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# Interactive Runtime Verification: Formal Models, Algorithms, and Implementation

RAPHAËL JAKSE, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France

YLIÈS FALCONE, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France

JEAN-FRANÇOIS MÉHAUT, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France

Interactive runtime verification (i-RV) combines runtime verification and interactive debugging. Runtime verification consists in studying a system at runtime, looking for input and output events to discover, check or enforce behavioral properties. Interactive debugging consists in studying a system at runtime in order to discover and understand its bugs and fix them, inspecting its internal state interactively. We define an efficient and convenient way to check behavioral properties automatically on a program using a debugger. We aim at helping bug discovery and understanding by guiding classical interactive debugging approaches using runtime verification.

In this paper, we provide a formal model for interactively runtime verified programs. For this, we model how of a program executes under a debugger composed with a monitor (for verdict emission) and a scenario (for steering the debugging session). We provide guarantees on the soundness of the verdicts issued by the monitor by exhibiting a weak simulation (relation) between the initial program and the interactively runtime verified program. Moreover, we provide an algorithmic view of this model suitable for producing implementations. We present Verde, an implementation based on GDB to interactively runtime verify C programs. We report on a set of experiments using Verde assessing the usefulness of Interactive Runtime Verification and the performance of our implementation. Our results show that, even though debugger-based instrumentation incurs non-trivial performance costs, i-RV is applicable performance-wise in a variety of cases and helps to study bugs.

CCS Concepts: • **Software and its engineering** → **Software testing and debugging**.

Additional Key Words and Phrases: runtime verification, property, monitoring, debugging

## 1 INTRODUCTION

When developing software, detecting and fixing bugs as early as possible is important. This can be difficult: an error does not systematically lead to a crash, it can remain undetected during the development. Besides, when detected, a bug can be hard to understand, especially if the method of detection does not provide methods to study the bug. In this paper, we lay down the foundations for *interactive runtime verification*, an approach addressing the aforementioned challenges by combining two verification approaches, namely interactive debugging and runtime verification. We briefly recall the features of interactive debugging and runtime verification as well as their shortcomings.

*Interactive Debugging.* Interactive Debugging aims at studying and understanding a bug [34]. Fixing bugs is usually performed by observing a bad behavior and starting a debugging session to find the cause. The program is seen as a white box and its execution as a sequence of program states that the developer inspects step by step using a debugger in order to understand the cause of misbehavior. A debugging session generally consists in repeating the following steps: executing the program in a debugger, setting breakpoints on statements or function calls executed before the suspected cause of the bug. These steps aim to find the point in the execution where it starts being erratic and inspecting the internal state (call stack, values of variables) and to determine the cause of the problem. The execution is seen at a low

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Authors' addresses: Raphaël Jakse, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France, Raphael.Jakse@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr; Yliès Falcone, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France, Ylies.Falcone@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr; Jean-François Méhaut, Univ. Grenoble Alpes, CNRS, Inria, Grenoble INP, LIG, 38000 Grenoble France, Jean-Francois.Mehaut@univ-grenoble-alpes.fr.

53 level (assembly code, sometimes mapped to the source code) while the software developer reasons at the source level  
54 and thus would ideally want the execution to be abstracted. The debugger links the binary code to the programming  
55 language. The program state can be modified at runtime: variables can be edited, functions can be called, the execution  
56 can be restored to a previous state. This lets the developer test hypotheses on a bug without having to modify the code,  
57 recompile and rerun the whole program, which would be time consuming. However, this process can be tedious and  
58 prone to a lot of trials and errors. Moreover, observing a bug does not guarantee that this bug will appear during the  
59 debugging session, especially if the misbehavior is caused by a race condition or a special input that was not recorded  
60 when the bug was observed. Interactive debugging does not target bug discovery: usually, a developer already knows  
61 the bug existence and tries to understand it.  
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65 *Runtime Verification.* Runtime verification (aka monitoring) [1, 20, 28, 38] aims at checking the correctness of an  
66 execution w.r.t. a specification. The execution is abstracted into a sequence of events of program-state updates. Runtime  
67 verification aims at detecting misbehaviors of a black-box system: its internal behavior is not accessible and its internal  
68 state generally cannot be altered. Information on the internal state can be retrieved by instrumenting the execution of  
69 the program. The execution trace can be analyzed offline (i.e., after the termination of the program) as well as online (i.e.,  
70 during the execution) and constitutes a convenient abstraction on which it is possible to check runtime properties.  
71 While runtime verification is a versatile and effective method in providing formal guarantees on the correctness of  
72 program executions, it still remains an approach used by experts in this technique. Runtime verification is not yet  
73 integrated in developer tools nor used by developers.  
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77 *Challenges and contributions.* We introduce Interactive Runtime Verification (i-RV). i-RV aims at easing bug study by  
78 allowing both *bug discovery* and *bug understanding* at the same time. To fulfill this goal, i-RV combines interactive  
79 debugging and runtime verification by augmenting debuggers with runtime verification approaches, making i-RV a  
80 practical debugging method backed with a strong formal background. Gathering interactive debugging and runtime  
81 verification is challenging for several reasons. To the best of our knowledge, interactive debugging has not been  
82 formalized in previous work. In this paper, we therefore provide an abstraction of the execution of a program being  
83 debugged that is compatible with formalisms used in runtime verification. Moreover, instrumentation techniques  
84 traditionally used in runtime verification, like aspects or dynamic binary instrumentation do not allow controlling  
85 the execution and the set of monitored events is often static. Therefore, an important aspect of interactive runtime  
86 verification is the way the richness and expressiveness of the instrumentation as well as the control provided by the  
87 debugger are leveraged. Usage of verdicts issued by the monitor for guiding the interactive debugging session also has  
88 to be specified.  
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92 The key idea of interactive runtime verification is to use runtime verification as a guide to interactive debugging. The  
93 program is run in an interactive debugger, allowing the developer to use traditional approaches to study the internal  
94 state of the program. The debugger is also used as a means of instrumentation to produce the execution trace evaluated  
95 using runtime verification. We introduce the notion of scenarios in i-RV. Scenarios are a way to guide and automate the  
96 interactive debugging session by reacting to verdicts produced by the monitor and modify the execution or the control  
97 flow of the program. Scenarios are a means to separate the concerns of evaluating and controlling the execution of the  
98 program. Scenarios make use of checkpoints that allow saving and restoring the program state. They are a powerful  
99 way to explore the behavior of programs by trying different execution paths.  
100  
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102 We aim to provide the foundations of a formal verification approach combining runtime verification and interactive  
103 debugging. We describe i-RV at several abstraction levels. First, we formally describe our execution model using natural  
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operational semantics. This model provides a solid and precise theoretical framework. In defining the model, we assume that programs are sequential, deterministic, and do not communicate with the outside. The model does not account for timing issues. We detail these assumptions in Sec. 5.1.

This framework provides a basis for reasoning and to ensure the correctness of our approach. Second, we give an algorithmic description using pseudo-code based on this operational view. This algorithmic view aims at helping build an actual implementation of i-RV. Developers using the approach are not required to have a full understanding of these descriptions. Finally, we provide and present a *full-featured implementation* for i-RV, Verde, written in Python as a GDB extension, facilitating its integration to developers' traditional environment. Verde also provides an optional *animated view* of the current state of the monitor. We give a *detailed evaluation* of i-RV using Verde. This evaluation asserts the usefulness of i-RV and its applicability in terms of performances. Verde can be retrieved at [24].

A this point, we mention that this paper is an extended version of a paper that appeared in the proceedings of the 28th IEEE International Symposium on Software Reliability Engineering (ISSRE 2017) [23]. This paper significantly extends the original conference version with the following additional contributions:

- a formal operational model of the behavior of interactive runtime verification expressed as a formal composition of the behavior of an interactive debugger, a monitor, and a scenario with the program under scrutiny (Sec. 6);
- a theorem (with its proof) stating that the debugged program is observationally equivalent to the original program and that verdicts from the monitor are guaranteed to correspond to an execution of the initial program (Sec. 7);
- algorithms implementing the operational semantics model of the interactively runtime verified model (Sec. 8);
- we provide additional and updated experiments to evaluate and validate the effectiveness of interactive runtime verification (Sec. 10).

*Paper organization.* In Sec. 2, we overview interactive runtime verification. In Sec. 3, we present existing approaches for finding and studying bugs and compare them to our work. In Sec. 4, we define some notations used in this paper. In Sec. 5, we define some notions related to interactive runtime verification. In Sec. 6, we give an operational view of our model. In Sec. 7, we give guarantees on our model. Proofs of these guarantees are given in Appendix A In Sec. 8, we present an algorithmic view of our model. In Sec. 9, we present our proof-of-concept implementation of this approach, Verde. In Sec. 10, we evaluate our approach. In Sec. 11, we conclude and outline avenues for future work.

## 2 OVERVIEW OF INTERACTIVE RUNTIME VERIFICATION

In i-RV (Fig. 1), the program to be interactively verified at runtime is run alongside a debugger, a monitor and a scenario. The developer can drive the debugger as usual, like in an interactive debugging session. The debugger also provides tools to control and instrument the program execution, mainly breakpoints and watchpoints. The monitor evaluates a developer-provided property against the program execution trace and produce a sequence of verdicts. See Fig. 2 for an example of such a property. To evaluate the property, the monitor requests events (function calls and memory accesses) to the debugger. The debugger instruments the program by setting breakpoints and watchpoints at relevant locations and notifies the monitor whenever such an event happens, effectively producing a trace of the execution that is relevant for the property being evaluated. When an event stops influencing the evaluation of the property, the corresponding instrumentation (breakpoints, watchpoints) becomes useless and is therefore removed: the instrumentation is *dynamic*.

The developer-provided scenario defines what actions should be taken during the execution according to the evaluation of the property. Examples of scenarios are: when the verdict given by the monitor becomes false (e.g., when

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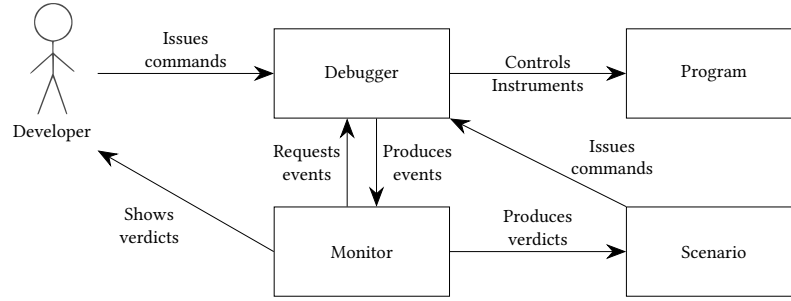


Fig. 1. Overview of Interactive Runtime Verification. The developer issues commands to the debugger, the debugger controls and instruments the program, the monitor requests program events to the debugger and issues verdicts to the scenario and the scenario applies developer-defined reactions.

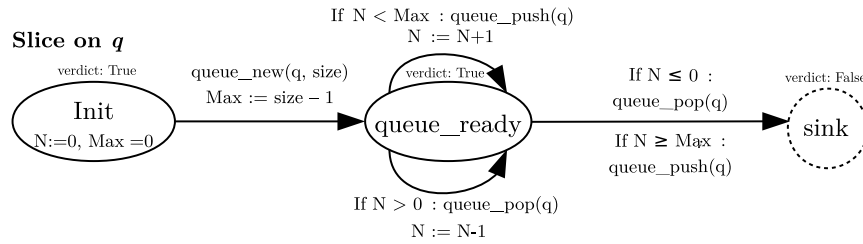


Fig. 2. Property for the absence of overflow for each queue  $q$  in a program. When a queue is created, the automaton is in state `queue_ready` for this queue. Pushes and pops are tracked. When a push (resp. pop) causes an overflow (resp. underflow) of the queue, the property is in state `sink`.

the queue overflows), the execution is suspended to let the developer inspect and debug the program in the usual way, interactively; save the current program state (e.g., using a checkpoint, a feature provided by the debugger) while the property holds (e.g., while the queue has not overflowed) and restore this state later, when the property does not hold anymore (e.g., at the moment the queue overflows). When an event is generated — when a breakpoint or a watchpoint is reached — at runtime, the monitor updates its state. Monitor updates are seen as input events for the scenario. Examples of these events are “the monitor enters state X”, “state X has been left”, “an accepting state has been entered”, “a non-accepting state has been left”.

*Comparison with interactive debugging.* Fig. 3 depicts a comparison between a traditional interactive debugging session and an interactive runtime verification session. In using any of the approaches, we have a program and a specification. The specification and the program are related in that the program is either written from the specification or the specification describe (part of) the expected behavior of the program. During the execution of the program, the developer observes a fault; this can be a crash, an incorrect result, a failing test case, etc. Using this observation, the call stack trace, and the specifications, the developer makes hypotheses on the error that led to the fault. Making hypothesis consists in identifying events (function call, variable accesses, etc.) that are involved in the error. Events can carry data from the program, e.g., the effective parameter of a function call. The developer usually believes that something went wrong with these events during the execution (absence/presence of an (un)expected event, wrong ordering between events, etc.).

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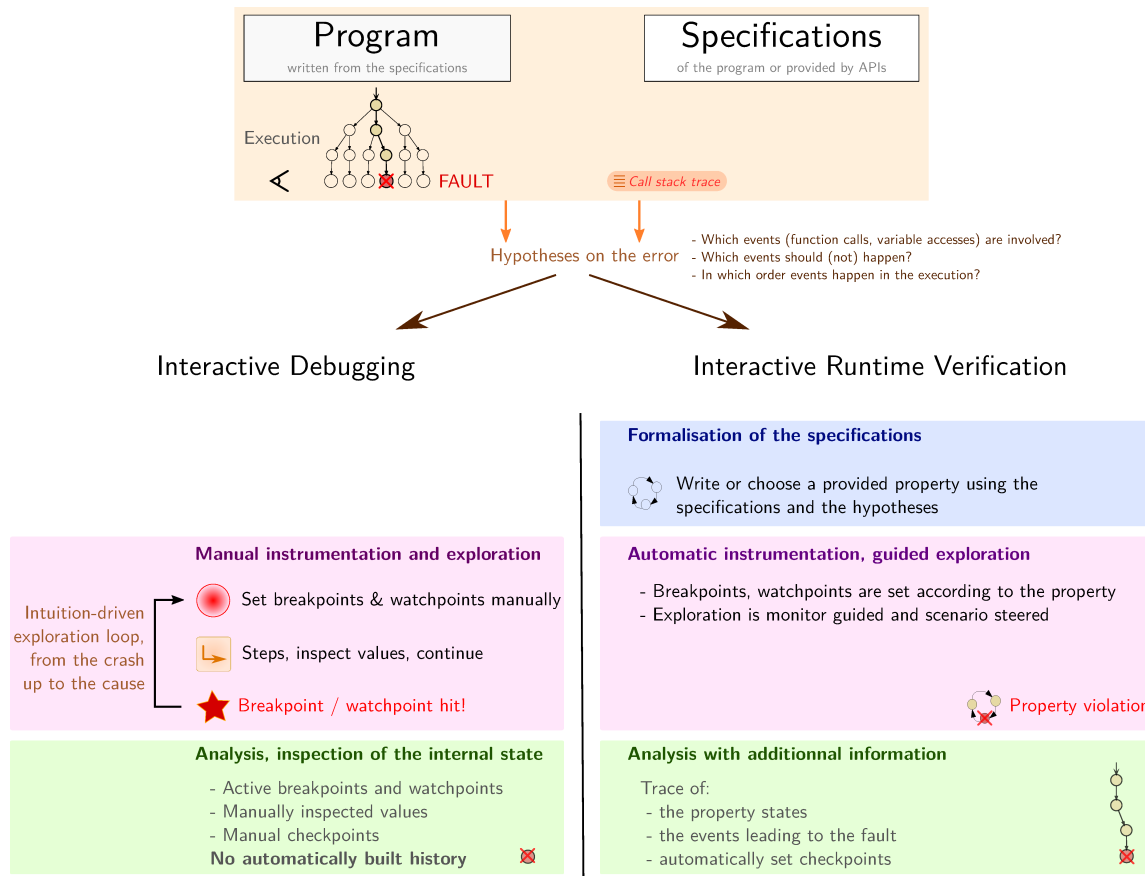


Fig. 3. Interactive Debugging versus Interactive Runtime Verification

During an **interactive debugging** session, the developer explores the execution *manually*, from the observation of the fault up to the cause, by (i) using the call stack trace (ii) manually setting breakpoints and watchpoints (iii) inspecting values and stepping through the program. This process is iterative. While studying the program behavior, the developer has some information: the currently active breakpoints and watchpoints, the values of manually inspected variables, and the set of manually set checkpoints.

During an **interactive runtime verification** session, properties are chosen among those provided with the APIs used by the program or written from the specifications. Each property formally expresses an expected behavior of the program, which is selected from the specification. A property formally defines the events and their expected ordering during an execution and associates each sequence of events with a verdict indicating whether the behavior is desirable. The monitors of the properties are typically finite-state machines that serve as decision procedures (for the properties). The program is *automatically* instrumented by adding the breakpoints and watchpoints so that the monitor can observe the events involved in the properties. Hence, the execution is monitored at runtime, relieving the developer from the corresponding manual exploration in classical interactive debugging. When a property is violated, the developer analyzes the bug and is provided with a trace containing several pieces of information that are automatically produced:

261 events relevant to the property that happened during the execution, the states through which the monitor went, as  
 262 well as the taken checkpoints. These checkpoints can be seen as bookmarks in the execution. Contrarily to interactive  
 263 runtime verification, during a classical interactive debugging session, no information is automatically produced: any  
 264 piece of information comes from manual inspection by the developer.  
 265

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267 1 #define size 16
268 2
269 3 #include <stdio.h>
270 4 #include <stdlib.h>
271 5 #include <string.h>
272 6 #include <strings.h>
273 7
274 8 typedef struct {
275 9     int pos_c;
276 10    int pos_v;
277 11    char consonants[size / 2];
278 12    char vowels[size / 2];
279 13 } double_queue_t;
280 14
281 15 double_queue_t* queue_new() {
282 16     double_queue_t* queue = malloc(sizeof(double_queue_t));
283 17     queue->pos_c = 0;
284 18     queue->pos_v = 0;
285 19     bzero(queue->consonants, size / 2);
286 20     bzero(queue->vowels, size / 2);
287 21     return queue;
288 22 }
289 23
290 24 void queue_destroy(double_queue_t* queue) {
291 25     free(queue);
292 26 }
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Fig. 4. Faulty C program. Vowels and consonants are supposed to be split in two separate arrays. However, according to the program output (Consonants: hnstbgsh and Vowels: raayuiee), the split is not done correctly.

*Illustrative example.* We compare a traditional interactive debugging session with an interactive runtime verification session using a sample C program depicted in Fig. 4. This program purposely contains a fault. The program splits the vowels and consonants from a given string in a custom queue structure which consists of two arrays. When run, the program displays a consonant among the vowels.

In an interactive debugging session (reproduced in Fig. 29, p. 60), the developer tracks the bug by running a debugger and may study the bug as follows. First, to check that the problem does not come from the function that displays the queue, setting a breakpoint at line 53 allows the developer to print the value of `q->vowels`. The debugger displays "raayuiee". A consonant was indeed put in the array of the structure that is dedicated to vowels. To study how the vowels are added to the queue, the developer may restart the program and put a breakpoint on line 30. When the execution is suspended, the developer types command `display c` to show the character being added to the vowels. The breakpoint is reached 8 times and no consonant is added to the array vowels. The developer may want to know how the first cell of array vowels was filled with a consonant. For this purpose, setting a breakpoint after the declaration of the queue in function `main` allows the developer to set a watchpoint on `q->vowels[0]`. The watchpoint is reached a first time. A vowel ("o") is stored in this cell at line 32, which is an expected behavior. After continuing the execution, the watchpoint is reached a second time at line 32 and "o" is replaced by "r". This line is supposed to write in array

313 consonants. Command `print q->pos_c - 1` displays 8. Array `consonants` is defined on line 11 with size  $16/2 = 8$ .  
314 Value 8 is therefore out of bounds. Since array `vowels` is defined right after array `consonants`, this overflow leads to a  
315 rewrite of the first cell of array `vowels`.  
316

317 In an interactive runtime verification session, the developer thinks about which properties should be verified in the  
318 code and may use the one depicted in Fig. 2 (the queue should not overflow). When the program is interactively runtime  
319 verified with this property<sup>1</sup>, a breakpoint is automatically put at the beginning of function `queue_new` and another at  
320 the beginning of function `queue_push`. The first breakpoint is reached once and the second one 17 times, without  
321 interrupting the execution, saving the developer from having to carry out a manual inspection. The non-accepting state  
322 of the property is reached and the execution is suspended. In the debugger prompt, the developer can display the stack  
323 trace and observe that the fault happened at line 37 in `queue_push_str`, called in function `main` at line 52.  
324

325 In both cases, the developer deduces that checks should be added in the program code to avoid overflows. In the latter  
326 case, the typical exploration phase of interactive debugging is avoided: breakpoints are set and handled automatically  
327 and the property state gives an higher-level explanation of the bug (too many letters were pushed in the queue, causing  
328 the cell to be rewritten later), and the bug is located earlier in the execution, before the cell is rewritten. This example  
329 features a typical array overflow, a common fault in C programs. Such overflows often have security implications.  
330 Unfortunately, they are not always easily noticed because array accesses are not automatically checked at runtime  
331 when using C. Here, interactive runtime verification helps the detection of this fault, caused by the misuse of a data  
332 structure, by checking a property over this data structure.  
333  
334  
335

### 336 3 RELATED WORK 337

338 i-RV is related to several families of approaches for finding and fixing bugs. In this section, we overview some of these  
339 approaches, their drawbacks and benefits, and how they are suitable for discovering different sorts of bugs in different  
340 situations. Their relevance is also related to a phase of the program life cycle. We note already that none of them  
341 combines bug discovery and understanding, as i-RV does.  
342  
343

#### 344 3.1 Testing 345

346 *Manual testing.* Most obvious bugs can easily be spotted this way during the development of the software. Modifica-  
347 tions to the code are manually tested, possibly by a team responsible for testing the software [22]. Bugs are also spotted  
348 by final users of the software, which may be undesirable. Manual testing can be tedious. i-RV aims at reducing manual  
349 and tedious human intervention by guiding and partly automating the exploration of misbehaviors.  
350

351 *Automatic testing.* Among the numerous automated testing approaches, unit testing is one of the most popular  
352 and adopted ones. Unit tests aim to limit regressions and to check the correctness of the code for a restricted set of  
353 inputs [21]. Many unit testing frameworks exist, including for instance JUnit and CppUnit. Some research efforts  
354 have been carried out on the automatic generation of unit tests. For instance, [8] generates test oracles from formal  
355 specifications of the expected behavior of a Java method or class. In that, unit testing uses some form of verification at  
356 runtime of the program execution. i-RV is complementary to automatic testing as it is more focused on getting insight  
357 on the program behavior. Thanks to the debugger, i-RV offers some interactivity and more accurate information in case  
358 of a breakage (while automatic testing generally issues verdicts).  
359  
360

361 <sup>1</sup>With Verde: `verde -prop queue.prop ./faulty`, where the contents of file `queue.prop` is given in Fig. 25 (p. 46). A session is reproduced in Fig. 30  
362 (p. 61). The program is compiled with `gcc -g3`.  
363  
364



### 3.2 Heavyweight Verification

With heavyweight verification approaches (e.g., static analysis [11]), the source code of the software is analyzed without being run in order to find issues. Properties can also be proven over the behavior of the software. Unfortunately, these approaches can be slow, limited to certain classes of bugs or safety properties and can produce false positives because of the required abstractions on the verified software. Model checking [16] is an automatic verification approach for finite-state reactive systems. Model checking consists in checking that a model of the system verifies temporal properties [9].

Heavyweight verification approaches are usually limited in the expressiveness of the properties they can check. Heavyweight verification approaches are complementary to dynamic verification approaches. Acknowledging the incompleteness of dynamic verification approaches allows checking more complex behavioral properties and thus i-RV can be used to cover the cases and situations left uncovered by heavyweight verification approaches. In particular, any verdict produced by the monitors corresponds to the associated evaluation of the property and thus any bug leading to the violation of a property will be spotted.

### 3.3 Interactive and Reverse Debugging

Tools used in interactive debugging [34, 35] are mainly debuggers such as GDB, LLDB and the Visual Studio debugger. GDB is a cross-platform free debugger from the Free Software Foundation. LLDB is the cross-platform free debugger of the LLVM project, started by the University of Illinois, now supported by various firms such as Apple and Google. The Visual Studio debugger is Microsoft's debugger. Reverse debugging [17, 19, 37] is a complementary debugging method. A first execution of the program showing the bug is recorded. Then, the execution can be replayed and reversed in a deterministic way, guaranteeing that the bug is observed and the same behavior is reproduced in each replay. UndoDB and rr are GDB-based tools allowing record and replay and reverse debugging with a small overhead. Reverse debugging is still akin to a traditional, manually driven interactive debugging session. i-RV also allows to restore the execution in a previous state using checkpoints, with the help of the monitor and the scenario, adding a level of automation. We provide i-RV with an execution model sufficiently detailed for the purpose of ensuring guarantees about its correctness (see Sec. 7). Work has been done to focus on the modelization of program execution, compilers, and debuggers, to ensure correct and intuitive behavior of the debugger [13], more suitable to implement and reason about interactive debuggers.

### 3.4 Runtime Verification

Runtime verification consists in checking properties at runtime. Checks are performed on the sequence of events produced during the execution. Producing events requires instrumentation. Different instrumentation techniques exist. In this section, we give some of the most important ones. Compared to runtime verification, i-RV adds interactivity and access to the internal state of the program, and provides a way to use verdicts issued by the monitor. Runtime verification is a building block of i-RV.

*Compile-Time Instrumentation.* RiTHM [32] is an implementation of a time-triggered monitor, i.e., a monitor ensuring predictable and evenly distributed monitoring overhead by handling monitoring at predictable moments. Instrumentation is added to the code of the program to monitor. i-RV does not modify the code of the program nor does it require recompiling the program.

