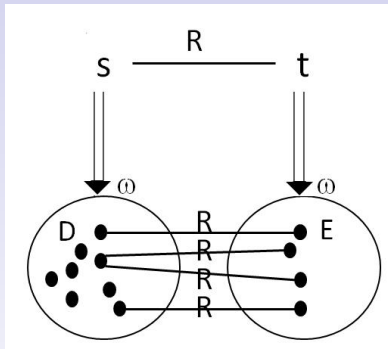
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Notation

- ▶ $s \Longrightarrow_{\omega} D$ if there is an infinite τ -run which passes D infinitely often
- ▶ $D \sqsubseteq_R E$ for all $t \in E$ there is $s \in D$ such that $(s, t) \in R$

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Complete weak bisimilarity, written \approx_c , is defined by

$$\approx_c = \bigcup \{R \mid R \text{ is a complete weak bisimulation}\}.$$

Theorem

1. \approx_c is an equivalence relation, and
2. it is the largest complete weak bisimulation.

Lemma

Closed under composition: If R_1, R_2 are complete weak bisimulations, then $R_1 \cdot R_2$ is a complete weak bisimulation.

Lemma

Closed under union: If $\{R_i\}_I$ is a set of comp. weak bisimulations, then $\bigcup \{R_i \mid i \in I\}$ is a comp. weak bisim.

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For a binary relation $R \subseteq S \times S$ on states of a LTS, let $\mathcal{I}(R)$ be the smallest binary relation closed in the sense that for $s, t \in S$, if the following hold then $(s, t) \in \mathcal{I}(R)$:

1. whenever $s \xrightarrow{\tau} s'$ then either there exists $t' \in S$ such that $t \xRightarrow{\tau} t'$ and $(s', t') \in R$, or $(s', t) \in R \cap \mathcal{I}(R)$;
2. whenever $t \xrightarrow{\tau} t'$ then

$$s \xrightarrow{\tau} s' \quad : \quad \begin{array}{c} s \xrightarrow{\tau} s' \\ | \quad | \\ \quad R \end{array} \quad \text{or} \quad \begin{array}{c} s \xrightarrow{\tau} s' \\ | \quad / \\ \quad R \cap \mathcal{I}(R) \end{array}$$
$$\begin{array}{c} | \quad | \\ t \xRightarrow{\tau} t' \end{array} \quad \begin{array}{c} | \quad / \\ t \end{array}$$

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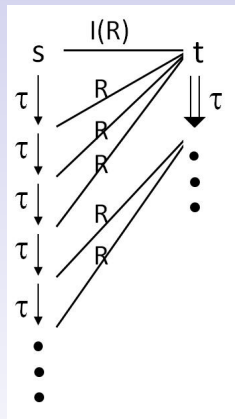
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$\mathcal{I}(R)$ is inductively defined, intuitively it captures those pairs which have the same divergence behaviour with respect to R .

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A relation R is an **inductive weak bisimulation** if it is a weak bisimulation and moreover $R \subseteq \mathcal{I}(R)$.

Inductive weak bisimilarity, written \approx_i , is defined by

$$\approx_i = \bigcup \{R \mid R \text{ is an inductive weak bisimulation}\}.$$

Theorem

1. \approx_i is an equivalence relation, and
2. it is the largest inductive weak bisimulation.

1. needs to be proved. 2. follows from the following lemma.

Lemma

Closed under union: If $\{R_i\}_I$ is a set of ind. weak bisimulations, then $\bigcup \{R_i \mid i \in I\}$ is an ind. weak bisim.

A brief summary of the notions

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We have defined three notions of weak bisimulation, corresponding to three relations

- $\approx^\Delta = \bigcup \{ \equiv \mid \equiv \text{ is a weak bisim. with explicit div.} \}$
 \approx^Δ is an equivalence(?)
 \approx^Δ is a weak bisimulation with explicit divergence(?)
- $\approx_c = \bigcup \{ R \mid R \text{ is a complete weak bisimulation} \}$
 \approx_c is an equivalence
 \approx_c is a complete weak bisimulation.
- $\approx_i = \bigcup \{ R \mid R \text{ is an ind. weak bisimulation} \}$
 \approx_i is an equivalence(?)
 \approx_i is an inductive weak bisimulation.

