

### Rewrite Systems for Symbolic Evaluation of C-like Preprocessing

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#### **Outline**

- Introduction to C-like preprocessing
- Statement of the objectives
- Some of the technical issues
- The conditional values
- The symbolic algorithm
- The problem of mixing macro substitution, evaluation and parsing
- Three rewrite systems
- Future work

#### Introduction

Text preprocessing à la cpp is widely used: From C to Haskell.

Text preprocessing is composed of

- conditional compilation #if ... #endif
- macro definition #define ...
- substitution of macro identifier about anywhere in the source code
- substitution and evaluation on #if conditionals
- inclusion of files with #include

#### Objectives: An Example

```
#if defined(X)
#define Y
\#elif Y > 20
#define X
            10
#else
#define X
            30
#endif
#if Y > 4
v = X;
#endif
```

#### Questions we want to answer:

- Under which condition is 'v = X;' compiled? If X is defined or the initial Y > 4.
- What are the possible values of x for that statement?
   And under which conditions are they obtained? X may have values '10' (Y>20), '30' (4<Y≤20), 'X' if not given any value, or any initial value given at compile time.</li>

#### General Objectives

#### The general objectives are:

- Find for every line of source code the condition (Boolean expression) under which it is compiled (or reached).
- Find for every line of source code the values of each preprocessing variable (macro) and under which conditions they are obtained.

The result is a static representation of all possibilities independent of any configuration (initial values of variables).

#### Symbolic Evaluation of C-like Preprocessing

We apply symbolic evaluation to the preprocessing code to answer the objectives.

In general, for symbolic evaluation, the values of preprocessing variables are unknown.

The variable names are even unknown!!!

To be complete, we have to assume the most general case:

Any unbound identifier V on if-conditions is assumed to be a variable name and is assigned the symbolic value  $V_I$ .

#### Inferring Preprocessing variables: An Example

Any identifier may be a free preprocessing variable. But we can only infer what the source code tells us.

In this case we can infer that S and E are variables, no more.

#### Substitution and Evaluation

The concrete evaluation of an if-directive condition is done in three phases:

- 1. The defined operators are evaluated resulting in '0' or '1'.
- 2. The macro substitution is done with string operations if any. A list of lexems is obtained.
- 3. Arithmetic and logical operations are done. At this point the conditional expression should be a valid arithmetic/logic expression.

#### The special operator defined

```
#define R(x) 2##x
#define H(x) R(x)
#if H(defined(W)) == 20
  /* W is not defined */
#else
  /* W is defined */
#endif
```

The concrete expansion algorithm has a special case:

All defined operators are expanded to '0' or '1'; not the values 0 or 1. The evaluation changes a '0' to 0 and a '1' to a 1.

This code shows that defined is evaluated, then H is expanded; not the other way around.

#### Handling Dubious Conditionals

```
#if defined(X)
 define M
              3 <
# define Y
#else
# define M
# define Y
#endif
#if M Y
  x += 2i
#else
  ++xi
```

#endif

The condition M Y is not a syntacticaly valid conditional. But expansion will always make it valid.

We should be able to handle this, since we can infer that, in all cases, the condition is syntactically valid.

### Symbolic Evaluation on the CFG of Preprocessing

- The source code directives are parsed and transformed into a Control Flow Graph (CFG) where the nodes are blocks of lines.
- The edges are the unevaluated conditions found on if-directives.
- So no evaluation of the if-conditions is done at that point. It is not feasible to do so in general.
- All included files are processed once independently of the control flow.
- Loops may occur in the CFG as some files may recursively include themselves.

#### Symbolic Evaluation of C-like Preprocessing

```
7. Procedure V(n, c_c) {
      add c_c to condition list of node n;
8.
      test node n for possible infinite iteration;
9.
      Case node n
10.
                                 nothing to do;
        block of code:
11.
        define: add definition to top table of S;
12.
        if: Let c be its expanded/simplified condition
13.
   Procedure Merge(T, E, S, c) {
28.
      For-each variable x in T or E
29.
        Bind x with c ? v_t \diamond v_f into the top table of S
30.
        where v_t is v(x,T:S),
31.
                v_f is v(x, E:S)
32.
33.
```

Line 13 is the main focus of the paper. Systems for Symbolic Evaluation of C-like Preprocessing - p.12/2

#### Conditional Values to the Rescue

A conditional value is denoted c?  $e_1 \diamond e_2$ , and means that if c is true,  $e_1$  is the resulting value, otherwise it is  $e_2$ .