417 *Dynamic Binary Instrumentation.* DBI allows detecting cache-related performance and memory usage related prob-  
418 lems. The monitored program is instrumented by dynamically adding instructions to its binary code at runtime and run  
419 in a virtual machine-like environment. Valgrind [33] is a tool that leverages DBI and can interface with GDB. It provides  
420 a way to detect memory-related defects. Dr. Memory [3] is another similar tool based on DynamoRIO [4]. DynamoRIO  
421 and Intel Pin [29] are both DBI frameworks that allow to write dynamic instrumentation-based analysis tools. DBI  
422 provides a more comprehensive detection of memory-related defects than using the instrumentation tools provided by  
423 the debugger. However, it is also less efficient and implies greater overheads when looking for particular defects like  
424 memory leaks caused by the lack of a call to a function like free. DBI also does not provide a straightforward way to  
425 suspend the execution and add interactivity.  
426  
427  
428

429 *Instrumentation Based on the VM of the Language.* For some languages like Java, the Virtual Machine provides  
430 introspection and features like aspects [26, 27] used to capture events. The Jassda framework [2], which uses CSP-like  
431 specifications, LARVA [10] and JavaMOP [6] are monitoring tools for programming languages based on a virtual  
432 machine (mainly Java). This is different from our model which rather depends on the features of the debugger.  
433 JavaMOP [25] is a tool that allows monitoring Java programs. However, it is not designed for inspecting their internal  
434 state. JavaMOP also implements trace slicing as described in [7]. In our work, events are dispatched in slices in a similar  
435 way. We do not implement all the concepts defined by [7] but this is sufficient for our purpose. In monitoring, the  
436 execution of the program can also be affected by modifying the sequence of input or output events to make it comply  
437 with some properties [18]. This differs from i-RV which applies earlier in the development cycle. We rather modify the  
438 execution from inside and fix the program than its observable behavior from outside.  
439  
440  
441

442 *Debugger-Based Instrumentation.* Morphine [14], Opium [15] and Coca are three automated trace analyzers. The  
443 analyzed program is run in another process than the monitor, like in our approach. The monitor is connected to a  
444 tracer. Like in our approach, trace analyzers rely on the debugger to generate events. However, they do not provide  
445 interactivity and do not permit affecting the execution.  
446  
447

448 *Frama-C [12].* Frama-C is a modular platform aiming at analyzing source code written in C and provides plugins for  
449 static analysis, abstract interpretation, deductive verification, testing and monitoring programs. It is a comprehensive  
450 platform for verification. It does not support interactive debugging nor programs written in other programming  
451 languages.  
452

453 With these runtime verification approaches, the conceptual frameworks as well as the implementations do not  
454 provide much information to the developer in case of error. In best cases, a runtime verification framework indicates  
455 the line in the source code at which a violation occurred, as well as the abstract sequence of events that lead to the error.  
456 With i-RV, the provided information is much more detailed: the whole internal state of the program can be inspected  
457 thanks to the debugger.  
458  
459

## 460 4 NOTATIONS AND DEFINITIONS

461 In this section, we define some notations and concepts used throughout the paper.  
462

### 463 4.1 Sets and Functions

464  
465 *Definition and image domains.* For two sets  $E$  and  $F$ , a function from  $E$  to  $F$  is denoted by  $f : E \rightarrow F$ . We denote  
466 the set of functions from  $E$  to  $F$  by  $[E \rightarrow F]$ . Let  $f : E \rightarrow F$  be a function. We denote the domain of function  $f$  by  
467  
468

469  $\text{Dom}(f)$ , the subset of  $E$  on which the function is defined. We denote the image of function  $f$  by  $\text{Im}(f)$ , defined by  
 470  $\text{Im}(f) = \{f(x) \mid \exists x \in E\}$ . Let  $X$  be a set and  $e$  an expression. We denote by  $\{x \mapsto e \mid x \in X\}$  the function  $f$  such that  
 471  $\text{Dom}(f) = X$  and  $f(x) = e$ .  
 472

473 *Function substitution.* Function substitution is used to lighten notation in proofs, especially when proving equalities.  
 474 Let  $f$  and  $g$  be two functions. We denote by  $f \dagger g$  the function  $h$  such that:  $\forall x \in \text{Dom}(g)$ ,  $h(x) = g(x)$  and  $\forall x \notin$   
 475  $\text{Dom}(g)$ ,  $h(x) = f(x)$ . Let  $f : E \rightarrow F$ , for  $x_1 \in X$  and  $v \in F$ , function  $f[x_1 \mapsto v]$  denotes function  $f'$  such that  
 476  $f'(x) = f(x)$  for any  $x \neq x_1$ , and  $f'(x_1) = v$ .  
 477  
 478

479 *Powerset.* The powerset of a set  $E$  is denoted by  $\mathcal{P}(E)$ . Let  $f$  be a function. Function  $f_{\setminus E}$  is such that  $\forall e \in \text{Dom}(f) \setminus$   
 480  $E$ ,  $f_{\setminus E}(e) = f(e)$  and  $\text{Dom}(f_{\setminus E}) = \text{Dom}(f) \setminus E$  (this function is undefined on elements in  $E$ ).  
 481

482 *Sequences.* Moreover,  $\epsilon$  is the empty sequence.  $E^*$  denotes the set of finite sequences over  $E$ . Given two sequences  $s$   
 483 and  $s'$ , the sequence obtained by concatenating  $s'$  to  $s$  is denoted by  $s \cdot s'$ . We denote the number of elements in a finite  
 484 sequence or a set  $C$  by  $|C|$ . Sequences are used to represent lists of breakpoints or watchpoints in the debugger.  
 485

486 *Named tuples.* Throughout the paper, we use named tuples to describe configurations of the components of our  
 487 architecture, for their readability and explicitness over simple tuples.  
 488

489 *Definition 4.1 (Named Tuple).* A named  $n$ -tuple  $r = (t, f_{\text{ind}})$  is pair composed of a  $n$ -tuple  $t = (t_1, \dots, t_n) \in E_1 \times \dots \times E_n$   
 490 (for any sets  $E_1, \dots, E_n$ ) and a bijection  $f_{\text{ind}} : \{1, \dots, n\} \rightarrow \text{Name}$  that maps indexes to names.  
 491

492 The shorthand notation  $(f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_n \mapsto v_n) \in E_1 \times \dots \times E_n$  denotes the named tuple  $((v_1, \dots, v_n), [1 \mapsto$   
 493  $f_1, \dots, n \mapsto f_n])$  such that  $(v_1, \dots, v_n) \in E_1 \times \dots \times E_n$ .  
 494

495 Moreover, we shall use the field notation: for  $field \in \text{Im}(f_{\text{ind}})$ ,  $r.field$  denotes  $t_{f_{\text{ind}}^{-1}(field)}$ , that is  $r.field$  is the value in  
 496 tuple  $t$  at index  $i$  such that  $f_{\text{ind}}(i) = field$ .  
 497

498 *Substitution for named tuples.* We use substitution to describe the evolution of a configuration. Let  $r = (t, f_{\text{ind}})$   
 499 be a named  $n$ -tuple. We denote by  $r' = r[f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_k \mapsto v_k]$  the named tuple equal to  $r$ , except for fields  
 500  $f_1, \dots, f_k$ , which are equal to values  $v_1, \dots, v_k$ , respectively. That is,  $r'$  is such that  $\forall i \in \{1, \dots, k\}$ ,  $r'.f_i = v_i$  and  
 501  $\forall i \notin \{1, \dots, k\}$ ,  $r'.f_i = r.f_i$ .  
 502  
 503

504 *Remark 1.* In the remainder of the paper, given a bijection  $f_{\text{ind}}$ , we use a tuple  $t$  and the corresponding named tuple  
 505  $r = (t, f_{\text{ind}})$  interchangeably.  
 506

## 507 4.2 Notation and Notions Related to Labeled Transition Systems

508 *Labeled transition systems.* Later in the paper, we model the components involved in interactive runtime verification  
 509 as Labeled Transition Systems (LTSs) and Input-Output Labeled Transition Systems (IOLTS).  
 510  
 511

512 *Definition 4.2 (LTS).* An LTS is a tuple  $(Q, A, \rightarrow)$ , where  $Q$  is the set of configurations,  $A$  is a set of actions and  
 513  $\rightarrow \subseteq Q \times A \times Q$  is the transition relation between configurations.  
 514

515  $(q, a, q') \in \rightarrow$  is denoted by  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  and  $q \rightarrow q'$  is a short for  $\exists a \in A : q \xrightarrow{a} q'$ . If  $q, q' \in Q$  are two configurations  
 516 such that  $q \rightarrow q'$ , the LTS is said to evolve from configuration  $q$  to configuration  $q'$ . Configuration  $q'$  (resp.  $q$ ) is said to  
 517 be a successor (resp. predecessor) of configuration  $q$  (resp.  $q'$ ).  
 518

519 We also use IOLTSs, which are LTSs with inputs and outputs.

*Definition 4.3 (IOLTS).* An IOLTS is a tuple  $(Q, A, I, O, \rightarrow)$ .  $Q$  is the set of configurations,  $A$  is the set of actions,  $I$  and  $O$  are the sets of input and output symbols respectively,  $\rightarrow \subseteq Q \times A \times I \times Q \times O$  is the transition relation between configurations.

Whenever  $(q, a, i, q', o) \in \rightarrow$ , we note it  $q \xrightarrow{a/i/o} q'$  and  $q \xrightarrow{i/o} q'$  is a short for  $\exists a \in A : q \xrightarrow{a/i/o} q'$ .

If  $q, q' \in Q$  are two configurations,  $i \in I$  is an input symbol and  $o \in O$  an output symbol such that  $q \xrightarrow{i/o} q'$ , the IOLTS is said to output symbol  $o$  and evolve from configuration  $q$  to configuration  $q'$  when the next input symbol is  $i$ . Vocabulary and notations on the transitions of LTSs are extended to IOLTSs in the natural way.

*Semantic rules.* We use semantic rules to define the transition relation of LTSs and IOLTSs. More precisely, the transition relation is the least set of transitions that satisfy semantic rules. Semantic rules are written using the following standard notation:

$$\text{R} \frac{\text{conditions on } q \text{ and } i}{q \xrightarrow{i/o} q'}$$

This notation reads as follows: for all  $q, q' \in Q, i \in I, o \in O$ ,  $q \xrightarrow{a/i/o} q'$  holds if the conditions on  $q$  and  $i$  hold, where  $a$  is  $r$ , the name of the rule, unless otherwise explicitly specified.

Transitions without an input (resp. output) symbol are permitted. In this case,  $i$  (resp.  $o$ ) is written  $-$ .

The set of semantic rules that define a transition relation  $\rightarrow$  is denoted by  $\text{Rules}(\rightarrow)$ .

Given states  $q$  and  $q'$  and an action  $a$ ,  $q \xrightarrow{a} q'$  means  $(q, a, q') \in \rightarrow$  if  $\rightarrow$  is the transition relation of an LTS,  $\exists (i, o) \in I \times O : (q, a, i, q', o) \in \rightarrow$  if  $\rightarrow$  is the transition relation of an IOLTS.

Given any two configurations  $q$  and  $q'$  and a regular expression  $E$  over  $A$ ,  $q \xrightarrow{E} q'$  means: there exists a finite sequence  $(a_1, \dots, a_k)$  of actions of  $A$  matched by  $E$  and intermediate configurations such that  $q \xrightarrow{a_1} \dots \xrightarrow{a_k} q'$ .

*Selection of configurations by fields.* If  $q$  is a set of tuples, constraints to the application of a semantic rule can also be given using the selection notation:

$$\frac{\text{conditions on } q}{q \langle f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_n \mapsto v_n \rangle \xrightarrow{i/o} q'}$$

The application of the semantic rule is limited to configurations  $q$  for which fields  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  in  $q$  are equal to values  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , respectively.

Similarly, for any named tuples  $q, q'$  and any relation  $\rightarrow$ ,  $q \rightarrow q' \langle f_1 \mapsto v_1, \dots, f_n \mapsto v_n \rangle$  is a short for  $(q, q') \in \rightarrow$  and fields  $f_1, \dots, f_n$  in  $q'$  are equal to values  $v_1, \dots, v_n$ , respectively.

*Simulation relation.* We use the simulation relation to express correctness properties on our models. Let  $S_1 = (Q_1, q_0^1, \rightarrow_1, \text{Obs} \cup \overline{\text{Obs}})$  and  $S_2 = (Q_2, q_0^2, \rightarrow_2, \text{Obs} \cup \overline{\text{Obs}})$  be two LTSs over a common set of actions  $\text{Obs} \cup \overline{\text{Obs}}$  where  $\text{Obs}$  (resp.  $\overline{\text{Obs}}$ ) is the set of observable (resp. unobservable) actions. We recall below the notion of weak simulation.

*Definition 4.4 (Weak simulation [31]).* LTS  $S_1$  weakly simulates LTS  $S_2$  if there exists a relation  $R \subseteq Q_1 \times Q_2$  such that:

$$(1) \forall (q_1, q_2) \in R, \forall \theta \in \overline{\text{Obs}}, \forall q'_1 \in Q_1 : \left( q_1 \xrightarrow{\theta} q'_1 \implies \exists q'_2 \in Q_2 : (q'_1, q'_2) \in R \wedge q_2 \xrightarrow{\overline{\text{Obs}}} q'_2 \right).$$

$$(2) \forall (q_1, q_2) \in R, \forall \alpha \in \text{Obs}, \forall q'_1 \in Q_1 : \left( q_1 \xrightarrow{\alpha} q'_1 \implies \exists q'_2 \in Q_2 : (q'_1, q'_2) \in R \wedge q_2 \xrightarrow{\overline{\text{Obs}}^* \cdot \alpha \cdot \overline{\text{Obs}}^*} q'_2 \right).$$

Relation  $R$  is a weak simulation if for any related pair of states  $(q_1, q_2)$ :

- (1) for any unobservable action  $\theta \in \overline{\text{Obs}}$ , for any state  $q'_1$  that can be reached from  $q_1$  with  $\theta$ , one can find another state  $q'_2$  that is reached by a sequence of unobservable actions in  $\overline{\text{Obs}}$ ; and
- (2) for any observable action  $a \in \text{Obs}$ , for any state  $q'_1$  that can be reached from  $q_1$  with  $a$ , one can find another state  $q'_2$  that is reached by a sequence of actions in  $\overline{\text{Obs}}^* \cdot a \cdot \overline{\text{Obs}}^*$ , i.e., a sequence composed of unobservable actions in  $\overline{\text{Obs}}$ , action  $a$ , and unobservable actions in  $\overline{\text{Obs}}$ .

## 5 NOTIONS USED IN INTERACTIVE RUNTIME VERIFICATION

In this section, we present fundamental notions of our approach, namely a formalization of programs, events, and some concepts related to debuggers.

### 5.1 Program

We do not aim to give a realistic model of programs. Rather, our model aims for simplicity and minimalism, suitable for expressing correctness properties on our approach. We first discuss the assumptions applying to our model. We then define the notions of values, addresses, memory, accesses, symbols, names, events and parameters used in our representation of a program. We then define the program itself.

*Assumptions.* We consider deterministic and sequential programs without side effects. In particular, the program does not communicate with the outside and does not read user input and is not subject to interrupts. We do not account for physical time as we aim to verify properties with logical (discrete) time. Though i-RV applies to programs that do communicate, these assumptions simplify the expression of properties of this model. Moreover, we do not consider mechanisms like Address Space Layout Randomization (ASLR), aiming to mitigate some kinds of attacks relying on knowing or predicting the location of specific data or functions. Though ASLR is widespread, we note that it is disabled by debuggers like GDB and LLDB by default to ease debugging. We do not model ASLR. We also do not consider self-modifying programs and program that execute their data. As a security feature, on many operating systems, programs run with write protection on their code and execution protection on their data by default. Just-in-Time compilers execute runtime generated code. Debugging these programs require specific runtime support<sup>2</sup> that we do not model. We also do not consider programs that read their code to detect that they are executing under a debugger.

*Definition 5.1 (Value, address, memory).* Value is the set of values that can be stored in variables of a program. Values are machine words, either data (values of variables) or program instructions. An address is an integer indexing a value in a memory. Since an address can be stored in a variable, it is also a value.  $\text{Addr} \subseteq \text{Value}$  denotes the set of addresses in a program. A memory maps addresses to values.  $\text{Mem} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} [\text{Addr} \rightarrow \text{Value}]$  is the set of memories.

*Definition 5.2 (Access).*  $\text{Access} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Addr} \times \{\text{r}, \text{w}\} \times \text{Value} \times \text{Value}$  is the set of memory accesses. An element  $(\text{addr}, \text{mode}, \text{old}, \text{new}) \in \text{Access}$  represents a read access at address  $\text{addr}$  if  $\text{mode} = \text{r}$ , or a write access to address  $\text{addr}$  if  $\text{mode} = \text{w}$ .  $\text{old}$  is the value being accessed, and  $\text{new}$  is the new value in case of a write access (and is not defined for a read access).

<sup>2</sup><https://www.llvm.org/docs/DebuggingJITCode.html>

625 *Definition 5.3 (Symbol).* A symbol is the name of a variable or a function. Symbol is the set of symbols used in a  
 626 program. Symbols are linked to addresses in a program using a symbol table.  
 627

628 *Definition 5.4 (Parameter).* A grammar describing the set of valid parameters Param is given in Figure 5. A parameter  
 629 in Param is: either  $v \in \text{Symbol}$  (a variable or function name),  $*p$  (the value pointed by  $p$ , with  $p \in \text{Param}$ ),  $\&p$  (the  
 630 address of variable  $p$ ),  $\text{arg } i$  (the current value of parameter of index  $i \in \mathbb{N}$ ),  $\hat{p}$  (a parameter  $p$  in a deeper frame in the  
 631 current call stack) or  $\text{ret}$  (the “return value” of the function call for function call events).  
 632

633 *Example 5.5 (Parameter).* We present four examples of parameters.

- 635 •  $\text{arg } 2$  is a parameter referring to the second argument of the current function in the running program.
- 636 •  $\hat{\text{arg}} 2$  is a parameter referring to the second argument of the caller of the current function in the running  
 637 program.
- 638 •  $\text{counter}$  is a parameter referring to the current value of variable  $\text{counter}$  in the running program.
- 639 •  $*\text{ptr}$  is a parameter referring to value stored at the address stored in variable  $\text{ptr}$ .

642 We model a program that executes instructions and stops when the end of the code is reached. This matches  
 643 the behavior of programs in common operating systems. For the sake of generality, our abstraction of a program is  
 644 platform-independent and language-independent. This abstraction assumes a program loaded in memory.  
 645

646 *Definition 5.6 (Symbol table).* A symbol table  $\text{Sym}$  is used to get the address of an object in the program memory at  
 647 runtime from its description.  $\text{Sym} \in \text{SymbolTable} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Mem} \times \text{pc} \times \text{Param} \times \rightarrow \text{Addr}$  maps a memory, a program counter  
 648 and a parameter to an address. This parameter may be the name of a variable or a function, or any other parameter.  
 649 The symbol table is built at compile time and resolves symbols at runtime.  
 650

651 *Definition 5.7 (Program).* A program is a 5-tuple  $(\text{Sym}, m_p^0, \text{start}, \text{runInstr}, \text{getAccesses})$  where:

- 652 •  $\text{Sym} \in \text{SymbolTable}$  is the *symbol table*.
- 653 •  $m_p^0 \in \text{Mem}$  is the *initial memory*,
- 654 •  $\text{start} \in \text{Addr}$  is an address that points to the first instruction to run in the memory,
- 655 •  $\text{runInstr} : (\text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}) \rightarrow (\text{Mem} \times \text{Addr})$  is a function representing and abstracting the instruction set of the  
 656 processor on which the program runs. This function takes a memory and a program counter and returns a new  
 657 (updated) memory and a new program counter, and
- 658 •  $\text{getAccesses} : (\text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}) \rightarrow \text{Accesses}^*$  is a function returning the sequence of accesses that will be made  
 659 when running the next instruction.  
 660

661 *Example 5.8 (Program).* In the remainder of this section, we will use program  $P$  given by the following source code  
 662 to illustrate the concepts:  
 663

664  $\text{a} := 0 ; \text{b} := 1 ; \text{a} := \text{a} + \text{b}$   
 665  
 666

667 *Definition 5.9 (Configuration of the program).* A configuration of the program is a 2-tuple  $(m \mapsto m, \text{pc} \mapsto \text{pc}) \in$   
 668  $\text{Conf}_p \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}$ , where:  
 669

- 670 •  $m$  is the memory of the program, represented as a sequence of memory cells containing either values of variables  
 671 or executable instructions;  
 672

677	$p ::= v$	(a defined variable)
678	$*p$	(the value pointed by $p$ )
679	$\&p$	(the address of variable $p$ )
680	$\hat{p}$	( $p$ , in a deeper frame in the call stack)
681	$\text{arg } i, i \in \mathbb{N}$	(the current value of parameter $i$ )
682	$\text{ret}$	(the return value for call events)
683		
684		
685		

Fig. 5. Grammar of valid parameter names

- 687 •  $pc$  (the program counter) is an address, that is, an index of a cell in the memory  $m$  that is the next instruction to
- 688 execute.
- 689

690 *Example 5.10 (Configuration of the program).* For program  $P$  given in Example 5.8, just after the execution of the

691 second instruction, the configuration of the program is  $(m_p, pc_3)$  where  $pc_3$  is the address of the code that corresponds

692 to the third instruction of  $P$ ,  $m_p[\text{Sym}(m_p, pc, a)] = 0$  and  $m_p[\text{Sym}(m_p, pc, b)] = 1$ .

694 *Definition 5.11 (Program checkpoint).* A program checkpoint is a configuration of a program  $(m, pc) \in \text{Conf}_P$  that is

695 used as a snapshot of the program state, that can be restored later.

697 *Example 5.12 (Program checkpoint).* For the program given in Example 5.8, a checkpoint taken when the third

698 instruction is about to be executed, is  $(([a \mapsto 0, b \mapsto 1], pc_3))$ , where  $pc_3$  is the location of the third instruction in the

699 memory.

## 702 5.2 Events

703 I-RV relies on capturing events from the program execution with the debugger. Events are generated during the

704 execution of the program. Upon the reception of events, the monitor updates its state and generates verdicts. The

705 scenario reacts to verdicts by executing actions.

706 In this section, we define symbolic events, used to describe properties. We then define runtime events, generated

707 during the execution.

708 *Definition 5.13 (Symbolic event).* A symbolic event is a named tuple  $e = (\text{type} \mapsto t, \text{name} \mapsto n, \text{params} \mapsto p) \in$

709  $\text{EventTypes} \times \text{Symbol} \times \text{Param}^*$  such that:

- 710 •  $t \in \text{EventTypes} = \{\text{BeforeCall}, \text{AfterCall}, \text{ValueRead}, \text{ValueWrite}, \text{ValueAccess}\}$  is the type of event: before
- 711 a function call, after a function call, a value read, a value write or a value access (read or write).
- 712 •  $n \in \text{Symbol}$  is the name of the event. For a function call (resp. variable access), the event name is the name of the
- 713 considered function (resp. variable) found in the symbol table of the program,
- 714 •  $p \in \text{Param}^*$  is a sequence of parameters.

715 *Example 5.14 (Symbolic event).*  $(\text{BeforeCall}, \text{push}, (q, v))$  is an event triggered when function `push` is called. Param-

716 eters  $q$  and  $v$  are retrieved when producing the event.

717 *Definition 5.15 (Runtime event).* A runtime event is a pair  $(e_f, v) \in \text{Event} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{SymbolicEvent} \times \text{Value}^*$  where  $e_f$  is a

718 symbolic event and  $v$  a sequence of values.

*Example 5.16 (Runtime event).* (BeforeCall, push, (0x5650653c4260, 42)) is an event triggered when function push is called with these runtime parameters. Runtime parameters 0x5650653c4260, 42  $q$  are instances of symbolic parameters  $q$  and  $v$ .

*Remark 2.* In practice, BeforeCall and AfterCall events are captured using breakpoints and ValueWrite, ValueRead and ValueAccess are captured using watchpoints.

*Remark 3.* Current debuggers allow watching the value of an expression involving several variables by setting several watchpoints automatically. We do not consider this feature, as well as other kinds of events (e.g., system calls, signals) in our model for simplicity.

### 5.3 Instrumentation Provided by the Debugger and Event Handling

The debugger provides two mechanisms to control and instrument the execution of the program: breakpoints and watchpoints. These primitives can be used by the developer during an interactive debugging session, by the scenario to automate some action and as a means to generate events for the monitor. A breakpoint stops the execution at a given address  $a \in \text{Address}$  and a watchpoint when a given address containing data of interest is accessed (read, written, or both).

#### 5.3.1 Breakpoint

A breakpoint can be intuitively understood as a bookmark on an instruction of the program. When encountered, the program shall suspend its execution and inform the debugger. Software breakpoints are commonly implemented by replacing instructions in the program code on which the execution shall be suspended by a special instruction [36].

We denote such a special instruction by BREAK. When setting a breakpoint, the original instruction must be saved in the configuration of the debugger in order to be able to restore it when this instruction must be run.

A breakpoint may be set either by the developer, or programmatically. When set by the developer, the debugger shall enter the interactive mode and wait for input from the developer. When a non-developer breakpoint is reached, the debugger must notify the entity that created this breakpoint.

*Definition 5.17 (Breakpoint).* A breakpoint is a named tuple ( $\text{addr} \mapsto \text{addr}$ ,  $\text{for} \mapsto f$ ), where  $\text{addr}$  is the address of this breakpoint in the program memory, and  $b$  a value that indicates whether this breakpoint is a developer, a scenario, or an event breakpoint (that is, a breakpoint set for the monitor). The set of breakpoints is defined as:  $\text{Breakpoint} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Addr} \times \{\text{dev}, \text{scn}, \text{evt}\}$ .

*Example 5.18 (Breakpoint).* A breakpoint set by the developer on the second instruction of the program given in Example 5.8 is  $(pc_2, \text{dev})$  where  $pc_2$  is the memory address at which the second instruction is loaded. The second instruction is stored as the second element of the tuple and the third component indicates that this breakpoint is set by the developer.