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To answer the questions we study properties of and the relationships among the notions

Lemma

$\mathcal{W}(\approx_c)$ is a complete weak bisimulation, where

$$\mathcal{W}(\approx_c) = \{(s, t) \mid \text{whenever } s \xrightarrow{\alpha} s' \text{ then } t \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} t' \& s' \approx_c t' \\ \text{whenever } t \xrightarrow{\alpha} t' \text{ then } s \xrightarrow{\hat{\alpha}} s' \& s' \approx_c t'\}.$$

Thus $\mathcal{W}(\approx_c) = \approx_c$.

\approx_c satisfies the following so-called stuttering property or computation lemma.

Lemma

If $s \Longrightarrow t \Longrightarrow s'$, $s \approx_c s'$, then $(s, t) \in \mathcal{W}(\approx_c)$, thus $s \approx_c t$.

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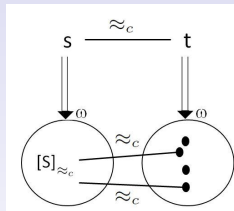
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Lemma

If $s \approx_c t$ and $s \uparrow_{\approx_c}$, then $t \uparrow_{\approx_c}$. Thus \approx_c is a weak bisimulation with explicit divergence.



Lemma

1. *Every weak bisim. w. expl. div. is an ind. weak bisim.*
2. *Every ind. weak bisimulation is a complete weak bisim.*

Characterization theorem

weak bisim. with explicit div.

↓

ind. weak bisim.

↑

↓

comp. weak bisim. $\subseteq \approx_c$

Theorem

\approx_c and \approx^Δ and \approx_i coincide.

Proof. \approx_c is a weak bisim. w. expl. div. $\Rightarrow \approx_c \subseteq \approx^\Delta$. Every weak bisim. w. expl. div. is an ind. weak bisim. $\Rightarrow \approx^\Delta \subseteq \approx_i$. Every ind. weak bisim. is a comp. weak bisim. $\Rightarrow \approx_i \subseteq \approx_c$.

□

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This theorem can answer the three early questions:

1. \approx^Δ is an equivalence.
2. \approx^Δ is a weak bisimulation with explicit divergence.
3. \approx_i is an equivalence.

The three notions provide three different perspectives for the understanding of the equivalence relation:

1. weak bisim. with explicit div. is simple and direct;
2. comp. weak bisim. is theoretically powerful;
3. inductive weak bisimulation is verification friendly.

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The same approach can be applied to branching bisimulation to obtain inductive characterization of branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence

1. $\approx_b^\Delta = \bigcup \{ \equiv \mid \equiv \text{ is a } \text{bran. bisim. with explicit div.} \}$
 \approx_b^Δ is an equivalence
 \approx_b^Δ is a branching bisimulation with explicit divergence
2. $\approx_{cb} = \bigcup \{ R \mid R \text{ is a } \text{complete bran. bisim.} \}$
 \approx_{cb} is an equivalence
 \approx_{cb} is a complete branching bisimulation.
3. $\approx_{ib} = \bigcup \{ R \mid R \text{ is an } \text{ind. bran. bisim.} \}$
 \approx_{ib} is an equivalence(?)
 \approx_{ib} is an inductive branching bisimulation.

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branching bisim. with explicit div.

↓

ind. branching bisim.

↑

↓

comp. branching bisim. $\subseteq \approx_{cb}$

Theorem

\approx_b^Δ and \approx_{cb} and \approx_{ib} coincide.

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A binary relation R is called a **divergence preserving weak bisimulation** if

1. R is a weak bisimulation
2. for all $(s, t) \in R$: $s \uparrow$ if and only if $t \uparrow$.

Divergence preserving weak bisimilarity, written \approx^\uparrow , is defined by

$$\approx^\uparrow = \bigcup \{R \mid R \text{ is a divergence preserving weak bisimulation}\}.$$

Theorem

1. \approx^\uparrow is an equivalence relation, and
2. it is the largest divergence preserving weak bisimulation.

