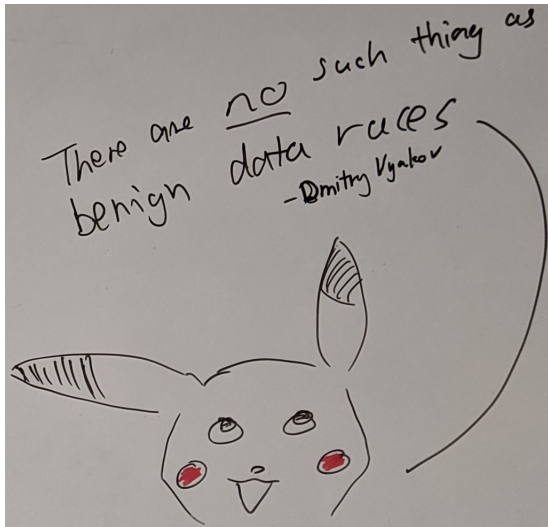


Static Detection of Communication Errors and Data Races in Go Programs

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¹Imperial College London, ²Monzo

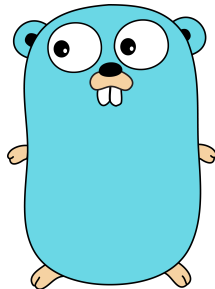


Drawing by Nicholas Ng

Motivating example

```
1 func main() {
2     var x int
3     ch := make(chan int, 1)
4     go f(ch, &x)
5     ch <- Lock
6     x += 10
7     <-ch
8     ch <- Lock
9     fmt.Println("x is", x)
10    <-ch
11 }
12
13 func f(ch chan int, ptr *int) {
14     ch <- Lock
15     *ptr += 20
16     <-ch
17 }
```

Figure 1: Go programs: safe (size 1)



Motivating example

```
1 func main() {
2     var x int
3     ch := make(chan int, 1)           ~ 2
4     go f(ch, &x)
5     ch <- Lock
6     x += 10                           ~ race
7     <-ch
8     ch <- Lock
9     fmt.Println("x is", x)
10    <-ch
11 }
12
13 func f(ch chan int, ptr *int) {
14     ch <- Lock
15     *ptr += 20                         ~ race
16     <-ch
17 }
```

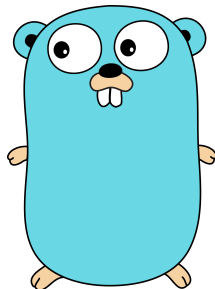


Figure 1: Go programs: safe (size 1) \rightsquigarrow race (size 2)

Motivating example: with Mutex

```
1 func main() {
2     var x int
3     m := new(sync.Mutex)
4     go f(m, &x)
5     m.Lock()
6     x += 10
7     m.Unlock()
8     m.Lock()
9     fmt.Println("x is", x)
10    m.Unlock()
11 }
12
13 func f(m *sync.Mutex, ptr *int) {
14     m.Lock()
15     *ptr += 20
16     m.Unlock()
17 }
```

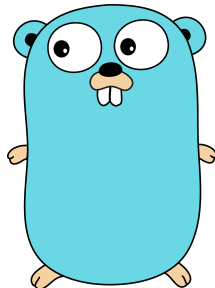


Figure 2: Go program: with a mutual exclusion lock (safe)

Outline of work

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- 1 Abstraction of Go programs with a π -calculus inspired language:
MiGo⁺, a rework of MiGo

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- 5 Model check the types for the desired properties
- 6 Implementation: Extending the Godel Checker¹

¹Lange, Ng, Toninho, Yoshida: Fencing off Go: Liveness and Safety for Channel-based Programming (POPL 2017), A Static Verification Framework for Message Passing in Go using Behavioural Types(ICSE 2018)

MiGo⁺ Process of our unsafe example

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{in} \end{array} \right\}$$

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MiGo⁺ Process of our unsafe example

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} \text{in newvar}(x:\text{int}); \text{newchan}(y:\text{int}, 2); (P\langle y, x \rangle \mid Q\langle y, x \rangle) \end{array} \right\}$$