#### 5.3.2 Watchpoint

A watchpoint can be intuitively understood as a bookmark on a value of the program. When encountered, the program shall suspend its execution and inform the debugger. Like a breakpoint, a watchpoint can be set by the developer or programmatically. A watchpoint can be triggered by different kinds of accesses: read, write or both.



$$\text{evt2pts}(m, pc, \text{Sym}, e) = \begin{cases} \{(\text{Sym}(m, pc, e.\text{name}), \{r\}, \text{evt})\} & \text{if } e.\text{type} = \text{ValueRead} \\ \{(\text{Sym}(m, pc, e.\text{name}), \{w\}, \text{evt})\} & \text{if } e.\text{type} = \text{ValueWrite} \\ \{(\text{Sym}(m, pc, e.\text{name}), \{r, w\}, \text{evt})\} & \text{if } e.\text{type} = \text{ValueAccess} \\ \{(\text{Sym}(m, pc, e.\text{name}), \text{evt})\} & \text{if } e.\text{type} = \text{BeforeCall} \\ \{(a, \text{evt}) \mid a \in \text{retPts}(\text{Sym}, m, pc, e.\text{name})\} & \text{if } e.\text{type} = \text{AfterCall} \end{cases}$$

Fig. 6. Event instrumentation: definition of function evt2pts

*Definition 5.19 (Watchpoint).* A watchpoint is a named tuple ( $\text{addr} \mapsto \text{addr}$ ,  $\text{access} \mapsto a$ ,  $\text{for} \mapsto f$ ) where  $\text{addr}$  is the address of this watchpoint,  $a$  is the the kind of access (r for read, w for write, rw for both) and  $f \in \{\text{dev}, \text{scn}, \text{evt}\}$  a value that indicates whether this watchpoint is a developer, a scenario or an event watchpoint. The set of watchpoints is defined as  $\text{Watchpoint} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Addr} \times (\mathcal{P}(\{r, w\}) \setminus \{\emptyset\}) \times \{\text{dev}, \text{scn}, \text{evt}\}$ .

*Example 5.20 (Watchpoint).* A watchpoint set by the developer on variable  $b$  in the program given in Example 5.8 is  $(\&b, w)$ , where  $\&b$  denotes the address of variable  $b$  in the program memory. This watchpoint is triggered whenever variable  $b$  is written (but not when it is only read).

*Remark 4 (About hardware and software watchpoints).* On actual systems, the notification of an access happens whenever a watchpoint is reached. No access lists are built before running each instruction. There are hardware and software watchpoints. Hardware watchpoints are handled by the processor. Debuggers ask the processor to watch some memory cells, and a trap happens whenever a watchpoint is reached. For variables that are stored in registers, the processor must support register watchpoints. Hardware watchpoints are efficient but their number is limited. To overcome these limitations, debuggers implement software watchpoints. The program is run step by step by the debugger. Before the execution of each instruction, the debugger emulates this instruction and computes the list of accesses done by this instruction. Software watchpoints slow down the execution dramatically.

Depending on the platform, watchpoints are triggered before or after the corresponding access. In our model, we chose to trigger watchpoints before the access.

### 5.3.3 Event Instrumentation and Instantiation

We denote the set of breakpoints and watchpoints by  $\text{Point} = \text{Breakpoint} \cup \text{Watchpoint}$ . An element of  $\text{Point}$  is referred to as a point. We present the relations between the instrumentation provided by the debugger and events.

In Fig. 6, we define function  $\text{evt2pts} : \text{Mem} \times \text{Addr} \times \text{SymbolTable} \times \text{SymbolicEvent} \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\text{Point})$  that maps a memory, a program counter, a symbol table and an event to a set of points.

Function  $\text{retPts} : \text{SymbolTable} \times \text{Mem} \times \text{Addr} \times \text{Symbol}$  maps a symbol table, a memory, a program counter and a symbol to the set of address of exist instructions in the function that corresponds to the given symbol. This function depends on the instruction set of the program and is not defined here for simplicity.

We define  $\text{instantiate} : \text{SymbolTable} \times \text{SymbolicEvent} \times \text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}$ , the function which maps a symbol table, a symbolic event, a memory and a program counter to a runtime event.  $\text{instantiate}(\text{Sym}, e_f, m, pc) = (e_f, l)$  with  $l_k = m[\text{Sym}(m, pc, e_f.\text{params}_k)]$ . That is, at runtime, a symbolic event is instantiated by getting values of its parameters from the current memory using the symbol table.

Table 1. Debugger Commands

Command	Usage
set( $s, v$ ) (resp. set( $a, v$ ))	set value of symbol $s$ (resp. at addr. $a$ ) to $v$
get( $s$ ) (resp. get( $a$ ))	get value of symbol $s$ (resp. at addr. $a$ )
getPC	get value of the pc
setPC( $a$ )	set value of the pc to address $a$
checkpoint	set a checkpoint
restore( $n$ )	restore checkpoint $n$
continue (resp. INT)	continue (resp. interrupt) execution
step	execute one step of the program
setPoint( $p$ ) (resp. rmPoint( $p$ ))	set (resp. remove) a point $p$

## 6 OPERATIONAL VIEW

In this section, we describe the behavior of a program under i-RV (the i-RV-program) using operational semantics. I-RV relies on the joint execution of different components: the program, the debugger, the monitor and the scenario.

The program is independent from the other components and describing its own behavior without the other components is meaningful. In this model, the program executes instruction by instruction and interrupts its execution when a breakpoint instruction is encountered or when reaching the program end.

The monitor is also independent from the other components. The monitor issues a verdict whenever it receives an event. In this model, the monitor is able to save its state and restore a saved state.

The debugger does not depend on the monitor or the scenario, but it depends on the program. Describing the debugger behavior independently from the program behavior is not meaningful. We describe the behavior of the program under debug (or debugged program).

The interactively runtime verified program (i-RV program) is composed of these the debugged program, the monitor and the scenario. We introduce and describe the behavior of the scenario and the i-RV program.

### 6.1 Interface of the Program Under i-RV

In this section, we present the interface of the i-RV-program, that is, its input and output symbols. We use this interface when defining the components of the i-RV-program, and its behavior, which implements this interface.

#### 6.1.1 Input symbols.

The i-RV-program initializes its components upon reception of symbol INIT. The developer communicates with the i-RV-program by issuing debugger commands that are forwarded to the debugged program. The set of debugger commands is

$$\text{DbgCmd} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{ \text{set}(s, v), \text{get}(s), \text{set}(a, v), \text{get}(a), \text{getPC}, \text{setPC}(a) \mid s \in \text{Symbol} \wedge v \in \text{Value} \wedge a \in \text{Addr} \} \\ \cup \{ \text{checkpoint}, \text{continue}, \text{INT}, \text{step} \} \cup \{ \text{restore}(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N} \} \cup \{ \text{setPoint}(p), \text{rmPoint}(p) \mid p \in \text{Point} \}.$$

The usage of these commands is detailed in Table 1. Input symbols in  $\{\text{scnCmd}(c) \mid c \in \text{DbgCmd} \cup \{\text{nop}\}\}$  are also used internally to handle the scenario. The set of input symbols of the i-RV-program is  $I_{\text{i-RV}} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{INIT}\} \cup \text{DbgCmd} \cup \{\text{scnCmd}(c) \mid c \in \text{DbgCmd} \cup \{\text{nop}\}\}$ .

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{NORMALEXEC} \frac{m[pc] \notin \{\text{BREAK}, \text{STOP}\} \quad (m', pc') = \text{runInstr}(m, pc)}{P \langle m \mapsto m, pc \mapsto pc \rangle \xrightarrow{-/-} P [m \mapsto m', pc \mapsto pc']} \\
\text{BPHIT} \frac{m[pc] = \text{BREAK}}{P \langle m \mapsto m, pc \mapsto pc \rangle \xrightarrow{-/\text{TRAP}} P}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 7. Execution of the program

### 6.1.2 Output symbols.

The i-RV-program outputs values (in Value) requested by the developer and identifiers of checkpoints (in  $\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N}$ ) set by the developer. Checkpoint identifiers of the i-RV-program are pairs composed of a checkpoint identifier from the debugged program and a checkpoint identifier from the monitor. The i-RV-program outputs values requested by the developer and identifiers of checkpoints set by the developer. The set of output symbols of the i-RV-program is  $O_{\text{i-RV}} = \text{Value} \cup (\mathbb{N} \times \mathbb{N})$ .

## 6.2 The Program

In this section, we present the behavior of a program. We consider a program  $Pgrm \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{Sym}, m_p^0, \text{start}, \text{runInstr}, \text{getAccesses})$  following Definition 5.7 (see Sec. 5.1, p. 13).

*Definition 6.1 (Operational semantics of a program).* The operational semantics of  $Pgrm$  is the IOLTS  $(\text{Conf}_P, A_P, \emptyset, \{\text{TRAP}\}, \rightarrow_P)$  where  $\text{Conf}_P$  is the set of configurations as per Definition 5.9 and  $(m \mapsto m_p^0, pc \mapsto \text{start})$  is the initial configuration, and  $\rightarrow_P$  is the least set of transitions abiding by the rules in Fig. 7.

The program has no input symbols: in our model, the program behavior only depends on its initial memory and its original program counter. The program has one output symbol TRAP, which is output when the execution reaches a breakpoint. Recall that we do not model the standard input and output nor the communication with the outside. The evolution of configuration is given by relation  $\rightarrow_P$  which follows the two rules given in Fig. 7:

- Rule **NORMALEXEC**. The end of the program code is represented by instruction STOP. When encountering this instruction, no rule applies, which ends the execution. BREAK is a breakpoint instruction. If current instruction  $m[pc]$  in the program memory is not STOP nor BREAK, rule **NORMALEXEC** applies. During an execution step, the memory and the program counter of the program are updated by running the current instruction, using function  $\text{runInstr}$ . rule **NORMALEXEC** is linked to action  $(m, pc)$  such that  $(m \mapsto m, pc \mapsto pc)$  is the configuration of the program to which the rule is applied.
- Rule **BPHIT**. This rule applies when the current instruction is BREAK. When this instruction is reached, symbol TRAP is output.

*Remark 5.* The configuration of the program remains unchanged when encountering a breakpoint instruction. The debugged program temporarily replaces the breakpoint instruction by the original instruction in the program when this instruction is to be executed (see Sec. 6.3). Without this mechanism, applying rule **BPHIT** would lead to an infinite loop. This is not possible since without the debugger no breakpoint instruction appears in the code of a program.

### 6.3 The Debugged Program

In this section, we present the behavior of the debugged program, which models the execution of a program with a debugger. We consider a program  $Pgrm \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} (\text{Sym}, m_p^0, \text{start}, \text{runInstr}, \text{getAccesses})$  following Definition 5.7 (see Sec. 5.1, p. 13) with initial configuration  $P_0$ .

The debugged program can receive debugger commands in the set  $\text{DbgCmd}$  defined in Sec. 6.1.

*Definition 6.2 (Operational semantics of a debugged program).* The operational semantics of the debugged program associated with  $Pgrm$  is the IOLTS  $(\text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D, A_{PD}, I_{PD}, O_{PD}, \rightarrow_{PD})$  where:

- $\text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D$  is the set of configurations composed of a configuration of the program in  $\text{Conf}_P$ , and a configuration of the debugger in  $\text{Conf}_D$  defined as

$$\{\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{I}\} \times \mathcal{P}(\text{Breakpoint}) \times \mathcal{P}(\text{Watchpoint}) \times \text{Checkpoint}^* \times [\text{Point} \rightarrow \text{Event}] \times \mathcal{P}(\text{Point}) \times \text{Mem};$$

- $A_{PD}$  is the set of actions defined as
 
$$\left\{ \text{SETBREAK}(b), \text{RMBREAK}(b), \text{SETWATCH}(w), \text{RMWATCH}(w), \text{DEVBREAK}, \text{SCNBREAK}(b), \text{EVTBREAK}(e), \right.$$

$$\text{DEVWATCH}, \text{SCNWATCH}(w), \text{EVTWATCH}(e), \text{INT}, \text{CONT}, \text{TRAPNOBREAK}, \text{CLEAREVENTS}, \text{SETSYM}(s, v),$$

$$\text{SETADDR}(a), \text{SETPC}(a), \text{CHECKPOINT}(n), \text{RESTORE}(n), \text{EXEC}(m, a)$$

$$\left. \mid w \in \text{Watchpoint} \wedge b \in \text{Breakpoint} \wedge e \in \text{Event} \wedge n \in \mathbb{N} \wedge m \in \text{Mem} \wedge a \in \text{Addr} \right\},$$
- $I_{PD} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{DbgCmd} \cup \{\text{instr}(evts) \mid evts \in \mathcal{P}(\text{Event})\} \cup \{\text{clearEvs}\}$  is the set of input symbols, where:  $\text{instr}(evts)$  is used to add instrumentation for events for the monitor,  $\text{clearEvs}$  is used to remove all instrumentation set for events for the monitor
- $O_{PD} \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \mathcal{P}(\text{Point}) \cup \mathcal{P}(\text{Event}) \cup \text{Value} \cup \mathbb{N}$  is the set of outputs.
- $\rightarrow_{PD}$  is the least set of transitions defined by semantics rules described later in the next paragraph.

The initial configuration of the debugged program is  $((\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbb{I}, \text{bpts} \mapsto \epsilon, \text{wpts} \mapsto \epsilon, \text{cpts} \mapsto \epsilon, \text{evts} \mapsto \emptyset, \text{hdld} \mapsto \emptyset, \text{oi} \mapsto (\text{addr} \mapsto \text{BREAK})), P_0)$ .

The debugged program receives commands from the developer or the scenario. It also receive requests from the monitor and answers them. A configuration of the debugger  $(\text{mode}, \mathcal{B}, \mathcal{W}, \mathcal{C}, \text{evts}, h, \text{oi}) \in \text{Conf}_D$  is such that:

- $\text{mode} \in \{\mathbb{P}, \mathbb{I}\}$  indicates the mode of the debugger. In passive mode ( $\mathbb{P}$ ), the program executes normally and the debugger waits for a breakpoint or a watchpoint to be reached, or for the developer to interrupt the execution. In interactive mode ( $\mathbb{I}$ ), the debugger waits for the developer to issue commands.
- $\mathcal{B}$  (resp.  $\mathcal{W}$ ) is the set of breakpoints (resp. watchpoints) handled by the debugger.
- $\mathcal{C} \in \text{Checkpoint}^*$  is the list of checkpoints saved in the debugger. A checkpoint  $c \in \text{Checkpoint}$  is a pair  $(p, \text{events}) \in \text{Conf}_P \times \mathcal{P}(\text{Event})$  where  $p$  is snapshot of the state of the program, containing its entire memory and the program counter and  $\text{events}$  is the list of events tracked for the monitor.
- $\text{evts}$  is a function that maps points to events. When an event is requested to the debugged program, points that trigger this event are added.
- $h$  is a set of points that have already been triggered during an execution step. This set is used to ensure that points are not triggered more than once per execution step.
- $\text{oi} \in \text{Mem}$  is a mapping that stores instructions in the program memory that have been replaced by breakpoint instructions.

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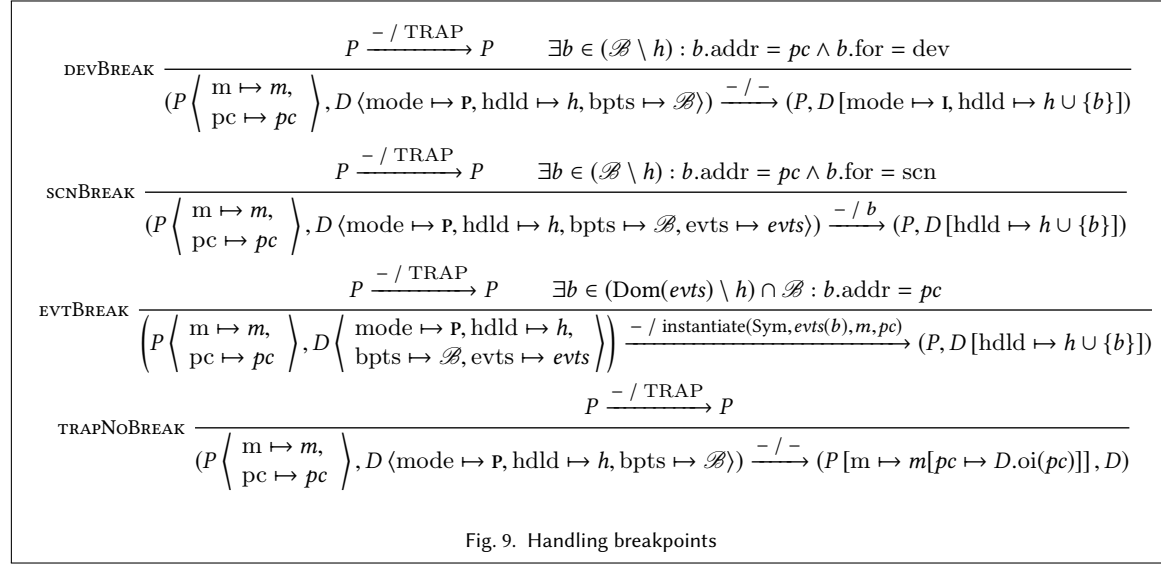
$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{DEVWATCH} \frac{a = \text{getAccesses}(P) \quad \exists w \in \mathcal{W} \setminus h : \exists k \in \{0, \dots, |a| - 1\} : \text{match}(a_k, w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{dev} \\
(m', oi') = \text{restoreBP}(\mathcal{B}, pc, oi, m)}{\left( P \langle m \mapsto m \rangle, D \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}, \text{hdld} \mapsto h, \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B}, \\ \text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W}, oi \mapsto oi \end{array} \right\rangle \right) \xrightarrow{-/-} \left( P [m \mapsto m'], D \left[ \begin{array}{l} \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I}, oi \mapsto oi', \\ \text{hdld} \mapsto h \cup \{w\} \end{array} \right] \right)} \\
\\
\text{SCNWATCH} \frac{a = \text{getAccesses}(P) \quad WPs = (\mathcal{W} \setminus h) \setminus \text{Dom}(\text{evts}) \\
f = \min(\{k \in \{0, \dots, |a| - 1\} \mid \exists w \in WPs : \text{match}(a_k, w)\}) \quad \exists w \in WPs : \text{match}(a_f, w) \\
(m', oi') = \text{restoreBP}(\mathcal{B}, pc, oi, m)}{\left( P \langle m \mapsto m \rangle, D \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}, \text{hdld} \mapsto h, \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B}, \\ \text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W}, oi \mapsto oi \end{array} \right\rangle \right) \xrightarrow{-/w} \left( P [m \mapsto m'], D \left[ \begin{array}{l} oi \mapsto oi', \\ \text{hdld} \mapsto h \cup \{w\} \end{array} \right] \right)} \\
\\
\text{EVTWATCH} \frac{a = \text{getAccesses}(P) \quad WPs = (\text{Dom}(\text{evts}) \cap \mathcal{W}) \setminus h \\
f = \min(\{k \in \{0, \dots, |a| - 1\} \mid \exists w \in WPs : \text{match}(a_k, w)\}) \quad \exists w \in WPs : \text{match}(a_f, w) \\
(m', oi') = \text{restoreBP}(\mathcal{B}, pc, oi, m) \quad e = \text{instantiate}(\text{Sym}, \text{evts}(w), m, pc)}{\left( P \left\langle \begin{array}{l} m \mapsto m, \\ pc \mapsto pc \end{array} \right\rangle, D \left\langle \begin{array}{l} \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}, \text{hdld} \mapsto h, \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B}, \\ \text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W}, oi \mapsto oi, \text{evts} \mapsto \text{evts} \end{array} \right\rangle \right) \xrightarrow{-/e} \left( P [m \mapsto m'], D \left[ \begin{array}{l} oi \mapsto oi', \\ \text{hdld} \mapsto h \cup \{w\} \end{array} \right] \right)}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 8. Handling watchpoints

An output of the debugged program can be either: a set of points  $pts \in \mathcal{P}$  (Point) for the scenario, a set of events  $events \in \mathcal{P}$  (Event) for the monitor, a value  $v \in \text{Value}$  requested by the developer or the scenario, an integer  $n \in \mathbb{N}$  when setting a checkpoint, used as an identifier for the checkpoint.

*Transition relation (evolution of the debugged program).* The behavior of the debugged program depends on the current debugger mode. In interactive mode, the debugger waits for the developer to issue commands. In passive mode, program instructions are executed. During the execution, breakpoints and watchpoints can be reached. Points can be set by the developer, the monitor or the scenario. When a point is reached, the debugged program triggers this point. When a developer point is triggered, the debugger mode is set to interactive (I). The execution is therefore suspended, since rules that lead to the execution of an instruction require the debugger to be in passive mode. A non-developer point is either set for the monitor or by the scenario. Monitor points are mapped to events. Whenever a monitor point is triggered, the corresponding event is output. Scenario points are output as-is and handled by the scenario. In passive mode, an execution step consists in executing an instruction, outputting an event, outputting a point or switching to interactive mode. An instruction can trigger several points. An instruction will only be executed when every point it triggers has been triggered. Each time a point is triggered, it is saved in field *hdld* of the debugger. When an instruction is executed, *hdld* is emptied.

We first present rules in Fig. 8 related to watchpoints. In these rules, function `getAccesses` takes the current program state and returns the list of accesses that will be made when executing the next instruction. For instance, an instruction that adds two variables and saves the result in a third variable will make two read accesses, then one write access. Before executing the next instruction, this list of accesses is checked against the set of watchpoints that are registered in the debugger. Function `match : Access × Watchpoint → ℤ` tests whether an access matches a watchpoint and is defined as `match(a, w) = (a.addr = w.addr) ∧ a.mode ∈ w.mode`, for any  $a \in \text{Access}$ ,  $w \in \text{Watchpoint}$ .



- Rule `DEVWATCH` applies when a developer watchpoint is reached. The debugged program performs action `DEVWATCH`. The list of access done by the next instruction in the program is computed. A developer watchpoint known to the debugger (in field `wpts`) matches an access of this list. The debugger becomes interactive and the watchpoint is marked as handled. If a breakpoint is set at the current address in the debugger, the breakpoint instruction is restored in the program memory. This ensures that a breakpoint instruction is always set for any known breakpoint. This is done using function `restoreBP : Breakpoint* × Addr × Mem → Mem × Mem` defined as

$$\text{restoreBP}(\mathcal{B}, pc, oi, m) = \begin{cases} (m[pc \mapsto \text{BREAK}], oi[pc \mapsto m[pc]]) & \text{if } \exists b \in \mathcal{B} : b.\text{addr} = pc, \\ (m, oi) & \text{otherwise.} \end{cases}$$

- Rule `SCNWATCH` applies when rule `DEVWATCH` does not apply, and thus a scenario watchpoint can be triggered. The debugged program performs action `SCNWATCH(w)`, where `w` is the output watchpoint. Scenario watchpoints are watchpoints that are not in the domain of function `evts` and that are not developer watchpoints. When rule `SCNWATCH` applies, a scenario watchpoint known to the debugger (in field `wpts`) matches an access. This scenario watchpoint is output and marked as handled.
- Rule `EVTWATCH` applies when neither rule `DEVWATCH` nor rule `SCNWATCH` applies. That is, if there is no developer or scenario watchpoints, rule `EVTWATCH` may apply. Rule `EVTWATCH` applies when a monitor watchpoint (that is, a watchpoint in the domain of function `evts`) matches an access. This watchpoint is marked as handled and is converted to an instantiated event which is output. The debugged program performs action `EVTWATCH(e)`, where `e` is the produced event.

We now present rules in Fig. 9 related to breakpoints. If the current instruction in the program is `BREAK`, function `getAccesses` returns an empty list. Therefore, no watchpoint is triggered (rules in Fig. 8 do not apply). An execution step of the program outputs symbol `TRAP`.

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$$\begin{array}{c}
 \forall a \in \text{getAccesses}(P), \forall w \in \text{Watchpoint} \setminus h : \neg \text{match}(a, w) \\
 P[m \mapsto \text{unInstr}(m, \text{bpts}, oi)] \xrightarrow{-/-} P' \langle m \mapsto m_t \rangle \\
 (m', oi') = \text{restoreBPs}(\mathcal{B}, m_t) \\
 o = \text{STOP} \text{ if } m_t[pc] = \text{STOP}, \text{ nothing } (-) \text{ otherwise} \\
 \hline
 \text{NORMALEXEC} \quad (P \langle pc \mapsto pc \rangle, D \langle \text{mode} \mapsto P, oi \mapsto oi, \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B} \rangle) \xrightarrow{-/o} (P' [m \mapsto m'], D [hldd \mapsto \emptyset, oi \mapsto oi'])
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 10. Normal execution and end of execution

- Rule **DEVBREAK** If a dev breakpoint is set on address  $pc$ , the debugger is set to interactive mode (i) and the breakpoint is marked as handled (rule **DEVBREAK**). The debugged program performs action **DEVBREAK**.
- Rule **SCNBREAK** If no developer breakpoints match address  $pc$  (rule **DEVBREAK** does not apply), address  $pc$  is checked against scenario breakpoints (rule **SCNBREAK**). If such a breakpoint exists, it is output and marked as handled. The debugged program performs action **SCNBREAK**( $b$ ), where  $b$  is the output breakpoint.
- Rule **EVTBREAK** If neither rule **DEVBREAK** nor rule **SCNBREAK** apply, rule **EVTBREAK** may apply. Address  $pc$  is checked against monitor breakpoints (that are in the domain of function  $evts$ ). If such a breakpoint exists, the corresponding event is instantiated, output and the breakpoint is marked as handled. Rule **EVTBREAK** performs action **EVTBREAK**( $e$ ), where  $e$  is the produced event.
- Rule **TRAPNOBREAK** If no breakpoints match address  $pc$ , all breakpoints at this address have already been handled. rule **TRAPNOBREAK** applies. The breakpoint instruction is replaced with the original instruction that was stored in the debugger when the breakpoint was set (see rule **SETBREAK** in Fig. 12). during the next steps, watchpoints for this instruction may happen, and the instruction will be executed if the scenario does not change the execution of the program. The breakpoint instruction will be restored each time a watchpoint is triggered, or after the execution of the instruction. Rule **TRAPNOBREAK** performs action **TRAPNOBREAK**.