Theorem

$$\approx_b^\Delta \subseteq \approx^\Delta \subseteq \approx^\uparrow.$$

Generalized inductive weak bisimulation

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A set of states $D \subseteq S$ is called a **divergence set** if for all $s \in D$ there is $s' \in D$ such that $s \xrightarrow{\tau} s'$.

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A relation R is a **generalized inductive weak bisimulation** if R is a weak bisimulation and moreover there is a divergence set D such that $R \subseteq (\mathcal{I}(R) \cup D \times D)$.

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Obviously, generalized inductive weak bisimulation is a generalization of inductive weak bisimulation: every inductive weak bisimulation is also a generalized one.

Theorem

For $s, t \in S$, $s \approx^{\uparrow} t$ if and only if there is a generalized inductive weak bisimulation R such that $(s, t) \in R$.

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```
type Node = { val: Val,  
              next: ptr_to Node}  
Top: ptr_to Node
```

```
push(v: Val) =  
E0 n: ptr_to Node := newNode()  
E1 atomic {  
E2   n->val := v  
E3   n->next := Top  
E4   Top := n  
E5 }  
E6 return
```

Figure: Pseudo-code for lock-free stack specification using atomic blocks

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```
pop(): Val =  
F0  atomic {  
F1      n:ptr_to Node:= Top  
F2      if n <> null then  
F3          {Top:=n->next  
F4          v: Val :=n-> val  
F5          }  
F6      }  
F7  if n = null then  
F8      return empty  
F9  else  
F10     return v  
F11 fi
```

Figure: Pseudo-code for lock-free stack specification using atomic blocks

Transitions of thread with atomic blocks

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$$\begin{aligned} \langle H, M, (t, \text{EFidle}, m) \rangle & \xrightarrow{(t, \text{call } \text{push}(d))} \langle H, M, (t, \text{E0}, m[v \mapsto d]) \rangle \\ \langle H, M, (t, \text{E0}, m) \rangle & \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle H \uplus [q \mapsto \{\text{Val} : \perp, \text{next} : \text{null}\}], \\ & M, (t, \text{E1}, m[n \mapsto q]) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

Motivation

$$\begin{aligned} \langle H[q \mapsto \{\text{Val} : d, \text{next} : r\}], \langle H[q \mapsto \{\text{Val} : m(v), \text{next} : M(\text{Top})\}] \rangle, \\ M, (t, \text{E1}, m[n \mapsto q]) \rangle & \xrightarrow{\tau} M[\text{Top} \mapsto q], (t, \text{E6}, m[n \mapsto q]) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

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$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{E6}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{(t, \text{ret}(\text{)})\text{push}} \langle H, M, (t, \text{EFidle}, m) \rangle$$

Comp. weak
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$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{EFidle}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{(t, \text{call } \text{pop}())} \langle H, M, (t, \text{F0}, m) \rangle$$

Ind. weak
bisimulation

$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{F0}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle H, M, (t, \text{F7}, m[n \mapsto \text{null}]) \rangle \quad (M(\text{Top}) = \text{null})$$

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$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{F7}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle H, M, (t, \text{F8}, m) \rangle \quad (m(n) = \text{null})$$

Ind. bran.
bisimulation

$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{F8}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{(t, \text{ret}(\text{empty})\text{pop}} \langle H, M, (t, \text{EFidle}, m) \rangle$$

Gen. ind.
weak bisim.

$$\begin{aligned} \langle H[p \mapsto \{\text{Val} : d, \text{next} : q\}], \langle H, M[\text{Top} \mapsto q], \\ M[\text{Top} \mapsto p], (t, \text{F0}, m) \rangle & \xrightarrow{\tau} (t, \text{F7}, m[v \mapsto d, n \mapsto p]) \rangle \end{aligned}$$

A case stud.