MiGo⁺ Process of our unsafe example

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P(c, z) = c!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; \qquad \qquad \qquad c?(u); \\ \text{in newvar}(x:\text{int}); \text{newchan}(y:\text{int}, 2); (P\langle y, x \rangle \mid Q\langle y, x \rangle) \end{array} \right\}$$

MiGo⁺ Process of our unsafe example

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} = \left\{ \begin{array}{l} P(c, z) = c!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_1 = \text{load}(z); z := t_1 + 10; c?(u); \\ \end{array} \right\}$$

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Reduction of our MiGo⁺ example

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{newvar}(x:\text{int}); \left(\begin{array}{l} y!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_1 = \text{load}(x); x := t_1 + 10; \\ \dots \\ | y!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_0 = \text{load}(x); x := t_0 + 20; \\ \dots \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^2 (\nu xc) \left(\begin{array}{l} c!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_1 = \text{load}(x); x := t_1 + 10; \\ \dots \\ | c!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_0 = \text{load}(x); x := t_0 + 20; \\ \dots \\ | [x := 0] \quad | \quad c\langle \text{int}, 2 \rangle :: \emptyset \end{array} \right)$$

Reduction of our MiGo⁺ example

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$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^4 (\nu xc) \left(\begin{array}{l} t_1 = \text{load}(x); x := t_1 + 10; \\ \dots \\ \mid t_0 = \text{load}(x); x := t_0 + 20; \\ \dots \\ \mid [x := 0] \mid c\langle \text{int}, 2 \rangle :: \text{Lock} \cdot \text{Lock} \end{array} \right)$$

Reduction of our MiGo⁺ example

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$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^6 (\nu x c) \left(\begin{array}{l} \dots \quad x := 0 + 10; \\ \vdots \quad x := 0 + 20; \\ \dots \\ \mid [x := 0] \mid c\langle \text{int}, 2 \rangle :: \text{Lock} \cdot \text{Lock} \end{array} \right)$$

The happens-before relation: $P \triangleright o_1 \mapsto o_2$

A first example:

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An other example:

$$Q = x := 10; Q_1 \mid x := 20; Q_2$$

$$Q \downarrow (w\langle x \rangle, 1.*)$$

$$Q \downarrow (w\langle x \rangle, 2.*)$$

The happens-before relation: $P \triangleright o_1 \mapsto o_2$

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 P &= c!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_1 = \text{load}(x); P' \downarrow \bar{c} \\
 &\xrightarrow{\bar{c}, \text{Lock}} t_1 = \text{load}(x); P' \downarrow r\langle x \rangle \\
 &\xrightarrow{r\langle x \rangle, 0} P' \{0/t_1\}
 \end{aligned}$$

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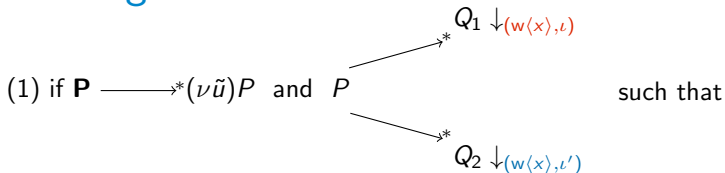
$$Q = x := 10; Q_1 \mid x := 20; Q_2$$

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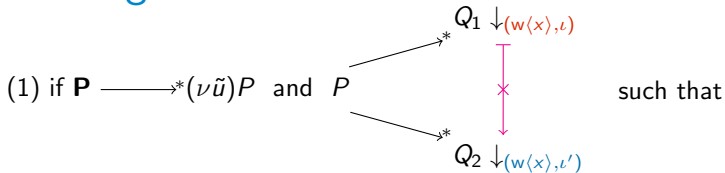
$$Q \downarrow (w\langle x \rangle, 2.*)$$

$$\begin{aligned}
 &\neg(P \triangleright (w\langle x \rangle, 1.*) \mapsto (w\langle x \rangle, 2.)) \\
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 \end{aligned}$$