When no watchpoints and breakpoints are triggered, either because all points have already been triggered for this instruction, or because the instruction does not trigger any point, rule **NORMALEXEC** in Fig. 10 applies. The program memory is uninstrumented using function  $\text{unInstr} : \text{Mem} \times \text{Breakpoint}^* \times \text{Mem} \rightarrow \text{Mem}$  defined as  $\text{unInstr}(M, \mathcal{B}, oi) = m \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in \mathcal{B}\}$ . One step of the program is executed. breakpoint instructions are restored using function  $\text{restoreBPs} : \text{Breakpoint}^* \times \text{Mem} \rightarrow \text{Mem} \times \text{Mem}$  defined as  $\text{restoreBPs}(\mathcal{B}, m) = (m \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto \text{BREAK} \mid b \in \mathcal{B}\}, [b \mapsto \text{BREAK} \forall b \in \text{Addr}] \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto m[b.\text{addr}] \mid b \in \mathcal{B}\})$ . The list of handled points is emptied. When the program ends, event **STOP** is output. When the rule applies, the debugged program performs action  $m[pc]$  such that  $(P \langle m \mapsto m, pc \mapsto pc \rangle, D)$  is the configuration of the debugged program to which the rule is applied.

*Remark 6.* In actual implementations, for performance reasons, the program is not necessarily uninstrumented at each execution step. Debuggers assume that breakpoint instructions do not affect the execution, which is the case if the program does not read its own instructions and no breakpoint is set on a data (which a debugger should forbid).

We now present the rules related to instrumentation features of the debugged program in Fig. 11.

- Rule **CLEAREVENTS**. When adding instrumentation for a set of events, previous instrumentation (i.e., breakpoints and watchpoints) is removed using rule **CLEAREVENTS**. Rules **RMWATCH** and **RMBREAK** are used to remove points in  $\text{Dom}(evts)$  (i.e., that correspond to events).

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{CLEAREVENTS} \frac{\text{rmPoints}(\{b \in \text{Dom}(evts)\}) \xrightarrow{- / (P', D')} (P, D)}{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{clearEvts} / -} (P', D')} \\
\\
\text{INSTRUMENT} \frac{\text{clearEvts} \xrightarrow{- / (P_t, D_t \langle evts \mapsto evts_t \rangle)} (P, D) \quad (pts, evts') = \text{watchEvents}(P_t, evts_t, events) \quad \text{setPoints}(pts) \xrightarrow{- / (P', D')} (P_t, D_t [evts \mapsto evts'])}{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{instr}(events) / -} (P', D')}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 11. Instrumenting events

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{SETBREAK} \frac{\begin{array}{l} b \in \text{Breakpoint} \\ m' = m[b.\text{addr} = \text{BREAK}] \end{array} \quad oi' = \begin{cases} oi & \text{if } \exists b' \in \mathcal{B} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr} \\ oi[b.\text{addr} \mapsto m[b.\text{addr}]] & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}}{(P \langle m \mapsto m \rangle, D \langle \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B}, oi \mapsto oi \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{setPoint}(b) / -} (P [m \mapsto m'], D [oi \mapsto oi', \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B} \cup \{p\}])} \\
\\
\text{RMBREAK} \frac{\begin{array}{l} b \in \mathcal{B} \quad a = b.\text{addr} \\ evts' = evts \setminus \{b\} \end{array} \quad (m', oi') = \begin{cases} (m, oi) & \text{if } \exists b' \in \mathcal{B} \setminus \{b\} : b'.\text{addr} = a \\ (m[a \mapsto oi(\text{addr})], oi[a \mapsto \text{BREAK}]) & \text{otherwise} \end{cases}}{(P \langle m \mapsto m \rangle, D \langle \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B}, oi \mapsto oi, \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{rmPoint}(b) / -} (P [m \mapsto m'], D [oi \mapsto oi', \text{bpts} \mapsto \mathcal{B} \setminus \{p\}, \rangle)} \\
\\
\text{SETWATCH} \frac{w \in \text{Watchpoint}}{(P, D \langle \text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W} \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{setPoint}(w) / -} (P, D [\text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W} \cup \{w\}])} \\
\\
\text{RMWATCH} \frac{w \in \mathcal{W}}{(P, D \langle \text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W} \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{rmPoint}(w) / -} (P, D [\text{wpts} \mapsto \mathcal{W} \setminus \{w\}])}
\end{array}$$

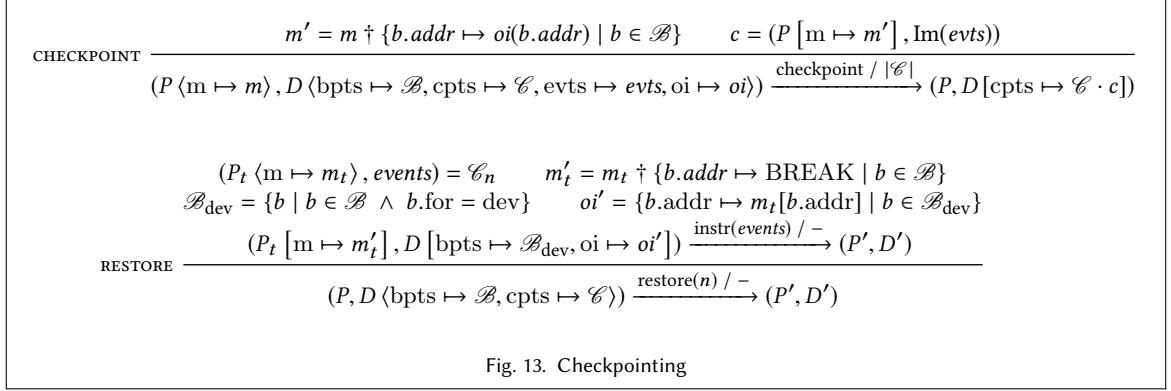
Fig. 12. Setting breakpoints and watchpoints

- Rule INSTRUMENT. The debugged program can be asked to add instrumentation for a set of events. This happens when the monitor state is updated. Existing instrumentation for events being tracked is cleared using rule CLEAREVENTS. Function  $\text{watchEvents} : \text{Conf}_P \times [\text{Point} \rightarrow \text{Event}] \times \text{Event}^*$  returns the set of points to add and updates function  $evts$ .  $\text{watchEvents}$  is such that  $\text{watchEvents}(P, evts, \epsilon) = (\emptyset, evts)$  and  $\text{watchEvents}(P, evts, e \cdot l) = (pts \cup pts', evts' \dagger \{p \mapsto e \mid p \in pts\})$  where  $pts = \text{evt2pts}(P.m, P.pc, \text{Sym}, e)$  and  $(pts', evts') = \text{watchEvents}(P, evts, l)$ . Points are added to the debugged program using rule SETBREAK or rule SETWATCH, given in Fig. 12 and described later in this section.

We now present the rules provided by the debugged program to set and remove points in Fig. 12.



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- Rule **SETBREAK** is used to set a breakpoint, which consists in (i) saving the instruction of the program memory at the breakpoint address in the debugger, if no breakpoint has been set at this location (ii) replacing this instruction by **BREAK** (iii) updating the set of breakpoints in the debugger. When the rule applies, the debugged program performs action **SETBREAK**( $b$ ), where  $b$  is the breakpoint being set.
- Rule **REMBREAK** is used to remove a breakpoint, which consists in:
  - restoring the instruction of the program memory at the breakpoint address from the debugger, if no other breakpoint is set at this location, and, in this case, removing the instruction from the debugger memory,
  - removing this breakpoint in the points to events mapping, if present,
  - updating the set of breakpoints in the debugger.
 When the rule applies, the debugged program performs action **REMBREAK**( $b$ ), where  $b$  is the breakpoint being removed.
- Rules **SETWATCH** and **RMWATCH** are used to set (resp. remove) a watchpoint (rules **SETWATCH** and **RMWATCH**) which consists in adding (resp. removing) the watchpoint in the debugger.

*Remark 7.* Input symbol **setPoints**( $pts$ ) (resp. **rmPoints**( $pts$ )) is handled by applying rules **SETBREAK** and **SETWATCH** (resp. **REMBREAK** and **RMWATCH**) sequentially for each  $p$  in  $pts$ .

We present rules related to checkpointing given in Fig. 12.

- Rule **CHECKPOINT** is used to set a checkpoint, which consists in saving the program memory without the breakpoint instructions and the set of tracked events in a checkpoint that is added in the debugger. The checkpoint index is output.
- Rule **RESTORE** is used to restore a checkpointing, which consists in restoring the program memory saved in the checkpoint given by its index, adding the breakpoints instructions for currently set developer breakpoints, and instrumenting the set of events that were being tracked at the moment the checkpoint was set.

*Remark 8.* The set of breakpoints can be different at the moment of checkpointing and at the moment of restoring the checkpoint. This matches the behavior of GDB when using its built-in checkpointing feature. However, we ensure that breakpoints mapped to event are restored, since the state of the monitor will also be restored at the state corresponding to the moment of checkpointing.

We now present rules in Fig. 14, related to stepping and mode switching.

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{Rule DEVWATCH, SCNWATCH, EVTWATCH, DEVBREAK, SCNBREAK,} \\
\text{EVTBREAK or TRAPNOBREAK applies on } (P, D [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}]) \\
\text{STEPREDO} \frac{(P, D [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}]) \xrightarrow{-/o} (P_t \langle \text{pc} \mapsto pc, m \mapsto m[\text{pc} \mapsto oi(pc)] \rangle, D')}{(P \langle \text{pc} \mapsto pc, m \mapsto m \rangle, D \langle \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I}, oi \mapsto oi \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{step} / o} (P', D' [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I}])} \\
\text{STEP} \frac{(P, D [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}]) \xrightarrow{-/o} (P', D')}{(P, D \langle \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I} \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{step} / o} (P', D' [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I}])} \\
\text{INT} \frac{}{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{INT} / -} (P, D [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I}])} \quad \text{CONT} \frac{}{(P, D \langle \text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{I} \rangle) \xrightarrow{\text{continue} / -} (P, D [\text{mode} \mapsto \mathbf{P}])}
\end{array}$$

Fig. 14. Stepping and interrupting the execution

$$\begin{array}{c}
\text{SETADDR} \frac{a \in \text{Addr}, v \in \text{Value}}{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{set}(a,v) / -} (P [m \mapsto m[a \mapsto v]], D)} \quad \text{GETADDR} \frac{}{(P \langle m \mapsto m \rangle, D) \xrightarrow{\text{get}(a) / m[a]} (P, D)} \\
\text{SETSYM} \frac{s \in \text{Symbol}, v \in \text{Value}}{(P \langle m \mapsto m, \text{pc} \mapsto pc \rangle, D) \xrightarrow{\text{set}(s,v) / -} (P [m \mapsto m[\text{Sym}(m, pc, s) \mapsto v]], D)} \\
\text{GETSYM} \frac{}{(P \langle m \mapsto m, \text{pc} \mapsto pc \rangle, D) \xrightarrow{\text{get}(a) / m[\text{Sym}(m, pc, s)]} (P, D)} \\
\text{SETPC} \frac{}{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{setPC}(a) / -} (P [\text{pc} \mapsto a], D)} \quad \text{GETPC} \frac{}{(P \langle \text{pc} \mapsto pc \rangle, D) \xrightarrow{\text{getPC} / pc} (P, D)}
\end{array}$$

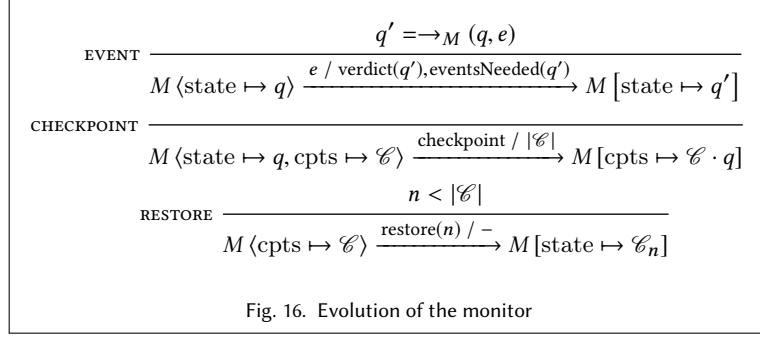
Fig. 15. Setting and getting values in the program

- Rules INT and CONT. Rule INT changes the debugger mode to interactive, interrupting the execution since normal execution happens only in passive mode. Rule CONT changes the debugger mode to passive, allowing execution to happen normally.
- Rules STEP and STEPREDO. Rule STEP makes the debugged program execute one step. The debugger mode is temporarily set to passive. This allows normal execution. If breakpoints and watchpoints must be handled, or if there is a breakpoint instruction at the current address in the program, rule STEPREDO applies.

We present rules related to commands used to set and get values in the program in Fig. 15.

- Rules GETADDR and SETADDR. Rule GETADDR (resp. rule SETADDR) outputs (resp. sets) a value at the given address in the program memory.
- Rules GETSYM and SETSYM. Rule SETSYM (resp. rule GETSYM) outputs (resp. changes) the value at an address of a given symbol using the symbol table Sym
- Rules GETPC and SETPC. Rule GETPC (resp. rule SETPC) outputs (resp. sets) the program counter.

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#### 6.4 Monitor

In this section, we integrate the monitor to the debugged program. The monitor evaluates a property against a trace, giving a verdict upon the reception of each event. To be independent from the specification formalism, we assume a monitor given in terms of a set of states  $Q$ , a transition function  $\rightarrow_M: Q \times \text{Event} \rightarrow Q$  which updates the state of the monitor upon each event, and a function  $\text{verdict}: Q \rightarrow \text{Verdict}$  which maps states to verdicts. Before integrating the monitor to the debugged program, we augment its behavior as follows.

*Definition 6.3 (Operational semantics of a monitor).* The operational semantics of a monitor is the IOLTS  $(Q \times Q^*, A_M, I_M, O_M, \rightarrow_{M_{\mathcal{C}}})$ , where  $Q \times Q^*$  is the set of configurations and:

- $A_M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \{\text{EVENT}(e) \mid e \in \text{Event}\} \cup \{\text{CHECKPOINT}(n), \text{RESTORE}(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is the set of actions,
- $I_M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Event} \cup \{\text{checkpoint}\} \cup \{\text{restore}(n) \mid n \in \mathbb{N}\}$  is the set of input symbols,
- $O_M \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Verdict} \times \mathbb{N}$  is the set of output symbols,
- $\rightarrow_{M_{\mathcal{C}}}$  is the transition relation defined as the least set of transitions abiding to the rules given in Fig. 16.

The initial configuration of the monitor is  $(q_{\text{init}}, \epsilon)$ .

In a configuration  $(\text{state} \mapsto q, \text{cpts} \mapsto \mathcal{C})$  of the monitor,  $q \in Q$  is the current state of the monitor,  $\mathcal{C} \in Q^*$  is the list of checkpoints of the monitor. Each checkpoint is indexed by its position in this list and is created by copying the current state of the monitor. An input symbol is either an event  $e \in \text{Event} \cup \{\text{INIT}\}$  which makes the monitor evolve from one state to the next state, the symbol  $\text{checkpoint}$  used to set a checkpoint, or the symbol  $\text{restore}(n)$  is used to restore a checkpoint. An output symbol is either: a verdict  $v \in \text{Verdict}$  that is output when the state of the monitor changes (after receiving an event), or an integer that is output when setting a checkpoint. This integer identifies the checkpoint.

The transitions between the configurations of the monitor abide by the rules described in Fig. 16.

- Upon the reception of an event, rule **EVENT** applies and the monitor performs action  $\text{EVENT}(e)$ , where  $e$  is the event being received. The new state is computed using function  $\rightarrow_M: Q \times (\text{Event} \cup \{\text{INIT}\}) \rightarrow Q$ , that maps the current state and the received event to the new state (the initial event being **INIT**). The set of events handled by the transitions of the monitor from this new state is given by function  $\text{eventsNeeded}: Q \rightarrow \mathcal{P}(\text{SymbolicEvent})$  defined as  $\text{eventsNeeded}(q) = \{e_f \in \text{SymbolicEvent} \mid \exists q' \in Q, \exists e \in \text{Event} : \text{symbolic}(e) = e_f \wedge q' \Rightarrow_M (q, e)\}$ , that is, the set of formal events handled by transitions which begin state is the new state. The new verdict is given by function  $\text{verdict}: Q \rightarrow \text{Verdict}$  provided by the monitor. This set of events and the new verdict are output and the configuration of the monitor is updated with the new state.

- Rules CHECKPOINT and RESTORE describe checkpointing for the monitor. When these rules apply, the monitor perform actions CHECKPOINT( $n$ ) and RESTORE( $n$ ) respectively, where  $n$  is the index of the checkpoint being output. Rule CHECKPOINT saves the current state of the monitor in a checkpoint, adds this checkpoint to the list of checkpoints and outputs its index, which is the size of the list before adding the checkpoint. Rule RESTORE takes a checkpoint index and sets the current state of the monitor to the state that was saved.

## 6.5 The Scenario

In this section, we integrate the scenario to the debugged program. Whenever the monitor issues a verdict, the scenario reacts by executing actions on the i-RV program. In i-RV, the scenario is provided by the developer. For generality, we assume that the behavior of the scenario is similarly described by an IOLTS following the specification described in this section. In practice, and in our implementation, the scenario is described by a small language allowing the developer to specify reactions to monitor verdicts.

The semantics of the scenario depends on the sets  $I_{i\text{-RV}}$  and  $O_{i\text{-RV}}$  of input and output symbols of the i-RV program defined in Sec. 6.1.

*Definition 6.4 (Operational semantics of a scenario).* The operational semantics of a scenario is an IOLTS  $(\text{Conf}_S, A_S, I_S, O_S, \rightarrow_S)$  such that:

- $I_S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} \text{Point} \times \text{Verdict} \times \{\text{scnCmdReply}(r) \mid r \in O_{i\text{-RV}}\}$  is the set of input symbols,
- $O_S \stackrel{\text{def}}{=} I_{i\text{-RV}}$  is the set of commands issued by the scenario to the i-RV program

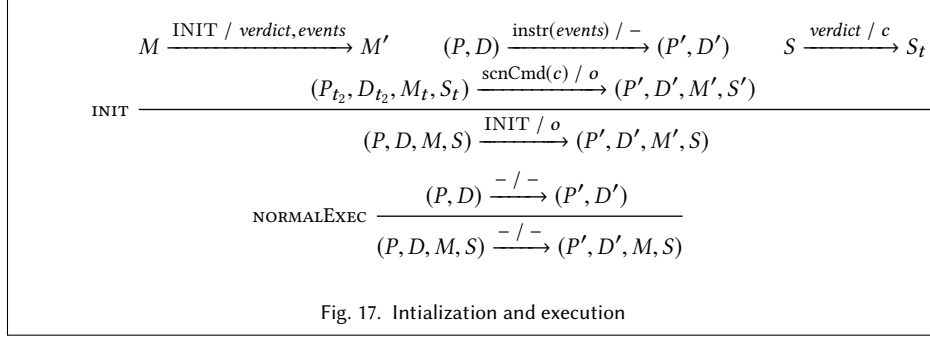
The set of configurations  $\text{Conf}_S$ , the set of actions  $A_S$  and the transition function  $\rightarrow_S$  are specific to the definition of a particular scenario and should follow the following rules:

- Upon reception of a verdict from the monitor or a point from the debugger, the scenario shall update its state and either output nothing, or a symbol in  $I_{i\text{-RV}}$ , which is a command for the i-RV program.
- After sending a command to the i-RV program, the scenario shall receive a symbol  $\text{scenarioReply}(r)$  such that  $r \in O_{i\text{-RV}}$ . The scenario shall update its state and either output nothing or a new symbol in  $I_{i\text{-RV}}$ .
- If the scenario sets a point, it should be able to receive this point as an input symbol.

An input symbol of the scenario can be either a verdict  $v \in \text{Verdict}$  generated by the monitor, a point  $p \in \text{Point}$  set by the scenario and triggered during the execution, or a symbol  $\text{scnCmdReply}(r)$ , where  $r$  is the result of a command issued by the scenario to the i-RV program.

The behavior of the scenario should be such that:

- The scenario handles any verdict from the monitor. For any configuration  $S$  of the scenario, for any verdict  $v \in \text{Verdict}$ , there should exist a command  $c$  for the i-RV program in  $I_{i\text{-RV}} \cup \{\text{null}\}$  and a new configuration  $S'$  such that  $(S, v, S', c) \in \rightarrow_S$ .
- The scenario handles any answer from the i-RV program. For any configuration  $S$  of the scenario, for any reply  $\text{scnCmdReply}(r)$  such that  $r \in O_{i\text{-RV}}$ , there should exist a command  $c$  for the i-RV program in  $I_{i\text{-RV}} \cup \{\text{null}\}$  and a new configuration  $S'$  such that  $(S, \text{scnCmdReply}(r), S', c) \in \rightarrow_S$ .
- The scenario handles any point from the debugged program. This point was requested by the scenario and has been triggered during the execution. The scenario updates its state and outputs  $c \in I_{i\text{-RV}} \cup \{\text{nop}\}$  a command for the i-RV program or  $\text{nop}$ , a command that has no effects.



For any configuration  $S$  of the scenario, for any reply  $p \in \text{Point}$ , there should exist a command  $c$  for the i-RV program in  $I_{i\text{-RV}} \cup \{\text{nop}\}$  and a new configuration  $S'$  such that  $(S, p, S', c) \in \rightarrow_S$ .

## 6.6 The Interactively Verified Program

We consider a debugged program PD, a monitor M and a scenario S.

*Definition 6.5 (Operational semantics of the i-RV-program).* The operational semantics of the program under interactive runtime verification (i-RV-program) associated to debugged program PD, monitor M and scenario S is an IOLTS  $(\text{Conf}_{i\text{-RV}}, A_{i\text{-RV}}, I_{i\text{-RV}}, O_{i\text{-RV}}, \rightarrow_{i\text{-RV}})$ .

The set of actions of the i-RV-program is  $A_{i\text{-RV}} = A_{PD} \cup A_M \cup A_S$ . That is, actions happening in the i-RV-program are actions happening in the debugged program, the monitor or the scenario. The sets of input symbols  $I_{i\text{-RV}}$  and of output symbols  $O_{i\text{-RV}}$  are defined in Sec. 6.1.

### 6.6.1 Initialisation and execution.

In Fig. 17, we describe the initialization and an execution step of the interactively verified program.

Rule INIT (Fig. 17) initializes the i-RV-program. Upon reception of symbol INIT, the monitor is initialized and outputs an initial verdict and a set of events to track. The set of events is transmitted to the debugged program for instrumentation and the verdict is transmitted the scenario. The scenario issues a command that is run by the i-RV-program.

Rule NORMALEXEC (Fig. 17) does one execution step. During this step, no scenario or monitor point is triggered. After application of this rule, the debugger program may, or may not, be suspended by a developer point.

### 6.6.2 Events and non-developer points.

In Fig. 18, we describe rules that trigger events for the monitor and non-developer points for the scenario.

Rules EXECPOINT and EXECPOINT (Fig. 18) trigger a non-developer point. In rule EXECPOINT, a point is output by the debugged program. The point is forwarded to the scenario. The scenario outputs a command. The command is executed by the i-RV-program.

Rule EXECPOINT outputs an event by the debugged program. This event is either generated by reaching a point in the program or STOP, when the execution ends. The event is forwarded to the monitor. The monitor outputs a verdict and a new set of events to track. The set of events is forwarded to the debugged program for instrumentation. The verdict is forwarded to the scenario. The scenario outputs a command. The command is executed by the i-RV-program.

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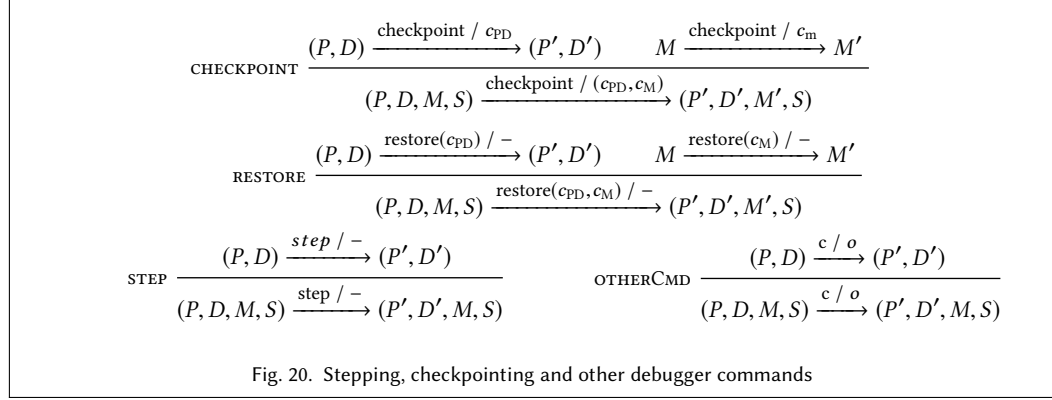
$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{EXECPOINT} \frac{(P, D) \xrightarrow{- / p \in \text{Point}} (P_t, D_t) \quad S \xrightarrow{p / c} S' \quad (P_t, D_t, M, S_t) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c) / o} (P', D', M', S')}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{- / o} (P', D', M', S')} \\
 \\
 \text{EXECEVENT} \frac{(P, D) \xrightarrow{- / e \in \mathcal{P}(\text{Event})} (P_t, D_t) \quad M \xrightarrow{e / \text{verdict}, \text{events}} M_t \quad (P_t, D_t) \xrightarrow{\text{instr}(\text{events}) / -} (P_{t_2}, D_{t_2}) \quad S \xrightarrow{\text{verdict} / c} S_t \quad (P_{t_2}, D_{t_2}, M_t, S_t) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c) / o} (P', D', M', S')}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{- / o} (P', D', M', S')} \\
 \\
 \text{STEPPOINT} \frac{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{step} / p \in \text{Point}} (P_t, D_t) \quad S \xrightarrow{p / c} S' \quad (P_t, D_t, M, S_t) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c) / o} (P', D', M', S')}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{- / o} (P', D', M', S')} \\
 \\
 \text{STPEVENT} \frac{(P, D) \xrightarrow{\text{step} / e \in \mathcal{P}(\text{Event})} (P_t, D_t) \quad M \xrightarrow{e / \text{verdict}, \text{events}} M_t \quad (P_t, D_t) \xrightarrow{\text{instr}(\text{events}) / -} (P_{t_2}, D_{t_2}) \quad S \xrightarrow{\text{verdict} / c} S_t \quad (P_{t_2}, D_{t_2}, M_t, S_t) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c) / o} (P', D', M', S')}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{\text{step} / o} (P', D', M', S')}
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 18. Events and non-developer points

$$\begin{array}{c}
 \text{SCNCMD} \frac{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{c / r} (P_t, D_t, M_t, S_t) \quad S_t \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmdReply}(r) / c'} S'_t \quad (P_t, D_t, M_t, S'_t) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c') / o} (P', D', M', S')}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(c) / o} (P', D', M', S')} \\
 \\
 \text{SCNCMDNOP} \frac{}{(P, D, M, S) \xrightarrow{\text{scnCmd}(\text{nop}) / -} (P, D, M, S)}
 \end{array}$$

Fig. 19. Command from the scenario

Rules STEPPOINT and STPEVENT apply whenever command step is used and the debugged program outputs a point or an event.



