

Towards Model-Based Engineering: A Constraint-Based Approach

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Zusammenfassung

Formalisierte Modelle haben heute ihren Weg in fast alle Phasen des Konstruktionsprozesses technischer Systeme gefunden. Beginnend mit der breiten Einführung von CAD-Programmen haben modellbasierte Entwicklungswerkzeuge die Arbeit von Ingenieuren revolutioniert. Doch obwohl modellbasierte Techniken zur Bewältigung einer Fülle von Aufgaben eingesetzt werden, ist die Wiederverwendbarkeit von Modellen wegen existierender Beschränkungen und Barrieren auf der Repräsentations- und Berechnungsebene immer noch sehr eingeschränkt. Folglich bedarf die Modellerzeugung in hohem Maß manueller Eingriffe, was zunehmend die Arbeitszeit von Ingenieuren verschlingt und fehleranfällig ist.

In dieser Arbeit wird die Eignung von Techniken aus dem Forschungsgebiet der modellbasierten Diagnose zur Unterstützung des Konstruktionsprozesses untersucht. Ziel ist es, die prozessübergreifende Wiederverwendbarkeit von Modellen und Analyseverfahren zu verbessern, wobei zwei spezielle Phasen im Mittelpunkt des Interesses stehen: Zuverlässigkeitsanalyse und Diagnose. Es wird ein constraintbasierter Ansatz vorgestellt, der stark von der klassischen General Diagnostic Engine (GDE) inspiriert wurde.

Die diskutierten Erweiterungen und Varianten werden durch die speziellen Anforderungen aus dem gewählten Anwendungsbereich motiviert. So erlaubt es die Kombination von lokalen Konsistenztechniken mit Intervallarithmetik, Wertebereichsteilungsverfahren und Netzwerkzerlegung, die Vollständigkeit des Schlussfolgerungsverfahrens zu verbessern. Der vorgestellte Constraint-Löser erweitert den aus dem Bereich kontinuierlicher Constraintbefüllungsprobleme (CSP) bekannten Branch&Prune-Algorithmus um einen Netzwerkzerlegungsschritt und eine einfache ATMS-Schnittstelle. Für zwei praktisch relevante Klassen von Netzwerkzerlegungen, nämlich 'unabhängig lösbare Zerlegungen' und 'sequentiell lösbare Zerlegungen', wird die Korrektheit des Lösungsalgorithmus bewiesen. Darüber hinaus werden effiziente Verfahren zur Berechnung solcher Zerlegungen im Detail diskutiert. Zur Verbesserung der Effizienz der Abhängigkeitsverfolgung wird ein Austausch des ATMS durch eine neue Komponente vorgeschlagen, den so genannten 'Value Manager'. Im Gegensatz zu konventionellen Reason Maintenance Systemen steuert der Value Manager durch den Einsatz von Datenreduktionstechniken aktiv den Ressourcenverbrauch. Außerdem kommen leistungsfähige Fokussierungsverfahren und Datenpufferung zum Einsatz.

Die Anwendbarkeit der vorgestellten Konzepte auf typische Problemstellungen aus Automobilbau und Luftfahrt wird mit Hilfe von Experimenten, basierend auf einer Referenzimplementierung, nachgewiesen. Die dokumentierten Resultate unterstreichen die Effizienz der vorgestellten Algorithmen, insbesondere im Hinblick auf hybride Constraint-Netzwerke, die sowohl kontinuierliche als auch diskrete Wertebereiche enthalten.

Abstract

By now, formalized models have found their way into almost every step of the engineering process. Model-based development tools have revolutionized engineer's work, beginning with the introduction of CAD systems. But although model-based techniques are used for a multiplicity of engineering tasks, the reuse of models is still very limited due to barriers on representational or computational levels. As a consequence, model generation is still a predominantly manual task and hence tends to be error-prone and time-consuming.

This thesis studies the applicability of techniques from the field of model-based diagnosis to support the engineering process with a focus on the reuse of models in two phases: reliability analysis and diagnosis. A constraint-based approach is presented, which is strongly inspired by the general diagnostic engine.

To cope with the specific requirements of the chosen application focus, several extensions and modifications are discussed. Inference completeness is improved by combining local consistency techniques with interval arithmetics, domain splitting and network decomposition. A new constraint solver is presented which extends the branch&prune algorithm known from continuous constraint satisfaction problem solving by a network decomposition step and a simple ATMS interface. Two classes of decompositions, namely 'independently solvable decompositions' and 'sequentially solvable decompositions', are defined and the correctness of the solver with respect to them is proven. Efficient algorithms to compute such decompositions are discussed in detail. Dependency tracking efficiency is improved by replacing the ATMS by a new component which we call 'value manager'. In contrast to classical reason maintenance systems, the value manager actively controls resource consumption by applying data reduction techniques. Additionally, it incorporates strong focusing and data buffering.

The applicability of the concepts to typical engineering problems from the automotive and the aviation domains is shown by experiments based on a reference implementation. The presented results emphasize the efficiency of the discussed algorithms, especially with respect to hybrid constraint networks comprising discrete as well as continuous variable domains.

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