$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{F7}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{\tau} \langle H, M, (t, \text{F10}, m) \rangle \quad (m(n) \neq \text{null})$$

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$$\langle H, M, (t, \text{F10}, m) \rangle \xrightarrow{(t, \text{ret}(m(v))\text{pop}} \langle H, M, (t, \text{EFidle}, m) \rangle$$

```
type Node = { val: Val,  
              next: ptr_to Node}  
Top: ptr_to Node  
type Op=enum{NONE,PUSH,POP}  
type opInfo={op:OP,  
             node:ptr_to Node}  
opInfos: array[numprocs] of opInfo  
collision: array[size] of ProcessId  
  
push(v: Val) =  
A0 n: ptr_to Node := newNode()  
A1   n-> val := v  
A2   info: opInfo :=(PUSH,n)  
A3   loop  
A4   if tryPush(n) then exit  
A5   if tryElimination(& info) then exit  
A6   endloop  
A7   return
```

```
tryPush(n:ptr_to Node):boolean=  
C1  ss:ptr_to Node := Top  
C2  n->next:= ss  
C3  return CAS(&Top, ss, n)
```



```
pop(): Val =  
B0   info: opInfo:=(POP,null)  
B1   loop  
B2     if tryPop(info.node) then exit  
B3     if tryEliminate(&info) then exit  
B4   endloop  
B5   if info.node=null then  
B6     return empty  
B7   else  
B8     v: Val:=info.node-> val  
B10  return v  
B11  fi
```

```
tryPop(n:ptr_to Node): boolean=  
D1  ss: ptr_to Node:= Top  
D2  if ss=null then  
D3      n:=null  
D4      return true  
D5  else  
D6      n:= ss  
D7      ssn: ptr_to Node:= ss-> next  
D8      return CAS(&Top, ss, ssn)  
D9  fi
```

A verification example

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$$\frac{\langle H, M, (t_i, l_i, m_i) \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle H', M', (t_i, l'_i, m'_i) \rangle}{\langle H, M, \dots (t_i, l_i, m_i) \dots \rangle \xrightarrow{\alpha} \langle H', M', \dots (t_i, l'_i, m'_i) \dots \rangle}$$

We need to establish:

$$\langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{ABidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle \approx^{\Delta} \langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{EFidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle$$

For that we construct an inductive weak bisimulation R which contains

$$(\langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{ABidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle, \langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{EFidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle).$$

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R is defined such that

$$\langle \langle H, M, (t_1, l_1, m_1) \dots (t_n, l_n, m_n) \rangle, \langle H', M', (t_1, l'_1, m'_1) \dots (t_n, l'_n, m'_n) \rangle \rangle \in R$$

if and only if the following hold:

1. $\langle H, M, (t_1, l_1, m_1) \dots (t_n, l_n, m_n) \rangle$ is a type AB configuration which is reachable from $\langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{ABidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle$, and $\langle H', M', (t_1, l'_1, m'_1) \dots (t_n, l'_n, m'_n) \rangle$ is a type EF configuration which is reachable from $\langle \epsilon, M, \dots (t_i, \mathbf{EFidle}, m_i) \dots \rangle$.
2. $H = H', M(\mathbf{Top}) = M'(\mathbf{Top})$.

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3. for each i , (t_i, l_i, m_i) and (t_i, l'_i, m'_i) satisfy one of the following conditions

idle: *both in idle states;*

push: *both in pre-linearization push states or both in post-linearization push states,*
 $m_i(\mathbf{n}) = m'_i(\mathbf{n}), m_i(\mathbf{v}) = m'_i(\mathbf{v});$

pre-pop: *both in pre-linearization pop states;*

post-pop: *both in post-linearization pop states,*
 $m_i(\mathbf{ss}) = m'_i(\mathbf{n}), m_i(\mathbf{v}) = m'_i(\mathbf{v}).$

For this R , we can prove that

1 R is a weak bisimulation,

2 and $R \subseteq \mathcal{I}(R)$.

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1. Introduced weak bisimilarity with explicit divergence \approx^Δ , characterized by inductive weak bisimulation which supports verification.
2. As an application example, used inductive weak bisimulation to verify the correctness of HSY collision stack, which shows that the proposed method is not over restrictive.
3. The method can be adapted for branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence \approx_b^Δ and divergence preserving weak bisimilarity \approx^\uparrow .

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1. van Glabbeek and Weijland's work on branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence.
2. Namjoshi's work on well-founded stutter equivalence.
3. Gotsman and Yang, Liang *et al.*'s work on linearizability plus progress conditions.
4. Xiaoxiao Yang *et al.*'s work on using branching bisimilarity with explicit divergence to verify correctness and progress of concurrent data structures.

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