### 6.6.3 Command from the scenario.

Rules `SCNCMDNOP` and `SCNCMD` (Fig. 19) execute a command from the scenario. If the command is `nop`, rule `SCNCMDNOP` applies and nothing happens. Otherwise, rule `SCNCMD` applies. The command is run by the *i*-RV-program. This command may produce an output. This output is forwarded to the scenario. The scenario outputs a new command. This new command is run by the *i*-RV-program.

### 6.6.4 Stepping, checkpointing and other debugger commands.

Rules in Fig. 20 handle the debugger commands. Rule `CHECKPOINT` handles command `checkpoint`. The debugged program is checkpointed, the monitor is checkpointed, and the *i*-RV-program outputs the index of the resulting checkpoint by combining indexes generated by the debugged program and the monitor.

Rule `CHECKPOINT` handles command `restore(n)`. The checkpoints of the debugged program and of the monitor are restored.

Rule `STEP` handles command `step` whenever rules `STEPPPOINT` and `STEPEVENT` do not apply, that is, no point or event will be output by the debugged program.

Rule `OTHERCMD` handles other debugger commands (`setAddr(a, v)`, `setSymb(s, v)`, `getSymb(s)`, `getAddr(a)`, `getPC`, `setPC(a)`, `continue`, `int`, `setPoint(p)`, `rmPoint(p)`). These commands are forwarded to the debugged program.

## 7 CORRECTNESS OF INTERACTIVE RUNTIME VERIFICATION

We demonstrate the correctness of our models. Correctness is important because it allows to demonstrate that 1) any verdict found by monitors (and in particular those corresponding to a violation of the monitored property) are actual verdicts applying on the system, and 2) monitors do not miss verdict.

### 7.1 Verifying the Behavior of the Debugged Program

We consider the initial program and the debugged program and show that they are observationally equivalent. More precisely, given the behavior of the initial and debugged programs defined by their LTS as per Sec. 6.2 and Sec. 6.3 respectively, we show that these LTSs are observationally equivalent, that is, they *weakly simulates* each other.

For this purpose, we define a relation between the configurations of the initial and the debugged programs.

1561 *Definition 7.1 (Relation between the configurations of the initial and the debugged programs).* The relation between  
 1562 the configurations of the initial program ( $\text{Conf}_P$ ) and the debugged program ( $\text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D$ ) is denoted by  $\mathcal{R} \subseteq$   
 1563  $(\text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D) \times \text{Conf}_P$  and is defined as follows. Any two configurations  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D)$  and  $P$  of the debugged and the  
 1564 initial programs are in  $\mathcal{R}$  if (1), (2) and (3) hold, where:

$$1565 \quad P.m = \text{unInstr}(P_{\text{dbg}}.m, D.\text{bpts}, D.\text{oi}) \quad (1)$$

$$1566 \quad P.\text{pc} = P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \quad (2)$$

$$1567 \quad \forall a \in \text{Addr}, P_{\text{dbg}}.m[a] \neq \text{BREAK} \implies P_{\text{dbg}}.m[a] = P.m[a] \quad (3)$$

1571 The above equations can be understood as follows:

- 1572 • (1) means that removing the instrumentation from the memory of the debugged program ( $\text{unInstr}(P_{\text{dbg}}.m,$   
 1573  $D.\text{bpts}, D.\text{oi})$ ) (see Sec. 6.3) results in the memory of the initial program ( $P.m$ );
- 1574 • (2) means that the program counters of the initial ( $P.\text{pc}$ ) and debugged programs ( $P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}$ ) are the same;
- 1575 • (3) means that at any address, the memory content in the debugged program ( $P_{\text{dbg}}.m[a]$ ) is either a breakpoint  
 1576 or the memory content at the same address in the initial program ( $P.m[a]$ ).

1577 Intuitively,  $\mathcal{R}$  relates configurations of the debugged and the initial programs as follows: if breakpoints are removed  
 1578 from the memory of the debugged program, the resulting memory (resp. the program counter) is equal to the memory  
 1579 (resp. the program counter) of the initial program.

1580 The set of actions is  $\text{Mem} \times \text{Addr} \cup \{\text{SETWATCH}, \text{RMWATCH}, \text{GETPC}, \text{GETSYM}, \text{GETADDR}, \text{USERBREAK}, \text{SCNBREAK},$   
 1581  $\text{EVTBREAKINT}, \text{CONT}, \text{SETBREAK}, \text{RMBREAK}, \text{USERWATCH}, \text{SCNWATCH}, \text{EVTWATCH}\}, \text{TRAPNOBREAK}, \text{CLEAREVENTS},$   
 1582  $\text{INSTRUMENT}, \text{STEPREDO}\}$ . The set of observable actions is  $\text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}$  and is denoted by  $\text{Obs}$  and other actions are  
 1583 considered inobservable.

1584 When restricting the behavior of the debugged program by forbidding the use of rules that modify the program  
 1585 behavior,  $\mathcal{R}$  is a weak simulation, as stated by the proposition below.

1586 **PROPOSITION 7.2.** *Let us consider  $\rightarrow_P$  (resp.  $\rightarrow_{PD}$ ) the transition relation of the initial program (resp. the debugged*  
 1587 *program) where rules  $\text{RESTORE}$ ,  $\text{SETSYM}$ ,  $\text{SETADDR}$ ,  $\text{SETPC}$  and rule  $\text{CHECKPOINT}$ <sup>3</sup> are excluded. Let us also consider the set of*  
 1588 *observable actions  $\text{Obs}$ . Relation  $\mathcal{R}$  (Definition 7.1) is a weak simulation as per Definition 4.4. That is, the initial program  $P$*   
 1589 *weakly simulates the debugged program  $(P, D)$ .*

1590 Moreover, the debugged program simulates the initial program, as stated by the following proposition.

1591 **PROPOSITION 7.3.** *Relation  $\mathfrak{R} = \{(P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \mid (P, (P_{\text{dbg}}, D)) \in \mathcal{R}\}$  is a weak simulation.*

1592 We prove Proposition 7.2 in Appendix A.1 and Proposition 7.3 in Appendix A.2.

## 1593 7.2 Guarantees on Monitor Verdicts

1594 Since the initial program and the debugged program weakly simulate each other, their execution produce the same  
 1595 sequence of observable actions. This sequence contains the whole information of the program execution, needed to  
 1596 produce any possible sequence of events abstracting the execution of the initial program. Therefore, any sequence of  
 1597

1598 <sup>3</sup>Using rule  $\text{CHECKPOINT}$  is meaningless without rule  $\text{RESTORE}$ .



**Algorithm 1** Executing the program

---

```

1613 1: function PRGM::STEP
1614 2:   if  $mem[pc] = \text{BREAK}$  then
1615 3:   |   return TRAP
1616 4:   if  $mem[pc] = \text{STOP}$  then
1617 5:   |   return STOP
1618 6:    $(mem, pc) = \text{runInstr}(mem, pc)$ 
1619 7:   return OK

```

---

1622 events that could be deduced using this information from the execution of the initial program can be produced from  
1623 the execution of the debugged program assuming correct instrumentation (completeness) and any sequence of events  
1624 produced by a correct instrumentation by the debugged program corresponds to a sequence of event that could be  
1625 deduced from the execution of the initial program (soundness). Therefore, assuming correct instrumentation, verdicts  
1626 issued by a monitor from a sequence of events produced by the debugged program correspond to verdicts that would  
1627 be issued for the execution of the initial program. We point out that instantiate, the instrumentation function that  
1628 generates events during the debugged program execution, only depends on the state of the program (its memory and  
1629 its program counter), its symbol table (that is immutable) and the breakpoints set for the monitor.

**8 ALGORITHMIC VIEW**

1633 We present an algorithmic view of the behavior of the i-RV program. This view is complementary to the operational  
1634 view given in Sec. 6. This algorithmic view provides a lower-level and more practical description of the behavior of the  
1635 i-RV-program. This formalization is not needed to adopt the approach. However, it offers a programming-language  
1636 independent basis for implementation. In this view, we use object-oriented programming style pseudo-code. We first  
1637 present the program (Sec. 8.1), then the debugged program (Sec. 8.2), the scenario (Sec. 8.3) and then the i-RV-program  
1638 (Sec. 8.4). The i-RV-program drives the execution. It uses the debugged program, the monitor and the scenario as  
1639 components.

**8.1 The Program**

1644 As in Sec. 6.2, the configuration of the program is a 2-tuple  $(mem, pc) \in \text{Mem} \times \text{Addr}$ . Algorithm 1 describes function  
1645 PRGM::STEP used to perform an execution step of the program. If the current instruction is a breakpoint (BREAK),  
1646 TRAP is returned. If the current instruction is the end of the program (STOP), STOP is returned. Otherwise, the  
1647 current instruction is executed using runInstr. The memory and the program counter are updated and OK is returned.

**8.2 The Debugged Program**

1652 As in Sec. 6.3, the configuration of the debugged program is a pair consisting of a configuration of the initial program  
1653 and the configuration of the debugger. In the algorithms of this section, we define functions called by the i-RV-program  
1654 described in Sec. 8.4.  $P$  (resp.  $D$ ) is a global variable referencing the configuration of the program (resp. the debugger).

**8.2.1 Handling the execution of an instruction in the program.**

1658 In Algorithm 2, we describe an execution step of the debugged program. The program can only evolve in passive  
1659 mode ( $D.\text{fieldMode} = \text{P}$ ). First, the list of accesses done by the next instruction is computed (Line 2). These accesses

**Algorithm 2** Handling the execution of an instruction in the program

---

```

1665 Algorithm 2 Handling the execution of an instruction in the program
1666 Precondition:  $D.\text{fieldMode} = \text{P}$ 
1667 1: function DBGPROG::EXEC
1668 2:    $\text{accessList} \leftarrow \text{getAccesses}(P)$  ▷ the list of accesses done by the next instruction in the program.
1669 3:    $\text{wps} \leftarrow D.\text{wpts} \setminus D.\text{hdlld}$ 
1670 4:   if  $\exists w \in \text{wps} : \exists a \in \text{accessList} : \text{match}(a, w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{dev}$  then ▷ Dev watchpoint
1671 5:      $(P.\text{m}, D.\text{oi}) \leftarrow \text{restoreBP}(D.\text{bpts}, P.\text{pc}, D.\text{oi}, P.\text{m})$ 
1672 6:      $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{w\}$ 
1673 7:      $D.\text{mode} \leftarrow \text{I}$ 
1674 8:     return OK
1675 9:    $a_{\text{scn}} \leftarrow [a \in \text{accessList} \mid \exists w \in \text{wps} : \text{match}(a, w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{scn}]$  ▷ Accesses matching a scenario watchpoint
1676 10:  if  $a_{\text{scn}}$  is not empty then
1677 11:    let  $w \in \text{wps}$  such that  $\text{match}(\text{head}(a_{\text{scn}}), w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{scn}$ 
1678 12:     $(P.\text{m}, D.\text{oi}) \leftarrow \text{restoreBP}(D.\text{bpts}, P.\text{pc}, D.\text{oi}, P.\text{m})$ 
1679 13:     $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{w\}$ 
1680 14:    return  $w$ 
1681 15:   $a_{\text{evt}} \leftarrow [a \in \text{accessList} \mid \exists w \in \text{wps} : \text{match}(a, w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{evt}]$  ▷ Accesses matching a monitor watchpoint
1682 16:  if  $a_{\text{evt}}$  is not empty then
1683 17:    let  $w \in \text{wps}$  such that  $\text{match}(\text{head}(a_{\text{evt}}), w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{evt}$ 
1684 18:     $(P.\text{m}, D.\text{oi}) \leftarrow \text{restoreBP}(D.\text{bpts}, P.\text{pc}, D.\text{oi}, P.\text{m})$ 
1685 19:     $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{w\}$ 
1686 20:    return  $\text{instantiate}(\text{Sym}, D.\text{evts}(w), P.\text{m}, P.\text{pc})$ 
1687 21:  switch  $P.\text{EXEC}()$  do
1688 22:    case OK ▷ No watchpoints, no breakpoints
1689 23:    | return OK
1690 24:    case STOP ▷ We reached the end of the program
1691 25:    | return STOP
1692 26:    case TRAP ▷ A breakpoint instruction was encountered
1693 27:    |  $B \leftarrow \{b \in D.\text{bpts} \setminus D.\text{hdlld} \mid b.\text{addr} = P.\text{pc}\}$  ▷ Set of breakpoints at this address that have not been handled
1694 28:    | if  $\exists b \in B : b.\text{for} = \text{dev}$  then ▷ Developer breakpoint
1695 29:    |    $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{b\}$ 
1696 30:    |    $D.\text{mode} \leftarrow \text{I}$ 
1697 31:    |   return OK
1698 32:    | if  $\exists b \in B : b.\text{for} = \text{scn}$  then ▷ Scenario breakpoint
1699 33:    |    $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{b\}$ 
1700 34:    |   return  $b$ 
1701 35:    | if  $\exists b \in (\text{Dom}(D.\text{evts}) \setminus D.\text{hdlld}) \cap D.\text{bpts} : b.\text{addr} = P.\text{pc}$  then ▷ Monitor breakpoint
1702 36:    |    $D.\text{hdlld} \leftarrow D.\text{hdlld} \cup \{b\}$ 
1703 37:    |   return  $\text{instantiate}(\text{Sym}, D.\text{evts}(b), P.\text{m}, P.\text{pc})$ 
1704 38:    |    $P.\text{m}[pc] \leftarrow D.\text{oi}(P.\text{pc})$  ▷ No breakpoint to handle, we temporarily restore the original instruction
1705 39:    |   return TRAP

```

---

are later matched in the algorithm (using function `match` defined in Sec. 6.3) with the set of watchpoints managed by the debugger and that have not been handled yet (Computed at Line 3).

- If a developer watchpoint matches (Line 4), the debugger is set to interactive mode (Line 7), which corresponds to rule `DEVWATCH` (Fig. 8), and returns OK (Line 8). The watchpoint is added to the set of handled points in the debugger (Line 6)
- Otherwise, the list of accesses matching a scenario watchpoint is built (Line 9). If this list is not empty (Line 10), the watchpoint matching the first access of this list is returned (Line 14), which corresponds to rule `SCNWATCH` (Fig. 8). The watchpoint is added to the set of handled points in the debugger (Line 13)

- Otherwise, the list of accesses matching a monitor watchpoint is built (Line 15). If this list is not empty (Line 16), the event corresponding to the watchpoint matching the first access of this list is returned (Line 20), which corresponds to rule `MONWATCH` (Fig. 8). The watchpoint is added to the set of handled points in the debugger (Line 19)

Each time a watchpoint is triggered, if a breakpoint exists at the current instruction, the breakpoint instruction is set at the current program counter to ensure breakpoints are never missed even if a watchpoint makes the scenario or the developer changes the execution flow (Lines 5, 12 and 18).

If no watchpoint is triggered, a program execution step is done (Line 21). The debugged program checks whether a breakpoint is triggered.

- If no breakpoint instruction is encountered, OK is returned (Line 22), which corresponds to rule `NORMALEXEC` (Fig. 10), or STOP if the execution reaches the end of the program (Line 24).
- If a breakpoint instruction is encountered (Line 26), breakpoints are evaluated.
  - If a developer breakpoint matches (Line 28), the debugger is set to interactive mode, which corresponds to rule `DEVBREAK` (Fig. 9), and the breakpoint is added to the set of handled points.
  - If a scenario breakpoint matches (Line 32), the breakpoint is returned, which corresponds to rule `SCNBREAK` (Fig. 9), and the breakpoint is added to the set of handled points.
  - If a monitor breakpoint matches (Line 35), the corresponding event is returned, which corresponds to rule `EVTBREAK` (Fig. 9), and the breakpoint is added to the set of handled points.
  - If no breakpoint matches (Line 38), the original instruction is temporarily restored in the program memory and TRAP is returned (which corresponds to rule `TRAPNOBREAK` (Fig. 9)). This instruction will be executed or and the breakpoint instruction will be set back again.

---

### Algorithm 3 Setting and removing points

---

```

1: function DBGPROG::SETBREAK( $b \in \text{Breakpoint}$ )
2:   if  $\nexists b' \in D.\text{bpts} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr}$  then
3:      $D.\text{oi} \leftarrow D.\text{oi}[b.\text{addr} \mapsto m[b.\text{addr}]]$ 
4:      $m' \leftarrow m[b.\text{addr} = \text{BREAK}]$ 
5:      $D.\text{bpts} \leftarrow D.\text{bpts} \cup \{b\}$ 
6: function DBGPROG::RMBREAK( $b \in \text{Breakpoint}$ )
7:    $a \leftarrow b.\text{addr}$ 
8:    $D.\text{evts} \leftarrow D.\text{evts} \setminus \{b\}$ 
9:   if  $\nexists b' \in D.\text{bpts} \setminus \{b\} : b'.\text{addr} = a$  then
10:      $P.\text{m} \leftarrow P.\text{m}[a \mapsto D.\text{oi}(a)]$ 
11:      $D.\text{oi} \leftarrow D.\text{oi}[a \mapsto \text{BREAK}]$ 
12:    $D.\text{bpts} \leftarrow D.\text{bpts} \setminus \{b\}$ 
13: function DBGPROG::SETWATCH( $w \in D.\text{wpts}$ )
14:    $D.\text{wpts} \leftarrow D.\text{wpts} \cup \{w\}$ 
15: function DBGPROG::RMWATCH( $w \in D.\text{wpts}$ )
16:    $D.\text{wpts} \leftarrow D.\text{wpts} \setminus \{w\}$ 
17: function DBGPROG::SETPPOINT( $p \in \text{Point}$ )
18:   if  $p \in \text{Breakpoint}$  then
19:     SETBREAK( $p$ )
20:   else
21:     SETWATCH( $p$ )
22: function DBGPROG::RMPPOINT( $p \in \text{Point}$ )
23:   if  $p \in \text{Breakpoint}$  then
24:     RMBREAK( $p$ )
25:   else
26:     RMWATCH( $p$ )

```

---

#### 8.2.2 Setting and removing points.

In Algorithm 3, we define functions to set and remove points, corresponding to rules in Fig. 12.

Function `SETBREAK` (Line 1) sets a breakpoint. This consists in adding a breakpoint to the set of breakpoints of the debugger (Line 4). If there is no other breakpoint at the address of the breakpoint (Line 2), the instruction at this address is saved in field `oi` of the debugger (Line 5). Instruction `BREAK` is placed at the address of the breakpoint (Line 3).

Likewise, function `rmBREAK` (Line 6) removes a breakpoint. This consists in removing a breakpoint from the set of breakpoints of the debugger (Line 11). If there is no other breakpoint at the address of the breakpoint (Line 9), we restore the original instruction at this address from `oi` (Line 10).

Function `setWATCH` (Line 13) sets a watchpoint. This consists in adding a watchpoint to the set of watchpoints of the debugger.

Likewise, function `rmWATCH` (Line 15) removes a watchpoint. This consists in removing a watchpoint from the set of watchpoints of the debugger.

Function `setPOINT` (Line 17) calls `setBREAK` (Line 1) or `setWATCH` (Line 13) depending on whether the point in parameter is a breakpoint or a watchpoint. Likewise, function `rmPOINT` (Line 22) calls `rmBREAK` (Line 6) or `rmWATCH` (Line 15) depending on whether the point in parameter is a breakpoint or a watchpoint.

---

#### Algorithm 4 Instrumentation

---

```

1: function DBGPROG::CLEAREVENTS
2:    $addrs \leftarrow \{b.addr \mid b \in \text{Dom}(D.evts) \cap \text{Breakpoint}\} \setminus \{b.addr \in D.bpts \setminus \text{Dom}(D.evts)\}$ 
3:    $P.m \leftarrow P.m \dagger \{a \mapsto D.oi(a) \mid a \in addrs\}$ 
4:    $D.wpts \leftarrow D.wpts \setminus \text{Dom}(D.evts)$ 
5:    $D.bpts \leftarrow D.bpts \setminus \text{Dom}(D.evts)$ 
6:    $D.evts \leftarrow \emptyset$ 
7: function DBGPROG::INSTRUMENT( $events \in \mathcal{P}(\text{Event})$ )
8:   CLEAREVENTS()
9:    $(pts, evts) \leftarrow \text{watchEvents}(P, D.evts, events)$ 
10:  for all  $p \in pts$  do
11:    SETPOINT( $p$ )
12:   $D.evts \leftarrow evts$ 

```

---

### 8.2.3 Instrumentation.

In Algorithm 4, we define functions corresponding to rules `CLEAREVENTS` and `INSTRUMENT` defined in Fig. 11. In function `CLEAREVENTS` (Line 1), the list of addresses of event breakpoints is built (Line 2), corresponding instructions in the program memory are restored (Line 3) and breakpoints and watchpoints corresponding to events are removed (Lines 4 and 5). In function `INSTRUMENT` (Line 7), current events are cleared (Line 8), the list of points needed for events to instrument and the mapping from these points to these events are built (Line 9) using function `watchEvents` defined in Sec. 6.3. These points are set (Line 11) and the mapping of events to points in the debugger is updated (Line 12) according to the result computed at (Line 9) by function `watchEvents`.

---

#### Algorithm 5 Stepping and interrupting the execution

---

**Precondition:**  $D.mode = I$

```

1: function DBGPROG::STEP
2:    $D.mode \leftarrow P$ 
3:    $r \leftarrow \text{EXEC}()$ 
4:    $D.mode \leftarrow I$ 
5:   return  $r$ 

```

**Precondition:**  $D.mode = P$

```

6: function DBGPROG::INTERRUPT
7:    $D.mode \leftarrow I$ 

```

**Precondition:**  $D.mode = I$

```

8: function DBGPROG::CONTINUE
9:    $D.mode \leftarrow P$ 

```

---

### 8.2.4 Stepping and interrupting the execution.

In Algorithm 5, we describe commands STEP, INTERRUPT and CONTINUE, corresponding to rules in Fig. 14.

Function STEP (Line 1) implements command step of the interactive mode of the debugger ( $D.mode = i$ ). It sets the debugger in passive mode (Line 2), does an execution step (Line 3) and then restores interactive mode (Line 4). An execution step can produce an event or a point that is returned at Line 5.

Function INTERRUPT (Line 6) sets the debugger in interactive mode.

Function CONTINUE (Line 8) sets the debugger in passive mode. The behavior of rule STEPRED0 (Fig. 14, Sec. 6.3) is taken into account in function EXEC (Algorithm 2).

---

#### Algorithm 6 Controlling the program memory and counter

---

1: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::SETADDR( $a \in \text{Addr}, v \in \text{Value}$ ) 2:   $P.m[a] \leftarrow v$ 3: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::GETADDR( $a \in \text{Addr}$ ) 4:   <b>return</b> $P.m[a]$ 5: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::SETSYM( $s \in \text{Symbol}, v \in \text{Value}$ ) 6:   $P.m[\text{Sym}(P.m, P.pc, s)] \leftarrow v$	7: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::GETSYM( $s \in \text{Symbol}$ ) 8:   <b>return</b> $P.m[\text{Sym}(P.m, P.pc, s)]$ 9: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::SETPC( $a \in \text{Addr}$ ) 10:   $P.pc \leftarrow a$ 11: <b>function</b> DBGPROG::GETPC( $a \in \text{Addr}$ ) 12:   <b>return</b> $P.pc$
---	---

---

### 8.2.5 Controlling the program memory and counter.

Functions in Algorithm 6 correspond to rules in Fig. 15 and are used to set and get values in the program.

---

#### Algorithm 7 Checkpointing

---

```

1: function DBGPROG::CHECKPOINT
2: |  $D.cpts.push(((P.m \dagger \{b.addr \mapsto oi(b.addr) \mid b \in D.bpts\}, P.pc), \text{Im}(D.evts)))$ 
3: | return  $D.cpts.length$ 
4: function DBGPROG::RESTORE( $cid \in \mathbb{N}$ )
5: |  $((m_t, pc), events) \leftarrow D.cpts_{cid}$ 
6: |  $P.pc \leftarrow pc$ 
7: |  $D.bpts \leftarrow \{b \in D.bpts \mid b.for = dev\}$ 
8: |  $D.oi \leftarrow \{b.addr \mapsto m_t[b.addr] \mid b \in D.bpts\}$ 
9: |  $P.m \leftarrow m_t \dagger \{b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK} \mid b \in D.bpts\}$ 
10: |  $PD.INSTRUMENT(events)$ 

```

---

### 8.2.6 Checkpointing.

Functions in Algorithm 7 are used to checkpoint and restore the debugged program. Function CHECKPOINT stores the program memory (with breakpoint instructions replaced by the original instructions of the program), the program counter and the set of events being tracked by the debugger (Line 2). The function returns the identifier of the checkpoint, which is the index in the sequence of checkpoints known to the debugger (Line 3).

*Remark 9.* The set of breakpoints is not saved: the set of active developer breakpoints in the restored program will be the set of active developer breakpoints before restoring.

Function `RESTORE` restores the checkpoint  $D.cpts_{cid}$  given by the parameter identifier  $cid$  from the list of checkpoints  $D.cpts$  known to the debugger. The program counter is restored (Line 6), non-developer breakpoints are discarded (Line 7), the map of original instructions in the debugger is built (Line 8), the memory is restored while keeping developer breakpoints instructions (Line 9) and checkpointed events are instrumented (Line 10) by function `INSTRUMENT` defined in Algorithm 4 at Line 7.