Defining Data Races

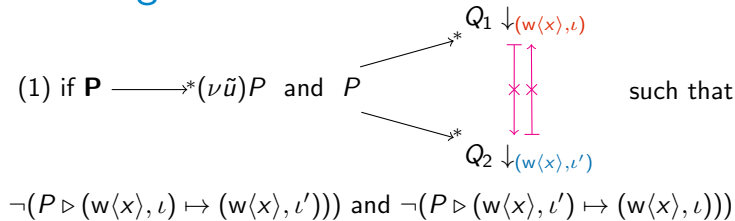


Defining Data Races

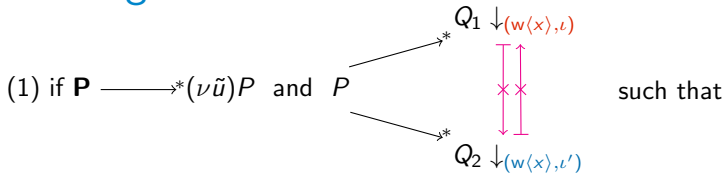


$$\neg(P \triangleright (w\langle x \rangle, l) \mapsto (w\langle x \rangle, l'))$$

Defining Data Races

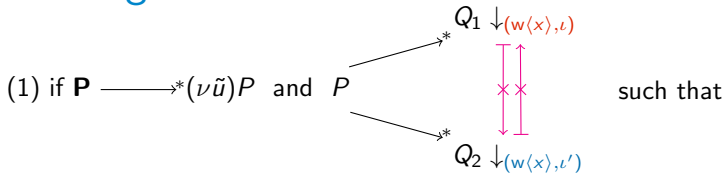


Defining Data Races



$\neg(P \triangleright (w\langle x \rangle, l) \mapsto (w\langle x \rangle, l'))$ and $\neg(P \triangleright (w\langle x \rangle, l') \mapsto (w\langle x \rangle, l))$
then \mathbf{P} has a data race

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(2) if $\mathbf{P} \longrightarrow^* (\nu \tilde{u})P'$ and $\begin{cases} P' \downarrow (w\langle x \rangle, l) \\ \text{and} \\ P' \downarrow (w\langle x \rangle, l') \end{cases}$ then \mathbf{P} has a data race

Theorem

Characterisations (1) and (2) of data races are equivalent.

Liveness and Safety: the Example of Mutex

Definition (Mutex Safety)

If $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow^* (\nu \tilde{u})P$ and $P \downarrow_{ul\langle m \rangle}$, then $P \equiv P' \mid [m]^*$

Definition (Mutex Liveness)

If $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow^* (\nu \tilde{u})P$ and $P \downarrow_{l\langle m \rangle}$, then $\exists P' \rightarrow^* P' \xrightarrow{\tau_m}$

Liveness and Safety: the Example of Mutex

Definition (Mutex Safety)

If $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow^* (\nu \tilde{u})P$ and $P \downarrow_{\text{ul}\langle m \rangle}$, then $P \equiv P' \mid \lceil m \rceil^*$
a mutual exclusion lock can only be unlocked if it is already locked.

Definition (Mutex Liveness)

If $\mathbf{P} \rightarrow^* (\nu \tilde{u})P$ and $P \downarrow_{\text{l}\langle m \rangle}$, then $\exists P \rightarrow^* P' \xrightarrow{\tau_m}$
a mutual exclusion lock will always eventually answer a lock request.

Behavioural Typing System for MiGo⁺

$$\mathbf{P}_{\text{race}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{newvar}(x:\text{int}); \left(\begin{array}{l} y!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_1 = \text{load}(x); x := t_1 + 10; \\ \dots \\ | y!\langle \text{Lock} \rangle; t_0 = \text{load}(x); x := t_0 + 20; \\ \dots \end{array} \right)$$

$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\nu v x)(\nu y^2) \left(\begin{array}{l} \bar{y}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ | \bar{y}; r(x); w(x); \dots \end{array} \right)$$

Behavioural Typing System for MiGo⁺

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$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^2 (\nu xc) \left(\begin{array}{l} \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ | \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ | x^{\blacksquare} \quad | \quad [c]_0^2 \end{array} \right)$$

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$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^6 (\nu xc) \left(\begin{array}{l} w(x); \dots \\ | x^{\blacksquare} \quad | \quad [c]_2^2 \\ w(x); \dots \end{array} \right)$$

Properties of our Type System

Our type system has reduction transitions that follow almost exactly the reduction of the MiGo^+ processes, except for IF/THEN/ELSE constructs. It also does not care about the content of the data. Because of that, it admits the following properties:

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If $\Gamma \vdash P \blacktriangleright T$ and P reduces to P' , then T has a reduction T' such that $\Gamma \vdash P' \blacktriangleright T'$.