There are two classes of conditional values (c-values):

- 1. One class to bind preprocessing variables (macro) to a set of basic values under some conditions. These are unparsed and unevaluated c-values.  $T_C$
- 2. The other for parsing, substitution and evaluation of if-conditionals. These are parsed and evaluated c-values.  $T_{C\uparrow}$

#### Unparsed and Unevaluated Conditional Values $\mathcal{T}_C$

An unparsed and unevaluated conditional value (c-value) is in general a tree where the leaves are sequences of lexems and interior nodes are Boolean expressions.

In general, a preprocessing variable is bound to a c-value during symbolic evaluation.

1. 
$$(Y = 2)$$
? '3'  $\diamond$  '4'

3. 
$$(Y = 2) ? (X = 3? '4' \diamond '5') \diamond '6'$$

# The Unparsed c-value Terms $\mathcal{T}_C$ and the Concrete (preprocessing) Terms $\mathcal{T}_P$

The unparsed c-value terms:

$$\mathcal{T}_C$$
 :=  $e$   $e \in \mathcal{T}_P$   
  $\mid x_I \qquad x_I \in \mathsf{FPVar}$   
  $\mid c?e_1 \diamond e_2 \quad c \in \mathcal{T}_B, e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_C$ 

FPVar := Free Preprocessing Variables

# The Unparsed c-value Terms $T_C$ and the Concrete (preprocessing) Terms $T_P$

#### The unparsed c-value terms:

$$\mathcal{T}_C$$
 :=  $e$   $e \in \mathcal{T}_P$   
  $\mid x_I \qquad x_I \in \mathsf{FPVar}$   
  $\mid c?e_1 \diamond e_2 \quad c \in \mathcal{T}_B, e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_C$ 

FPVar := Free Preprocessing Variables

#### The concrete terms:

$$\mathcal{T}_P$$
 :=  $\top$  |  $\bot$  |  $t_1 \dots t_n$  |  $n > 0, t_i \in \mathsf{VTok}$  VTok := Valid Tokens

#### The Parsed and Evaluated c-value Terms $\mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow}$

$$\mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow}$$
 :=  $e$   $e \in \mathcal{T}_B$   $|$   $\bar{\mathbf{Z}}(e)$   $e \in \mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow}$   $|$   $c ? e_1 \diamond e_2$   $c \in \mathcal{T}_B, e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow}$ 

These are never bound to preprocessing variables, but are the result of expansion, parsing and evaluation of if-conditionals.

$$ar{\mathbf{Z}}(0) 
ightarrow \mathtt{false}$$
  $ar{\mathbf{Z}}(n) 
ightarrow \mathtt{true}, n 
eq 0$   $ar{\mathbf{Z}}(r) 
ightarrow \mathrm{error}, r\mathtt{not} \ \mathtt{a} \ \mathtt{number}$ 

#### The terms $T_X$ after macro expansion

$$\mathcal{T}_X$$
 :=  $e$   $e \in \mathcal{T}_C$   $|$   $e_1 e_2 e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_X$ 

A  $\mathcal{T}_X$  term is essentially a sequence of  $\mathcal{T}_C$ 

#### Example, Symbolic Evaluation

```
#if L == "french" || L == "spanish"
#define X iso_accents
#elif L = "english"
#define X ascii
#endif
....
set_input_function(X)
```

The general value of x is composed of several basic values, and these depend on L.