### 8.3 The Scenario

We present an implementation of the scenario. In the operational view (Sec. 6.5), for the sake of generality, the scenario is specified in a generic way. In this section, we propose a more specific, practical definition of a scenario. The scenario behavior is defined using a map that links verdicts from the monitor to actions. An action  $a$  in  $\mathcal{A}$  is a function that commands the i-RV program and updates the environment of the scenario referenced by variable  $env$ . Algorithm 8 defines the behavior of the scenario.

---

#### Algorithm 8 Handling the scenario

---

```

1: function SCN::EXEC ACTION( $a \in \mathcal{A}$ )
2:   if  $a = \text{null}$  then
3:     return nop
4:    $(cmd, ar, env') \leftarrow a(env)$ 
5:    $env \leftarrow env'$ 
6:    $actionReply \leftarrow ar$ 
7:   if  $\exists (p, a') \in \text{Point} \times \mathcal{A} : c = \text{setPoint}(p, a')$  then
8:      $points \leftarrow points[p \mapsto a']$ 
9:     return setPoint( $p$ )
10:  if  $\exists p \in \text{Point} : c = \text{rmPoint}(p)$  then
11:    delete  $points[p]$ 
12:  return  $c$ 

13: function SCN::APPLY VERDICT( $v \in \text{Verdict}$ )
14:  return EXEC ACTION(actions( $verdict$ ))
15: function SCN::APPLY CMD REPLY( $r \in O_{i\text{-RV}}$ )
16:  if  $actionReply = \text{null}$  then
17:    return null
18:   $r \leftarrow \text{EXEC ACTION}(actionReply(r))$ 
19:   $actionReply \leftarrow \text{null}$ 
20:  return  $r$ 
21: function SCN::APPLY POINT( $p \in \text{Point}$ )
22:  return EXEC ACTION(points( $p$ ))

```

---

Function `APPLYVERDICT` is called when the monitor issues a verdict. This function retrieves the action associated with this verdict using map  $actions$ , given in the definition of the scenario. This action is then executed by function `EXEC ACTION`.

Function `EXEC ACTION` executes action  $a$  with the environment of the scenario in parameter (Line 4). The action returns a triple  $(cmd, ar, env')$  where:

- $cmd$  is a command to be run by, and returned to, the i-RV program;
- $ar$  is a callback function, or null. This function takes the reply of the i-RV program to the command, and returns an action to run.
- $env'$  is the new environment of the scenario.

The scenario environment is updated (Line 5) and the callback function is saved in variable  $actionReply$  (Line 6) to handle the result of the command that will be run by the i-RV-program.

- If  $cmd$  is an action of the form  $\text{setPoint}(p, a')$  for some point  $p$  and some action  $a'$  (Line 7), command  $\text{setPoint}(p)$  is returned instead. Point  $p$  is set and mapped to action  $a'$  in  $points$ . Action  $a'$  is run when  $p$  is triggered in the debugged program.

- If  $cmd$  is an action of the form  $rmPoint(p)$  for some point  $p$  (Line 10), point  $p$  is removed from map  $points$  and  $cmd$  is returned as is (Line 12).
- Any other command is returned as is (Line 12).

Function `APPLYPOINT` is called when a point set by the scenario is triggered. The corresponding action in  $points$  is executed.

When a command is run by the i-RV program for the scenario, the output of this command is forwarded to the scenario by calling function `APPLYCMDREPLY`. If a callback function is present (i.e.,  $actionReply$  is not null), this function is run with the reply as parameter. This function returns an action that is executed.

#### 8.4 The Interactively Runtime Verified Program

We consider an interactively verified program  $PDMS$  as defined in Sec. 6.6, using a scenario as defined in Sec. 6.5. We suppose a monitor  $M$  with initial configuration  $M_0$  that provides a method `APPLYEVENT`. This method takes an event as parameter and returns a pair  $(v, events) \in Verdict \times \mathcal{P}(\text{SymbolicEvent})$  where  $v$  is a verdict and  $events$  is a set of symbolic events to track in the debugged program.

The initial configuration of the i-RV-program is  $(P_0, D_0, M_0, S_0)$ . In the algorithms of this section, the global state is represented by the states of the debugged program  $PD$ , the monitor  $M$  and the scenario  $S$ . We also allow the i-RV-program to access the states of the program  $P$  and the debugger  $D$  included in the state of the debugged program. We present the general behavior at the end of this section, in Algorithm 11.

---

#### Algorithm 9 Initialisation and execution

---

```

1: function IRV::INIT
2:    $(verdict, events) \leftarrow M.INIT()$ 
3:    $PD.INSTRUMENT(EVENTS)$ 
4:    $cmd \leftarrow S.APPLYVERDICT(verdict)$ 
5:   return  $APPLYSCENARIOCMD(cmd)$ 
14:    $PD.INSTRUMENT(EVENTS)$ 
15:    $cmd \leftarrow S.APPLYVERDICT(verdict)$ 
16:   return  $APPLYSCENARIOCMD(cmd)$ 
17:   case other
18:   | return  $r$ 
19: function IRV::APPLYSCENARIOCMD( $cmd$ )
20:   if  $cmd = \text{nop}$  then
21:   | return null
22:    $r \leftarrow \text{Execute } cmd.name(\dots cmd.params)$ 
23:    $cmd \leftarrow S.APPLYCMDREPLY(r)$ 
24:   return  $APPLYSCENARIOCMD(cmd)$ 

```

**Precondition:**  $D.fieldMode = P$

```

6: function IRV::EXEC
7:    $r \leftarrow PD.EXEC()$ 
8:   switch  $r$  do
9:   | case  $r \in \text{Point}$ 
10:  |    $cmd \leftarrow S.APPLYPOINT(r)$ 
11:  |   return  $APPLYSCENARIOCMD(cmd)$ 
12:  | case  $r \in \text{Event}$ 
13:  |    $(verdict, events) \leftarrow M.APPLYEVENT(r)$ 

```

---

##### 8.4.1 Initialisation and execution.

In Algorithm 9, we describe the initialization and an execution step of the interactively verified program.

In function `INIT` (Line 1), the monitor is initialized (Line 2). Then, instrumentation for the initial state of the monitor is requested to the debugged program (Line 3). Finally, scenario for the initial verdict is applied (Line 4) and the command returned by the scenario is passed to function `APPLYSCENARIOCMD` (Line 5).

Function `APPLYSCENARIOCMD` (Line 19) executes a command (i.e., calls the function given in the command by its name with given parameters) at Line 22. The result of this command is forwarded to the scenario (Line 23, and the new

**Algorithm 10** Stepping, checkpointing and other debugger commands

---

```

1: function IRV::CHECKPOINT
2:   return (PD.CHECKPOINT(), M.CHECKPOINT())
3: function IRV::RESTORE((CPD, CM))
4:   PD.RESTORE(CPD)
5:   M.RESTORE(CM)

Precondition: D.mode = I
6: function STEP
7:   D.mode ← P
8:   r ← EXEC()
9:   D.mode ← I
10:  return r

```

---

command returned by the scenario is executed using function `APPLYSCENARIOCMD` (Line 24). This recursive process ends when the scenario returns the special command `nop` (Line 20).

Function `EXEC` (Line 6) performs an execution step of the debugged program (Line 7). Making the program evolve requires the debugger to be in passive mode. ( $D.\text{fieldMode} = P$ ).

- If the debugged program returns a point (Line 9), this point is forwarded to the scenario. The scenario may return a command to perform. This command is executed using function `APPLYSCENARIOCMD` (Line 11).
- If the debugged program returns an event (Line 12), this event is forwarded to the monitor. The monitor returns a verdict and a new set of events to instrument. Instrumentation is requested to the debugged program (Line 14) and the verdict is forwarded to the scenario (Line 15). The scenario may return a command to perform. This command is executed using function `APPLYSCENARIOCMD` (Line 16).
- Any other value (OK, TRAP) returned by the debugged program is returned to the caller (Line 11).

#### 8.4.2 Stepping, checkpointing and other debugger commands.

In Algorithm 10, we define functions `CHECKPOINT`, `RESTORE` and `STEP`.

Function `CHECKPOINT` (Line 1) returns a checkpoint composed of a checkpoint of the debugged program and a checkpoint of the monitor.

Function `RESTORE` (Line 3) restores the debugged program (Line 4) and the monitor (Line 5).

Function `STEP` (Line 6) implements command step of the interactive mode of the debugger ( $D.\text{mode} = I$ ). It temporarily sets the debugged program in passive mode (Line 7), performs an execution step (Line 8), then restore interactive mode (Line 9). The function returns the value produced by the execution step to the caller (Line 10).

#### 8.4.3 General behavior.

In Algorithm 11, we describe the general behavior of the interactively verified program. First, the i-RV-program is initialized using function `INIT` (Line 1). Then, while nothing interrupts the execution, if the debugger is in passive mode (Line 4), an execution step is performed (Line 4). Otherwise, in interactive mode (Line 8), the developer inputs a command (Line 9) which is executed.

## 9 IMPLEMENTATION: VERDE

To evaluate our approach in terms of usefulness and performance, we implemented it in a tool called Verde. We give an overview of Verde in Sec. 9.1. We then present how Verde handles the program execution, the property evaluation, and the instrumentation in Sec. 9.2. We then present how checkpointing is done in Verde Sec. 9.2.4. We finally explain how to use Verde in Sec. 9.3.



**Algorithm 11** General behavior

```

2029 1: INIT()
2030
2031 2: cont ← true
2032
2033 3: while cont do
2034 4:   if D.mode = P then
2035 5:     r ← EXEC()
2036 6:     if r = STOP then
2037 7:       cont = false
2038
2039 8:   else
2040 9:     switch get developer command do
2041 10:      case step
2042 11:        | STEP()
2043 12:      case continue
2044 13:        | PD.CONTINUE()
2045 14:      case set watchpoint addr read write
2046 15:        | PD.SETWATCH((addr, {r | read} ∪
2047 16:          {w | write}, dev))
2048 17:      case set breakpoint addr
2049 18:        | PD.SETBREAK((addr, dev))
2050 19:      case unset watchpoint addr read write
2051 20:        | PD.RMWATCH((addr, {r | read} ∪
2052 21:          {w | write}, dev))
2053
2054 22:      case unset breakpoint addr
2055 23:        | PD.RMBREAK((addr, dev))
2056 24:      case print value at addr
2057 25:        | print(PD.GETADDR(addr))
2058 26:      case print value of symbol
2059 27:        | print(PD.GETSYM(symbol))
2060 28:      case set value v of symbol
2061 29:        | PD.SETSYM(symbol, v)
2062 30:      case print program counter
2063 31:        | print(PD.GETPC())
2064 32:      case set program counter addr
2065 33:        | PD.SETPC(addr)
2066 34:      case checkpoint
2067 35:        | print(CHECKPOINT())
2068 36:      case restore cid
2069 37:        | RESTORE(cid)

```

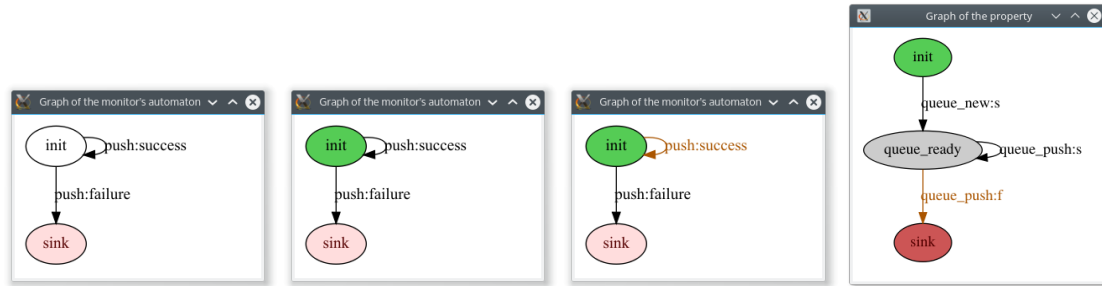


Fig. 21. During the execution of the property given in Fig. 25, the following graphs can be seen respectively before initialization of the property initialization, on initialization, while the property is verified and when the property becomes falsified. Light red, red, brown and gray respectively correspond to non accepting state, a current non accepting state, a transition taken during the last state change and a state which was current before the last state change. Graphs are automatically drawn using Graphviz and colors animated during the execution.

## 9.1 Overview

Verde<sup>4</sup> is a GDB-based implementation of interactive runtime verification. Verde can be used with programs written in any programming language supported by GDB. Verde supports the verification of several properties by means of monitors executing independently. Each monitor automatically sets and deletes breakpoints according to the events that are relevant to the current states of the monitored properties. Verde provides a graphical and animated view of the

<sup>4</sup>Verde can be downloaded at <https://gitlab.inria.fr/monitoring/verde>.

properties being checked at runtime (see Fig. 21). The view eases understanding the current evaluation of the property (and, as a consequence, the program) since it offers to the developer a visualization of an abstracted history of the program execution. Verde also lets the developer control the monitors and access their internal state (property instances, current states, environments).

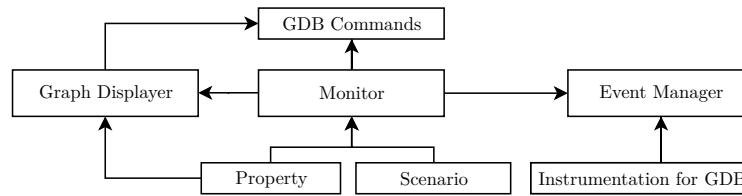


Fig. 22. Organization of the code of Verde

*Architecture.* Verde is written in Python and works seamlessly as a GDB plugin by using the Python API provided by GDB<sup>5</sup>. The organization of the code is depicted in Fig. 22. The developer controls Verde by using commands defined in module GDB Commands. These commands are available from the GDB command-line interface and allow creating monitors (class Monitor) by loading properties (class Property) and scenarios (class Scenario). Module Graph Displayer provides a graphical view of running monitors. If the view is enabled, Verde shows graphs depicting the properties. Properties are drawn using Graphviz<sup>6</sup> in SVG<sup>7</sup>. As the current state of the monitor changes, the graphical view is updated: the current state is shown in green if it is accepting, in red if it is not accepting. Taken transitions are represented in brown. Module Event Manager defines the interface between monitors and the instrumentation module, which defines methods to handle breakpoints and watchpoints in GDB.

## 9.2 Program Execution, Property Evaluation, Instrumentation and Checkpointing

In this section, we describe how instrumentation is done, how events are produced, how properties are evaluated and how checkpointing is done during the program execution.

### 9.2.1 Program Execution with Verde

Fig. 23 depicts the execution of a program with Verde. When a breakpoint or a watchpoint in the monitored program is reached, the execution of the program is suspended. If the breakpoint (or the watchpoint) was set by Verde, an event

<sup>5</sup><https://sourceware.org/gdb/onlinedocs/gdb/Python.html>

<sup>6</sup>Graphviz is a set of graph drawing tools - <https://www.graphviz.org/>

<sup>7</sup>the Scalable Vector Graphics format - <http://www.w3.org/2000/svg>

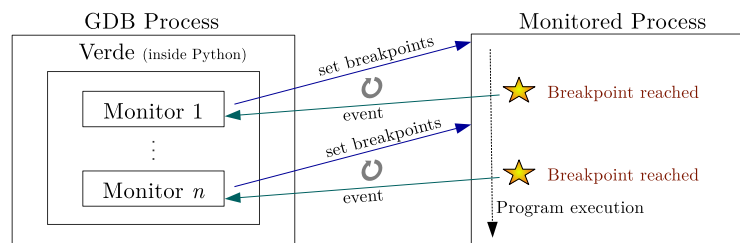


Fig. 23. Instrumentation in Verde

```

2133 on entering non-accepting state {
2134     print("Scenario: a non-accepting state has been reached! (" +
2135         old_state + " -> " + new_state + ")")
2136
2137     c = checkpoint()
2138
2139     def called_when_checkpoint_ready():
2140         cid = checkpoint_get_id(c)
2141         print(
2142             " *** Checkpoint on this breakage:", cid,
2143             "\n *** To restore, type verde checkpoint-restart", cid
2144         )
2145     after_breakpoint(called_when_checkpoint_ready)
2146 }
2147

```

Fig. 24. This scenario sets a checkpoint each time a non-accepting state is entered. The execution of the program is not suspended.

is produced, the state of the property and the instrumentation are updated. Scenarios react to monitor updates by executing actions that modify the program state, the debugger and the scenario itself. In Verde, each monitor can be associated with a scenario. A scenario is a list of reactions to monitor state changes. When the monitor updates its state, the scenario runs the corresponding action. These actions, written in Python, also have a dedicated environment that can be initialized in the definition of the scenario if needed. An example of a scenario in Verde is given in Fig. 24.

### 9.2.2 Handling Instrumentation and Event Production

*Setting and removing breakpoints and watchpoints.* When the monitor reaches a new state (including the initial state), the list of transitions of the new state is browsed. Each transition includes a formal event. The event can be a function call or a variable access. Instrumentation is removed for events that are not involved in the evaluation of the property anymore, and instrumentation (breakpoints and watchpoints) is added for events that are involved. Events are requested and released through an event manager. The event manager is an interface between the monitor and the instrumentation module. It keeps track of the active events. It does not depend on the monitor and abstracts away how instrumentation is performed. The event manager sends requests to the instrumentation module, which sets breakpoints and watchpoints by using the API provided by the debugger. Several breakpoints may correspond to one event, and several events can use the same breakpoints. When a breakpoint or a watchpoint is hit, the instrumentation module instantiates the event by retrieving parameters values from the program and forwards this event to the event manager, which in turn forwards the event to the monitor, which updates its state.

*Handling after events.* After events are triggered when a function ends. GDB does not provide straightforward means to instrument after events out of the box. However, GDB provides finish breakpoints. A finish breakpoints triggers when the frame of the call stack on which it is set returns. To instrument for an after event, a regular breakpoint is first added to the beginning of the function. When the breakpoint is reached, a finish breakpoint is set at the current frame. This finish breakpoint triggers when the function returns. Finish breakpoints are also set on each frame in the call stack that corresponds to the instrumented function, accounting for recursive calls and after events set during the execution of the instrumented function.

### 2185 9.2.3 Parametric Trace Slicing

2186 We implemented trace slicing in Verde, inspiring from [7]. Trace slicing is a feature that allows expressing parametric  
 2187 properties. Such properties get instantiated with runtime values and are evaluated over subsequences of the whole trace  
 2188 of the program execution instead of the whole trace itself. These subsequences of the trace are related to particular  
 2189 instances of parameters (e.g. objects) in the program. For instance, Fig. 2 (p. 13) depicts a property specifying a behavior  
 2190 on each queue created during the program execution. When evaluating this property, each queue is associated with  
 2191 a specific state that does not depend on the states associated with the other queues. Thus, the monitor keeps track  
 2192 of several states and must, for each event, determine which state must be updated. For this property, the queue is a  
 2193 parameter of every event (init, push, pop). This parameter is used to determine the state to be updated. In general, an  
 2194 instance can be defined by multiple parameters. For example, a web page containing some element  $E$  can be opened in  
 2195 several tabs in a browser, which itself consists of several windows. An instance of element  $E$  is identified by its identifier  
 2196 (unique within a tab) as well as the tab identifier (unique within a window) and the window identifier.

2199 We describe how trace slicing is implemented in Verde. Properties define the list of formal parameters on which the  
 2200 trace must be sliced. In the property depicted in Fig. 2, the unique parameter in this list is the queue. In the monitor, each  
 2201 current state is mapped to an instance of these parameters (the slice instance). The monitor initially has one current  
 2202 state: the initial state. This state is mapped to the slice instance in which each parameter to the special undetermined  
 2203 value  $\perp$  (the parameter is not instantiated). When the monitor receives a new event, the slice instance is built from its  
 2204 parameter, and then, for each current state:  
 2205

- 2206 • If the state is associated with a slice instance such that all parameters of the event are equal to the parameters of  
 2207 the slice instance, then the state is updated according to the property semantics, i.e., by evaluating the guard and  
 2208 the success or the failure block.
- 2209 • Otherwise, the state is copied into a new current state if:
  - 2210 – every instantiated parameter in the slice instance of the state is equal to the corresponding event parameter  
 2211 value, and
  - 2212 – there is no slice instance in the monitor for which the values of all parameters in the event are equal to the  
 2213 corresponding values in the slice instance.

2214 The new state is associated to the slice instance built by merging the state slice instance and the event slice  
 2215 instance. The event is directed to this new state.

2216 When a state is copied to form a new current state, the environment containing variables used in the property is also  
 2217 copied, so the new state inherits from the values stored in the state its was copied from. Primitive values are not shared.  
 2218 More complex constructions like dictionaries and lists are, however, shared.

2219 *Handling Disappearing Instances.* Sometimes, an instance of an object is destructed (freed), and then a new instance  
 2220 is created and gets the same identifier. This can be observed by running the following C program, in which a manually  
 2221 allocated area of 4 bytes is requested using malloc, then freed, than another area of 4 bytes is created:

```
2222 #include <stdlib.h>
2223 #include <stdio.h>
2224 int main() {
2225     void* p = malloc(4);
2226     printf("%p ", p); free(p);
2227 }
```

```

2237     printf("%p\n", malloc(4)); return 0;
2238 }
2239

```

2240 On a x86-64 machine running Debian Buster, compiling this program with gcc and running it outputs “0x564e53699260  
 2241 0x564e53699260”. However, the two objects that have the same identifier should be handled as distinct objects.

2242 To handle this in Verde, a state can be marked as final, meaning that the state must not be updated anymore. When  
 2243 such a state is reached, the corresponding slice instance is forgotten. As such, when a new instance with the same  
 2244 identifier is seen through an event, a new state will be created in the monitor. This feature also helps keeping the output  
 2245 of the monitor clean and allows optimizing resource usage.

### 2248 9.2.4 Checkpointing

2250 Checkpointing can be done from the scenario to allow going back at a specific point of the execution. Verde features two  
 2251 methods for checkpointing processes on Linux-based systems. The first uses the native checkpoint command of GDB.  
 2252 This method is based on fork() to save the program state in a new process, which is efficient, as fork is implemented  
 2253 using Copy on Write. A major drawback is that multithreaded programming is not supported since fork() keeps only  
 2254 one thread in the new process. The second method uses CRIU<sup>8</sup>, which supports multithreaded processes and trees of  
 2255 processes. CRIU uses the ptrace API to attach the process to be checkpointed and saves its state in a set of files. CRIU  
 2256 supports incremental checkpointing by computing a differential between an existing checkpoint and a checkpoint to  
 2257 create. It can make the system track memory changes in the process to speed this computation.

2260 Beside CRIU, other checkpointing solutions exist on Linux (cf. the CRIU website<sup>9</sup> for a comparison). We chose CRIU  
 2261 because it does not require preloading any library nor special kernel module. Instead, features required to checkpoint  
 2262 processes with CRIU have been integrated in the mainline Linux kernel. This allows for an easier setup as well as fewer  
 2263 differences between an uninstrumented process and a process under debug. CRIU also seems to be the currently most  
 2264 active and supported solution. CRIU authors state that it is impossible to checkpoint processes debugged under GDB  
 2265 because both tools use the ptrace API provided by the kernel. However, we were able to work around this limitation by  
 2266 suspending and detaching the process from GDB before checkpointing with CRIU, and then reattaching the process to  
 2267 GDB and restoring the breakpoints and watchpoints that were present before checkpointing, and then resuming the  
 2268 execution. Support for other checkpointing solutions may be added as needed.

## 2272 9.3 Using Verde

2273 In this section, we present how to use Verde. A typical usage session begins by launching GDB and Verde (which can be  
 2274 automatically loaded by configuring GDB appropriately). Then, the developer loads one or several properties. Additional  
 2275 python functions, used in properties, can be loaded at the same time. A scenario can also be loaded. Then, the developer  
 2276 starts the execution. It is also possible to display the graph of the property with the show-graph subcommand (see  
 2277 Fig. 21, p. 40).

```

2280 $ gdb ./my-application
2281 (gdb) verde load-property behavior.prop functions.py
2282 (gdb) verde load-scenario default-scenario.sc
2283 (gdb) verde show-graph
2284 (gdb) verde run-with-program

```

2285 <sup>8</sup>Checkpoint/Restore In Userspace is a community-driven project started by Virtuozzo kernel engineers in 2011 to allow checkpointing and restoring on  
 2286 Linux. See <https://criu.org/>.