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Because of that, it admits the following properties:

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If $\Gamma \vdash P \blacktriangleright T$ and P reduces to P' , then T has a reduction T' such that $\Gamma \vdash P' \blacktriangleright T'$.

Theorem (Progress)

If $\Gamma \vdash P \blacktriangleright T$ and T reduces to T_0 , then P has a reduction P' and there exists a reduction T' of T such that $\Gamma \vdash P' \blacktriangleright T'$.

Verifying Processes through their Types

Theorem (Process-Type relation)

- ① **P** is safe (resp. data race free) iff
T is safe (resp. data race free)

Processes

Verifying Processes through their Types

Theorem (Process-Type relation)

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Processes

Verifying Processes through their Types

Theorem (Process-Type relation)

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 - $\mathbf{P} \in \text{May}\Downarrow$

Processes

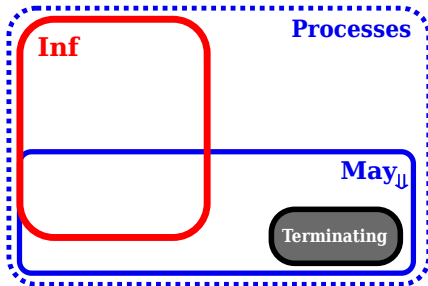
May \Downarrow

Terminating

Verifying Processes through their Types

Theorem (Process-Type relation)

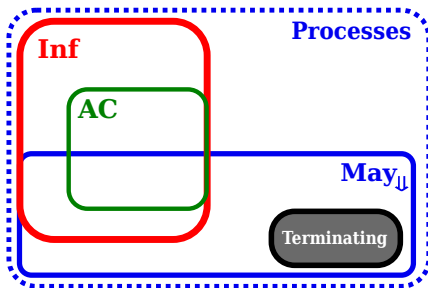
- ① **P** is safe (resp. data race free) iff **T** is safe (resp. data race free)
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Verifying Processes through their Types

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 - $\mathbf{P} \notin \text{Inf}$ or
 - $\mathbf{P} \in \text{AC}$



Type Verification: the Modal μ -calculus

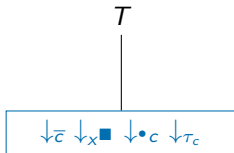
Definition: $T \downarrow_o$ iff T can execute action o immediately.

$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^2 (\nu x c) \left(\begin{array}{c} \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ | \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ | x^{\blacksquare} \quad | \lfloor c \rfloor_0^2 \end{array} \right) = (\nu x c) T$$

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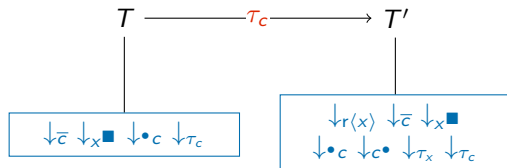
$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^2 (\nu x c) \left(\begin{array}{l} \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ \mid \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ \mid x^{\blacksquare} \mid [c]_0^2 \end{array} \right) = (\nu x c) T$$



Type Verification: the Modal μ -calculus

Definition: $T \downarrow_o$ iff T can execute action o immediately.

$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^3 (\nu x c) \left(\begin{array}{c} r(x); w(x); \dots \\ \mid \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ \mid x^{\blacksquare} \mid [c]_1^2 \end{array} \right) = (\nu x c) T'$$

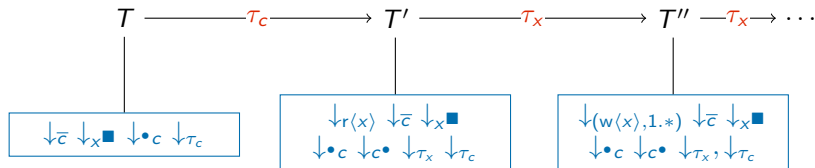


Modal properties are logical propositions guarded by modalities parametrised by the **flags** and the **synchronisations**. The two modalities are "there exists an action" (diamond) and "for all actions" (box).