#### This can be expressed as

$$(L = "french" \lor L = "spanish")?$$
 'iso\_accents'  $\diamond$   
 $(L = "english"?$  'ascii'  $\diamond X_I)$ 

#### The final Boolean terms $\mathcal{T}_B$

```
b \in \mathsf{BVal}
\mathcal{T}_B
                                             x_I \in \mathsf{FPVar}
                   def(x_I)
                                             e \in \mathcal{T}_B
                                             e_1, e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_B, o \in \{\land, \lor\}
                   e_1 \, o \, e_2
                  \bar{\mathbf{Z}}(e)
                                             e \in \mathcal{T}_E
                                             r \in \mathsf{Err}
              : CVal -> BVal
def
              : ECst → BVal ∪ Err
CVAL := \{\top, \bot, t_1 \dots t_n\}
ECst := Constants
Err
         := Errors
```

#### Why Rewrite Systems?

- This formalism works well to express the type of transformations to apply.
- They are language independent and represent a simple formulation of algorithms.
- They are easier to use than a sequential algorithm to prove termination and confluence (if any!).

#### The General Transformation of an if-condition

$$\mathcal{T}_X \stackrel{R_d}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{T}_X \stackrel{R_e}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow} \stackrel{PE}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow} \stackrel{ar{\mathbf{Z}}}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{T}_{C\uparrow} \stackrel{R_f}{\longrightarrow} \mathcal{T}_B$$

 $R_d$ : applied to the defined operators.

exp: the expansion of macros (aka substitution).

 $R_e$ : transform into one c-value with no variables, or a list of tokens and free vars with no c-values.

 $\overline{Z}$ : wrap everything into an evaluation function to true or false.

PE: parsing, evaluation of arithmetic operators.

 $R_f$ : simplification and transformation into a Boolean

Expression.

During symbolic evaluation, the defined operators, used on if-conditions, are translated to defs and variables to their c-values.

Then they are rewritten according to the following system.

$$R_d = \left\{ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) \rightarrow c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \right\}$$

This rule traverses the tree to its leaves.

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \end{cases}$$

The next three rules process the concrete values of preprocessing.

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

The last rule is necessary to handle text processing of '1' and '0'.

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

```
#define R(x) 2##x
#define H(x) R(x)
#if H(defined(W)) == 20
```

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

```
#define R(x) 2##x
#define H(x) R(x)
#if H(\widehat{def}(W_I)) == 20
```

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

```
#define R(x) 2##x

#define H(x) R(x)

#if H(def(W_I)? '1' \diamond '0') == 20
```

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

$$\#if \ 2(def(W_I)? '1' \diamond '0') == 20$$

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

$$\#if \ def(W_I)? `21' \diamond `20' == 20$$

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

#if 
$$def(W_I)$$
? '21==20'  $\diamond$  '20==20'

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

 $\#if \ def(W_I)$ ? false  $\diamond true$ 

$$R_d = \begin{cases} \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \to & c?\widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_1) \diamond \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(e_2) \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\bot) & \to & \text{`0'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(\top) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(t_1 \dots t_n) & \to & \text{`1'} \\ \widehat{\operatorname{def}}(x_I) & \to & \operatorname{def}(x_I)?\text{`1'} \diamond \text{`0'} \end{cases}$$

#if  $\neg def(W_I)$ 

$$R_e = \begin{cases} (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) t & \rightarrow & c?(e_1 t) \diamond (e_2 t) \\ \textbf{where } t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ t \ (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c?(t \ e_1) \diamond (t \ e_2) \\ \textbf{where } t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ (c_1?e_1 \diamond e_2)(c_2?e_3 \diamond e_4) & \rightarrow & c_1?(c_2?(e_1 \ e_3) \diamond (e_1 \ e_4)) \\ & & (c_2?(e_2 \ e_3) \diamond (e_2 \ e_4)) \end{cases}$$

Note: two adjacent VTOK or FPVar terms remains the same.

$$R_e = \begin{cases} (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) \ t & \rightarrow & c?(e_1 \ t) \diamond (e_2 \ t) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ t \ (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c?(t \ e_1) \diamond (t \ e_2) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ (c_1?e_1 \diamond e_2)(c_2?e_3 \diamond e_4) & \rightarrow & c_1?(c_2?(e_1 \ e_3) \diamond (e_1 \ e_4)) \\ & & (c_2?(e_2 \ e_3) \diamond (e_2 \ e_4)) \end{cases}$$