2287 <sup>9</sup>[https://criu.org/Comparison\\_to\\_other\\_CR\\_projects](https://criu.org/Comparison_to_other_CR_projects)

Command	Effect
verde activate	Activates all the commands monitor related commands
verde checkpoint	Sets a checkpoint for the program and each managed monitor
verde checkpoint-restart	Restores a checkpoint
verde cmd-group-begin	Begins a group of commands
verde cmd-group-end	Ends a group of command
verde delete	Deletes a monitor
verde exec	Executes an method in the current monitor.
verde get-current	Prints the name of the current monitor
verde load-functions	Loads a developer defined functions file
verde load-property	Loads a property file and possibly a function file in the given monitor
verde load-scenario	Loads a scenario
verde new	Creates a monitor that will also become the current monitor
verde run	Runs the monitor
verde run-with-program	Running the monitor and the program at the same time
verde set-current	Sets the current monitor
verde show-graph	Shows the graph of the monitor in a window and animates it at runtime

Table 2. List of Verde commands.

```

2289
2290
2291
2292
2293
2294
2295
2296
2297
2298
2299
2300
2301
2302
2303
2304
2305
2306
2307
2308
2309
2310
2311 ...
2312 [verde] Initialization: N = 0
2313 [verde] Current state: init (N = 0)
2314 queue.c: push!
2315 [verde] Current state: init
2316 ...
2317 queue.c: push!
2318 [verde] GUARD: nb push: 63
2319 [verde] Overflow detected!
2320 [verde] Current state: sink (N = 63)
2321 [Execution stopped.]
2322 (gdb)

```

Verde provides more fine-tuned commands to handle cases when properties and functions need to be loaded separately, or when properties and the program need to be run at different times. A list of commands is given in Table 2

*Writing Properties.* Verde provides a Domain Specific Language for writing properties<sup>10</sup>. An informal grammar is given in Fig. 26. Fig. 25 depicts a property used to check whether an overflow happens in a multi-threaded producer-consumer program. First, the optional keyword `slice on` gives the list of slicing parameters. Then, an optional Python code block initializes the environment of the monitor. Then, states are listed, including the mandatory state `init`. A state has a name, an optional annotation indicating whether it is accepting, whether it is final (useful for trace slicing, see Sec. 9.2.3), an optional action name attached to the state and its transitions. Transitions can be written with two destination states: a success (resp. failure) state used when the guard returns `SUCCESS` (resp. `FAILURE`). The transition is ignored if the guard returns `None`. Each transition comprises the monitored event, the parameters of the event used in the guard, the guard (optional), the success block and the failure block (optional). Success and failure blocks comprise an optional Python code block, an optional action name and the name of a destination state. The guard is a side-effect

<sup>10</sup>We did not use pre-existing syntax in order to allow us flexibility as we experiment. Interfacing with existing monitoring tools is planned.

```

2341 1 slice on queue
2342 2
2343 3 initialization {
2344 4     N = 0
2345 5     maxSize = 0
2346 6 }
2347 7
2348 8 state init accepting {
2349 9     transition {
2350 10         event queue_new(queue, size : int) {
2351 11             maxSize = size - 1
2352 12         }
2353 13         success queue_ready
2354 14     }
2355 15 }
2356 16
2357 17 state sink non-accepting sink_reached()
2358 18
2359 19 state queue_ready accepting {
2360 20     transition {
2361 21         event queue_push(queue) {
2362 22             return N < maxSize
2363 23         }
2364 24     }
2365 25
2366 26     success {
2367 27         N = N + 1
2368 28         print("nb elem: " + str(N))
2369 29     } queue_ready
2370 30
2371 31     failure sink
2372 32 }
2373 33
2374 34 transition {
2375 35     event queue_pop(queue) {
2376 36         return N > 0
2377 37     }
2378 38
2379 39     success {
2380 40         N = N - 1
2381 41         print("nb elem: " + str(N))
2382 42     } queue_ready
2383 43
2384 44     failure sink
2385 45 }

```

Fig. 25. Verde version of the property in Figure 2

```

2361 [ slice on [ param, ] + ] ?
2362
2363 [ initialization {
2364     Python code
2365 } ] ?
2366
2367 [ state state_name [ [ non- ] ? accepting ] ? [ final ] ? [ action_name() ] ? {
2368     [ transition {
2369         [ before | after ] ? event event_name ( [ param, ] * ) [ {
2370             Python code returning True False or None
2371         } ] ?
2372         [ success [ {
2373             Python code
2374         } ] ? [ action_name() ] ? state_name ] ?
2375         [ failure [ {
2376             Python code
2377         } ] ? [ action_name() ] ? state_name ] ?
2378     } ] *
2379 } ] +

```

Fig. 26. Informal grammar for the automaton-based property description language in Verde

free Python code block that returns True (resp. False) if the guard succeeds (resp. fails) and None if the transition should be ignored.

## 10 EXPERIMENTS

We report on seven experiments carried out with Verde to measure its usefulness in finding and correcting bugs and its efficiency from a performance point of view<sup>11</sup>. We discuss the objective and possible limitations (threat to validity) of each experiment. These experiments also illustrate how a developer uses Verde in practice.

<sup>11</sup>A video and the source codes needed for reproducing the benchmarks are available at <http://gitlab.inria.fr/monitoring/verde>.

## 10.1 Correcting a Bug in zsh

In zsh, a widely-used UNIX shell, a segmentation fault happened when trying to auto-complete some inputs like `!>` . by hitting the tab key right after character `>`.

We ran zsh in GDB, triggered the bug and displayed a backtrace leading to a long and complicated function, `get_comp_string`, calling another function with a null parameter `itype_end`, making zsh crash. Instead of trying to read and understand the code or debugging step by step, we observed the bug (null pointer) and inspected the stack trace. We noticed a call to function `itype_end` with a null parameter. Then, we wrote a property tracking assignments related to this variable and checking that this variable, whenever used, is not null, and a scenario that prints the backtrace each time the state of the property changes. This let us see that the last write to this variable nulls it. We were able to prevent the crash by adding a null check before a piece of code that seems to assume that the variable is not null and that contains the call to `itype_end` leading to the crash<sup>12</sup>. We did not discover the bug using i-RV<sup>13</sup>. However, it helped us determine its origin in the code of zsh and fix it. A fix has since been released.

## 10.2 Automatic Checkpointing to Debug a Sudoku Solver

We evaluated i-RV by mutating the code of a backtracking Sudoku solver<sup>14</sup>. This experiment illustrates the use of scenarios to automatically set checkpoints and add instrumentation at relevant points of the execution. Sudoku is a game where the player fills a 9x9 board such that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains every number between 1 and 9. The solver reads a board with some already filled cells and prints the resulting board. During the execution, several instances of the board are created and unsolvable instances are discarded.

We wrote a property describing its expected global behavior after skimming the structure of the code, ignoring its internal details. No values should be written on a board deemed unsolvable or that break the rules of Sudoku (putting two same numbers in a row, a column or a box). Loading a valid board should succeed. We then wrote a scenario that creates checkpoints whenever the property enters an accepting state. Entering a non-accepting state makes the scenario restore the last checkpoint and add watchpoints on each cells of the concerned board instance. When watchpoints are reached, checkpoints are set, allowing us to get a more fine-grained view of the execution close to the misbehavior and choose the moment of the execution we want to debug. This scenario allows a first execution that is not slowed down by heavy instrumentation, and precise instrumentation for a relevant part of it.

The solver is bundled with several example boards that it solves correctly. We mutated its code using `mutate.py`<sup>15</sup> to artificially introduce a bug without us knowing where the change is. When ran, the mutated program outputs "bad board". We ran it with i-RV. The property enters the state `failure_load`. When restoring a checkpoint and running the code step by step in the function that loads a board, the execution seems correct. The code first runs one loop reading the board using `scanf` by chunks of 9 cells, and then a second loop iterates over the 81 cells to convert them to the representation used by the solver. Setting breakpoints and displaying values during the first loop exhibits a seemingly correct behavior. During the second loop, the last line of the board holds incorrect values. Since we observed correct behavior for the first loop and the 72 first iterations of the second loop, and since both loops do not access the board in the same way, we suspected a problem with the array containing the board. We checked the code and saw that the mutation happened in the type definition of the board, giving it 10 cells by line instead of 9.

<sup>12</sup>The code of the property is in Appendix C. We worked on commit 85ba685 of zsh.

<sup>13</sup>The bug was reported at <https://sourceforge.net/p/zsh/bugs/87/>

<sup>14</sup><https://github.com/jakub-m/sudoku-solver>

<sup>15</sup><https://github.com/arun-babu/mutate.py>

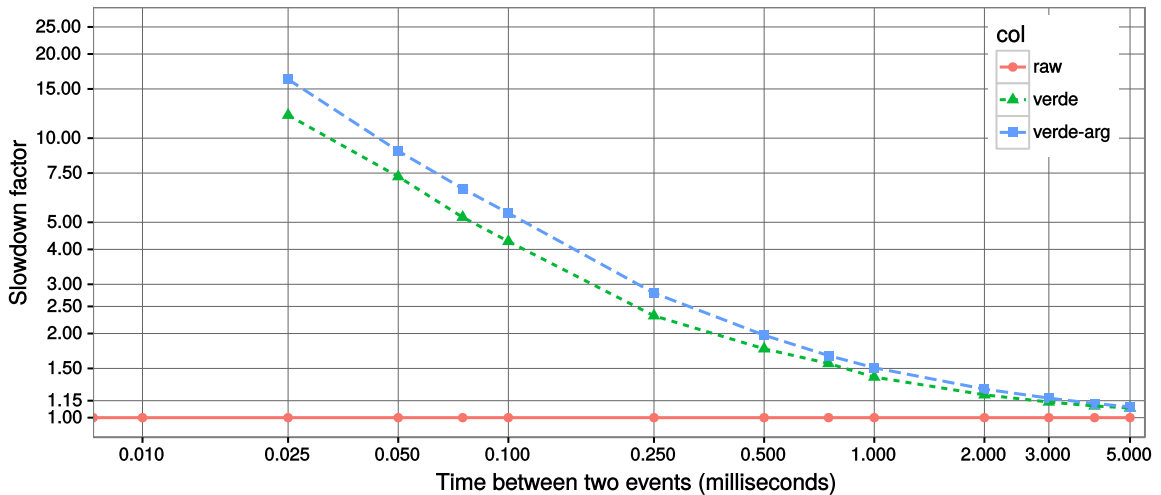


2445 A caveat of this experiment is that we had to choose the mutated version of the code such that the code violates  
 2446 the property. We also introduced a bug artificially rather than working on a bug produced by a human and arguably,  
 2447 the program is small enough to be debugged using a traditional interactive debugger. However, the experiment can be  
 2448 generalized and illustrates how scenarios can be used for other programs, where checkpoints are set on a regular basis  
 2449 and execution is restarted from the last one and heavy instrumentation like watchpoints is used, restricting slowness to  
 2450 a small part of the execution.  
 2451  
 2452

### 2453 10.3 Multi-Threaded Producer-Consumers

2454 The purpose of this experiment is to check whether our approach is realistic in terms of usability. We considered the  
 2455 following use-case: a developer works on a multi-threaded application in which a queue is filled by 5 threads and  
 2456 emptied by 20 threads and a segmentation fault happens in several cases. We wrote a program deliberately introducing  
 2457 a synchronization error, as well as a property (see Fig. 2) on the number of additions in a queue in order to detect an  
 2458 overflow. The size of the queue is a parameter of the event queue `_new`. The function `push` adds an element into the  
 2459 queue. A call to this function is awaited by the transition defined at line 15 of Fig. 25. We ran the program with Verde.  
 2460 The execution stopped in the state `sink` (defined at line 39 of Fig. 25). In the debugger, we had access to the precise line  
 2461 in the source code from which the function was called, as well as the complete call stack. Under certain conditions  
 2462 (that we artificially triggered), a mutex was not locked, resulting in a queue overflow. After fixing this, the program  
 2463 behaved properly. In this experiment, we intentionally introduced a bug (and thus already knew its location). However  
 2464 this experiments shows how Verde helps the programmer locate the bug: the moment the verdict given by the monitor  
 2465 becomes false can correspond to the exact place the error is located in the code of the misbehaving program.  
 2466  
 2467  
 2468  
 2469  
 2470

### 2471 10.4 Micro-benchmark



2491 Fig. 27. Instrumentation overhead with Verde. raw (red) is the execution of the program without Verde. verde (green) is the execution  
 2492 with Verde. The overhead includes the breakpoint-based instrumentation. verde-arg (blue) is the execution with Verde, and one  
 2493 parameter is used in the produced events. The overhead includes the instrumentation and the time used to retrieve one value per  
 2494 event.  
 2495  
 2496

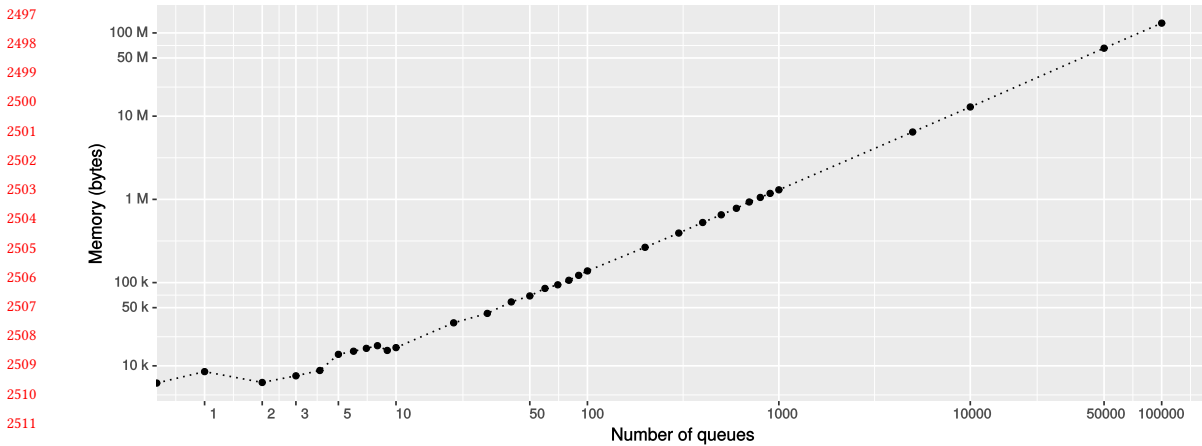


Fig. 28. Memory consumption per number of tracked queues

In this experiment, we evaluated the overhead of the instrumentation in function of the temporal gap between events. We wrote a C program calling a NOP function in a loop. To measure the minimal gap between two monitored events for which the overhead is acceptable, we simulated this gap by a loop of a configurable duration. The results of this benchmark using a Core i7-3770 @ 3.40 GHz (with a quantum time (process time slice) around 20 ms), under Ubuntu 16.04 and Linux 4.4.0-109 with GDB 7.11, are presented in Fig. 27. The curve verde-arg corresponds to the evaluation of a property which retrieves an argument from calls to the monitored function. With 0.5 ms between two events, we measured a slowdown factor of 2. Under 0.5 ms, the overhead can be significant, with a slowdown factor greater than two, and rapidly growing as the delay between event shrinks. From 3 ms, the slowdown is under 20 % and from 10 ms, the slowdown is under 5 %. We noticed that the overhead is dominated by breakpoint hits. The absolute overhead by monitored event, in the manner of the overhead of an argument retrieval, is constant. We measured the mean cost of encountering a breakpoint during the execution. We obtained  $162 \mu\text{s}$ <sup>16</sup> on the same machine and around  $300 \mu\text{s}$  on a slower machine (i3-4030U CPU @ 1.90 GHz). This time constitutes the main cause of the slowdown observed when evaluating properties. While this experiment does not give a realistic measure of the overhead added by the instrumentation, it is still useful to estimate the overhead in more realistic scenarios.

## 10.5 Memory Consumption

We assess the memory consumption of Verde according to the number of objects being tracked by the monitor in the interactively debugged program. We monitor a program that creates a number of queues given in parameter. We measure the peak memory usage in terms of approximate number of bytes taken by a global object containing the monitor using method `asizeof` of library Pympler, a first time before creating the queues in the program and a second time after their creation. We deduce the memory used by Verde to keep track of these queues by computing the difference between these two measures. Results are shown in Fig. 28 (axes use a logarithmic scale). The number of queues is represented on

<sup>16</sup>Previously, we measured  $95 \mu\text{s}$  on the same machine running Ubuntu 14.04 and GDB 7.7. Running Ubuntu 16.04 and GDB 7.11 with disabled support for Kernel Page-Table Isolation (KPTI), we measure  $152 \mu\text{s}$ . Running Ubuntu 16.04 and GDB 7.7 with KPTI support, we measure  $125 \mu\text{s}$ . Same versions without KPTI support, we measure  $109 \mu\text{s}$ . We suspect a regression in both newer versions of GDB and in the Linux kernel with support for KPTI, a mechanism to defend against the Meltdown vulnerability revealed in January 2018.

2549 the x-axis and the memory consumption in bytes is represented on the y-axis using log scale. The memory consumption  
2550 is linear, with nearly 1.3 KB used per tracked queue, making it realistic to track several thousands of instances of an  
2551 object.  
2552

## 2553 **10.6 User-Perceived Performance Impact**

2554  
2555 *Multimedia Players and Video Games.* We evaluated our approach on widespread multimedia applications: the VLC  
2556 and MPlayer video players and the SuperTux 2D platform video game. A property made the monitor set a breakpoint on  
2557 the function that draws each frame to the screen for these applications, respectively *ThreadDisplayPicture*, *update\_video*  
2558 and *DrawingContext::do\_drawing*. For SuperTux, the function was called around 60 times per second. For the video  
2559 players, it was called 24 times per second. In each case, the number of frames per second was not affected and the CPU  
2560 usage remains moderated: we measured an overhead of less than 10 % for the GDB process. These results correspond  
2561 to our measurements in Sec. 10.4: there is a gap of 16 ms between two function calls which is executed 60 times per  
2562 second. Thus, our approach does not lead to an observable overhead for multimedia applications when the events occur  
2563 at such a limited frequency.  
2564  
2565  
2566

2567 *Opening and Closing Files, Iterators.* We evaluated the user-perceived overhead with widespread applications. We  
2568 ensured that all open files are closed with the Dolphin file manager, the NetSurf Web browser, the Kate text editor and  
2569 the Gimp image editor. Despite some slowdowns, caused by frequent disk accesses, the execution of these programs  
2570 was still fast enough to be debugged in realistic conditions, with lags under the second. Likewise, we checked that no  
2571 iterator over hash tables of the GLib library (*GHashTableIter*) that is invalidated was used. Simplest applications like  
2572 the Gnome calculator remained usable but strong slowdowns were observed during the evaluation of this property,  
2573 even for mere mouse movements, as methods of this library are called multiple times during when handling these  
2574 events. Perceived lags ranged from unnoticeable to several seconds in the worst cases. In Sec. 11, we present possible  
2575 ways to mitigate these limitations.  
2576  
2577  
2578

## 2579 **10.7 Dynamic Instrumentation on a Stack**

2580  
2581 We measured the effects of the dynamic instrumentation on the performance. A program adds and removes, alternatively,  
2582 the first 100 natural integers in a stack. We checked that the integer 42 is taken out of the stack after being added. A first  
2583 version of this property leverage the dynamic instrumentation. With this version, the call to the remove function was  
2584 watched only when the monitor knew that 42 is in the stack. A second version of the property made the monitor watch  
2585 every event unconditionally. The execution was 2.2 times faster with the first version. While this experiment used  
2586 artificial properties, it shows that dynamic instrumentation has a positive impact on the overhead in that it improves  
2587 performance.  
2588  
2589

# 2590 **11 CONCLUSION AND FUTURE WORK**

## 2591 **11.1 Conclusion**

2592  
2593 Interactive runtime verification combines runtime verification and interactive debugging to facilitate and combine  
2594 bug discovery and bug understanding. Interactive runtime verification aims at taking the best of both approaches by  
2595 seeing the program as a system that can be monitored to find bugs and, at the same time, as a system that can be  
2596 debugged interactively to understand the bugs that were found. i-RV replaces a part of the tedious manual process of  
2597  
2598  
2599

2601 setting breakpoints in traditional interactive debugging by automatically set breakpoints by the monitor from properties  
2602 describing the (expected) behavior for the program.

2603 The monitor and scenario guide debugging. Our approach to i-RV relies on formal models of the behavior of the  
2604 program, the debugger, and the scenario. The models we introduce allow us to formally describe their composition, thus  
2605 providing guarantees on the verdicts reported by monitors at runtime. Since interactively runtime verifying the behavior  
2606 of a program does not modify the behavior of the initial program, any bug found as a violation of a property at runtime  
2607 is an actual bug and no bug causing the violation of a property can be missed. The formal models are backed up with  
2608 algorithmic descriptions aimed at easing implementations of i-RV. We also presented Verde, an implementation of this  
2609 approach, and experiments to evaluate our approach. Our experiments showed that even though the property checker  
2610 can slow down the execution of the program considerably when events are temporally close to each other, our approach  
2611 remain relevant in numerous cases showed in our experiments, when properties do not require the production of a high  
2612 number of events per time unit (See Sec. 10.4). We demonstrated that interactive runtime verification is applicable in  
2613 realistic use-cases with software such as video games and video players (Sec. 10.6). Our current implementation shows  
2614 limitations in terms of performance under other use-cases. In the next section, we present ideas to mitigate this issue.  
2615  
2616  
2617  
2618

## 2619 11.2 Future Work

2620 We present some perspectives opened by this work.

2621  
2622 *Event Types.* Our main event types are the function call and variable accesses. A way to make our approach more  
2623 powerful is to find and include other kinds of events in our model. System calls are an example of event type we have  
2624 not taken in account yet for technical reasons. They might be of interest for checking properties on drivers or programs  
2625 dealing with hardware.  
2626  
2627

2628 *Instrumentation.* Handling breakpoints is costly [5] and handling watchpoints even more so. Code injection could  
2629 provide better efficiency [30, 32] by limiting round trips between the debugger and the program would to the bare  
2630 minimum (for example, when the scenario requires the execution to be suspended to let the developer interact with the  
2631 debugger) while keeping the current flexibility of the approach.  
2632  
2633

2634 *Checkpointing the File System.* We plan to capture the environment of the developer in addition to the process being  
2635 debugged when checkpointing. More specifically, we shall look at the atomic snapshotting capabilities of modern file  
2636 systems like Brfs and ZFS.  
2637

2638 *Record and Replay and Reverse Execution.* RR is a powerful method for finding bugs. Once a buggy execution is  
2639 recorded, the bug can be studied and observed again by running the recording. We aim to augment i-RV with reverse  
2640 debugging.  
2641  
2642

2643 *Usability and Scalability.* Our largest experiment involves a medium-sized application, Zsh (4 MiB of source code),  
2644 and has been conducted ourselves. The next step is to show that it indeed eases bug fixing with bigger applications and  
2645 conduct a solid user study.  
2646

2647 Another idea to be explored is verifying good programming practice and good API usage at runtime. We think  
2648 that API designers and library writers could leverage our approach by providing properties with their APIs and their  
2649 libraries. This would provide a means to check that their APIs are used correctly and make their usage safer. This would  
2650 also be a means to document these APIs and these libraries.  
2651  
2652

2653 *Relaxing Assumptions on the Program.* Our current assumptions on the program in our theoretical model are strong.  
 2654 We plan to improve the model by allowing multithreaded programs with side effects, possibilities of communicating  
 2655 with the outside and by accounting for the physical time.  
 2656

2657 *Modular and Programming Language Independent Interface and Implementation for i-RV.* Our current implementation,  
 2658 Verde, is limited to the languages supported by the GNU Debugger and to our implementation of the monitor. We plan  
 2659 to design a standard interface for interactive runtime verification that is not tied to a particular programming language,  
 2660 runtime, debugger or monitor. This will let us leverage proven implementation of monitors supported by the runtime  
 2661 verification community. We plan to produce an implementation of this interface.  
 2662  
 2663  
 2664

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## A PROVING THAT THE DEBUGGED PROGRAM WEAKLY SIMULATES THE INITIAL PROGRAM, AND VICE VERSA

### A.1 The Initial Program Weakly Simulates the Debugged Program

We prove Proposition 7.2 (Sec. 7). That is, the initial program  $P$  weakly simulates the debugged program  $(P, D)$ .

PROOF. Since the initial program cannot perform any unobservable action, proving that  $\mathcal{R}$  is a simulation relation amounts to proving the two following points:

- (1)  $\forall((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}, \forall \theta \in \overline{\text{Obs}}, \forall(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \in \text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D : (P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\theta} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \implies ((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P) \in \mathcal{R}.$
- (2)  $\forall((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}, \forall \alpha \in \text{Obs}, \forall(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \in \text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D : (P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\alpha} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \implies \exists P' \in \text{Conf}_P : ((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P') \in \mathcal{R} \wedge P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'.$

Let us consider  $((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ . Let us prove these two points in turn.

Proof of 1. Let us consider  $\theta \in \overline{\text{Obs}}$  and  $(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \in \text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D$  such that  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\theta} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$ . Action  $\theta$  is triggered by applying either rule `SETWATCH`, `RMWATCH`, `GETPC`, `GETSYM`, `GETADDR`, `DEVBREAK`, `SCNBREAK`, `EVTBREAK`, `INT`, `CONT`, `SETBREAK`, `RMBREAK`, `DEVWATCH`, `SCNWATCH`, `EVTWATCH`, `TRAPNOBREAK`, `CLEAREVENTS`, `INSTRUMENT`, or `STEPREDO`. We shall prove that  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

- Case: rule `SETWATCH`, `RMWATCH`, `GETPC`, `GETSYM`, `GETADDR`, `DEVBREAK`, `SCNBREAK`, `EVTBREAK`, `INT`, or `CONT` applies. None of these rules modifies neither the configuration of the program nor fields `bpts` and `oi` of the debugger (see Fig. 12, Fig. 15, Fig. 14) for the definitions of these rules). Since  $((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ , relation  $\mathcal{R}$  is preserved, and we deduce immediately  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ .
- Case: rule `SETBREAK` (Fig. 12) applies for some  $b \in D.\text{bpts}$ . Let us prove that  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ . Let us prove (1). Let us define  $m_{\text{unInstr}} = P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b'.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.\text{oi}(b'.\text{addr}) \mid b' \in D'.\text{bpts}\}$ , the debugger memory  $P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}$  where breakpoints have been removed. We distinguish two cases according to whether there is another breakpoint recorded at the same address as the address of breakpoint  $b$  in the debugger, that is whether  $\exists b' \in D.\text{bpts} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr}$ , or not.

- Case  $\exists b' \in D.\text{bpts} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr}$ .

According to rule `SETBREAK`,  $oi' = oi$ . Moreover, we have:

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b'.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.\text{oi}(b'.\text{addr}) \mid b' \in D'.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b'.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.\text{oi}(b'.\text{addr}) \mid b' \in D'.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &\quad (\text{because } P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[b.\text{addr}] = \text{BREAK} \text{ and thus } P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} = P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \\
 &\quad \text{since there is already a breakpoint at } b.\text{addr}) \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b'.\text{addr} \mapsto D.\text{oi}(b'.\text{addr}) \mid b' \in D.\text{bpts} \cup \{b\}\} \\
 &\quad (\text{because } D'.\text{oi} = oi' = oi = D.\text{oi}) \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{a \mapsto D.\text{oi}(a) \mid a \in \{b'.\text{addr} \mid b' \in D.\text{bpts}\} \cup \{b.\text{addr}\}\} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b'.\text{addr} \mapsto D.\text{oi}(b'.\text{addr}) \mid b' \in D.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &\quad (\text{because } \exists b' \in D.\text{bpts} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr}) \\
 &= P.\text{m} \quad (\text{because of (1)})
 \end{aligned}$$

- Second case:  $\nexists b' \in D.\text{bpts} : b'.\text{addr} = b.\text{addr}$ .