Type Verification: the Modal μ -calculus

Definition: $T \downarrow_o$ iff T can execute action o immediately.

$$\mathbf{T}_{\text{race}} \rightarrow^4 (\nu x c) \left(\begin{array}{c} w(x); \dots \\ \mid \bar{c}; r(x); w(x); \dots \\ \mid x^{\blacksquare} \mid [c]_1^2 \end{array} \right) = (\nu x c) T''$$



Modal properties are logical propositions guarded by modalities parametrised by the **flags** and the **synchronisations**. The two modalities are "there exists an action" (diamond) and "for all actions" (box).

Model Checking the Types and Processes

Formula $\Psi(\phi)$ means “ ϕ is true in every reachable state”

Theorem (Model Checking of
MiGo⁺ processes)

Suppose $\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{P} \blacktriangleright \mathbf{T}$.

Processes



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- 1 If $\mathbf{T} \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a safety property, then $\mathbf{P} \models \Psi(\phi)$.

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- 2 If $\mathbf{T} \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a liveness property, and either

then $\mathbf{P} \models \Psi(\phi)$.

Processes

Model Checking the Types and Processes

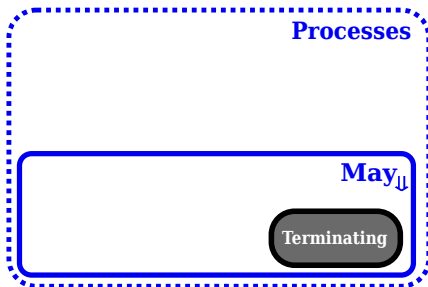
Formula $\Psi(\phi)$ means “ ϕ is true in every reachable state”

Theorem (Model Checking of MiGo^+ processes)

Suppose $\Gamma \vdash \mathbf{P} \blacktriangleright \mathbf{T}$.

- ❶ If $\mathbf{T} \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a safety property, then $\mathbf{P} \models \Psi(\phi)$.
- ❷ If $\mathbf{T} \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a liveness property, and either
 - (a) $\mathbf{P} \in \text{May}\downarrow$

then $\mathbf{P} \models \Psi(\phi)$.



Model Checking the Types and Processes

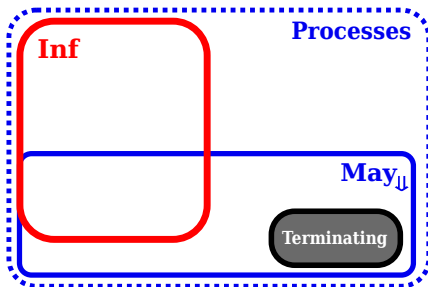
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Theorem (Model Checking of MiGo⁺ processes)

Suppose $\Gamma \vdash P \blacktriangleright T$.

- 1 If $T \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a safety property, then $P \models \Psi(\phi)$.
- 2 If $T \models \Psi(\phi)$ where ϕ is a liveness property, and either
 - (a) $P \in \text{May}_{\downarrow}$ or
 - (b) $P \notin \text{Inf}$

then $P \models \Psi(\phi)$.



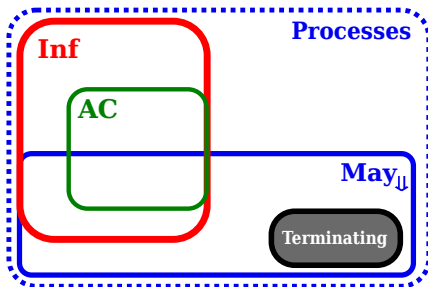
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 - (a) $P \in \text{May}_{\downarrow}$ or
 - (b) $P \notin \text{Inf}$ or
 - (c) $P \in \text{AC}$then $P \models \Psi(\phi)$.



Implementation: Godel 2

[Go source code](#)

Figure 3: Workflow of the verification toolchain.