Note: two adjacent VTOK or FPVar terms remains the same.

$$R_e = \begin{cases} (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) \ t & \rightarrow & c?(e_1 \ t) \diamond (e_2 \ t) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ t \ (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c?(t \ e_1) \diamond (t \ e_2) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ (c_1?e_1 \diamond e_2)(c_2?e_3 \diamond e_4) & \rightarrow & c_1?(c_2?(e_1 \ e_3) \diamond (e_1 \ e_4)) \\ & & (c_2?(e_2 \ e_3) \diamond (e_2 \ e_4)) \end{cases}$$

Note: two adjacent VTOK or FPVar terms remains the same.

$$((Y = 1)?'2' \diamond '3') (== 1+)((X = 4)?'5' \diamond '6')$$

$$R_e = \begin{cases} (c? e_1 \diamond e_2) \ t & \rightarrow & c? (e_1 \ t) \diamond (e_2 \ t) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ t \ (c? e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c? (t \ e_1) \diamond (t \ e_2) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ (c_1? e_1 \diamond e_2) (c_2? e_3 \diamond e_4) & \rightarrow & c_1? (c_2? (e_1 \ e_3) \diamond (e_1 \ e_4)) \\ & & (c_2? (e_2 \ e_3) \diamond (e_2 \ e_4)) \end{cases}$$

Note: two adjacent VTOK or FPVar terms remains the same.

$$((Y = 1)?'2 == 1 +' \diamond '3 == 1 +')((X = 4)?'5' \diamond '6')$$

$$R_e = \begin{cases} (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) \ t & \rightarrow & c?(e_1 \ t) \diamond (e_2 \ t) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ t \ (c?e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c?(t \ e_1) \diamond (t \ e_2) \\ \text{where} \ t \in \mathsf{VTok} \cup \mathsf{FPVar} \\ (c_1?e_1 \diamond e_2)(c_2?e_3 \diamond e_4) & \rightarrow & c_1?(c_2?(e_1 \ e_3) \diamond (e_1 \ e_4)) \\ (c_2?(e_2 \ e_3) \diamond (e_2 \ e_4)) \end{cases}$$

Note: two adjacent VTOK or FPVar terms remains the same.

$$(Y = 1)?(X = 4?'2 == 1 + 5' \diamond '2 == 1 + 6') \diamond$$
  
 $(X = 4?'3 == 1 + 5' \diamond '3 == 1 + 6')$ 
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#### The System $R_f$ is applied over $\mathcal{T}_{C^{\uparrow}}$ after evaluation

$$R_f = \begin{cases} \text{true}\,?\,e_1 \diamond e_2 & \rightarrow & e_1 \\ \text{false}\,?\,e_1 \diamond e_2 & \rightarrow & e_2 \\ c\,?\,\text{true}\,\diamond\,\text{false} & \rightarrow & c \\ c\,?\,\text{false}\,\diamond\,\text{true} & \rightarrow & \neg c \\ & & & \\ \hline \bar{Z}(r) & \rightarrow & r \\ \text{where}\,\,r \in \mathsf{Err} \\ \bar{Z}(e_1\,o\,e_2) & \rightarrow & \bar{Z}(e_1)\,o\,\bar{Z}(e_2) \\ \text{where}\,\,o \in \{\land,\lor\} \\ \bar{Z}(c\,?\,e_1 \diamond e_2) & \rightarrow & c\,?\,\bar{Z}(e_1) \diamond \bar{Z}(e_2) \\ c\,?\,e_1 \diamond e_2 & \rightarrow & c\,\land\,e_1 \lor \neg c\,\land\,e_2 \\ \text{where}\,\,e_1,e_2 \in \mathcal{T}_B \end{cases}$$

#### **Future Work**

- Implement the approach in a open IDE, for example emacs, or xemacs.
- Design a language to let the user specify the possible variable values. It could be simple: list of values. Or complex: conditional values, regular expression, etc.



### Thank You

### Questions, comments?