According to rule `SETBREAK`, we have:  $oi' = oi [b.addr \mapsto P_{dbg}.m[b.addr]]$  and  $P'_{dbg}.m = m' = m [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}]$ .

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
2809 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D'.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D'.bpts\} \\
2810 \quad & \\
2811 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}] \\
2812 \quad & \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi [b.addr \mapsto P_{dbg}.m[b.addr]] (b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts \cup \{b\}\} \\
2813 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}] [b.addr \mapsto P_{dbg}.m[b.addr]] \underbrace{\dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts\}} \\
2814 \quad & \quad (b.addr \text{ is not in the domain of this function because } \nexists b' \in D.bpts : b'.addr = b.addr) \\
2815 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto P_{dbg}.m[b.addr]] \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts\} \\
2816 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts\} \\
2817 \quad & = P.m \quad (\text{because of (1)})
\end{aligned}$$

In both cases, (1) holds.

Since the program counter has not been modified, (2) holds. Finally,  $P'_{dbg}.m = P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}]$ .

Therefore, (3) holds.

- Case: `RMBREAK` applies (see Fig. 12) for some input symbol `rmPoint(b)`. Let us suppose that  $b \in D.bpts$ .

Let us prove (1). Let us define  $m_{\text{unInstr}} = P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D'.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D'.bpts\}$ .

We distinguish two cases according to whether  $\exists b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\} : b'.addr = b.addr$ .

– First case:  $\exists b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\} : b'.addr = b.addr$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
2830 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D'.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D'.bpts\} \\
2831 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\}\} \\
2832 \quad & \quad (\text{because } D'.oi = oi' = oi = D.oi, P'_{dbg}.m = P_{dbg}.m \text{ and } D'.bpts = D.bpts \setminus \{b\}) \\
2833 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m \dagger \underbrace{\{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts\}} \\
2834 \quad & \quad b.addr \text{ is still in the domain because } \exists b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\} : b'.addr = b.addr \\
2835 \quad & = P.m \quad (\text{because of (1)})
\end{aligned}$$

– Second case:  $\nexists b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\} : b'.addr = b.addr$ . We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
2840 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D'.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D'.bpts\} \\
2841 \quad m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto D.oi(b.addr)] \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}] (b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\}\} \\
2842 \quad & \quad (\text{because in the rule, } oi' = oi [b.addr \mapsto \text{BREAK}] \text{ and } m' = m [b.addr \mapsto oi(b.addr)]) \\
2843 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto D.oi(b.addr)] \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts \setminus \{b\}\} \\
2844 \quad & \quad (\text{because there is no } b' \text{ in } D.bpts \setminus \{b\} \text{ such that } b'.addr = b.addr) \\
2845 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in (D.bpts \setminus \{b\}) \cup \{b\}\} \quad (\text{simplification}) \\
2846 \quad & = P_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D.bpts\} \quad (\text{because } b \in D.bpts) \\
2847 \quad & = P.m \quad (\text{because of (1)})
\end{aligned}$$

In both cases, (1) holds.

Seeing that (2) holds follows directly from the definition of `RMBREAK` (see Fig. 12).

Lets us prove that (3) holds. Let us consider  $a \in \text{Addr}$  such that  $a \neq b.addr$ . We have:  $P'_{dbg}.m(a) = P_{dbg}.m [b.addr \mapsto oi(b.addr)] (a) = P_{dbg}.m(a)$ , and:

$$\begin{aligned}
2854 \quad P.m(b.addr) &= \left( P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{b'.addr \mapsto D'.oi(b'.addr) \mid b' \in D'.bpts\} \right) (b.addr) \\
2855 \quad &= (P'_{dbg}.m \dagger \{a \mapsto D'.oi(a) \mid \underbrace{\exists b' \in D'.bpts : a = b'.addr}_{\nexists b' \in D'.bpts : a = b.addr}\}) (b.addr) \\
2856 \quad & \\
2857 \quad & = P'_{dbg}.m(b.addr)
\end{aligned}$$



Therefore, (3) holds.

- Case: DEVWATCH, SCNWATCH, or EVTWATCH applies (see Fig. 8).

In any of the rules,  $oi' = oi [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]]$  and  $m' = m[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto \text{BREAK}]$  (see function `restoreBP`).

Let us prove (1). We distinguish two cases according to whether  $\exists b \in D.\text{bpts} : b.\text{addr} = \text{pc}$ , or not.

- First case:  $\exists b \in D.\text{bpts} : b.\text{addr} = \text{pc}$ .

Let us define  $a = \text{getAccesses}(P_{\text{dbg}})$  and  $w \in D.\text{wpts} \setminus D.\text{hdld}$  such that  $\exists k \in \{0, \dots, |a|-1\} : \text{match}(a_k, w) \wedge w.\text{for} = \text{dev}$ . This is possible according to the conditions of the rule. This implies  $P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}] \neq \text{BREAK}$ .

Let us define  $m_{\text{unInstr}} = P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto \text{BREAK}] \dagger \underbrace{\{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D.oi [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]] (b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\}}_{P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \text{ is in the domain of this function}} \\
 &\quad \text{(because } oi' = oi [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]] \text{ and } m' = m[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto \text{BREAK}]) \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D.oi [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]] (b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &\quad \text{(simplification)} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\} [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]] \\
 &\quad \text{(because } b \in D.\text{bpts}, \text{ so the substitution can be done outside)} \\
 &= P.\text{m} [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}]] \quad \text{(because of (1))} \\
 &= P.\text{m} [P.\text{pc} \mapsto P.\text{m}[P.\text{pc}]] \quad \text{(because } P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} = P.\text{pc} \text{ and } P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}] \neq \text{BREAK)} \\
 &= P.\text{m}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Second case:  $\nexists b \in D.\text{bpts} : b.\text{addr} = \text{pc}$ .

In the rule,  $oi' = oi$  and  $m' = m$ . In  $P'_{\text{dbg}}, D = (P', D', M, S)$ ,  $D'.oi = D.oi$ ,  $D'.\text{bpts} = D.\text{bpts}$ ,  $P'.\text{m} = P.\text{m}$  and  $P'.\text{pc} = P.\text{pc}$ . Since  $(P, P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \in \mathcal{R}$ ,  $(P, P'_{\text{dbg}}, D) \in \mathcal{R}$ .

(2) and (3) hold because the program counter and the memory are not modified by these rules.

- Case: TRAPNoBREAK apply (see Fig. 9).

This rule applying means that rule `BPHit` of the program applies and so  $P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc}] = \text{BREAK}$ .

Let us prove (1). Let us define  $m_{\text{unInstr}} = P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\}$ .

$$\begin{aligned}
 m_{\text{unInstr}} &= P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D'.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} [P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \mapsto D.oi (P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc})] \dagger \underbrace{\{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\}}_{P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{pc} \text{ is in the domain of this function}} \\
 &\quad \text{(because in the rule, } P'_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} = P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m}[pc \mapsto D.oi(pc)] \text{)} \\
 &= P_{\text{dbg}}.\text{m} \dagger \{b.\text{addr} \mapsto D.oi(b.\text{addr}) \mid b \in D.\text{bpts}\} \\
 &\quad \text{(simplification: this substitution has no effect)} \\
 &= P.\text{m} \quad \text{(because of (1))}
 \end{aligned}$$

- Case: CLEAREVENTS applies (see Fig. 11).

This rule uses rule `rmBREAK` and rule `rmWATCH` sequentially for each point given by the input symbol. These rules are proven to respect the conditions of the weak simulation applying to unobservable actions. Proving (1), (2) and (3) is therefore straightforward by induction.

- Case: INSTRUMENT applies (see Fig. 11).

This rule uses rule CLEAREVENTS and then rule SETBREAK and rule SETWATCH. These rules are proven to respect the conditions of the weak simulation applying to unobservable actions. Proving (1), (2) and (3) is therefore straightforward.

- Case: STEPREDO applies (see Fig. 14).

This rule temporarily sets the debugger in passive mode and uses rule EVTBREAK, DEVBREAK, SCNBREAK, EVTWATCH, DEVWATCH, SCNWATCH or TRAPNOBREAK. Proving (1), (2) and (3) is therefore straightforward.

**Proof of 2.** Let us consider  $\alpha \in \text{Obs}$ . Let us consider  $(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$  such that  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\alpha} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$ . Let us consider  $P'$  such that  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ . Let us prove that  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P') \in \mathcal{R}$ . To produce action  $a$ , either rule STEP applies, or rule NORMALEXEC applies. rule STEP uses rule NORMALEXEC, and does nothing else than temporarily switching the debugger mode to passive so rule NORMALEXEC applies. Therefore, we prove the case where rule NORMALEXEC applies. Proof for the case where rule STEP applies is then straightforward.

Let us prove (1). We have  $(P'.m, P'.pc) = \text{runInstr}(P.m, P.pc)$  (see rule NORMALEXEC).

Since  $((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ , we have  $P.m = \text{unInstr}(P_{\text{dbg}}.m, D.bpts, D.oi)$  (because of (1)) and  $P.pc = P_{\text{dbg}}.pc$  (because of (2)).

We have:

$$\begin{aligned}
(D'.oi, P'_{\text{dbg}}.m) &= \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, m_t) \\
&\quad \text{such that } \exists pc' : (m_t, pc') = \text{runInstr}(\text{unInstr}(P_{\text{dbg}}.m, D.bpts, D.oi), P_{\text{dbg}}.pc) \\
&\quad \text{(according to the rule)} \\
&= \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, m_t) \text{ such that } \exists pc' : (m_t, pc') = \text{runInstr}(P.m, P_{\text{dbg}}.pc) \\
&\quad \text{(because of (1))} \\
&= \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, m_t) \text{ such that } \exists pc' : (m_t, pc') = \text{runInstr}(P.m, P.pc) \\
&\quad \text{(because of (2))} \\
&= \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, m_t) \text{ such that } \exists pc' : (m_t, pc') = (P'.m, P'.pc) \\
&\quad \text{(because of the program's rule NORMALEXEC)} \\
&= \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, P'.m)
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore:

$$\begin{aligned}
\text{unInstr}(P'_{\text{dbg}}.m, D'.bpts, D'.oi) &= \text{unInstr}(m', D'.bpts, D'.oi) \\
&\quad \text{such that } (D'.oi, m') = \text{restoreBP}(D'.bpts, P'.m) \\
&= P'.m \quad \text{(by definition of unInstr and restoreBP)}
\end{aligned}$$

The same action  $\alpha$  is performed in the program and the debugged program. This proves (1). Let us prove (2).  $P'_{\text{dbg}}.pc$  is such that there exists  $m_t$  such that:

$$\begin{aligned}
(m_t, P'_{\text{dbg}}.pc) &= \text{runInstr}(\text{unInstr}(P_{\text{dbg}}.m, D.bpts, D.oi), P_{\text{dbg}}.pc) \\
&= (m_t, P'.pc) \quad \text{(as proved previously)}
\end{aligned}$$

Therefore,  $P'_{\text{dbg}}.pc = P'.pc$ . (2) is proved. Proving (3) is straightforward. □

## 2965 A.2 The Debugged Program Weakly Simulates the Initial Program

2966 We now prove Proposition 7.2 (Sec. 7). That is, the debugged program  $(P, D)$  weakly simulates the initial program  $P$ .

2968 **PROOF.** We prove that relation satisfies the two points of the definition of weak simulation given the set of observable  
2969 actions  $Obs$ . Since the initial program does not have any unobservable action, proving that  $\mathfrak{R}$  is a weak simulation  
2970 amounts to proving:  
2971

$$2972 \forall (P, (P_{\text{dbg}}, D)) \in \mathfrak{R}, \forall \alpha \in Obs, \forall P' \in \text{Conf}_P :$$

$$2973 P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P' \implies \exists (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \in \text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D : (P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\overline{Obs}^* \cdot \alpha \cdot \overline{Obs}^*} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \wedge (P', (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')) \in \mathfrak{R}.$$

2974 Let us consider  $P$  a configuration of a program and  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D)$  a configuration of the debugged program such that  
2975  $(P, (P_{\text{dbg}}, D)) \in \mathfrak{R}$ . By definition of  $\mathfrak{R}$ ,  $((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ . Let us consider  $\alpha \in Obs$ . Let us consider  $P' \in \text{Conf}_P$  such  
2976 that  $P \xrightarrow{\alpha} P'$ . Let us show the existence of  $(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D') \in \text{Conf}_P \times \text{Conf}_D$  such that  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\overline{Obs}^* \cdot \alpha \cdot \overline{Obs}^*} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$  and  
2977  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P') \in \mathcal{R}$ .

2978 Since action  $\alpha$  is observable, it can be only triggered by applying rule `NORMALEXEC` in the program  $P$  (see Fig. 7). We  
2979 consider configuration of the debugged program  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D)$  wherein the debugger can be in two modes (either passive or  
2980 active). We handle each two cases in turn.

- 2981 • Case: the debugger is in passive mode. We shall prove that rule `NORMALEXEC` applies, triggering action  $\alpha$ , possibly  
2982 after several applications of rules associated to unobservable actions.

2983 Either rule `NORMALEXEC` applies immediately or not. Let us consider both cases.

- 2984 – Rule `NORMALEXEC` applies. In this case, the proof is similar to the one for the simulation of the debugged  
2985 program by the initial program (as the same equalities apply). Resulting configuration  $(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$  is such that  
2986  $((P'_{\text{dbg}}, D'), P') \in \mathcal{R}$  and therefore  $(P', (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')) \in \mathfrak{R}$ .

- 2987 – Rule `NORMALEXEC` does not apply. Then, the debugger has at least one point to handle, and necessarily, either  
2988 rule `DEVWATCH`, `SCNWATCH`, `EVTWATCH`, `DEVBREAK`, `SCNBREAK`, `EVTBREAK` or `TRAPNOBREAK` applies. Let  
2989 us consider  $\theta$  the action associated to this rule. Let us consider  $(P_{\text{dbg},i}, D_i)$  such that  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{\theta} (P_i, D_i)$ .  
2990 Since  $\theta$  is unobservable and  $((P_{\text{dbg}}, D), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ ,  $((P_i, D_i), P) \in \mathcal{R}$  (see proof for the simulation of the debugged  
2991 program by the initial program). Showing that successive applications of these rules starting from configuration  
2992  $(P_{\text{dbg},i}, D_i)$  results in a configuration  $(P_j, D_j)$  such that  $((P_j, D_j), P) \in \mathcal{R}$  is straightforward by induction on  
2993 the sequence of actions associated to these rules.

2994 While there exists a watchpoint in  $\mathcal{W}$  matching an access done by the current instruction, or a breakpoint in  
2995  $\mathcal{B}$  matching the current address that is not in *hldd*, one of these rules except `TRAPNOBREAK` applies and adds  
2996 this breakpoint or watchpoint in *hldd*. Since there is a finite number of points, these rules stop applying and  
2997 rule `TRAPNOBREAK` applies at most once (if a breakpoint is present at the current address in the program).

2998 Let us call  $u$  the finite sequence of unobservable actions triggered by applying these rules sequentially. Let  
2999 us consider  $(P_j, D_j)$  the configuration such  $(P_{\text{dbg}}, D) \xrightarrow{u} (P_j, D_j)$ . Configuration  $(P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$  of the debugged  
3000 program such that  $(P_j, D_j) \xrightarrow{\alpha} (P'_{\text{dbg}}, D')$  exists and rule `NORMALEXEC` applies since  $(P, (P_j, D_j)) \in \mathcal{R}$  (see proof  
3001 for the simulation of the debugged program by the initial program). Therefore,  $((P_j, D_j), P) \in \mathcal{R}$ . See previous  
3002 case.

- 3003 • Case: the debugger is in interactive mode. rule `STEP` either applies, or do not apply. In case rule `STEP` does not  
3004 apply, rule `STEPREDO` applies a certain number of times. In any case, both rules temporarily set the debugged  
3005

3017 program in passive mode and call rules that apply in passive mode. Therefore, proving this case is similar to the  
3018 previous case.  
3019

3020 □

## 3021 **B COMPARING A TRADITIONNAL INTERACTIVE DEBUGGING AND AN INTERACTIVE RUNTIME** 3022 **VERIFICATION SESSION**

3023 In Fig. 29 and Fig. 30, we reproduce an interactive debugging session and an interactive runtime verification session for  
3024 the illustrative example presented in Sec. 2 (p. 6).  
3025

## 3026 **C PROPERTY ON VALUE CHANGES OF STRING S IN FUNCTION GET\_COMP\_STRING IN ZSH**

3027 In this appendix, we present a property written in Verde property format. This property is used in the experiment on  
3028 zsh in Sec. 10.1. We use the property to find the cause of a segfault in zsh; see Fig. 31. In this property, we are in an  
3029 accepting state while the state of zsh seems consistent, that is, no null pointer is used. In state init, we track a call to  
3030 function get\_comp\_string. When the call happens, the state becomes in\_get\_cmp\_str\_init. In this state, several things  
3031 can happen. Destination states from state in\_get\_cmp\_str\_init correspond to the different continuations we imagined  
3032 possible after this state by quickly looking at the code. We did not aim at exactly understanding the meaning of these  
3033 different possibilities. Rather, we aimed at seeking where the pointer was nulled in the code.  
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```

3069 1 $ ./faulty
3070 2 Consonants: hnstbgsh
3071 3 Vowels: raayuiee
3072 4 $ gdb ./faulty
3073 5 [...] Reading symbols from ./faulty...done.
3074 6 (gdb) start
3075 7 Temporary breakpoint 1 at 0x1372: file faulty.c, line 51.
3076 8 Starting program: /tmp/a
3077 9
3078 10 Temporary breakpoint 1, main () at faulty.c:51
3079 11 51 double_queue_t* q = queue_init();
3080 12 (gdb) break 53
3081 13 Breakpoint 2 at 0x5...55393: file faulty.c, line 53.
3082 14 (gdb) cont
3083 15 Continuing.
3084 16
3085 17 Breakpoint 2, main () at faulty.c:53
3086 18 53 queue_display_result(q);
3087 19 (gdb) print q->vowels
3088 20 $1 = "raayuiee"
3089 21 (gdb) quit
3090 22 [...]
3091 23 $ gdb ./faulty
3092 24 Reading symbols from ./faulty...done.
3093 25 (gdb) start
3094 26 Temporary breakpoint 1 at 0x1372: file faulty.c, line 51.
3095 27 Starting program: /tmp/a
3096 28
3097 29 Temporary breakpoint 1, main () at faulty.c:51
3098 30 51 double_queue_t* q = queue_init();
3099 31 (gdb) break 30
3100 32 Breakpoint 2 at 0x5...55233: file faulty.c, line 30.
3101 33 (gdb) cont
3102 34 Continuing.
3103 35
3104 36 Breakpoint 2, queue_push (q=0x5...59260, c=111 'o') at faulty.c:30
3105 37 30 q->vowels[q->pos_v++] = c;
3106 38 (gdb) display c
3107 39 1: c = 111 'o'
3108 40 (gdb) c
3109 41 Continuing.
3110 42 [...]
3111
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```

```

43 Breakpoint 2, queue_push (q=0x5...59260, c=101 'e') at faulty.c:30
44 30 q->vowels[q->pos_v++] = c;
45 1: c = 101 'e'
46 (gdb) c
47 Continuing.
48 Consonants: hnstbgsh
49 Vowels: raayuiee
50 [Inferior 1 (process 6646) exited normally]
51 (gdb) info break 2
52 Num Type Disp Enb Address What
53 2 breakpoint keep y 0x00005...55233 in queue_push at faulty.c:30
54     breakpoint already hit 8 times
55 (gdb) quit
56 $ gdb ./faulty
57 [...] Reading symbols from ./faulty...done.
58 (gdb) break 52
59 Breakpoint 1 at 0x1380: file faulty.c, line 52.
60 (gdb) start
61 Temporary breakpoint 2 at 0x1372: file faulty.c, line 51.
62 Starting program: /tmp/a
63
64 Temporary breakpoint 2, main () at faulty.c:51
65 51 double_queue_t* q = queue_init();
66 (gdb) cont
67 Continuing.
68
69 Breakpoint 1, main () at faulty.c:52
70 52 queue_push_str(q, "oh, a nasty bug is here!");
71 (gdb) watch q->vowels[0]
72 Hardware watchpoint 3: q->vowels[0]
73 (gdb) cont
74 Continuing.
75
76 Hardware watchpoint 3: q->vowels[0]
77
78 Old value = 0 '\000'
79 New value = 111 'o'
80 queue_push (q=0x5...59260, c=111 'o') at faulty.c:33
81 33 }
82 (gdb) next
83 queue_push_str ... at faulty.c:36
84 36 while (s[0] != '\0')
85 (gdb) cont
86 Continuing.
87
88 Hardware watchpoint 3: q->vowels[0]
89
90 Old value = 111 'o'
91 New value = 114 'r'
92 queue_push (q=0x5...59260, c=114 'r') at faulty.c:33
93 33 }
94 (gdb) print q->pos_c - 1
95 $1 = 8
96 (gdb) quit

```

Fig. 29. Interactive debugging of the faulty C program.

```

3121 1 $ verde --prop queue.prop --show-graph ./faulty
3122 2 [...]
3123 3 [23:09:36] Initialization:
3124 4     N: 0
3125 5     max: 0
3126 6
3127 7 Event: queue_new{'size': 16, 'queue': 93824992252512}
3128 8 16
3129 9 [23:09:36] Current state (monitor #1):
3130 10 Slice 1 <None>: init (from init)
3131 11     N: 0
3132 12     max: 16
3133 13 Slice 2 <93824992252512>: queue_ready
3134 14     N: 0
3135 15     max: 16
3136 16
3137 17 Event: queue_push{'queue': 93824992252512}
3138 18 GUARD: nb push: 0 (max: 16)
3139 19 [23:09:36] Current state (monitor #1):
3140 20 Slice 1 <None>: init
3141 21     N: 0
3142 22     max: 16
3143 23 Slice 2 <93824992252512>: queue_ready (from queue_ready)
3144 24     N: 1
3145 25     max: 16
3146
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3172

```

```

27 Event: queue_push{'queue': 93824992252512}
28 GUARD: nb push: 1 (max: 16)
29 [23:09:36] Current state (monitor #1):
30 Slice 1 <None>: init
31     N: 0
32     max: 16
33 Slice 2 <93824992252512>: queue_ready (from queue_ready)
34     N: 2
35     max: 16
36
37 Event: queue_push{'queue': 93824992252512}
38 GUARD: nb push: 15 (max: 16)
39 [23:09:36] Current state (monitor #1):
40 Slice 1 <None>: init
41     N: 0
42     max: 16
43 Slice 2 <93824992252512>: queue_ready (from queue_ready)
44     N: 16
45     max: 16
46
47 Event: queue_push{'queue': 93824992252512}
48 GUARD: nb push: 16 (max: 16)
49 [23:09:36] Current state (monitor #1):
50 Slice 1 <None>: init
51     N: 0
52     max: 16
53 Slice 2 <93824992252512>: sink (from queue_ready) non-accepting
54     N: 16
55     max: 16
56 (gdb) where
57 #0 queue_push (queue=0x5...59260, c=105 'i') at faulty.c:29
58 #1 0x00005...552a1 in queue_push_str [...] at faulty.c:37
59 #2 0x00005...55377 in main () at faulty.c:52
60 (gdb) quit

```

Fig. 30. Interactively runtime verifying the faulty C program. Compared to the interactive debugging session depicted in Fig. 29, almost all interactions between the debugger and the developer are avoided.

```

3173 1 initialization {
3174 2     import gdb
3175 3 }
3176 4
3176 5 state init accepting {
3177 6     transition {
3177 7         before event get_comp_string()
3178 8         success in_get_cmp_str_init
3179 9     }
3180 10 }
3181 11
3181 12 state in_get_cmp_str_init accepting {
3182 13     transition {
3182 14         after event write s(s) {
3183 15             return not s
3184 16         }
3185 17
3185 18         success {
3186 19             print("s = " + str(s))
3187 20         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null
3188 21
3188 22         failure {
3189 23             gdb.execute("backtrace")
3190 24         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null
3191 25     }
3192 26
3192 27     transition {
3193 28         before event itype_end(ptr) { return not ptr }
3194 29         success calling_itype_end_with_null_ptr
3195 30     }
3196 31
3196 32     transition {
3197 33         before event get_comp_string()
3198 34         success in_get_cmp_str_init
3199 35     }
3200 36 }
3200 37
3200 38 state in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null accepting {
3201 39     transition {
3201 40         after event write s(s) {
3202 41             return not s
3203 42         }
3204 43
3204 44         success {
3205 45             print("s = " + str(s))
3206 46         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null
3207 47
3207 48         failure {
3208 49             gdb.execute("backtrace")
3209 50         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null
3210 51     }
3211 52
3211 53     transition {
3212 54         before event itype_end(ptr) {
3213 55             return not ptr
3214 56         }
3215 57
3215 58         success calling_itype_end_with_null_ptr
3216 59
3216 60         failure {
3217 61             print("called itype_end with non null");
3218 62             gdb.execute("backtrace")
3219 63         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null
3220 64     }
3221
3221
3222
3223
3224

```

```

65     transition {
66         before event get_comp_string()
67         success in_get_cmp_str_init
68     }
69 }
70
71 state in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null accepting {
72     transition {
73         after event write s(s) {
74             return not s
75         }
76
77         success {
78             print("s = " + str(s))
79         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null
80
81         failure {
82             gdb.execute("backtrace")
83         } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null
84     }
85
86     transition {
87         before event itype_end(ptr) { return not ptr }
88         success calling_itype_end_with_null_ptr
89     }
90
91     transition {
92         before event get_comp_string()
93         success in_get_cmp_str_init
94     }
95 }
96
97 state in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null accepting {
98     transition {
99         before event get_comp_string()
100        success in_get_cmp_str_init
101    }
102
103    transition {
104        after event write s(s) {
105            return not s
106        }
107
108        success {
109            print("s = " + str(s))
110        } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_not_null
111
112        failure {
113            gdb.execute("backtrace")
114        } in_get_cmp_str_init_s_null
115    }
116 }
117
118 state calling_itype_end_with_null_ptr non-accepting

```

Fig. 31. Verde property to find the cause of the segfault in zsh