Implementation: Godel 2

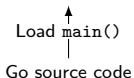


Figure 3: Workflow of the verification toolchain.

Implementation: Godel 2

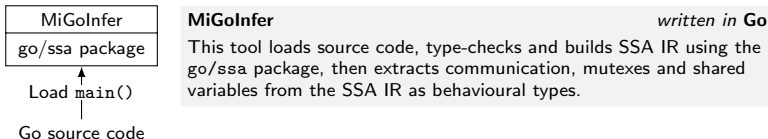
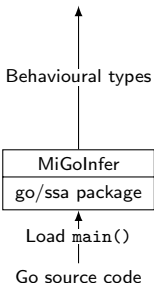


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Implementation: Godel 2



MiGoInfer

written in Go

This tool loads source code, type-checks and builds SSA IR using the `go/ssa` package, then extracts communication, mutexes and shared variables from the SSA IR as behavioural types.

Figure 3: Workflow of the verification toolchain.

Implementation: Godel 2

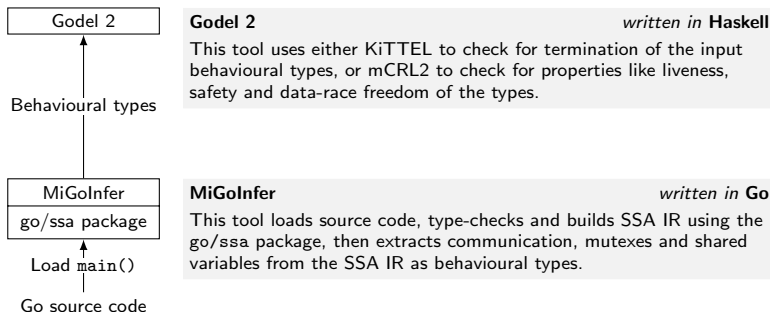


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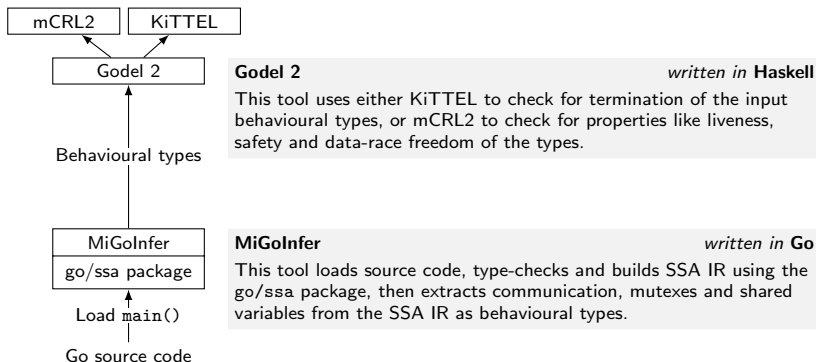


Figure 3: Workflow of the verification toolchain.

Table 1: Go Programs Verified by the Toolchain.

Programs	LoC	Sum	Safe	Live	DRF	time (ms)
no-race	15	9	✓	✓	✓	691.45
no-race-mutex	24	33	✓	✓	✓	785.57
no-race-mut-bad	23	20	✓	✗	✓	721.77
simple-race	13	8	✓	✓	✗	701.93
simple-race-fix	19	17	✓	✓	✓	731.73
deposit-race ¹	18	14	✓	✓	✗	697.90
deposit-fix ¹	24	27	✓	✓	✓	727.43
ch-as-lock-race ²	19	20	✓	✓	✗	753.99
ch-as-lock-fix ²	19	20	✓	✓	✓	745.64
ch-as-lock-bad	19	20	✓	✗	✓	749.97
prod-cons-race	38	156	✓	✓	✗	1,903.52
prod-cons-fix	40	188	✓	✓	✓	1,971.26
dinephil5-race	59	2672	✓	✓	✗	~ 185mn
dinephil5-fix	59	2688	✓	✓	✓	~ 645mn

¹Donovan, A.A., Kernighan, B.W.: The Go Programming Language (2015), ²Running example, LoC: Lines of Code, DRF: Data Race Free, Sum: Summands, ✓: Formula is true, ✗: Formula is false

Questions?
